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March 13, 2026

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**Subject: Hoods Creek Bridge Replacement Project 10-1H230 (Project)
Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/PMND)
State Clearinghouse Number: 2026020519**

Dear Laura Cook:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) received an IS/PMND from the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) for the above-referenced Project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and CEQA Guidelines.¹

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and recommendations regarding those activities involved in the Project that may affect California fish and wildlife. Likewise, CDFW appreciates the opportunity to provide comments regarding those aspects of the Project that CDFW, by law, may be required to carry out or approve through the exercise of its own regulatory authority under Fish and Game Code.

CDFW ROLE

CDFW is California's **Trustee Agency** for fish and wildlife resources and holds those resources in trust by statute for all the people of the State (Fish & G. Code, §§ 711.7, subd. (a) & 1802; Pub. Resources Code, § 21070; CEQA Guidelines § 15386, subd. (a)). CDFW, in its trustee capacity, has jurisdiction over the conservation, protection, and management of fish, wildlife, native plants, and habitat necessary for biologically sustainable populations of those species (*Id.*, § 1802). Similarly, for purposes of CEQA, CDFW is charged by law to provide, as available, biological expertise during public agency environmental review efforts, focusing specifically on projects and related activities that have the potential to adversely affect fish and wildlife resources.

CDFW is also submitting comments as a **Responsible Agency** under CEQA (Pub. Resources Code, § 21069; CEQA Guidelines, § 15381). CDFW expects that it may

¹ CEQA is codified in the California Public Resources Code in section 21000 et seq. The "CEQA Guidelines" are found in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, commencing with section 15000.

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need to exercise regulatory authority as provided by the Fish and Game Code. Likewise, to the extent implementation of the Project as proposed may result in “take” as defined by State law of any species protected under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) (Fish & G. Code, § 2050 et seq.), related authorization as provided by the Fish and Game Code may be required.

Nesting Birds: CDFW has jurisdiction over actions with the potential to result in the disturbance or destruction of active nest sites or unauthorized take of birds. Fish and Game Code sections that protect birds, their eggs, or nests include sections 3503 (regarding unlawful take, possession or needless destruction of the nest or eggs of any bird), 3503.5 (regarding the take, possession or destruction of any birds-of-prey or their nests or eggs), and 3513 (regarding unlawful take of any migratory nongame bird).

Unlisted Species: Species of plants and animals need not be officially listed as Endangered, Rare, or Threatened (E, R, or T) on any State or federal list to be considered E, R, or T under CEQA. If a species can be shown to meet the criteria for E, R, or T, as specified in the CEQA Guidelines section 15380, CDFW recommends it be fully considered in the environmental analysis for the Project.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

Proponent: Caltrans

Objective: The Project proposes to replace the existing Hoods Creek Bridge (Bridge Number 38-0041), which currently has poor structural integrity, excessive bridge scouring, recurring flooding, and nonstandard conditions. The Project scope of work includes raising the roadway profile for the proposed bridge, roadway widening with standard shoulders, and installing guard rail and roadway drainage new culverts.

Location: The Project site is located on State Route 4 between post miles 7.1 and 7.4, in Stanislaus County.

COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CDFW offers the following comments and recommendations to assist Caltrans in adequately identifying and/or mitigating the Project’s significant, or potentially significant, direct and indirect impacts on fish and wildlife (biological) resources. Editorial comments or other suggestions may also be included to improve a subsequent CEQA document if additional CEQA review is conducted for the Project.

