



U.S. Department of Housing and Urban  
Development

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## **Environmental Assessment Determinations and Compliance Findings for HUD-assisted Projects 24 CFR Part 58**

### **Project Information**

**Project Name: CD Activity No. 32.17.1 – Rosamond Boulevard Pedestrian Sidewalk Improvements; 32.21.1 - Rosamond Blvd. and 20<sup>th</sup> Street West Pedestrian Sidewalk Improvements**

**Responsible Entity: County of Kern**

**Grant Recipient (if different than Responsible Entity): N/A**

**State/Local Identifier: CA**

**Preparer: James Golden, Planner III**

**Certifying Officer Name and Title: Lorelei H. Oviatt, AICP, Director of Planning and Natural Resources Department**

**Grant Recipient (if different than Responsible Entity): N/A**

**Consultant (if applicable): N/A**

**Direct Comments to: James Golden, Planner III**

**Project Location:** Rosamond Blvd. from 20<sup>th</sup> St. West to Elberta St., the improvement area will include 20<sup>th</sup> St. West from Orange St. to Rosamond Blvd. Right of way length of approximately 1.37 miles

**Description of the Proposed Project** [24 CFR 50.12 & 58.32; 40 CFR 1508.25]: Proposal provides additional funds to implement activities first proposed as part of CD Project No. 32.17.1 – Rosamond Blvd. Pedestrian Sidewalk Improvements. Project activities may include; improvement and/or acquisition for installation of curb, gutter, sidewalk, curb ramps, drive approaches, removal and relocation of existing barriers and related improvements. In addition to access improvements to Rosamond Blvd. from 20<sup>th</sup> St. West to Elberta St., the improvement area will include 20<sup>th</sup> St. West from Orange St. to Rosamond Blvd. Project activities will benefit a service area that includes all of Census Tract 58.02 or a total of 8,245 persons, 53.67% of whom are low/moderate income (2020 HUD ACS LMISD); 03K – Sidewalks, Section 570.201(c); Section 570.208(a)(1)(i); Eligible activities under 570.201(a) – Acquisition; and 570.201(c) - Public Facilities and Improvements

**Statement of Purpose and Need for the Proposal** [40 CFR 1508.9(b)]:

Current pedestrian access on both Rosamond Boulevard and 20<sup>th</sup> Street West consists of either limited improved sidewalk areas and/or dirt pathways. There is need for safe routes and access as posted speed limits on Rosamond Boulevard are 45 mph and drivers do not always observe posted speed limits. With the exception of very limited areas, pedestrian sidewalks are not available on 20<sup>th</sup> Street West. The project will connect Hummell Hall Community Center with other areas of the community of Rosamond.

**Existing Conditions and Trends** [24 CFR 58.40(a)]:

The Rosamond area has long been a suburban bedroom community with residents employed in the aerospace industry and as commuters to larger urban areas. More recently, the community of Rosamond is experiencing growth as nearby communities located closer to Los Angeles become more unaffordable and cost of living increases for persons with limited incomes. The community continues to need additional investment of resources in order to continue to develop into an urbanized area.

**Funding Information**

<b>Grant Number</b>	<b>HUD Program</b>	<b>Funding Amount</b>
B-21-UC-06-0502	CDBG	\$471,690
B-17-UC-06-0502	CDBG	\$100,000

**Estimated Total HUD Funded Amount:** \$471,690 (2021 - Construction costs) \$100,000 (2017-Design Only Costs)

**Estimated Total Project Cost** (HUD and non-HUD funds) [24 CFR 58.32(d)]: \$571,690 and Alternative Transportation Program (ATP) funds - \$880,000 and Local Match of \$117,000 = Total Costs estimate of \$1,568,690.

**Compliance with 24 CFR 50.4, 58.5, and 58.6 Laws and Authorities**

Record below the compliance or conformance determinations for each statute, executive order, or regulation. Provide credible, traceable, and supportive source documentation for each authority. Where applicable, complete the necessary reviews or consultations and obtain or note applicable permits of approvals. Clearly note citations, dates/names/titles of contacts, and page references. Attach additional documentation as appropriate.

