Centennial Creek Mitigation Project

Centennial Creek within the City of Paso Robles
San Luis Obispo County, California

Initial Study with
Proposed Negative Declaration

Prepared by the
State of California Department of Transportation

August 2021

General Information About This Document

What's in this document:
The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has prepared this Initial Study, which examines the potential environmental impacts of alternatives being considered for the proposed project in San Luis Obispo County in California. The document explains why the project is being proposed, the alternatives being considered for the project, the existing environment that could be affected by the project, potential impacts of each of the alternatives, and proposed avoidance and minimization measures.

What you should do:

- Please read this document. Additional copies of the document available for review at the Caltrans District Office at 50 Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo, California, 93401, Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. If you would like to receive a printed version of this document, please contact Jason Wilkinson at 805-540-9165 or by email at Jason.Wilkinson@dot.ca.gov.

- Tell us what you think. If you have any comments regarding the proposed project, please send your written comments to Caltrans by the deadline. Submit comments via U.S. mail to: Jason Wilkinson, Central Coast Environmental Branch, California Department of Transportation, 50 Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401. Submit comments via email to: Jason.Wilkinson@dot.ca.gov.

- Submit comments by the deadline: September 17, 2021.

- Attend the virtual public meeting on August 31, 2021. The meeting details can be found on the project website at https://dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-5.

What happens next:
After comments are received from the public and reviewing agencies, Caltrans may 1) give environmental approval to the proposed project, 2) do additional environmental studies, or 3) abandon the project. If the project is given environmental approval and funding is appropriated, Caltrans could design and construct all or part of the project.

For individuals with sensory disabilities, this document can be made available in Braille, in large print, on audiocassette, or on computer disk. To obtain a copy in one of these alternate formats, please write to or call Caltrans, Attention: Jason Wilkinson, Central Coast Environmental Branch, 50 Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401; phone number 805-540-9165 (Voice), or use the California Relay Service 1-800-735-2929 (TTY), 1-800-735-2929 (Voice), or 711.

Repair and Restore Centennial Creek as Mitigation for Impacts Related to
Route 46 Corridor Improvement Project in
San Luis Obispo County, California

INITIAL STUDY with
Proposed Negative Declaration

Submitted Pursuant to: (State) Division 13, California Public Resources Code

THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Department of Transportation
and
California Transportation Commission

Jason Wilkinson

Jason Wilkinson
Branch Office Chief, Central Region
Central Coast Environmental Branch
California Department of Transportation

8/17/21

Date

The following individual can be contacted for more information about this document:

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California Department of Transportation, District 5
50 Higuera Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

DRAFT Proposed Negative Declaration

Pursuant to: Division 13, Public Resources Code

Project Description

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to repair and restore approximately 6,300 linear feet of Centennial Creek to mitigate for wetlands and other waters impacts associated with the Route 46 Corridor Improvement Project. In order to satisfy mitigation requirements set forth by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers, Caltrans has partnered with the Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District and the City of Paso Robles to improve several components of Centennial Creek. All outstanding mitigation from the Union, Whitley 2A, Whitley 2B, and Cholame sections can be accommodated at Centennial Creek to meet mitigation requirements set forth by these agencies.

The project spans from Lana Street east to South River Road and is primarily located on open space property owned and managed by the City of Paso Robles. The total area proposed for mitigation is approximately 4.14 acres, which includes 0.53 acres of wetlands creation and enhancement, as well as 3.61 acres of other waters creation, enhancement, and reestablishment.

The proposed project intends to improve hydrology and function of the creek by removing and/or replacing undersized culverts, removing hardscaping and debris, and engineering roughened riffles (shallow portions of the creek with large rocks placed to form natural habitat) at intervals along the system to encourage settlement of sediment and reestablishment of a riffle/pool system (alternating shallow to deep water along the creek).

The infrastructure improvements will be followed by more than two acres of vegetation planting with a variety of native species to create vegetation structure and increase plant diversity and habitat quality. A plant establishment period will be for 3 years, followed by a monitoring period of 7 years, for a total of 10 years after planting to successfully meet agency success criteria.

Determination

An Initial Study has been prepared by Caltrans, District 5.

On the basis of this study it is determined that the proposed action would not have a significant effect on the environment for the following reasons:

The project would have no effect on aesthetics, agriculture and forest resources, cultural resources, energy, hazards and hazardous materials, land use planning, mineral resources, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation, tribal cultural resources, and wildfire.

The project would have no significant effect on air quality, biological resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hydrology and water quality, noise, and utilities and service systems.

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Jason Wilkinson
Branch Office Chief, Central Region
Environmental Central Coast Office
California Department of Transportation

_____

Date

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Chapter 1 Proposed Project

1.1 Introduction and Background

The proposed project is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.). The California Department of Transportation (known as Caltrans) is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Caltrans has obtained permits for widening several sections of Route 46 from a two-lane road to a four-lane expressway in San Luis Obispo County, California (Route 46 Corridor Improvement Project). The Route 46 Corridor Improvement Project spans approximately 30 miles and is being designed and constructed in sections. Construction has been completed for several of these sections or will be commencing soon. Due to unavoidable impacts to aquatic resources, mitigation is required to satisfy the permit requirements for the Union (05-33071), Whitley 2A (05-33077), Whitley 2B (05-33078), and Cholame (05-3307A) sections of the Route 46 Corridor Improvement Project.

Caltrans, in collaboration with the Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District and the City of Paso Robles, proposes to restore approximately 6,300 linear feet of Centennial Creek to satisfy the mitigation requirements of California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Regional Water Quality Control Board, and United States Army Corps of Engineers for four sections of the Route 46 Corridor Improvement Project at Centennial Creek located in the City of Paso Robles, California.

The project site has been selected as the ideal candidate for this restoration effort because restoration at Centennial Creek will offset effects of urbanization on the system, reverse its current degraded condition by improving water quality and ecological function both onsite and downstream in the greater Salinas Watershed, as well as strengthening long-term protection of this open space through the implementation of a long-term management program. Centennial Creek also provides opportunities to complete more restoration than the minimum required with a future phase.

1.2 Project Description

The proposed project is located in San Luis Obispo County within the City of Paso Robles. Centennial Creek is a small direct tributary to the Salinas River which winds its way through an open space corridor surrounded by an urbanized portion of Paso Robles. Centennial Creek is surrounded by a community center, recreational facility, three schools, and several housing developments.

Centennial Creek begins upstream at the end of Lana Street and extends down to the creek's intersection with Nickerson Drive, continuing towards its western terminus at South River Road. A paved bike and walking path, wide enough for maintenance and emergency vehicles to utilize, follows the creek in its entirety within the project limits except for the last downstream 1/8 of a mile where the pathway intersects with Mohawk Court.

Culvert crossings were constructed previously where the path intersects the creek. These undersized culverts, coupled with a high degree of impervious surface in this stream's urbanized watershed, contribute to the creek's incision and scour as seen in Figure 1.1 below. Flashy flows that result from impervious surfaces cause water to flow through the system very quickly, missing opportunities for filtration of pollutants, settlement of sediment, and infiltration that recharges shallow groundwater. These systems often become impacted by erosion and the surrounding vegetation communities become disconnected from shallow groundwater that is important for sustaining growth through the dry season. Valley oak woodland comprises portions of the Centennial Creek corridor and several large oaks have recently fallen into the creek as a result of incision along its banks.

Figure 1.1 Crossing at Centennial Creek Showing Culverts and Hardscaping with Scour and Erosion

1.2.1 Project Phases

Two phases are proposed for this project; all outstanding required mitigation from the Union, Whitley 2A, Whitley 2B, and Cholame sections can be accommodated at Centennial Creek in Phase 1 to meet outstanding offsite

mitigation requirements. Additionally, Phase 2 will allow for restoration benefits beyond the minimum area required to offset impacts from future sections of the Route 46 Corridor Improvement Project, including the Wye and Antelope Grade sections. Phase 2 includes a future restoration effort for the removal of concrete rubble and debris at the western portion of the creek near Mohawk Court. The total area proposed for Phases 1 and 2 includes approximately 4.14 acres of restoration at Centennial Creek.

Phase 1

Grading will be required in Phase 1 to develop floodplain benches, widen the narrow creek channel, create secondary channels and pools, install a series of approximately 40 roughened riffles, and develop wetlands (Figures 1.2 - 1.4). Roughened riffles are an engineered streambed with materials that are designed to promote a pool/riffle system, prevent further head-cutting, and slow incision of the creek. The roughened riffles will work in tandem with grading and vegetation planting to slow the velocity of water. These treatments increase wetland and riparian areas to restore connection with the active floodplain and provide nutrient retention, ground water recharge, flood water storage, and wildlife habitat.

Two locations with undersized culverts and associated hardscaping, rock, or rubble concrete will be removed and/or replaced with appropriately sized culverts. One culvert location and associated hardscaping will be removed without replacement and the streambed and banks will be restored. This culvert infrastructure is now defunct as erosion has caused the creek to flow around the culvert. One existing double culvert (Figure 1.1) will be removed and replaced with an embedded concrete box culvert.