According to aerial imagery, the proposed Project site is relatively flat, undeveloped land that is comprised of annual grassland and wetland vegetation surrounding Hoods Creek, a perennial stream. Based on a review of the IS/PMND, the Natural Environment Study (NES) in support of the Project’s IS/PMND, California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) records, and aerial imagery of the Project site and surrounding habitat, the

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Project is within the geographic range of, and could potentially impact, several special-status animal species including, but not limited to, the State and federally threatened California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*); the State threatened Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsonii*) and tricolor blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*); the State candidate western burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia hypugaea*) and Crotch's bumblebee (*Bombus crotchii*); and the federally proposed threatened and State species of special concern western spadefoot (*Spea hammondi*). CDFW has no comments on the impact assessment and avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures in the IS/MND regarding the federally proposed for listing northwestern pond turtle (*Actinemys marmorata*), roosting bats, habitat connectivity, fish passage, and special status plants.

CDFW recommends that the following additional information be addressed in the Mitigated Negative Declaration, including proposed avoidance, minimization, and compensatory measures prior to adoption by Caltrans.

California Tiger Salamander

As identified in the IS/PMND, the Project site is within the geographic range and has suitable habitat for California tiger salamander (CTS) and the Project will result in temporary and permanent impacts to CTS upland habitat. CDFW concurs with this finding, as well as the determination that an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) with CDFW is warranted, pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 2081, subdivision (b). The IS/PMND describes that Hoods Creek is not suitable potential breeding habitat for CTS due to the presence of predatory bullfrogs (*Rana catesbeiana*) and high temperatures. However, the presence of bullfrogs and high temperatures may not preclude the potential for CTS breeding within the Project reach of Hoods Creek or nearby ephemeral ponds located between 0.1 and at least 1.3 miles of the Project site.

CTS have adapted to warm temperatures and ponds that dry out early in the spring by breeding early and metamorphosing faster than previously considered (O'Brien and Helm 2025). The fact that researchers have identified that bullfrogs prey on CTS (e.g., Anderson 1968, Morey and Guinn 1992, Shaffer and Fisher 1991), indicates the co-occurrence of the species and does not mean that all CTS are consumed and killed by bullfrogs. Bullfrogs have been found in at least four known CTS breeding ponds in Santa Barbara County (USFWS 2016) and at a mitigation site in Madera County (CDFW, in-house data). The NES describes that Hoods Creek and the closest evaluated pools do not have suitable hydrology for CTS breeding. However, aerial imagery suggests that the stream may dry down sufficiently during some years, and one or more of the pools may stay wet long enough during some years, either of which could result in pools that support CTS breeding.

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Recommended Mitigation Measure 1: CTS Protocol Surveys

CDFW recommends a qualified biologist assess presence/absence of CTS breeding in suitable habitat areas located within a minimum 250-foot buffer of the of Project site by conducting protocol-level surveys in accordance with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) "Interim Guidance on Site Assessment and Field Surveys for Determining Presence or a Negative Finding of the California Tiger Salamander" (USFWS 2003). The protocol-level surveys for CTS require more than one survey season and are dependent upon sufficient rainfall to complete. Consultation with CDFW and the USFWS is recommended well in advance of beginning the surveys and prior to any planned vegetation- or ground-disturbing activities. Please be advised that protocol-level survey results are viable for two years after the results are reviewed by CDFW.

Recommended Mitigation Measure 2: CTS Avoidance Buffer

If CTS protocol-level surveys are not conducted, CDFW advises that a minimum 50-foot no-disturbance buffer be delineated around all small mammal burrows in suitable upland refugia habitat within and adjacent to the Project site. Further, CDFW recommends potential or known breeding habitat within and/or adjacent to the Project site be delineated with a minimum 250-foot no-disturbance buffer during the breeding season. Both upland burrow and aquatic breeding no-disturbance buffers are intended to minimize impacts to CTS habitat and avoid take of individuals.

Recommended Mitigation Measure 3: CTS Take Authorization

As described above, the IS/PMND assumes presence of CTS, and Caltrans has determined that the Project cannot avoid potential take of CTS. As take cannot be avoided and thus authorization through the acquisition of an ITP, pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081 subdivision (b) is necessary to comply with CESA, Caltrans will seek take authorization for CTS from CDFW through ITP acquisition.

