

PROJECT REPORT

TO: ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION COMMITTEE

AGENDA DATE: June 11, 2020

FROM: PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

AGENDA TIME 9:00 AM/No.

PROJECT TYPE: IS #19-0021 PW Q Lateral Bridge Replacement SUPERVISOR. DIST #4

LOCATION: 7900 English Road APN: 021-300-002-000

Niland, Ca PARCEL SIZE: Approx. 01 acres

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

ZONE (existing) A2-RE (General Agricultural/Renewable Energy) ZONE N/A

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

PLANNING COMMISSION DECISION:

HEARING DATE: _____

☐ APPROVED ☐ DENIED ☐ OTHER

PLANNING DIRECTORS DECISION:

HEARING DATE: _____

☐ APPROVED ☐ DENIED ☐ OTHER

ENVIROMENTAL EVALUATION COMMITTEE DECISION: HEARING DATE: 06/11/2020

INITIAL STUDY: #19-0021

☐ NEGATIVE DECLARATION ☐ MITIGATED NEG. DECLARATION ☐ Addendum to FEIR

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / APPROVALS:

PUBLIC WORKS

☒ NONE

☐ ATTACHED

AG

☐ NONE

☒ ATTACHED

APCD

☒ NONE

☐ ATTACHED

E.H.S.

☒ NONE

☐ ATTACHED

FIRE / OES

☒ NONE

☐ ATTACHED

SHERIFF.

☒ NONE

☐ ATTACHED

OTHER

(See Attached)

REQUESTED ACTION:

SEE ATTACHED

- ☐ **NEGATIVE DECLARATION**
☐ **MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

*Initial Study & Environmental Analysis
For:*

**Imperial County Public Works Department (PWD)
English Road Bridge Pipe Crossing Replacement Project
Initial Study #19-0021**



Prepared By:

COUNTY OF IMPERIAL
Planning & Development Services Department
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June 2020

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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) English Road Bridge Pipe Crossing Replacement Project – Initial Study (IS) #19-0021
2. **Lead Agency:** Imperial County Planning & Development Services (ICPDS) Department
3. **Contact person and phone number:** Patricia Valenzuela, Planner IV, (442)265-1736, ext. 1751
4. **Address:** 801 Main Street, El Centro CA, 92243
5. **E-mail:** patriciavalenzuela@co.imperial.ca.us
6. **Project location:** The existing bridge is located 2 miles southwest of the City of Niland at the crossing of English Road and Pound Road, 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:** Agriculture
9. **Zoning:** A-2/RE (General Agriculture/Renewable Energy). The project is between properties owned by Magma Power and Imperial Irrigation District.
10. **Description of project:** The applicant (PWD) proposes to improve the existing timber bridge that has deteriorated which caused Imperial County PW to shut down the bridge to traffic. The project proposes to fix all the deficiencies by removing the timber bridge at STA 254+88.59 along Q Lateral Canal and replace with two 6' x 10' PC inlet headwall structures and 60" x 64 L.. F. pipe. The pipe will be backfilled with slurry cement to 1 foot above the pipe along the entire length of the crossing, which will require de-energize existing OH lines.
11. **Surrounding land uses and setting:** The project site is surrounded by vacant desert land and parcels in Ag production. Local commuters as well as farming and geothermal vehicles use 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 English Road.
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.?**

Native American Tribes and members of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) were 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 ended on September 30, 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

<u>EEC VOTES</u>	<u>YES</u>	<u>NO</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
PUBLIC WORKS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SVCS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
OFFICE EMERGENCY SERVICES	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
APCD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
AG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SHERIFF DEPARTMENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ICPDS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Jim Minnick, Director of Planning/EEC Chairman

Date:

