

Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH #: 2019029047

Project Title: Bear Creek Culvert Rehabilitation Project

Lead Agency: California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)

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Project Location: Santa Barbara San Luis Obispo
City *County*

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to repair a failing structural steel plate pipe culvert in Santa Barbara County on State Route 154 at post mile 21.3, 0.31 mile west of Paradise Road. The proposed project involves paving the culvert invert (i.e., the lowest part, or floor, of the culvert) with a 6-inch slab of concrete and constructing a fish passage structure to remediate the barrier to fish passage created by stream scour at the culvert outlet. A temporary construction easement would be needed from the adjacent property owner in order to provide access to the culvert for equipment and personnel. Construction of an access road and creation of an equipment staging area will require tree and vegetation removal. Temporary stream diversion and dewatering operations would be necessary within Bear Creek as needed to conduct the required work in a dry streambed. The fish passage structure would be composed of a series of forty fish weirs. A fish weir is a structure that helps direct the passage of fish upstream. At the culvert outlet, eight pools will be created, each approximately 3-foot by 4-foot in area and will replace the existing concrete apron. An 18-inch walkway will also be constructed along the south culvert wing wall at the inlet and outlet to provide access for maintenance personnel. The project is expected to take approximately 2-3 months to complete.

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

Caltrans expects that the proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment. By implementing avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures, the proposed project will have less than significant effects on natural communities, wetlands and other waters, and animal species.

Prior to construction, environmentally sensitive areas will be identified and high visibility fencing will be installed to minimize disturbance in natural areas and habitats of concern. If construction activities are proposed to occur within 100 feet of potential habitat during the bird nesting season, February 15 to August 31, a nesting bird survey will be conducted prior to construction. Instream work will be limited to the dry season, June 1 to October 31, in any given year to avoid impacting special status aquatic species. To create access for construction equipment, the proposed action may remove approximately eight white alder trees, three coast live oak trees and two California sycamores. To mitigate for this impact, all trees removed will be replaced in-kind a ratio of at least 3:1. Monitoring and a one-year contractor's plant establishment period will be required. A biological monitor will be assigned to the project site during construction activities. The project will implement all protective measures set forth in the Natural Environmental Study, completed on October 2018, which includes protective measures for California red-legged frog. Any additional protective measures set forth in the approved Programmatic Biological Opinion for California red-legged frog will be implemented. After construction, materials used to build the temporary access road on the streambed and banks will be removed, and stream contours, substrate, and habitat elements will be restored as close as possible to their original condition.

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

NA

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

CA Department of Fish and Wildlife
Regional Water Quality Control Board

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
National Marine Fisheries Service