Swainson's Hawk

The Project is within the known geographic range of Swainson's hawk (SWHA). SWHA are known to travel for miles to forage and exhibit high nest-site fidelity from year to year. SWHA are known to breed within the Central Valley of California and prefer to nest near and forage in alfalfa, fallow fields, field crops, and grassland habitats with a sufficient source of small mammals (CDFG 1994). Based on aerial imagery, there may be suitable perching and nesting trees within the Project vicinity, and the Project site contains suitable foraging habitat for SWHA. The NES identifies that suitable SWHA

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nesting habitat is not found within 500 feet of the Project site and lists protective buffers of 600 feet, distances which are unlikely to avoid take, as described below.

Recommended Mitigation Measure 4: SWHA Baseline Surveys

To evaluate potential Project impacts to this state-listed species, CDFW recommends that a qualified biologist conduct surveys for SWHA nesting habitat within at least ½ mile of the Project site as well as nest occupancy surveys if suitable nesting habitat is found within that distance, as part of the biological studies are conducted in support of the IS/PMND. CDFW recommends that the surveys follow the methodology developed by the SWHA Technical Advisory Committee which calls for habitat evaluation and surveys within a ½ mile radius of the Project site (SWHA TAC 2000).

Recommended Mitigation Measure 5: SWHA Pre-Construction Surveys

If suitable nesting habitat is found within ½ mile of the Project site and Project-specific activities will take place during the SWHA nesting season (i.e., March 1 through September 15), CDFW recommends that a qualified biologist conduct surveys for nesting SWHA following the survey methodology developed by the SWHA Technical Advisory Committee (SWHA TAC 2000) the survey season immediately prior to initiation of Project activities.

Recommended Mitigation Measure 6: SWHA Avoidance Buffer

If Project-specific activities will take place during the SWHA nesting season (i.e., March 1 through September 15), and active SWHA nests are present, CDFW recommends a minimum ½-mile no-disturbance buffer be delineated and maintained around each nest, regardless of whether it was detected by surveys or observed incidentally. These buffers would remain in place until the breeding season has ended or until a qualified biologist has determined that the birds have fledged and are no longer reliant upon the nest or parental care for survival, to prevent nest abandonment and other take of SWHA as a result of Project activities.

Recommended Mitigation Measure 7: SWHA Take Authorization

CDFW also recommends that in the event an active SWHA nest is detected, and a ½-mile no-disturbance buffer is not feasible, consultation with CDFW is warranted to discuss how to implement the Project and avoid take. If take cannot be avoided, take authorization through the acquisition of an ITP, pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081 subdivision (b) is necessary to comply with CESA.

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Tricolored blackbird

The Project site is within the known geographic range of tricolored blackbird (TRBL) and historical and recent occurrences have been documented between $\frac{3}{4}$ and 5 miles of the Project site (CDFW 2026). In the San Joaquin Valley, TRBL historically bred within the vicinity of fresh water, primarily in marshy areas and important sites for nesting colonies included heavy growths of cattails, tules, thistles, willows, blackberries, mustard, nettles, and salt cedar. Foraging typically occurs within flooded lands, grassy fields, and margins of ponds (Grinnel and Miller 1994). Based on aerial imagery, portions of the Project site and immediate vicinity could provide potential nesting and foraging habitat for TRBL, and the Project site appears to have similar habitat conditions as nearby TRBL records, including downstream on Hoods Creek (CDFW 2026). CDFW does not concur with the assessment in the NES that concludes that suitable nesting habitat for TRBL is not present within the Project site.

Recommended Mitigation Measure 8: TRBL Baseline Surveys

To evaluate potential Project impacts to TRBL, CDFW recommends that a qualified biologist conduct surveys for TRBL within at least 500 feet of the Project site as part of the biological studies are conducted in support of the IS/PMND.