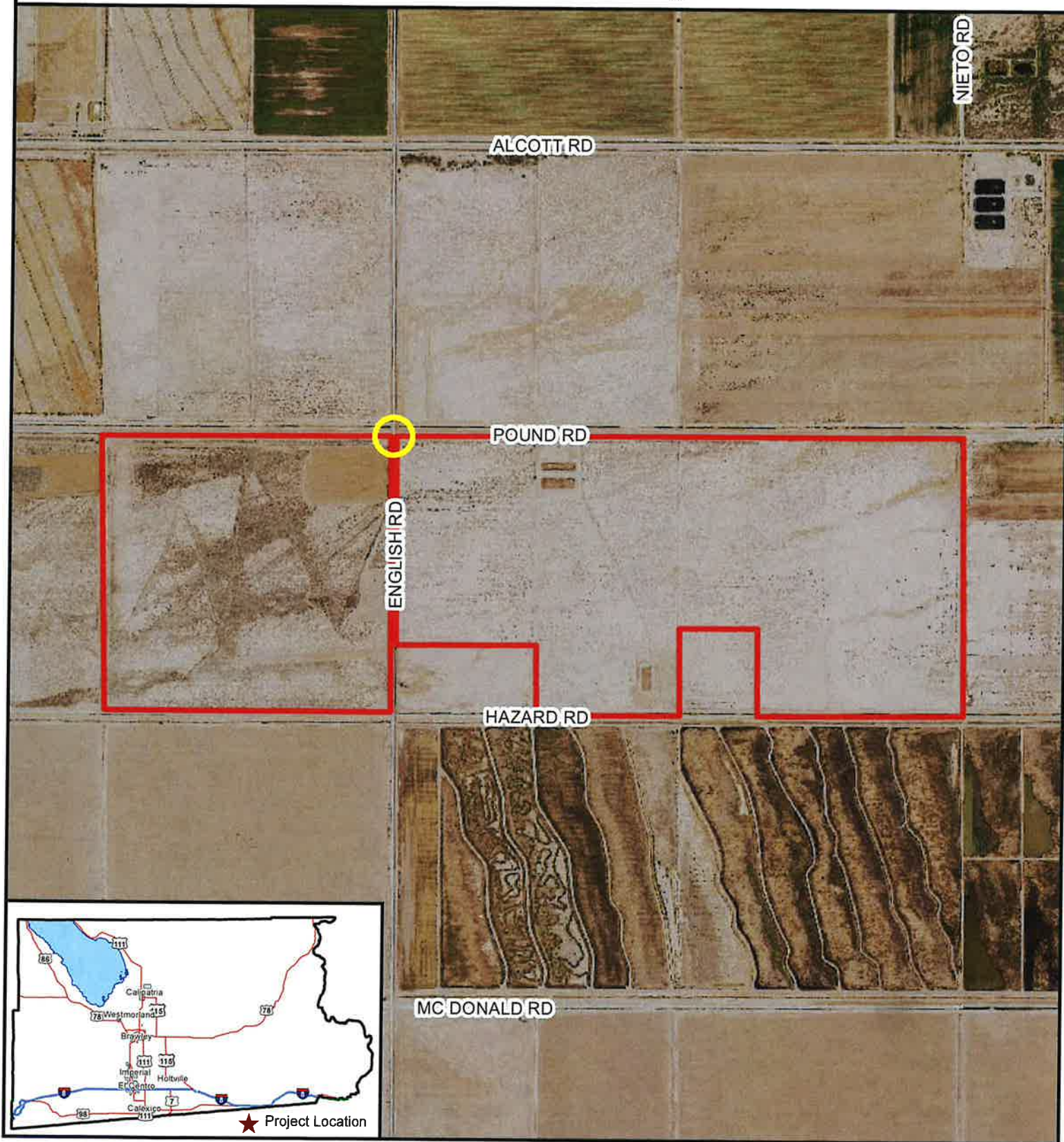
PROJECT SUMMARY

- A. Project Location:** The existing bridge project is located approximately 2 miles southwest of the City of Niland in Imperial County at the crossing of English Road and Pound Road.
- B. Project Summary:** The applicant (PWD) proposes to improve the existing timber bridge that has deteriorated which caused Imperial County PW to shut down the bridge to traffic. The project proposes to fix all the deficiencies by removing the timber bridge at STA 254+88.59 along Q Lateral Canal and replace with two 6' x 10' PC inlet headwall structures and 60" x 64 L.F. pipe. The pipe will be backfilled with slurry cement to 1 foot above the pipe along the entire length of the crossing and de-energize existing OH lines.
- C. Environmental Setting:** The project site is surrounded by vacant desert land and parcels in Ag production. Local commuters as well as farming and geothermal vehicles use 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 English Road.
- D. Analysis:** The zoning and land use designations of the project site and 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

Exhibit “B” Site Plan

PROJECT LOCATION MAP



ICPWD TIMBER BRIDGE REPLACEMENT
IS #19-0021
APN #021-300-002 & 021-300-017



Project Parcels



Bridge Location





English Road Bridge at Q Lateral

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)
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
a) The existing bridge is on English Road, which is not considered a scenic highway. There are no major highways eligible for state scenic highway in the project area. The only visual impacts that can be expected would be the temporary impacts derived from the construction work; therefore, any impact would be considered less than significant impact.				
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) There are no scenic resources near the project site, therefore; 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) The project is not within an urbanized area. 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) The project is not proposing any new source(s) of lighting. All construction work is expected to be performed during daytime; therefore, no 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| a) The project site appears as "Other Land" according to the California Department of Conservation Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP)¹, and is surrounded by land under the same classification. 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| b) The project site is within an area labeled as "Non-Enrolled Land" under the 2016 State of California Williamson Act Contract Land Map²; therefore, no impacts are expected. | | | | |
| 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 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

¹ California Important Farmland: 1984-2014 Maps <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/agriculture/>

² 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)
4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))?				
c) The project site is not surrounded by forestland; therefore, no impacts are expected to occur.				
d) Result in the loss of forestland or conversion of forestland to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) There is no forestland in the area of the project site; therefore no impacts regarding conversion of land to non-forest use are expected.				
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 forestland to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) The project site is not classified as Farmland, and the scope of work does not involve agricultural activities; therefore, no impacts are expected				

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) A comment letter was received from I.C. Air Pollution Control District (APCD) dated September 17, 2019, whereby they requested additional air analysis. However, after a phone conference, it was determine due to the project only consisted of repairing an existing bridge; no further air analysis would be needed. 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.
- 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. The improvement project is expected to be temporary, but all work shall be in accordance to state and local codes. Compliance with the agencies' requirements would bring the potential impacts to less than significant impacts.
- c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutants concentrations? ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐
- c) The nearest residence is located approximately 1.19 miles and the nearest community is Niland and approximately 1.82 miles northeast 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.
- 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.

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, ☐ ☒ ☐ ☐

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated (PSUMI)	Less Than Significant Impact (LTSI)	No Impact (NI)
<p>policies or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?</p> <p>a) After looking at the Imperial County General Plan's Conservation and Open Space Element³ 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 CNDDB 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 June 2019⁴ prepared for this project, no species occur within the Biological Study Area (BSA). No vegetation or animals considered endangered, threatened or species of concern were found in the Study Area. Compliance with the two mitigation measures below would provide compliance should any species be discovered. Therefore, any impacts should be reduced to less than significant.</p> <p>MM BIO - 1: A preconstruction survey should be conducted by a qualified biologist for special-status plants and nesting birds.</p> <p>MM BIO- 2: The following actions will be required:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>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.</p> <p>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? <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>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 reduce any impacts to less than significant.</p> <p>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? <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>c) The project site is not within any area that is considered state of federally protected wetland; therefore, no impacts are expected.</p> <p>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? <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>d) There are no fish nor wildlife species surrounding the project area, so no impacts are expected.</p> <p>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"/></p> <p>e) There are no policies protecting biological resources towards the area of the project; therefore, no impacts are expected.</p> <p>f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>				

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

4 English Road and Pound Road Bridge Improvement Project prepared by Barrett's Biological Surveys, dated June 2019

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated (PSUMI)	Less Than Significant Impact (LTSI)	No Impact (NI)
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Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

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"⁵ 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 Map⁶ from the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency and the California Indian Tribal Homelands and Trust Land Map of the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs⁷, 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. No impact is expected.

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: ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐
a) According to the State of California Special Studies Zones Fault Activity Map (2010)⁸, 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 ☐ ☐ ☒ ☐

⁵ Imperial County General Plan Conservation and Open Space Element Fig 6 <http://www.icpds.com/CMS/Media/Conservation-&-Open-Space-Element-2016.pdf>

⁶ California Tribal Lands Map https://www3.epa.gov/region9/air/maps/pdfs/air1100040_3.pdf

⁷ 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)
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? 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? 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, any impacts should be less than significant.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction and seiche/tsunami? 3) According to the Department of Conservation Regulatory Maps, the project site is not within the designated Tsunami areas; therefore, no impacts are expected.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
4) Landslides? 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.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil? 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.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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? c) The conditions for landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse are not present; therefore, no impacts are expected to occur.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in the latest Uniform Building Code, creating substantial direct or indirect risk to life or property? 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.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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? e) No septic tanks are being proposed; therefore, no impacts are expected.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature? 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.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

VIII. **GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION** *Would the project:*

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|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 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? | <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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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.

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.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 Database⁹ for the project site, it was found that it was not included in the database; therefore, no impacts are expected to occur.
- 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.
- f) For a project in the vicinity of private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒
f) The project is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip; therefore, there is no impact.
- h) 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; therefore, no impacts are expected.

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? ☐ ☐ ☐ ☒

a) The project is the replacement of an existing bridge, which crosses the Q Lateral in Imperial County. The project will not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements, therefore, no impacts are expected.