<b>Compliance Factors:</b> Statutes, Executive Orders, and Regulations listed at 24 CFR §58.5 and §58.6	Are formal compliance steps or mitigation required?	Compliance determinations
<b>STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 50.4 and 58.6</b>		
<b>Airport Hazards</b>  24 CFR Part 51 Subpart D	Yes    No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>The nearest airport, Fox Airfield, is located more than 8 miles southwest of the project area. The nearest Military Airport - Edwards AFB is located more than 14 miles from the project area. Due to the nature and location of the improvements proposed, the project will not be impacted by or have any impact on any air traffic patterns in the area of the project.</p> <p>Given the scope of activities and the distance to the nearest civilian and military airfield, regulation at 24 CFR Part 51, Subpart D does not apply to the related minor rehabilitation activities</p>
<b>Coastal Barrier Resources</b>  Coastal Barrier Resources Act, as amended by the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990 [16 USC 3501]	Yes    No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>There are no coastal barrier resources in California or within the administrative area for HUD Region IX. No further evaluation required.</p>
<b>Flood Insurance</b>  Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973 and National Flood Insurance Reform Act of 1994 [42 USC 4001-4128 and 42 USC 5154a]	Yes    No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>According to NEPAAssist and FEMA’s Flood Map Service Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Map No. 06029C4025E, dated September 26, 2008, the project area is not located within any Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). Consequently, there is no need for</p>

		further consideration of any related flood insurance.
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**STATUTES, EXECUTIVE ORDERS, AND REGULATIONS LISTED AT 24 CFR 50.4 & 58.5**

<b>Clean Air</b>	Yes    No	
<p>Clean Air Act, as amended, particularly section 176(c) &amp; (d); 40 CFR Parts 6, 51, 93</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/>    <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The project is located within the boundaries of the Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District (District). As part of the project consultation, the District was contacted regarding the project’s potential to impact air quality under National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS). The District provided the status for criteria pollutants regulated under the NAAQS. The District is in Serious Nonattainment status for the Ozone – 8 Hour Standard (75-ppb standard) and Moderate Nonattainment for Ozone 8 Hour (70-ppb standard). The District is in attainment for all other criteria pollutants currently regulated under the NAAQS. As to the CAAQS standards, the District is in Nonattainment for the Ozone -1 Hour the Ozone 8 Hour (70-ppb standard), PM 10 and PM 2.5.</p> <p>The District noted that paving operations may be subject to the requirements of District Rule 410.5 (Cutback, Slow Cure, &amp; Emulsified Asphalt, Paving and Maintenance Operations). The project may also be subject to District Rule 402 (Fugitive Dust), depending on the amount of disturbed surface area. The District noted that project shall not cause or contribute to an exceedance of any CAAQS or NAAQS and that sources in exceedance of the District thresholds are required to obtain a permit to operate. Permits to operate are required for activities that generate or produce regulated pollutants in excess of the following District thresholds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ PM10: 15 tons/year</li> <li>○ SOx: 27 tons/year</li> <li>○ NOx: 25 tons/year</li> <li>○ VOC: 25 tons/year</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motor vehicle trips (indirect sources): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 137 lb/day of NO<sub>x</sub> or Reactive Organic Compounds</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Health risk public notification thresholds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Cancer risk &gt; 10 in one million</li> <li>○ Total (acute &amp; chronic) non-cancer hazard index &gt; 1.0</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>The District has noted that it has established a less than significant threshold for NO<sub>x</sub> and ROG emissions from indirect sources associated with the project currently at 137 lb. per day. Portable equipment, such as generators or concrete pumps, driven by piston engines &gt; 50-bhp should either be PERP registered or have a District permit.</p> <p>Based scope of activities proposed to be undertaken, the District noted the project does not appear to be large enough to be subject to the District Fugitive Dust Rule – District Rule 402.</p>
<p><b>Coastal Zone Management</b></p> <p>Coastal Zone Management Act, sections 307(c) &amp; (d)</p>	<p>Yes    No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>    <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The project is not located in a coastal zone management area (CZMA) or near any. The community of Rosamond is located inland in the Antelope Valley portion of Kern County. The nearest CZMA is located more than seventy miles to the southwest of the project site and is separated by mountain ranges and the Angeles National Forest and there is no drainage outlet in the area of the project to the ocean. Therefore, there is no possibility of any coastal zone management area being impacted by the undertaking.</p>
<p><b>Contamination and Toxic Substances</b></p> <p>24 CFR Part 50.3(i) &amp; 58.5(i)(2)</p>	<p>Yes    No</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/>    <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The project site and proposal will not result in new occupancy, residential or otherwise, of any kind. The project is for the improvement of pedestrian access and includes the installation sidewalks to be located within existing right-of-way for the community of Rosamond, including Rosamond Boulevard and 20<sup>th</sup> Street West. As the site will not include new occupancy or conflict with the</p>

