

PROJECT REPORT

**TO: ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION
COMMITTEE**

AGENDA DATE: April 25, 2019

FROM: PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

AGENDA TIME 1:30 PM/ No. 2

IS#19-0004 Coyote Wash Bridge
PROJECT TYPE: Improvements Project (I.C. Public Works Dept.) SUPERVISOR DIST # 2
Approximately 3.35-mile northeast of
LOCATION: Ocotillo, and approximately 2-miles northeast of the APN: N/A
Junction of Interstate 8 (I-8) and Evan Hewes Highway PARCEL SIZE: N/A

GENERAL PLAN (existing) Community GENERAL PLAN (proposed) N/A

ZONE (existing) N/A ZONE (proposed) N/A

GENERAL PLAN FINDINGS ☒ CONSISTENT ☐ INCONSISTENT ☐ MAY BE/FINDINGS

PLANNING COMMISSION DECISION: HEARING DATE: N/A

☐ APPROVED ☐ DENIED ☐ OTHER

PLANNING DIRECTORS DECISION: HEARING DATE: N/A

☐ APPROVED ☐ DENIED ☐ OTHER

ENVIROMENTAL EVALUATION COMMITTEE DECISION: HEARING DATE: 04/25/19

INITIAL STUDY: 19-0004

☐ NEGATIVE DECLARATION ☒ MITIGATED NEG. DECLARATION ☐ EIR

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / APPROVALS:

PUBLIC WORKS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NONE	<input type="checkbox"/>	ATTACHED
AG	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NONE	<input type="checkbox"/>	ATTACHED
APCD	<input type="checkbox"/>	NONE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ATTACHED
E.H.S.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NONE	<input type="checkbox"/>	ATTACHED
FIRE / OES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NONE	<input type="checkbox"/>	ATTACHED
SHERIFF	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NONE	<input type="checkbox"/>	ATTACHED
OTHER	<u>IID</u>			

REQUESTED ACTION:

(See Attached)

☒ **NEGATIVE DECLARATION**
☐ **MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

*Initial Study & Environmental Analysis
For:*

**Imperial County Public Works Department (PWD)
Coyote Wash Bridge Improvements Project
Initial Study #19-0004**



Prepared By:

COUNTY OF IMPERIAL
Planning & Development Services Department
801 Main Street
El Centro, CA 92243
(442) 265-1736
www.icpds.com

April 2019

EEC ORIGINAL

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SECTION 1 INTRODUCTION

A. PURPOSE

This document is a ☐ policy-level, ☒ project level Initial Study for evaluation of potential environmental impacts resulting with the proposed I.C. Public Works Department (PWD) Coyote Wash Bridge Improvements Project. (Refer to Exhibit "A" & "B").

B. CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) REQUIREMENTS AND THE IMPERIAL COUNTY'S GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTING CEQA

As defined by Section 15063 of the State California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines and Section 7 of the County's "CEQA Regulations Guidelines for the Implementation of CEQA, as amended", an **Initial Study** is prepared primarily to provide the Lead Agency with information to use as the basis for determining whether an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), Negative Declaration, or Mitigated Negative Declaration would be appropriate for providing the necessary environmental documentation and clearance for any proposed project.

☐ According to Section 15065, an EIR is deemed appropriate for a particular proposal if the following conditions occur:

- The proposal has the potential to substantially degrade quality of the environment.
- The proposal has the potential to achieve short-term environmental goals to the disadvantage of long-term environmental goals.
- The proposal has possible environmental effects that are individually limited but cumulatively considerable.
- The proposal could cause direct or indirect adverse effects on human beings.

☐ According to Section 15070(a), a **Negative Declaration** is deemed appropriate if the proposal would not result in any significant effect on the environment.

☒ According to Section 15070(b), a **Mitigated Negative Declaration** is deemed appropriate if it is determined that though a proposal could result in a significant effect, mitigation measures are available to reduce these significant effects to insignificant levels.

This Initial Study has determined that the proposed applications will not result in any potentially significant environmental impacts and therefore, a Negative Declaration is deemed as the appropriate document to provide necessary environmental evaluations and clearance as identified hereinafter.

This Initial Study and Negative Declaration are prepared in conformance with the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended (Public Resources Code, Section 21000 et. seq.); Section 15070 of the State & County of Imperial's Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15000, et. seq.); applicable requirements of the County of Imperial; and the regulations, requirements, and procedures of any other responsible public agency or an agency with jurisdiction by law.

Pursuant to the County of Imperial Guidelines for Implementing CEQA, depending on the project scope, the County of Imperial Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission and/or Planning Director is designated the Lead Agency,

in accordance with Section 15050 of the CEQA Guidelines. The Lead Agency is the public agency which has the principal responsibility for approving the necessary environmental clearances and analyses for any project in the County.

C. INTENDED USES OF INITIAL STUDY AND NEGATIVE DECLARATION

This Initial Study and Negative Declaration are informational documents which are intended to inform County of Imperial decision makers, other responsible or interested agencies, and the general public of potential environmental effects of the proposed applications. The environmental review process has been established to enable public agencies to evaluate environmental consequences and to examine and implement methods of eliminating or reducing any potentially adverse impacts. While CEQA requires that consideration be given to avoiding environmental damage, the Lead Agency and other responsible public agencies must balance adverse environmental effects against other public objectives, including economic and social goals.

The Initial Study and Negative Declaration, prepared for the project will be circulated for a period of 20 days (30-days if submitted to the State Clearinghouse for a project of area-wide significance) for public and agency review and comments. At the conclusion, if comments are received, the County Planning & Development Services Department will prepare a document entitled "Responses to Comments" which will be forwarded to any commenting entity and be made part of the record within 10-days of any project consideration.

D. CONTENTS OF INITIAL STUDY & NEGATIVE DECLARATION

This Initial Study is organized to facilitate a basic understanding of the existing setting and environmental implications of the proposed applications.

SECTION 1

I. INTRODUCTION presents an introduction to the entire report. This section discusses the environmental process, scope of environmental review, and incorporation by reference documents.

SECTION 2

II. ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM contains the County's Environmental Checklist Form. The checklist form presents results of the environmental evaluation for the proposed applications and those issue areas that would have either a significant impact, potentially significant impact, or no impact.

PROJECT SUMMARY, LOCATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SETTINGS describes the proposed project entitlements and required applications. A description of discretionary approvals and permits required for project implementation is also included. It also identifies the location of the project and a general description of the surrounding environmental settings.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS evaluates each response provided in the environmental checklist form. Each response checked in the checklist form is discussed and supported with sufficient data and analysis as necessary. As appropriate, each response discussion describes and identifies specific impacts anticipated with project implementation.

SECTION 3

III. MANDATORY FINDINGS presents Mandatory Findings of Significance in accordance with Section 15065 of the CEQA Guidelines.

IV. PERSONS AND ORGANIZATIONS CONSULTED identifies those persons consulted and involved in

preparation of this Initial Study and Negative Declaration.

V. REFERENCES lists bibliographical materials used in preparation of this document.

VI. NEGATIVE DECLARATION – COUNTY OF IMPERIAL

VII. FINDINGS

SECTION 4

VIII. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS (IF ANY)

IX. MITIGATION MONITORING & REPORTING PROGRAM (MMRP) (IF ANY)

E. SCOPE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

For evaluation of environmental impacts, each question from the Environmental Checklist Form is summarized and responses are provided according to the analysis undertaken as part of the Initial Study. Impacts and effects will be evaluated and quantified, when appropriate. To each question, there are four possible responses, including:

1. **No Impact:** A "No Impact" response is adequately supported if the impact simply does not apply to the proposed applications.
2. **Less Than Significant Impact:** The proposed applications will have the potential to impact the environment. These impacts, however, will be less than significant; no additional analysis is required.
3. **Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated:** This applies where incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact".
4. **Potentially Significant Impact:** The proposed applications could have impacts that are considered significant. Additional analyses and possibly an EIR could be required to identify mitigation measures that could reduce these impacts to less than significant levels.

F. POLICY-LEVEL or PROJECT LEVEL ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

This Initial Study and Negative Declaration will be conducted under a ☐ policy-level, ☒ project level analysis. Regarding mitigation measures, it is not the intent of this document to "overlap" or restate conditions of approval that are commonly established for future known projects or the proposed applications. Additionally, those other standard requirements and regulations that any development must comply with, that are outside the County's jurisdiction, are also not considered mitigation measures and therefore, will not be identified in this document.

G. TIERED DOCUMENTS AND INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

Information, findings, and conclusions contained in this document are based on incorporation by reference of tiered documentation, which are discussed in the following section.

1. Tiered Documents

As permitted in Section 15152(a) of the CEQA Guidelines, information and discussions from other documents can be included into this document. Tiering is defined as follows:

"Tiering refers to using the analysis of general matters contained in a broader EIR (such as the one prepared

for a general plan or policy statement) with later EIRs and negative declarations on narrower projects; incorporating by reference the general discussions from the broader EIR; and concentrating the later EIR or negative declaration solely on the issues specific to the later project."

Tiering also allows this document to comply with Section 15152(b) of the CEQA Guidelines, which discourages redundant analyses, as follows:

"Agencies are encouraged to tier the environmental analyses which they prepare for separate but related projects including the general plans, zoning changes, and development projects. This approach can eliminate repetitive discussion of the same issues and focus the later EIR or negative declaration on the actual issues ripe for decision at each level of environmental review. Tiering is appropriate when the sequence of analysis is from an EIR prepared for a general plan, policy or program to an EIR or negative declaration for another plan, policy, or program of lesser scope, or to a site-specific EIR or negative declaration."

Further, Section 15152(d) of the CEQA Guidelines states:

"Where an EIR has been prepared and certified for a program, plan, policy, or ordinance consistent with the requirements of this section, any lead agency for a later project pursuant to or consistent with the program, plan, policy, or ordinance should limit the EIR or negative declaration on the later project to effects which:

- (1) Were not examined as significant effects on the environment in the prior EIR; or
- (2) Are susceptible to substantial reduction or avoidance by the choice of specific revisions in the project, by the imposition of conditions, or other means."

2. Incorporation By Reference

Incorporation by reference is a procedure for reducing the size of EIRs/MND and is most appropriate for including long, descriptive, or technical materials that provide general background information, but do not contribute directly to the specific analysis of the project itself. This procedure is particularly useful when an EIR or Negative Declaration relies on a broadly-drafted EIR for its evaluation of cumulative impacts of related projects (*Las Virgenes Homeowners Federation v. County of Los Angeles* [1986, 177 Ca.3d 300]). If an EIR or Negative Declaration relies on information from a supporting study that is available to the public, the EIR or Negative Declaration cannot be deemed unsupported by evidence or analysis (*San Francisco Ecology Center v. City and County of San Francisco* [1975, 48 Ca.3d 584, 595]). This document incorporates by reference appropriate information from the "Final Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Assessment for the "County of Imperial General Plan EIR" prepared by Brian F. Mooney Associates in 1993 and updates.

When an EIR or Negative Declaration incorporates a document by reference, the incorporation must comply with Section 15150 of the CEQA Guidelines as follows:

- The incorporated document must be available to the public or be a matter of public record (CEQA Guidelines Section 15150[a]). The General Plan EIR and updates are available, along with this document, at the County of Imperial Planning & Development Services Department, 801 Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243 Ph. (442) 265-1736.
- This document must be available for inspection by the public at an office of the lead agency (CEQA Guidelines Section 15150[b]). These documents are available at the County of Imperial Planning & Development Services Department, 801 Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243 Ph. (442) 265-1736.
- These documents must summarize the portion of the document being incorporated by reference or briefly

describe information that cannot be summarized. Furthermore, these documents must describe the relationship between the incorporated information and the analysis in the tiered documents (CEQA Guidelines Section 15150[c]). As discussed above, the tiered EIRs address the entire project site and provide background and inventory information and data which apply to the project site. Incorporated information and/or data will be cited in the appropriate sections.

- These documents must include the State identification number of the incorporated documents (CEQA Guidelines Section 15150[d]). The State Clearinghouse Number for the County of Imperial General Plan EIR is SCH #93011023.
- The material to be incorporated in this document will include general background information (CEQA Guidelines Section 15150[f]). This has been previously discussed in this document.

II. Environmental Checklist

1. **Project Title:** Imperial County Public Works Department (PWD) Coyote Wash Bridge Improvements Project – Initial Study (IS) #19-0004
2. **Lead Agency:** Imperial County Planning & Development Services (ICPDS) Department
3. **Contact person and phone number:** Diana Robinson, Planner III, (442)265-1736, ext. 1751
4. **Address:** 801 Main Street, El Centro CA, 92243
5. **E-mail:** dianarobinson@co.imperial.ca.us
6. **Project location:** The existing bridge is located within the Colorado Desert, approximately 3.35 miles northeast of Ocotillo and approximately 2 miles northeast of the junction of Interstate 8 (I-8) and Evan Hewes Highway, in the unincorporated area of Imperial County.
7. **Project sponsor's name and address:** Imperial County Public Works Department (PWD), 155 S. 11th Street, El Centro, CA 92243.
8. **General Plan designation:** Community
9. **Zoning:** N/A. Surrounded by BLM Land as well as land zoned R-1-L-40 (Low Density Residential-Lots 40 ac min) and S-2 (Open Space/Recreation)
10. **Description of project:** The applicant (PWD) proposes to improve the existing Coyote Wash Bridge (No. 58C-0051), which is a simply supported timber bridge (306' long x 28'-8" wide), that has been rated as structurally deficient. This triggered the shutdown of the bridge until safe passage for the public could be guaranteed through the improvements project, which includes the repair or replacement of the following: crushed pier caps and column/pile #6 from pier 6, and concrete pedestals at abutment 17; it also includes the replacement or supplementation of damaged stinger, removal of asphalt (~10") and replacement with new 3" max layer from the entire length of the bridge, and the adjustment of the approach roadway profile in accordance with standards.
11. **Surrounding land uses and setting:** The project site is surrounded by vacant desert land. The bridge is used by local commuters and delivery trucks from the Gypsum plant in Plaster City, which is located approximately 5.5-miles northeast of the bridge. The area is highly disturbed by off road vehicles during all seasons. There is a camp site nearby, which is the Plaster City Camp Site, found approximately 1.6-miles northeast of the project site. The existing bridge, which is on Evan Hewes Highway, runs parallel approximately 420-feet north of some railroad tracks. The nearest residence is found approximately 2,835-feet southwest of the project site, and the nearest gas station can be found approximately 3.60 miles southwest of the site.
12. **Other public agencies whose approval is required** (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement.): Planning Commission
13. **Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1? If so, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.?**

Note: Conducting consultation early in the CEQA process allows tribal governments, lead agencies, and project proponents to discuss the level of environmental review, identify and address potential adverse impacts to tribal cultural resources, and reduce the potential for delay and conflict in the environmental review process. (See Public Resources Code, Section 21080.3.2). Information may also be available from

the California Native American Heritage Commission's Sacred Lands File per Public Resources Code, Section 5097.96 and the California Historical Resources Information System administered by the California Office of Historic Preservation. Please also note that Public Resources Code, Section 21082.3 (c) contains provisions specific to confidentiality.

Native American Tribes and members of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) have been invited to participate in the "Request for Review and Comment" as part of the Initial Study review process. In addition, letters requesting consultation pursuant to AB 52 were also sent at the beginning of the preparation of this Initial Study, along with a request to NAHC for Sacred Files Search. The consultation period for AB 52 will end on April 26, 2019.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture and Forestry Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Energy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Geology / Soils | <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology / Water Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use / Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Noise | <input type="checkbox"/> Population / Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Cultural Resources |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities/Service Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildfire | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |

ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION COMMITTEE (EEC) DETERMINATION

After Review of the Initial Study, the Environmental Evaluation Committee has:

☐ Found that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☒ Found that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☐ Found that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

☐ Found that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

☐ Found that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE DE MINIMIS IMPACT FINDING: ☒ Yes ☐ No

EEC VOTES

PUBLIC WORKS
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SVCS
OFFICE EMERGENCY SERVICES
APCD
AG
SHERIFF DEPARTMENT
ICPDS

YES

NO

ABSENT

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for Michael Ah
Jim Minnick, Director of Planning/EEC Chairman

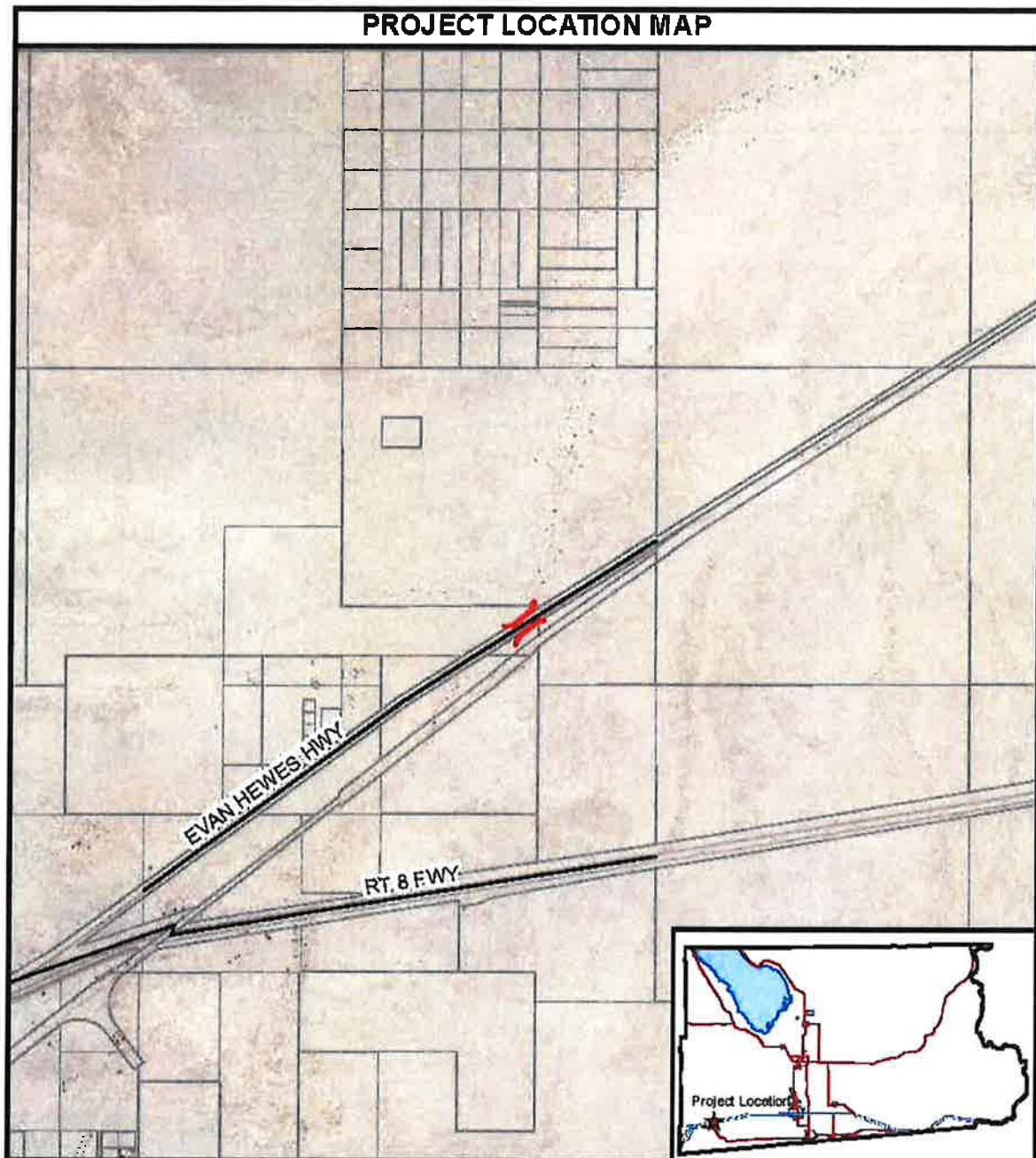
Date: 4-25-19

EEC ORIGINAL

PROJECT SUMMARY

- A. Project Location:** The existing bridge is located within the Colorado Desert, approximately 3.35 miles northeast of Ocotillo and approximately 2 miles northeast of the junction of Interstate 8 (I-8) and Evan Hewes Highway, in the unincorporated area of Imperial County.
- B. Project Summary:** The applicant (PWD) proposes to improve the existing Coyote Wash Bridge (No. 58C-0051), which is a simply supported timber bridge (306' long by 28'-8" wide), that has been rated as structurally deficient. This triggered the shutdown of the bridge until safe passage for the public could be guaranteed through the improvements project, which includes the repair or replacement of the following: crushed pier caps and column/pile #6 from pier 6, and concrete pedestals at abutment 17; it also includes the replacement or supplementation of damaged stinger, removal of asphalt (~10") and replacement with new 3" max layer from the entire length of the bridge, and the adjustment of the approach roadway profile in accordance with standards.
- C. Environmental Setting:** The existing bridge is surrounded by BLM Land as well as land zoned R-1-L-40 (Low Density Residential-Lots 40 ac min) and S-2 (Open Space/Recreation), although the environmental setting is mostly vacant desert land. The bridge is used by local commuters and delivery trucks from the Gypsum plant in Plaster City, which is located approximately 5.5-miles northeast of the bridge. The area is highly disturbed by off road vehicles during all seasons. There is a camp site nearby, which is the Plaster City Camp Site, found approximately 1.6-miles northeast of the project site. The existing bridge, which is on Evan Hewes Highway, runs parallel approximately 420-feet north of some railroad tracks. The nearest residence is found approximately 2,835-feet southwest of the project site, and the nearest gas station can be found approximately 3.60 miles southwest of the site.
- D. Analysis:** The applicant shall contact IID to assess the impacts to their facilities. An encroachment permit from Imperial Irrigation District (IID) would be required if impacting IID facilities, and any construction or operation on IID property within its existing and proposed right of way or easements would require an encroachment permit. The zoning and land use designations of the project site or surrounding area would not change as a result of the proposed project. As such, the proposed project would not conflict with the Imperial County General Plan and Zoning Ordinance. Therefore, the adoption of the CEQA Initial Study for this project would be consistent with the applicable County and State ordinances and regulations.
- E. General Plan Consistency:** In addition to the analysis stated above, the project application is found to be consistent, with the adoption of the CEQA Initial Study for the proposed project.