Figure 1.2 Conceptual Design of a Typical Roughened Riffle

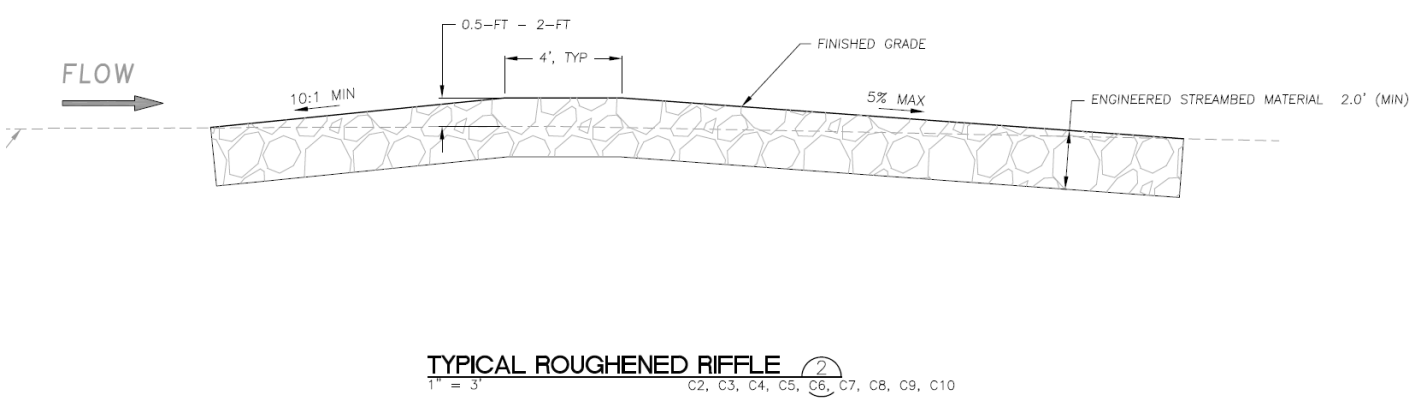
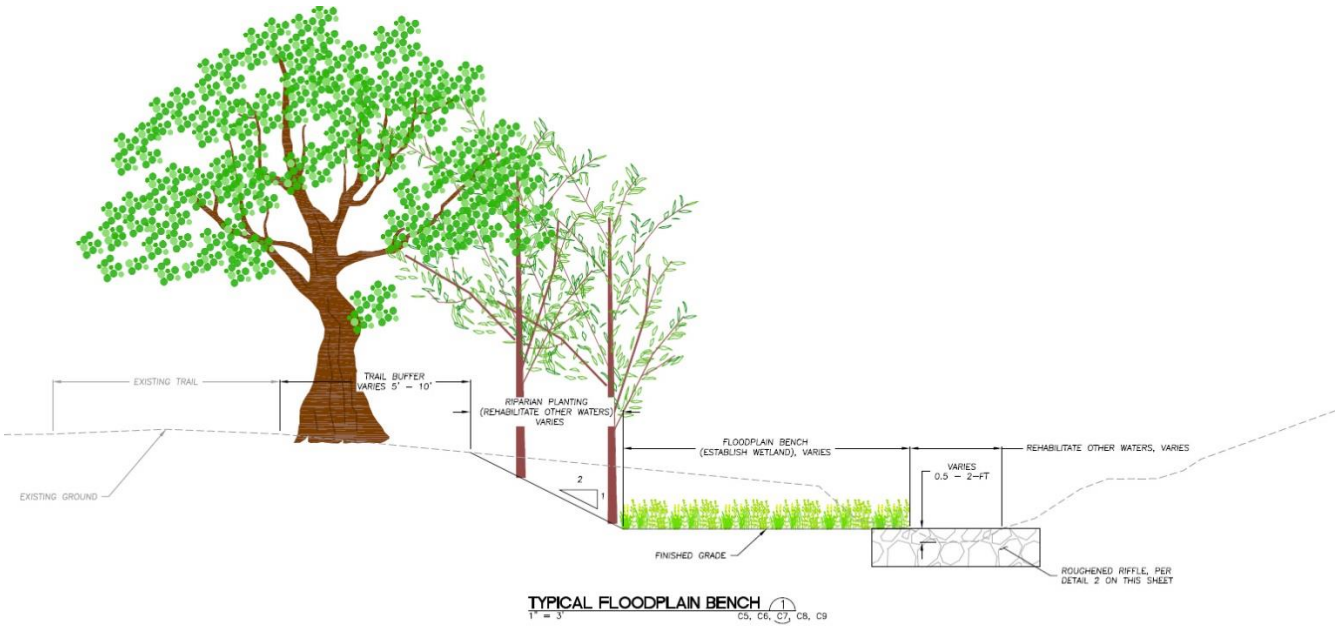


Figure 1.3 Example Photo of an Engineered Roughened Riffle

Figure 1.4 Conceptual Design of Floodplain Benches



Phase 2

This project also provides for a future Phase 2 for aquatic resource impacts resulting from future sections of the Route 46 Corridor Improvement Project. Phase 2 includes the removal of debris and existing concrete rubble on the western end of Centennial Creek (Figure 1.5), which will be replaced with

engineered streambed material. This location, as shown in Table 1.2, is estimated to restore approximately 0.32 acre of other waters within Centennial Creek.

Figure 1.5 Concrete Rubble at Centennial Creek

Grading, infrastructure improvement, and development of the floodplain benches will be followed by vegetation planting over two acres with a variety of native species to create vegetation structure and increase plant diversity and habitat quality. These species include but are not limited to Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*), red willow (*Salix laevigata*), toyon berry (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*), sugar bush (*Rhus ovata*), deer grass (*Muhlenbergia rigens*), California rose (*Rosa californica*), and valley oak (*Quercus lobata*). A plant establishment period will be for 3 years, followed by a monitoring period of 7 years, for a total of 10 years to ensure the project meets agency success criteria.

Project design, implementation, maintenance, and monitoring will be the responsibility of the Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District through funding provided from Caltrans. The property will remain under the ownership of the City of Paso Robles as a designated Open Space element, with the site protected by a conservation easement.

1.2.2 Ecological Lift

Ecological lift is an improvement made to the function and quality of an environment or habitat. The project is intended to result in ecological lift not just of Centennial Creek but the greater Salinas Watershed through reach-

scale restoration. Reach-scale restoration includes restoration along a continuous section of stream with similar hydrologic conditions (a “reach”), versus small-scale treatment in specific, isolated locations or large-scale treatment of the entire watershed.

The benefits of doing a reach-scale approach at Centennial Creek are cumulative and compound upon each other. For instance, reducing channel incision through implementation of instream habitat features, like roughened riffles and floodplain benches will increase connectivity with the natural floodplain, reduce sedimentation and create depositional areas, and provide opportunities for riparian communities to reestablish. Improvement of a single reach in Centennial Creek can have effects both up and down stream of the actual project site and benefit the larger Salinas watershed.

The actual footprint of restoration activities to be implemented with the project will provide an uplift in function and value to the creek itself. However, there are also qualitative benefits to the overall Salinas Watershed. Although these are not as easily identified on a map or measured in acres, the project will uplift function and value of the watershed as a whole. For instance, the project will improve filtration of pollutants and sediment during storms, improving the quality of water leaving the open space and entering the Salinas River. The design will attenuate storm flows to allow for more infiltration and recharge of shallow groundwater.

Finally, the project would also strengthen the permanent protection of the creek through a conservation easement and an endowment for the ongoing management of the site, ensuring that the uplift realized through restoration results in lasting benefits to the community and the watershed.

1.2.3 Mitigation Requirements

Caltrans proposes to satisfy the offsite mitigation requirements of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Regional Water Quality Control Board, and United States Army Corps of Engineers for all four sections of the Route 46 Corridor Improvement Project at Centennial Creek.

The remaining acres of required offsite mitigation consist of approximately 0.474 acres of wetlands creation and enhancement for the Union section, while Whitley 2A, Whitley 2B, and the Cholame sections require approximately 3.292 acres of other waters creation, enhancement, and reestablishment (Table 1.1).

Table 1.1 Required Mitigation Acreage

Section	*Construction Status*	*Outstanding Wetland Mitigation (acres)*	*Outstanding Other Waters Mitigation (acres)*
Union	Completed	0.474	0
Whitley 1	Completed	0	0
Whitley 2A	Completed	0	0
Estrella River Bridge	Completed	0	0
Whitley 2B	Completed	0	1.732
Cholame (Future)	Construction Start: Early 2022	0	1.560
Total	**Total Required**	**0.474 acres**	**3.292 acres**

Proposed Mitigation

All outstanding offsite mitigation from the Union, Whitley 2A, Whitley 2B, and Cholame sections can be accommodated at Centennial Creek in Phase 1. Phase 2 provides an additional 0.32 acre of other waters restoration/ establishment and will be implemented if future mitigation is required for future sections of the Route 46 Corridor Improvement Project. The total area proposed for mitigation is approximately 4.14 acres, which includes approximately 0.53 acre of wetlands and 3.61 acres of other waters to restore or establish according to the definitions below and the acreages detailed in Table 1.2 below for each phase.

These mitigation terms are defined as follows by the Environmental Protection Agency (2019):

1) Restoration

    a) Reestablishment: returning natural or historic function to a former aquatic resource and results in a gain in jurisdictional waters.

    b) Rehabilitation: repairing natural or historic function in degraded system and results in an increase in function, but not an increase in acreage.

2) Establishment: development of a jurisdictional water that did not previously exist and results in a gain in acreage and function.

