

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613

For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH #

Project Title: West Branch Cherokee Creek Bridge ReplacementLead Agency: CaltransContact Person: Janet Bailey, Assoc Env PlannerMailing Address: 1976 E. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.Phone: 209/948-7680City: StocktonZip: 95205County: San Joaquin**Project Location:** County: Calaveras City/Nearest Community: CopperopolisCross Streets: SR 4 5 miles northeast of Copperopolis

Zip Code: _____

Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): _____ ° ' " N / _____ ° ' " W Total Acres: _____

Assessor's Parcel No.: _____ Section: _____ Twp.: _____ Range: _____ Base: _____

Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: State Route 4Waterways: Nassau Creek

Airports: _____

Railways: _____

Schools: _____

Document Type:

CEQA: NOP Draft EIR NEPA: NOI Other: Joint Document
 Early Cons Supplement/Subsequent EIR EA Final Document
 Neg Dec (Prior SCH No.) _____ Draft EIS Other: CE
 Mit Neg Dec Other: _____ FONSI

Local Action Type:

General Plan Update Specific Plan Rezone Annexation
 General Plan Amendment Master Plan Prezone Redevelopment
 General Plan Element Planned Unit Development Use Permit Coastal Permit
 Community Plan Site Plan Land Division (Subdivision, etc.) Other: _____

Development Type:

Residential: Units _____ Acres _____
 Office: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ Transportation: Type _____
 Commercial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ Mining: _____ Mineral _____
 Industrial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____ Power: _____ Type _____ MW _____
 Educational: _____ Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD _____
 Recreational: _____ Hazardous Waste: Type _____
 Water Facilities: Type _____ MGD _____ Other: _____

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

Aesthetic/Visual Fiscal Recreation/Parks Vegetation
 Agricultural Land Flood Plain/Flooding Schools/Universities Water Quality
 Air Quality Forest Land/Fire Hazard Septic Systems Water Supply/Groundwater
 Archeological/Historical Geologic/Seismic Sewer Capacity Wetland/Riparian
 Biological Resources Minerals Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading Growth Inducement
 Coastal Zone Noise Solid Waste Land Use
 Drainage/Absorption Population/Housing Balance Toxic/Hazardous Cumulative Effects
 Economic/Jobs Public Services/Facilities Traffic/Circulation Other: Climate Change/GHG

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

Most of the land surrounding the project area is used for livestock grazing

Project Description: (please use a separate page if necessary)

The proposed project would demolish the current West Branch Cherokee Creek bridge (Bridge #30-0036, Cherokee Bridge) and replace it with a new structure. The existing bridge is more than 80 years old, with a soffit elevation of 1,422.7 feet above mean sea level. The guardrails do not meet current Caltrans standards and, although the structure currently has 12-foot-wide lanes, there are no shoulders along this area. (see attached page)

Note: The State Clearinghouse will assign identification numbers for all new projects. If a SCH number already exists for a project (e.g. Notice of Preparation or previous draft document) please fill in.

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with and "X".
If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "S".

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Resources Board | <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Historic Preservation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boating & Waterways, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Public School Construction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California Emergency Management Agency | <input type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation, Department of |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> California Highway Patrol | <input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Regulation, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans District # _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Division of Aeronautics | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regional WQCB #5 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Resources Agency |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Central Valley Flood Protection Board | <input type="checkbox"/> Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy | <input type="checkbox"/> S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colorado River Board | <input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin River Conservancy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corrections, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> State Lands Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delta Protection Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Clean Water Grants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Rights |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fish & Game Region # <u>2</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> Tahoe Regional Planning Agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food & Agriculture, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Toxic Substances Control, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Resources, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Services, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Community Development | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Native American Heritage Commission | |

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date October 10, 2019 Ending Date -November 8, 2019

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: _____ Applicant: _____
 Address: _____ Address: _____
 City/State/Zip: _____ City/State/Zip: _____
 Contact: _____ Phone: _____
 Phone: _____

Signature of Lead Agency Representative:  _____ Date: 10/9/19

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.

Project Description (cont):

The proposed bridge design would increase the soffit elevation by 4 feet (to 1,426.7 feet above mean sea level). This would require that the bridge span (length) increase to 31 feet and that the roadway on either end be elevated to match the bridge elevation. The new structure would pass 1,800 cubic feet per second of water flow and provide 2 feet of freeboard (distance from water surface to bottom of bridge soffit), allowing water-borne debris to pass through and prevent the bridge from failing.

The bridge structure is currently capable of accommodating 800 cubic feet per second (cfs) of water flow. Most scientists and meteorologists predict increasing frequency and intensity of extreme storm events as the pace of global climate change increases, though there is uncertainty and disagreement about how much and how fast the change will occur. However, the proposed design offers a 125% increase to flow capacity under the bridge and is considered adequate to pass floodwaters resulting from a 50-year or 100-year storm under historical conditions.

The bridge replacement will include new piers and substructure, with a deck that is 44 feet wide. In addition to 12-foot-wide lanes, the new bridge will also have standard 8-foot-wide shoulders on either side of the traveled way, and new guardrails that meet current standards.

This will require the acquisition of some new right-of-way and temporary construction easements—from both the parcel to the north and the parcel to the south of the existing bridge structure—to accommodate the slopes needed to adjust for the new road elevation and for staging areas during dewatering activities.

The project would involve work in the riparian area of Nassau Creek, the intermittent stream that is spanned by the Cherokee Creek Bridge. Note that the bridge is misnamed: the body of water that is called Cherokee Creek is about a mile up the road from this bridge.

Construction of the new piers would require pile-driving in the stream bed. Before beginning construction, the stream would be dewatered. During construction, the contractor would demolish and rebuild one side of the bridge at a time, temporarily diverting traffic to the remaining side of the structure using one-way traffic control. The contractor is likely to create a temporary disposal site for the debris from bridge demolition.

Caltrans has identified a series of best management practices that are included by reference in every construction contract. The contractor for the construction of this project will be liable to use Caltrans best management practices during all work. In addition, specific avoidance measures will be used when work occurs near potential California red-legged frog and foothill yellow-legged frog habitat, including minimizing habitat disturbance to the maximum extent practicable and restoring and revegetating the project site