Exhibit "A"
Vicinity Map

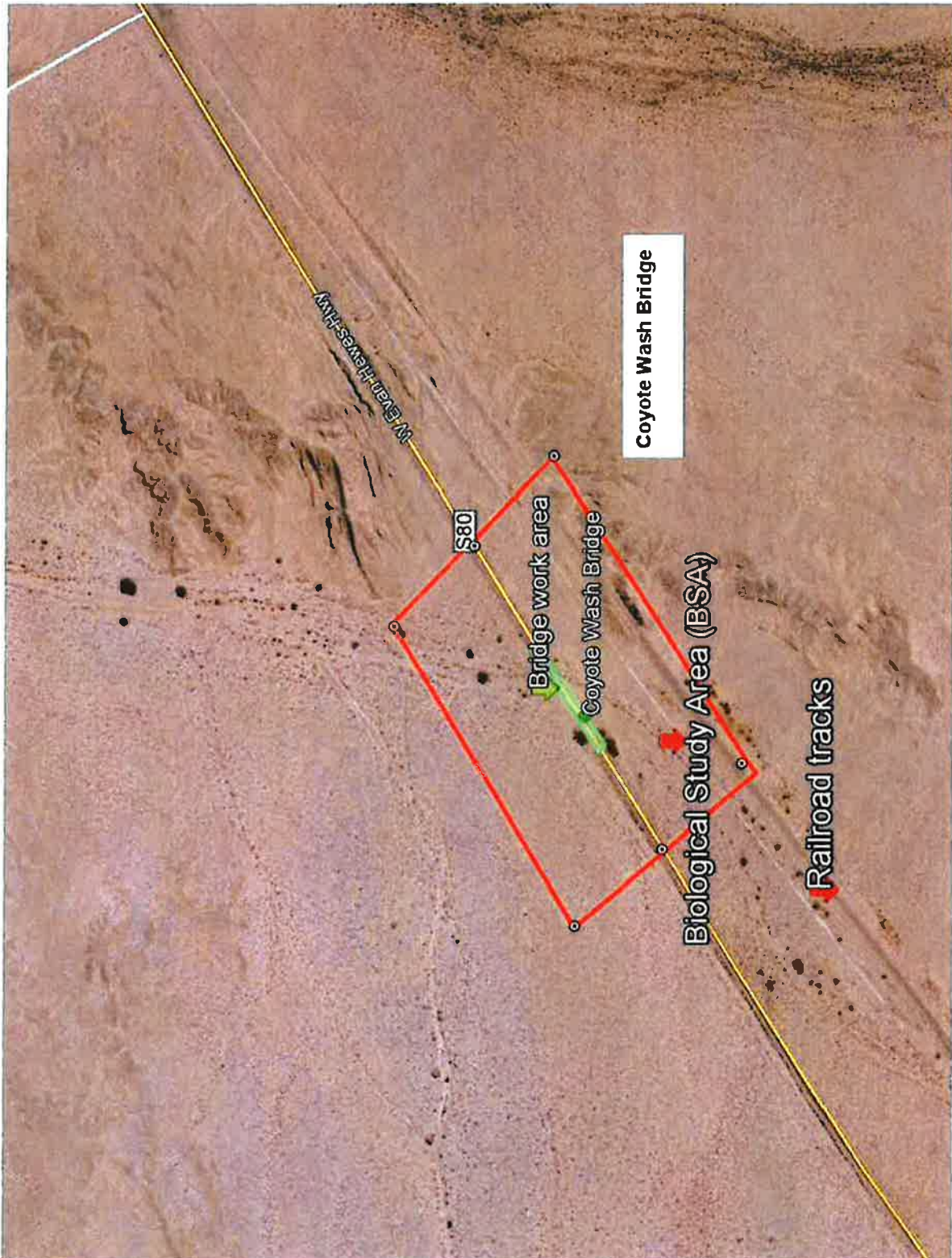


**COYOTE WASH BRIDGE
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
I.C. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
IS #19-0004**

— Centerline
— Bridge
— Parcels



Exhibit "B" Site Plan



EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

- 1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
- 2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
- 3) Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
- 4) "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from "Earlier Analyses," as described in (5) below, may be cross-referenced).
- 5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
 - a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
 - b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
 - c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
- 6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
- 7) Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
- 8) This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.
- 9) The explanation of each issue should identify:
 - a) the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
 - b) the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated (PSUMI)	Less Than Significant Impact (LTSI)	No Impact (NI)
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I. AESTHETICS

Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:

- a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista or scenic highway? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐
a) The existing bridge is on Evan Hewes Highway, which is not considered a scenic highway. The nearest major highway is Interstate 8 (I-8), and although a segment of it has been considered eligible for state scenic highway designation per the Imperial County Circulation & Scenic Highways Element, the project is not located within this segment. In addition, Evan Hewes Highway does not qualify as scenic per Caltrans' Scenic Highway Guidelines¹. The only visual impacts that can be expected would be the impacts derived from the construction work, although they would be temporary and per state standards; therefore, less than significant impacts are expected.
- b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒
b) Since Evan Hewes Highway is not considered scenic, and there are no scenic resources nearby; no impacts are expected.
- c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surrounding? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point.) If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐
c) The project is not within an urbanized area, although it is on a segment of a highway that leads to a community and connects to San Diego County. The project consists of improving the existing bridge to provide safer transportation. No degradation of the visual character is expected; therefore, less than significant levels are expected.
- d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐
d) The project is not proposing any new source(s) of lighting. All construction work is expected to be performed during daytime; therefore, less than significant impacts are expected.

II. AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES

In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. –Would the project:

- a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒
a) The project site appears as "Area Not Mapped" according to the California Department of Conservation Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP)², and is surrounded by land under the same classification. This means that the area falls outside of the NRCS soil survey and was not mapped by FMMP. Since the proposed project does not convert prime farmland, unique farmland or farmland of statewide importance (farmland) to non-agricultural use, no impacts are expected.
- b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act Contract? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒
b) The project site is within an area labeled as "Non-Enrolled Land" under the 2016 State of California Williamson Act Contract Land Map³; therefore, no impacts are expected.

¹ Caltrans' Scenic Highway Guidelines http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/16_livability/scenic_highways/guidelines/scenic_hwy_guidelines_04-12-2012.pdf

² California Important Farmland: 1984-2014 Maps <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/agriculture/>

³ State of California Williamson Act Contract Land Map 2016

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated (PSUMI)	Less Than Significant Impact (LTSI)	No Impact (NI)
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))? c) The project site is not surrounded by forest land; therefore, no impacts are expected to occur.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use? d) There is no forest land in the area of the project site; therefore no impacts regarding conversion of land to non-forest use are expected.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use? e) The project site is not classified as Farmland, and the scope of work does not involve agricultural activities; therefore, no impacts are expected	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

III. AIR QUALITY

Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to the following determinations. Would the Project:

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?
a) According to a comment letter received by I.C. Air Pollution Control District (APCD) dated March 29, 2019, the project is located in an area identified in the Air District's "High Wind Exceptional Event Fugitive Dust Mitigation Plan" as a high wind corridor that is subject to periodic strong westerly winds that create wind-dust channels. As such, there is increased potential for the emission of fugitive dust from construction projects such as this to affect air quality monitors in the area. Therefore, the Air District is requiring that the applicant adhere to Regulation VIII Fugitive Dust Rules to minimize visible dust emissions (VDE) during construction and earthmoving activities. These actions can include, but are not limited to, construction vehicles reducing speed at the project site, and limiting the amount of earthmoving activities as much as possible. Also, if the applicant intends to use any generators greater than 50 horsepower during construction operations, the applicant is to contact the Engineering and Permitting Division of the Air District to obtain necessary permits. Compliance with APCD's regulations would lower potential impacts to less than significant levels. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?
b) To avoid any considerable increase of pollutants, the applicant shall comply with APCD's regulations as stated above. The improvement project is expected to be temporary, but all work shall be in accordance to state and local codes. Compliance with the previous agencies' requirements would bring the potential impacts to less than significant impacts. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutants concentrations?
c) The nearest residence is located approximately 2,835-feet and the nearest community is Ocotillo, which is found approximately 3.35-miles southwest of the project site. The applicant shall adhere to APCD's Fugitive Dust Rules to lessen emissions during construction and earthmoving activities. Compliance with these rules would lower potential impacts to less than significant levels. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors adversely affecting a substantial number of people)?
d) The project area is not within the immediate vicinity of a community, and the project's construction emissions are not expected to be substantial, but compliance with APCD's Regulation VIII Fugitive Dust Rules would lower potential impacts to less than significant levels. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated (PSUMI)	Less Than Significant Impact (LTSI)	No Impact (NI)
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IV. **BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES** *Would the project:*

- a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

☐ ☒ ☐ ☐

a) After looking at the Imperial County General Plan's Conservation and Open Space Element⁴ Figure 1 "Sensitive Habitats", it was found that the project site is near an area classified as "Active and Stabilized/Partially Stabilized Desert Dunes". Figure 2 "Sensitive Species", shows that the project site is within the "Flat-Tailed Horned Lizard Species Distribution Model" and the CNDDDB Documented Species Occurrence shows the area as "Not Listed". Figure 3 "Agency-Designated Habitats" identifies the area as being within the "Flat-Tailed Horned Lizard Species Distribution Model" and being directly north of an area identified as "BLM Area of Critical Environmental Concern (Habitat)". According to the Biological Survey dated March 2019⁵ prepared for this project, one special-status plant and two special-status wildlife species have some potential to occur within the Biological Study Area (BSA). No vegetation or animals considered endangered, threatened or species of concern were found in the Study Area. In addition, the applicant shall obtain a permit with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Division for working within a wash. The applicant shall also submit a Streambed Alteration Permit through the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Compliance with the two mitigation measures below would cause for potentially significant impacts to be less than significant.

MM BIO - 1:

A preconstruction survey should be conducted by a qualified biologist for special-status plants and nesting birds.

MM BIO- 2:

The following actions will be required:

1. Nesting surveys by qualified biologists shall be prepared during nesting season (February through August)
2. Flat-Tailed Horned Lizard (FTHL) monitoring shall be required during construction by CDFW-qualified biologists
3. Worker environmental awareness training for nesting birds and FTHL which will include the following aspects:
 - Biology and status of the FTHL;
 - Protection measures designed to reduce potential impacts to the species, function of flagging designating authorized work areas;
 - Reporting procedures to be used if a FTHL is encountered in the field; and driving procedures and techniques, for commuting, and driving on, to the project site, to reduce mortality of FTHL on roads;
 - Identification of nesting birds and procedures to follow if nesting is suspected.

As an avoidance measure, areas outside of the project footprint will be designated as an "Environmentally Sensitive Area" (ESA) on project plans. No project-related activities will take place within the ESA-designated areas.

- b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

☐ ☒ ☐ ☐

b) No riparian habitat was found surrounding the project, and the area is not considered a sensitive natural community. Compliance with the two mitigation measures above (MM BIO -1 and MM BIO -2) would cause for potentially significant impacts to be less than significant.

- c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

c) The project site is not within any area that is considered state of federally protected wetland; therefore, no impacts are expected.

- d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?

☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

⁴ IC General Plan Conservation and Open Space Element Figure 1 <http://www.icpds.com/CMS/Media/Conservation-&-Open-Space-Element-2016.pdf>

⁵ Coyote Wash Bridge Improvement Project prepared by Barrett's Biological Surveys, dated March 2019

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated (PSUMI)	Less Than Significant Impact (LTSI)	No Impact (NI)
d) There are no fish nor wildlife species surrounding the project area, so no impacts are expected.				
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinance protecting biological resource, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) There are no policies protecting biological resources towards the area of the project; therefore, no impacts are expected.				
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) There are no Conservation Plans within the project area; therefore, no impacts are expected.				

V. **CULTURAL RESOURCES** *Would the project:*

- a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐
a) The Imperial County General Plan's Conservation and Open Space Element Figure 6 "Known Areas of Native American Cultural Sensitivity Map"⁶ shows that even though the project is not within a Native American Cultural Sensitivity area, it is near an area classified as "Native American Sacred Sites". A standard "Request for review and comment" and letters pursuant to AB52 were sent to tribe members requesting consultation for this project. A Sacred Lands Search request was also sent to Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). Our office has not received a response; therefore, less than significant impacts are expected.
- b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐
b) According to the California Tribal Lands Map⁷ from the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency and the California Indian Tribal Homelands and Trust Land Map of the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs⁸, the project site is not within a tribal land and the project area has been previously disturbed, so less than significant impacts are expected.
- c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐
c) The project site is not within a dedicated cemetery; however, the applicant and contractors will be subject to the California Health and Safety Code §7050.5, CEQA §15064.5, and California Public Resources Code §5097.98 during the construction phase. Compliance with the said codes would lessen the impacts to less than significant.

VI. **ENERGY** *Would the project:*

- a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒
a) The proposed bridge improvement project does not have an electrical component, so no unnecessary consumption of energy is anticipated. No impacts are expected.
- b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒
b) There will be no energy consumption as part of the project and no energy will be used during the operational life of the bridge; therefore, no impacts are expected.

VII. **GEOLOGY AND SOILS** *Would the project:*

- a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including risk of loss, injury, or death involving: ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

⁶ Imperial County General Plan Conservation and Open Space Element Fig 6 <http://www.icpds.com/CMS/Media/Conservation-&Open-Space-Element-2016.pdf>

⁷ California Tribal Lands Map https://www3.epa.gov/region9/air/maps/pdfs/air1100040_3.pdf

⁸ California Indian Tribal Homelands Map http://www.water.ca.gov/tribal/docs/maps/CaliforniaIndianTribalHomelands24x30_20110719.pdf

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated (PSUMI)	Less Than Significant Impact (LTSI)	No Impact (NI)
effects, including risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
a) According to the State of California Special Studies Zones Fault Activity Map (2010)⁹, the proposed project is not located within a known fault. All construction shall be performed in accordance with the latest California Uniform Building Code (Section 1626 through 1635), which requires development to incorporate the most stringent earthquake resistant measures. Adherence with said codes would cause for less than significant impacts.				
1) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
1) As per the statement above, the area is not near any known faults and the scope of work does not include any habitable structures; therefore, less than significant impacts are expected.				
2) Strong Seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2) Imperial County is subject to seismic ground shaking so it is possible for the project to be impacted in the event of ground shaking; however, since there are no known faults nearby, less than significant impacts can be expected.				
3) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction and seiche/tsunami?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
3) According to the Department of Conservation Regulatory Maps, the project site is not within the designated Tsunami areas; therefore, no impacts are expected.				
4) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4) Also using the Department of Conservation Regulatory Maps, it was found that the site is not located within a landslide hazard zone; therefore, no impacts are expected.				
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) The project consists on the improvements of an existing bridge, which is on disturbed land. The approval of the project would not result in soil erosion since the improvements have considered drainage patterns and grading. Adherence to the approved plans for the improvements shall cause for potential impacts to be less than significant.				
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) The conditions for landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse are not present; therefore, no impacts are expected to occur.				
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in the latest Uniform Building Code, creating substantial direct or indirect risk to life or property?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) The project site has been previously disturbed and it has not been classified as expansive soil. No habitable structures are being proposed; therefore, less than significant impacts are expected.				
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) No septic tanks are being proposed; therefore, no impacts are expected.				
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) The site has been previously disturbed and no paleontological resources have been previously identified. Compliance with the California Health and Safety Code §7050.5, CEQA §15064.5, and California Public Resources Code §5097.98 in the event of unexpected finding will lessen impacts to less than significant levels.				

⁹ Fault Activity Map of California (2010) <http://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/fam/>

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated (PSUMI)	Less Than Significant Impact (LTSI)	No Impact (NI)
VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION Would the project:				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment? a) The construction work is expected to be temporary and in phases. The daily trips to be performed during this time are not expected to exceed the County agencies' thresholds; therefore, less than significant impacts are expected.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with an applicable plan or policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases? b) There are no plans or policies that apply for this type of project and scope of work. Compliance with the standard construction measures will help reduce the emissions of greenhouse gases, causing for less than significant impacts.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS Would the project:

a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials? a) No hazardous materials are included in the scope of work of the project, and there are no residents in the immediate vicinity of the site; therefore, less than significant impacts are expected.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonable foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment? b) As stated above, no hazardous materials are included in the proposed project; therefore, no impacts are expected.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school? c) There are no school within one-quarter mile of the project; therefore, no impacts are expected.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on a site, which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment? d) After looking at the EnvironStor Database¹⁰ for the project site, it was found that it was not included in the database; therefore, no impacts are expected to occur.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area? e) The project site is not within an airport area according to the Imperial County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUC Plan); therefore, no impacts are expected to occur.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? f) The bridge improvements are meant to provide a safe passage for commuters over the Coyote Wash. It will not interfere with any emergency evacuation plan during its operational phase, except during the construction and earthmoving activities phase. The bridge is currently shutdown since it was deemed structurally deficient, but will reopen once the construction work has been completed. Since alternative routes have been designated in anticipation of these repairs, less than significant impacts are expected.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

¹⁰ EnvironStor Database <http://www.envirostor.dts.ca.gov/public/map/?myaddress=Sacramento&tour=True>

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated (PSUMI)	Less Than Significant Impact (LTSI)	No Impact (NI)
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires? g) The project is not in an area that is considered "wildland" and the project does not include habitable structures so less than significant impacts are expected regarding potential fires.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY *Would the project:*

- | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| a) The Imperial County General Plan's Conservation and Open Space Element ¹¹ Figure 2 "Sensitive Habitats" show the project area surrounded by streams/rivers. The bridge crosses the Coyote Wash and the applicant shall obtain a permit with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Division for working within a wash. The applicant shall also submit a Streambed Alteration Permit through the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. These two permits shall be obtained to prevent any violations of water quality or degradation of surface or ground water quality. Compliance with said permits shall lower potential impacts to less than significant levels. | | | | |
| b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) The bridge improvement project is not expected to use any groundwater. If water is needed for construction (i.e. for Dust Suppression), it shall be from an approved local water source, but that would have to be analyzed separately from this Initial Study. Less than significant levels are expected. | | | | |
| c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would: | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) The wash would not be altered since the project consists of improving the existing bridge. No drainage pattern is expected to change as a consequence of the approval of this project, since it is meant to improve the conditions of the bridge only, and will not interfere with any surrounding areas. Less than significant impacts are expected. | | | | |
| (i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site; | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (i) The project would not cause for erosion since the area is already disturbed, and the improvements will apply strictly to the existing bridge structure, and to be done in accordance with applicable state and local codes. Compliance with said codes would lower potential impacts to less than significant levels. | | | | |
| (ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite; | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (i) There are no changes expected regarding surface runoff, since the improvement project would replace the existing structure and will maintain current slopes. The area has been previously disturbed at the time of the Evan Hewes Highway construction and when this bridge was built. Less than significant impacts are expected. | | | | |
| (iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or; | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (iii) As per the statement above, there are no stormwater drainage systems for this project because of the nature of the structure. The bridge has a natural slope and rain water would slope towards the sides. No runoff water is expected to be an issue with the design of the project; therefore, no impacts are expected. | | | | |
| (iv) impede or redirect flood flows? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (iv) The scope of work consists of making improvements on the existing structure, so no flood flows will be blocked as a consequence of the approval of this project; therefore, no impacts are expected. | | | | |

¹¹ IC General Plan Conservation and Open Space Element Figure 1 <http://www.icpds.com/CMS/Media/Conservation-&-Open-Space-Element-2016.pdf>

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated (PSUMI)	Less Than Significant Impact (LTSI)	No Impact (NI)
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation? d) The project site is within Zone A according to FIRM Panel 06025C1640C, but since the bridge crosses over the Coyote Wash, water would flow underneath the unmanned structure; therefore, less than significant impacts are expected.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan? e) The project is meant to improve the conditions of the bridge to be able to provide safe passage for commuters. No water quality plans are expected to be obstructed with the project approval; therefore, no impacts are expected.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

XI. **LAND USE AND PLANNING** *Would the project:*

- a) Physically divide an established community? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒
a) The project is not within the vicinity of an established community; therefore, no impacts can be expected.
- b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒
b) The proposed project does not conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect; therefore, no impacts are expected.

XII. **MINERAL RESOURCES** *Would the project:*

- a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒
a) The project site area is not located in or near any existing mineral resource areas as shown on the Imperial County Conservation and Open Space Element, Figure 8 "Existing Mineral Resources"¹²; therefore, no impacts are expected.
- b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒
b) As previously stated, the proposed project would not result in the loss of locally-important mineral resources as identified in the Imperial County General Plan Conservation and Open Space Element, Figure 8 "Existing Mineral Resources". No impacts are expected to occur.

XIII. **NOISE** *Would the project result in:*

- a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐
a) The proposed project is expected to temporarily increase noise levels during the construction phase. The activities are expected to occur within business hours, and the noise levels are not expected to exceed the thresholds established in the Imperial County General Plan "Noise Element". The applicant and contractor shall make sure the construction and earthmoving activities do not exceed the Construction Noise Standards of 75 dB Leq, when averaged over an eight (8) hour period, and measured at the nearest sensitive receptor. Adherence to the "Noise Element" standards would bring the impacts to a less than significant level.
- b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐
b) As previously stated, temporary noise levels and vibration could result from the construction phase, but these noise levels would have to be maintained within the County's allowed threshold to avoid nuisances regarding excessive groundborne

¹² Imperial County Conservation and Open Space Element Figure 8 <http://www.icpds.com/CMS/Media/Conservation-&-Open-Space-Element-2016.pdf>

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated (PSUMI)	Less Than Significant Impact (LTSI)	No Impact (NI)
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vibration. Adherence to the "Noise Element" standards would bring any potential impacts to a less than significant levels.

- c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?
- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
- c) The project site is not located within 2 miles of an airport; therefore, no impacts are expected.**

XIV. **POPULATION AND HOUSING** *Would the project:*

- a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and business) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?
- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
- a) The proposed project is not expected to cause for unplanned growth, but to provide safe passage for local commuters; therefore, no impacts are expected.**
- b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?
- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
- b) Since no housing is being proposed as part of the project; no impacts are expected to occur.**

XV. **PUBLIC SERVICES**

- a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:
- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
- a) The project would not cause for the need of any provisions or cause for alterations involving governmental facilities. It would not substantially affect any type of public service, except cause a temporary increase in traffic during the construction phase of the project. Less than significant impacts are to be expected.**
- 1) Fire Protection?
- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
- 1) The Fire Department was consulted and requested to provide comments on this project, but no comments were received. No impacts are expected.**
- 2) Police Protection?
- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
- 2) No impacts are anticipated regarding an increase in services as a consequence of the approval of this project; therefore, no impacts are expected.**
- 3) Schools?
- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
- 3) There are no schools in the vicinity of the project. No impacts are anticipated regarding increase in school services.**
- 4) Parks?
- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
- 4) There are no parks within the vicinity of the project site; therefore, no impacts are expected.**
- 5) Other Public Facilities?
- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
- 5) No other public facilities are anticipated to be affected by the proposed project; therefore, less than significant impacts are expected.**

XVI. **RECREATION**

- a) Would the project increase the use of the existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational
- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated (PSUMI)	Less Than Significant Impact (LTSI)	No Impact (NI)
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facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?

a) **The existing bridge spans the Coyote Wash, which is a typical sandy desert wash that is highly disturbed by vehicular traffic including All Terrain Vehicles (ATV) and other Off Highway Vehicles (OHV) (i.e. 4x4's), although these activities do not impact the project since that type of traffic occurs underneath the bridge. PWD will note to the contractor to keep the access open during construction as to not impact travel under the bridge. The nearest camp site is the Plaster City Camp Site, located approximately 1.6-miles northeast of the bridge. There are no neighborhood or regional parks nearby; therefore, less than significant impacts are expected.**

- b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse effect on the environment? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

b) **The project does not include recreational facilities; therefore, no impacts are expected.**

XVII. **TRANSPORTATION** *Would the project:*

- a) Conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

a) **The scope of work would help improve the passage for local commuters and would not conflict with any circulation system during its operational phase. The existing bridge is currently shutdown since it was deemed to be structurally deficient, but local commuters can take alternative routes. The approval of the project would benefit the community; therefore, no impacts are expected.**

- b) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with the CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

b) **The project is on Evan Hewes highway; therefore, less than significant impacts are expected.**

- c) Substantially increases hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

c) **The existing bridge and improvements are to be designed per state standards and shall not increase hazards due to design features; therefore, no impacts are expected to occur.**

- d) Result in inadequate emergency access? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

d) **The project is surrounded by desert vacant land and it not expected to result in an inadequate emergency access.**

XVIII. **TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES**

- a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is: ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

a) **The Imperial County General Plan's Conservation and Open Space Element Figure 6 "Known Areas of Native American Cultural Sensitivity Map"¹³ shows that even though the project is not within a Native American Cultural Sensitivity area, it is near an area classified as "Native American Sacred Sites". A standard "Request for review and comment" and letters pursuant to AB52 were sent to tribe members requesting consultation for this project. A Sacred Lands Search request was also sent to Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). Our office has not received any response; therefore, no impacts are expected.**

- (i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as define in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(k), or ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

¹³ Imperial County General Plan Conservation and Open Space Element Fig 6 <http://www.icpds.com/CMS/Media/Conservation-&Open-Space-Element-2016.pdf>

Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated (PSUMI)	Less Than Significant Impact (LTSI)	No Impact (NI)
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(i) The proposed site does not appear to be eligible under Public Resources Code Section 21074 or 5020.1 (k); therefore, less than significant impacts are to be expected.

(ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American Tribe.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------	--------------------------

(ii) The Native American Heritage Commission Sacred Lands was contacted for a record search for the area of potential project effect (APE) but our office has not received a timely response; therefore, less than significant impacts are expected.

XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS Would the project:

a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------	--------------------------

a) The bridge improvements project will not cause for the relocation or construction of water or wastewater. The scope of work consists on making repairs where needed so that the bridge can no longer be deemed structurally deficient. Less than significant impacts are expected.

b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------	--------------------------

b) The project would not require a substantial amount of water, except for dust suppression as part of the construction procedures. Water would be trucked in since the amount anticipated to be used would not trigger the need for the drilling of a new water well. Less than significant impacts are expected.

c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------	--------------------------

c) There will be no wastewater as part of the operational phase of the project. The construction of the project could have wastewater but the amount could not be substantial to alter the surrounding areas; therefore, less than significant impacts are expected.

d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------	--------------------------

d) No solid waste are expected from the proposed project other than the debris from the construction activities. All work shall be done per State and Local codes (i.e. all waste shall be taken to a County approved landfill). Compliance with said codes would lessen potential impacts to less than significant levels.

e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------	--------------------------

e) As previously mentioned, all solid waste shall be taken to a County approved landfill. Compliance with said codes would lessen potential impacts to less than significant levels.

XX. WILDFIRE

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the Project:

a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------	--------------------------

a) The project site is located within a Local Responsibility Area (LRA) classified as "Moderate" according to the Fire Hazard

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated (PSUMI)	Less Than Significant Impact (LTSI)	No Impact (NI)
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Severity Zone Map.¹⁴ Zones are classified based on a combination of how a fire will behave and the probability of flames and embers threatening buildings, as well of the likelihood of the area burning. Since the proposed project consists of an unmanned structure with no sensitive receptors in its immediate vicinity, less than significant impacts are expected.

- b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

b) Since the project area is not within a "high fire hazard severity zone", less than significant impacts are to be expected.

- c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

c) No additional infrastructure will be required that may exacerbate fire risks; therefore, less than significant impacts are expected.

- d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

d) The project is not within a downstream area or an area with landslides; therefore, no impacts are expected.

Note: Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21083.05, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 65088.4, Gov. Code; Sections 21080(c), 21080.1, 21080.3, 21083, 21083.05, 21083.3, 21093, 21094, 21095, and 21151, Public Resources Code; Sundstrom v. County of Mendocino, (1988) 202 Cal.App.3d 298; Leonoff v. Monterey Board of Supervisors, (1990) 222 Cal.App.3d 1337; Eureka Citizens for Responsible Govt. v. City of Eureka (2007) 147 Cal.App.4th 357; Protect the Historic Amador Waterways v. Amador Water Agency (2004) 116 Cal.App.4th at 1109; San Franciscans Upholding the Downtown Plan v. City and County of San Francisco (2002) 102 Cal.App.4th 656.

Revised 2009- CEQA
Revised 2011- ICPDS
Revised 2016 - ICPDS
Revised 2017 - ICPDS
Revised 2019 - ICPDS

¹⁴ FRAP Fire Hazard Severity Zones http://rap.fire.ca.gov/webdata/maps/imperial/fhsz106_1_map.13.pdf

Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated (PSUMI)	Less Than Significant Impact (LTSI)	No Impact (NI)
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SECTION 3

III. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

The following are Mandatory Findings of Significance in accordance with Section 15065 of the CEQA Guidelines.

- a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, eliminate tribal cultural resources or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?
- b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)
- c) Does the project have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

☐
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☐
☐
☒

IV. PERSONS AND ORGANIZATIONS CONSULTED

This section identifies those persons who prepared or contributed to preparation of this document. This section is prepared in accordance with Section 15129 of the CEQA Guidelines.

A. COUNTY OF IMPERIAL

- Jim Minnick, Director of Planning & Development Services
- Michael Abraham, AICP, Assistant Director of Planning & Development Services
- Diana Robinson, Planner III
- Imperial County Air Pollution Control District
- Department of Public Works
- Fire Department
- Ag Commissioner
- Environmental Health Services
- Sheriff's Office

B. OTHER AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS

- Native American Heritage Commission
- Imperial Irrigation District

(Written or oral comments received on the checklist prior to circulation)

V. REFERENCES

1. Caltrans' Scenic Highway Guidelines
2. California Important Farmland: 1984-2014 Maps <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/agriculture>
3. State of California Williamson Act Contract Land Map 2016
4. Imperial County General Plan Conservation and Open Space Element Figure 1
5. Coyote Wash Bridge Improvement Project - Barrett's Biological Survey, dated March 2019
6. Imperial County General Plan Conservation and Open Space Element Figure 6
7. California Tribal Lands Map https://www3.epa.gov/region9/air/maps/pdfs/air1100040_3.pdf
8. California Indian Tribal Homelands Map
http://www.water.ca.gov/tribal/docs/maps/CaliforniaIndianTribalHomelands24x30_20110719.pdf
9. Fault Activity Map of California (2010) <http://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/fam>
10. EnviroStor Database <http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/map/?myaddress=Sacramento&tour=True>
11. Imperial County General Plan Conservation and Open Space Element Figure 1
12. Imperial County General Plan Conservation and Open Space Element Figure 8
13. Imperial County General Plan Conservation and Open Space Element Figure 6
14. FRAP Fire Hazard Severity Zones http://frap.fire.ca.gov/webdata/maps/imperial/fhszl06_1_map.13.pdf
15. Federal Emergency Management Area (FEMA)

VI. NEGATIVE DECLARATION – County of Imperial

The following Negative Declaration is being circulated for public review in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act Section 21091 and 21092 of the Public Resources Code.

Project Name: Imperial County Public Works Department (PWD) Coyote Wash Bridge Improvements Project – Initial Study #19-0004

Project Applicant: Imperial County Public Works Department (PWD), 155 S. 11th Street, El Centro, CA 92243

Project Location: The existing bridge is located within the Colorado Desert, approximately 3.35 miles northeast of Ocotillo and approximately 2 miles northeast of the junction of Interstate 8 (I-8) and Evan Hewes Highway, in the unincorporated area of Imperial County

Description of Project: The applicant (PWD) proposes to improve the existing Coyote Wash Bridge (No. 58C-0051), which is a simply supported timber bridge (306' long x 28'-8" wide), that has been rated as structurally deficient. This triggered the shutdown of the bridge until safe passage for the public could be guaranteed through the improvements project, which includes the repair or replacement of the following: crushed pier caps and column/pile #6 from pier 6, and concrete pedestals at abutment 17; it also includes the replacement or supplementation of damaged stinger, removal of asphalt (~10") and replacement with new 3" max layer from the entire length of the bridge, and the adjustment of the approach roadway profile in accordance with standards.

VII. FINDINGS

This is to advise that the County of Imperial, acting as the lead agency, has conducted an Initial Study to determine if the project may have a significant effect on the environmental and is proposing this Negative Declaration based upon the following findings:

☐ The Initial Study shows that there is no substantial evidence that the project may have a significant effect on the environment and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☐ The Initial Study identifies potentially significant effects but:

- (1) Proposals made or agreed to by the applicant before this proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration was released for public review would avoid the effects or mitigate the effects to a point where clearly no significant effects would occur.
- (2) There is no substantial evidence before the agency that the project may have a significant effect on the environment.
- (3) Mitigation measures are required to ensure all potentially significant impacts are reduced to levels of insignificance.

A NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

If adopted, the Negative Declaration means that an Environmental Impact Report will not be required. Reasons to support this finding are included in the attached Initial Study. The project file and all related documents are available for review at the County of Imperial, Planning & Development Services Department, 801 Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243 (442) 265-1736.

NOTICE

The public is invited to comment on the proposed Negative Declaration during the review period.

4-25-19 for [Signature]
Date of Determination Jim Minnick, Director of Planning & Development Services

The Applicant hereby acknowledges and accepts the results of the Environmental Evaluation Committee (EEC) and hereby agrees to implement all Mitigation Measures, if applicable, as outlined in the MMRP.

[Signature] 4/25/19
Applicant Signature Date

SECTION 4

VIII. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

(ATTACH DOCUMENTS, IF ANY, HERE)

AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT



RECEIVED

MAR 29 2019

IMPERIAL COUNTY
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

March 29, 2019

Jim Minnick, Director
Imperial County Planning & Development Services
801 Main Street
El Centro, CA 92243

SUBJECT: Initial Study 19-0004—Coyote Wash Bridge Improvement Project

Dear Mr. Minnick:

The Imperial County Air Pollution Control District ("Air District") would like to thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on Initial Study (IS) 19-0004 that would allow repairs to the existing Coyote Wash Bridge (No. 58C-0051) located at Evan Hewes Highway and Coyote Wash, approximately 3.5 miles east of Ocotillo (APN 033-590-005-001). Repairs to the 16-span supported timber bridge will include, but not be limited to, the repair or replacement of crushed pier caps and column/pile #6 from pier 6, the repair of a damaged concrete pedestal at abutment 17, the replacement or the supplement of a damaged stringer, removal of the asphalt-concrete (AC ~10") from the entire length of the bridge and replacement with a new 3" maximum layer, and adjustment of the approach roadway profile in accordance with standards.

Air District comments

Upon review, the Air District points out that the project lies in an area identified in the Air District's *High Wind Exceptional Event Fugitive Dust Mitigation Plan* as a high wind corridor that is subject to periodic strong westerly winds that create wind-dust channels. As such, there is increased potential for the emission of fugitive dust from construction projects such as this to affect air quality monitors in the area. Therefore, the Air District politely requests that the applicant adhere to Regulation VIII Fugitive Dust Rules to minimize visible dust emissions (VDE) during construction and earthmoving activities. These actions can include, but are not limited to, construction vehicles reducing speed at the project site, and limiting the amount of earthmoving activities as much as possible. Finally, if the applicant intends to use any generators greater than 50 horsepower during construction operations, the applicant is encouraged to contact the Engineering & Permitting Division of the Air District to obtain any necessary permits.

The Air District's Rules & Regulations can be found on its website (www.co.imperial.ca.us/AirPollution) under the "Planning" tab. Should the applicant have any questions, please contact our office at (442) 265-1800.

Respectfully,

Curtis Blondell
APC Environmental Coordinator



IID

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March 29, 2019

**Ms. Diana Robinson
Planner III
Planning & Development Services Department
County of Imperial
801 Main Street
El Centro, CA 92243**

RECEIVED

MAR 29 2019

**IMPERIAL COUNTY
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

SUBJECT: Coyote Wash Bridge Improvement Project

Dear Ms. Robinson:

On March 21, 2019, the Imperial Irrigation District received from the Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department, a request for agency comments on the initial environmental study for the Coyote Wash Bridge improvement project. The Imperial County Public Works Dept. proposes to repair the existing 16-span timber Coyote Wash Bridge located approximately 3.5 miles east of Ocotillo, CA at the crossing of Evan Hewes Highway and Coyote Wash.

The Imperial Irrigation District has reviewed the information and has the following comments:

1. At the bridge location, IID Energy has an existing 4-wire overhead 12kV primary line that parallels Evan Hewes Highway to the northwest. The line is approximately 70 feet northwest of the highway bridge (see attached map). If the ICPWD intends to work within 20 feet of the existing overhead conductors, the department should be advised to contact Mr. Ernesto Benitez, Customer Project Development Planner, at (760) 482-3405 or at eibenitez@iid.com to initiate the assessment of impacts to IID facilities. The district will require that ICPWD provide a set of bridge improvement plans and a construction plan to determine if any construction equipment and/or procedure may affect the above-mentioned distribution line.
2. Any construction or operation on IID property or within its existing and proposed right of way or easements including but not limited to: surface improvements such as proposed new streets, driveways, parking lots, landscape; and all water, sewer, storm water, or any other above ground or underground utilities; will require an encroachment permit, or encroachment agreement (depending on the circumstances). A copy of the IID encroachment permit application and instructions for its completion are available at <http://www.ild.com/departments/real-estate>. The IID Real Estate Section should be contacted at (760) 339-9239 for

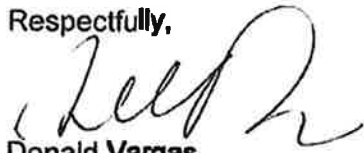
Diana Robinson
March 29, 2019
Page 2

additional information regarding encroachment permits or agreements. No foundations or buildings will be allowed within IID's right of way.

3. Any new, relocated, modified or reconstructed IID facilities required for and by the project (which can include but is not limited to electrical utility substations, electrical transmission and distribution lines, etc.) need to be included as part of the project's CEQA and/or NEPA documentation, environmental impact analysis and mitigation. Failure to do so will result in postponement of any construction and/or modification of IID facilities until such time as the environmental documentation is amended and environmental impacts are fully analyzed. **Any and all mitigation necessary as a result of the construction, relocation and/or upgrade of IID facilities is the responsibility of the project proponent.**

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 760-482-3609 or at dvargas@iid.com. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter.

Respectfully,



Donald Vargas
Compliance Administrator II

Enrique B. Martinez – General Manager
Mike Pacheco – Manager, Water Dept.
Charles Allegranza – Interim Manager, Energy Dept.
Jamie Asbury – Deputy Manager, Energy Dept., Operations
Enrique De Leon – Asst. Mgr., Energy Dept., Distr., Planning, Eng. & Customer Service
Vance Taylor – Asst. General Counsel
Robert Laurie – Asst. General Counsel
Michael P. Kemp – Superintendent, Regulatory & Environmental Compliance
Laura Cervantes – Supervisor, Real Estate
Jessica Lovecchio – Environmental Project Mgr. Sr., Water Dept.

EEC ORIGINAL

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION
Cultural and Environmental Department
1550 Harbor Blvd., Suite 100
West Sacramento, CA 95691
Phone: (916) 373-3710
Email: nahc@nahc.ca.gov
Website: <http://www.nahc.ca.gov>
Twitter: @CA_NAHC



April 12, 2019

Diana Robinson
Imperial County Planning Department

VIA Email to: dianarobinson@co.imperial.ca.us

RE: Coyote Wash Bridge Improvement Project, Imperial County

Dear Ms. Robinson:

A record search of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File (SLF) was completed for the information you have submitted for the above referenced project. The results were negative. However, the absence of specific site information in the SLF does not indicate the absence of cultural resources in any project area. Other sources of cultural resources should also be contacted for information regarding known and recorded sites.

Attached is a list of Native American tribes who may also have knowledge of cultural resources in the project area. This list should provide a starting place in locating areas of potential adverse impact within the proposed project area. I suggest you contact all of those indicated; if they cannot supply information, they might recommend others with specific knowledge. By contacting all those listed, your organization will be better able to respond to claims of failure to consult with the appropriate tribe. If a response has not been received within two weeks of notification, the Commission requests that you follow-up with a telephone call or email to ensure that the project information has been received.

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from tribes, please notify the NAHC. With your assistance, we can assure that our lists contain current information. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at my email address: steven.quinn@nahc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steven Quinn".

Steven Quinn
Associate Governmental Program Analyst

Attachment

**Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contact List
Imperial County
4/12/2019**

Barona Group of the Capitan Grande

Edwin Romero, Chairperson
1095 Barona Road Diegueno
Lakeside, CA, 92040
Phone: (619) 443 - 6612
Fax: (619) 443-0681
cloyd@barona-nsn.gov

Campo Band of Diegueno Mission Indians

Ralph Goff, Chairperson
36190 Church Road, Suite 1 Diegueno
Campo, CA, 91906
Phone: (619) 478 - 9046
Fax: (619) 478-5818
rgoff@campo-nsn.gov

Cocopah Indian Reservation

Jill McCormick, Cultural
Resources Manager
14515 S. Veterans Drive Cocopah
Sommerton, AZ, 85350
Phone: (928) 722 - 7521
mccormickj@cocopah.com

Ewiiaapaayp Tribe

Robert Pinto, Chairperson
4054 Willows Road Diegueno
Alpine, CA, 91901
Phone: (619) 445 - 6315
Fax: (619) 445-9126
wmicklin@leaningrock.net

Ewiiaapaayp Tribe

Michael Garcia, Vice Chairperson
4054 Willows Road Diegueno
Alpine, CA, 91901
Phone: (619) 445 - 6315
Fax: (619) 445-9126
michaelg@leaningrock.net

lipay Nation of Santa Ysabel

Clint Linton, Director of Cultural
Resources
P.O. Box 507 Diegueno
Santa Ysabel, CA, 92070
Phone: (760) 803 - 5694
cjlinton73@aol.com

lipay Nation of Santa Ysabel

Virgil Perez, Chairperson
P.O. Box 130 Diegueno
Santa Ysabel, CA, 92070
Phone: (760) 765 - 0845
Fax: (760) 765-0320

Inaja-Cosmit Band of Indians

Rebecca Osuna, Chairperson
2005 S. Escondido Blvd. Diegueno
Escondido, CA, 92025
Phone: (760) 737 - 7628
Fax: (760) 747-8568

Jamul Indian Village

Erica Pinto, Chairperson
P.O. Box 612 Diegueno
Jamul, CA, 91935
Phone: (619) 669 - 4785
Fax: (619) 669-4817
epinto@jiv-nsn.gov

Kwaaymii Laguna Band of Mission Indians

Carmen Lucas,
P.O. Box 775 Kwaaymii
Pine Valley, CA, 91962 Diegueno
Phone: (619) 709 - 4207

La Posta Band of Diegueno Mission Indians

Gwendolyn Parada, Chairperson
P. O. Box 1120 Diegueno
Boulevard, CA, 91905
Phone: (619) 478 - 2113
Fax: (619) 478-2125
LP13boots@aol.com

La Posta Band of Diegueno Mission Indians

Javaughn Miller, Tribal
Administrator
P. O. Box 1120 Diegueno
Boulevard, CA, 91905
Phone: (619) 478 - 2113
Fax: (619) 478-2125
jmiller@LPtribe.net

This list is current only as of the date of this document. Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resource Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources assessment for the proposed Coyote Wash Bridge Improvement Project, Imperial County.

**Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contact List
Imperial County
4/12/2019**

***Manzanita Band of Kumeyaay
Nation***

Angela Elliott Santos, Chairperson
P.O. Box 1302 Diegueno
Boulevard, CA, 91905
Phone: (619) 766 - 4930
Fax: (619) 766-4957

***Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay
Nation***

Lisa Haws, Cultural Resources
Manager
1 Kwaaypaay Court Kumeyaay
El Cajon, CA, 92019
Phone: (619) 312 - 1935
lhaws@sycuan-nsn.gov

***Mesa Grande Band of Diegueno
Mission Indians***

Michael Linton, Chairperson
P.O Box 270 Diegueno
Santa Ysabel, CA, 92070
Phone: (760) 782 - 3818
Fax: (760) 782-9092
mesagrandeband@msn.com

***Viejas Band of Kumeyaay
Indians***

Robert Welch, Chairperson
1 Viejas Grade Road Diegueno
Alpine, CA, 91901
Phone: (619) 445 - 3810
Fax: (619) 445-5337
jhagen@viejas-nsn.gov

***San Pasqual Band of Diegueno
Mission Indians***

Allen Lawson, Chairperson
P.O. Box 365 Diegueno
Valley Center, CA, 92082
Phone: (760) 749 - 3200
Fax: (760) 749-3876
allenl@sanpasqualtribe.org

***Viejas Band of Kumeyaay
Indians***

Julie Hagen,
1 Viejas Grade Road Diegueno
Alpine, CA, 91901
Phone: (619) 445 - 3810
Fax: (619) 445-5337
jhagen@viejas-nsn.gov

***San Pasqual Band of Diegueno
Mission Indians***

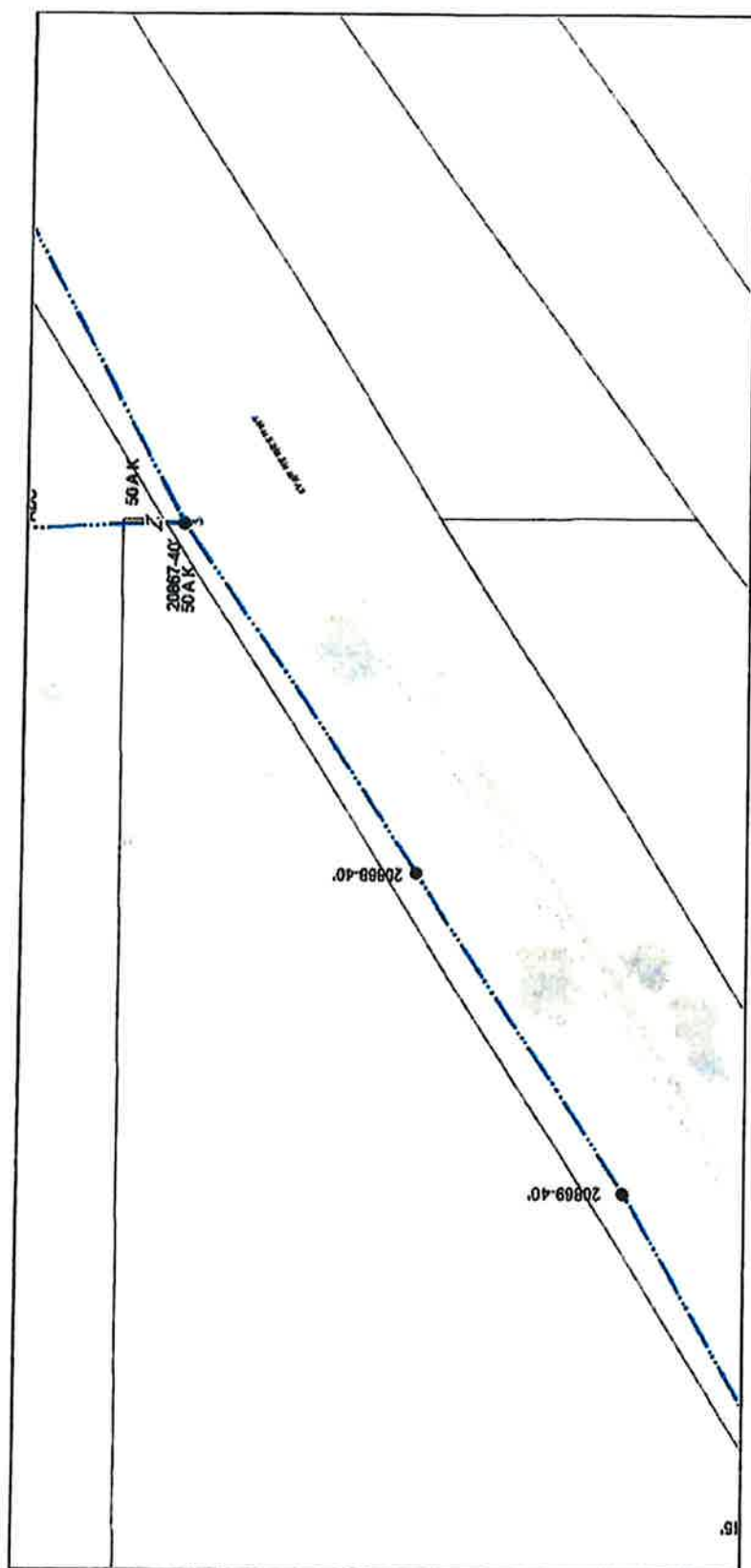
John Flores, Environmental
Coordinator
P. O. Box 365 Diegueno
Valley Center, CA, 92082
Phone: (760) 749 - 3200
Fax: (760) 749-3876
johnf@sanpasqualtribe.org

***Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay
Nation***

Cody J. Martinez, Chairperson
1 Kwaaypaay Court Kumeyaay
El Cajon, CA, 92019
Phone: (619) 445 - 2613
Fax: (619) 445-1927
ssilva@sycuan-nsn.gov

This list is current only as of the date of this document. Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resource Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources assessment for the proposed Coyote Wash Bridge Improvement Project, Imperial County.



