Print Form

# Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

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

SCH #: 2019039163

Project Title: SR-74 Widen Lanes, Add Shoulders & Rumble Strips Project

Lead Agency: California Department of Transportation

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Project Location: Near Lake Elsinore along SR-74 (*City*) Riverside County (*County*)

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

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to widen existing lanes to provide 12-foot standard lanes, widen outside shoulders to four feet and add 2-foot wide median and shoulder ground-in rumble strips on State Route 74 (SR-74, Ortega Highway), from the Orange County Line [Post Mile (PM) 0.0] to Monte Vista Street (PM 5.8), near Lake Elsinore in Riverside County. The total width of the pavement is proposed to be 34-feet. Widening the shoulders will require constructing retaining walls with concrete barriers, cutting the rock slopes and placement of fill slopes. In some areas, the outside shoulder will require being widened to eight feet for rock catchment.
The purpose of the project is to improve the safety performance of a portion of SR-74 from the Orange County Line (PM 0.0) to Monte Vista Street (PM 5.8) in Riverside County.The project is needed along the project limits as SR-74 is a two-lane undivided mountainous highway where sight distance, shoulder, and lane widths are nonstandard, consisting of many vertical and reverse horizontal curves. In many areas, the shoulders are unpaved and narrow ranging from zero to two feet. The proposed project will improve the performance of the road by widening the lanes to standard 12-foot widths, widening outside shoulders to four-foot wide, adding two-foot wide centerline striping and rumble strips, and adding shoulder rumble strips.

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

With mitigation measures incorporated, the project would have less than significant effects to Threatened and Endangered Species, Aesthetics, Tribal Cultural Resources, and Mandatory Findings of Significance:

AES-1: The replacement ratio for removed oaks and non-oak trees shall be 3:1. The tree species and location for replacement shall be verified by a Biologist or Landscape Architect.
AES-2: Oak trees to be removed may be mitigated through a transfer of oak mitigation efforts for Oak Woodland protection and conservation to the California Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB).
BIO-1: Materials and Spoils Control. Project materials will not be cast from the project site and project-related debris, spoils, and trash will be contained and removed to a proper disposal facility.
BIO-2: Equipment Staging. Equipment storage, fueling, and staging areas shall be located on upland sites with minimal risks of direct drainage into riparian areas or other sensitive habitats. These designated areas shall be located in such a manner as to prevent any runoff from entering sensitive habitat. Necessary precautions shall be taken to prevent the release of cement or other toxic substances into surface waters. Project-related spills of hazardous materials shall be reported to appropriate entities including but not limited to applicable jurisdictional city, USFWS, CDFW, and RWQCB and shall be cleaned up immediately, and contaminated soils shall be removed to approved disposal areas.

(SEE ATTACHED CONTINUATION PAGES)

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

N/A

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

N/A

**(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)**

BIO-3: Restoration of Vegetation. Temporarily affected areas will be restored with appropriate native vegetation, as determined by the habitat type prior to impacts and by the surrounding vegetation.

BIO-4: Vehicle Washing. It will be required in the project specifications that the contractor will wash equipment prior to entering vegetated areas and the Cleveland National Forest. The qualified biologist will coordinate with the resident engineer, National Forest Staff, and contractor in order to inspect the vehicles and equipment prior to the initiation of work to verify that they have been washed.

BIO-5: ESA Fencing. Prior to vegetation clearing or construction, highly visible barriers (such as orange construction fencing) will be installed, providing a no-work buffer around riparian and riverine communities adjacent to the project footprint and flagged as Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) to be preserved. Refer to the NES, Appendix G, sub-appendix A for locations of riparian/riverine resources. The ESAs will serve as an exclusionary buffer delineating areas where no work shall be performed. More specifically, no grading or fill activity of any type will be permitted within these ESAs. In addition, heavy equipment, including motor vehicles, will not be allowed to operate within the ESAs. All construction equipment will be operated in a manner so as to prevent accidental damage to nearby preserved areas. No structure of any kind, or incidental storage of equipment or supplies, shall be allowed within these protected zones. Silt fence barriers will be installed at the ESA boundary to prevent accidental deposition of fill material in areas where vegetation is adjacent to planned grading activities.