⁹ EnviroStor Database <http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/map/?myaddress=SanFrancisco&tour=True>

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated (PSUMI)	Less Than Significant Impact (LTSI)	No Impact (NI)
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin? 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. Therefore, any impacts should be less than significant.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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: c) Since the project consists of improving the existing bridge no drainage pattern is expected to change because 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. Therefore, no impacts are expected	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage patterns of the site or area including through the alternation of a course of a stream or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner, which would result in flooding on or off site? d) 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.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) 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? e) There are no changes expected regarding surface runoff, since the improvement project would replace the existing bridge and will maintain current slopes. No impact is expected.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality? f) It is anticipated that the repairs to the bridge would not substantially degrade water quality. Employment of Best Management Practice (BMP's) would reduce the impact of project activities on surrounding water quality to a level less than significant.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map? g) The project site is not mapped on the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) <u>Flood Insurance Rate Map</u>, therefore, no impact is expected.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect the flood flows? h) No structures are proposed; therefore, no structures will impede or redirect flood flows. No impacts are anticipated.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam? i) The proposed project is the repair to an existing bridge; there will be no significant risk of loss injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam. No impacts are anticipated	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow? j) The project is not located in an area inundated by seiche tsunami, or mudfow, therefore, no impact expected.	<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)
XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
a) The project is not within the vicinity of an established community; therefore, no impacts are 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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"¹⁰; 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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 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:				

¹⁰ 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)
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)? 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.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? b) Since no housing is being proposed as part of the project; no impacts are expected to occur.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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:
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. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 1) Fire Protection?
1) The Fire Department was consulted and requested to provide comments on this project, but no comments were received. No impacts are expected. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2) Police Protection?
2) No impacts are anticipated regarding an increase in services as a consequence of the approval of this project; therefore, no impacts are expected. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3) Schools?
3) There are no schools in the vicinity of the project. No impacts are anticipated regarding increase in school services. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4) Parks?
4) There are no parks within the vicinity of the project site; therefore, no impacts are expected. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5) Other Public Facilities?
5) No other public facilities are anticipated to be affected by the proposed project; therefore, less than significant impacts are expected. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

XVI. RECREATION

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| a) Would the project increase the use of the existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?
a) The existing bridge spans the IID Q Lateral. This bridge allows farm to market roads for local commuters. There are no neighborhood or regional parks nearby; therefore, less than significant impacts are expected. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 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. | <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)
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.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with the CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)? b) CEQA 15064.3 (b) is vehicle miles traveled (VMT), which Imperial County will not implement until July 1, 2020. This project area has adequate traffic flow and is rated A, therefore, any impacts from traffic would be less than significant.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in inadequate emergency access? d) The project is surrounded by desert vacant land and agriculture fields and it not expected to result in an inadequate emergency access. Therefore, no impacts are expected.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

- | | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|--|
| <p>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:</p> <p>a) The Imperial County General Plan's Conservation and Open Space Element Figure 2 "Known Areas of Native American Cultural Sensitivity Map"¹¹ shows that the project is not within a Native American Cultural Sensitivity area. 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.</p> <p>(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</p> <p>(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.</p> <p>(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 is 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.</p> <p>(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 response; therefore, less than significant impacts are</p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> | <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> |
|---|---|---|--|--|

¹¹ 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)
--	---	--	--	-------------------

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. Therefore, any impacts are expected to be less than significant. | | | | |
| 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 Severity Zone Map.¹² 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | b) Since the project area is not within a "high fire hazard severity zone", less than significant impacts are to be expected. | | | | |

¹² FRAP Fire Hazard Severity Zones http://frap.fire.ca.gov/webdata/maps/imperial/fhsz06_1_map.13.pdf

	Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated (PSUMI)	Less Than Significant Impact (LTSI)	No Impact (NI)
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.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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 296; 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

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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 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.) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) Does the project have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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
- Patricia Valenzuela, Planner IV
- 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

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

V. REFERENCES

1. California Important Farmland: 1984-2014 Maps <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/agriculture>
2. State of California Williamson Act Contract Land Map 2016
3. Imperial County General Plan Conservation and Open Space Element Figure 1
4. English road at Pound Road Bridge Project - Barrett's Biological Survey, dated June 24, 2019
5. Imperial County General Plan Conservation and Open Space Element Figure 6
6. California Tribal Lands Map https://www3.epa.gov/region9/air/maps/pdfs/air1100040_3.pdf
7. California Indian Tribal Homelands Map
http://www.water.ca.gov/tribal/docs/maps/CaliforniaIndianTribalHomelands24x30_20110719.pdf
8. Fault Activity Map of California (2010) <http://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/fam>
9. EnviroStor Database <http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/map/?myaddress=Sacramento&tour=True>
10. Imperial County General Plan Conservation and Open Space Element Figure 1
11. Imperial County General Plan Conservation and Open Space Element Figure 8
12. Imperial County General Plan Conservation and Open Space Element Figure 6
13. FRAP Fire Hazard Severity Zones http://frap.fire.ca.gov/webdata/maps/imperial/fhszl06_1_map.13.pdf
14. 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) English Road at Pound Road Bridge (Over Q Lateral) Improvements Project – Initial Study #19-0021

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

Project Location: The existing bridge project is located approximately 2 miles southwest of the City of Niland in Imperial County at the crossing of English Road and Pound Road.

Project Summary: The applicant (PWD) proposes to improve the existing timber bridge that has deteriorated which caused Imperial County PW to shut down the bridge to traffic. The project proposes to fix all the deficiencies by removing the timber bridge at STA 254+88.59 along Q Lateral Canal and replace with two 6' x 10' PC inlet headwall structures and 60" x 64 L.F. pipe. The pipe will be backfilled with slurry cement to 1 foot above the pipe along the entire length of the crossing and de-energize existing OH lines.

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 environment 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.

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.

Applicant Signature

Date

SECTION 4

VIII. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

(ATTACH DOCUMENTS, IF ANY, HERE)

IX. MITIGATION MONITORING & REPORTING PROGRAM (MMRP)

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

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:

15. Nesting surveys by qualified biologists shall be prepared during nesting season (February through August)
16. Flat-Tailed Horned Lizard (FTHL) monitoring shall be required during construction by CDFW-qualified biologists
17. 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.

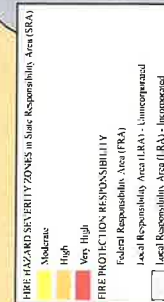
As an avoidance measure, areas outside of the project footprint will be designated as an “Environmentally Sensitive Area” (ESA) on project plans. No project-related activities will take place within the ESA-designated areas.

S:\AllUsers\APN\021\300\002\IS19-0021\EEC 06-11-20\is19 0021 INITIAL STUDY 3.docx