		intended use of the site, no additional review for compliance with this factor is necessary.
<p><b>Endangered Species</b></p> <p>Endangered Species Act of 1973, particularly section 7; 50 CFR Part 402</p>	<p>Yes    No</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/>    <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>On October 15, 2015, a report was provided to the Public Works Department of the County of Kern providing findings from a survey for Biologic Resources conducted for the project area. The original survey area determined that the site consists of residential and commercial development along Rosamond Boulevard. No natural habitat was found to be present within the areas planned for sidewalk improvements. The plant species observed were limited to non-native weeds and landscape species.</p> <p>The evaluation concluded that due to the nature of the project, the lack of natural habitat, and the high level of disturbance within and adjacent to the project area, construction of the project will not affect any federally-listed (ESA), state-listed, or special status species or their habitat. No United States Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) or CDFW jurisdictional waterways will be affected by the project. No biological permits will be required.</p> <p>However, since that time the project boundary was expanded to include rights-of-way located on 20<sup>th</sup> Street West in Rosamond. Consequently, on June 16, 2021, an updated official species list was requested from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service using the USFWS ECOS IPaC service. The same three ESA listed species were identified as were identified in the prior evaluation conducted in 2015. No new listed species were identified as a result of the search. ESA listed species include the California Condor, Western Snowy Plover and Desert Tortoise. There has been no change in the classification for any of the listed species since 2015.</p> <p>Due to the original findings from the biologic assessment conducted in 2015 and identical species identified as a result of USFWS consultations, there is little chance that any protected species would be adversely</p>

		<p>impacted by implementation. The ruderal habitat found in the area of the project is not suited to support the protected species and final critical habitat has been designed for each of the listed species. Therefore, there is no evidence in the record to suggest that the project would jeopardize any ESA listed species. However, some time has passed since the last biological evaluation. Therefore, the following shall apply to the project: <i>No sooner than fourteen (14) to thirty (30) days prior to commencement of operations, a biological survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist to ensure that no protected species are present in the area of the project. If protected species are found as a result of the survey, avoidance and/or minimization techniques shall be employed, as recommended by the biologist. In no case shall any take be permitted of any ESA listed species without prior consultation and approval of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).</i></p>
<p><b>Explosive and Flammable Hazards</b>  24 CFR Part 51 Subpart C</p>	<p>Yes    No <input type="checkbox"/>   <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The project will not result in the development, construction of rehabilitation that will increase residential densities or result in conversion of land use. The project is limited to installation of pedestrian sidewalks that will improve access for residents within the community. No further evaluation for compliance with the factor is anticipated.</p>
<p><b>Farmlands Protection</b>  Farmland Protection Policy Act of 1981, particularly sections 1504(b) and 1541; 7 CFR Part 658</p>	<p>Yes    No <input type="checkbox"/>   <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The project site is located within the right-of-way for Rosamond Boulevard and 20<sup>th</sup> Street West and will not include any activities that will result in new construction, acquisition or conversion that could potentially convert one land use to another. No prime or other currently operated farmlands will be converted to another use. Based on those findings, no further evaluation necessary for compliance with this factor.</p>
<p><b>Floodplain Management</b></p>	<p>Yes    No <input type="checkbox"/>   <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>The project site is located entirely with Flood Map No 06029C4025E. The Flood Map and FIRMette generated for the area of the project includes only areas for improvement</p>

<p>Executive Order 11988, particularly section 2(a); 24 CFR Part 55</p>		<p>designated as Zone X. There is a small portion of area designated as Zone A at Sierra Hwy and Rosamond Boulevard. However, the area is located outside of the project area. Based on the findings of this evaluation, no further evaluation is necessary for compliance with this factor.</p>
<p><b>Historic Preservation</b></p> <p>National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, particularly sections 106 and 110; 36 CFR Part 800</p>	<p>Yes No  <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>On July 18, 2018, the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center (SSJVIC) was contacted regarding the potential for cultural resources that may be located in the area of the project. On July 24, 2018, SSJVIC responded to the consultation with Record Search 18-305. The SSJVIC record search found that 46 studies have been conducted within one-half mile radius of the project area. The resources found consist of prehistoric lithic scatters and historic era trash scatters. The review found prehistoric era ground stone, a quarry, habitation debris, and burials and an historic era railroad in the area of the project. SSJVIC noted there are no recorded cultural resources within the project area that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places, the California Register of Historical Resources, the California Points of Historical Interest, California Inventory of Historic Resources, or the California State Historic Landmarks.</p> <p>SSJVIC has noted activities will take place in existing right-of-way. As such, no further cultural resource investigation was recommended. However, the area of the Kern County is considered <i>highly sensitive for cultural resources</i>. SSJVIC has noted that there is reasonable probability that subsurface cultural resources will be encountered during ground disturbing activities. In order to address the potential to encounter cultural resources, <i>Staff is proposing to include a condition that should any cultural or historic artifacts are uncovered as a result of the work further obligations would be required</i>. The requirement would include the provision that <i>all work in the vicinity of the project halt until</i></p>