Table 1.2 Proposed Mitigation at Centennial Creek

Phase	*Type of Mitigation Strategy*	*Wetlands (acres)*	*Other Waters (acres)*
1	**Establishment**	0.50	1.08
1	**Restoration: Reestablishment**	0	0.06
1	**Restoration: Rehabilitate**	0.03	0.81
1	**Restoration: Rehabilitate (with planting)**	0	1.34
2	**Establishment**	0	0.08
2	**Restoration: Rehabilitate**	0	0.09
2	**Restoration: Rehabilitate (with planting)**	0	0.15
Total	**Total Proposed**	**0.53 acres**	**3.61 acres**

Figure 1.6 Project Vicinity Map

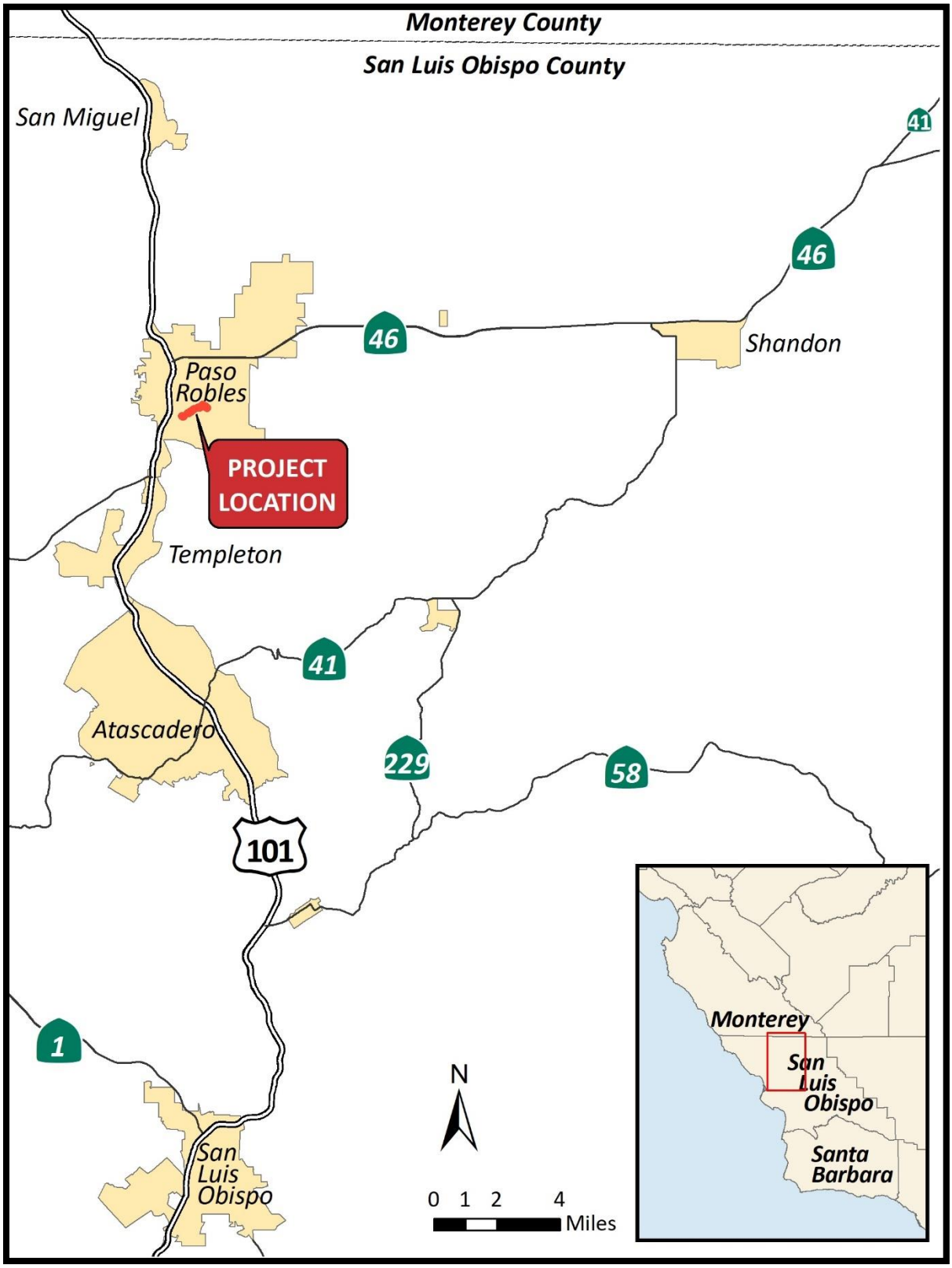
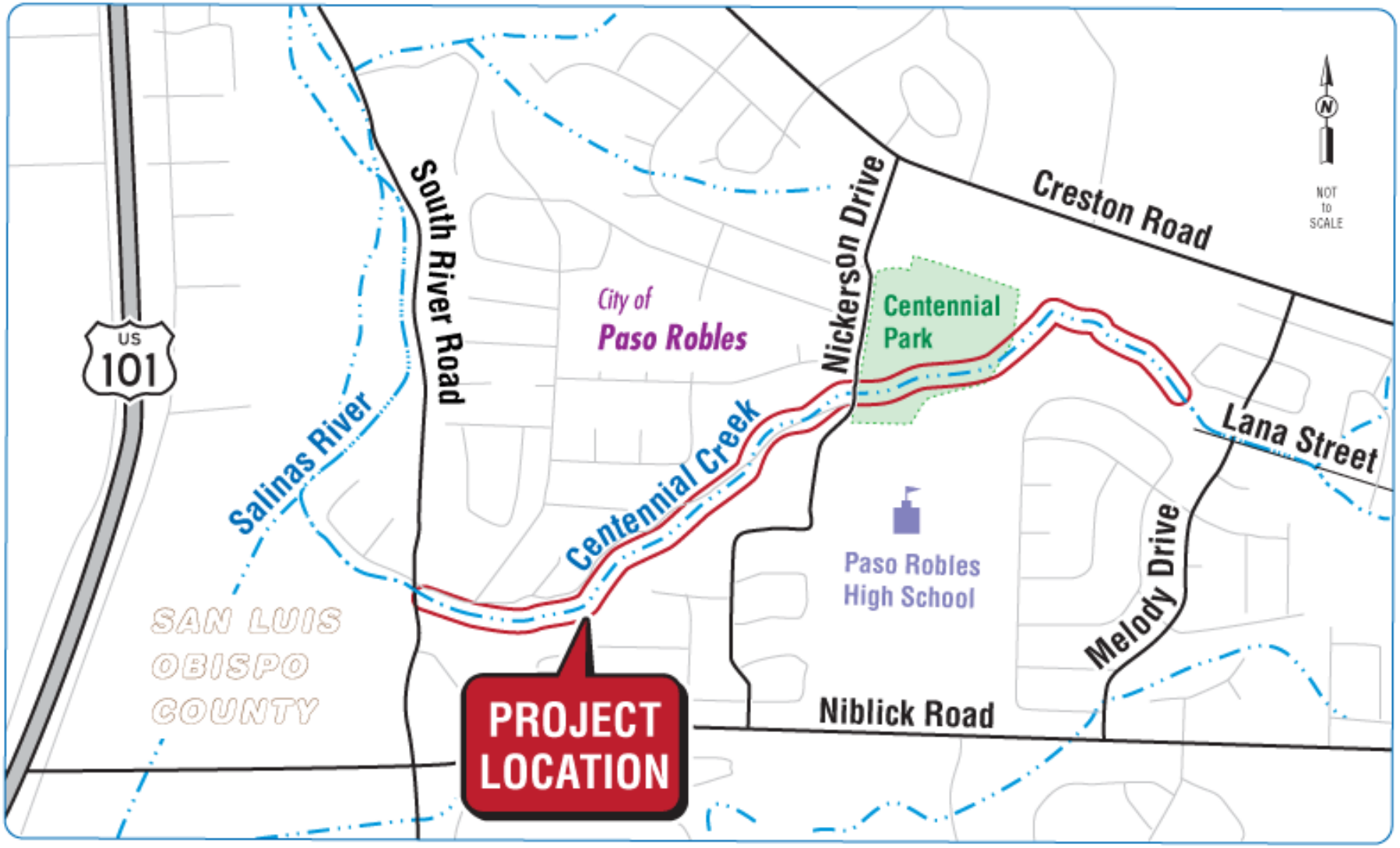


Figure 1.7 Project Location Map



1.3 Purpose and Need

1.3.1 Purpose

The purpose of this project is to restore stream function and value at Centennial Creek by creating, enhancing, and reestablishing approximately 4.14 acres of wetlands and other waters to satisfy state and federal mitigation requirements.

1.3.2 Need

Centennial Creek is a stream system within the same watershed as the impacts from the Route 46 Corridor Improvement Project. The system is currently in a degraded condition and would greatly benefit from restoration. Onsite mitigation acreage is maximized within the Route 46 right-of-way; however additional offsite acreage is required by jurisdictional agencies that cannot be accommodated onsite. All required mitigation for the Union, Whitley 2A, Whitley 2B, and Cholame sections can be accommodated at Centennial Creek in Phase 1. Additionally, Phase 2 will provide Caltrans an opportunity to fund future restoration that would remove debris and concrete rubble and help to restore riparian habitat and the natural streambed of Centennial Creek.

1.4 Project Alternatives

A Build Alternative and a No-Build (No-Action) Alternative are under consideration for this project.