FIRE HAZARD SEVERITY ZONES IN SRA

Adopted by CAL FIRE on November 7, 2007

RIVERSIDE COUNTY



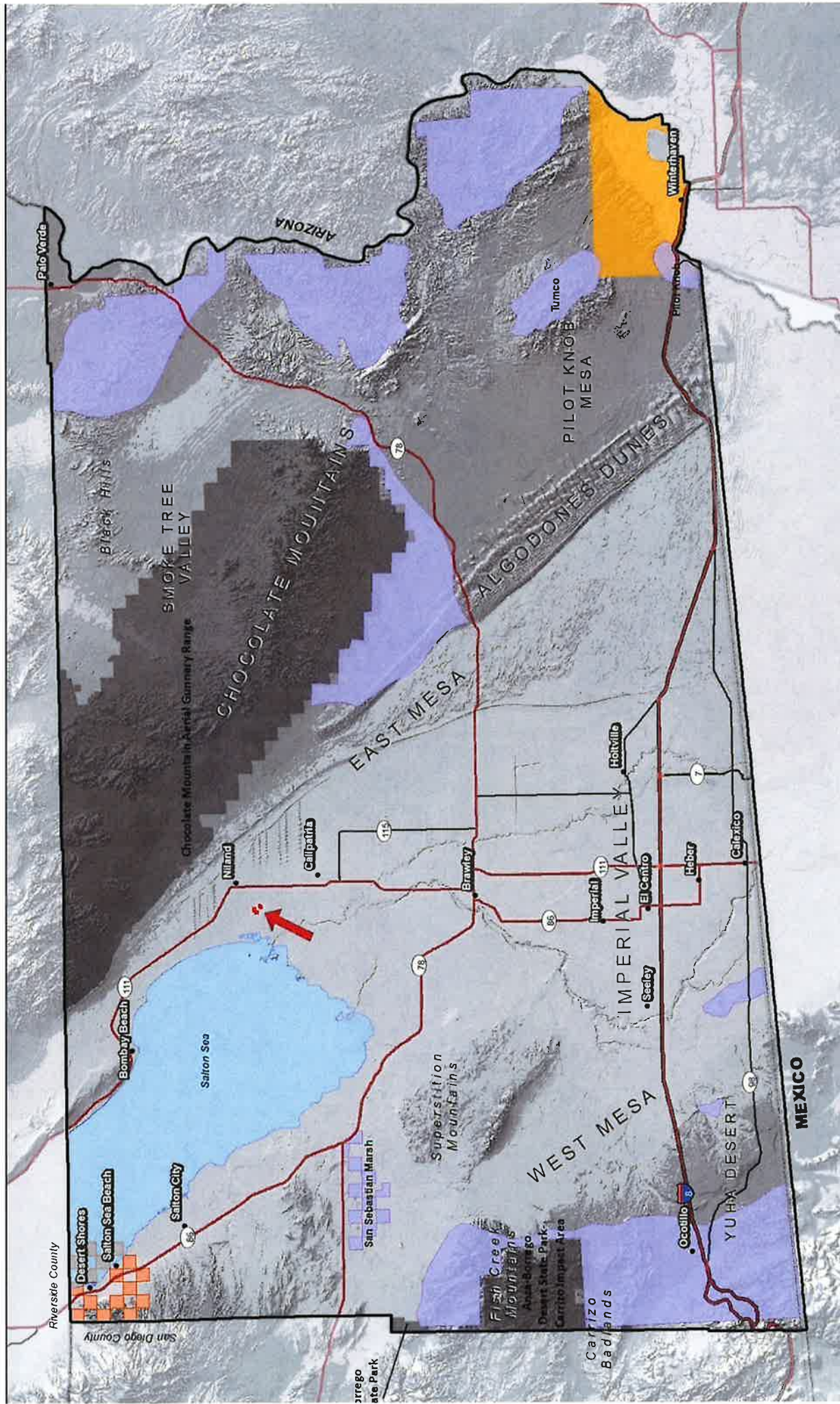
the *Journal of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists* (JACOG) in 1992. The JACOG is the largest professional organization of obstetric and gynecologic physicians in the United States. The JACOG has a long history of supporting research in the field of reproductive health. In 1992, the JACOG established the *Journal of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists* (JACOG) as a peer-reviewed journal of obstetric and gynecologic research. The JACOG is published by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG). The JACOG is a peer-reviewed journal of obstetric and gynecologic research. The JACOG is published by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG). The JACOG is a peer-reviewed journal of obstetric and gynecologic research. The JACOG is published by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG).

Projection: Albers, NAD 1983
Scale: 1:50,000
at 42° x 35 5'
November 06, 2007

Stanford E. Hirsch, Governor
State of California
Mike Chism, Secretary for Resources
The Resources Agency
11110 Olympic Drive

[illegible]

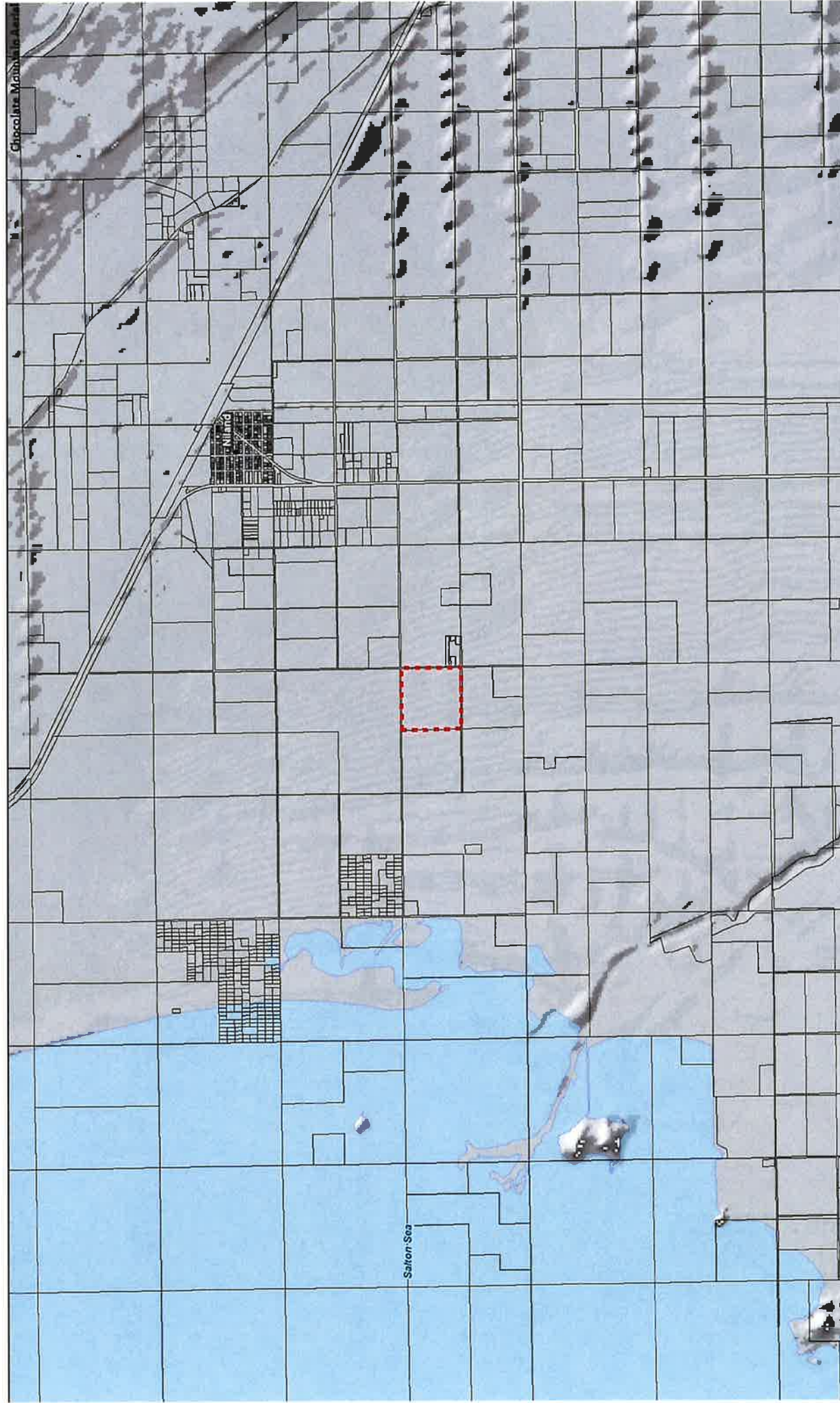
CALL 1-800-556-6622 FOR MORE INFORMATION
CSC & THE STATE RESPONSIBILITY AREA (SRA) IS
A 501(c)(3) NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION



