

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION/CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM
Continuation Sheet

Continued from page 1:

Boulevard/Stanford Ranch Road, a 12-foot carpool/HOV lane is proposed to be constructed. The carpool/HOV lane would connect to the Carpool/HOV lanes proposed as part of the I-80/SR65 interchange project.

The separate I-80/SR 65 interchange project will add a third lane in each direction of SR 65 from I-80 to Pleasant Grove Boulevard. This SR 65 Capacity and Operational Improvements project alternative would also add one 12-foot general purpose lane through the Pleasant Grove Boulevard Interchange, to create a third lane on SR 65 in both directions from I-80 to Blue Oaks Boulevard. An auxiliary lane would also be added in each direction of SR 65 from the Galleria Boulevard interchange to Pleasant Grove Boulevard interchange, from the Blue Oaks Boulevard interchange to the Sunset Boulevard interchange, and from the Whitney Ranch Parkway interchange to the Twelve Bridges Drive interchange.

Both the northbound and southbound bridges over Pleasant Grove Creek would be widened by approximately 12 feet each to the outside of the highway and approximately 17 feet each to the inside of the highway. The widened bridge structures would be similar structure types to the existing bridges, which are reinforced concrete slab bridges with piles. Sixteen pier columns, four at each of the four bents, plus four piles per abutment would be installed for each new bridge. New piers would be constructed using driven concrete piles.

The following three culverts crossing the SR 65 corridor within the project limits are short and would need to be extended to accommodate the proposed auxiliary lanes along the corridor:

- Culvert at Orchard Creek Tributary 2-1, located between Whitney Ranch Parkway and Twelve Bridges Drive,
- Double 72" Reinforced Concrete Pipe between Galleria Boulevard and Pleasant Grove Boulevard
- Double 10'X 5' Reinforced Concrete Box between Blue Oaks Boulevard and Sunset Boulevard.

Ramp meter modifications would occur for the slip on-ramps to a 2+1 configuration (2 metered lanes plus 1 carpool preferential lane) and a 1+1 (1 metered lane plus 1 carpool preferential lane) for the loop on-ramps. The southbound Pleasant Grove Boulevard slip and loop on-ramps, Blue Oaks Boulevard slip and loop on-ramps and Lincoln Boulevard slip on-ramp would be modified to include these ramp metering changes.

Overhead electric facilities run parallel along northbound SR 65 outside of State right-of-way. At Pleasant Grove Creek, the overhead line turns east-west and crosses over SR 65. The overhead electric hangs over both the Pleasant Grove Creek bridges that are proposed for widening. The proximity of the overhead line may conflict with bridge foundation activities during construction. Thus, the overhead line may need to be temporarily relocated outside of the creek area to accommodate widening the Pleasant Grove Creek bridges.

The project will be constructed within the existing Caltrans right-of-way for SR 65.

Environmental Commitments

Biological Resources: A Natural Environment Study was prepared in April 2017. A Biological Assessment was prepared in July 2017. On July 17, 2017, Caltrans initiated formal consultation with USFWS for effects to federally listed wildlife species, vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*) and vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardii*). On December 3, 2017, USFWS issued a Biological Opinion that the project "may effect, and is likely to adversely effect" vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*) and vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardii*).

United States Fish and Wildlife USFWS Biological Opinion (No. 08ESMF00-2017-F-0944-1)

BIO-1: Compensate for Direct and Indirect Effects to Vernal Pool Habitat

To compensate for direct and indirect effects to the tadpole shrimp and fairy shrimp, suitable habitat will be preserved at a ratio of 2:1 for effects not within an established preserve and 4:1 for effects within an established preserve. To offset the loss of 0.944 acre of suitable tadpole shrimp and fairy shrimp habitat, 3,338 acres of preservation credits will be purchased for both species at a Service approved conservation bank with a service area that covers the proposed project.

Caltrans will coordinate with the conservation easement holder where there is potential for indirect effects within a preserve or wetland mitigation site that was established as habitat mitigation for another project. As necessary, revisions to existing easement and or deed restriction documents will be made prior to the start of project construction.

BIO-2: Install fencing and/or Flagging to Protect Sensitive Biological Resources

Prior to construction, high-visibility orange construction fencing and/or flagging will be installed along the perimeter of the work area adjacent to environmentally sensitive areas (including vernal pools, wetlands, streams, riparian vegetation, special status species habitat, and active bird nests). Fencing will be maintained throughout the duration of the construction period. If the fencing is removed, damaged or otherwise compromised during the construction period, construction activities will cease until the fencing is repaired or replaced.