HD Facilities in Project Vicinity

EEC ORIGINAL

IX. MITIGATION MONITORING & REPORTING PROGRAM (MMRP)

(ATTACH DOCUMENTS, IF ANY, HERE)

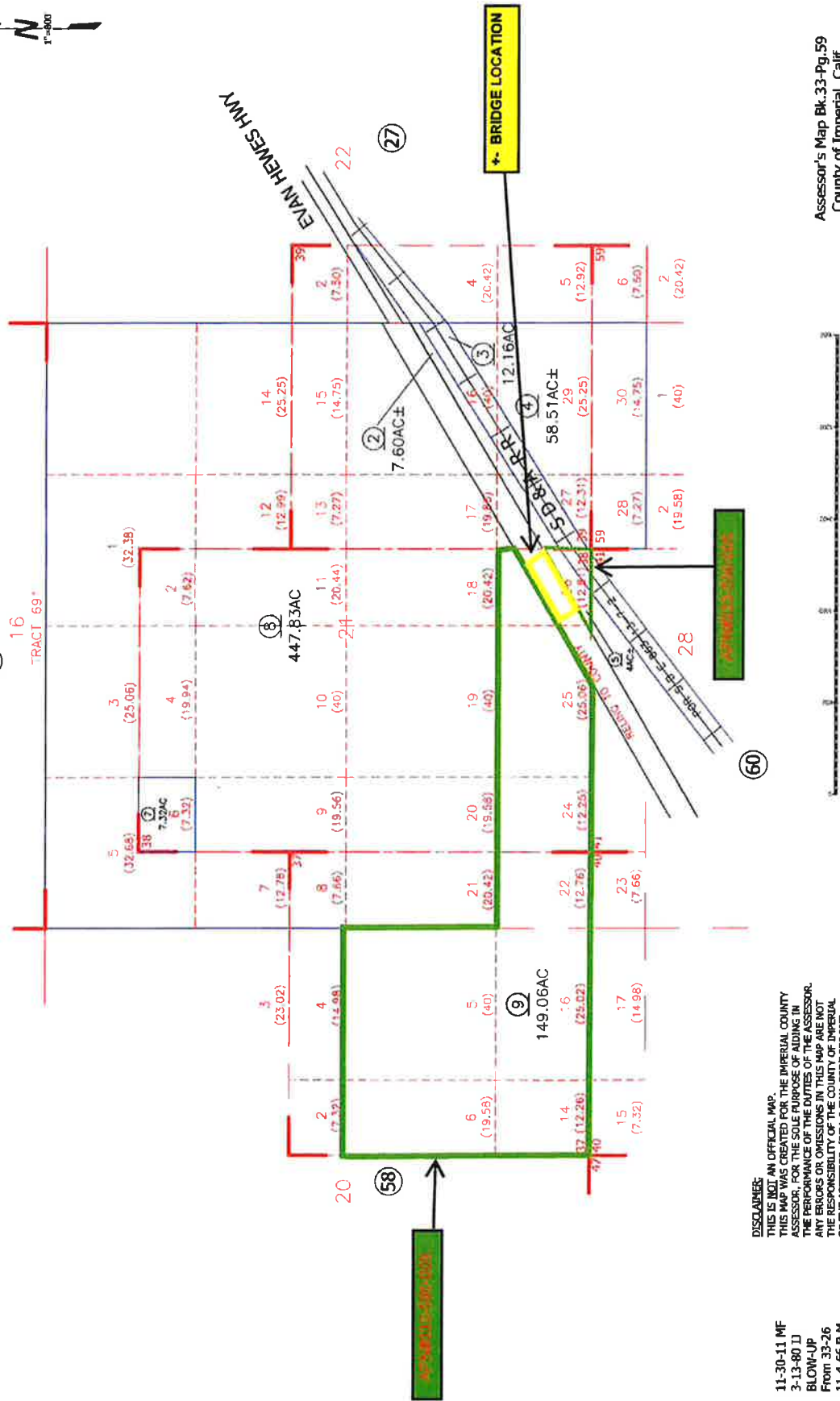
S:\CEQA RULES\CEQA Rules 2018\Initial Study - Environmental Checklist Template 032219.docx

Attachment A.
Initial Study Application

33-59

Tax Area Code
69-008 MPR 193

TRACT 38 & POR TRACT 37, 39 & 59
& POR SEC 20 & 21 T16S R10E



Assessor's Map Bk.33-Pg.59
County of Imperial, Calif.

EEC ORIGINAL

Diana Robinson

From: Jenell Guerrero
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2019 8:39 AM
To: Diana Robinson
Cc: Michael Abraham; John Gay
Subject: RE: Evan Hewes Highway Bridge over Coyote Wash
Attachments: 226818-0000398 Coyote Wash Bridge 20190207.pdf;
bioassessmentcoyotewashbridgereport.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Good Morning Diana:

As per your request please find attached the following documents:

- **Scope of Work/Description**
 - Evan Hewes Highway Bridge over South Fork Coyote Wash is located approximately 3.5 miles east of Imperial highway in Ocotillo. It is anticipated that the project limits would extend 120 feet beyond both abutments for a smooth transition to existing pavement. Imperial County Department of Public Works (ICDPW) proposes to repair the existing 16-span simply supported timber bridge. Such work includes, but is not limited to, repair or replace crushed pier caps and column/pile #6 from pier 6, repair damaged concrete pedestal at abutment 17, replace or supplement damaged stinger, remove AC (~10") from entire length of bridge and replace with new 3" max layer and adjust approach roadway profile in accordance with standards.
- **Construction plans (for informational purposes only)**
- **Biological Survey**
- **(minus the \$2,500 fee at this time)**
 - Will work on issuing this payment today

Should you have any questions or require additional information please do not hesitate to let me know. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Jenell Guerrero, MPA | Administrative Analyst II
Imperial County Department of Public Works
155 S. 11th St., El Centro, CA 92243
Cell: (760) 604-2162 | Direct: (442) 265-1815

From: Diana Robinson <DianaRobinson@co.imperial.ca.us>
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2019 7:53 AM
To: Jenell Guerrero <JenellGuerrero@co.imperial.ca.us>
Cc: Michael Abraham <MichaelAbraham@co.imperial.ca.us>; John Gay <JohnGay@co.imperial.ca.us>
Subject: FW: Evan Hewes Highway Bridge over Coyote Wash

Good morning Jenell,

Could you please provide a detailed scope of work (project description), site plan(s) and a copy of the biological survey that was prepared for this project? Also, please provide a \$2,500 fee.

Thank you,
Diana Robinson

From: Jenell Guerrero
Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2019 3:52 PM
To: Diana Robinson <DianaRobinson@co.imperial.ca.us>
Cc: John Gay <JohnGay@co.imperial.ca.us>
Subject: Evan Hewes Highway Bridge over Coyote Wash

Good Afternoon Diana:

John and I discussed the above mentioned project with Michael Abraham and it has been determined for Public Works to commence the Initial Study phase of the CEQA process for this project. With that being said, could you please provide assistance as to what you will need from me to get this going. It would be greatly appreciated.

Should you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to let me know. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Jenell Guerrero, MPA | Administrative Analyst II
Imperial County Department of Public Works
155 S. 11th St., El Centro, CA 92243
Cell: (760) 604-2162
Direct: (442) 265-1815
Fax: (442) 265-1858
www.co.imperial.ca.us



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail

EEC ORIGINAL

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- LOCATION AND ELEVATIONS OF IMPROVEMENTS TO BE SET BY WORK TO BE DONE SHALL BE SHOWN BY THE CONTRACTOR IN CONNECTION WITH THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL MAKE SURE THAT ALL RECORD DRAWINGS AND ALL AS-BUILT DRAWINGS REFLECT THE ACTUAL LOCATION OF ALL IMPROVEMENTS. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL SUBMIT A SUMMARY OF ALL CONSTRUCTION TO BE DONE TO THE CITY ENGINEER FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL SUBMIT A SUMMARY OF ALL CONSTRUCTION TO BE DONE TO THE CITY ENGINEER FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL SUBMIT A SUMMARY OF ALL CONSTRUCTION TO BE DONE TO THE CITY ENGINEER FOR REVIEW AND APPROVAL.

13. See Patrick S. Atiyah, *supra* note 12, at 104 n.10 (citing the cases).

- (9) DUST SHALL BE CONTROLLED BY THE CONTRACTOR IN ACCORDANCE WITH ALL APPLICABLE COUNTY AND FEDERAL REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS. DUST SHALL BE CONTROLLED TO PREVENT EXCESSIVE DUST FROM BEING DISSEMINATED TO ADJACENT PROPERTIES.

1000 JOURNAL OF CLIMATE

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DENOTES EXISTING	LIMITS OF REMOVAL	ADDITIONAL REMOVAL

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2. GENERAL PLAN
3. ACQUISITION STRATEGY
4. PROJECT DESCRIPTION
5. FINANCIAL SECTION
6. OTHER

PROJECT #11-NO-MAR-5

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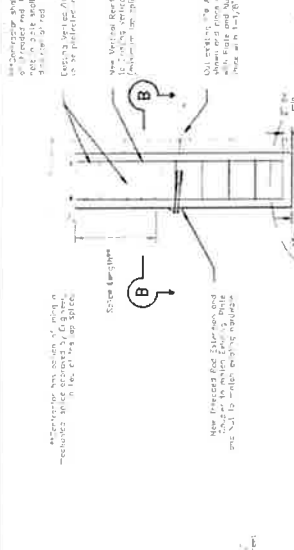
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97	97	97	97
98	98	98	98
99	99	99	99
100	100	100	100

[illegible]

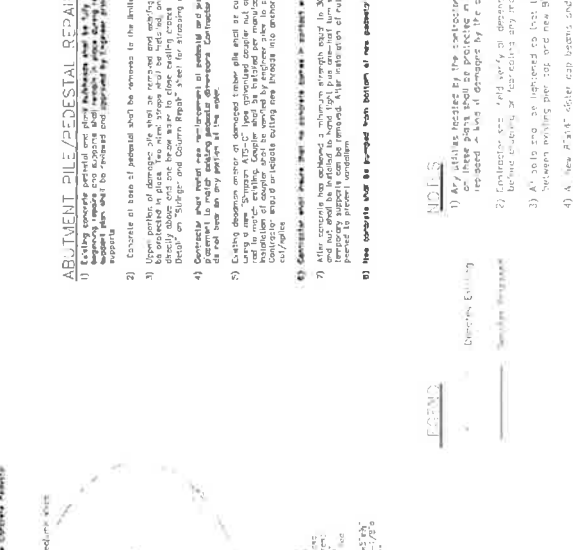
WAY BRIDGE

WASH STATE

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
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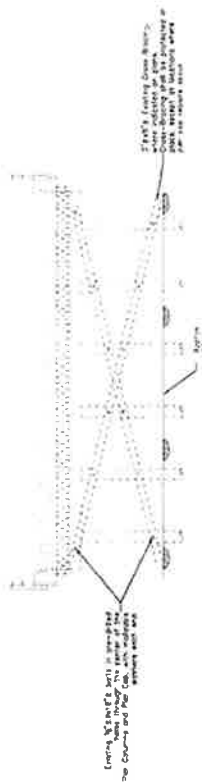


ABUTMENT PILE REPAIR DETAIL 2
1"=1'-0"



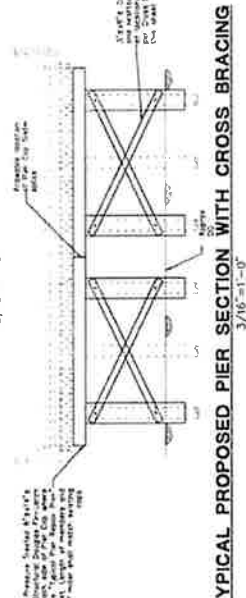
Contractors may find this surprising one, seeing that we've been sufficiently warned by incidents as far as the B-74's and the C-130's.

EEC ORIGINAL



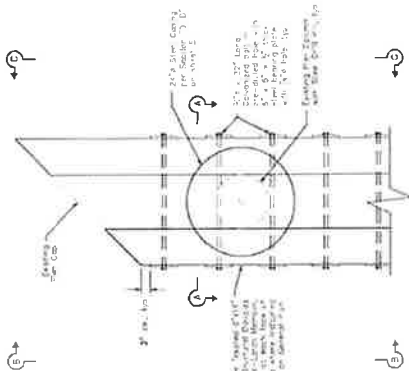
TYPICAL EXISTING PIER SECTION WITH CROSS BRACING

3/16"=1'-0"



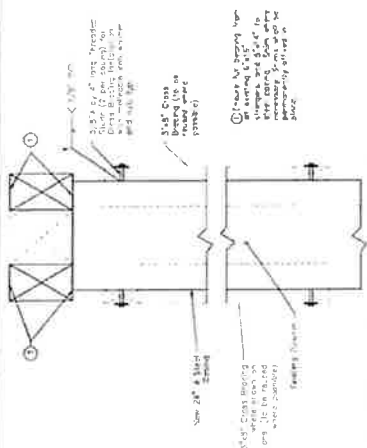
TYPICAL PROPOSED PIER SECTION WITH CROSS BRACING

3/16"=1'-0"



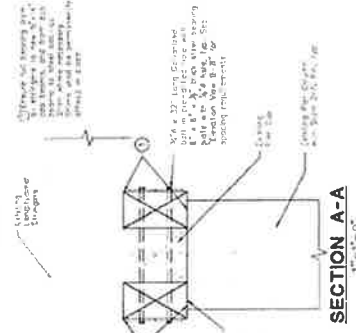
TYPICAL END PIER REPAIR PLAN

1"=1'-0"



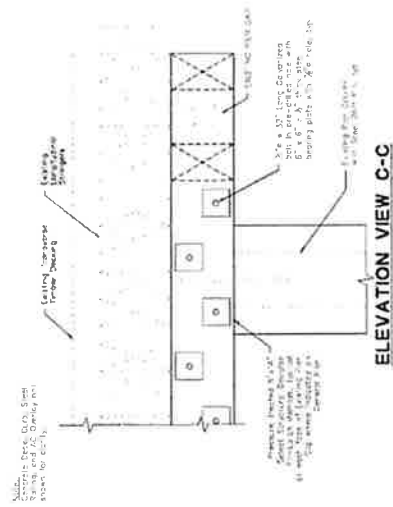
CROSS BRACING ATTACHMENT DETAIL

1"=1'-0"



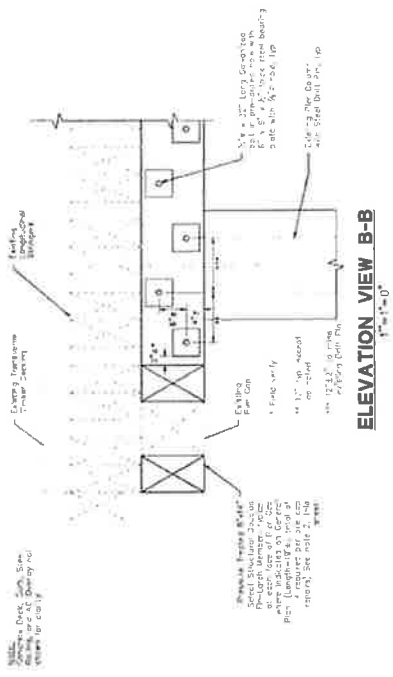
SECTION A-A

1"=1'-0"



ELEVATION VIEW C-C

1"=1'-0"

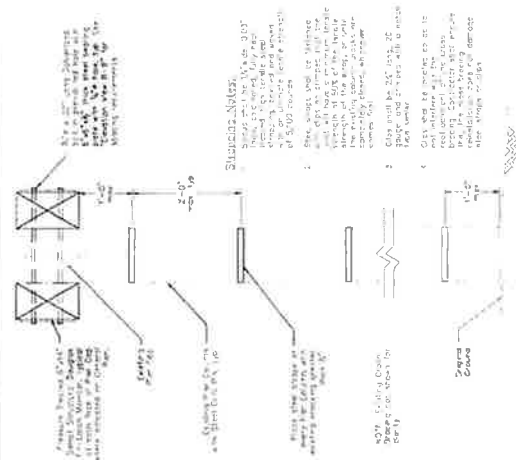


ELEVATION VIEW B-B

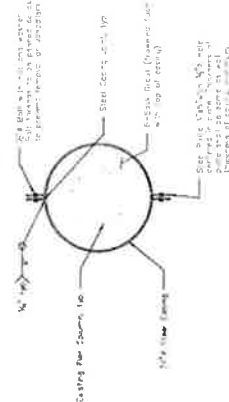
1"=1'-0"

- NOTES**
- Any bracing installed for the center pier shall be installed in the existing bracing. The bracing is to be installed in the existing bracing. The bracing is to be installed in the existing bracing.
 - Any bracing installed for the end pier shall be installed in the existing bracing. The bracing is to be installed in the existing bracing. The bracing is to be installed in the existing bracing.
 - All bracing shall be installed in the existing bracing. The bracing is to be installed in the existing bracing. The bracing is to be installed in the existing bracing.
 - All bracing shall be installed in the existing bracing. The bracing is to be installed in the existing bracing. The bracing is to be installed in the existing bracing.
 - Any bracing installed for the center pier shall be installed in the existing bracing. The bracing is to be installed in the existing bracing. The bracing is to be installed in the existing bracing.

PROJECT NO.	DATE	DESIGNED BY	CHECKED BY	APPROVED BY
12345	12/12/2018	J. Smith	M. Jones	D. Brown
<p>EVAN HEWES HIGHWAY BRIDGE OVER COYOTE WASH BR. NO. 56C-0051</p>				
<p>CONTRACT NO. 56C-0051</p>				
<p>CONTRACT DESCRIPTION</p>				
<p>CONTRACT LOCATION</p>				
<p>CONTRACT DATE</p>				
<p>CONTRACT PRICE</p>				
<p>CONTRACT STATUS</p>				
<p>CONTRACT COMMENTS</p>				



2


$$1'' \equiv 1' - 0''$$
 $\mathbf{1}' = \mathbf{0}$

SPAN #	STRENGTH, %
1	1.19
2	1.17
3	1.16
4	1.15
5	1.14
6	1.13
7	1.12
8	1.11
9	1.10
10	1.09
11	1.08
12	1.07
13	1.06
14	1.05
15	1.04
16	1.03
17	1.02
18	1.01
19	1.00
20	0.99
21	0.98
22	0.97
23	0.96
24	0.95
25	0.94
26	0.93
27	0.92
28	0.91
29	0.90
30	0.89
31	0.88
32	0.87
33	0.86
34	0.85
35	0.84
36	0.83
37	0.82
38	0.81
39	0.80
40	0.79
41	0.78
42	0.77
43	0.76
44	0.75
45	0.74
46	0.73
47	0.72
48	0.71
49	0.70
50	0.69
51	0.68
52	0.67
53	0.66
54	0.65
55	0.64
56	0.63
57	0.62
58	0.61
59	0.60
60	0.59
61	0.58
62	0.57
63	0.56
64	0.55
65	0.54
66	0.53
67	0.52
68	0.51
69	0.50
70	0.49
71	0.48
72	0.47
73	0.46
74	0.45
75	0.44
76	0.43
77	0.42
78	0.41
79	0.40
80	0.39
81	0.38
82	0.37
83	0.36
84	0.35
85	0.34
86	0.33
87	0.32
88	0.31
89	0.30
90	0.29
91	0.28
92	0.27
93	0.26
94	0.25
95	0.24
96	0.23
97	0.22
98	0.21
99	0.20
100	0.19
101	0.18
102	0.17
103	0.16
104	0.15
105	0.14
106	0.13
107	0.12
108	0.11
109	0.10
110	0.09
111	0.08
112	0.07
113	0.06
114	0.05
115	0.04
116	0.03
117	0.02
118	0.01
119	0.00
120	0.00

516

1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.

