

# Amador Sand House Rehabilitation

At three maintenance stations along State Route 88

10-AMA-88-PM 46.5, 54.0, 60.1

Project Number 1018000111

State Clearinghouse Number 2021060217

## Initial Study with Negative Declaration

Volume 1 of 2



Prepared by the  
State of California Department of Transportation

September 2021



## **General Information About This Document**

Document prepared by: Kayla Lopez, Associate Environmental Planner

The following text has been updated since the draft environmental document was circulated. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has prepared this Initial Study with Negative Declaration for the project in Amador County, California. Caltrans is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The document tells you why the project is being proposed, what alternatives have been considered for the project, how the existing environment could be affected by the project, the potential impacts of each of the alternatives, and the proposed avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures.

The Initial Study was circulated to the public for 30 days between June 12, 2021, to July 12, 2021. Comments received during this period are included in Appendix C. Language has been added throughout the document to indicate where a change has been made since the circulation of the draft environmental document. Minor editorial changes and clarifications have not been so indicated.

Please contact C. Scott Guidi at 209-479-1839 or by email at [Scott.Guidi@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Scott.Guidi@dot.ca.gov) if you would like a printed version or compact disc of this document or related technical studies to be sent to your home address. This document may be downloaded at the following website <https://dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-10>.

For individuals with sensory disabilities, this document can be made available in Braille, in large print, on audiocassette, or on computer disk. To obtain a copy in one of these alternate formats, please write to or call Caltrans, Attention: C. Scott Guidi, District 10 Environmental Division, 1976 East Doctor Martin Luther King Junior Boulevard, Stockton, California 95205; 209-479-1839 (Voice), or use the California Relay Service 1-800-735-2929 (Teletype to Voice), 1-800-735-2922 (Voice to Teletype), 1-800-855-3000 (Spanish Teletype to Voice and Voice to Teletype), 1-800-854-7784 (Spanish and English Speech-to-Speech), or 711.

State Clearinghouse Number 2021060217  
10-AMA-88-PM 46.5, 54.0, 60.1  
Project Number 1018000111

Rehabilitate sand houses at three locations along State Route 88 in Amador  
County

**INITIAL STUDY  
with Negative Declaration**

Submitted Pursuant to: (State) Division 13, California Public Resources Code

THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
Department of Transportation

*James Henke*

---

James P. Henke  
Office Chief, District 10 Environmental  
California Department of Transportation  
CEQA Lead Agency

**10/13/2021**

---

Date

The following individual can be contacted for more information about this document:

C. Scott Guidi, Senior Environmental Planner; 1976 East Doctor Martin Luther King Junior  
Boulevard, Stockton, California 95205; 209-479-1839





## Negative Declaration

Pursuant to: Division 13, Public Resources Code

**State Clearinghouse Number:** 2021060217

**District-County-Route-Post Mile:** 10-AMA-88-PM 46.5, 54.0, 60.1

**EA/Project Number:** EA 10-1J310 and Project Number 1018000111

### Project Description

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to rehabilitate sand houses (storage structures for sand and salt used by maintenance crews on winter roadways) at three locations on State Route 88 in Amador County. Project work will rehabilitate the deteriorated walls, supporting structures, and roofing of the structures.

### Determination

An Initial Study has been prepared by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), District 10.

The following sentence was updated after the draft environmental document was circulated. On the basis of this study, it is determined that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the environment for the following reasons:

The project will have no effect on aesthetics, agriculture and forest resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology and soils, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation, tribal cultural resources, utilities and service systems, and wildfire.

The project will have a less than significant effect on greenhouse gas emissions and hazards and hazardous materials.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'James Henke'.

---

James P. Henke  
Office Chief, District 10 Environmental  
California Department of  
Transportation

10/13/2021

---

Date



# Table of Contents

Negative Declaration .....	iii
<b>Chapter 1</b> Proposed Project .....	1
1.1 Introduction .....	1
1.2 Purpose and Need .....	3
1.2.1 Purpose .....	3
1.2.2 Need .....	3
1.3 Project Description .....	3
1.4 Project Alternatives .....	4
1.4.1 Build Alternative .....	4
1.4.2 No-Build (No-Action) Alternative .....	4
1.5 Identification of a Preferred Alternative .....	4
1.6 Standard Measures and Best Management Practices Included in All Alternatives .....	4
1.7 Discussion of the NEPA Categorical Exclusion .....	6
1.8 Permits and Approvals Needed .....	6
<b>Chapter 2</b> CEQA Evaluation .....	7
2.1 CEQA Environmental Checklist .....	7
2.1.1 Aesthetics .....	7
2.1.2 Agriculture and Forest Resources .....	8
2.1.3 Air Quality .....	9
2.1.4 Biological Resources .....	9
2.1.5 Cultural Resources .....	10
2.1.6 Energy .....	11
2.1.7 Geology and Soils .....	11
2.1.8 Greenhouse Gas Emissions .....	12
2.1.9 Hazards and Hazardous Materials .....	13
2.1.10 Hydrology and Water Quality .....	16
2.1.11 Land Use and Planning .....	17
2.1.12 Mineral Resources .....	17
2.1.13 Noise .....	17
2.1.14 Population and Housing .....	18
2.1.15 Public Services .....	18
2.1.16 Recreation .....	19
2.1.17 Transportation .....	19
2.1.18 Tribal Cultural Resources .....	20
2.1.19 Utilities and Service Systems .....	20
2.1.20 Wildfire .....	21
2.1.21 Mandatory Findings of Significance .....	22
<b>Appendix A</b> Title VI Policy Statement .....	25
<b>Appendix B</b> Comment Letters and Responses .....	27





# Chapter 1 Proposed Project

---

## 1.1 Introduction

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (known as CEQA). The U.S. Forest Service is the lead agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (known as NEPA). This project is funded under Caltrans' Minor A program and has a federal nexus.