Recommended Mitigation Measure 9: TRBL Pre-Construction Surveys

If Project-specific activities will take place during the TRBL nesting season (i.e., March 15 through June 15), CDFW recommends that a qualified biologist conduct surveys for nesting TRBL within at least 500 feet of the Project site the season immediately prior to initiation of Project activities.

Recommended Mitigation Measure 10: TRBL Avoidance Buffer

If Project-specific activities will take place during the TRBL nesting season, and active TRBL nests are identified during surveys, consultation with CDFW is recommended for guidance on mitigation measures, such as avoidance, minimization, and mitigation. CDFW recommend avoidance buffers remain in place until the breeding season has ended or until a qualified biologist has determined that the birds have fledged and are no longer reliant upon the nest or parental care for survival.

Recommended Mitigation Measure 11: TRBL Take Authorization

CDFW also recommends that in the event an active TRBL nest is detected, and avoidance is not feasible, consultation with CDFW is warranted to discuss how to implement the Project and avoid take. If take cannot be avoided, take

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authorization through the acquisition of an ITP, pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081 subdivision (b) is necessary to comply with CESA.

Western Burrowing Owl

The California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) approved western burrowing owl (BUOW) as a candidate for potential listing as a protected species under CESA on October 10, 2024, and published these findings in the California Regulatory Notice Register on October 25, 2024. As such, BUOW is now a candidate under CESA and receives the same legal protection afforded to an endangered or threatened species (Fish & G. Code, §§ 2074.2 & 2085).

The Project site is within the known geographic range of BUOW, and there are recent and historical occurrences located within 10 miles of the Project site (CDFW 2026). BUOW typically inhabit open grasslands containing small mammal burrows, a requisite habitat feature used by BUOW for nesting and cover. BUOW may also use “man-made burrows” such as pipes or culverts. Based on aerial imagery the Project site and adjacent areas contain suitable habitat for BUOW nesting and foraging. The NES identifies that suitable BUOW habitat occurs within the Project site, but the IS/PMND does not address BUOW.

Recommended Mitigation Measure 12: BUOW Baseline Surveys

To evaluate potential Project impacts to BUOW, CDFW recommends that a qualified biologist conduct nesting and wintering surveys for BUOW following the 2012 Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (2012 Staff Report) (CDFG 2012) within at least 500 meters (1,640 feet) of the Project site as part of the biological studies are conducted in support of the IS/PMND.

Recommended Mitigation Measure 13: BUOW Pre-Construction Surveys

CDFW recommends assessing presence/absence of BUOW on the Project site, as well as a 500-meter buffer surrounding the Project site, by having a qualified biologist conduct surveys following the 2012 Staff Report the survey season immediately prior to Project initiation.

Recommended Mitigation Measure 14: BUOW Avoidance Buffer

Should a BUOW individual or known BUOW burrow (active or inactive) be detected, either during pre-construction surveys or construction activities, CDFW recommends that no-disturbance buffers, as outlined in the 2012 Staff Report, be implemented prior to and during any ground-disturbing activities. CDFW also recommends that these buffers be implemented for both wintering and breeding BUOW.

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Recommended Mitigation Measure 15: BUOW Take Authorization

If a BUOW individual or known BUOW burrow (active or inactive) is detected, and the no-disturbance buffers outlined in the 2012 Staff Report are not feasible, consultation with CDFW is warranted to discuss how to implement the Project and avoid take. If take cannot be avoided, take authorization through the acquisition of an ITP, pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081 subdivision (b), is necessary to comply with CESA.

Crotch's Bumble Bee

The Project site is within the known geographic range of the State candidate Crotch's bumble bee (CBB) and there are multiple historical occurrences near the Project Site (CDFW 2026). CBB inhabit a variety of habitats, including grasslands, scrublands, openings in woodlands, and areas with bare ground such as vacant lots, dirt roads, and levees (Xerces Society et al. 2018). CBB use requisite habitat elements for nesting, such as small mammal burrows and bunch/thatched grasses, which may be present in or near the Project site. The IS/PMND and the NES do not provide an assessment of potential Project impacts to CBB.

