

FILED

March 4, 2026

MATT H. MAY

COUNTY CLERK

By Ralph W. W.
Deputy Clerk**Notice of Determination****To:**

Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk

County of: Merced
Address: 2222 M St., Merced, CA
95340

From:

Public Agency: Merced County []
Public Works
Address: 715 Martin Luther King
Merced, CA 95341
Contact: Al Buenrostro, Supervising Engineer
Phone: (209) 385-7601 ext. 4632

Lead Agency (if different from above): _____

Address: _____

Contact: _____

Phone: _____

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghouse): 2025080121

Project Title: Cottonwood Road at Outside Canal Bridge Replacement Project

Project Applicant: Merced County Department of Public Works

Project Location (include county): Cottonwood Road over Outside Canal 95322,
Unincorporated Merced County

Project Description: Merced County (County) in cooperation with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), proposes to replace the Cottonwood Road Bridge structure (Bridge No.39C-0114) over Outside Canal (project), located approximately 0.5 mile east of Orchard Road, near the community of Gustine in Merced County, California. The project would improve public safety by providing a safe, new structure that would satisfy current design standards, and would be capable of carrying current legal and permit vehicular loads over Outside Canal on Cottonwood Road. The purpose of the project is to also: 1) Remove existing structure, which has been determined as Structurally Deficient, and construct a new bridge that would improve public safety; 2) Construct a new structure under a road closure of Cottonwood Road with a detour of approximately six miles; and 3) Provide a new structure that would satisfy current design standards and would be capable of carrying current legal and permit vehicular loads.

This is to advise that Merced County (Lead Agency or Responsible Agency) has approved the above described project on March, 3, 2026 and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project.

1. The project [will will not] have a significant effect on the environment.
2. An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
 A Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures [were were not] made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan [was was not] adopted for this project.

- 5. A Statement of Overriding Considerations [was was not] adopted for this project.
- 6. Findings [were were not] made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration with comments and responses and record of project approval is available to the general public at: Merced County Department of Public Works, 715 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Merced, CA 95341

Signature (Public Agency): *A. R. [Signature]* Title: Supervising Engineer
Date: 3/4/26 Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

Authority cited: Sections 21083, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21000-21174, Public Resources Code.

MATT H. MAY
MERCED
County Clerk - Recorder
2222 M STREET
MERCED, CA 95340
(209) 385-7627

Public Works

Finalization No.: 202606274
Cashier: re20
Register: REC-COUNTER07
Date/Time: 03/04/2026 03:56 PM

Description	Fee
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NOD/Neg Dec	
Document No.:	2026-EIR-031
Transaction Time:	03:56 PM
Transaction Fee:	\$3,043.75
Admin Fee:	\$50.00
Transaction Total:	\$3,093.75
<hr/>	
Total Amount Due:	\$3,093.75
<hr/>	
Total Paid	
House Charge:	\$3,093.75
Amount Due:	\$0.00

THANK YOU
PLEASE KEEP FOR REFERENCE