

# FINAL MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION GUADALUPE RIVER BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT



Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board

State Clearinghouse No. 2020110323

**January 2021**

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# 1 Introduction

This document is the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) prepared for the proposed Guadalupe River Bridge Replacement Project located in the City of San Jose, Santa Clara County, California. An Initial Study (IS) supporting a proposed MND was prepared for the Project in accordance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (JPB) is the CEQA lead agency for the proposed project.

Caltrain operates on two bridges over the Guadalupe River, the 1935 MT-1 bridge and 1990 MT-2 bridge, each carrying a single track. The purpose of the Project is to address the structural deficiencies of the MT-1 bridge and the geomorphic instability of the Guadalupe River channel in the vicinity of the MT-1 and MT-2 bridges to provide for long-term public safety and service reliability. The major elements of the Project include replacement of the 1935 MT-1 bridge with a new 265-foot concrete structure, extending the southern end of the MT-2 bridge by 90 feet, and widening the river channel to reduce the risk of scour and bank failure issues during storm events. Project construction will take place in a series of stages to maintain existing rail services, and is estimated to take approximately two years.

## 2 Organization of the Final MND

This Final MND contains the following sections:

<b>Section 1</b>	Introduction, including a summary of the project purpose and need
<b>Section 2</b>	Organization of the Final MND
<b>Section 3</b>	Process and Regulations
<b>Section 4</b>	Findings and Determination
<b>Attachment A</b>	Notice of Availability–Notice of Intent Newspaper Advertisements
<b>Attachment B</b>	Final Initial Study/ Mitigated Negative Declaration
<b>Attachment C</b>	Public Comments Received on the Draft Initial Study/ Mitigated Negative Declaration
<b>Attachment D</b>	Response to Public Comments
<b>Attachment E</b>	Coordination with City of San Jose regarding Guadalupe River Trail
<b>Attachment F</b>	Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

## 3 Process and Regulations

Section 15073 of the State CEQA Guidelines indicate that a lead agency shall provide a public review period for a proposed MND pursuant to Section 15105(b) of not less than 30 days when submitted to the State Clearing House. The State Clearinghouse identifies the Project with SCH # 2020110323. The Draft IS/MND for the Guadalupe River Bridge Replacement Project was circulated for public review and comment for 30 days (November 20 to December 21, 2020).

A Notice of Availability (NOA) and Notice of Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration (NOI) was submitted to the State Clearinghouse, available on the Project website (<https://bit.ly/GuadalupeRiverBridge>), and published in two local newspapers, The Mercury News and El Observador. A virtual public information meeting was held on December 10, 2020 and notice of the public meeting was included in the NOA/NOI newspaper notices, and in a post-card mailing to addresses within ¼ mile of the project area.

JPB received a total of two comment letters, one from a state agency and one from an individual. The Final IS/MND, which addresses all comments received during the November 20 to December 21, 2020 comment period, is included as Attachment B.

This Final MND has been prepared pursuant to requirements of CEQA, Public Resources Code, Section 21000 et al, and the State CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Section 15000 et al. This Final MND includes all comments received by the State Clearinghouse and JPB during the public review period (see Attachment C) and responses to substantive comments (see Attachment D). Attachment D also includes a summary of general comments received during the December 10, 2020 public information meeting.

## **4 Findings and Determination**

As lead agency for compliance with CEQA requirements, the JPB finds that the Project will not cause a significant adverse impact on the environment. This finding is based on the criteria of the Guidelines of the State Secretary for Resources, Section 15064 (Determining the Significance of Environmental Effects), Section 15065 (Mandatory Findings of Significance), and Section 15070 (Decision to Prepare a Negative or Mitigated Negative Declaration), as well as on the results of the Final IS/MND prepared for the Project, included as Attachment B. Mitigation measures and other commitments for protection of natural and human environment are included in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP- see Attachment F).

On the basis of this evaluation, the JPB concludes:

- ✓ With implementation of all mitigation measures identified in the Final IS/MND and MMRP, the Project would not 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 species, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory.
- ✓ The Project would not achieve short-term environmental goals to the disadvantage of long-term environmental goals.
- ✓ The Project would not have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable.
- ✓ The Project would not have environmental effects that would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.
- ✓ No substantial evidence exists to demonstrate that the Project would have a substantive negative effect on the environment.