

Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

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

SCH #: 2023090523

Project Title: Chuckwalla Valley Road Bridge Replacement Project

Lead Agency: County of Riverside Transportation Department

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Project Location: 10 miles east of Desert Center
City

Riverside
County

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

The proposed Project includes replacing four existing structurally deficient timber bridges along Chuckwalla Valley Road near Desert Center in Riverside County, California. The proposed Project would replace the existing 2-lane timber bridges with new 2-lane modern bridges with a curb-to-curb roadway width of 32 feet at the same locations. The proposed road width would consist of two 12-foot-wide travel lanes, one lane in each direction, and a 4-foot-wide shoulder on each side. Modern traffic barriers/railings meeting current Caltrans safety design standards would be constructed. The Project is located on Chuckwalla Valley Road near Desert Center in Riverside County, California. It is approximately 10 miles east of Desert Center and 24 miles west of Blythe.

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

The Draft EIR identified potentially significant impacts on Biological Resources and Tribal Cultural Resources, with significant and unavoidable impacts on Cultural Resources.

Biological Resources: Mitigation measures include restoring construction areas to pre-construction conditions, implementing Best Management Practices, and conducting preconstruction surveys for desert tortoises, nesting birds, burrowing owls, and bats. It also involves installing desert tortoise exclusion fencing, construction monitoring by a qualified biologist, and a Worker Environmental Awareness Program.

Tribal Cultural Resources: Mitigation measures protect significant impacts from occurring on tribal cultural resources in the event of an inadvertent discovery and ensure that any found human remains are handled according to relevant health and safety codes.

Cultural Resources: A Memorandum of Agreement between the State Historic Preservation Officer, Caltrans, and the County of Riverside was executed in March 2024 and outlines required mitigation measures. These requirements include recordation of the original resource on the National Park Service Historic American Engineering Record (HAER); review and approval of the bridge design options by a professional meeting the Secretary of the Interior Professional Qualifications Standards in Architectural History, History, or Architecture; and development of a publicly accessible interpretive webpage with historical content and interpretation of the HAER. While these mitigation measures would help to address impacts on historic resources to the greatest extent feasible, they are not sufficient to reduce the impact to a less-than-significant level.

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

No known areas of controversy. Topics discussed in response to the Notice of Preparation include potential impacts on biological resources and tribal cultural resources.

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

United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Los Angeles District
Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), Region 7
California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), Region 6
Caltrans, District 8
California State Historic Preservation Office
State Water Resources Control Board