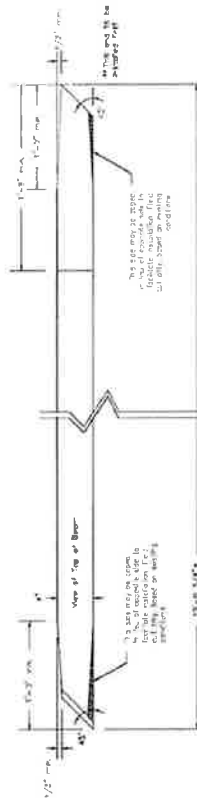
64:250LF 1805-839F 2 4/16" 0.45 0.0150:00 (2

[illegible]

1. A - low B (24) = 100
 2. A - low B (24) = 100
 3. A - low B (24) = 100

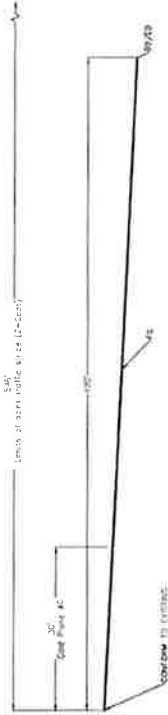
[illegible]

2) Companies should anticipate supply-side effects of the structure

 $2'' = 1' - 0''$ 

NOTES

Trails at base shall be at least 3 per Columns Standard Plans A2DA



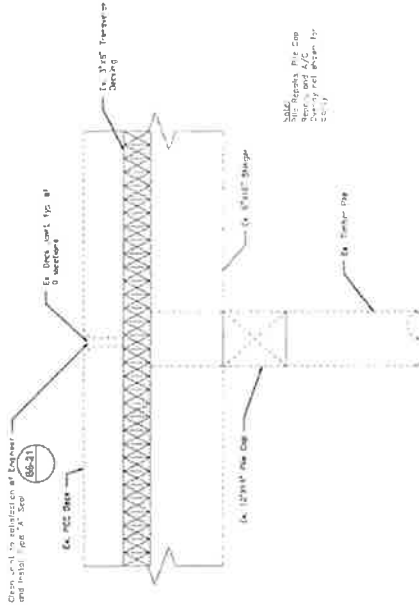
TRANSITION DETAIL (SIMILAR FOR BOTH APPROACHES)

1" = 10'



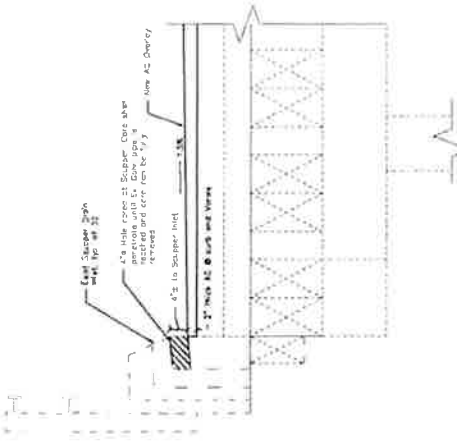
LIMIT OF COLD PLANE AC PAVEMENT

1" = 5'



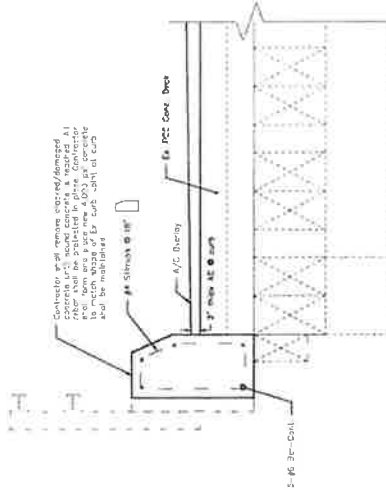
DECK JOINT SEAL REPAIR

1" = 1'-0"



SCUPPER DETAIL

1" = 1'-0"



CURB REPAIR DETAIL

1" = 1'-0"

LEGEND

As Shown

As Shown

As Shown

GENERAL PLAN

EVAN HEWES HIGHWAY BRIDGE
OVER COYOTE WASH
BR. NO. 68C-0051

BRIDGE 68C-0051

BRIDGE 68C-0051

BRIDGE 68C-0051

BRIDGE 68C-0051

BRIDGE 68C-0051

BRIDGE 68C-0051

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BRIDGE 68C-0051

BRIDGE 68C-0051

BRIDGE 68C-0051

BRIDGE 68C-0051

BRIDGE 68C-0051

EEC ORIGINAL

Attachment B.
Natural Environment Study (Biological Survey)
for the Coyote Wash Bridge Improvements
Project

Natural Environment Study

(Minimal Impacts)

Coyote Wash Bridge Improvement Project

*Imperial County, California east of the Township of Ocotillo and west of the City
of El Centro*

Bridge No. 58C-0051

March 2019

Prepared By and Certified as performed in accordance with established biological
practices by:



Marie Barrett
Biologist
Barrett's Biological Surveys
Imperial County
(760) 352 4159

Date: 5 March 2019

Summary

The Coyote Wash Bridge Improvement Project (proposed project) involves repairing several deficient components of the existing bridge along Evan Hewes Highway (S80) that crosses Coyote Wash in Imperial County. Several deficiencies have been noted over the years, from minor cracking in the asphalt concrete (AC) overlay, to large cracks in the pier caps and supporting columns, causing the County to shut down the bridge to traffic. These deficiencies have caused the bridge to be rated as structurally deficient with a sufficiency rating (SR) of 27. The purpose of the proposed project is to provide safe passage for the public over Coyote Wash.

This report presents the findings of general reconnaissance biological surveys of the project site. One special-status plant and two special-status wildlife species have some potential to occur within the Biological Study Area, therefore monitoring tasks are recommended.

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**Sensitive Botanical and Zoological SPECIES (CNDDDB/CNPS) Painted Gorge
Quadrangle (Nine Quad Search) January, 2019**

Photographs

Biological Study Area Map

Engineering Plans

Resumes

1. Introduction

1.1 History

The project is located approximately 3.5 miles east of the City of Ocotillo in Imperial County, at the crossing of Evan Hewes Highway and Coyote Wash. The original timber structure was built in 1932, and consisted of a total of 16 spans for a total length of 306 feet, and a roadway width of 24 feet 4 inches. In 1948, the bridge was widened to 28 feet 8 inches by replacing the timber decking with a new concrete deck with a curb and railing. Several deficiencies have been noted over the years, from minor cracking in the asphalt concrete (AC) overlay, to large cracks in the pier caps and supporting columns, causing the County to shut down the bridge to traffic. These deficiencies have caused the bridge to be rated as structurally deficient with a sufficiency rating (SR) of 27. The project proposes to fix all the deficiencies, and place 2 inches of AC at the curbs with a maximum 1.5% slope up to the crown.

1.2 Project Purpose and Need

Evan Hewes Highway is an east/west highway north of Interstate 8 serving local commuters as well as the delivery trucks from the Gypsum plant located approximately 5.5 miles east of the bridge. Re-opening the structure to traffic will reduce the lengthy detour for all commuters that either live, or work along that stretch of Evan Hewes Highway.

Specific work to be done from below the structure will include a total of 8 pier caps have been identified for repairs. The existing damaged pier caps which are 12" wide by 14" high, will be supplemented by two 8" wide by 14" high members on each side of the existing one, by slightly jacking the superstructure from below, and attaching the two new members using 32" long galvanized bolts with plate washers at 12" on centers. A severely damaged column/pile at Pier 6 will be encased with a steel jacket and pressure grouted from the bottom. A total of 32 columns/piles will receive 1-1/4" wide straps placed at 24" on centers. A total of 36 new stringers will be added to supplement damaged ones. The damaged concrete pedestal at the south end of Abutment 17 will be repaired.

Specific work to be done from the deck will include a total of 9 deck joints will be cleaned and new joint sealant installed; a small portion of the concrete curb at the north face of Pier 7 will be repaired. Also, a total of 32 scupper inlet drains will be cored (4" diameter core) to provide for proper drainage and approximately 120 feet of approach roadway at each end of the bridge will require removal of the existing AC and appropriate replacement to match the new proposed AC depth on the bridge. Three hundred and six (306) feet of new AC will be placed on the bridge; and a total of 546 feet of pavement striping will be installed.

2. Study Methods

2.1 Regulatory Requirements

The primary regulations affecting biological resource impacts are discussed in this section. If construction of this project, or related activities associated with construction, impact federal- and/or state-listed species, the project may be subject to the California Endangered Species Act

(CEPA) and the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). If activities directly impact migratory birds or cause the destruction or abandonment of nests, the project would be subject to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Additional regulations could also apply to the project. The following paragraphs provide a brief summary of the applicable provisions of these regulations.

2.1.1 Federal Endangered Species Act

The federal ESA provides protection for plants and animals listed as threatened or endangered by U.S. Wildlife and Forestry Service (USFWS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Marine Fisheries Service. Section 9 of the ESA (50 CFR 17.3) prohibits the take, possession, sale, or transport of any federal ESA-listed species. Take is defined as “to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, capture, collect, or attempt to engage in any such conduct” (16 U.S. Code [USC] Section 1532(19)). Federal regulation 50 CFR 17.3 further defines the term harm in the take definition to mean any act that actually kills or injures a federally listed species, including significant habitat modification or degradation. For plants, the federal ESA prohibits removing, possessing, maliciously damaging, or destroying any listed plant on areas under federal jurisdiction, and removing, cutting, digging up, damaging, or destroying any listed plant on non-federal land in knowing violation of state law (16 USC Section 1538(a)(2)(B)).

The federal ESA requires the federal government to designate critical habitat for any species listed under the federal ESA but also allows areas to be excluded from critical habitat (16 USC Section 1533(b)(2)). Critical habitat is a specific area(s) that is essential for the conservation of a threatened or endangered species and that may require special management and protection. Critical habitat may also include specific areas outside the geographical area occupied by the species if the agency determines that the area itself is essential for conservation.

Section 7 of the federal ESA requires federal agencies to consult with USFWS and/or NOAA Marine Fisheries Service for any federal activity that may affect any federally listed species or its critical habitat. Informal consultation may precede, and obviate the need for formal consultation if USFWS and/or NOAA Marine Fisheries Service concur that the proposed agency action is not likely to adversely affect listed species. In the formal consultation process, USFWS and/or NOAA Marine Fisheries Service must issue a Biological Opinion as to the potential for effect to listed species. USFWS and/or NOAA Marine Fisheries Service may issue an incidental take permit, allowing take of the species that is incidental to an authorized activity, provided that the action will not jeopardize the continued existence of the species. Section 10(a) of the ESA provides for issuance of incidental take permits for private actions that have no federal involvement, through the development of a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP).

2.1.2 Migratory Bird Treaty Act

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) provides protection for migratory birds. Conditions for permits to “take” migratory birds (as defined in the MBTA) are set forth in 50 CFR Part 13 [General Permit Procedures] and 50 CFR Part 21 [Migratory Bird Permits]. Unless expressly authorized in the regulations or by permit, activities such as hunting, pursuing, capturing, killing, selling, and shipping migratory birds are prohibited. The MBTA allows USFWS to issue permits to qualified applicants for certain types of activities. This protection extends to all migratory

birds, parts, nests, and eggs. The full list of species protected under this act is found in 50 CFR 10.13.

2.1.3 California Endangered Species Act

The California Endangered Species Act (CESA) provides protection for candidate plants and animal species as well as those listed as threatened or endangered by CDFW. CESA prohibits the take of any such species unless authorized; however, California case law has not interpreted habitat destruction, alone, as included in the state's definition of take. Take is defined in Section 86 of the Fish and Game Code as "hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill" (Cal. Fish and Game Code §86). CDFW administers the act and authorizes take through Section 2081 agreements, Section 2080.1 consistency determinations (for species that are also listed under the federal ESA) or NCCPs.

2.1.4 Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, as amended

This act is administered by the State Water Resource Control Board (SWRCB) to protect water quality and is an avenue to implement CA responsibilities under the federal Clean Water Act. This act regulates discharge of waste into a water resource.

2.1.5 Clean Water Act, 1972 (CWA 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.)

This act regulates discharges into waters of the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE) is given the responsibility to implement programs to prevent pollution.

2.2 Studies Required

2.2.1 Literature Search

Prior to conducting field surveys, a review of pertinent literature, regulatory requirements, special-status species lists and recorded occurrences was conducted to determine if the proposed bridge repairs are within the range of sensitive resources such as state and/or federal listed threatened and/or endangered species. Available literature was reviewed including the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) for the Painted Gorge U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute Topographic Quadrangle and the surrounding eight quadrangles within the United States including Coyote Wells, Yuha Basin, Plaster City, Superstition Mountains, Plaster City NW, Carrizo Mountain NE, Carrizo Mountain and In-Ko-Pah Gorge.

2.2.2 Survey Methodologies

Marie Barrett and Glenna Barrett performed the biological assessment surveys within and adjacent to the Biological Study Area (BSA).

All proposed impact areas within the BSA were visited on foot and any nests were evaluated for activity.

2.2.3 Personnel and Survey Dates

Marie Barrett and Glenna Barrett of Barrett's Biological Surveys performed the biological assessment survey on January 23, 2019 (62°F, clear and calm). Resumes are attached.

2.2.4 Limitations That May Influence Results

Due to a wet fall and winter, rain fall was sufficient to germinate seeds and therefore, botanical specimens were present.

This area is highly disturbed by off road vehicles during all seasons and typical damage was observed.

3. Results: Environmental Setting

3.1 Description of the Existing Biological and Physical Conditions

3.1.1 Biological Study Area (BSA)

This site is located within the Colorado Desert which is a subdivision of the larger Sonoran Desert and covers approximately 7 million acres. The desert encompasses Imperial County and includes parts of San Diego County, Riverside County, and a small part of San Bernardino County. This site is in Imperial County.

This desert lies at a relatively low elevation, below 1,000 feet, with the lowest point of the desert floor is 275 feet below sea level at the Salton Sea; northeast of the site. The highest peaks of the Peninsular Ranges which reach elevations of nearly 10,000 feet are to the west of the site.

The Colorado Desert's climate differs from other deserts. The region experiences greater summer daytime temperatures (up to 120°F) than higher-elevation deserts and rarely experiences frost. In addition, the Colorado Desert experiences two rainy seasons per year usually in the winter and late summer in this portion.

3.1.2 Physical Conditions

The original timber bridge was built in 1932, and consisted of a total of 16 spans for a total length of 306 feet, and a roadway width of 24 feet 4 inches. In 1948, the bridge was widened to 28 feet 8 inches by replacing the timber decking with a new concrete deck with a curb and railing. The bridge spans the Coyote Wash, which is a typical sandy desert wash. It is highly disturbed by vehicular traffic including All Terrain Vehicles (ATV) and other Off Highway Vehicles (OHV). While the bridge is closed, a bypass to the south has been vehicles leaving the paved road to the south of Evan Hewes Highway of both approaches.

3.1.3 Biological Conditions in the Study Area

The top of the bridge is paved and is not biologically sensitive. Underneath the bridge, within the sandy wash, little flora or fauna were observed. Tables 1 and 2 (below) list species observations within the buffer zone of the site.

Table 1: Vegetation Found in Vicinity

Common Name	Scientific Name
Grass	<i>Poa spp</i>
Creosote	<i>Larrea tridentata</i>
Saltcedar	<i>Tamarix spp.</i>
Silver cholla	<i>Cylindropuntia echinocarpa</i>

Burrobush	<i>Ambrosia dumosa</i>
Desert lily	<i>Hesperocallis undulata</i>
Smoketree	<i>Psoralea argophylla</i>
5 hook bassia	<i>Bassia hyssopifolia</i>
Heliotrope	<i>Heliotropium curassavicum</i>

No vegetation was found that would be considered endangered, threatened or species of concern.

Table 2: Animals/Insects Found in Vicinity

Common Name	Scientific Name
Desert termite	<i>Gnathamitermes perplexus</i>
Harvester Ants	<i>Pogonomyrmex barbatus</i>
Ravens	<i>Corvus albicollis</i>
Canine tracks	<i>unknown</i>
Abandoned avian nests under bridge	<i>unknown</i>

No animals were found that would be considered endangered, threatened or species of concern.

3.1.4 Habitat Connectivity

The habitat is divided by Evan Hewes Highway which runs from El Centro to Ocotillo, CA and Interstate 8 (I-8). Evan Hewes Highway is easily crossed while I-8 is fenced to prevent access. There are many bridges under Evan Hewes Highway which can be accessed by wildlife. This project will not change the existing connectivity.

3.2 Regional Species and Habitats/Natural Communities of Concern

3.2.1 Habitat/Natural Communities of Special Concern

There are no Habitat/Natural Communities of Special Concern found within the BSA.

3.2.2 Special-Status Plant Species

Appendix: Sensitive Botanical and Zoological SPECIES (CNDDDB/CNPS) Painted Gorge Quadrangle (Nine Quad Search) January, 2019 (attached) listed 26 botanical species within the 9 Quadrangles searched. Of these, one species (Harwood's milk-vetch, *Astragalus insularis* var. *harwoodii*) could be expected within the BSA.

3.2.3 Special-Status Animal Species

Appendix: Sensitive Botanical and Zoological SPECIES (CNDDDB/CNPS) Painted Gorge Quadrangle (Nine Quad Search) January, 2019 (attached) listed 25 zoological species within the 9 Quadrangles searched. Of these, two species (Le Conte's Thrasher *Toxostoma lecontei* and Flat-tailed horned lizard (FTHL), *Phrynosoma mcallii*) could be expected within the BSA.

4. Results: Biological Resources, Discussion of Impacts & Mitigation

4.1 Habitats/Natural Communities of Special Concern

There are no habitats/Natural Communities of Special Concern.

4.2 Special-Status Plant Species

One species, Harwood's milk-vetch, *Astragalus insularis* var. *harwoodii*, could be found within the BSA. CNDDDB Ranks: G5T3, S2.2; CNPS: 2B.2. Annual herb with a blooming period between January and May. Found in sandy or gravelly soils; desert dunes and Mojavean desert scrub. Peirson's milk-vetch is a stout, short-lived perennial with a single woody stem 1/3 to 1/2 the height of the plant that branches into a broom-like growth of smaller stems, 20-70 cm long. Stems are covered closely with fine silky grayish hairs. The leaves, 5-15 cm long, have a flattened rachis and 8 to 12 small, scattered, oblong lateral leaflets. The terminal leaflet is continuous with the rachis. 10-17 dull purple flowers occur in a raceme and are asymmetric with a banner approx. 10-14 mm long. Calyx tube is bell-shaped. The seeds (4.5-5.5 mm long) occur in an inflated bladder-like pod, 2-3.5 cm long, which is broadly ellipsoid with a triangular beak.

4.2.1 Discussion of Plant Species

Survey Results

It was not observed within the BSA during survey.

Project Impacts

None are expected with avoidance and minimization efforts.

Avoidance and Minimization Efforts/Compensatory Mitigation

A preconstruction survey should be conducted by a qualified biologist.

4.3 Special-Status Animal Species

Le Conte's Thrasher *Toxostoma lecontei*, CNDDDB Rank: G3, S3; CDFW: Species of Concern. Sexes are alike. This sandy-colored, 10-inch long bird blends well with dry desert vegetation. Its black tail contrasts with its gray, unspotted breast and belly. Le Conte's Thrasher is a widespread, but rare permanent resident in the western and southern San Joaquin Valley, upper Kern River Basin, Owens Valley, Mojave Desert, and Colorado Desert in southwestern United States.

Flat-tailed horned lizard (FTHL), *Phrynosoma mcallii*, CNDDDB Rank: G3; S2 CDFW: Species of Concern. A small (up to 87 mm or 3.4" from snout to vent), exceptionally flat and wide lizard with a long (for a horned lizard) broad, flat tail and a dark stripe running down the middle of the back. It occupies a small range in the Sonoran Desert of southwestern California, southwestern Arizona, and extreme northern Mexico.

4.3.1 Discussion of Animal Species

Survey Results

Neither species were found within the BSA during the survey.

Project Impacts

No impacts are expected with avoidance and minimization efforts.

Avoidance and Minimization Efforts/Compensatory Mitigation

1. Nesting surveys by qualified biologists during nesting season (February through August)
2. FTHL monitoring during construction by CDFW-qualified biologists
3. Worker environmental awareness training for nesting birds and FTHL which will include the following aspects:
 - Biology and status of the FTHL;
 - Protection measures designed to reduce potential impacts to the species, function of flagging designating authorized work areas;
 - Reporting procedures to be used if a FTHL is encountered in the field; and driving procedures and techniques, for commuting, and driving on, to the project site, to reduce mortality of FTHL on roads;
 - Identification of nesting birds and procedures to follow if nesting is suspected.
4. Areas outside of the project footprint will be designated as an “Environmentally Sensitive Area” (ESA) on project plans. No project-related activities will take place within the ESA-designated areas.

5. Conclusions & Regulatory Determination

5.1 Agency Coordination

Consultation has begun with Stephen R Roethle, Regulatory Project Manager U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Division to obtain the required permit for working within a wash.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM), El Centro, CA office has been contacted. The adjacent property is Plaster City OHV Open Area, managed by BLM.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Bermuda Dunes, has been contacted regarding a Streambed Alteration Permit.

