



JULY 1, 2021

VIA EMAIL: ERGOMEZ@COUNTYOFSB.ORG

Santa Barbara County
Planning and Development
Erick Gomez, Project Planner
634 West Foster Road, Suite C
Santa Maria, CA 93455

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

July 02 2021

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Dear Ms. Gomez:

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE FLOOD RANCH BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT, SCH#2021060548

The Department of Conservation's (Department) Division of Land Resource Protection (Division) has reviewed the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Flood Ranch Bridge Replacement Project (Project). The Division monitors farmland conversion on a statewide basis, provides technical assistance regarding the Williamson Act, and administers various agricultural land conservation programs. We offer the following comments and recommendations with respect to the project's potential impacts on agricultural land and resources.

Project Description

The project is a request for a Land Use Permit to allow the replacement of an existing 19 ft. by 26 ft. bridge with a new 26 ft. by 40 ft. bridge. The scope of work includes removing the decking and railing from the existing bridge and protecting the existing support structure in place. The replacement bridge will be installed on two new concrete bridge abutments and span over the existing support structure.

Access for the new bridge will require the construction of two approach ramps with associated retaining walls. The existing roadway will be regraded and replaced in-kind as necessary. The subject property is a 180-acre parcel identified as APN 101-050-051 and located within the AG-II-100 zone in the Sisquoc area. The site also contains lands encumbered by a Williamson Act contract.

Department Comments

The Department has reviewed Section 4.0 "Potentially Significant Effects Checklist", and Section 4.2 "Agricultural Resources" of the County's MND. The County's MND does not address the existing Williamson Act contract which encumbers the proposed project site.¹ The Department urges the County to further review the projects compatibility with, and any impacts to, the current Williamson Act contract. The County may find the Department's website a valuable resource containing essential Williamson Act information.²

Conclusion

Prior to approval of the proposed project the Department recommends further discussion and consideration of the following issues:

- Projects compatibility with, and/or, potential contract resolutions for lands within agricultural preserves and/or enrolled in a Williamson Act contract.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to comment on the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Flood Ranch Bridge Replacement Project. Please provide this Department with notices of any future hearing dates as well as any staff reports pertaining to this project. If you have any questions regarding our comments, please contact Farl Grundy, Associate Environmental Planner via email at Farl.Grundy@conservation.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Monique Wilber

Monique Wilber
Conservation Program Support Supervisor

¹ According to Williamson Act enrollment data reported by Santa Barbara County to the State in 2019

² <https://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/wa/Pages/Index.aspx>