The project proposes to rehabilitate three Caltrans sand house structures in forested rural areas along State Route 88 in Amador County. See Figures 1-1 and 1-2 for project vicinity and location maps. The three sand house structures, which store sand and salt used by maintenance crews, are older buildings that are deteriorating with age; each is similarly constructed with concrete walls and metal siding. Project work includes rehabilitating the deteriorated walls, supporting structures, and roofing for the following sand houses:

- Mud Springs Sand House at post mile 46.5.
- Peddler Hill Sand House at post mile 54.0.
- Milt's Place Sand House at post mile 60.1.

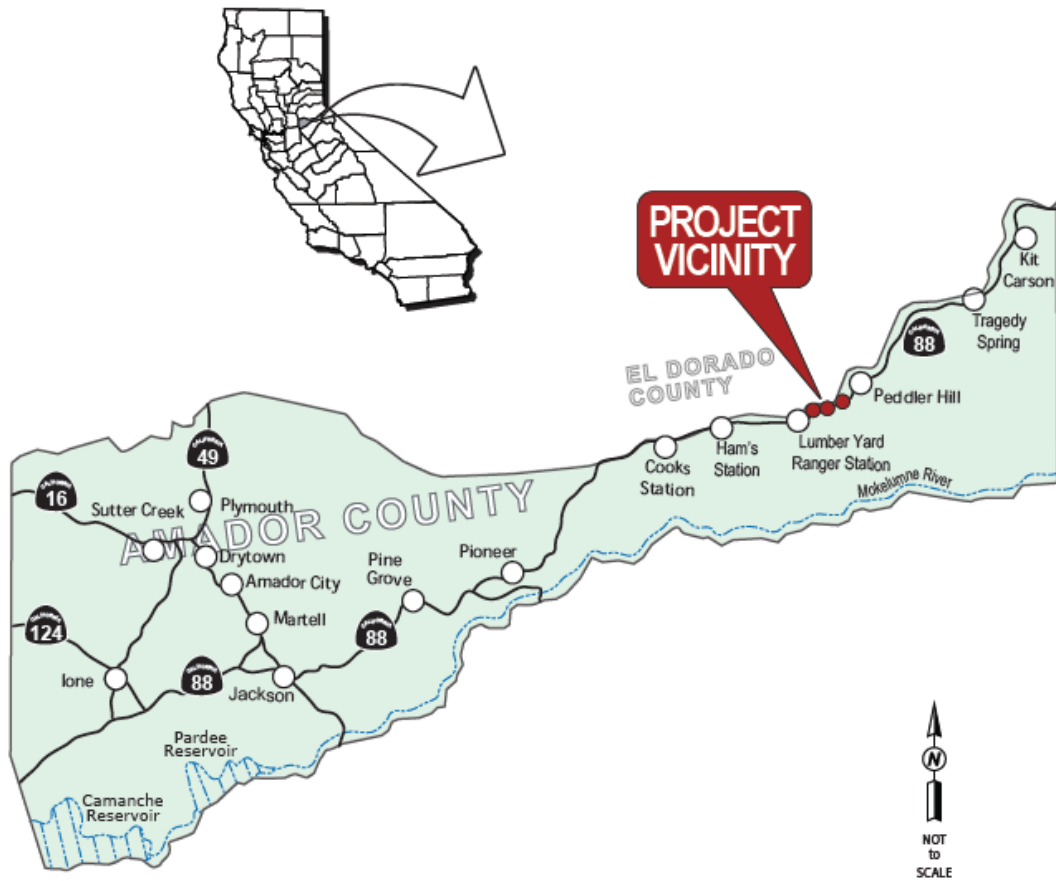
The Mud Springs and Milt's Place Sand Houses are stand-alone structures, while the Peddler Hill Sand House is located within the Peddler Hill Maintenance Station, which operates with 12 existing buildings, including crew, storage, equipment, and generator buildings, and a fuel canopy.

During the winter season, salt and sand are stored in bulk inside the sand houses. The sand house structures are fully enclosed except for a single main opening used by maintenance crews to load and unload salt and sand to and from trucks for winter maintenance operations. The salt and sand are spread on the road's surface to keep motorists safe from icy or snowy road conditions.

The sand houses listed above have been exposed to harsh winter elements, resulting in the deterioration of the structures. Their concrete walls show extensive damage and exposed reinforcement bars. The supporting structures, interior paint, and roofing have also deteriorated.

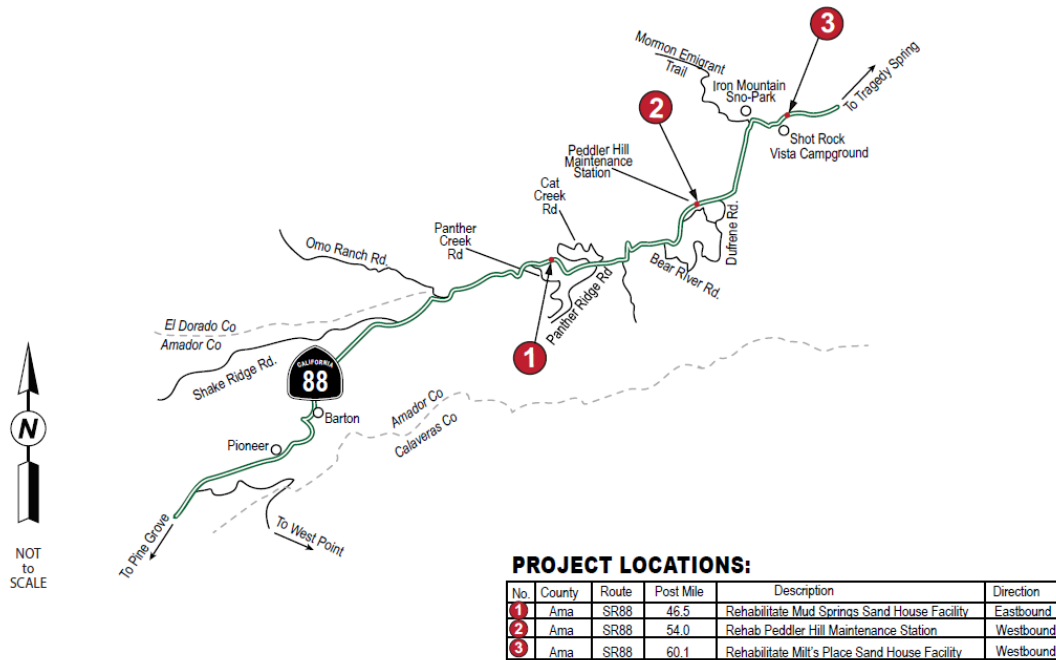
The project vicinity map below was updated after the draft environmental document was circulated.