*further evaluation by a qualified professional archaeologist and consultation with SHPO has been completed compliant with Section 106 and pursuant to Section 800.13(b) of the National Historic Preservation Act.*

In March of 2018, the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) responded to the Responsible Entity's (RE) request for a sacred inventory list. NAHC provided the RE a list of tribes that may have resources within the area of the project. Due to a shortage of available construction funds for the project, small expansion of the scope to include 20<sup>th</sup> Street West and difficulties with undertaking effective consultations during the state of emergency from the COVID-19 pandemic, the RE used the list previously generated list to reach out the those agencies previously identified by NAHC in 2018. Wherever possible, the RE updated the NAHC list with current individual contact information for persons associated with the affected tribes. On April 7, 2021 tribal contact were sent letters of consultation. No comments were received as a result of the tribal outreach.

On April 6, 2021, SHPO was contacted regarding the project potential to impact historic resources. Based on the information provided under the SSJVIC records search the RE noted that no historic would be impacted by the undertakings. Although SHPO commented after the 30 days allowed under the period for consultation on May 7, 2021, **SHPO noted no objection to the determination that no historic properties will be affected by the undertaking of the project.** However, SHPO noted that the additional Section 106 responsibilities may apply under certain circumstances, as set forth at 36 CFR Part 800. In the event that historic properties are encountered during implementation of the undertaking, further consultation would be required. *Due the known sensitivity of the area, comments from both SSJVIC and SHPO a conditional measure of mitigation will be included to*

		<i>address the potential to encounter cultural resources as the result of project implementation.</i>
<b>Noise Abatement and Control</b>  Noise Control Act of 1972, as amended by the Quiet Communities Act of 1978; 24 CFR Part 51 Subpart B	Yes    No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The project is not for HUD assistance to new construction for residential use, rehabilitation of an existing residential property or a research demonstration project that includes residential property. The project is limited to the construction of sidewalks to improve safety and accessibility in the area of the project.
<b>Sole Source Aquifers</b>  Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974, as amended, particularly section 1424(e); 40 CFR Part 149	Yes    No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The EPA has not identified any sole source aquifers located in Kern County. Therefore, no further review for compliance with this factor is necessary.
<b>Wetlands Protection</b>  Executive Order 11990, particularly sections 2 and 5	Yes    No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	According to U.S Fish and Wildlife Service NWI Wetlands Inventory mapping tool there are no wetlands in the area of the project. Based on wetlands mapping tool, the nearest wetlands area to the project is a freshwater pond area located approximately one half mile to the southeast of the project site. Based on the distance and lack of conveyances to the nearest wetlands, the project will have no impact on any wetlands area.
<b>Wild and Scenic Rivers</b>  Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968, particularly section 7(b) and (c)	Yes    No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There are no wild or scenic rivers in the vicinity of the project. The project is located in the community of Rosamond. The nearest stretch of designated wild and/or scenic river is the Piru Creek Wild and Scenic River located more than 36 miles to the southwest of the project site. Therefore, the project will have no impact on any wild or scenic river.
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE</b>		
<b>Environmental Justice</b>  Executive Order 12898	Yes    No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	The project will install public access improvements within the community and thus have a beneficial impact on the quality of life for residents within the low-to-moderate income areas of Rosamond. Therefore, the project does not present concerns as to environmental justice.