Fig

Known Areas of Native American Cultural Sites

Imperial County Boundary
 Major Highways
 Highways
 Major Roads
 Torres Martinez Tribal Reservation
 DRECP Native American Element
 Fort Yuma Indian Reservation



- Major Highways
- Highways
- Major Roads
- Imperial County Boundary
- Torres Martinez Tribal Reservation
- DRECP Native American Element
- Fort Yuma Indian Reservation

0.8 1.6 Miles Source: DRECP, NPS

Fig

Imperial
Known Areas of Native American Cultural S

AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT



September 17, 2019

RECEIVED

SEP 17 2019

IMPERIAL COUNTY
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Mr. Jim Minnick
Planning & Development Services Director
801 Main St.
El Centro, CA 92243

SUBJECT: Initial Study 19-0021, Replacement of the current English Road Bridge

Dear Mr. Minnick:

The Imperial County Air Pollution Control District ("Air District") would like to thank you for the opportunity to review Initial Study 19-0021 by Imperial County Public Works to replace the existing and currently closed English Road Bridge with a pipeline crossing.

Upon review, the Air District cannot determine the air quality impacts of the proposed project due to the absence of an Air Quality Analysis. The intent of an Initial Study as found on page 9 of the Imperial County CEQA (California Environmental Quality Act) Air Quality Handbook is to analyze all phases of a proposed project including long-term operational impacts as well as cumulative impacts in order to determine levels of significance. The components of a comprehensive air quality analysis can be found in Section 6.1 of the Air District's CEQA Handbook (ed. 2017). The Thresholds of Significance for Operations and Construction can be found in Tables 1 and Table 4, respectively, in the Air District's CEQA Handbook. Without such an analysis, the Air District is unable to determine air quality impacts and thus cannot properly advise the project applicant. This is why it is critical for an Air Quality Analysis to follow CEQA Guidelines.

Additionally, the project must adhere to the Air District's Regulation VIII which contains measures to mitigate fugitive PM10 (dust). Also, any generators greater than 50 horsepower used during construction must be permitted through the Air District's Engineering and Permitting Division.

In closing, the Air District feels that the absence of any Air Quality Analysis in the Initial Study precludes the Air District from properly assessing any potential adverse air quality impacts from the project. The Air District recommends that further analysis be provided so that a proper assessment can be determined.

IS 19-0021

Page 1 of 2

The Air District's rule book can be accessed via the internet at <http://www.co.imperial.ca.us/AirPollution>. Click on "Rules & Regulations" under "Resources" on the left side of the page. Should you have questions, please call our office at (442) 265-1800.

Sincerely,



Curtis Blondell

APC Environmental Coordinator



Reviewed by Monica Soucier

APC Division Manager

AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT



September 17, 2019

RECEIVED

SEP 17 2019

IMPERIAL COUNTY
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

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Planning & Development Services Director
801 Main St.
El Centro, CA 92243

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IS 19-0021

Page 1 of 2

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Curtis Blondell".

Curtis Blondell

APC Environmental Coordinator

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "MS" or "Monica Soucier".

Reviewed by Monica Soucier

APC Division Manager

The first part of the paper discusses the importance of understanding the local context in which a project is implemented. This includes a thorough understanding of the community's needs, values, and beliefs. It is essential to engage with the community from the very beginning, ensuring that their voices are heard and their input is valued. This process of community engagement is not a one-time event but a continuous one that evolves as the project progresses.

The second part of the paper explores the challenges that often arise in community-based projects. These challenges can range from a lack of resources to a lack of trust between the project team and the community. It is important to recognize these challenges early on and develop strategies to address them. For example, building trust may require a long-term commitment and a willingness to listen to the community's concerns.

The third part of the paper discusses the importance of having a clear vision and a well-defined plan. This vision should be based on the community's needs and aspirations, and it should be shared with all stakeholders. A well-defined plan outlines the steps that need to be taken to achieve the vision, and it provides a framework for monitoring and evaluating the project's progress.

The fourth part of the paper discusses the importance of having a strong leadership team. This team should be composed of individuals who are committed to the project and who have the skills and experience to lead the community. It is important to ensure that the leadership team is representative of the community and that it is able to make decisions that are in the best interests of the community.

The fifth part of the paper discusses the importance of having a strong communication strategy. This strategy should outline how the project team will communicate with the community and other stakeholders. It should include a plan for regular meetings, a system for sharing information, and a plan for addressing any concerns that may arise.

The sixth part of the paper discusses the importance of having a strong evaluation system. This system should be used to monitor the project's progress and to evaluate its impact. It should include a plan for collecting data, a system for analyzing the data, and a plan for using the results to inform the project's future.

The seventh part of the paper discusses the importance of having a strong sustainability plan. This plan should outline how the project's results will be maintained and how the community will be able to take ownership of the project. It should include a plan for training community members, a plan for securing funding, and a plan for ensuring that the project's results are sustainable in the long term.

The eighth part of the paper discusses the importance of having a strong partnership with other organizations. This partnership can provide the project team with additional resources, expertise, and support. It is important to ensure that the partnership is based on mutual respect and that it is able to provide the project with the support it needs to succeed.

The ninth part of the paper discusses the importance of having a strong commitment to transparency and accountability. This commitment should be based on the principle that the project is for the community and that the community has the right to know how the project is being managed. It should include a plan for sharing information, a system for addressing concerns, and a plan for ensuring that the project is managed in a transparent and accountable manner.

The tenth part of the paper discusses the importance of having a strong commitment to learning and improvement. This commitment should be based on the principle that the project is a learning experience for everyone involved. It should include a plan for reflecting on the project's progress, a system for identifying areas for improvement, and a plan for implementing changes to the project.

Natural Environment Study

(Minimal Impacts)

English Road at Pound Road Bridge (over Q Lateral) Improvement Project
*Imperial County, California northwest of the Township of Niland and north of the
City of Brawley*

English Road Bridge

June 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: 24 June 2019

Attachment 2

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Summary

The English Road and Pound Road Bridge Improvement Project (proposed project) involves removing existing timber bridge at STA 254+88.59 along Q Lateral Canal and replace with two (2) 6'x10' PC inlet headwall structures & 60"Ø x 64 L.F pipe. Backfill with slurry cement to 1 feet above the pipe along the entire length of the crossing. De-energize Exist OH lines, Hold poles, remove and replace guy wires. Deficiencies have caused the bridge to be rated as structurally deficient. The purpose of the proposed project is to provide safe passage for the public over Q Lateral at English Road.