Under the Build Alternative, the proposed project would repair and restore approximately 6,300 linear feet of Centennial Creek.

Under the No-Build (No-Action) Alternative, restoration at Centennial Creek would not occur which would result in further scour and degradation of water quality, and Caltrans would be required to identify a different location for offsite mitigation.

1.5 Discussion of the NEPA Categorical Exclusion

This document contains information regarding compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and other state laws and regulations. Separate environmental documentation, supporting a Categorical Exclusion determination, will be prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). When needed for clarity, or as required by CEQA, this document may contain references to federal laws and/or

regulations (CEQA, for example, requires consideration of adverse effects on species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species by the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service—in other words, species protected by the Federal Endangered Species Act).

1.6 Permits and Approvals Needed

The following permits, licenses, agreements, and certifications are required prior to implementation of this project:

Table 1.3 Required Permits and Approvals

Agency	*Permit/Approval*	*Status*
City of Paso Robles	Cooperative Agreement	Approved April 21, 2021
City of Paso Robles Public Works, Community Development Department	Grading Permit, Encroachment Permit, Oak Tree – Permit to Prune	Permits to be obtained prior to restoration
California Department of Fish and Wildlife	Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement	Permits to be obtained prior to restoration

Additionally, implementation of the proposed mitigation has been incorporated as a special condition of the Clean Water Act Section 404 Individual Permit for the Route 46 Corridor Improvement Project by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Approved May 4, 2007; Modified June 30, 2021). Implementation of the proposed mitigation has also been incorporated as a condition in the Section 401 Certification for the Route 46 Corridor Improvement Project by the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (First certification issued April 13, 2007; most recent certification issued November 18, 2020).

Chapter 2 CEQA Evaluation

2.1 CEQA Environmental Checklist

This checklist identifies physical, biological, social, and economic factors that might be affected by the proposed project. Potential impact determinations include Significant and Unavoidable Impact, Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated, Less Than Significant Impact, and No Impact. In many cases, background studies performed in connection with a project will indicate that there are no impacts to a particular resource. A No Impact answer reflects this determination. The questions in this checklist are intended to encourage the thoughtful assessment of impacts and do not represent thresholds of significance.

Project features, which can include both design elements of the project and standardized measures that are applied to this project, are considered to be an integral part of the project and have been considered prior to any significance determinations documented below.

“No Impact” determinations in each section are based on the scope, description, and location of the proposed project as well as the appropriate technical report, and no further discussion is included in this document.

2.1.1 Aesthetics

Centennial Creek is a small direct tributary to the Salinas River which winds its way through an urbanized portion of the City of Paso Robles. Most of the project site is dedicated as open space for use by the public. The creek is surrounded by a community center, recreational facility, three schools, and several housing developments. A paved bike and walking path, wide enough for maintenance and emergency vehicles to utilize, follows the creek in its entirety within the project limits with the exception of the last downstream 1/8 of a mile where the pathway intersects with Mohawk Court. The path is lit at night for site safety. Culvert crossings were constructed in locations where the path crosses the creek. Topography and vegetation are primary components of the overall visual character. Oak woodlands and grasslands cover the hills that roll down to the riparian habitat surrounding the creek.

Implementation of the project would help restore the area to a more natural, vegetated character through the planting of native trees, shrubs, and grasses. In addition, the removal of hardscape and rubble concrete would reduce the visual clutter in the creek. No new sources of lighting are proposed, and no lighting would be replaced or updated. Existing night lighting would remain for safety along the bike and walking path. Following project completion and establishment, the visual quality of the project vicinity would be improved.

Considering the information included in the Scenic Resource Evaluation and Visual Assessment dated January 22, 2021, the following significance determinations have been made:

Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099:

Question—Would the project:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Aesthetics
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	**No Impact**
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	**No Impact**
c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from a 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?	**No Impact**
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	**No Impact**
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	**No Impact**

2.1.2 Agriculture and Forest Resources

The activities associated with restoring Centennial Creek will have no impact on agriculture and forest resources. According to the 2016 Farmland Mapping & Monitoring Program, the Centennial Creek project location is defined as Urban and Built-Up Land and the Natural Resources Conservation Service does not rate the project location as Prime Farmland. The Project site is not under a Williamson Act contract (San Luis Obispo County 2021). The Project is not located in an agricultural land use designation in the General Plan (City of Paso Robles 2014), nor is it zoned for agricultural use (City of Paso Robles 2018). No forest land or timberland are identified in the General Plan and the City does not include any forest zoning classifications. Therefore, the following significance determinations have been made:

Question—Would the project:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Agriculture and Forest Resources
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?	**No Impact**
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	**No Impact**
c) Conflict with existing zoning, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))?	**No Impact**
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	**No Impact**
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 forest land to non-forest use?	**No Impact**

2.1.3 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 make the following determinations.

Considering the information included in the Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas, Noise and Water Quality Assessment Memorandum dated August 11, 2021, the following significance determinations have been made:

Question—Would the project:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Air Quality
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	**No Impact**

Question—Would the project:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Air Quality
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?	**No Impact**
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	**Less Than Significant Impact**
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	**No Impact**

Affected Environment

The project lies within the City of Paso Robles in San Luis Obispo County, which is located in the South Central Coast Air Basin. The South Central Coast Air Basin consists of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties. San Luis Obispo County is in nonattainment for the State Ambient Air Quality Standards for ozone and particulate matter (PM_{10}) but is in attainment for the State $PM_{2.5}$ standards. The County is in attainment for the federal PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ standards.

The City of Paso Robles adopted a Climate Action Plan in 2013 which aims to reduce community-wide emissions by 15% below 2005 levels by the year 2020. The Climate Action Plan inventories the baseline emission levels by sector in 2005 and identifies strategies and measures to implement for the City to reduce emissions and improve air quality.

The San Luis Obispo Air Pollution Control District regulates air quality in San Luis Obispo County. Thresholds for short term construction emissions and long-term operational emissions have been established by the San Luis Obispo Air Pollution Control District and are used below to compare the project's estimated emissions.

Environmental Consequences

The project is consistent with measures in the Climate Action Plan and does not increase capacity, population, or vehicle trips. The 2013 Climate Action Plan encourages the planting of trees and native vegetation in measures C-7 and T-1. Additionally, the project includes minor grading to flatten incised channels which will require the use of off-road equipment, but much of the planting and revegetation work will be accomplished by hand. This will reduce construction emissions and use of off-road diesel-powered vehicles.

This project is located in western San Luis Obispo County which is in attainment for all federal air quality standards but is in a nonattainment area for the state standards of ozone and fugitive particulate matter.

Short-Term Construction Emissions

Short term construction emissions and fugitive dust resulting from use of heavy equipment to remove and replace existing infrastructure and recontour drainage areas would be temporary.

It is assumed that Phases 1 and 2 would be constructed in two separate calendar years. Phase 2 would be developed based on the future need for additional offsite mitigation acreage and the available funding. Construction emissions were estimated using Caltrans Construction Emissions Tool, assuming 140 days of construction annually for each phase. Table 2.1 below summarizes the estimated daily average, maximum daily average, and annual average for criteria pollutants during Phase 1 or Phase 2.

The project would be well below the San Luis Obispo Air Pollution Control District thresholds for construction emissions and would be below daily and quarterly limits for ROG and NOx, diesel particulate matter, and fugitive particulate matter (Table 2.2). Therefore, impacts resulting from project construction would be temporary and less than significant.

Table 2.1 Estimated Construction Emissions

Pollutant	*Daily Average*	*Maximum Daily Average*	*Annual Average*
ROG	0.446 pounds/day	0.504 pounds/day	0.031 tons/year
NOx	2.950 pounds/day	3.329 pounds/day	0.206 tons/year
ROG + NOx	3.396 pounds/day	3.833 pounds/day	0.237 tons/year
Diesel Particulate Matter ($DPM_{2.5}$)	0.387 pounds/day	3.930 pounds/day	0.027 tons/year
Fugitive Particulate Matter (PM_{10})	1.898 pounds/day	39.031 pounds/day	0.133 tons/year
TOG	0.483 pounds/day	0.546 pounds/day	0.034 tons/year
CO	1.394 pounds/day	1.506 pounds/day	0.098 tons/year
CO2	565 pounds/day	631 pounds/day	40 tons/year
CH4	0.017 pounds/day	0.019 pounds/day	0.001 tons/year
N2O	0.032 pounds/day	0.035 pounds/day	0.002 tons/year
BC	0.058 pounds/day	0.067 pounds/day	0.004 tons/year
HFC	0.024 pounds/day	0.027 pounds/day	0.002 tons/year
Diesel Fuel	23 gallons/day	26 gallons/day	3,283 gallons/year
Gasoline Fuel	14 gallons/day	16 gallons/day	1,972 gallons/year

Table 2.2 Thresholds of Significance for Construction Emissions

Pollutant	*Daily Threshold*	*Quarterly Threshold-Tier 1*	*Quarterly Threshold-Tier 2*
ROG + NOx (combined)	137 pounds	2.5 tons	6.3 tons
Diesel Particulate Matter ($DPM_{2.5}$)	7 pounds	0.13 tons	0.32 tons
Fugitive Particulate Matter (PM_{10})	Not Available	2.5 tons	Not Available

Long-Term Operational Emissions

The project does not include any elements that would contribute to operational emissions therefore no increase in long-term operational air emissions is anticipated. Additionally, the project does not propose a land use that would cause an odor nuisance; no adverse impacts to the surrounding residents are anticipated.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures

The following minimization measures would reduce fugitive dust emissions during project construction:

- **AIR-1:** The contractor shall comply with applicable air pollution control rules, regulations, ordinances, and statutes.
- **AIR-2:** Implement standard dust emissions minimization measures such as covering soil stockpiles and watering excavation and grading areas through development of a project-level Storm Water Pollution Control Program.