**Environmental Assessment Factors** [24 CFR 58.40; Ref. 40 CFR 1508.8 & 1508.27] Recorded below is the qualitative and quantitative significance of the effects of the proposal on the character, features and resources of the project area. Each factor has been evaluated and documented, as appropriate and in proportion to its relevance to the proposed action. Verifiable source documentation has been provided and described in support of each determination, as appropriate. Credible, traceable and supportive source documentation for each authority has been provided. Where applicable, the necessary reviews or consultations have been completed and applicable permits of approvals have been obtained or noted. Citations, dates/names/titles of contacts, and page references are clear. Additional documentation is attached, as appropriate. **All conditions, attenuation or mitigation measures have been clearly identified.**

**Impact Codes:** Use an impact code from the following list to make the determination of impact for each factor.

- (1) Minor beneficial impact
- (2) No impact anticipated
- (3) Minor Adverse Impact – May require mitigation
- (4) Significant or potentially significant impact requiring avoidance or modification which may require an Environmental Impact Statement

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
<b>LAND DEVELOPMENT</b>		
Conformance with Plans / Compatible Land Use and Zoning / Scale and Urban Design	1	The project is for development of sidewalks that will improve accessibility for residents within the area of the project. This objective conforms with the goals of the County of Kern General Plan. There are no other land use or zoning related issues.
Soil Suitability/ Slope/ Erosion/ Drainage/ Storm Water Runoff	1	The installation of sidewalks will reduce soil erosion in the area of the project. However, the installation of impervious surfaces will slightly increase storm water runoff in the area of the project. Nevertheless, the installation of additional curb and sidewalk will improve conveyance of wastewater to established drainage catch basins, as there are existing storm water drains located at 15 <sup>th</sup> Street West and Rosamond Boulevard.
Hazards and Nuisances including Site Safety and Noise	1	The sidewalk project will improve both safety and accessibility for pedestrians on both 20th Street West and Rosamond Boulevard. The sidewalk improvements will improve connectivity with a clearly marked railroad crossing located east of Sierra Hwy on Rosamond Blvd. The improvements proposed for 20 <sup>th</sup> Street West will provide sidewalks that connect the Hummell Community Center with nearby neighborhoods.
Energy Consumption	1	By providing an alternate means of transportation and improved accessibility, the project may reduce the number of

	vehicles in the area of the project trips, thereby reducing fuel consumption. No other changes to energy consumption are anticipated as a result of implementation.
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Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
<b>SOCIOECONOMIC</b>		
Employment and Income Patterns	1	Although in general improvements may encourage alternate transportation methods in the area of the project, there is evidence to suggest that the proposed access related improvements would change employment and/or income patterns in the area of the project.
Demographic Character Changes, Displacement	2	No demographic or other character changes are anticipated to result from the planned scope of work. Installation of sidewalks for accessibility will not result in any displacement of residents.

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
<b>COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND SERVICES</b>		
Educational and Cultural Facilities	1	The proposal will provide pathways for pedestrian access to the local community facility within Rosamond and schools. Hummell Community Center is located on the corner of Orange Street and 20 <sup>th</sup> Street West. Rosamond Elementary School is located on Rosamond Boulevard and 20 <sup>th</sup> Street West. Pedestrian access to Rosamond High School, located west of Highway 14, will be improved as the project will provide paved access that will be connected with existing sidewalk located along Rosamond Boulevard.
Commercial Facilities	1	The project will provide pedestrian access pathways and connectivity that will foster a more viable commercial core in the low-income areas in Rosamond, east of Highway 14. Commercial facilities located near the project improvements will likely benefit from more the establishment on additional safe and viable pedestrian routes in the area of the project.
Health Care and Social Services	1	The undertaking will generally not impact the availability of Health Care services in the community. However, the project will support more safe pedestrian access to those social services located in Rosamond, which is likely to decrease the opportunities for serious injuries resulting from conflicts between pedestrians and traffic patterns.
Solid Waste Disposal / Recycling	3	There are limited number of publicly accessible trash receptacles in the area of the project being that existing receptacles are mostly located in areas with businesses and at parks. Therefore, if possible, the installation of additional

		receptacles shall be considered to limit the amount of litter deposited along sidewalks.
Waste Water / Sanitary Sewers	1	The installation of additional curb and sidewalk will improve conveyance of wastewater to established drainage collection areas. There is an existing storm water drain located at 15 <sup>th</sup> Street West and Rosamond Blvd.
Water Supply	2	While some limited water supplies will be required for the preparation, mixing and installation of concrete. Once installed, the project will have no impact on available water supplies. No other impacts to available water supplies are anticipated as a result of implementation.
Public Safety - Police, Fire and Emergency Medical	1	Due to the infrequency of incidents and variation of time between individual calls, it would be difficult to gauge the overall reduction the response times from implementation for police, fire or emergency medical services that serve the community. However, installation of additional safety and access related improvements may reduce the number of emergency services calls in the area of the project.
Parks, Open Space and Recreation	1	Rosamond Park is located to the north of the project area and to the north of Rosamond Elementary School. The park is developed with one small and one large baseball field and children's play area. Project implementation would increase access to the park.
Transportation and Accessibility	1	The project will provide funds to improve access with the community of Rosamond. The HUD funds to be used in conjunction with alternative transportation funds ATP program fund sources and other local roads department funds.