Figure 1-1 Project Vicinity Map



The project location map below was updated after the draft environmental document was circulated.

**Figure 1-2 Project Location Map**



## 1.2 Purpose and Need

### 1.2.1 Purpose

The purpose of this project is to rehabilitate sand house structures to improve the service life of the buildings and provide secured storage structures.

### 1.2.2 Need

The project is needed to restore the integrity of the sand house structures and to meet current building code standards.

## 1.3 Project Description

Caltrans proposes to rehabilitate sand houses at three locations on State Route 88 in Amador County. Project work includes rehabilitating the deteriorated walls and supporting structures and fixing the roofing. Under consideration are one build alternative and a no-build (no-action) alternative. If no action is taken and the project is not built, the sand houses will remain in their current deteriorating condition.

## **1.4 Project Alternatives**

This section describes the project alternatives developed to meet the purpose and need of the project while avoiding or minimizing environmental impacts. Under consideration for the project are a build alternative and a no-build alternative.

### **1.4.1 Build Alternative**

The build alternative will rehabilitate three sand houses: Mud Springs, Peddler Hill, and Milt's Place. Project work includes rehabilitating the deteriorated walls, supporting structures, and roofing.

This project contains a number of standardized project measures that are used on most, if not all, Caltrans projects and were not developed in response to any specific environmental impact resulting from the project. These measures are listed later in this chapter under "Standard Measures and Best Management Practices Included in All Alternatives."

### **1.4.2 No-Build (No-Action) Alternative**

Under the no-build alternative, the three existing sand house structures will remain as they are and will continue to deteriorate.

## **1.5 Identification of a Preferred Alternative**

The following text has been added since the draft environmental document was circulated. The draft environmental document was circulated for public review and comment. All comments have been considered, and Caltrans has identified the build alternative as the preferred alternative. The no-build alternative was not chosen because it does not meet the purpose and need of the project.

## **1.6 Standard Measures and Best Management Practices Included in All Alternatives**

**AQ 1**—Caltrans Standard Specifications Section 14-9.02, Air Pollution Control.

**AQ 2**—Caltrans Standard Specifications Section 10-5, Dust Control.

**BIO 1**—Caltrans Standard Special Provisions Section 14-6.03B, Bird Protection.

**BIO 2**—A preconstruction survey for migratory birds and raptors will be required no more than 14 days before construction if construction activities occur within the migratory nesting season (February 1 to September 30). If migratory birds or raptors are seen nesting next to any work during construction activities, environmentally sensitive area buffers will be required. This will be determined by a qualified biologist.

**GHG 1**—Limit idling to five minutes for delivery and dump trucks and other diesel-powered equipment.

**GHG 2**—Schedule truck trips outside of peak morning and evening commute hours.

**GHG 3**—Maintain equipment in proper tune and working condition.

**GHG 4**—Right-size equipment for the job.

**GHG 5**—Use equipment with new technologies where feasible.

**HW 1**—Caltrans Standard Special Provisions pertaining to Earth Material Containing Lead, Section 7-1.02K(6)(j)(iii), shall be added to the construction contract. The following sentence was updated after the draft environmental document was circulated. A lead compliance plan is required prior to building rehabilitation.

**HW 2**—A survey for asbestos-containing material is required before building rehabilitation.

**HW 3**—A project-specific lead-based paint survey will be required before any rehabilitation activities.

**NQ 1**—Caltrans Standard Special Provisions Section 14-8.02, Noise Control.

**NQ 2**—All equipment will have sound-control devices that are no less effective than those provided on the original equipment. No equipment will have an unmuffled exhaust.

**NQ 3**—Use construction methods and equipment that will provide the lowest level of noise and ground vibration impact, such as alternative low-pile installation methods.

**NQ 4**—Turn off idling equipment when not in use.

**WQ 1**—Caltrans Standard Specifications Section 13-1, Water Pollution Control, will be added to the construction contract. The contractor must abide by Best Management Practices and address all potential water quality impacts that may occur during construction.

## **1.7 Discussion of the NEPA Categorical Exclusion**

This document contains information regarding compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and other state laws and regulations. Separate environmental documentation supporting a Categorical Exclusion determination has been prepared by Caltrans and reviewed by the U.S. Forest Service (the NEPA lead agency) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. When needed for clarity, or as required by CEQA, this document may contain references to federal laws and/or regulations (CEQA, for example, requires consideration of adverse effects on species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species by the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service—in other words, species protected by the Federal Endangered Species Act).

## **1.8 Permits and Approvals Needed**

No permits are required for the project.

# Chapter 2 CEQA Evaluation

---

## 2.1 CEQA Environmental Checklist

This checklist identifies physical, biological, social, and economic factors that might be affected by the project. Potential impact determinations include Potentially Significant Impact, Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated, Less Than Significant Impact, and No Impact. In many cases, background studies performed in connection with a project will indicate that there are no impacts to a particular resource. A No Impact answer reflects this determination. The questions in this checklist are intended to encourage the thoughtful assessment of impacts and do not represent thresholds of significance.

Project features, which can include both design elements of the project and standardized measures that are applied to all or most Caltrans projects such as Best Management Practices (BMPs) and measures included in the Standard Plans and Specifications or as Standard Special Provisions, are considered to be an integral part of the project and have been considered prior to any significance determinations documented below.