Recommended Mitigation Measure 16: CBB Baseline Surveys

CDFW recommends a qualified biologist conduct focused surveys for CBB and their requisite habitat features within and adjacent to the Project site following the methodology outlined in the "Survey Considerations for California Endangered Species Act Candidate Bumble Bee Species" (CDFW 2023), as part of the biological studies are conducted in support of the IS/PMND.

Recommended Mitigation Measure 17: CBB Pre-Construction Surveys

If suitable foraging habitat is present, CDFW recommends that a qualified biologist conduct focused surveys for CBB and their requisite habitat features within and adjacent to the Project site following the methodology outlined in the "Survey Considerations for California Endangered Species Act Candidate Bumble Bee Species" (CDFW 2023), during the blooming period immediately prior to Project initiation.

Recommended Mitigation Measure 18: CBB Avoidance Buffer

If CBB is detected, CDFW recommends that all small mammal burrows and thatched/bunch grasses be avoided by a minimum of 50 feet to avoid take and potentially significant impacts. If CBB are detected during surveys and ground-disturbing activities will occur during the overwintering to nesting period (October through August), consultation with CDFW is warranted to discuss how to implement Project activities and avoid take. Any detection of CBB prior to or

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during Project implementation warrants consultation with CDFW to discuss how to avoid take.

Recommended Mitigation Measure 19: CBB Take Authorization

If take cannot be avoided, take authorization through the acquisition of an ITP, pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081 subdivision (b) is necessary to comply with CESA.

Western Spadefoot

On September 24, 2025, the Commission received a petition to list the northern population of western spadefoot (WESP) as threatened species and the southern population of WESP as an endangered species under CESA. If the Commission takes action and WESP becomes listed as a Candidate for listing pursuant to CESA (possible in 2026) or ultimately becomes listed as threatened or endangered pursuant to CESA, it will receive the same legal protection afforded to an endangered or threatened species (Fish & G. Code, §§ 2074.2 & 2085)._

As identified in the IS/PMND, the Project site is within the geographic range and has suitable habitat for WESP. The Project site and surrounding habitats may provide suitable habitat for breeding and/or dispersal. The IS/PMND describes that WESP may be present within the Project site, but that the stream and nearby ponds are not suitable breeding habitat. As described above for CTS, aerial imagery suggests that the stream may dry down sufficiently during some years, and one or more of the pools may stay wet long enough during some years, either of which could result in pools that support WESP breeding.

Recommended Mitigation Measure 20: WESP Pre-Construction Surveys

CDFW recommends that a qualified biologist conduct focused surveys for WESP, using appropriate survey methodologies, prior to any ground-disturbing activities that may occur as part of the Project.

Recommended Mitigation Measure 21: WESP Avoidance Buffer

If burrows, cracks, loose soil areas or other refugia are found to be used by WESP during focused surveys, CDFW recommends avoidance whenever possible via delineation and observance of a 50-foot no-disturbance buffer around these resources, including all potential breeding habitat, which can include any areas that pool water for only a few weeks. CDFW also recommends avoidance of potential breeding habitat even when dry, since post-metamorphic WESP juveniles have a unique adaptation to the drying of their temporary breeding pools; they utilize the dried pond bottom as a refuge, burying

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themselves in the desiccation cracks and damp soil beneath the surface crust (Baumberger et al. 2020). If any life stage of WESP are observed within the Project site, Project activities in their immediate vicinity should cease, allowing individuals to leave the Project site on their own accord.

Recommended Mitigation Measure 22: WESP Take Authorization

Please note that implementation of the recommended WESP measures would help minimize impacts to WESP as required by CEQA but would not fully avoid impacts and thus take; additional measures would need to be implemented to avoid take of WESP. In the event that WESP becomes protected under CESA, CDFW recommends early consultation to help identify if avoidance is feasible or if not, to initiate discussions regarding the need for ITP, pursuant to Fish and Game Code section 2081 subdivision (b), to comply with CESA.