This report presents the findings of general reconnaissance biological surveys of the project site. No special-status plant and two special-status wildlife species and migratory bird nesting have limited potential to occur within the Biological Study Area, therefore preconstruction surveys are recommended.

1. Introduction

1.1 History

The project is located approximately 2 miles southwest of the City of Niland in Imperial County, at the crossing of English Road and Pound Road. The original timber structure had disintegrated, causing the County to shut down the bridge to traffic. These deficiencies have caused the bridge to be rated as structurally deficient. The project proposes to fix all the deficiencies; remove existing timber bridge at STA 254+88.59 along Q Lateral Canal and replace with two (2) 6'x10' PC inlet headwall structures & 60"Ø x 64 L.F pipe. Backfill with slurry cement to 1 foot above the pipe along the entire length of the crossing and de-energize existing OH lines, Hold poles; remove and replace guy wires.

Project Purpose and Need

English and Pound Roads are farm to market roads. English Road is a north/south road that offers direct access from SR 111 to S30 which accesses Calipatria and Westmorland for local commuters as well as farming and geothermal vehicles. Re-opening the structure to traffic will reduce the lengthy detour for all commuters that either live, or work along that stretch of English Road.

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 (USWFS) 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

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Sensitive Botanical and Zoological SPECIES (CNDDDB/CNPS) Niland Quadrangle (Nine Quad Search) June, 2019

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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 Niland U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute Topographic Quadrangle and the surrounding eight quadrangles within the United States including Iris, Westmorland East and West, Obsidian Butte, Frink, Wister and Irish Wash.

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.

2.2.2 Personnel and Survey Dates

Marie Barrett and Glenna Barrett of Barrett's Biological Surveys performed the biological assessment survey on June 8, 2019 (72-77°F, clear, 5-7 mph). Resumes are attached.

2.2.3 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 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. This area is within the agricultural portion that is irrigated by Colorado River water delivered through water conveyance structures maintained by the Imperial Irrigation District (IID). This English Road Bridge spans the IID water conveyance canal, Q Lateral.

3.1.2 Physical Conditions

The original timber bridge has degraded requiring replacement. While the bridge is closed, traffic is accessing IID right of roads or utilizing a two mile detour to bypass the closed bridge.

3.1.3 Biological Conditions in the Study Area

The top of the bridge is wooden and is not biologically sensitive. Underneath the bridge, within the IID canal, little flora or fauna were observed. No swallows were observed nesting beneath the bridge. 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
Arrowweed	<i>Pluchea sericea</i>
Bermuda grass	<i>Cynodon dactylon</i>
Cattails	<i>Typha sp.</i>
Curly dock	<i>Rumex crispus</i>
Saltcedar	<i>Tamarix spp.</i>
Spiny aster	<i>Leucosyris spinosa</i>
Rabbitsfoot grass	<i>Polypogon monspeliensis</i>
Quail bush	<i>Atriplex lentiformis</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
Black phoebe	<i>Sayornis nigricans</i>
Crows	<i>Corvus corax</i>
Says Phoebe	<i>Sayornis saya</i>
Canine tracks	<i>unknown</i>
Green heron	<i>Butorides virescens</i>
Cabbage butterfly	<i>Pieris rapae</i>
Horsefly	<i>Tabanus sp.</i>
Damselfly/dragonfly	various
Harvester Ants	<i>Pogonomyrmex barbatus</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 English Road which runs from SR 111 to S30. The dirt roads, English and Pounds Roads 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) Niland Quadrangle (Nine Quad Search) January, 2019 (attached) listed 8 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) Niland Quadrangle (Nine Quad Search) June, 2019 (attached) listed 24 zoological species within the 9 Quadrangles searched. Of these, two species Ridgeway's Rail (*Rallus obsoletus*) and Burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) 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

No special-status plant species are expected as there is no habitat to support them.

4.2.1 Discussion of Plant Species

Survey Results

None observed within the BSA during survey.

Project Impacts

None are expected.

Avoidance and Minimization Efforts/Compensatory Mitigation

A preconstruction survey should be conducted by a qualified biologist.

4.3 Special-Status Animal Species

Ridgway Rail (Yuma clapper rail) is rated Federally as Endangered. It is 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 and 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 and is very shy. None observed or heard; Cattails found in a limited dense stand within Q lateral west of bridge replacement; no suitable habitat on site or in adjacent drains.

Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*) is considered a California Department of Fish and Wildlife Species of Special Concern. They are small raptors that nest in burrows that have been borrowed from other species or by the raptor in open grassland areas and water conveyance structures in Imperial County. Have adapted well in Imperial County using canals/drains/ditches to establish burrows and foraging for insects in agricultural fields. Owls/burrows not found on site or off site on IIDROW/field ditches. Observed in area outside of BSA

4.3.1 Discussion of Animal Species

Survey Results

BUOW or Ridgway Rail were not found within the BSA during the survey. A limited dense stand within Q lateral west of bridge replacement which could support Ridgway Rails was observed and BUOW were observed approximately one mile outside the survey area.

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); preferably time construction during non nesting season (September through January). Time nesting surveys within 3-5 days prior to start of construction.
2. Worker environmental awareness training for nesting birds and Burrowing Owl(BUOW) which will include the following aspects:
 - Biology and status of the BUOW;
 - Protection measures designed to reduce potential impacts to the species, function of flagging designating authorized work areas;
 - Reporting procedures to be used if a BUOW is encountered in the field; and driving procedures and techniques, for commuting, and driving on, to the project site
 - Identification of nesting birds and procedures to follow if nesting is suspected.
3. 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 should begin with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Division to obtain the required permit for working within a waterway that drains into waters of the United States.

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

6. References

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7. Appendix

Sensitive Botanical and Zoological Species (CNDDB/CNPS) Niland Quadrangle (Nine Quad Search) June, 2019

Biological Study Area Map

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**SENSITIVE BOTANICAL AND ZOOLOGICAL SPECIES (CNDDDB/CNPS)
Niland Quadrangle (Nine Quad Search) 6/2019**

BOTANICAL SPECIES	STATUS¹	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	HABITAT	OBSERVATION/ SITE POTENTIAL
Chaparral sand-verbena <i>Abronia villosa var aurita</i>	State: S2.2 (not very threatened); CNPS list: 1B.2 (rare, threatened in Ca; fairly endangered in Ca.)	Likes full sun, and sandy soil. Sand-verbena has gray foliage with pinkish purple flowers, and the flowers are fragrant. It does not tolerate weeds and needs bare ground. 80-1600m (263-5249ft)	Chaparral, Coastal Shrub, and desert dunes/sandy areas.	L No habitat; none observed
Abrams's Spurge <i>Chamaesyce abramisiana</i>	CNPS list: 2.2	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 No habitat; no Abrams's spurge found.
Sand Food <i>Pholisma sonorae</i>	State: S1.2 (threatened); CNPS list: 1B.2	Parasite on species such as <i>Erigonum</i> , <i>/tiqulia</i> , <i>ambrosia</i> , <i>pluchea</i> . White to brown color. Corolla pink to purple.	Sonoran Desert Dunes; loose deep sand	L No deep loose sand available, no habitat; none observed