“No Impact” determinations in each section are based on the scope, description, and location of the project as well as the appropriate technical report (bound separately in Volume 2), and no further discussion is included in this document.

### 2.1.1 Aesthetics

Considering the information included in the Scenic Resource Evaluation dated August 20, 2019, the following significance determinations have been made:

Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099:

<b>Question—Will the project:</b>	<b>CEQA Significance Determinations for Aesthetics</b>
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<b>No Impact</b>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<b>No Impact</b>

Question—Will the project:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Aesthetics
c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from a publicly accessible vantage point.) If the project is in an urbanized area, will the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	<b>No Impact</b>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which will adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<b>No Impact</b>

### 2.1.2 Agriculture and Forest Resources

In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state’s inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment Project; and the forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board.

Considering the information included in the Amador County General Plan and Caltrans’ Geographic Information System Library, and that the project will take place entirely within the footprint of three existing Caltrans maintenance structures, the following significance determinations have been made:

Question—Will the project:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Agriculture and Forest Resources
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<b>No Impact</b>
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<b>No Impact</b>



Question—Will the project:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Agriculture and Forest Resources
c) Conflict with existing zoning, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))?	<b>No Impact</b>
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<b>No Impact</b>
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<b>No Impact</b>

### 2.1.3 Air Quality

Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations.

Considering the information included in the Air Quality Memorandum dated April 8, 2019, the following significance determinations have been made:

Question—Will the project:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Air Quality
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<b>No Impact</b>
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	<b>No Impact</b>
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<b>No Impact</b>
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	<b>No Impact</b>

### 2.1.4 Biological Resources

Considering the information included in the No Effects Memorandum dated May 21, 2019, the following significance determinations have been made:

Question—Will the project:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Biological Resources
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries?	<b>No Impact</b>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<b>No Impact</b>
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<b>No Impact</b>
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<b>No Impact</b>
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<b>No Impact</b>
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<b>No Impact</b>

### 2.1.5 Cultural Resources

Considering the information included in the Screened Undertaking Memorandum dated July 30, 2019, the following significance determinations have been made:

Question—Will the project:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Cultural Resources
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?	<b>No Impact</b>

Question—Will the project:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Cultural Resources
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?	<b>No Impact</b>
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	<b>No Impact</b>

### 2.1.6 Energy

Considering the project’s scope and expected duration of the project, the following significance determinations have been made:

Question—Will the project:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Energy
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources during project construction or operation?	<b>No Impact</b>
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	<b>No Impact</b>

### 2.1.7 Geology and Soils

Considering the information in the California Department of Conservation’s Regulatory Map Portal, the following significance determinations have been made:

Question—Will the project:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Geology and Soils
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.</li> </ul>	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?</li> </ul>	<b>No Impact</b>

Question—Will the project:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Geology and Soils
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:  iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<b>No Impact</b>
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:  iv) Landslides?	<b>No Impact</b>
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<b>No Impact</b>
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that will become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in onsite or offsite landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	<b>No Impact</b>
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	<b>No Impact</b>
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	<b>No Impact</b>
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<b>No Impact</b>

### 2.1.8 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Considering the information included in the Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Memorandum dated February 20, 2020, the following significance determinations have been made:

Question—Will the project:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Greenhouse Gas Emissions
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>

Question—Will the project:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Greenhouse Gas Emissions
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>

***Affected Environment***

The three project locations are in a rural forested area of Amador County, and all work will be conducted on existing Caltrans maintenance structures. The Amador County General Plan Conservation Element addresses climate change and greenhouse gases in the project area.

***Environmental Consequences***

The project will not increase operational emissions. Temporary carbon dioxide emissions generated from construction equipment were estimated using the Caltrans Construction Emissions Tool. The estimated carbon dioxide emissions for the project will be 14 tons within a time period of about 65 working days.

***Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures***

The following minimization measures will be implemented to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and potential climate change impacts from the project.

**GHG 1**—Limit idling to five minutes for delivery and dump trucks and other diesel-powered equipment.

**GHG 2**—Schedule truck trips outside of peak morning and evening commute hours.

**GHG 3**—Maintain equipment in proper tune and working condition.

**GHG 4**—Right-size equipment for the job.

**GHG 5**—Use equipment with new technologies where feasible.

**2.1.9 Hazards and Hazardous Materials**

Considering the information included in the Initial Site Assessment dated September 5, 2019, and Preliminary Site Investigation Report dated December 9, 2019, the following significance determinations have been made:

<b>Question—Will the project:</b>	<b>CEQA Significance Determinations for Hazards and Hazardous Materials</b>
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<b>No Impact</b>
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<b>No Impact</b>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within 0.25 mile of an existing or proposed school?	<b>No Impact</b>
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, will it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport, will the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	<b>No Impact</b>
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<b>No Impact</b>
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	<b>No Impact</b>

### ***Affected Environment***

An Initial Site Assessment was completed for the project on September 5, 2019. Staff reviewed departmental records, the State Water Resources Control Board's GeoTracker database, and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control's Cortese List and EnviroStor database. A Preliminary Site Investigation was also completed to examine asbestos-containing materials and lead-based paint.

The project proposes to rehabilitate three existing Caltrans sand house structures in forested rural areas of Amador County. The structures are older buildings, each similarly constructed with concrete walls and metal siding. The Mud Springs and Milt's Place Sand Houses are stand-alone structures;

the Peddler Hill Sand House sits within the Peddler Hill Maintenance Station, which operates with 12 existing buildings, including crew, storage, equipment, and generator buildings, and a fuel canopy.

Peddler Hill Maintenance Station is listed as an open site on the State Water Resources Control Board's GeoTracker database, which has been compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5(a).

### ***Environmental Consequences***

#### ***Cortese List: Section 65962.5(a)***

There is one open remediation case at the Peddler Hill Maintenance Station due to an unauthorized release of diesel fuel. Extensive soil sampling has been conducted at the site, and the contamination plume has been delineated. The footprint of this project is about 200 feet from the contaminated soil area. The scope of work for this project involves rehabilitating the sand house structure and will not require excavation; therefore, the potential to encounter contaminated soil is considered minimal and will not otherwise create a significant hazard to the public or the environment. However, because Peddler Hill Maintenance Station is a Cortese List site, there will be a less than significant impact on hazardous materials.