2.1.4 Biological Resources

Considering the information included in the Natural Environment Study dated August 17, 2021, the following significance determinations have been made:

Question—Would the project:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Biological Resources
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, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or NOAA Fisheries?	**No Impact**

Question—Would the project:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Biological Resources
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?	**Less Than Significant Impact**
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?	**Less Than Significant Impact**
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native 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?	**No Impact**
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	**Less Than Significant Impact**
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	**No Impact**

Affected Environment

The Biological Study Area is defined as the area that may be directly, indirectly, temporarily, or permanently impacted by construction and development of the project. The Biological Study Area incorporates Centennial Creek itself and the surrounding corridor of riparian and oak woodland habitat.

Centennial Creek begins in the southeast quadrant of the City of Paso Robles where it drains grassland and oak savannah. It quickly enters urbanized development where it is directed underground through extensive culverts for almost a mile in length. The creek receives water from precipitation, stormwater runoff, and irrigation from the neighborhood. The creek meanders through open space between tract housing, schools, and a recreation facility. Oak woodlands with very limited riparian habitat surround the creek. A pedestrian and bike path follow the creek for over a mile, requiring several culvert crossings. The creek and the bike path end near the intersection of South River Road and Mohawk Court, where it enters another long culvert

under the City streets and eventually outlets directly into the Salinas River to the west.

The open space surrounding the project area consists of predominately blue oak (*Quercus douglasii*) and valley oak woodland with other varying interspersed tree and shrub species along the creek and an understory that is dominated by non-native grasses such as foxtail barley (*Hordeum murinum*), ryegrass (*Lolium multiflorum*), and dallis grass (*Paspalum dilatatum*).

Natural Communities of Special Concern

Valley Oak Woodland is described as open forest with scattered valley oak that are either widely spaced or sometimes in denser stands with coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) or blue oak. The understory in widely spaced plots consists of non-native grasses and native forbs; the understory of denser stands is primarily dominated by dense shrubs. There are oak woodlands containing valley oak and blue oaks that occur within the project area along the Centennial Creek corridor. Several large oaks have recently fallen into the creek as a result of incision along its banks.

Special-Status Plant and Animal Species

The term special-status species refers to plants or animals that are federally or state listed as endangered, threatened, or rare, species that are candidates or proposed for federal or state listing, and species considered special concern species by federal or state agencies. No special-status plants or animals, federally or state listed plants or animals, or critical habitat were observed in the Biological Study Area or identified in the literature review.

One sensitive plant species was determined to have the potential to occur in the Biological Study Area based on the presence of suitable habitat, although it was not observed during surveys. This plant, shining navarretia (*Navarretia nigelliformis ssp. Radians)* is a California Rare Plant Rank 1B species as ranked by the California Native Plant Society but is not federally or state listed.

California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*) is a federally threatened species that occurs in aquatic habitat with little to no flow and surface water depths of up to 2.5 feet. The species usually requires the presence of fairly sturdy underwater vegetation such as cattails. The project area provides potential non-breeding aquatic habitat for the species. However, it is unlikely for the species to occur because of the disturbed and typically dry nature of the site. Protocol level pre-activity surveys were conducted in 2018 by the Upper Salinas-Las Tablas Resource Conservation District with no frogs detected during either the day or nighttime. The species was not observed during field surveys.

California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*) is a federally threatened species that occurs in grasslands, oak savannah, and edges of

mixed woodland and lower elevation coniferous forest where there is aquatic habitat nearby. The project area provides potential upland grassland and oak habitat for this species; however, there are no known or potential breeding ponds within an over 5-mile radius of the project site. Typically, the maximum distance California tiger salamanders disperse from a breeding pond is 1.24 miles. Therefore, it is unlikely for the species to occur within the Centennial Creek project area. Additionally, the species was not observed during field surveys.

Potential nesting habitat for birds occurs in shrubs, trees, and tall grasses throughout the project area. Common birds observed in the Biological Study Area include red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis)*, house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus)*, house sparrow (*Passer domesticus)*, bush tit (*Psaltriparus minimus)*, and European starling (*Sturnus vulgaris)*.

Jurisdictional Waters

Centennial Creek is an intermittent stream depicted on the United States Geological Survey 7.5 minute quadrangle map for this area and is part of the Salinas Hydrologic Unit Code 8 watershed. The creek is a water of the United States under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act with jurisdiction under the United States Army Corps of Engineers and contains some three-parameter federal wetlands also subject to Section 404. These waters and wetlands are also under Section 401 jurisdiction of the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board. Centennial Creek and its associated riparian area are also under the jurisdiction of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. As described, Centennial Creek is a tributary of the Salinas River that has experienced significant impacts due to increased impervious surface as a result of urbanization, past weed control practices that continuously disrupted vegetation and soil near the creek, and failing infrastructure that was originally designed to provide a walking path while still maintaining the integrity of the creek's hydrology.

Invasive Species

Numerous invasive plant species within the Biological Study Area occupy most of the disturbed non-native habitat. These are mostly non-native grasses and herbaceous species such as wild oat (*Avena fatua*), foxtail barley (*Hordeum murinum*), rip-gut brome (*Bromus diandrus*), yellow star thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*), and rabbitsfoot grass (*Polypogon monspeliensis*). Invasive species at Centennial Creek are a result of frequent disturbance due to mowing, tilling, and foot, bicycle and vehicle traffic. The extent of these invasive understory species has largely overgrown the native grasses and forbs that would have historically occurred in the area.

Environmental Consequences

Natural Communities of Special Concern

Valley oak woodland comprises portions of the Centennial Creek corridor, but this community is not anticipated to be negatively impacted by construction of the project. Several large oaks have recently fallen into the creek as a result of incision along its banks. Construction of the project is anticipated to reduce incising, thereby preserving the oaks that line the creek. Additionally, the project includes valley and blue oak plantings as part of the native species reestablishment along Centennial Creek which would result in more individual oak trees.

Direct removal of oak trees (greater than four inches in diameter) will be avoided, although some trimming of branches may be required for site access. Permits are required by the City of Paso Robles' Public Works Department for pruning limbs over six inches in diameter.

Additionally, grading under the tree's canopy may be required to accommodate the proposed floodplain benches. The City of Paso Robles defines the critical root zone as an area of root space that is within a circle circumscribed around the trunk of a tree using a radius of one foot per inch diameter at breast height (i.e., a six-inch diameter tree has a critical root zone of six feet, as measured from the center of the tree). If grading within the tree's critical root zone is required, approval from the City of Paso Robles Planning Director is required and a certified arborist must supervise the grading.

With the implementation of native plantings associated with the project and the avoidance and minimization measures provided below, it is anticipated that there will be no impacts to oak trees.

Special-Status Plant and Animal Species

No special-status plants or animals, federally or state listed plants or animals, or critical habitat were observed in the Biological Study Area or are anticipated to be impacted by the project. Based on lack of suitable habitat in the Biological Study Area and lack of any historical sightings of sensitive species, it is anticipated that there will be no effect on special-status plants or animals, federally or state listed plants or animals, or critical habitat as a result of this project.

Native and non-native birds nest within the trees and shrubs along Centennial Creek, therefore there is the potential for nesting birds to occur within the project area. Direct impacts to nesting birds could result if removal of vegetation or non-native trees occurs during the nesting season. These direct effects would result in the injury or mortality of nesting birds or harassment that could alter nesting behaviors. Indirect impacts could also result from noise and disturbance associated with construction during the nesting

season, which could alter nesting behaviors. The implementation of the avoidance and minimization measures below would reduce the potential for adverse effects to nesting birds.

Jurisdictional Waters

Work within Centennial Creek will temporarily impact federal and state jurisdictional waters and wetlands, however, the overall project will benefit the creek by enhancing it and adding additional linear feet and/or acres of waters and wetlands to the creek system. Dewatering the creek is not anticipated to be required as ground disturbing activities will occur between May 1 and October 31 to minimize impacts to the jurisdictional area.

Invasive Species

The spread of invasive species would be managed with the implementation of the avoidance and minimization measures listed below.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures

The avoidance and minimization measures listed below would reduce impacts to biological resources at Centennial Creek and manage the spread of invasive species:

- **BIO-1:** Ground-disturbing activities shall occur between May 1 and October 31.
- **BIO-2:** The Caltrans District biologist or their designee shall conduct a pre-construction survey prior to starting work to identify any occurrences of nesting birds and general wildlife surveys.
- **BIO-3:** Grasses and herbaceous cover shall be mowed whenever feasible for site access during construction to minimize ground disturbance.
- **BIO-4:** Native vegetation shall be preserved to the maximum extent practicable. Vegetation trimming (including trees) may be necessary for vehicle and equipment access. Native trees smaller than 4’’ diameter at breast height may be removed as part of the design to improve stream function and value. If it is determined that the project will require tree removal or trimming, work shall be scheduled between September 1 and January 30, as feasible, outside of the typical nesting bird season, to avoid potential impacts to nesting birds. If tree and shrub removal must be scheduled to occur during the nesting season, pre-construction surveys for nesting birds will be conducted within 48 hours prior to the start of construction. If any active nests are detected during pre-construction surveys or during construction, the Resource Conservation District and/or their biological monitor will be notified, and work will stop in the vicinity of the nest in accordance with the project specifications. A Caltrans biologist or their designee will establish a buffer zone around active nests using high visibility construction fencing, or stakes, flagging, etc. and the buffer

will remain until it is determined that young have fledged (i.e., left the nest and are no longer reliant on parental care or nest site).