Editorial Comments and/or Suggestions

Quantification of Impacts and Mitigation: The IS/PMND includes quantifications of permanent and temporary impacts to CTS and other species, impact/mitigation ratios, and resulting quantification of compensatory mitigation acreage. Please note that as part of developing an ITP, CDFW will conduct an independent impact and compensatory mitigation analysis that may or may not match the IS/PMND. Additionally, if purchase of mitigation bank credits will be used to compensate for those impacts, the mitigation bank must be approved by CDFW to fulfil any ITP mitigation requirement.

CNDDDB: As identified in the CNDDDB Data Use Guidelines, CDFW requests that at scales larger (more zoomed in) than 1:350,000, the polygon layer should not be shown on a public map, such as Figure 5 (CNDDDB occurrences) in the NES. The NES is a publicly available document for the IS/PMND. Please note that the CNDDDB is populated by records through voluntary submissions of species detections. As a result, species may be present in locations not depicted in the CNDDDB, but where there is suitable habitat features capable of supporting species. A lack of an occurrence record in the CNDDDB does not mean a species is not present. To adequately assess any potential Project-related impacts to biological resources, surveys conducted by a qualified biologist during the appropriate survey period(s) using the appropriate protocol survey methodology are warranted to determine whether any special-status species are present at or near the Project site.

Cumulative Impacts: CDFW recommends that a cumulative impact analysis be conducted for all biological resources that will either be significantly or potentially significantly impacted by implementation of the Project, including those whose impacts are determined to be less than significant with mitigation incorporated or for those resources that are rare or in poor or declining health and will be impacted by the Project, even if those impacts are relatively small (i.e., less than significant). Cumulative

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impacts are recommended to be analyzed using an acceptable methodology to evaluate the impacts of this Project's incremental contribution to habitat loss and past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future projects on resources and be focused specifically on the resource, not the Project. The cumulative impacts analysis should specifically include all past, present, and foreseeable projects in the Central Valley area. An appropriate resource study area should also be identified and mapped for each resource being analyzed and utilized for this analysis. CDFW staff are available for consultation in support of cumulative impacts analyses as a trustee and responsible agency under CEQA.

Lake and Streambed Alteration: As identified in the IS/PMND, Project activities will substantially change or use material from the bed, bank, and channel of Hoods Creek. These activities are subject to CDFW's regulatory authority pursuant Fish and Game Code section 1600 et seq. Fish and Game Code section 1602 requires an entity to notify CDFW prior to commencing any activity that may (a) substantially divert or obstruct the natural flow of any river, stream, or lake; (b) substantially change or use any material from the bed, bank, or channel of any river, stream, or lake (including the removal of riparian vegetation); (c) deposit or dispose of debris, waste or other materials that could pass into any river, stream, or lake. "Any river, stream, or lake" includes those that are ephemeral or intermittent as well as those that are perennial and may include those that are highly modified such as canals and retention basins.

CDFW is required to comply with CEQA prior to issuance of a Final Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement; therefore, if the CEQA document approved for the Project does not adequately describe the Project and its impacts to lakes or streams, a subsequent CEQA analysis may be necessary for Final Streambed Alteration Agreement issuance. For information on notification requirements, please refer to CDFW's website (<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/LSA>) or contact the CDFW staff in the Caltrans Liaison Unit of the Central Region, listed below.

Nesting Birds: CDFW encourages that Project ground-disturbing activities occur during the bird non-nesting season; however, if ground- or vegetation-disturbing activities must occur during the nesting season (February 1st through September 15th), the Project applicant is responsible for ensuring that implementation of the Project does not result in violation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act or relevant Fish and Game Code sections as referenced in this letter.