#### ***Aerially Deposited Lead***

Through construction work or staging, there is a potential to incidentally encounter nonhazardous concentrations of aerially deposited lead while working in unpaved areas within the project limits.

#### ***Asbestos-Containing Material and Lead-Based Paint***

The project proposes to rehabilitate deteriorated walls, supporting structures, and roofing. Asbestos-containing materials are known to occur in older buildings. Based on the Preliminary Site Investigation, asbestos was detected in the Mud Springs and Milt's Place Sand Houses. Also, lead-based paint was detected at all three sand house locations. Work at the Mud Springs Sand House will include the removal of paint and repainting the inside of the structure.

### ***Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures***

The following minimization measures will be incorporated into the project:

**HW 1**—Caltrans Standard Special Provisions pertaining to Earth Material Containing Lead, Section 7-1.02K(6)(j)(iii), shall be added to the construction contract. The following sentence was updated after the draft environmental document was circulated. A lead compliance plan is required prior to building rehabilitation.

**HW 2**—A survey for asbestos-containing material is required before building rehabilitation.

**HW 3**—A project-specific lead-based paint survey will be required before any rehabilitation activities.

### 2.1.10 Hydrology and Water Quality

Considering the information included in the Water Compliance Memorandum dated March 15, 2019, the following significance determinations have been made:

<b>Question—Will the project:</b>	<b>CEQA Significance Determinations for Hydrology and Water Quality</b>
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface water or groundwater quality?	<b>No Impact</b>
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	<b>No Impact</b>
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which will:  (i) result in substantial erosion or siltation onsite or offsite;	<b>No Impact</b>
(ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which will result in flooding onsite or offsite;	<b>No Impact</b>
(iii) create or contribute runoff water which will exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	<b>No Impact</b>
(iv) impede or redirect flood flows?	<b>No Impact</b>
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	<b>No Impact</b>



Question—Will the project:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Hydrology and Water Quality
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	<b>No Impact</b>

### 2.1.11 Land Use and Planning

Considering the information included in the Amador County General Plan, the following significance determinations have been made:

Question—Will the project:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Land Use and Planning
a) Physically divide an established community?	<b>No Impact</b>
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<b>No Impact</b>

### 2.1.12 Mineral Resources

Considering the information included in the Amador County General Plan and that the project takes place within three existing maintenance structures, the following significance determinations have been made:

Question—Will the project:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Mineral Resources
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that will be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<b>No Impact</b>
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	<b>No Impact</b>

### 2.1.13 Noise

Considering the information included in the Noise Compliance Memorandum dated March 13, 2019, the following significance determinations have been made:

Question—Will the project result in:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Noise
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	No Impact
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	No Impact
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport, will the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	No Impact

### 2.1.14 Population and Housing

Considering that the project takes place within three existing maintenance structures, the following significance determinations have been made:

Question—Will the project:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Population and Housing
a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	No Impact
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	No Impact

### 2.1.15 Public Services

Considering that the project takes place within three existing maintenance structures, the following significance determinations have been made:

<b>Question:</b>	<b>CEQA Significance Determinations for Public Services</b>
a) Will the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:  Fire protection?	<b>No Impact</b>
Police protection?	<b>No Impact</b>
Schools?	<b>No Impact</b>
Parks?	<b>No Impact</b>
Other public facilities?	<b>No Impact</b>

### 2.1.16 Recreation

Considering that the project takes place within three existing maintenance structures, the following significance determinations have been made:

<b>Question—Will the project:</b>	<b>CEQA Significance Determinations for Recreation</b>
a) Will the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility will occur or be accelerated?	<b>No Impact</b>
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<b>No Impact</b>

### 2.1.17 Transportation

Considering the information in the Amador County General Plan and that the project takes place within three existing maintenance structures, the following significance determinations have been made:

Question—Will the project:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Transportation
a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	No Impact
b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	No Impact
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	No Impact
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	No Impact

### 2.1.18 Tribal Cultural Resources

Considering the information included in the Screened Undertaking Memorandum dated July 30, 2019, the following significance determinations have been made:

Will the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:

Question:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Tribal Cultural Resources
a) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(k), or	No Impact
b) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	No Impact

### 2.1.19 Utilities and Service Systems

Considering that the project takes place within three existing maintenance structures, the following significance determinations have been made:

Question—Will the project:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Utilities and Service Systems
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<b>No Impact</b>
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	<b>No Impact</b>
c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<b>No Impact</b>
d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	<b>No Impact</b>
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<b>No Impact</b>

### 2.1.20 Wildfire

Considering the information in the California Fire Hazard Zone and Severity Map and given the project takes place within three existing maintenance structures, the following significance determinations have been made:

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones:

Question—Will the project:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Wildfire
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<b>No Impact</b>
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	<b>No Impact</b>

Question—Will the project:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Wildfire
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	<b>No Impact</b>
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	<b>No Impact</b>

### 2.1.21 Mandatory Findings of Significance

Question:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Mandatory Findings of Significance
a) Does the project have the potential to substantially 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 plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<b>No Impact</b>
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	<b>No Impact</b>
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<b>Less Than Significant Impact</b>

The following sections were added after the draft environmental document was circulated.

#### ***Affected Environment***

The project proposes to rehabilitate three existing Caltrans sand house structures in forested rural areas of Amador County. The structures are older buildings, each similarly built with concrete walls and metal siding.

The Mud Springs and Milt's Place Sand Houses are stand-alone structures and are mainly used as storage facilities. The Peddler Hill Sand House sits within the Peddler Hill Maintenance Station and is one of 12 existing buildings, including buildings used for crew, storage, and equipment, generator buildings, and a fuel canopy.

