

DRAFT
Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration

Pursuant to: Division 13, Public Resources Code

Project Description

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to replace California Aqueduct Bridge Number 50-0323 on State Route 166. The project is in Kern County east of Maricopa, 2.6 miles east of Old River Road and 5 miles west of Interstate 5. State Route 166 at the bridge location is a conventional two-lane highway with two 12-foot lanes and 8-foot shoulders. The bridge was built in 1968 and is about 400 feet long.

Determination

This proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration is included to give notice to interested agencies and the public that it is Caltrans' intent to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for this project. This does not mean that Caltrans' decision on the project is final. This Mitigated Negative Declaration is subject to change based on comments received from interested agencies and the public.

Caltrans has prepared an Initial Study for this project and, pending public review, expects to determine from this study that the project would not have a significant effect on the environment for the following reasons.

The project would have no effect on aesthetics, forest resources, air quality, hydrology and floodplain, land use and planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, wildfires, tribal cultural resources, paleontological resources, energy, and geology and soils.

The project would have less than significant effects on farmlands, biological resources, hazards and hazardous waste, water quality, greenhouse gas emissions, transportation and traffic, and utilities and service systems.

The project would have no significant adverse effects on cultural resources because the following mitigation measure would reduce potential effects to less than significant:

- Caltrans will complete a Historic American Buildings Survey and a Historic American Engineering Record that will describe and convey the importance of the bridge as well as the role that it plays in the larger aqueduct system.

Jennifer H. Taylor, Office Chief
Southern San Joaquin Valley Environmental Office
California Department of Transportation, District 6

Date