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION/CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM
Continuation Sheet

BIO-3: Conduct Mandatory Environmental Awareness Training for Construction Personnel

Prior to construction, a Service-approved biologist will conduct a mandatory contractor/worker environmental awareness training for construction personnel. The awareness training will be provided to all construction personnel (contractors and subcontractors) to brief them on avoiding effects to sensitive biological resources (including habitat for federally-listed species) adjacent to construction areas and the penalties for not complying with applicable state and federal laws and permit requirements. The biologist will inform all construction personnel about the life history and habitat requirements of federally-listed species with the potential for occurrence onsite, the importance of maintaining the habitat, and the terms and conditions of the biological opinion or other authorizing documents.

The environmental training will also cover the following general restrictions and guidelines that must be followed by all construction personnel to reduce or avoid effects on sensitive biological resources during project construction.

- Project-related vehicles will observe the posted speed limit on hard-surfaced roads and a 10 mile-per-hour speed limit on unpaved roads or access areas during travel within the project limits.
- Project-related vehicles and construction equipment will restrict off-road travel to the designated construction area.
- Vegetation clearing and construction operations will be limited to the minimum necessary in areas of temporary access work areas and staging.
- All food-related trash will be disposed of in closed containers and removed from the project site at least once a week during the construction period. Construction personnel will not feed or otherwise attract wildlife to the project.
- To prevent possible resource damage from hazardous materials such as motor oil or gasoline, construction personnel will not service vehicles or construction equipment outside designated staging areas.

BIO-4: Retain a Service-approved Biologist to Conduct Monitoring during Construction in Sensitive Habitats.

A Service-approved biologist will periodically monitor all construction activities that involve ground disturbance (e.g., vegetation removal, grading, and excavation) within or adjacent to environmentally sensitive areas. At minimum, the biologist will conduct weekly site visits and will monitor construction activities in the vicinity of sensitive habitat for a minimum of 2 hours. The biologist will ensure that fencing around environmentally sensitive areas remains in place during construction and that no construction personnel, equipment, or runoff/sediment from the construction areas enters sensitive habitat. The monitor will complete daily logs, and a final monitoring report will be prepared at the end of each construction season which will be submitted to the Service and other overseeing agencies, as appropriate.

BIO-5: Avoid and Minimize Potential Indirect Impacts on Habitat for Vernal Pool Species

Ground disturbance within 250 feet of suitable tadpole shrimp and fairy shrimp habitat will be avoided from the first day of the first significant rain (1 inch or greater) until June 1, or until suitable wetlands remain dry for 72 hours and no significant rain is forecast for the day of such ground disturbance.

A Service-approved biologist will guide the installation of exclusion fencing prior to the start of ground-disturbing activities (including staging, grading, and vegetation removal). The exclusion fencing will be installed along the edge of the construction limits between the work area and aquatic resources to be avoided. The exclusion fencing will consist of orange construction barrier and erosion control fencing or combination fencing. The erosion control fencing will be buried a minimum of 6 inches to prevent sediment runoff into adjacent wetlands.

No herbicide will be applied within 100 feet of aquatic habitat.

Hazardous Waste: A Hazardous Waste Initial Site Assessment and Aerially Deposited Lead (ADL) Assessment were prepared in September 2014.

HAZ 1: Treated Wood Waste

Treated wood waste (TWW) can occur as post along metal beam guard railing (MBGR), three beam barrier, piles, or roadside signs. These wood products are typically treated with preserving chemicals that may be hazardous (carcinogenic) and include but are not limited to arsenic, chromium, copper, creosote, and pentachlorophenol.

The Department of Toxics Substances Control (DTSC) requires that TWW either be disposed as a hazardous waste, or if not tested, the generator may presume that TWW is a hazardous waste and must be disposed in an approved treated wood waste facility.

Standard Special Provision (SSP 14-11.14) treated wood waste, must be included in the project's final PS&E and listing documents

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION/CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM
Continuation Sheet

03-Pla-65		03-1F170	
Dist.-Co.-Rte. (or Local Agency)	P.M./P.M.	E.A/Project No.	Federal-Aid Project No. (Local Project)/Project No.

HAZ 2: Testing and removal requirements for yellow/white traffic striping and pavement marking materials will be in accordance with Standard Special Provision 15-1.03B which requires a Lead Compliance Plan.

HAZ 3: Aerially Deposited Lead (ADL)

The ADL Assessment determined that lead impacted soil is onsite.

Standard Special Provision (SSP 14-11.09A), minimal disturbance of materials containing hazardous waste concentrations of ADL, must be included in the project's final PS&E and listing documents. A project specific Lead Compliance Plan (LCP) must be implemented.

Air Quality: An Air Quality Report was prepared in September 2016. The project is located in an area that is designated as non-attainment for CO, PM 2.5/PM10. Interagency consultation concluded on August 9, 2016. Caltrans issued a project-level conformity determination on October 13, 2016.