***Environmental Consequences***

As discussed in Section 2.1.9, there is an open remediation case at the Peddler Hill Maintenance Station due to an unauthorized release of diesel fuel. The scope of work for this project involves rehabilitating the sand house structure and will not require excavation; therefore, the potential to encounter contaminated soil is considered minimal and will not otherwise create a significant hazard to human beings or the environment.

Additionally, as discussed in Section 2.1.8, temporary carbon dioxide emissions are expected to be generated from construction.

***Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures***

Project impacts would be minimized through the implementation of Caltrans' best management practices, standard specifications, and standard special provisions. With the implementation of these avoidance and minimization measures, the project will have a less than significant impact on the environment and human beings





# Appendix A Title VI Policy Statement

---

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
P.O. BOX 942873, MS-49  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94273-0001  
PHONE (916) 654-6130  
FAX (916) 653-5776  
TTY 711  
[www.dot.ca.gov](http://www.dot.ca.gov)



Making Conservation  
a California Way of Life.

August 2020

### NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY STATEMENT

The California Department of Transportation, under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, ensures *"No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance."*

Caltrans will make every effort to ensure nondiscrimination in all of its services, programs and activities, whether they are federally funded or not, and that services and benefits are fairly distributed to all people, regardless of race, color, or national origin. In addition, Caltrans will facilitate meaningful participation in the transportation planning process in a nondiscriminatory manner.

Related federal statutes, remedies, and state law further those protections to include sex, disability, religion, sexual orientation, and age.

For information or guidance on how to file a complaint, or obtain more information regarding Title VI, please contact the Title VI Branch Manager at (916) 324-8379 or visit the following web page:  
<https://dot.ca.gov/programs/civil-rights/title-vi>.

To obtain this information in an alternate format such as Braille or in a language other than English, please contact the California Department of Transportation, Office of Civil Rights, at 1823 14<sup>th</sup> Street, MS-79, Sacramento, CA 95811; (916) 324-8379 (TTY 711); or at [Title.VI@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Title.VI@dot.ca.gov).

*Original signed by*  
Toks Omishakin  
Director

*"Provide a safe, sustainable, integrated and efficient transportation system to enhance California's economy and livability"*



## **Appendix B** Comment Letters and Responses

---

The following text has been added since the draft environmental document was circulated. This appendix contains the comments received during the public circulation and comment period from June 12, 2021, to July 12, 2021, retyped for readability. A Caltrans response follows each comment presented. Copies of the original comment letters and documents can be found in Volume 2 of this document.

(Note: The comment letters are stated verbatim, with acronyms, abbreviations, and any original grammatical or typographical errors.)

## Comment from State Clearinghouse

### Comment 1:

**From:** Mikayla Vaba mikayla.vaba@opr.ca.gov

**Sent:** Tuesday, July 13, 2021 2:46 PM

**To:** Ellison-Swabey, Sierra@DOT Sierra.Ellison-Swabey@dot.ca.gov

**Subject:** SCH Number 2021060217

The State Clearinghouse (SCH) received comments on “Amador Sand House Rehabilitation” from a state agency after the review period. To view comments on your project, please visit:

<https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/Search/Advanced>

- Filter for the SCH# of your project OR your “Lead Agency”
- If filtering by “Lead Agency”
- Select the correct project
- Only State Agency comments will be available in the “attachments” section: bold and highlighted

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) does not require Lead Agencies to respond to late comments. However, we encourage you to incorporate these additional comments into your final environmental document and to consider them prior to taking final action on the proposed project.

Should you have any questions or concerns regarding the environmental review process, please contact the SCH at (916) 445-0613 or [state.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov](mailto:state.clearinghouse@opr.ca.gov). If your question is regarding the above-named project, please reference the ten-digit SCH number when contacting this office.

**Response to comment 1:** Thank you for reaching out to our office. We have checked the CEQAnet website: <https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/Search/Advanced> on July 13, 2021 and found only one comment letter from the Regional Water Quality Control Board, dated July 12, 2021, and received by the State Clearinghouse on July 13, 2021. While the date on the State Clearinghouse website indicates the letter was received outside the comment period, a copy of the comment letter was received by C. Scott Guidi directly on July 12, 2021. As such, the comment was not considered late, and responses to the Regional Water Quality Control Board are below.

## Comment from Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

### Comment 1:

12 July 2021

C. Scott Guidi  
California Department of Transportation  
District 10  
1976 East Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard  
Stockton, CA 95205

### **COMMENTS TO REQUEST FOR REVIEW FOR THE NEGATIVE DECLARATION, AMADOR SAND HOUSE REHABILITATION PROJECT, SCH#2021060217, AMADOR COUNTY**

Pursuant to the State Clearinghouse's 9 June 2021 request, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) has reviewed the *Request for Review for the Negative Declaration* for the Amador Sand House Rehabilitation Project, located in Amador County.

Our agency is delegated with the responsibility of protecting the quality of surface and groundwaters of the state; therefore our comments will address concerns surrounding those issues.

#### **I. Regulatory Setting**

##### **Basin Plan**

The Central Valley Water Board is required to formulate and adopt Basin Plans for all areas within the Central Valley region under Section 13240 of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. Each Basin Plan must contain water quality objectives to ensure the reasonable protection of beneficial uses, as well as a program of implementation for achieving water quality objectives with the Basin Plans. Federal regulations require each state to adopt water quality standards to protect the public health or welfare, enhance the quality of water and serve the purposes of the Clean Water Act. In California, the beneficial uses, water quality objectives, and the Antidegradation Policy are the State's water quality standards. Water quality standards are also contained in the National Toxics Rule, 40 CFR Section 131.36, and the California Toxics Rule, 40 CFR Section 131.38.

