

**CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS  
COMMISSION**100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100-South  
Sacramento, CA 95825-8202*Established in 1938***JENNIFER LUCCHESI**, Executive Officer**916.574.1800**TTY CA Relay Service: 711 or Phone **800.735.2922**  
from Voice Phone **800.735.2929**  
or for Spanish **800.855.3000****Contact Phone: 916.574.1900****NOTICE OF DETERMINATION  
(Public Resources Code section 21108)**File Ref: Lease 2563; A3784  
SCH#: 2020100593  
Item: 50

Title: River Road Over San Joaquin River Bridge Replacement (AKA Hills Ferry Road Bridge Replacement)

Applicant: County of Stanislaus and County of Merced

Location: Sovereign land in the San Joaquin River, near Newman, adjacent to Assessor's Parcel Numbers 049-037-002 and -003 in Stanislaus County and Assessor's Parcel Numbers 045-280-011 and -012 in Merced County.

Description: The County of Stanislaus, Department of Public Works in cooperation with the County of Merced, Department of Public Works, the California Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration is proposing to replace the River Road over San Joaquin River Bridge (aka Hills Ferry Road over the San Joaquin River) (Br No. 39C-0001) and to construct the necessary approach roadway improvements to accommodate the bridge replacement. The project involves replacing the existing Hills Ferry Road bridge slightly north of the existing alignment with a taller (5 ft taller at the peak of the bridge), 5-span structure that would accommodate 2 lanes of traffic similar to the existing bridge. The State Lands Commission action is issuance of a 20-year General Lease – Public Agency Use through April 27, 2043.

This is to advise that the California State Lands Commission, as  Lead Agency  Responsible Agency, approved the above-described project on April 7, 2023, and made the following determinations regarding the project.

- 1) The project  will  will not have a significant effect on the environment.
- 2) A  Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
- 3) Mitigation measures  were  were not made a condition of the approval of the project.
- 4) A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan  was or  was not adopted for this project.
- 5) A Statement of Overriding Considerations  was  was not adopted for the project.
- 6) Findings  were  were not made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

The lead agency for the project, Stanislaus County, adopted the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program and approved the project on July 19, 2021. The California State Lands Commission has considered the MND as prepared for this project by Stanislaus County and adopted an independent Mitigation Monitoring Program incorporating the County's document. The MND and the record of project approval may be examined at the above shown California State Lands Commission Sacramento office address.

**DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING AND POSTING BY THE  
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF PLANNING AND RESEARCH**


---

ERIC GILLIES, Assistant Chief  
Environmental Science, Planning, and Management Division

Contact Person: Cynthia Herzog (916) 574-1900