BIO-6: Clear and Grub Pre-Construction Surveys. Once the orange construction fencing and Arroyo toad exclusionary fencing have been installed, vegetation removal including clearing, grubbing, or trimming activities using chainsaws, string trimmers, and other mechanized or non-mechanized hand tools will be the next step of construction. Vegetation clearing and grubbing shall occur outside bird nesting season (February 15–September 1). If clearing and grubbing is required during nesting season, pre-construction nesting bird surveys will be conducted by a qualified biologist.

BIO-7: WRCMSHCP BMPs. Compliance with best management practices (BMPs), as applicable, as detailed in WRCMSHCP Volume 1, Section 7.5.3, and Appendix C.

USACE, CDFW and RWQCB. Riparian habitat will fall under the regulatory authority of the USACE, CDFW, and RWQCB. To the extent riparian areas are permanently affected by the project, compensatory mitigation for this habitat will likely be required where it is associated with jurisdictional waters that are subject to USACE regulatory authority under the Section 404 permitting requirements and CDFW under the Section 1600 permitting requirements. Mitigation ratios for permanent impacts to these resources will be determined during the regulatory agency permits processing period.

BIO-8: Biological Monitor. The biologist will monitor all construction-related activities to ensure that all conservation measure are being implemented and that there are no unanticipated impacts. These activities include, but are not limited to, blasting work, clearing and grubbing, and staging/storage of equipment.

BIO-9: Biological Resource Information Program. An education program will be developed and presented by the qualified biologist to all on-site personnel who will be in the project limits for longer than 30

minutes prior to the onset of ground-disturbing activities. At a minimum, the program will include the following topics: distribution, general behavior, and ecology of the Arroyo toad; sensitivity of the species to human activities; legal protection afforded to the species; penalties for violations of federal and state laws; notification procedures by workers or contractors if a toad is found in a construction area; and project features designed to reduce the impacts on the species and promote continued successful occupation of the project area. The program will consists of a class presented by a qualified biologist or a video, provided qualified biologist is present to answer questions. Handout materials will be distributed for workers with important information about the regulated species for future reference and as a reminder of the program's content. Following the education program, the handouts will be posted in the contractor and resident engineer office, where they will remain through the duration of the project. The contractor, resident engineer, and qualified biologist will be responsible for ensuring that employees are aware of the listed species. If additional employees are added to the project after initiation, they will receive instruction prior to working on the project.

BIO-10: Pre-Construction Surveys. The pre-construction surveys will be conducted by a USFWS-approved qualified Biologist (i.e., one with Arroyo toad surveying/handling experience) to determine their presence or absence within the construction footprint. The Biologist will walk the impact area to search for any potential breeding areas. A report documenting the pre-construction survey results and measures that will be required during construction will be provided to Caltrans and the Wildlife Agencies. The surveys and the relocation of Arroyo toads shall be conducted as directed by the relocation plan and approved by USFWS.

BIO-11: Exclusion Fence. Prior to any ground-disturbing activities, exclusionary fencing (i.e., silt fence or other suitable non-penetrable fencing) will be installed along the boundary to prevent any construction activities from encroaching into adjacent areas and to prevent Arroyo toad from moving into the construction area.

BIO-12: Fence Monitoring. Daily fence and enclosure (on-site cleared areas) inspections shall occur throughout the duration of the project by the monitor and/or project personnel trained by the monitor prior to commencing construction activities and after construction activities are completed. If during construction the fence fails, work will cease until it is repaired and the biological monitor inspects (and clears) the site for Arroyo toads.

BIO-13: Control of Work. No construction work within Arroyo toad habitat shall occur until the area is cleared of the species. No work will be allowed if any of the exclusionary devices are not installed in accordance with respective specifications.

BIO-14: Arroyo Toad in Project Area. If during construction activities an Arroyo toad is discovered within the project site, all construction activities shall stop and the biologist shall be notified. The biologist shall relocate the Arroyo toad as directed in the relocation plan.

BIO-15: Arroyo Toad Relocation Plan. A relocation plan for the Arroyo toad shall be prepared by an approved authorized USFWS-permitted Arroyo toad Biologist and submitted to USFWS for approval prior to commencing construction activities.

BIO-16: Water Diversion. A water diversion, if necessary, shall be installed once the project area is determined to be cleared of Arroyo toad. The water diversion shall ensure that the existing hydrology

values are maintained downstream and upstream from the project site. The water diversion will be approved by USFWS prior to its installation.