The Basin Plan is subject to modification as necessary, considering applicable laws, policies, technologies, water quality conditions and priorities. The original Basin Plans were adopted in 1975, and have been updated and revised periodically as required, using Basin Plan amendments. Once the Central Valley Water Board has adopted a Basin Plan amendment in noticed public hearings, it must be approved by the State Water Resources Control

Board (State Water Board), Office of Administrative Law (OAL) and in some cases, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Basin Plan amendments only become effective after they have been approved by the OAL and in some cases, the USEPA. Every three (3) years, a review of the Basin Plan is completed that assesses the appropriateness of existing standards and evaluates and prioritizes Basin Planning issues. For more information on the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins*, please visit our website:  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/basin\\_plans/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/basin_plans/)

### **Antidegradation Considerations**

All wastewater discharges must comply with the Antidegradation Policy (State Water Board Resolution 68-16) and the Antidegradation Implementation Policy contained in the Basin Plan. The Antidegradation Implementation Policy is available on page 74 at:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/basin\\_plans/sacsjr\\_201805.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/basin_plans/sacsjr_201805.pdf)

In part it states:

*Any discharge of waste to high quality waters must apply best practicable treatment or control not only to prevent a condition of pollution or nuisance from occurring, but also to maintain the highest water quality possible consistent with the maximum benefit to the people of the State.*

*This information must be presented as an analysis of the impacts and potential impacts of the discharge on water quality, as measured by background concentrations and applicable water quality objectives.*

The antidegradation analysis is a mandatory element in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System and land discharge Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) permitting processes. The environmental review document should evaluate potential impacts to both surface and groundwater quality.

## **II. Permitting Requirements**

### **Construction Storm Water General Permit**

Dischargers whose project disturb one or more acres of soil or where projects disturb less than one acre but are part of a larger common plan of development that in total disturbs one or more acres, are required to obtain coverage under the General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities (Construction General Permit), Construction General Permit Order No. 2009-0009-DWQ. Construction activity subject to this permit includes clearing, grading, grubbing, disturbances to the ground, such as stockpiling, or excavation, but

does not include regular maintenance activities performed to restore the original line, grade, or capacity of the facility. The Construction General Permit requires the development and implementation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). For more information on the Construction General Permit, visit the State Water Resources Control Board website at:  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/stormwater/constpermits.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/constpermits.shtml)

### **Industrial Storm Water General Permit**

Storm water discharges associated with industrial sites must comply with the regulations contained in the Industrial Storm Water General Permit Order No. 2014-0057-DWQ. For more information on the Industrial Storm Water General Permit, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/storm\\_water/industrial\\_general\\_permits/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/storm_water/industrial_general_permits/index.shtml)

### **Dewatering Permit**

If the proposed project includes construction or groundwater dewatering to be discharged to land, the proponent may apply for coverage under State Water Board General Water Quality Order (Low Threat General Order) 2003-0003 or the Central Valley Water Board's Waiver of Report of Waste Discharge and Waste Discharge Requirements (Low Threat Waiver) R5-2018-0085. Small temporary construction dewatering projects are projects that discharge groundwater to land from excavation activities or dewatering of underground utility vaults. Dischargers seeking coverage under the General Order or Waiver must file a Notice of Intent with the Central Valley Water Board prior to beginning discharge.

For more information regarding the Low Threat General Order and the application process, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:  
[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/water\\_quality/2003/wqo/wqo2003-0003.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2003/wqo/wqo2003-0003.pdf)

For more information regarding the Low Threat Waiver and the application process, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:  
[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/waivers/r5-2018-0085.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/waivers/r5-2018-0085.pdf)

### **Limited Threat General NPDES Permit**

If the proposed project includes construction dewatering and it is necessary to discharge the groundwater to waters of the United States, the proposed project will require coverage under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Dewatering discharges are typically considered a low or limited threat to water quality and may be covered under the General

Order for *Limited Threat Discharges to Surface Water* (Limited Threat General Order). A complete Notice of Intent must be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board to obtain coverage under the Limited Threat General Order. For more information regarding the Limited Threat General Order and the application process, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at: [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/general\\_orders/r5-2016-0076-01.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/general_orders/r5-2016-0076-01.pdf)

If you have questions regarding these comments, please contact me at (916) 464-4856 or [Nicholas.White@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Nicholas.White@waterboards.ca.gov).

Signed Nicholas White

Nicholas White

Water Resource Control Engineer

Cc: State Clearinghouse unit, Governor's Office of Planning and Research, Sacramento

**Comment 1:**

Basin Plan

The Central Valley Water Board is required to formulate and adopt Basin Plans for all areas within the Central Valley region under Section 13240 of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. Each Basin Plan must contain water quality objectives to ensure the reasonable protection of beneficial uses, as well as a program of implementation for achieving water quality objectives with the Basin Plans. Federal regulations require each state to adopt water quality standards to protect the public health or welfare, enhance the quality of water and serve the purposes of the Clean Water Act. In California, the beneficial uses, water quality objectives, and the Antidegradation Policy are the State's water quality standards. Water quality standards are also contained in the National Toxics Rule, 40 CFR Section 131.36, and the California Toxics Rule, 40 CFR Section 131.38.

The Basin Plan is subject to modification as necessary, considering applicable laws, policies, technologies, water quality conditions and priorities. The original Basin Plans were adopted in 1975, and have been updated and revised periodically as required, using Basin Plan amendments. Once the Central Valley Water Board has adopted a Basin Plan amendment in noticed public hearings, it must be approved by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), Office of Administrative Law (OAL) and in some cases, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Basin Plan amendments only become effective after they have been approved by the OAL and in some cases, the USEPA. Every three (3) years, a review of the Basin Plan is completed that assesses the appropriateness of existing standards and evaluates and prioritizes Basin Planning issues. For more



information on the Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins, please visit our website:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/basin\\_plans/](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/basin_plans/)

**Response to comment 1:** As described in the Water Quality Memorandum prepared on March 15, 2019, the project applicant would prepare and implement a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan, as required by the State Water Resources Control Board's Construction General Permit. Therefore, the construction and operation of the project would protect beneficial uses designated in the Central Valley Basin Plan.