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7. Appendix

Sensitive Botanical and Zoological SPECIES (CNDDDB/CNPS) Painted Gorge Quadrangle (Nine Quad Search) January, 2019

Biological Study Area Map

Engineering Plans

Resumes

SENSITIVE BOTANICAL AND ZOOLOGICAL SPECIES (CNDDDB/CNPS)

Painted Gorge Quadrangle (Nine Quad Search) January, 2019

BOTANICAL SPECIES	STATUS ¹	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	HABITAT	OBSERVATION/ SITE POTENTIAL
San Diego button-celery <i>Eryngium aristulatum</i> var. <i>parishii</i>	CNPS: List 1B.1	Mostly annual parsley reaching 16 in (40.6 cm) in height with gray-green stems and leaves and spinose lobes.	Valley Grassland, Coastal Sage Scrub, Freshwater Wetlands, wetland-riparian. Habitat- vernal pools in areas with Mediterranean climates	None observed No habitat; not expected
Gravel milk-vetch <i>Astragalus sabulorum</i>	CNPS: List 2B.2	a dicot, is an annual herb that is native to California and is also found outside of California but is confined to western North America.	a dicot, is an annual herb that is native to California and is also found outside of California but is confined to western North America. Found in desert to mountain habitats. Hairy annual herb with stems up to about 26 centimeters long; leaves are a few centimeters long and are made up of several hairy oval-shaped leaflets with an inflorescence that is open array of 2 to 7 off-white to pale lilac flowers each less than a centimeter in length.	None observed No milk-vetches observed on site.
Mud nama <i>Nama stenocarpa</i>	CNPS: List 2B.2	a dicot, is an annual herb that is native to California.	This is an annual / perennial herb with a blooming period of Jan-Jul Habitat: found in marshes and swamps (lake margins, riverbanks)	None observed No habitat; not expected
Wiggins' croton <i>Croton wigginsii</i>	Federal: Rare CNPS: List 2B.2	Small gray-green shrub dicot, is a shrub that is native to California	Native to the Sonoran Deserts of northern Mexico	None observed No habitat; not

Baja California ipomopsis <i>Ipomopsis effusa</i>	CNPS: List 2.1	and Arizona, Baja California, Sonora, Mexico.	Native to California and to Baja California; perennial herb taking the form of a neat clump of slender, erect multibranched stems reaching a maximum height near 40 centimeters. Red 5 petal flowers	and Arizona, into the Colorado Desert in California where it is an inhabitant of sand dunes.	Creosote Bush Scrub, Chaparral Alluvial fans.	expected	L None observed
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BOTANICAL SPECIES	STATUS ¹	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	HABITAT	OBSERVATION/ SITE POTENTIAL
Emory's Crucifixion-Thorn <i>Castela emoryi</i>	CNPS: List 2.3	A large sprawling, dense shrub or small tree, up to 3(-3.7) m (to 10[-12] feet) tall, with a round crown often with descending branches heavy with thorns. Gray brown bark has narrow ridges with smooth ridges. The stout twigs are blue, gray or yellow green, may be finely hairy, very rigid, up to 20 cm (8 in) long with numerous stout thorns.	Sonoran Desert of southern Arizona and far southeastern California, south into Baja California and Sonora, Mexico.	L None observed
Annual rock-nettle <i>Euclidia rupestris</i>	CNPS List 2.2	is a small, perennial, rounded shrub that grows to at most 3-feet tall. The leaves are about 1/2-inch long, oval, irregularly toothed, and gray-green. The leaves are covered with tiny, needle-like, barbed, stinging hairs that are very difficult to remove from human skin. The flowers are fairly large and open, with five, pale cream-colored petals.	fairly common component of vegetation communities on well-drained sandy, gravelly, and rocky soils in washes and on rocky outcrops in the Upper Sonoran (Mojave Desert Scrub) life zone.	L No habitat on site; none observed
Hairy Stickleaf <i>Mentzelia hirsutissima</i>	CNDDB Ranks G3, S2S3; CNPS: 2.3	Annual to shrub; hairs needle-like, stinging, or rough. Leaves are long, very narrow, and serrated-pinnate-like; also medium to light grayish green; flowers are a bright, glossy medium yellow, the major petals are variable, sometimes 5 major, 5 minor; also 4 and 4. Covered in minute elaborations known as trichomes, which pierce and trap insects that land on it.	Creosote Bush Scrub	L None observed

BOTANICAL SPECIES	STATUS ¹	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	HABITAT	OBSERVATION/ SITE POTENTIAL
<i>Arizona pholistoma</i> <i>Pholistoma auritum</i> var. <i>arizonicum</i>	CNPS List 2B.3	The foliage is coated in hairs and bristles. The inflorescence is made up of one or more widely bell-shaped flowers up to 1.5 centimeters long and 3 wide. The hair-lined flowers are blue to purple with darker markings in the centers.	It is native to California, southern Nevada, and Arizona, where it can be found in from mountain talus to coastal bluffs to desert scrub.	None observed
Spiny-hair blazing star <i>Mentzelia tricuspidis</i>	CNDDDB Ranks 2B.1	An annual/perennial herb growing erect or spreading to a maximum height near 27 centimeters. The leaves are up to 12 centimeters long and toothed or wavy along the edges. The inflorescence is a cluster of cream-colored flowers with petals up to 5 centimeters long and thready-tipped stamens.; hairs barbed to needle-like	It is native to the Southwestern United States and California where it grows in deserts, such as the Sonoran Desert, and adjacent mountains in scrub and woodland habitats.	None observed
Jacumba Mountains linanthus <i>Linanthus maculatus</i> ssp. <i>emaculatus</i>	CNDDDB Ranks 1B.1	Annual herb, very small; white flowers blooms March-May	Sandy or course, opaque-white, decomposed granite soils of washes and on flats near wash margins. Known only to occur at a few desert sites in San Diego County (southern Anza Borrego St. Pk.) and on BLM land in imperial county	None observed

BOTANICAL SPECIES	STATUS ¹	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	HABITAT	OBSERVATION/ SITE POTENTIAL
desert spike-moss <i>Selaginella eremophila</i>	CNDDB Ranks 2B.2	This lycophyte forms dense mats of spreading stems with small, forking branches. The lance-shaped leaves are up to 3 millimeters long on the lower stem surfaces and a little shorter on the upper sides. The tiny leaves have pointed tips with soft, twisted bristles. The strobili bearing the reproductive parts are under a centimeter long. Perennial	native to California, Arizona, Baja California, New Mexico, Texas. It grows in sandy and rocky habitat.	Not observed
dwarf germander <i>Teucrium cubense</i> <i>ssp. depressum</i>	CNDDB Ranks 2B.2	Leaves are generally withering in fruit; lower 2–4 cm, blade ovate to obovate, crenate to lobed; upper 0.5–1.5 cm, generally deeply 3-lobed. Flower: calyx tube 1–3 mm, lobes 3–6 mm, bristle-tipped; corolla 7–15 mm, +- puberulent inside; filaments glabrous. Found in sandy soils, washes, fields, alkaline flats; Elevation found 400 m. Bioregional Distribution: Sonoran (Colorado) desert; Flowering Time: Mar–May	This herb can be found in full sun to part shade, in hot climates, or poor and rocky soil.	Not observed

flat-seeded spurge <i>Euphorbia platysperma</i>	CNDDB Ranks 1B.2	Annual, glabrous. Stem: prostrate, repeatedly forking, 2-faced. Leaf: opposite throughout, short petioled; stipules free, 2–3-lobed; blade 5–10 mm, oblong to obovate, entire, base rounded or tapered, +- asymmetric, tip obtuse to rounded .	Habitats include glades, dry sand prairies, cropland, gravelly areas along railroads and roadsides, lawns and gardens, cracks in sidewalks and pavement, borders along buildings, and sterile waste areas containing sand, gravel, or compacted soil.	Not observed
Slender Cottonheads <i>Nemacaulis denudata</i> var. <i>gracilis</i>	CNDDB Ranks: G4T1, S1; CNPS: 2.2	Plants ascending to erect, 0.4-2.5(-4) x 0.4-2 dm. Leaf-blades usually linear or narrowly spatulate, 1-7 x 0.1-0.6 cm. Inflorescences with slender, light brown branches; glomerules distinctly pedunculate, 2-4 mm across. Peduncles 0.5-3 mm. Involucral bracts 2-4 x 0.5-1 mm, light brown to yellowish-green in the tawny tomentum. Flowers 5(-12), usually obscured by the tomentum, 0.5-1.2 mm; outer perianth lobes linear to oblong.	Coastal Strand, Creosote Bush Scrub. Dunes.	No Habitat L
Roughstalk witch grass <i>Panicum hirticaule</i> ssp. <i>hirticaule</i>	CNDDB Ranks 2B.1	A monocot, an annual grass; blooms Aug-Dec Annual. Stem: 1--8 dm. Leaves with sheath 2--6 cm, axis glabrous to short-hairy; ligule	An annual grass that is native to California. sandy, silty,	Not observed

		<p>membrane 0.5–2 mm, ciliate; blade 7–20 cm, 3–15 mm wide, upper surface generally sparsely short-hairy. Inflorescence: 5–20 cm, open; 1° branches 3–8 cm, glabrous; spikelets 1–2 per node, stalk 0.5–3 mm, generally appressed. Spikelet: +- 2.5–3 mm, +- 1 mm wide, lanceolate to ovate, green; axis between glumes and florets visible; lower glume +- 1.5–2.5 mm, generally 5-veined, acute; lower floret sterile, lemma 7-veined, acuminate to acute, palea generally < lemma; upper floret 0.7–0.8 x lower floret, stipitate, with paired crescent-shaped scars, often enlarged.</p> <p>Ecology: Sandy soils, open sites, creosote-bush scrub;</p>	<p>depressions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desert dunes • Joshua tree woodland • Mojavean desert scrub • Sonoran desert scrub <p>Elevation: < 1400 m</p>	
<p>Jacumba milk-vetch <i>Astragalus douglasii</i> var. <i>perstrictus</i></p>	<p>CNDDDB Ranks 1B.2</p>	<p>Perennial herb with a Stem of +- stiffly erect, 4–10 dm. Leaflets 13—19 with a flower: calyx tube most densely hairy between lobes, lobes generally 0.7–2.2 mm, triangular, +- as wide as long. Fruit: 35–60 mm. Chromosomes: 2n=22.</p>	<p>Rocky areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chaparral • Cismontane woodland • Pinyon and juniper woodland • Riparian scrub • Valley and foothill grassland <p>Elevation: 850--1200 m.</p>	<p>No habitat</p>
<p>Orcutt's woody-aster <i>Xylorhiza orcuttii</i></p>	<p>CNDDDB Ranks 1B.2</p>	<p>a dicot, is a perennial herb. It is a shrub with branching, mostly hairless stems that may reach 1.5 meters in length. The leaves are lance-shaped to oblong with smooth, toothed, or spiny edges.</p>	<p>s native to California, Baja California where it grows in scrubby habitat in the dry canyons of the Sonoran Desert. It often grows in</p>	<p>Not observed</p>

			rocky and sandy substrates, clay, and alkaline soils amongst cactus.	
San Bernardino aster <i>Symphotrichum defoliatum</i>	CNDDB Ranks 1B.2	This is a perennial herb growing from a long rhizome to a maximum height near one meter. Leaves are widely lance-shaped to oblong and pointed, the largest ones near the base of the stem reaching up to 12 centimeters long. The stem and leaves are roughly hairy. The fruit is a hairy achene with a long pappus.	It is endemic to Southern California, where it is known only from the San Bernardino and San Gabriel Mountains of the Transverse Ranges, and part of the Peninsular Ranges to the south. It grows in grassland and meadow habitat and in disturbed areas.	No habitat
jackass-clover <i>Wislizenia refracta</i> ssp. <i>refracta</i>	CNDDB Ranks 1B.2	Is an annual herb up to 200 cm (78.5 in) tall. Leaves are trifoliate, the leaflets ovate (egg-shaped), up to 5 cm (2 in) long. Flowers are yellow.	native to northwestern Mexico and the southwestern United States. It has been reported from Chihuahua, Sonora, trans-Pecos Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada and from California. The species occurs in sandy flats, in desert scrub, and on disturbed sites such as roadsides.	Not observed

BOTANICAL SPECIES	STATUS ¹	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	HABITAT	OBSERVATION/ SITE POTENTIAL
Brown turbans <i>Malperia tenuis</i>	CNDDDB Ranks G4, S1.3; CNPS: 2.3	is recognized by its annual duration, linear leaves densely arranged along stems or concentrated near bases of stems, loosely arranged heads, and pappi of two kinds of scales.	Sonoran Desert Scrub is the general habitat for Brown Turbans. Near Ocotillo it grows on arid slopes with shallow soils, rocky surface rubble with few large boulders, and little competition from shrubs.	L No habitat on site; none observed
Pink Fairy Duster <i>Calliandra eriophylla</i>	CNDDDB Ranks G5, S2S3; CNPS: 2.3	Fairy Duster is a low, densely branched shrub 8 to 48 inches high. The leaves are formed by 2-to-4 pairs of 1/4-inch, oblong leaflets. It is a member of the Pea Family (Fabaceae) which includes acacias and mimosas.	Open hillsides, sandy desert washes and slopes below 5,000 feet.	L None observed
Abrams's Spurge <i>Chamaesyce abramisiana</i>	CNPS list: 2	Annual herbaceous blooms Sept/Nov. Common spurge in area has large purple spot and is prostrate; Abram's is not as colorful.	Sonoran Desert Shrub	L None observed.
Borrogo bedstraw <i>Galium angustifolium</i> ssp. <i>borregoense</i>	CNPS list: 1B.3	Plant glabrous, woody above base. Stem: 35--60 cm, slender, ridges wider than grooves. Leaf: < 8 mm. Inflorescence: many-flowered, +- dense. Flower: corolla hairy externally.	Among boulders, granitic northern slopes; Elevation: 350--1250 m.	L No habitat
Harwood's milk-vetch <i>Astragalus insularis</i> var. <i>harwoodii</i>	CNDDDB Ranks: G5T3, S2.2; CNPS: 2B.2	Long leaves with purplish flowers	Creosote Bush Scrub. Dunes	L None observed; preconstruction survey recommended

ZOOLOGICAL SPECIES	STATUS ¹	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	HABITAT	OBSERVATION/ SITE POTENTIAL
sticky geraea Geraea viscida	CNDDB Ranks 1B.2	is a bristly, glandular perennial geophyte producing scrubby stems reaching anywhere from 30 centimeters (12 inches) to nearly a meter (39 inches) in height. The slightly hairy leaves are several centimeters long and generally oval-shaped, sometimes with small teeth and basal lobes.	It is native to southern California, mainly the chaparral hills of eastern San Diego County, and nearby Baja California.	L No habitat

ZOOLOGICAL SPECIES	STATUS'	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	HABITAT	OBSERVATION/ SITE POTENTIAL
Birds				
Yuma clapper rail <i>Rallus longirostris yumanensis</i>	Fed: Endangered Ca: Threatened	A chickenlike marsh bird with a long, slightly drooping bill and an often upturned tail. Light brownish with dark streaks above. Rust-colored breast; bold, vertical gray and white bars on the flanks; white undertail coverts	Lives in freshwater and brackish marshes. Prefers dense cattails, bulrushes, and other aquatic vegetation. Nests in riverine wetlands near upland, in shallow sites dominated by mature vegetation, often in the base of a shrub. Prefers denser cover in winter than in summer. Very shy.	L No suitable habitat on site
Burrowing Owl <i>Athene cunicularia</i>	CDFW: SC Species of Concern	Small raptors that nest in burrows that have been borrowed from other species in open grassland areas. Have adapted well in Imperial County using canals/drains/ditches to establish burrows and foraging for insects in agricultural fields	Open, dry annual or perennial grasslands; deserts & scrublands	L No suitable burrowing habitat on site; prey availability low

ZOOLOGICAL SPECIES	STATUS ¹	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	HABITAT	OBSERVATION/ SITE POTENTIAL
Vermillion flycatcher <i>Pyrocephalus rubinus</i>	CDFW: SC Species of Concern	Length: 5 inches The adult male has a Bright red cap, throat and underparts; with a Black eyeline, nape, back, wings, and tail The Immature male similar to female but has variable amount of red on underparts. The female and immature has Brown upperparts with White underparts with faint streaks on breast with an undertail coverts tinged pink The adult male Vermilion Flycatcher is very distinctive. The female and immatures are more nondescript but the streaking on the breast and pink tinge to the undertail coverts distinguish them from other flycatchers.	Frequents streams and ponds in arid areas; agricultural areas	L No habitat

ZOOLOGICAL SPECIES	STATUS ¹	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	HABITAT	OBSERVATION/ SITE POTENTIAL
Yellow Warbler <i>Dendroica petechia brewsteri</i>	CNDDDB Rank: G5T3, S2; CDFW: SC	A Family of seed-eating, small to moderately large passerine birds that have strong , stubby beaks , which in some species can be quite large. They have a bouncing flight, alternating flapping with gliding on closed wings. Most sing well.	Yellow warblers in southern California breed in lowland and foothill riparian woodlands dominated by cottonwoods, alders, or willows and other small trees and shrubs typical of low, open-canopy riparian woodland(Garrett and Dunn 1981). During migration, they occur in lowland and foothill woodland habitats such as desert oases, riparian woodlands, oak woodlands, mixed deciduous-coniferous woodlands, suburban and urban gardens and parks, groves of exotic trees, farmyard windbreaks, and orchards (Small 1994).	L No suitable habitat on site
Le Conte's Thrasher <i>Toxostoma lecontei</i>	CNDDDB Rank: G3, S3; CDFW: SC	Sexes are alike. This sandy-colored, 10-inch long bird blends well with dry desert vegetation. Its black tail contrasts with its gray, unspotted breast and belly.	Le Conte's Thrasher is a widespread, but rare permanent resident in the western and southern San Joaquin Valley, upper Kern River Basin, Owens Valley, Mojave Desert, and Colorado Desert in southwestern United States.	L None observed

ZOOLOGICAL SPECIES	STATUS ¹	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	HABITAT	OBSERVATION/ SITE POTENTIAL
Ferruginous hawk <i>Buteo regalis</i>	Species of concern	The male and female have identical markings. The main difference is size, with the female being larger. Perched birds have a white breast and body with dark legs. The back and wings are a brownish rust color. The head is white with a dark streak extending behind the eye. The wing tips almost reach the tip of the tail.	Found in arid to semiarid regions, as well as grasslands and agricultural areas in southwestern Canada, western United States, and northern Mexico.	L No suitable habitat on site
California Black Rail <i>Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus</i>	CDFW: Threatened	The smallest of all rails, the black rail is slate-colored, with a black bill, red eyes and a white-speckled back. The legs are moderately long and the toes are unwebbed. The sexes are similar.	Most commonly occurs in tidal emergent wetlands dominated by pickleweed or in brackish marshes with bulrushes in association with pickleweed. In freshwater, usually found in bulrushes, cattails, and saltgrass and in immediate vicinity of tidal sloughs. Typically occurs in the high wetland zones near upper limit of tidal flooding, not in low wetland areas with considerable annual or daily fluctuations in water levels. Nests are concealed in dense vegetation, often pickleweed, near upper limits of tidal flooding	L No habitat on site

ZOOLOGICAL SPECIES	STATUS'	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	HABITAT	OBSERVATION/ SITE POTENTIAL
Sonoran desert toad <i>Incilius alvarius</i>	CDFW: SC	Large: 7.5 inches or more in length. smooth, typically olive-green/brown skin, cranial crests, and prominent, elongated glands on both sides of the back of the head (parotoid glands) and on the hind legs. Young toads have small dark, orange-tipped spots on the back. Larger tadpoles are gray or brown with a rounded tail tip, and grow to about 2.25 inches.	Sonoran Desert scrub, semi-desert grasslands. Can be tied to permanent water, such as major rivers or the edges of agriculture. May be found many miles from water, particularly during the summer monsoons. Most Sonoran Desert toads are found at night during the monsoon season, but they may emerge a month or more before the summer rains begin, particularly in areas of permanent water. Can be found in rodent burrows or underground retreats.	L No habitat present on site.
Leopard frog <i>Lithobates yavapaiensis</i>	CDFW: Species of concern	Tan, gray-brown or light gray-green to green above; yellow below. Vague upper lip stripe, tuberculate skin. Dark network on rear of thighs; yellow groin color often extends onto rear of belly and underside of legs. Male will exhibit a swollen and darkened thumb base.	Find in desert grassland and in woodlands. Uses permanent water sources, stays near water. Breed Feb-April. Bullfrogs are predators	L No permanent water sources on site; not expected on site.
Yuma Ridgway's rail <i>Rallus obsoletus yumanensis</i>	CDFW: SSC	35–40 cm; male 194–347 g, female 160–310 g (yumanensis). Large rail with long, slender, slightly decurved bill.	Salt and brackish marshes, particularly those with tidal sloughs; favors marshes with tall, dense brush	L No Habitat

lowland leopard frog <i>Lithobates yavapaiensis</i>	CDFW: SSC	is a relatively small leopard frog - maximum length is about 3.4 inches. It is distinguished from other Arizona leopard frogs by a combination of characters, including dorsolateral folds that are broken and inset towards the rear, a dark brown and tight reticulate pattern on the rear of the thigh, and usually no spots on the snout.	is a species of frog in the Ranidae family that is found in Mexico and the United States; Its natural habitats are temperate forests, rivers, intermittent rivers, freshwater lakes, and freshwater marshes.	L No habitat
Northern leopard frog <i>Lithobates pipiens</i>	CDFW: SC	2-3½ inches long and has randomly distributed black spots on its back, sides, and legs. Each spot is surrounded by a light halo. The background colors of the frog can range from gold to green. Gold or brown dorsolateral ridges often stand out in contrast.	NLF needs permanent water for overwintering, floodplains and marshes for breeding, and wet meadows and fields for foraging	L No habitat on site or nearby
ZOOLOGICAL SPECIES	STATUS'	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	HABITAT	OBSERVATION/ SITE POTENTIAL
Flat-tailed horned lizard <i>Phrynosoma mcallii</i>	CNDDDB Rank: G3; S2 CDFW: SC	A small (up to 87 mm or 3.4" from snout to vent), exceptionally flat and wide lizard with a long (for a horned lizard) broad, flat tail and a dark stripe running down the middle of the back.	occupy a small range in the Sonoran Desert of southwestern California, southwestern Arizona, and extreme northern Mexico.	M Habitat present; preconstruction survey recommended; monitoring
Colorado Desert fringe-toed lizard <i>Uma notata</i>	CNDDDB Rank: G3, S2; CDFW: SC	2 3/4 to 4 4/5 inches long from snout to vent (7 - 12.2 cm). (Stebbins 2003) The tail is about the same length as the body.	Sparsely-vegetated arid areas with fine wind-blown sand, including dunes, flats with sandy hummocks formed around the bases of vegetation, washes, and the banks of rivers. Needs fine, loose sand for burrowing.	L No loose sandy habitat

ZOOLOGICAL SPECIES	STATUS ¹	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	HABITAT	OBSERVATION/ SITE POTENTIAL
American Badger <i>Taxidea taxus</i>	CDFW: Species of Concern	Burrowing animals that feed on ground squirrels, rabbits, gophers and other small animals. Prefer grasslands, agricultural areas.	Found in drier open areas with friable soils	L None seen; no burrows observed with badger characteristics observed.
Pocketed free-tailed bat <i>Nyctinomops femorosaccus</i>	CNDDDB Rank: G4, S2S3; CDFW: SC	A small fold, or "pocket" in the wing membrane of the free-tailed bat, near its knee, gives this bat its common name. Pocketed free-tailed bats have large ears and long wings, and fly rapidly, generally pursuing insects on the wing. They eat many kinds of insects, but seem to prefer small moths.	It occurs in the arid lowlands of the desert Southwest, and primarily roosts in crevices in rugged cliffs, slopes, and tall rocky outcrops.	L None seen. Not expected; no habitat; no roosting found in bridge
Yuma hispid cotton rat <i>Sigmodon hispidus eremicus</i>	CDFW: SC	Hispid cotton rats are small to medium sized rodents, with adults weighing 100 to 225 g (average 159 g). Total length ranges from 80 to 320 mm, with males slightly longer than females. The color of both sexes consists of a mixture of tan, brown, and black fur on their dorsal parts, giving them a coarse, or "hispid," appearance. The underparts are white to greyish, the tail is sparsely haired and considerably shorter than the combined length of the head and body.	In the United States, they are found as far north as Nebraska in the west and coastal and central Virginia to the east. There is also an isolated population in southeastern California in the Imperial Valley along the Colorado River. Hispid cotton rats prefer dense, grassy areas.	L No Habitat