BIO-17: Construction Window. No blasting will occur within drainage areas during Arroyo toad breeding season (recognized as March 1 to June 30).

BIO-18: Lighting. In order to minimize and avoid the effects of lighting on wildlife, construction lighting during nighttime construction activities shall be shielded and/or directed away from adjacent habitats, as feasible.

BIO-19: Fence Removal. All fencing shall be removed as a last order of work. During removal, a biological monitor familiar with Arroyo toad and authorized to handle and relocate Arroyo toad should be present.

BIO-20: Pre-Construction Riparian Bird Surveys. If construction activities cannot be avoided between March 15 and September 1 within post miles 0.91–2.29, 2.93–3.28, and 4.88–5.39, then a pre-construction riparian bird (least Bell's vireo and southwestern willow flycatcher) survey will be conducted before the start of construction activities. The surveys will be conducted by a qualified Biologist in order to locate and avoid nesting birds. If an active avian nest is located, a 500-foot, no construction buffer will be put in place until nesting has ceased or the young have fledged. A consultation with USFWS and/or CDFW may be initiated.

BIO-21: Pre-construction Nesting Bird Survey. If construction occurs within nesting bird season (February 15–September 1), then the pre-construction surveys will be conducted by a qualified biologist to locate and avoid nesting birds. If an active avian nest is located, a 100-foot, no construction buffer (300-foot for raptors) will be put in place until nesting has ceased or the young have fledged.

BIO-22: Avoidance of Tree Trimming/Removal and Rock Outcrop Removal During Bat Maternity Season. If trimming or removal of mature trees and snags or rock outcrop is necessary for project construction, removal activities will be performed outside of the bat maternity season, recognized as April 1–August 31, to avoid direct impacts on nonvolant (flightless) young that may roost in trees within the study area, to the extent feasible, or BIO-23 will be implemented.

BIO-23: Pre-construction Survey and Monitoring by a Qualified Bat Biologist. If trimming or removal of trees/rock outcrops during the bat maternity season (April 1–August 31) cannot be avoided, a qualified Biologist will monitor tree/rock removal unless a nighttime survey is conducted within on week of removal indicate no tree-roosting or crevice-roosting bat activity within the study area.

BIO-24: USFS. The USFS requires mitigation for impacts in Riparian Conservation Area associated with San Juan Creek by control of Spanish broom outside of ARTO breeding season, in which ARTO breeding season is recognized at March 1-June 30.

CR-3: Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) and Archaeological Monitoring Areas (AMAs) exist at both site locations. ESAs are set at the limits of the ADI in proximity to CA-RIV-506, and are generally set at the existing right of way limits in proximity to CA-RIV-508/H, as shown on the APE Map, in the Appendix of the Cultural Report, and in the ESA/AMA Monitoring and Discovery Plan. ESAs are closed and may not be entered. AMAs cover the ADI and the ESA boundaries at both sites and in both travel directions.

CR-4: Archaeological monitors shall be present during any construction or preconstruction-related activity in all areas designated as Archaeological Monitoring Areas (AMA). Tribal monitoring is also

authorized. In the event that cultural deposits are uncovered, the archaeological monitor shall be empowered to implement protective measures outline above in CR-1, and as defined in Caltrans SSPs (2015), Section 14-2. Details of the monitoring plan are located in the Monitoring and Discovery Action Plan.

CR-5: The National Register-eligible Morrill Canyon Bridge (56-0169) at PM 3.08 is located within the limits of the APE established for the project. However, project plans indicate that there is no work proposed at this location, including work on the pavement and adjacent shoulder areas on either side of the structure. No impacts to this bridge are anticipated as part of the project. Periodic monitoring during construction, and plan review will take place to ensure no impacts to the bridge. However, if work results in impacts or inadvertent damage to the historic structure, plans will be developed and implemented, with the assistance of Caltrans PQS, that will allow repair of the structure following the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

TMP-1 A TMP would be prepared and will be implemented during construction of the project. Public information and awareness campaigns, motorist information strategies, and incident management strategies in the TMP would inform the public of the proposed project.

TMB-1 In accordance with USFS guidelines, trees that are cut will remain on site and be used as mulch within Caltrans right of way and within the post miles of the project limits.