

Stanislaus County
Public Works Department
Date of Notice: November 2, 2020

River Road Over San Joaquin River Bridge Replacement (aka Hills Ferry Road Bridge Replacement)

PUBLIC NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF
DRAFT INITIAL STUDY AND
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

The Stanislaus County Public Works Department, in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has prepared a draft Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration Report (IS/MND) for the River Road Over San Joaquin River Bridge Replacement (aka Hills Ferry Road Bridge Replacement) project and is inviting your comments. Comments should be focused on the sufficiency of the document in disclosing the potential environmental effects from the project and proposed mitigation measures. The draft IS/MND can be viewed on the County website at <http://www.stancounty.com/publicworks/projects.shtm> under the River Road Over San Joaquin River Bridge Replacement (aka Hills Ferry Road Bridge Replacement) link. Hard copies of the draft IS/MND are available for review at the Stanislaus County Department of Public Works front counter at 1716 Morgan Road, Modesto, CA 95358 and at the Newman Public Library at 1305 Kern Street, Newman, CA 95360. Compact disks containing the IS/MND are available upon request through the Stanislaus County Department of Public Works; general phone number at 209-525-4130.

Comments must be post marked by 5:00 pm on **December 2, 2020**, to be considered by the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors and included in the final CEQA document certification. Please send written comments to: **Denis Bazyuk, P.E.**, 1716 Morgan Road, Modesto, CA 95358-5805 or email your comments to Bazyukd@STANCOUNTY.COM with “River Road Over San Joaquin River Bridge Replacement (aka Hills Ferry Road Bridge Replacement)” in the email subject line.

Subject: Stanislaus County Department of Public Works proposes to replace existing bridge at the River Road over San Joaquin River Bridge (Br No. 39C-0001) and to construct the necessary approach roadway improvements to accommodate the bridge replacement. The project is located immediately north of the confluence of the San Joaquin and Merced rivers in southern Stanislaus and northwestern Merced counties in the southern, central part of Stanislaus County, 2.0 miles northeast of Newman. The purpose of this project is to provide long-term safe vehicular access across the San Joaquin River. This would be met by replacing the seismically and scour critical inadequate existing bridge. Additional objectives include avoiding or minimizing environmental impacts, reducing right-of-way and land use impacts, meeting average daily traffic requirements, and protecting against bank erosion.

Recommended CEQA Finding: The recommended finding is that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment with implementation of Board-approved environmental mitigation measures.

Denis Bazyuk, P.E.
Stanislaus County Public Works