ZOOLOGICAL SPECIES	STATUS ¹	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	HABITAT	OBSERVATION/ SITE POTENTIAL
California leaf-nosed bat <i>Macrotus californicus</i>	CDFW: SC	The California leaf-nosed bat weighs between 12 and 20 grams, has a wingspan of over 30 centimeters and a body length of over 6 centimeters, and is brown in color. As its name implies, it has a triangular fleshy growth of skin, called a noseleaf, protruding above the nose.	It is found in Mexico and the United States. Its natural habitat is hot deserts. It is threatened by habitat loss.	L None seen. Not expected; no habitat; no roosting found in bridge
Big free-tailed bat <i>Nyctinomops macrotis</i>	CDFW: SC	They have a wingspan of 435 mm and an average length of 140 mm. Little is known of mortality and longevity. Breeding probably occurs in midwinter while the species is in warmer latitudes. Moths seem to be the mainstay of their diet, although few data have been collected. This bat emerges late in the evening and forages at high altitudes.	a bat species found in South, North and Central America. This bat frequents rocky or canyon country where it roosts in crevices	L None seen. Not expected; no habitat; no roosting found in bridge
Western Mastiff Bat	CNDDDB Rank: G5T4, S3; CDFW: SC	Eumops perotis can be distinguished from all other North American molossid (free-tail) species based on size. With a forearm of 73-83 mm, it is North America's largest species.	In California, the E. perotis is most frequently encountered in broad open areas. Generally, this bat is found in a variety of habitats, from dry desert washes, flood plains, chaparral, oak woodland, open ponderosa pine forest, grassland, montane meadows, and agricultural areas.	L None seen. Not expected; no habitat; no roosting found in bridge
<i>Eumops perotis californicus</i>				

ZOOLOGICAL SPECIES	STATUS ¹	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	HABITAT	OBSERVATION/ SITE POTENTIAL
Western Yellow bat <i>Lasiurus xanthinus</i>	CDFW SC:	Consumes small to medium-sized, night flying insects. Yellow color/short ears.	Roosts in leafy vegetation the deserts of the southwestern United States. Roosts among the dead fronds of palm trees and cottonwoods	L None seen. Not expected; no habitat; no roosting found in bridge
Big free tailed bat <i>Nyctinomops macrotis</i>	CDFW: SC	Body length of 5 1/8 to 5 3/4", with a 17" wingspan, which makes it bigger than other free tailed bats. Fur is reddish brown to dark brown, with hairs white at base. Tail extends past membrane at least an inch. Big ears are joined at base and extend out over face like a hat. Eats mostly moths, some crickets, grasshoppers, ants, various other insects.	Lives in rocky areas of desert scrub or coniferous forests. During day roosts in crevices on cliff faces.	L None seen. Not expected; no habitat; no roosting found in bridge
Palm Springs pocket mouse <i>Perognathus longimembris bangsi</i>	CDFW: SC	This is a small heteromyid rodent with TL from about 110 to 151 mm and weight from 8 to 11 g. As in all silky pocket mice, the pelage is spineless, and there are usually two small patches of lighter hairs at the base of the ear. Silky pocket mice can be distinguished from sympatric pocket mice of the genus <i>Chaetodipus</i> (fallax, formosus, and penicillatus) by their smaller size (see Ingles 1965 for comparisons), the absences of a tail-crest, and an unlobed antitragus in the outer ear.	Historically known from the San Geronio Pass area east to southern Joshua Tree National Park, south through the Coachella Valley to Ocotillo. Its historical range extends from Joshua Tree National Park southward, west to San Geronio Pass and down to Borrego Springs and the east side of San Felipe Narrows (Hall 1981)	L No habitat

ZOOLOGICAL SPECIES	STATUS ¹	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	HABITAT	OBSERVATION/ SITE POTENTIAL
Colorado Valley woodrat <i>Neotoma albigula venusta</i>	CNDDDB Rank: G5T3T4, S1S2	a small rodent measuring an average of 12.9 inches (32.8 cm) and weighing an average of 188 g for females and 224 g for males	Typically found at an altitude of 0 to 1,966 meters (0 to 6,450 feet). Mesquite-creosotebush	L Not observed

Special Status Species that Occur in Imperial County (USFWS)

Common Name Scientific Name	Status1 Federal/CDFW /CNPS	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	Habitat	Suitability Of Habitat In Survey Area
Plants				
Peirson's milk-vetch <i>Astragalus magdalenae</i> var. <i>peirsonii</i>	T/E/1B	Silvery, short-lived perennial plant that is somewhat broom like in appearance. A member of the pea and bean family, it can grow to 2.5 feet tall and is notable among milkvetches for its greatly reduced leaves. Peirson's milkvetch produces attractive, small purple flowers, generally in March or April, with 10 to 17 flowers per stalk. It yields inflated fruit similar to yellow-green pea pods with triangular beaks.	Desert dune habitats. In California, known from sand dunes in the Algodones Dunes system of Imperial County. Was known historically from Borrego Valley in San Diego County and at a site southwest of the Salton Sea in Imperial County	L None observed. No dune habitat

Common Name Scientific Name	Status1 Federal/CDFW /CNPS	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	Habitat	Suitability Of Habitat In Survey Area
Birds				
California brown pelican <i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	E/E/-No longer endangered	Large size and brown color. Adults weigh approximately 9 pounds, and have a wingspan of over 6 feet. They have long, dark bills with big pouches for catching and holding fish. Pelicans breed in nesting colonies on islands without mammal predators. Roosting and loafing sites provide important resting habitat for breeding and non-breeding birds.	Open water, estuaries, beaches; roosts on various structures, such as pilings, boat docks, breakwaters, and mudflats	L None observed. No open water

Common Name Scientific Name	Status1 Federal/CDFW /CNPS	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	Habitat	Suitability Of Habitat In Survey Area
Southwestern willow flycatcher <i>Empidonax traillii</i> <i>extimus</i>	E/-/-	Small; usually a little less than 6 inches in length, including tail. Conspicuous light-colored wingbars. Lacks the conspicuous pale eye-ring of many similar <i>Empidonax</i> species. Overall, body brownish-olive to gray-green above. Throat whitish, breast pale olive, and belly yellowish. Bill relatively large; lower mandible completely pale. The breeding range of <i>extimus</i> includes Arizona and adjacent states.	At low elevations, breeds principally in dense willow, cottonwood, and tamarisk thickets and in woodlands, along streams and rivers. Migrants may occur more widely. Prefers riparian willow/cottonwood but will use salt cedar thickets	L None Observed; no suitable thickets on site
Yuma clapper rail <i>Rallus longirostris</i> <i>yumanensis</i>	E/T/-	A chickenlike marsh bird with a long, slightly drooping bill and an often upturned tail. Light brownish with dark streaks above. Rust-colored breast; bold, vertical gray and white bars on the flanks; white undertail coverts. Very shy.	Lives in freshwater and brackish marshes. Prefers dense cattails, bulrushes, and other aquatic vegetation. Nests in riverine wetlands near upland, in shallow sites dominated by mature vegetation, often in the base of a shrub. Prefers denser cover in winter than in summer.	L None observed or heard; no suitable habitat; not immediately adjacent to cattails or water

Common Name Scientific Name	Status1 Federal/CDFW /CNPS	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	Habitat	Suitability Of Habitat In Survey Area
Least tern <i>Sterna antillarum</i>	E/E/-	Small tern. During breeding, black cap ending at white forehead. Short white eyestripe. Bill yellow with black tip. Back light gray. Underside white. Black leading edge to wing. In nonbreeding plumage has black eyestripe extending to back of head, white top of head, and black bill. Size: 21-23 cm (8-9 in) Wingspan: 48-53 cm (19-21 in) Weight: 30-45 g (1.06-1.59 ounces)	Shallow areas of estuaries, lagoons, and at the joining points between rivers and estuaries	L None observed; no habitat
Least Bell's Vireo <i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>	E/E/-	Drab gray to green above and white to yellow below. It has a faint white eyeing and two pale wingbars; has pale whitish cheeks and forehead and greenish wings and tail. longer tail and subtle wingbars. The song is a varied sequence of sharp, slurred phrases that typically end with an ascending or descending note.	Formerly a common and widespread summer resident below about 2,000 feet in western Sierra Nevada. Also was common in coastal southern California, from Santa Barbara County south, below about 4,000 feet east of the Sierra Nevada. Prefers thickets of willow, and other low shrubs afford nesting and roosting cover	L None observed; no habitat on site.

Common Name Scientific Name	Status1 Federal/CDFW /CNPS	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	Habitat	Suitability Of Habitat In Survey Area
Mountain plover <i>Charadrius montanus</i>	FPT/SC/-	Medium-sized plover with pale brown upperparts, white underparts, and brown sides. Head has brown cap, white face, and dark eyestripe. Upperwings are brown with black edges and white bars; underwings are white. Tail is brown-black with white edges. Sexes are similar.	Avoids high and dense cover. Uses open grass plains, plowed fields with little vegetation, and open sagebrush areas. Likes to follow livestock grazing or burned off fields.	L No habitat

Common Name Scientific Name	Status1 Federal/CDFW /CNPS	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	Habitat	Suitability Of Habitat In Survey Area
Black rail <i>Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus</i>	-/T/-	The smallest of all rails, the black rail is slate-colored, with a black bill, red eyes and a white-speckled back. The legs are moderately long and the toes are unwebbed. The sexes are similar.	Most commonly occurs in tidal emergent wetlands dominated by pickleweed or in brackish marshes with bulrushes in association with pickleweed. In freshwater, usually found in bulrushes, cattails, and saltgrass and in immediate vicinity of tidal sloughs. Typically occurs in the high wetland zones near upper limit of tidal flooding, not in low wetland areas with considerable annual or daily fluctuations in water levels. Nests are concealed in dense vegetation, often pickleweed, near upper limits of tidal flooding	L None observed; no habitat

Common Name Scientific Name	Status1 Federal/CDFW /CNPS	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	Habitat	Suitability Of Habitat In Survey Area
Raptors				
Peregrine Falcon <i>Falco peregrinus</i>	D/E/-	Large, powerful falcon; pointed winged falcon silhouette. Strong shallow wingbeats may dive at speeds up to 100 mph. Dark with dark hooded effect. Blue gray below with narrow bars Long-winged, long tailed hawk. Habitually flies low over open fields and marshes watching and listening for prey such as rodents and birds. (I observed Harrier with a white faced ibis as prey). Perches low or on ground. Low slow flight. Nests in reeds. Grey with black wingtips.	Most often found along coastlines or marshy habitats. Nest in cliffs and have been known to nest in tall buildings	L None observed; rare visitors to area outside of the Salton Sea. No waterfowl for prey or cliffs/tall buildings for nesting
Northern Harrier <i>Circus cyaneus</i>	-/SC/-	Blue gray above pale reddish below; small size. Tip of tail squared off. Nesting occurs in dense tree stands which are cool, moist, well shaded and usually near water. Hunt in openings at the edges of woodlands and also brushy pastures.	Marshes, open fields. Nests in reeds	L No habitat
Sharp-shinned Hawk <i>Accipiter striatus</i>	-/SC/-	Gray and white with black on shoulders and under bend of wing. Graceful flyer. Adults have bright red eyes. Medium size hawk; about 15 inches long and about 12 ounces. Males pale with with rufous shoulders and thigh feathers. White tail washed with rufous. Wide head wings in shallow v when soaring.	Sharp-shinned hawks may appear in woodland habitats during winter and migration periods and are often common in southern California in the coastal lowlands and desert areas; winters in woodlands and other habitats.	L Not observed. Low prey base

Common Name Scientific Name	Status ¹ Federal/CDFW /CNPS	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	Habitat	Suitability Of Habitat In Survey Area
White tailed Kite <i>Elanus leucurus</i>	/E/		Found in open country; like to perch on treetop. May be seen hovering prior to attack of a rodent.	L Not observed. Low prey base
Ferruginous hawk <i>Buteo regalis</i>	/SC/		Found in arid to semiarid regions, as well as grasslands and agricultural areas in southwestern Canada, western United States, and northern Mexico.	L Not observed. Low prey base
Mammals				
Bighorn sheep <i>Ovis canadensis</i>	E/E/-	Sheep have short hair which is light gray to grayish brown, except around their stomachs and rump, where it is creamy white. Their tails are about four inches long. Full-grown rams weigh between 180 and 240 pounds,	Desert Bighorn sheep occupy a variety of plant communities, ranging from mixed-grass hillsides, shrubs. Avoids dense vegetation	L None observed; no habitat – area very disturbed

Common Name Scientific Name	Status1 Federal/CDFW /CNPS	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	Habitat	Suitability Of Habitat In Survey Area
Reptiles and Amphibians				
Desert tortoise <i>Gopherus agassizii</i>	T/T/-	A herbivore that may attain a length of 9 to 15 inches in upper shell (carapace) length. The tortoise is able to live where ground temperature may exceed 140 degrees F because of its ability to dig underground burrows and escape the heat. At least 95% of its life is spent in burrows. Their shells are high-domed, and greenish-tan to dark brown in color. Desert tortoises can grow from 4–6" in height and weigh 8–15 lb (4–7 kg) when fully grown. The front limbs have heavy, claw-like scales and are flattened for digging. Back legs are more stumpy and elephantine	Dry, flat, and gravelly or sandy ground in desert shrub communities where annual and perennial grasses are abundant. Frequent habitats with a mix of shrubs, forbs, and grasses	L None observed; habitat not favorable
Flat-tailed horn lizard <i>Phrynosoma mcallii</i>	PT/-/-	Closely related to Desert horned lizard (scat indistinguishable); only found in Imperial, Riverside County, Ca and Yuma area, Az. Small round lizard with distinguishing round spots on back. Diet of ants; needs sandy soil, shade bushes to survive.	Desert washes/sandy areas with vegetative cover. Diet of ants	M Sandy habitat; ants noticed – recommend preconstruction survey and monitoring

Common Name Scientific Name	Status1 Federal/CDFW /CNPS	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	Habitat	Suitability Of Habitat In Survey Area
Fish				
Desert pupfish <i>Cyprinodon macularius</i>	E/E/-	Small, silvery-colored fish with 6 to 9 dark bands on its sides. Grows to a full average length of only 2.5 inches; develop quickly, sometimes reaching full maturity within 2 to 3 months. Although their average life span is 6 to 9 months, some survive more than one year. Pupfish have a short, scaled head with an upturned mouth. The anal and dorsal fins are rounded with the dorsal sometimes exhibiting a dark blotch. The caudal fin is convex at the rear.	Springs, seeps, and slow-moving streams in Salton Sink basin and backwaters and sloughs of the Colorado River	L None observed; no habitat
Razorback Sucker <i>Xyrauchen texanus</i>	Fed/CA: Endangered	One of the largest suckers in North America, can grow to up to 13 pounds and lengths exceeding 3 feet. The razorback is brownish-green with a yellow to white-colored belly and has an abrupt, bony hump on its back shaped like an upside-down boat keel	Colorado River	L None observed; no habitat

USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern

Common Name	Species Name	Habitat	Potential Onsite	Region 8 Imperial County	National Rating
Bald Eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Nests on tall trees or on cliffs in forested areas near large bodies of water. Winters in coastal areas, along large rivers, and large unfrozen lakes.	Low Not expected. No tall trees; not observed in area	X	X
Swainson's Hawk	<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	Breeds in open country such as grassland, shrubland, and agricultural areas. Usually migrates in large flocks often with Broad-winged Hawks. Winters in open grasslands and agricultural areas of Southern America.	L Not observed. Low prey base		X
Peregrine Falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>	Inhabits open wetlands near cliffs for nesting. Also uses large cities and nests on buildings.	L Not observed. Low prey base	X	X
Black Rail	<i>Laterallus jamaicensis</i>	Nests in high portions of salt marshes, shallow freshwater marshes, wet meadows, and flooded grassy vegetation.	Low No salt or freshwater marshes; no vegetation	X	X

Common Name	Species Name	Habitat	Potential Onsite	Region 8 Imperial County	National Rating
Snowy Plover	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>	Barren to sparsely vegetated sand beaches, dry salt flats in lagoons, dredge spoils deposited on beach or dune habitat, levees and flats at salt-evaporation ponds, river bars, along alkaline or saline lakes, reservoirs, and ponds.	Low No habitat; not observed	X	X
Mountain Plover	<i>Charadrius montanus</i>	Breeds on open plains at moderate elevations. Winters in short-grass plains and fields, plowed fields, and sandy deserts.	L No habitat	X	X
Black Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus bachmani</i>	Rocky seacoasts and islands, less commonly sandy beaches.	Low No habitat	X	X
Solitary Sandpiper	<i>Tringa solitaria</i>	Breeds in taiga, nesting in trees in deserted songbird nests. In migration and winter found along freshwater ponds, stream edges, temporary ponds, flooded ditches and fields, more commonly in wooded regions, less frequently on mudflats and open marshes.	Low No habitat		X
Lesser Yellowlegs	<i>Tringa flavipes</i>	Breeds in open boreal forest with scattered shallow wetlands. Winters in wide variety of shallow fresh and saltwater habitats.	Low No habitat		X
Common Name	Species Name	Habitat	Potential Onsite	Region 8 Imperial County	National Rating

Upland Sandpiper	<i>Bartamia longicauda</i>	Native prairie and other dry grasslands, including airports and some croplands.	Low		X
Whimbrel	<i>Numenius phaeopus</i>	Breeds in various tundra habitat, from wet lowlands to dry heath. In migration, frequents various coastal and inland habitats, including fields and beaches. Winters in tidal flats and shorelines, occasionally visiting inland habitats.	L No habitat	X	X
Long-billed Curlew	<i>Numenius americanus</i>	Nests in wet and dry uplands. In migration and winter found on wetlands, grain fields, lake and river shores, marshes, and beaches.	L No habitat	X	X
Short-billed Dowitcher	<i>Limnodromus griseus</i>	Breeds in muskegs of taiga to timberline, and barely into subarctic tundra. Winters on coastal mud flats and brackish lagoons. In migration prefers saltwater tidal flats, beaches, and salt marshes. Also found in freshwater mud flats and flooded agricultural fields.	L No habitat	X	X
Aleutian Tern	<i>Sterna aleutica</i>	Nest on flat vegetated islands on or near the coast. Vegetation includes dwarf-shrub tundra, grass and sedgemoadows, and coastal marsh. Migration and winter habitat not known, probably pelagic.	Low No habitat		X

Common Name	Species Name	Habitat	Potential Onsite	Region 8 Imperial County	National Rating
Least Tern	<i>Sterna antillarum</i>	Seacoasts, beaches, bays, estuaries, lagoons, lakes and rivers, breeding on sandy or gravelly beaches and banks of rivers or lakes, rarely on flat rooftops of buildings.	Low No habitat		X
Gull-billed Turn	<i>Sterna nilotica</i>	Breeds on gravelly or sandy beaches. Inter in salt marshes, estuaries, lagoons and plowed fields, along rivers, around lakes and in freshwater marshes.	Low No habitat		X
Black Skimmer	<i>Rynchops niger</i>	Breeds in large colonies on sandbars and beaches. Forages in shallow bays, inlets, and estuaries.	Low No habitat	X	X
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>	Open woodlands with clearings, orchards, dense scrubby vegetation, mainly cottonwood, willow, and adler, often along water.	Low No habitat	X	X
Black Swift	<i>Cypseloides niger</i>	Nests on steep ledges on cliffs or canyons. Migrates and winters over coastal lowlands.	Low No habitat	X	X
Costa's Hummingbird	<i>Calypte costae</i>	Primarily low deserts and arid brushy foothills, but also chaparral and coastal sage scrub closer to the coast. Often visits ornamental plantings and feeders in desert communities. In migration and winter frequents a wider variety of habitats, occasionally ranging into pine-oak woodlands in adjacent mountains.	Low No habitat	X	X
Calliope Hummingbird	<i>Stellula calliope</i>	Open montane forest, mountain meadows, and thickets of willow and alder. In migration and winter also in chaparral, oak and pine-oak woodlands, deserts, and gardens.	Low No habitat	X	X

Common Name	Species Name	Habitat	Potential Onsite	Region 8 Imperial County	National Rating
Rufous Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus rufus</i>	Breeds in a variety of forested habitats where flowers are found. Frequents montane meadows and just about anywhere else with flowers or feeders during migration. Winters primarily in pine and pine-oak forests in Mexico, but most birds wintering farther north are attracted either to flowers or feeders in gardens.	Low No habitat		X
Allen's Hummingbird	<i>Selasphorus sasin</i>	Breeds in coastal sage scrub, chaparral, and riparian corridors within coastal forests. In Mexico winters in forest edge and scrub clearings with flowers. The resident population on the mainland of southern California is largely restricted to suburban neighborhoods where feeders and flowers are plentiful.	Low No habitat	X	X
Lewis's Woodpecker	<i>Melanerpes lewis</i>	Breeds in open arid conifer, oak, and riparian woodlands: rare in coastal areas. Winters in breeding habitat, and oak savannas, orchards, and even in towns.	Low No habitat	X	X
Olive-sided Flycatcher	<i>Contopus cooperi</i>	Montane and northern coniferous forests, at forest edges and openings such as meadows, and at ponds and bags. Winters at forest edges and clearings where tall trees or snags are present.	Low No habitat	X	X
Willow Flycatcher	<i>Empidonax traillii</i>	Breeds in moist, shrubby areas, often with standing or running water. Winters in shrubby clearings and early successional growth.	Low No habitat	X	X
Loggerhead Shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	Open or brushy areas.	Medium Could forage in area; plentiful prey	X	X

Common Name	Species Name	Habitat	Potential Onsite	Region 8 Imperial County	National Rating
Bell's Vireo	<i>Vireo bellii</i>	Dense, low, shrubby vegetation generally early successional stages in riparian areas, brushy fields, young second-growth forest or woodland, scrub oak, coastal chaparral, and mesquite brushlands, often near water in arid regions.	Low Scant shrubby vegetation on site	X	X
Gray Vireo	<i>Vireo vicinior</i>	Found in desert scrub, mixed oak-juniper and pinyon-juniper woodlands, dry chaparral, and thorn scrub in hot, arid mountains and high-plains.	Low No scrub habitat	X	X
LeConte's Thrasher	<i>Toxostoma lecontei</i>	Desert scrub, mesquite, tall riparian brush and, locally, chaparral.	Low Could be found in adjacent habitat	X	X
Yellow Warbler	<i>Dendroica petechia</i>	Breeds in wet, deciduous thickets, especially in willows and adler. Also in shrubby areas, old fields, gardens and orchards. In southern Florida and farther south, found in mangroves.	Low No habitat	X	
Common Yellowthroat	<i>Geothlypis trichas</i>	Thick vegetation from wetlands to prairies to pine forests. Frequently near water.	Low No habitat; not observed	X	
Rufous-winged Sparrow	<i>Aimophila carpalis</i>	Found in flat areas of tall desert grass mixed with brush and cactus, and thorn scrub.	Low No habitat		X
Brewer's Sparrow	<i>Euphagus cyanocephalus</i>	Found in a variety of habitats, but prefers open, human-modified areas, such as farmland, fields, residential lawns, and urban parks.	Low No habitat	X	X
Black-chinned Sparrow	<i>Spizella atrogularis</i>	Arid brush land, commonly in tall and fairly dense sagebrush, and dry chaparral. Often in rocky, rugged country from sea level to around 8,900 ft (2700m).	Low No habitat	X	X