**Comment 2:**

Antidegradation Considerations

All wastewater discharges must comply with the Antidegradation Policy (State Water Board Resolution 68-16) and the Antidegradation Implementation Policy contained in the Basin Plan. The Antidegradation Implementation Policy is available on page 74 at:

[https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/basin\\_plans/sacsjr\\_2018\\_05.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/basin_plans/sacsjr_2018_05.pdf)

In part it states:

*Any discharge of waste to high quality waters must apply best practicable treatment or control not only to prevent a condition of pollution or nuisance from occurring, but also to maintain the highest water quality possible consistent with the maximum benefit to the people of the State.*

*This information must be presented as an analysis of the impacts and potential impacts of the discharge on water quality, as measured by background concentrations and applicable water quality objectives.*

The antidegradation analysis is a mandatory element in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System and land discharge Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) permitting processes. The environmental review document should evaluate potential impacts to both surface and groundwater quality.

**Response to comment 2:** Project-related impacts on water quality were evaluated in the Water Quality Memorandum dated March 15, 2019. As discussed in this technical study, implementation of the required Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan during construction would prevent the project from contributing to water quality degradation of downstream surface water and groundwater receiving water bodies.

**Comment 3:**

Construction Storm Water General Permit

Dischargers whose project disturb one or more acres of soil or where projects disturb less than one acre but are part of a larger common plan of development that in total disturbs one or more acres, are required to obtain coverage under the General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities (Construction General Permit), Construction General Permit Order No. 2009-0009-DWQ.

Construction activity subject to this permit includes clearing, grading, grubbing, disturbances to the ground, such as stockpiling, or excavation, but does not include regular maintenance activities performed to restore the original line, grade, or capacity of the facility. The Construction General Permit requires the development and implementation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). For more information on the Construction General Permit, visit the State Water Resources Control Board website at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/stormwater/constpermits.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/constpermits.shtml)

**Response to comment 3:** Caltrans has complied with the Stormwater Management Plan for controlling pollutant discharges and meeting permit requirements for this project by preparing a Stormwater Data Report. The preliminary information in the Stormwater Data Report prepared for the Project Approval and Environmental Document phase was reviewed and concurred with by the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Stormwater Management Branch, and, if required, will be revised during the later phases of the project. The project is not expected to affect more than 1 acre of Disturbed Soil Area or discharge into any water bodies and is covered under the General Permit. Per Caltrans policy, the project will require the contractor to have a Water Pollution Control Plan.

**Comment 4:**

Industrial Storm Water General Permit

Storm water discharges associated with industrial sites must comply with the regulations contained in the Industrial Storm Water General Permit Order No. 2014-0057-DWQ. For more information on the Industrial Storm Water General Permit, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water\\_issues/storm\\_water/industrial\\_general\\_permits/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/storm_water/industrial_general_permits/index.shtml)

**Response to comment 4:** As stated in response to comment 3, the project will not discharge into any bodies of water. Caltrans policy will require a Water Pollution Control Plan.

### **Comment 5:**

#### Dewatering Permit

If the proposed project includes construction or groundwater dewatering to be discharged to land, the proponent may apply for coverage under State Water Board General Water Quality Order (Low Threat General Order) 2003-0003 or the Central Valley Water Board's Waiver of Report of Waste Discharge and Waste Discharge Requirements (Low Threat Waiver) R5-2018-0085. Small temporary construction dewatering projects are projects that discharge groundwater to land from excavation activities or dewatering of underground utility vaults. Dischargers seeking coverage under the General Order or Waiver must file a Notice of Intent with the Central Valley Water Board prior to beginning discharge.

For more information regarding the Low Threat General Order and the application process, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/water\\_quality/2003/wqo/wqo2003-0003.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2003/wqo/wqo2003-0003.pdf)

For more information regarding the Low Threat Waiver and the application process, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at: [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/waivers/r5-2018-0085.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/waivers/r5-2018-0085.pdf)

**Response to comment 5:** Although dewatering is not expected as a result of the project scope of work, if project work should include construction or groundwater dewatering to be discharged to land, it is Caltrans' policy to obtain all necessary permits from the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board. If this were to occur, it may require a permit for construction dewatering under the Limited Threat General Order.

### **Comment 6:**

#### Limited Threat General NPDES Permit

If the proposed project includes construction dewatering and it is necessary to discharge the groundwater to waters of the United States, the proposed project will require coverage under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Dewatering discharges are typically considered a low or limited threat to water quality and may be covered under the General Order for Limited Threat Discharges to Surface Water (Limited Threat General Order). A complete Notice of Intent must be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board to obtain coverage under the Limited Threat General Order. For more information regarding the Limited Threat General Order and the application process, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at: [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board\\_decisions/adopted\\_orders/general\\_orders/r5-2016-0076-01.pdf](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/general_orders/r5-2016-0076-01.pdf)

**Response to comment 6:** As stated in response to comment 5, no dewatering is expected for this project. If dewatering were to occur, it is Caltrans' policy to obtain all necessary permits from the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board.

## **List of Technical Studies Bound Separately (Volume 2)**

Air Quality Memorandum

Biology No Effects Memorandum

Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Memorandum

Cultural Screened Undertaking Memorandum

Hazardous Waste Reports

- Initial Site Assessment
- Preliminary Site Investigation

Noise Study Memorandum

Water Quality Memorandum

Scenic Resource Evaluation/Visual Assessment

To obtain a copy of one or more of these technical studies/reports or the Initial Study, please send your request to:

C. Scott Guidi  
District 10 Environmental Division  
California Department of Transportation  
1976 East Doctor Martin Luther King Junior Boulevard, Stockton, California 95205

Or send your request via email to: [scott.guidi@dot.ca.gov](mailto:scott.guidi@dot.ca.gov)  
Or call: 209-479-1839

Please provide the following information in your request:

Project title: Amador Sand House Rehabilitation

General location information: At three maintenance stations along State Route 88

District number-county code-route-post mile: 10-AMA-88-46.5, 54.0, 60.1

Project ID number: 1018000111/EA 10-1J310