- **BIO-5:** Oak trees greater than 4-inch diameter at breast height shall be preserved during grading operations. No more than 25% of the ground beneath the canopy of the tree shall be disturbed below 12-inch depth. If grading within the tree's critical root zone is required, Caltrans shall obtain approval from the City of Paso Robles Planning Director and a certified arborist shall supervise the grading activity.
- **BIO-6:** To prevent the spread of invasive plant species, the following guidelines shall be adhered to:
  a. Ground disturbance within the construction work area shall be minimized to the greatest extent possible.
  b. All imported fill material used on the construction site shall be weed-free.
  c. The California Department of Food and Agriculture maintains a current listing of noxious weeds. Only certified noxious weed-free erosion control materials shall be used. All straw and seed material shall be certified weed free by the County Agricultural Commissioner prior to being used at the project site.
  d. All construction vehicles and equipment shall be cleaned and inspected for plant material and caked mud before entering the construction work site to prevent spreading invasive plants on the project site.

2.1.5 Cultural Resources

Considering the information included in the Cultural Resources Screening Memorandum dated April 21, 2021, which indicates there are no archeological resources or built environmental resources near the project, the following significance determinations have been made:

Question—Would the project:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Cultural Resources
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section15064.5?	**No Impact**
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section15064.5?	**No Impact**

Question—Would the project:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Cultural Resources
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	**No Impact**

2.1.6 Energy

Implementation of the proposed project would result in the short-term use of fossil fuels, electricity, and natural gas by construction vehicles and equipment to replace and repair and replace infrastructure such as culverts. The use of these resources would be temporary and not result in a significant demand on resources.

No direct or indirect effects related to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary energy consumption will occur. The restoration project will not conflict with or obstruct any state or local plans for renewable energy or energy efficiency. Consider the information included in the Climate Change Technical Report dated August 11, 2021 and the Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas, Noise and Water Quality Assessment Memorandum dated August 11, 2021, the following significance determinations have been made:

Question—Would the project:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Energy
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources during project construction or operation?	**No Impact**
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	**No Impact**

2.1.7 Geology and Soils

Considering the information included in the San Luis Obispo County General Plan, the California Department of Conservation mapping applications, the Initial Paleontology Review dated March 16, 2021, and Paleontological Identification Report/Paleontological Evaluation Report dated July 22, 2021 the following significance determinations have been made:

Question—Would the project:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Geology and Soils
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving: i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning 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.	**No Impact**
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	**No Impact**
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	**No Impact**
iv) Landslides?	**No Impact**
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	**Less Than Significant Impact**
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 landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	**Less Than Significant Impact**
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	**Less Than Significant Impact**
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?	**No Impact**
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	**Less Than Significant Impact**

Affected Environment

The project site is located within the City of Paso Robles, with the Santa Lucia Range to the west and the Temblor Range to the east, situated approximately 700-800 feet above sea level. The Centennial Creek watershed provides tributary waters to the Upper Salinas River, which flows northward into the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Several active faults are located near the project site including the Rinconada Fault (0.5 mile southwest), and

the San Andreas Fault (22 miles northeast). The project site is not located within a parcel that is designated as an Earthquake Fault Zone by the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map (California Department of Conservation). The soils at the project site are moderately expansive. The site is not mapped in an area of liquefaction, landslides or strong ground shaking (San Luis Obispo County 2016).

Paleontological Resources

A number of federal statutes specifically address paleontological resources, their treatment, and funding for mitigation as a part of federally authorized projects including 23 U.S. Code 1.9(a) and 23 U.S. Code 305. At the state level, paleontological resources are protected by CEQA and the State of California's Public Resources Code. At the local level, the 2010 San Luis Obispo County General Plan's Conservation and Open Space Element identifies Goals, Policies, and Implementation Strategies relevant to paleontological resources providing for their preservation and protection.

The proposed project is located within the southern Salinas Valley of the Coast Ranges Geomorphic Province of California. The two geologic units found underlying the project are alluvial sediments of Holocene age (less than about 11,000 years old) and the Paso Robles Formation which is Pliocene to Pleistocene in age (about 5 million to 11,000 years old).

Alluvial deposits are recent silts, sands, and gravels deposited by Centennial Creek, a tributary of the Salinas River. These deposits have a low paleontological potential because they are too young to contain fossils.

The Paso Robles Formation is a widespread geologic unit that covers over 1,000 square miles and reaches thicknesses of over 4,000 feet. The unit is primarily terrestrial in origin, though estuarine to marine deposits are known from the western areas of outcrop. Despite the widespread nature of the Paso Robles Formation, few fossil localities have been reported from the unit. Fossils of marine invertebrate animals such as clams and snails are known from Atascadero, and the bones of an extinct walrus were discovered in Santa Margarita. Eastern exposures of the Paso Robles Formation in the greater Carrizo Plain area have produced fossils of large "Ice Age" mammals such as camel, giant bison, mammoth, mastodon, and horse. Remains of small-bodied mammals such as shrew, chipmunk, mouse, vole, and rabbit have also been recovered. No fossils were observed within the Centennial Creek area during a field survey of the area.

The Paso Robles Formation is overall considered to have a high paleontological potential because it has produced scientifically significant vertebrate fossils. However, given the widespread nature of the unit, diversity of depositional settings, and scattered occurrence of fossils, some regions or horizons within the Paso Robles Formation may vary in their paleontological potential. Locally within the Centennial Creek area, the coarse-grained

deposits of the Paso Robles Formation are interpreted to have a low paleontological potential because they were deposited in a high energy environment with fast-flowing water. Fossils are only rarely preserved in such depositional settings and are more commonly found in fine-grained deposits representing slow-moving, low energy settings, or paleosols (ancient soils).

Environmental Consequences

The project site is not located within an area that is designated by the California Department of Conservation as an Earthquake Fault Zone within the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map. Standard engineering measures, including using prefabricated corrugated culvert pipe and pre-cast concrete box culverts, would be implemented to ensure the culverts address geologic influences such as seismic ground shaking and expansion, therefore no impacts to geology and soils are anticipated as a result of the project. The proposed project does not include the installation of a septic tank or the requirement for wastewater disposal. A grading permit is required by the City of Paso Robles for all soil disturbance and a construction Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan will be prepared. Best Management Practices will be implemented during construction to ensure water quality is protected as discussed in Section 2.1.10 Water Quality.

The project is anticipated to prevent and slow soil erosion through proposed improvements to the creek. The design includes replacing undersized culverts with properly sized culverts, removing hardscaping, and engineering roughened riffles at intervals along the system to encourage aggradation and reestablishment of a riffle/pool system. The roughened riffles consist of engineered streambed materials and are designed to prevent further head-cutting and slow incision of the creek. Implementation will also involve grading operations to create flood benches, widen the channel and to create secondary channels and pools to develop wetlands. The roughened riffles will cause water moving through the system to slow down and flow onto flood benches and floodplain wetlands, before flowing downstream. This will result in reduction of sediment loads and reduce incision and head-cutting. It will also increase infiltration and retain water in the system for longer durations, which in turn promotes establishment of wetland and riparian vegetation.

Paleontological Resources

Direct impacts to paleontological resources occur when earthwork operations cut into the geologic units within which fossils are buried and physically destroy the fossil remains. As such, only projects that will 1) involve earthwork such as grading or trenching, and 2) disturb potentially fossil-bearing sedimentary rocks (those with a high paleontological potential) have the potential to impact paleontological resources.

Paleontological resources would not be adversely affected by the proposed project. The majority of project earthwork would be limited to low

paleontological potential alluvial deposits. Earthwork in the westernmost portion of the Centennial Creek drainage is expected to minimally disturb the Paso Robles Formation. However, the portions of the Paso Robles Formation that would be impacted represent weathered, high energy deposits that are locally assigned a low paleontological potential because they are unlikely to contain fossils. Additionally, disturbance to this formation within Centennial Creek has likely already occurred with the placement of existing infrastructure as well as the erosion resulting from these structures over time. The project includes removal or replacement of these structures in similar, previously disturbed locations and the lessening of incised creek channels within this identified formation.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures

In the unlikely event that fossils are unearthed during project construction, the following minimization measure will ensure unanticipated fossil discoveries are assessed, collected, and treated by a qualified paleontologist.

PALEO-1: Procedures for Unanticipated Fossil Discoveries: If unanticipated paleontological resources are discovered at the job site, do not disturb the resources and immediately:

1. Stop all work within a 60-foot radius of the discovery
2. Secure the area
3. Notify the Caltrans Paleontological Resources Specialist or a Qualified Principal Paleontologist

The Caltrans paleontological resources specialist or a Qualified Principal Paleontologist will evaluate the significance of the find and determine the appropriate next steps. If the find is determined to be scientifically significant, the fossils will be recovered using standard field procedures, prepared in a fossil preparation lab, and curated into a curation facility with permanent paleontological collections managed by a curator or collections manager.