Common Name	Species Name	Habitat	Potential Onsite	Region 8 Imperial County	National Rating
Tricolored Blackbird	<i>Agelaius tricolor</i>	Breeds in marsh vegetation, particularly cattails, near grain fields, riparian scrubland, and forests, but always near water. Dairies and feedlots also commonly used for foraging. Urban and suburban areas occasionally utilized, particularly park lawns. Cultivated lands also suitable for foraging. Large night-time roosts form during nonbreeding season in cattail marshes near foraging grounds.	Low No habitat	X	X
Lawrence's Goldfinch	<i>Carduelis lawrencei</i>	Prefers dry interior foothills, mountain valleys, open woodlands, chaparral, and weedy fields. Often found near isolated water sources such as springs and cattle troughs.	Low No habitat	X	X
CNPS Species or Community Level					
G1 = Less than 6 viable element occurrences (EOs) OR less than 1,000 individuals OR less than 2,000 acres.					
G2 = 6-20 EOs OR 1,000-3,000 individuals OR 2,000-10,000 acres.					
G3 = 21-80 EOs OR 3,000-10,000 individuals OR 10,000-50,000 acres.					
G4 = Apparently secure; this rank is clearly lower than G3 but factors exist to cause some concern; i.e., there is some threat, or somewhat narrow habitat.					
G5 = Population or stand demonstrably secure to ineradicable due to being commonly found in the world.					
State Ranking					
The state rank (S-rank) is assigned much the same way as the global rank, except state ranks in California often also contain a threat designation attached to the S-rank.			The R-E-D Code contains information on Rarity, Endangerment, and Distribution, ranked as a 1, 2, or 3 for each value (as below). This code was originally known as the R-E-V-D Code (through the 3rd edition 1980), and the V (Vigor) was removed in the 4th edition (1984).		
S1 = Less than 6 EOs OR less than 1,000 individuals OR less than 2,000 acres			R - Rarity		
S1.1 = very threatened			1 - Rare, but found in sufficient numbers and distributed widely enough that the potential for extinction is low at this time		

S1.2 = threatened		2 – Distributed in a limited number of occurrences, occasionally more if each occurrence is small
S1.3 = no current threats known		3 – Distributed in one to several highly restricted occurrences, or present in such small numbers that it is seldom reported
S2 = 6-20 EOs OR 1,000-3,000 individuals OR 2,000-10,000 acres		E - Endangerment
S2.1 = very threatened		1 – Not very endangered in California
S2.2 = threatened		2 – Fairly endangered in California
S2.3 = no current threats known		3 – Seriously endangered in California
S3 = 21-80 EOs or 3,000-10,000 individuals OR 10,000-50,000 acres		D - Distribution
S3.1 = very threatened		1 – More or less widespread outside California
S3.2 = threatened		2 – Rare outside California
S3.3 = no current threats known		3 – Endemic to California
S4 = Apparently secure within California; this rank is clearly lower than S3 but factors exist to cause some concern; i.e. there is some threat, or somewhat narrow habitat. NO THREAT RANK.		
S5 = Demonstrably secure to ineradicable in California. NO THREAT RANK.		
Sources: CDFW/CNDDb 2019, California Wildlife 2016; CNPS 2017; USFWS, 2015		
State/CDFG:		¹Status: Federal:
E = Listed as an endangered species; or previously known as “rare, fully protected”		E = Listed as an endangered species
T = Listed as a threatened species		T = Listed as a threatened species
SC = species of special concern (designation intended for use as a management tool and for information; species of special concern have no legal status (www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/species/ssc/birds.html))		C = Candidate for listing
CNPS (California Native Plant Society):		
1B = Rare, threatened, or endangered in California or elsewhere		D = Delisted
2= Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in Ca, but more common elsewhere		PD = Proposed for delisting/PT = Proposed for threatened status
3=Plants about which more information is needed		
Habitat Suitability Codes: H = Habitat is of high suitability for this species M = Habitat is of moderate suitability for this species L = Habitat is of low or no suitability for this species		

PHOTOGRAPHS



1. Evan Hewes Highway at Coyote Wash Bridge looking west; saltcedar to right



2. Evan Hewes Highway at Coyote Wash Bridge looking east; saltcedar on both sides



3. Area to north of bridge; area being used illegally as a bypass to closed bridge



4. Area to south of bridge; area being used illegally as a bypass to closed bridge



5. Highly disturbed area to north of bridge area; offroad vehicular activity



6. Bridge at wash looking north; firepit in foreground



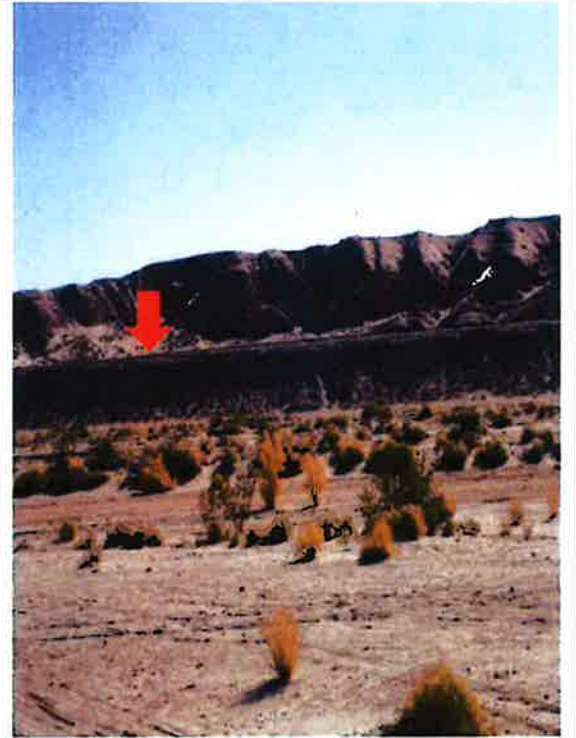
7. Bridge at wash looking east; off road vehicle road which goes under bridge



8. Bridge at south side of wash; off road vehicle road which goes under bridge

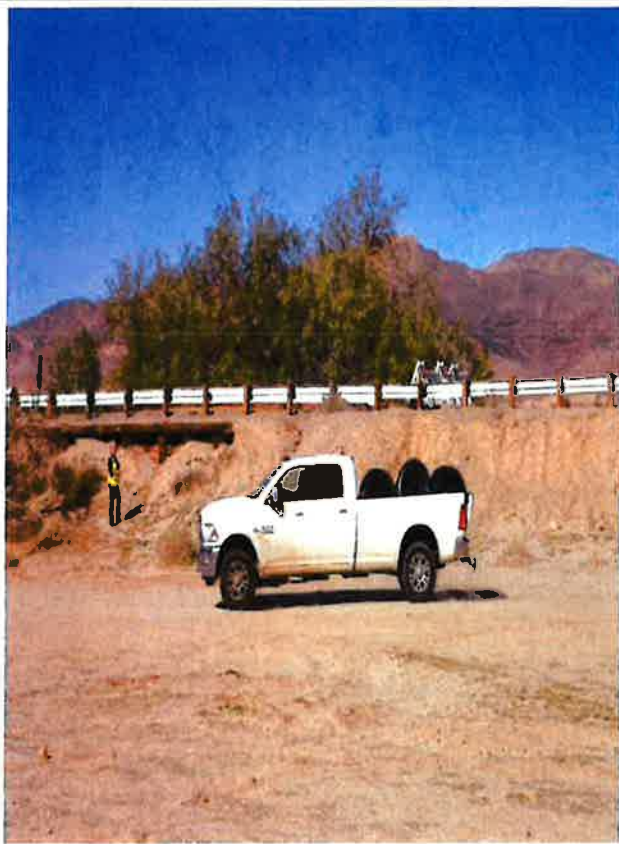


9. Illegal bypass road around bridge looking east



10. Railroad tracks to south; various off road vehicular roads

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11. Vehicle illegally bypassing closed Coyote Wash bridge



12. Creosote along approach to Coyote Wash bridge



13. Abandoned nest in bridge supports

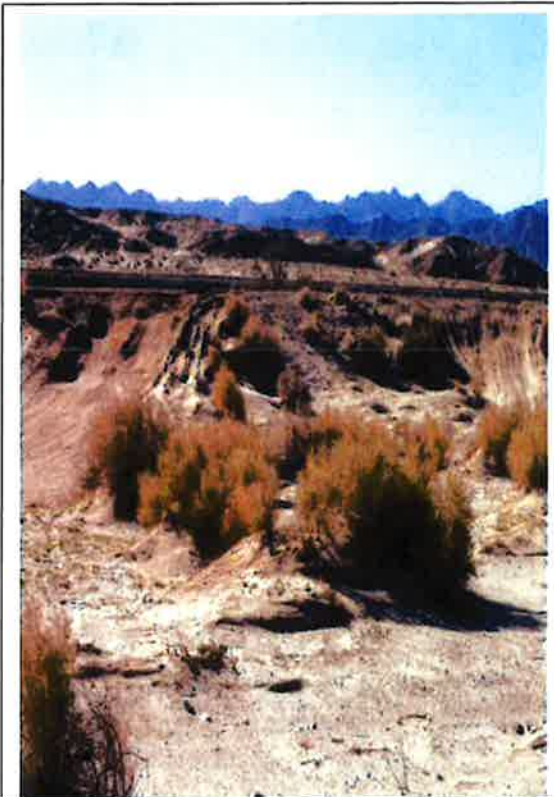


14. Burrobush (*Ambrosia dumosa*) found adjacent to biological study area (BSA)

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15. Creosote (*Larrea tridentate*) and cholla (*Cylindropuntia echinocarpa*) observed in BSA



16. 5 hook bassia, (*Bassia hyssopifolia*) found in BSA



17. Smoketree, (*Psoralea argemone*) found in BSA



EEC ORIGINAL

GLENNA MARIE BARRETT

PO Box 636 Imperial, California 92251 (760) 425-0688
glennabarrett@outlook.com

PROFILE

Organized and focused individual, adept at implementing multifaceted projects while working alone or as an integral part of a team. Skilled in client/employee communications, report preparation, program analyses and development. Cost conscious, safety oriented and empathetic. A strong communicator with excellent interpersonal skills, which allows development of rapport with individuals on all levels. A sound professional attitude, strong work ethic and pride in personal performance.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Senior Biologist/Partner, Barrett's Biological Surveys, GP. El Centro, CA April 2016-currently.

Principal Biological Consultant, Barrett Biological Enterprises, Inc. Imperial, CA December 2001 - currently. Compile information and complete local, state, and federal government forms; such as conditional use permits, reclamation plan applications, Financial Assurance Cost Estimates, zone changes, CEQA, Environmental Evaluation Committee responses, and 501 (c)(3) tax exemption applications. Act as liaison between local businesses and local, state, and federal government agencies. Certified to survey for Flat-Tailed Horned Lizards in California and Arizona. Certified to survey for Burrowing Owls and the Desert Tortoise.

Extensive knowledge in southwestern United States, non-migratory and migratory avian biology and ecology. Strong knowledge of common Flora and Fauna communities associated with Southern California and surrounding environs. CEQA, NEPA, California Endangered Species Act (CESA) and Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) knowledge gained through work experience. I have excellent analytical skills, multi-tasking and writing abilities. My past work experience has provided me with many years of hands on experience working with and managing others to find practical solutions to solve problems and achieve common goals.

Grant writing experience: Awarded two grants for BUOW educational programs for \$15,000 each from Imperial Valley Community Foundation. Awarded \$35,700 for a total of \$75,000 with matching funds to establish the Imperial Valley Small Business Development Center with the Imperial Regional Alliance. Awarded \$450,000 from the California Public Utilities Commission for a broadband connectivity initiative in Imperial County with Imperial Regional Alliance and Imperial Valley Economic Development Corporation. Assisted in writing two grants with the Imperial County Film Commission (ICFC). The first grant written with the ICFC from the Imperial Valley Community Foundation for educational film classes at the 2017 Film Festival, which was awarded for \$5,000. Another grant co-written with the ICFC from the Imperial Irrigation District Local Entity Grant for office assistants, etc. Successfully wrote USDA grant in the amount of \$60,000 for a Feasibility Study to be completed in Imperial County.

Broadband and Business Development at Imperial Valley Economic Development Corporation. Director of the Southern Border Broadband Consortium formed by using grant funding from the California Advanced Service Fund to close the Digital Divide in unserved and underserved areas of Imperial and San Diego counties. Coordinate meetings with stakeholders, collect data and create quarterly reports to submit to the California Public Utilities Commission. Coordinate Environmental Protection Agency grant application and grant funding with agency contacts. May 2017-current.

FIELD EXPERIENCE

Ms. Barrett has done the field work and contributed to the required reports for the following projects:

DeShaw- Onsite Biologist for Mount Signal 2 Solar Farm, this is the second phase of the Mount Signal Solar Farm in Calxico, Imperial County, CA. Ms. Barrett is attending all Plan of the Day (POD) meetings, scheduling

EEC ORIGINAL

and surveying biological surveys (pre/during/post), scheduling monitoring and providing monitoring, and giving biological opinions to the owner, as well as the EPC^c Swinerton. August 2018- currently.

8 Minute Energy- Onsite Biologist for Mount Signal 3 Solar Farm, a 328 megawatt-dc photovoltaic (PV) project in the city of Calexico in California's Imperial County. The project is part of the 800 MW Mount Signal Solar Farm which is among the largest PV installations in the world. Barrett's Biological Surveys has been the only onsite biologists for all three phases of Mount Signal. Burrowing owls are the main species of concern on this project and the population on the third phase has doubled with conservation efforts. Ms. Barrett attended all Plan of the Day (POD) meetings, scheduled and participated in surveys (pre/during/post), scheduled and conducted monitoring, and gave biological opinions. April 2017- currently.

Dominion- Midway 2 Carcass Persistence Surveys, provide scheduling for the carcass search trials weekly, conduct Searcher Efficiency and Carcass Persistence trials multiple times throughout the year at a solar farm in Calipatria, CA. Collect data and work with subconsultants to prepare the data in the fashion US Fish and Wildlife Services prefer. Collaborate with client and USFW. February 2018-currently.

All American Aggregates/ Gibson and Schaeffer- a sand and gravel operation located in Imperial County, CA. Ms. Barrett consults with owners on any biological issues that may arise, completes annual Financial Assurance Cost Estimates for Imperial County. 2011- currently.

Kruger- Environmental Compliance Coordinator (ECC) for Seville Solar Complex for a 626-acre solar farm in Imperial County, CA. Compiled and submitted data and reports for APCD such as equipment lists and man hours, water hours for dust suppression; Planning reports such as weekly monitoring reports and scheduling with the third party monitor for work on BLM land; Assisted in writing the Emergency Response Action Plan; CDFW quarterly reports for the Incidental Take Permit for the Flat Tail Horned Lizard (FTHL), CNDDDB reports, FTHL Observation Data Sheets, site tours and any other information CDFW asks for; Agriculture Commissioner's Office quarterly reports; provides the hazardous reporting information for the CERS online reporting system; assisted writing the FTHL ITP; trained new hires; contacted various local businesses for different on-call services; also provides any updates for plans and schedules necessary throughout the life of the project; etc. (January 2015- March 2016).

NAF-EC – FTHL monitoring for Holtville Airstrip project with USMC personnel to widen a six-mile BLM road and re-strip an airfield. Monitored and consulted with above-mentioned agencies for FTHL. (October 2014)

Sol Orchard - El Centro, CA: Successfully completed BUOW relocation and artificial burrow installation for six burrows. (August 2013)

Burrtec- FTHL Surveys in Salton City, CA: Team leader for eight people to complete a pre-construction site sweep for 320 acres in Imperial County. (June 2013)

Applied Biological Consulting- Approved Biological Monitor on DPV2: The 500kV transmission line traverses approximately 153 mi from Bythe, CA to Menifee in Riverside County, CA. Crossing private, state and Federal lands, such as the Bureau of Land Management [BLM], U.S. Forest Service [USFS]. Ms. Barrett monitored for Desert Tortoise on this project. (November 2011 to May 31, 2013)

GeoMorphis- gas pipeline in Mesquite, Nevada: This was an underground gas pipeline project in which Ms. Barrett monitored Desert Tortoise. (November 2010-March 2011).

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Received Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a focus on Management, along with Economics and Leadership minors, December 2000. Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA.

Special Status/listed species observed/ identified, surveyed, monitored and/or relocated: Mohave desert tortoise, Coachella valley milkvetch, Desert kit fox, Mountain lion, Coachella valley fringe toed lizard, Mohave fringe toed lizard, Stephen's kangaroo rat, Mohave ground squirrel, Coast horned lizard, Flat-tailed horned lizard, Burrowing Owl.

CERTIFICATIONS/ WORKSHOPS

- FTHL Workshop, 2008 El Centro BLM office.
- USFW Desert Tortoise Egg Handling Desert Tortoise Council Survey Techniques Workshop Certificate, 2008 and 2010.
- Anza Borrego State Park Wildflower Identification Workshop, 2010.
- Southwest Willow Flycatcher Workshop Kernville, CA, 2010.

- SCE TRTP Construction Monitoring Training Class and WEAP Redlands, CA 2011.
- DPV2 Construction Monitoring Training Class and WEAP Santa Ana, CA 2011.
- Helicopter flight trained on DPV2, 2012.
- Certified to handle/ move venomous snakes on DPV2, 2012.
- Bat monitoring with Ms. Pat Brown BLM El Centro, CA Office, 2010.
- Salton Sea International Bird Festival 2007 Coordinator
- Mountain Plover/ Long-billed Curlew surveys, L.A. Museum of Natural History.
- Current First Aid certification to 2016.
- Presented at the Fourth Annual BUOW Symposium in Pasco, Washington, 2014.
- Board Member- Colorado River Citizens Forum, 2014-2016.
- BUOW Educational outreach grantee from IVCF, interacting with IID, IVROP, ICFB, Ag Commissioner's Office, 2015.
- Pets for Vets, Imperial Valley Chapter, Director 2015
- Friends of the Sonny Bono National Wildlife Refuge, Member 2015
- Imperial County Film Commission, Vice-President, Member 2016

MARIE S. BARRETT

2035 Forrester Road, El Centro, CA 92243 (760) 352 4159 mariebarrett@roadrunner.com

LICENSES/CERTIFICATES

Flat Tailed Horn Lizard Surveyor CDFG/BLM

Burrowing Owl Surveyor (CDFG/USFWS)

USFW Desert Tortoise Egg Handling Desert Tortoise Council Survey Techniques Workshop Certificate

BCI Bat Conservation and Management Workshop (Acoustic) Certificate

Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Workshop Kernville, CA 2010

CA Scientific Collection Permit 126/USFWS Salvage Permit MB52633B-1

CAREER HISTORY**Barrett's Biological Surveys, El Centro, California BIOLOGIST 3/95 -present**

Helped establish protocol and perform Vegetative Baseline Studies and Biological Surveys for Mining Reclamation Plans in Imperial County. Have performed numerous (over 20,000 acres) surveys involving varied wildlife including burrowing owl, nesting birds and plant species and writing reports and biological assessments. Certified to perform Flat Tailed Horned Lizard Surveys; completed Desert Tortoise workshops; approved to handle desert tortoise (American Girl Mine/BLM project, 1/2013). Work closely with governmental agencies such as Bureau of Land Management, State Office of Mining Reclamation, California Department of Fish and Game. Written over ten Environmental Assessments for BLM, El Centro office. Over 150 days spent in field monitoring/surveying for FTHL; 98 days in field monitoring/surveying for desert tortoise and 32,000 acres surveyed for burrowing owl and nesting birds; 2 IID Burrowing owl surveys with AECOM (2011/12- 226 hrs). Wrote Imperial Irrigation District Artificial Burrow Installation Manual (2009). Over 25 active burrowing owl burrows passively relocated and 50 artificial burrows installed. Volunteered for desert tortoise work (20 hrs) with Dr. Jeff Lovich. Coachella Valley Projects: Torres-Martinez (Desert Cahuilla Composting Facility Biological Resource Technical Report/Surveys 60 acres, SR 86/Ave 84, 2013; Augustine Tribe (Solar Farm Biological Resource Technical Report/Surveys 10 acres, La Quinta, CA, 2010); Benitez Family Trust Therapeutic Community, Dillon and Cabazon Roads, 10 acres, 2008); Chandri Group (Dairy Queen Chill/Grill Project, 1.5 acres, Date Palm Drive/I-10, La Quinta, CA, 2014). Blythe 8Minutenergy Mt. Signal Solar 5000 acres Preconstruction surveys/construction monitoring and BUOW Post construction monitoring; Biological report. 2010-2017

Black Mt. MetTower Installation: desert tortoise survey and monitoring approved by BLM, El Centro office

Salton City Burrtec Landfill FTHL monitoring/clearance 2010-2014 (42.5 hrs); Superior Redi Mix: FTHL surveys, Oat Pit Environmental Assessment for BLM, El Centro, 2009-14. (20 hours) SDG&E La Rosita Pole Replacement FTHL Monitoring 2012-2013(410 hrs); Imperial County Department of Public Works, FTHL surveys for Coyote Mine Environmental Assessment, BLM, El Centro, 2008. (10 hours) All American Aggregates, FTHL surveys, Boyd Road Mine Environmental Assessment, BLM El Centro, 2007. (9.5 hours) All American Aggregates, FTHL surveys, Wheeler Road Mine Environmental Assessment, BLM, El Centro, 2006. (8.5 hours); ValRock, FTHL surveys, Ocotillo Bypass Road Environmental Assessment, County of Imperial/BLM, El Centro, 2004. (7 hours). USFWS Authorized desert tortoise biologist: American Girl Mine and Mesquite Mine.

Citizens' Congressional Task Force on the New River, Brawley, Ca PROGRAM COORDINATOR 1/98 - present

Assisted with design, construction, planting and monitoring of four constructed wetlands in Imperial County. Responsible for coordinating activities relating to student and public outreach education to promote the water quality opportunities of wetlands ponding systems on the New River.

Imperial Valley College, Imperial, California ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROJECT COORDINATOR 9/95-12/99

Responsible for establishing an Environmental Technology curriculum, presenting public forums, short courses and certificate courses in hazardous materials and safety areas. In conjunction with Division Chairman, established a budget for 96-98 program and obtained funding of \$131,000 based on 95-96 program performance. Established short courses that trained over 700 people in hazardous materials safety programs. Compiled a survey of employers, which provided direction for the program.

VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY: Imperial Valley Coordinator, 2006-2016.

SALTON SEA INTERNATIONAL BIRD FESTIVAL: Coordinator: 2001-2010. Organize bird festival in the Imperial Valley that attracts over 300 birders.

COLORADO RIVER WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD: Board member Dec 05-Sept 06.

FRIENDS OF SONNY BONO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE: Board Chairman, May 2015- 16

EDUCATION

University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona

Masters of Science Degree – AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

Thesis: Survey and training protocol for documenting burrowing owls and habitat in Imperial County, California

California State Polytechnic College, Kellogg-Voorhis Campus, Pomona, California

Bachelor of Science Degree.- AGRICULTURAL BIOLOGY

Imperial Valley College, Imperial, California Associate of Science Degree. AGRICULTURE