Environmental Assessment Factor	Impact Code	Impact Evaluation
<b>NATURAL FEATURES</b>		
Unique Natural Features, Water Resources	2	There are no unique natural features or water resources in the area of the project. No such features or resources will be impacted by the undertaking.
Vegetation, Wildlife	3	The project is located in the core of the community of Rosamond area. While some sections of land in the area of the project remain vacant and/or undeveloped, remaining undeveloped land has been heavily disturbed by prior activities including farming and commercial development. Consequently, remaining vegetation is very sparse within the rights-of-way for Rosamond Blvd. There is one small hedge of Tamarisk trees just west of Elberta Street, between Park Avenue. Tamarisk are invasive and the trees will be removed to accommodate the development. Excavation depth would not exceed 2.5 feet. Vegetation located along 20 <sup>th</sup> Street

		West, the right-of-way is mostly developed containing only a small section of undisturbed vegetation. A 2015 review for Rosamond Boulevard found that based on the conditions and vegetation in the area activities should not impact habitat for special status species other than migratory birds. <i>As required by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), all trees will need to be inspected for active nests prior to removal to avoid take and stay within compliance of the MBTA to protect any potential nesting bird species.</i>
Other Factors	3	There are limited number of existing shaded areas along Rosamond Boulevard. Temperatures can range from the upper 90's to well over 100 degrees in the summer time. If possible, drought tolerant landscaping, including trees should be provided in order to provide areas of relief for pedestrians.

**Additional Studies Performed:**

- 1) Biological Technical Memorandum, Padre and Associates Inc., 10 Oct. 2015
- 2) California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS). SSJVIC, Southern San Joaquin Information System; Record Search 18-305. Issued 24 July 2018.

**Field Inspection** (Date and completed by): **6/29/21**

**List of Sources, Agencies and Persons Consulted** [40 CFR 1508.9(b)]:

- 1) NEPAassist. EPA, Environmental Protection Agency, <https://www.epa.gov/nepa/nepassist>. Accessed on 6 March 2018 and 31 March 2021.
- 2) National Flood Hazard Layer FIRMette. FEMA, Federal Emergency Management Agency FEMA Flood Map Service Center | Search By AddressFIRMETTE\_9da507cc-4c75-48b1-8ef5-faae5739c9a4.pdf (fema.gov)
- 3) EnviroStor. Department of Toxic Substances Control, 2020, <https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/>. Accessed 31 August 2020.
- 4) GeoTracker. State Water Resources Control Board, 2020, <https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/>. Accessed 31 August 2020.
- 5) US Department of the Interior US Fish and Wildlife Service. IPAC, Information for Planning and Consulting, 2021, <https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>. Accessed 16 June 2021.

County Departments: Kern County Public Works, Kern County Fire Department, Sheriff's Department

Agencies: East Kern Air Pollution District; Antelope Valley East Kern Water Agency; General Manager, Kern County Water Agency; Southern California Gas Company; Lawrence Olsen OSP