A Qualified Principal Paleontologist must have the following qualifications:

- A graduate degree in geology, paleontology, or related field with demonstrated experience in the geology and paleontology of California;
- Demonstrated knowledge of California geology and paleontology resource management practices;
- At least 2 years full-time professional experience or equivalent specialized training in paleontological research, administration, and management practices; and
- Proficiency in recognizing fossils in the field, determining their significance, and collecting the fossils.

2.1.8 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Considering the information included in the Climate Change Technical Report dated August 11, 2021 and the Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas, Noise and Water Quality Assessment Memorandum dated August 11, 2021, the following significance determinations have been made:

Question—Would the project:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Greenhouse Gas Emissions
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	**Less Than Significant Impact**
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	**No Impact**

Short-Term Construction Emissions

Short-term increases in greenhouse gas emissions are expected during project construction from operation of onsite construction equipment. Construction emissions for the project were estimated using Caltrans Construction Emissions Tool, assuming 140 working days of construction in a year. Approximately 130 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent are estimated as a result of construction of both Phases 1 and 2. Carbon dioxide equivalent is a measure used to compare emissions from a variety of greenhouse gasses based on their global warming potential. The carbon dioxide equivalent calculation considers carbon dioxide and the converted equivalent amounts of carbon monoxide, methane, nitrogen dioxide, and hydrofluorocarbons.

While the project would result in greenhouse gas emissions during construction, it is anticipated that the project would not result in any increase in long-term operational greenhouse gas emissions. With implementation of construction greenhouse gas reduction measures, the impact would be less than significant. Furthermore, the project does not conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures

The following measure would reduce greenhouse gas emissions resulting from construction of the project:

GHG-1: Operate construction equipment with improved fuel efficiency by properly tuning and maintaining equipment and limit idling time of diesel-powered equipment to 5 minutes or less.

2.1.9 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Hazardous materials are not proposed to be used, transported, or disposed of as a result of the proposed project. The project site is located within one-quarter mile of several schools, but no hazardous emissions or hazardous materials will be emitted or handled during construction. There are no hazardous waste sites or businesses commonly associated with hazardous waste generation nearby that would impact the project site. The project location is not included on the Cortese List pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 accessed February 5, 2021. Encountering hazardous waste issues/materials is not anticipated for the creek restoration project. All waste and debris from construction will be disposed of properly. The project site is not located within the Paso Robles Municipal Airport Land Use Plan (2005) or within two miles of an airport. The existing bike and walking path provides access for emergency services and the project site will be accessible to emergency vehicles during construction. The project site is located within a Local Responsibility Area that is not designated as a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone; therefore, the proposed project would result in no impact. Considering the information included in the Hazardous Waste Initial Site Assessment dated March 16, 2021, the following significance determinations have been made:

Question—Would the project:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Hazards and Hazardous Materials
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	**No Impact**
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	**No Impact**
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	**No Impact**
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?	**No Impact**

Question—Would the project:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Hazards and Hazardous Materials
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?	**No Impact**
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	**No Impact**
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	**No Impact**

2.1.10 Hydrology and Water Quality

Considering the information included in the Natural Environment Study dated August 17, 2021, the Route 46 Mitigation and Monitoring Plan for Centennial Creek dated May 2021, and the Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas, Noise, and Water Quality Assessment Memorandum dated August 11, 2021, the following significance determinations have been made:

Question—Would the project:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Hydrology and Water Quality
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	**Less Than Significant Impact**
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	**Less Than Significant Impact**

Question—Would the project:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Hydrology and Water Quality
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: (i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	**Less Than Significant Impact**
(ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;	**Less Than Significant Impact**
(iii) 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; or	**No Impact**
(iv) impede or redirect flood flows?	**No Impact**
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	**No Impact**
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	**No Impact**

Affected Environment

The receiving water body for the proposed project is Centennial Creek, which ultimately drains into the Salinas River (upper, confluence of Nacimiento River to Santa Margarita Reservoir). Centennial Creek is not identified in 2019 Central Coast Basin Plan. Centennial Creek drains into the Salinas River, therefore further water quality study was completed considering the Salinas River as the identified receiving water body.

The project is located in Atascadero Hydrologic Sub-Area (HSA# 309.81) within the Salinas Hydrologic Unit and Paso Robles Hydrologic Area. Review of the project's location with respect to adjacent receiving waters indicate the Salinas River does include impairments listed on the 2014/2016 Clean Water Act Section 303(d) list. As per the 303(d) list, this section of the Salinas River is impaired for Chloride, pH, Sodium, and Turbidity.

There are not any Drinking Water Reservoirs and/or Recharge Facilities within project limits. There are no existing Treatment Best Management Practices within the project limits. The project is located in proximity within the Salinas Valley-Atascadero Area groundwater basin. However, the project is not anticipated to have any negative impact to the groundwater.

Under the Regional Water Quality Control Board, a Construction General Permit regulates stormwater discharges from construction sites that result in a disturbed soil area of one acre or greater. By law, all stormwater discharges associated with construction activity where clearing, grading, and excavation result in soil disturbance of at least one acre must comply with the provisions of the General Construction Permit. Operators of regulated construction sites are required to develop a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan; implement sediment, erosion, and pollution prevention control measures; and obtain coverage under the Construction General Permit.

Environmental Consequences

The project is anticipated to prevent and slow soil erosion through proposed improvements to Centennial Creek. The design includes replacing undersized culverts with properly sized culverts, removing hardscaping, and engineering roughened riffles at intervals along the system to encourage aggradation and reestablishment of a riffle/pool system. The roughened riffles consist of engineered streambed materials and are designed to prevent further head-cutting and reverse incision. Implementation will also involve grading operations to create flood benches, widen the channel and to create secondary channels and pools to develop wetlands. The roughened riffles will cause water moving through the system to slow down and flow onto flood benches and floodplain wetlands, before flowing downstream. This will result in reduction of sediment loads and reduce incision and head-cutting. It will also increase infiltration and retain water in the system for longer durations, which in turn promotes establishment of wetland and riparian vegetation.

The proposed mitigation project is not anticipated to have any long-term negative impacts to the water quality of Centennial Creek or the Salinas River. The project proposes to improve drainage and hydraulic condition by replacing culverts in poor condition and increasing vegetation which in turn reduces turbidity in the Salinas River. Hence, reduction in turbidity is considered as an added water quality benefit. This project does not involve substantial excavation or earthwork activities that would cause or exacerbate existing turbidity conditions of the Salinas River. By incorporating appropriate engineering design and robust storm water Best Management Practices during construction in accordance with a Construction General Permit and required Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan, minimal short-term water quality impacts are anticipated. The project would not result in significant long-term impacts to water quality.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures

No measures are proposed.

2.1.11 Land Use and Planning

According to the City of Paso Robles General Plan, the project site is located within land designated as Parks and Open Space, Residential Single Family, and Residential Multiple Family. The zoning for the affected project parcels is Open Space (OS), Residential Single Family (R1), and Residential Apartment 12 dwelling units per acre (R3). The creek is surrounded by a community center, recreational facility, three schools, and several housing developments. The restoration project will not physically divide the established communities on either side of the creek. Additionally, there are several existing access points to the bike and walking path located throughout the project area which will not be impacted.

The dominant vegetation along the Centennial Creek corridor is oak woodland and grassland. Trees within the project area are primarily valley oak and blue oak. The City of Paso Robles has requirements for the preservation of oak trees in its Oak Tree Preservation Ordinance. No oak trees over 4” diameter at breast height will be removed. A permit must be obtained from the Public Works Department for pruning limbs over six inches in diameter. Additionally, grading under the tree’s canopy may be required to accommodate the proposed floodplain benches. If grading within the tree’s critical root zone is required, approval from the City of Paso Robles Planning Director is required and a certified arborist must supervise the grading. Please refer to Section 2.1.4 Biological Resources for additional information.

Considering this information, the following significance determinations have been made:

Question—Would the project:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Land Use and Planning
a) Physically divide an established community?	**No Impact**
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?	**No Impact**

2.1.12 Mineral Resources

Though portions of the nearby Salinas River are used for mining sand and gravel, there are no known mineral resources within the project site at

Centennial Creek. The City of Paso Robles' land use designations, zoning ordinance, and general plan do not indicate the project site contains mineral resources. Therefore, the project will have no impact on mineral resources:

Question—Would the project:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Mineral Resources
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?	**No Impact**
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?	**No Impact**

2.1.13 Noise

Considering the information included in the Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas, Noise, and Water Quality Assessment Memorandum dated August 11, 2021, the following significance determinations have been made:

Question—Would the project result in:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Noise
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?	**Less Than Significant Impact**
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	**Less Than Significant Impact**
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?	**No Impact**

Affected Environment

CEQA considers noise to be a "significant effect" when it "increase(s) substantially the ambient noise levels for adjoining areas." The project is situated in an urban section of Paso Robles in San Luis Obispo County. The

project vicinity comprises mostly of residential units, schools, and Centennial Park. In some locations along Centennial Creek, residences are as close as 50 feet to the project site.