Munz's Cholla <i>Opuntia munzii</i>	CNPS: 1B.3	Giant Cholla reaching to 10 feet. Small reddish brown flowers. Tree-like stature. Fruit with deciduous spines with long glochids and no fixed spines.	Grows from 1300- 2300 ft in sandy to gravelly soils in Sonoran Creosote bush scrub.	L None seen, no suitable habitat.
Harwood's Milkvetch <i>Astragalus insularis</i> var. <i>hardwood</i>	CNPS 2.2	Annual with 9-21 leaflets 2-12cm tips notched 4-9 pink to violet flowers. Fruit is papery with conspicuous beak with 1 chamber and 7-14 seeds. Flowers in Jan- May.	Creosote bush scrub, dunes sandy or gravelly areas 0- 300M, Sonoran desert.	L None seen, no suitable habitat.
Glandular ditaxis <i>Ditaxis claryana</i>	CNPS: 2.2	Native dicot annual or perinneal herb with spreading stems. Gland toothed leaf, lower surface hairy with gland toothed margin. Staminate flower; sepals 3.5- 5mm; hairy flowers Dec-Mar.		L None seen, no suitable habitat.
Orocopia sage <i>Salvia greatae</i>		Glandular shrub with a 9-20mm ovate leaf either sessile or short-petiole with 1 spine at tip. Lavender to rose flower with 9-11mm calyx. Brown to gray keeled nutlet fruit.	Mohavean and Sonoran desert scrub 30 to 240 meters in alluvial slopes.	L None seen, no suitable habitat.
Wiggins' croton	State: Rare	Shrub/subscrub;	Desert Dunes	L

<i>Croton wigginsi</i>		Petiole is 1-4 cm with a blade of 2-8.5 cm. and is elliptic (narrowly) to linear-oblong. Tip is rounded to obtuse. Flowers have 10-15 stamens – filaments are hairy; no petals		No habitat; none observed
ZOOLOGICAL SPECIES	STATUS¹	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	HABITAT	OBSERVATION/ SITE POTENTIAL
Birds				
Palled Bat <i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	CDFG: SC	Large bat with long ears and broad wings. The back is yellowish with white belly and brown or gray tipped hairs. Diet includes scorpions, centipeds, beetles, and other insects. Catches insects or found on the ground. Flight is low and noisy.	Roost in buildings or rock crevices in grouping of 20 or more. Likes to retreat into tight crevices.	L No buildings or rock crevices. Not expected.
Ridgway Rail (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.	M None observed or heard; Cattails found in limited dense stand within Q lateral west of bridge replacement; no suitable habitat on site or in adjacent drains.

Burrowing Owl <i>Athene curicularia</i>	CDFG: SC	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	M Owls/burrows not found on site or off site on IIDROW/field ditches. Observed in area outside of BSA
		DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	HABITAT	OBSERVATION/ SITE POTENTIAL
Yellow Warbler <i>Dendroica petechia brewsteri</i>	State: S2; CDFG: SC	Plain yellow face with dark eyes; yellow spots on tail. Flits around hunting insects. Rare in winter in southwest; winters in tropics	Nests in riparian plant areas; preferring willows, cottonwoods, aspens, sycamores and alders for nesting and foraging	L None observed; no habitat for forage on site.
Crissal Thrasher <i>Toxostoma crissale</i>	CDFG: SC	A large thrasher found in the Southwestern United States to central Mexico. The bird grows to 32 cm (12.5 inches), and has a deeply curved bill. It can be found near water in dense underbrush, and in the low desert near canyon chaparral;	Dense vegetation along streams/washes in mesquite/willows/arrowweed	L None observed; scarce habitat on site

			seldom flies in the open.			
Yellow breasted chat <i>Icteria virens</i>	CDFG: SC	Dark brown eyes with large, thick, black bill. Legs are slate back; tail long. Large, about 7.5 inches long. Yellow throat and breast with a whitish belly and undertail coverts	Thickets near waterways	L None observed. No habitat present on site.		
Le Conte's Thrasher <i>Toxostoma lecontei</i>	CDFG: SC	Pale grayish-brown overall with darker tail; tawny undertail coverts with long, deeply down-curved bill and dark eyes	Found in desert scrub, mesquite, tall riparian brush and chaparral.	L Marginal habitat; mostly converted to agricultural ground. Not expected.		
Black Skimmer <i>Rynchops niger</i>	Fed: - CDFG: SC	A medium-sized to large waterbird with long red and black bill. Black back and cap. Underparts white with very short red legs	Fairly common summer resident at the Salton Sea. Forages on small fishes and crustaceans in calm, shallow water. Roosts on sandy beaches or gravel bars	L No suitable habitat		
Short-eared owl	CDFG: SC	Medium sized with	Found in fresh and saltwater	L		

<p><i>Asio flammeus</i></p>		<p>light and dark brown mottled upperparts with dark-streaked, pale buff underparts. The head has large, round, pale buff facial disk with fine, brown tinges, black around eyes, and small ear tufts. Eyes are yellow and bill is black. Flight is erratic with flopping wing beats. Hunts day or night.</p>	<p>swamplands, lowland meadows and irrigated alfalfa fields. Requires tall grass or cattail patches for nesting and cover. Nests on dry ground in depression concealed in vegetation.</p>	<p>No suitable habitat on site; could be found in adjacent fields if planted to alfalfa</p>
<p>California Black Rail <i>Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus</i></p>	<p>CDFG: Threatened</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>L None observed; no habitat on site</p>

ZOOLOGICAL SPECIES	STATUS ¹	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	HABITAT	OBSERVATION/ SITE POTENTIAL
Gull-billed tern <i>Sterna nilotica</i>	CDFG: SC	Length of the gull is 13 inches with a wingspan of 35 inches. Medium sized, sturdy tern. The sexes are similar with a blunt, thick black bill and notched short tail. The underwings are pale	Southeast end of Salton Sea. Coastlines, salt marshes, estuaries, lagoons, plowed fields, and less frequently along rivers, around lakes, and in freshwater marshes	L None observed. No standing water on site; no plowed fields. Not expected
Sonoran desert toad <i>Incilius alvarius</i>	CDFG: 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>	CDFG: SC	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 water sources on site; not expected on site.
Couch's spadefoot <i>Scaphiopus couchii</i>	CDFG: SC	A plump toad (2.25-3.5 inch) with elongated, sickle shaped spade on each hind foot. Bright greenish-yellow to brown with variable dark marbling with white belly. Voice like the bleat of a lamb. Mates after heavy rainfall.	Creosote bush desert, mesquite savannah and short grass prairie. Tolerant of dry habitat	L No habitat; none observed or heard

Zoological Species	STATUS ¹	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	HABITAT	OBSERVATION/ SITE POTENTIAL
American Badger <i>Taxidea taxus</i>	CDFG: 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. Not expected because of farming activities
Western mastiff bat	CDFG: Species of Concern	Biggest North American bat, with a body length of 5 1/2 to 7 1/2"; wingspan of over 22". Fur is thin, dark brown, hairs white at base. Huge ears, joined at base and extending out over forehead like a bonnet. Eats moths, insects. Forms small colonies of up to	Southern California and Arizona, extending down to Mexico. Lives in rocky areas and cliff faces. Roosts in cliff crevices and buildings.	L Not expected. No cliff crevice habitat.