Engineering/ ROW, AT&T California; J. Houghton, Public Works Superintendent, Public Works Department Rosamond Community Services District; Sherry Delano, Rosamond Community Services District; Rosamond Municipal Advisory Council; Hisam A. Baqai, P.E., G.E. - Supervising Engineer, S. Lahontan Region, Victorville Office; California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan; Reagan O'Leary, Environmental Services Department of Fish and Wildlife, Region IV State of California; WRC Engineer, Central Valley Region - California Regional Water Quality Control Board, State of California; Gayle Rosander, IGR/CEQA Coordinator, Department of Transportation, District 9 State of California; Environmental Protection Agency California Dept. of Toxic Substances Control, State of California; Celeste Thomson, Coordinator, California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS); Julianne Polanco, State Historic Preservation Officer, State of California; US Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Department of Interior; Casey Burns, Wildlife Biologist, Bureau of Land Management, Barstow Field Office, U.S. Department of Interior; Robert Senton, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Region IX, U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Michael Alpern, Director, Office of Public Affairs – Environmental Information Center, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX; Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) – Bakersfield Office, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Tribal Contacts: Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), James Rambeau, Sr. Chairperson, Big Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley; Sally Manning, Environmental Director, Big Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley; Danelle Gutierrez, THPO, Big Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley; Julio Quair, Chairperson, Chumash Council of Bakersfield; Julie Turner, Secretary, Kern Valley Indian Community; Robert Robinson, Chairperson, Kern Valley Indian Community; Brandy Kendricks, Kern Valley Indian Community; Delia Dominguez, Kitanemuk and Yowlumne Tejon Indians; Lee Clauss, Director-CRM Dept. San Manuel Band of Mission Indians; Lynn Valbuena, Chairwoman, San Manuel Band of Mission Indians; Rueben Barrios Sr., Chairperson, Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokut Tribe; Octavio Escobedo, Chairperson, Tejon Indian Tribe; Colin Rambo, Cultural Resource Specialist, Tejon Indian Tribe; Robert L. Gomez Jr., Tribal Chairperson, Tubatulabals of Kern Valley; Neil Peyron, Chairperson, Tule River Indian Tribe; Kenneth Woodrow, Chairperson, Wuksache Indian Tribe/Eshom Valley Band

**List of Permits Obtained:** N/A

**Public Outreach** [24 CFR 50.23 & 58.43]: Published in Rosamond Weekly News and Bakersfield Californian

**Cumulative Impact Analysis** [24 CFR 58.32]: There is a need for additional infrastructure improvements including street and sidewalk improvements in the Rosamond area. Rosamond is an unincorporated area and urbanized development within the community is limited and scattered. This project will address the need for more pedestrian related improvements and provide alternative transportation opportunities to residents.

**Alternatives** [24 CFR 58.40(e); 40 CFR 1508.9] The review for potential project alternatives includes:

Alternative No. 1) limiting access improvements to Rosamond Boulevard, as originally proposed, and foregoing proposed access improvements to 20<sup>th</sup> Street West. Under this alternative, no improvements to 20<sup>th</sup> Street West would be undertaken. This alternative would both reduce project costs and allow more focus and investment of limited resources on Rosamond Boulevard. However, under this alternative there would be no pedestrian access improvements provided to 20<sup>th</sup> Street West, from Orange Ave. to Rosamond Boulevard. 20<sup>th</sup> Street west will provide residents' with a safe pedestrian pathway to Rosamond Elementary School, as the route connects with existing infrastructure. In addition, the improvements on 20<sup>th</sup> Street West will provide residents with safe pedestrian access pathways to Hummell Hall, a community center located 20<sup>th</sup> Street West, and an additional alternate path to businesses located in the Central Business District of Rosamond. For these reasons, Alternative No. 1 has not been selected.

Alternative No. 2) consists of completing access to improvements for 20<sup>th</sup> Street West only. Under this alternative, no improvements to Rosamond Boulevard would be undertaken. The project would allow more improvements on 20<sup>th</sup> Street West, possibly to include both sides of 20<sup>th</sup> Street West rather just one side to be improved. There is also the need to expand and improve connections within the Central Business District. However, under this alternative, there would be no pedestrian access improvements provided to Rosamond Boulevard, a major connecting route for both pedestrians and vehicles. There is currently only very limited pedestrian access along Rosamond Boulevard, between Sierra Highway and Elberta Street, with most street frontages completing unimproved. Rosamond Boulevard is the only established pathway for pedestrians to cross Sierra Hwy and the nearby Railroad crossing. It is therefore a crucial path for safe pedestrian access for residents living east of Sierra Highway to businesses, parks, schools and other services located west of Sierra Highway. For these reasons, Alternative No. 2 has not been selected.

Alternative No. 3) providing pedestrian access to another area within the community of Rosamond. While there are many areas of Rosamond that currently do not have pedestrian improvements that provide a safe community, there are only certain neighborhoods that qualify for assistance under the CDBG program. In order to utilize CDBG funds, the area must meet criteria established by HUD to ensure investments are targeted to low-to-moderate income neighborhoods and that the benefits provided primarily serve residential areas. Within Rosamond, Low to Moderate Income Survey Data (LMISD) indicate that the neighborhoods located east of State Route 14 are best suited to investment of CDBG funds as there are many low-to-moderate income block groups. For these reasons, Alternative No. 3 has not been selected.