ENVIRONMENTAL DATA

CEQA requires that information developed in environmental impact reports and negative declarations be incorporated into a database, which may be used to make subsequent or supplemental environmental determinations (Pub. Resources Code, § 21003, subd. (e)). Accordingly, please report any special-status species and natural communities detected during Project surveys to the CNDDDB. The CNDDDB field survey form can be

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found at the following link: <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CNDDDB/Submitting-Data>. The completed form can be mailed electronically to the CNDDDB at the following email address: CNDDDB@wildlife.ca.gov. The types of information reported to the CNDDDB can be found at the following link: <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CNDDDB/Plants-and-Animals>.

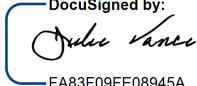
FILING FEES

The Project, as proposed, would have an impact on fish and/or wildlife, and assessment of filing fees is necessary. Fees are payable upon filing of the Notice of Determination by the Lead Agency and serve to help defray the cost of environmental review by CDFW. Payment of the fee is required in order for the underlying project approval to be operative, vested, and final (Cal. Code Regs, tit. 14, § 753.5; Fish & G. Code, § 711.4; Pub. Resources Code, § 21089).

CONCLUSION

CDFW appreciates the opportunity to comment on the IS/PMND to assist the Caltrans in identifying and mitigating Project impacts on biological resources. Please see the enclosed Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) table (Attachment 1) which corresponds with the recommended mitigation measures in this comment letter. If you have any questions, please contact Mindy Trask, Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist), at the address provided on this letterhead, by telephone at (559) 939-0282, or by electronic mail at Mary.Trask@wildlife.ca.gov.

Sincerely,


FA83F09FE08945A...
Julie A. Vance
Regional Manager

Attachment (MMRP)

ec: State Clearinghouse
Land Use and Climate Innovation
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REFERENCES

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Attachment

**CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
 RECOMMENDED MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM
 (MMRP)**

**PROJECT: Hoods Creek Bridge Replacement Project 10-1H230
 Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration
 State Clearinghouse No.: 2026020519**

RECOMMENDED MITIGATION MEASURE	STATUS/DATE/INITIALS
<i>Before Disturbing Soil or Vegetation</i>	
Recommended Mitigation Measure 1: CTS Protocol Surveys	
Recommended Mitigation Measure 3: CTS Take Authorization	
Recommended Mitigation Measure 4: SWHA Baseline Surveys	
Recommended Mitigation Measure 5: SWHA Pre-Construction Surveys	
Recommended Mitigation Measure 7: SWHA Take Authorization	
Recommended Mitigation Measure 8: TRBL Baseline Surveys	
Recommended Mitigation Measure 9: TRBL Pre-Construction Surveys	
Recommended Mitigation Measure 11: TRBL Take Authorization	
Recommended Mitigation Measure 12: BUOW Baseline Surveys	
Recommended Mitigation Measure 13: BUOW Pre-Construction Surveys	
Recommended Mitigation Measure 15: BUOW Take Authorization	
Recommended Mitigation Measure 16: CBB Baseline Surveys	
Recommended Mitigation Measure 17: CBB Pre-Construction Surveys	
Recommended Mitigation Measure 19: CBB Take Authorization	
Recommended Mitigation Measure 20: WESP Pre-Construction Surveys	

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 California Department of Transportation
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RECOMMENDED MITIGATION MEASURE	STATUS/DATE/INITIALS
Recommended Mitigation Measure 22: WESP Take Authorization, if CESA candidate species	
<i>During Construction</i>	
Recommended Mitigation Measure 2: CTS Avoidance Buffer	
Recommended Mitigation Measure 6: SWHA Avoidance Buffer	
Recommended Mitigation Measure 10: TRBL Avoidance Buffer	
Recommended Mitigation Measure 14: BUOW Avoidance Buffer	
Recommended Mitigation Measure 18: CBB Avoidance Buffer	
Recommended Mitigation Measure 21: WESP Avoidance Buffer	