Environmental Consequences

Temporary (Construction) Impacts

It is inevitable that local noise levels in the vicinity of the construction will experience a short-term increase due to construction activities. The amount of construction noise will vary with the particular activities and associated models and types of equipment used by the contractor. Adverse noise impacts from construction are not anticipated because construction would be temporary and intermittent. Due to the close proximity of residential units, construction work will be done during daylight hours.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures

Adverse noise impacts from construction are not anticipated because noticeable construction noise would be temporary, intermittent, and completed during daylight hours. The following general measures will be implemented to further minimize temporary noise impacts associated with project construction:

- **NOI-1:** Construction equipment shall not emit noise levels greater than 86-dBA at 50-feet from the source between the hours of 9:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.
- **NOI-2:** Shield loud pieces of stationary construction equipment if complaints are received.
- **NOI-3:** Internal combustion engines used for any purpose on or related to the job shall be equipped with a muffler or baffle of a type recommended by the manufacturer; and use newer equipment that is quieter and ensure that all equipment items have the manufacturers' recommended noise abatement measures, such as mufflers, engine covers, and engine vibration isolators intact and operational.
- **NOI-4:** Locate portable generators, air compressors, etc. away from sensitive noise receptors.
- **NOI-5:** Limit grouping major pieces of equipment operating in one area to the greatest extent feasible.

2.1.14 Population and Housing

The project will not have an impact on population and housing. No additional housing or development is proposed, nor does it remove or displace any existing housing.

Question—Would the project:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Population and Housing
a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	**No Impact**
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	**No Impact**

2.1.15 Public Services

The project site is served by the City of Paso Robles Fire Department, City of Paso Robles Police Department, and the Paso Robles Joint Unified School District. The project site can be accessed via Nickerson Drive from Creston Road or Niblick Road. The existing bike and walking path is paved and wide enough to be accessed by emergency vehicles to respond to interior areas of the creek alignment. The nearest fire station is located on the west side of Highway 101, approximately 2 miles or 6 minutes away from the project site.

No increase in the number of calls for police or fire protection are anticipated as a result of the restoration of Centennial Creek. Use of Centennial Park and the bike and walking path will not increase as a result of this restoration project.

Question:	CEQA Significance Determinations for 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: Fire protection?	**No Impact**
Police protection?	**No Impact**

Question:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Public Services
Schools?	**No Impact**
Parks?	**No Impact**
Other public facilities?	**No Impact**

2.1.16 Recreation

The City of Paso Robles' 2003 General Plan identifies existing park facilities within the city limits. Centennial Park is identified as the only Community Park in Paso Robles, totaling approximately 16 acres. Centennial Park accounts for approximately 15% of all park acreage within the city and includes many amenities such as an amphitheater, banquet room, barbecue areas, playgrounds, meeting rooms, a pool, tennis and basketball courts, and walking trails. Nearby parks include Melody Park to the southeast and Lenco Park to the south.

No changes to the existing facilities at Centennial Park are proposed. It is not anticipated that the restoration of the creek would influence the use of the park or adjacent properties, or cause deterioration of the facilities. The conservation easement would limit future expansion or development of facilities within the restoration areas. The implementation of the restoration project would not influence the use of the existing bike and walking path.

Considering this information, the following significance determinations have been made:

Question—Would the project:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Recreation
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	**No Impact**
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	**No Impact**

2.1.17 Transportation

The project site is primarily accessed by Nickerson Drive from Creston Road or Niblick Road. Additional access points at Centennial Park and the surrounding neighborhoods including the west end of Lana Street, the south corner of Rose Lane, the eastern edge of Mohawk Court, and the northern corner of Veronica Drive can be used to reach Centennial Creek and the existing bike and walking path. As discussed above in Section 2.1.16 Recreation, the path is identified as a Class 1 multi-use trail in the Salinas River Corridor Trail Master Plan (2014). The existing paved path is approximately 12 feet wide and is currently utilized for emergency access as needed. Emergency access to the project site will be maintained throughout construction.

Considering this information, the following significance determinations have been made:

Question—Would the project:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Transportation
a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	**No Impact**
b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	**No Impact**
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	**No Impact**
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	**No Impact**

2.1.18 Tribal Cultural Resources

Caltrans sent out tribal consultation letters to tribal groups pursuant to the requirements of Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1. As of the date of this report, no tribes have identified significant tribal resources in the project area.

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:

Question:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Tribal Cultural Resources
a) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(k), or	**No Impact**
b) 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 in 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.	**No Impact**

2.1.19 Utilities and Service Systems

Question—Would the project:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Utilities and Service Systems
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	**Less Than Significant Impact**
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	**Less Than Significant Impact**
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?	**No Impact**

Question—Would the project:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Utilities and Service Systems
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?	**No Impact**
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	**No Impact**

Affected Environment

Centennial Park and associated facilities are served by the municipal water supply and wastewater treatment system via existing sewer lines. An existing sanitary sewer line and electrical power lines run underground and generally follow the existing paved bike and walking path along Centennial Creek. Under existing conditions, scour and down-cutting of the creek could expose and potentially damage the sewer line causing environmental damage from a sewage release.

Environmental Consequences

The proposed project would not require a substantial increase in demand on water, wastewater, stormwater collection, treatment or disposal, and would not require the development or expansion of water, wastewater or stormwater facilities. Irrigation may occur if necessary during the first year after planting to help establish root systems, and then plants would be weaned the following year.

Construction of the proposed project will generate a minimal amount of wastewater. The proposed project will not exceed wastewater treatment requirements, require the construction of a new water or wastewater treatment facility, or result in the determination by the wastewater treatment provider that it does not have adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand.

Concrete and organic debris removed from the project site would be reused on site if possible, recycled or disposed of properly. The proposed project may require the use of a local landfill to dispose of debris removed from the creek. The use of the local landfill will be temporary, occurring only during construction. The proposed project will be served by a landfill with sufficient capacity to serve its solid waste disposal needs during construction. The project will comply with all federal, state, and applicable local management and reduction statutes related to solid waste.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures

No measures are proposed.

2.1.20 Wildfire

The project site is shown on the state responsibility area maps as a “Local Responsibility Area – Incorporated,” therefore it is the responsibility of the City of Paso Robles to determine the fire hazard severity. According to the Safety Element of the City of Paso Robles’ General Plan (2003), the project site is not located within a very high fire hazard severity zone, therefore there are no anticipated wildfire impacts as a result of the proposed project.

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones:

Question—Would the project:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Wildfire
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	**No Impact**
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?	**No Impact**
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?	**No Impact**
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?	**No Impact**

2.1.21 Mandatory Findings of Significance

Question:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Mandatory Findings of Significance
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 or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	**Less Than Significant Impact**
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)?	**No Impact**
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	**No Impact**

The proposed project will have temporary impacts to State and Federal waters and wetlands as a result of ground disturbance necessary to restore appropriate hydrology and vegetation to Centennial Creek. Oak tree trimming and minor grading under the canopy may be required during project construction, but implementation of the project minimize incision in the creek which is impacting existing oak trees. No special-status plants or animals, or federal or state listed species, were found within the Biological Study Area or are anticipated to be impacted by the project. Overall, with the implementation of appropriate avoidance and minimization measures, the project would not substantially degrade the quality of the environment but will instead enhance the quality of the biological and aquatic resources within the Centennial Creek corridor.

Appendix A Title VI Policy Statement

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—CALIFORNIA STATE TRANSPORTATION AGENCY Gavin Newsom, Governor

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August 2020

NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY STATEMENT

The California Department of Transportation, under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, ensures "*No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.*"

Caltrans will make every effort to ensure nondiscrimination in all of its services, programs and activities, whether they are federally funded or not, and that services and benefits are fairly distributed to all people, regardless of race, color, or national origin. In addition, Caltrans will facilitate meaningful participation in the transportation planning process in a nondiscriminatory manner.

Related federal statutes, remedies, and state law further those protections to include sex, disability, religion, sexual orientation, and age.

For information or guidance on how to file a complaint, or obtain more information regarding Title VI, please contact the Title VI Branch Manager at (916) 324-8379 or visit the following web page: https://dot.ca.gov/programs/civil-rights/title-vi.

To obtain this information in an alternate format such as Braille or in a language other than English, please contact the California Department of Transportation, Office of Civil Rights, at 1823 14th Street, MS-79, Sacramento, CA 95811; (916) 324-8379 (TTY 711); or at <Title.VI@dot.ca.gov>.

Original signed by
Toks Omishakin
Director

"Provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability"

List of Technical Studies

- Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas, Noise, and Water Quality Assessment Memo, August 2021
- Climate Change Technical Memorandum, August 2021
- Cultural Resources Screening Memorandum, April 2021
- Natural Environment Study, August 2021
- Hazardous Waste Initial Site Assessment, March 2021
- Initial Paleontology Review Memorandum, March 2021
- Paleontological Identification Report/Paleontological Evaluation Report, July 2021
- Scenic Resource Evaluation/Visual Assessment, January 2021

To obtain a copy of one or more of these technical studies/reports or the Initial Study, please send your request to:

Jason Wilkinson, Senior Environmental Planner
Central Region Environmental, California Department of Transportation
50 Higuera Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401
Or send your request via email to: Jason.Wilkinson@dot.ca.gov
Or call: 805-540-9165

Please provide the following information in your request:

Centennial Creek Mitigation Project
EA 05-3307A