**No Action Alternative** [24 CFR 58.40(e)]: Under the no action alternative, there would be no change in the area of the project and no pedestrian improvements would be made to either 20<sup>th</sup> Street West or Rosamond Boulevard. Rosamond would continue to develop without benefit of an urban network of pedestrian pathways and no safety improvements would be made to Rosamond Boulevard or 20<sup>th</sup> Street West. For these reasons, the no action alternative has not been selected.

**Summary of Findings and Conclusions:** Based on the foregoing evaluation, the responsible has found that the project will not result in any significant impacts to the environment. All factors identified as a result of the consultation have been considered in this evaluation. The conclusion is based on the determination that the project activities will establish sidewalks within existing



right-of-way and the limitation of activities to the provision of safety related upgrades within the project area.

**Mitigation Measures and Conditions [40 CFR 1505.2(c)]**

Summarize below all mitigation measures adopted by the Responsible Entity to reduce, avoid, or eliminate adverse environmental impacts and to avoid non-compliance or non-conformance with the above-listed authorities and factors. These measures/conditions must be incorporated into project contracts, development agreements, and other relevant documents. The staff responsible for implementing and monitoring mitigation measures should be clearly identified in the mitigation plan.

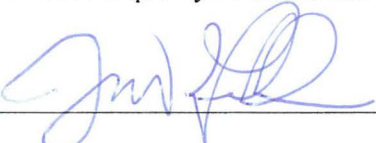
Law, Authority, or Factor	Mitigation Measure
<b>Clean Air</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) <u>Prior to the issuance of building or grading permits</u>, the Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District shall be contacted regarding the need for any District permits. Depending on the amount of disturbed surface area, the project may be subject to District Rule 402 (Fugitive Dust), depending on the amount of disturbed surface area. The District’s “less than significant” CEQA threshold for NOx and ROG emissions for indirect sources (i.e. vehicles) associated with the project is currently 137 lb/day. Portable equipment, such as generators or concrete pumps, driven by piston engines &gt; 50-bhp should either be PERP registered or have a District permit.</li> <li>2) <u>Prior to the commencement of project operations</u> all required Air District permits shall be obtained.</li> <li>3) <u>During project implementation</u>, all activities shall be undertaken in a manner consistent with District rules, regulations and any permits issued for the project.</li> </ol>
<b>Biologic Resources</b>	<p><u>No sooner than fourteen (14) to thirty (30) days prior to commencement of project operations</u>, a biological survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist to ensure that no evidence of protected species are present in the area of the project. As the survey finds evidence of protected species presence in the area of the project, avoidance and/or minimization techniques shall be employed, as recommended by the biologist.</p>
<b>Historic Preservation</b>	<p><u>During project implementation</u>, should any cultural or historic artifacts are uncovered as a result of the work further obligations would be required. The requirement would include the provision that all work in the vicinity</p>

	of the project halt until further evaluation by a qualified professional archaeologist and consultation with SHPO has been completed compliant with Section 106 and pursuant to Section 800.13(b) of the National Historic Preservation Act.
Solid Waste Disposal / Recycling	The project may increase the amount of litter generated in the project area due to the increase in pedestrian traffic. <u>Wherever possible</u> , the installation of additional trash receptacles shall be considered to limit the amount of litter deposited along sidewalks.
Vegetation and Wildlife	<u>During project implementation</u> , as required by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), prior to removal all trees will need to be inspected for active nests in order to avoid take and stay within compliance of the MBTA to protect any potential nesting bird species.
Other Factors	If possible, drought tolerant landscaping, including trees should be provided in order to provide areas of relief for pedestrians.

**Determination:**

**Finding of No Significant Impact** [24 CFR 58.40(g)(1); 40 CFR 1508.27]  
The project will not result in a significant impact on the quality of the human environment.

**Finding of Significant Impact** [24 CFR 58.40(g)(2); 40 CFR 1508.27]  
The project may significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

Preparer Signature:  Date: 7/1/21

Name/Title/Organization: James Golden, Planner III, Kern County Planning and Natural Resources Department - Community Development Division

Certifying Officer Signature:  Date: 7/1/21

Name/Title: Lorelei H. Oviatt, AICP, Director, Planning and Natural Resources Department

This original, signed document and related supporting material must be retained on file by the Responsible Entity in an Environmental Review Record (ERR) for the activity/project (ref: 24 CFR Part 58.38) and in accordance with recordkeeping requirements for the HUD program(s).