Eumops perotis californicus

about 100 bats. Very vocal bat, emits many loud cheaping sounds while flying, audible to the human ear. Sometimes forages by crawling on the ground, with tail held up in the air. Bears a single young each year, in the early summer.

Common Name <i>Scientific Name</i>	Status ¹ Federal/CDFG / CNPS	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	Habitat	Suitability Of Habitat In Survey Area
Plants				
Peirson's milk-vetch	T/E/1B	Silvery, short-lived	Desert dune habitats. In	L

<i>Astragalus magdalenae</i> var. <i>peirsonii</i>		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.	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	None observed. No dune habitat
Birds				
California brown pelican	E/E/-	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	Open water, estuaries, beaches; roosts on various structures, such as pilings, boat docks, breakwaters, and mudflats	L None observed. No open water
<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>				

No longer endangered		islands without mammal predators. Roosting and loafing sites provide important resting habitat for breeding and non-breeding birds.		
Common Name Scientific Name	Status¹ Federal/CDFG / CNPS	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	Habitat	Suitability Of Habitat In Survey Area
Southwestern willow flycatcher	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-	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
<i>Empidonax traillii</i> <i>extimus</i>				None Heard/Observed

		green above. Throat whitish, breast pale olive, and belly yellowish. Bill relatively large; lower mandible completely pale. The breeding range of extimus includes Arizona and adjacent states.		No salt cedar with running water found on site.
Ridgway Rail (Yuma clapper rail) <i>Rallus longirostris 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.	M None observed or heard; Cattails found in limited dense stand within Q lateral west of bridge replacement; no suitable habitat on site or in adjacent drains.
Yellow-billed cuckoo	C/E/-	Medium-sized cuckoo with gray- brown upperparts and white underparts. Eye- rings are pale	Found in forest and open woodlands, especially in areas with dense undergrowth, such as parks, riparian woodlands, and thickets	L

<i>Coccyzus americanus</i>		yellow. Bill is mostly yellow. Wings are gray-brown with rufous primaries. Tail is long and has white-spotted black edges. Sexes are similar.		None observed; no habitat on site.
Common Name Scientific Name	Status ¹ Federal/CDFG / CNPS	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	Habitat	Suitability Of Habitat In Survey Area
Bald eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	T, PD/E/-	The distinctive white head and tail feathers. Beak and eyes yellow. Bald Eagles are about 29 to 42 inches long, can weigh 7 to 15 pounds, and have a wing span of 6 to 8 feet.	Found on shores, lake margins, and near large rivers. Nests in large trees. Winters at lakes, reservoirs, river systems, and some rangelands and coastal wetlands (breeding range is mainly in mountainous habitats near reservoirs, lakes and rivers, mainly in the northern two-thirds of California)	L None observed; no habitat
Least tern	E/E/-	Small tern. During	Shallow areas of estuaries,	L

<i>Sterna antillarum</i>		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)	lagoons, and at the joining points between rivers and estuaries	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 eyering 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	Status ¹ Federal/CDFG / 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.	M None observed; If adjacent fields are planted to Bermuda or alfalfa could support mt. plover. No amount of foraging habitat will be removed.
Black rail	-/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	L

<i>Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus</i>				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.	None observed; no habitat
Raptors					
Peregrine Falcon	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	Most often found along coastlines or marshy habitats. Nest in cliffs and have been known to nest in tall buildings	L	

<i>Falco peregrinus</i>		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.		None observed; rare visitors to area outside of the Salton Sea. No waterfowl for prey on site or cliffs/tall buildings for nesting
Common Name Scientific Name	Status ¹ Federal/CDFG / CNPS	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	Habitat	Suitability Of Habitat In Survey Area
Northern Harrier	-/SC/-	Long-winged, long	Marshes, open fields. Nests	L

Circus cyaneus

		<p>tailed hawk. Habitually flies low over open fields and marshes watching and listening for prey such as rodents and birds. (I have observed Harrier with a white faced ibis as prey). Perches low or on ground. Low slow flight. Nests in reeds. Grey with black wingtips.</p>	<p>in reeds</p>	<p>Rabbit populations; could be preyed upon; insignificant amount of foraging habitat will be removed. No reeds for nesting.</p>
<p>Sharp-shinned Hawk <i>Accipiter striatus</i></p>	<p>-/SC/-</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>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 except alpine, open prairie and bare desert</p>	<p>L Rabbit populations. Not observed; habitat will remain</p>

White tailed Kite <i>Elanus leucurus</i>	/E/	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.	Found in open country; like to perch on treetop. May be seen hovering prior to attack of a rodent.	L None observed. Insignificant amount of foraging habitat will be removed
Ferruginous hawk <i>Buteo regalis</i>	/SC/	Males pale with with rufous shoulders and thigh feathers. White tail washed with rufous. Wide head wings in shallow v when soaring.	Found in arid to semiarid regions, as well as grasslands and agricultural areas in southwestern Canada, western United States, and northern Mexico.	L None observed. Insignificant amount of foraging habitat will be removed
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
Common Name Scientific Name	Status¹ Federal/CDFG / CNPS	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	Habitat	Suitability Of Habitat In Survey Area
Jaguar	-/-/-	Typically yellow-	Occurs in tropical	L

<i>Panthera onca</i>		<p>brown with black spots, called rosettes, but they can also be black with black spots. They are nocturnal and have a keen sense of smell and hearing. Excellent swimmers, tree climbers, and move easily on the ground.</p>	<p>rainforests, arid scrub, and wet grasslands. Prefers dense forests or swamps with a ready supply of water</p>	<p>None observed; no habitat</p>
Reptiles and Amphibians				
<p>Flat-tailed horn lizard <i>Phrynosoma mcallii</i></p>	<p>PT/-/-</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Desert washes/sandy areas with vegetative cover. Diet of ants</p>	<p>L No habitat; none observed</p>

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
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,	Springs, seeps, and slow-moving streams in Salton Sink basin and backwaters and sloughs of the Colorado River	L None observed; no habitat; Q Lateral is fresh water

Razorback Sucker <i>Xyrauchen texanus</i>	Fed/CA: Endangered	<p>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</p>	<p>Colorado River</p>	<p>None observed; no habitat</p>	<p>L</p>
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Sources: CDFG/CNDDDB 2019, California Wildlife 2019; CNPS 2019; USFWS, 2016

State/CDFG:

E = Listed as an endangered species

E = Listed as an endangered species; or previously known as "rare, fully protected"

T = Listed as a threatened

T = Listed as a threatened species

species

C = Candidate for listing

D = Delisted

PD = Proposed for delisting/PT = Proposed for threatened status

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))

CNPS (California Native Plant Society):

1B = Rare, threatened, or endangered in California or elsewhere

2= Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in Ca, but more common elsewhere

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 suitability for this species