

# Dickenson Avenue Roundabout

On State Route 180 at Dickenson Avenue in Fresno County

06-FRE-180-47.4/47.8

EA 06-0Y410/Project ID 0619000172

## Initial Study with Proposed Negative Declaration

Volume 1 of 2



Prepared by the  
State of California Department of Transportation

August 2021



## General Information About This Document

### ***What's in this document:***

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has prepared this Initial Study, which examines the potential environmental impacts of alternatives being considered for the proposed project in Fresno County in California. The document explains why the project is being proposed, the alternatives being considered for the project, the existing environment that could be affected by the project, potential impacts of each of the alternatives, and proposed avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures.

### ***What you should do:***

- Please read the document. Additional copies of the document and the related technical studies are available for review at the Caltrans District 6 Office at 1352 West Olive Avenue, Fresno, CA 93728, and the Kerman Branch Library at 15081 West Kearney Boulevard, Kerman, CA 93630. The document can also be downloaded at the following website: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/caltrans-districts-near-me/district-6>.
- Tell us what you think. If you have any comments regarding the proposed project, please send your written comments to Caltrans by the deadline. Submit comments via U.S. mail to: Trais Norris, Senior Environmental Planner, Central Region Environmental, California Department of Transportation, 2015 East Shields Avenue, Suite 100, Fresno, CA 93726. Submit comments via email to: [trais.norris@dot.ca.gov](mailto:trais.norris@dot.ca.gov).
- Submit comments by the deadline: November 23, 2021.

### ***What happens next:***

After comments are received from the public and reviewing agencies, Caltrans may 1) give environmental approval to the proposed project, 2) do additional environmental studies, or 3) abandon the project. If the project is given environmental approval and funding is appropriated, Caltrans could design and construct all or part of the project.

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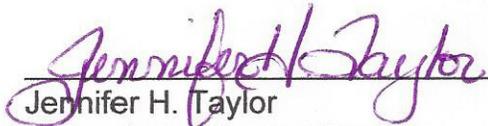
For individuals with sensory disabilities, this document can be made available in Braille, in large print, on audiocassette, or on computer disk. To obtain a copy in one of these alternate formats, please write to or call Caltrans, Attention: Trais Norris, Central Region Environmental, 2015 East Shields Avenue, Suite 100, Fresno, CA 93726; phone number (209) 601-3521 (Voice), or use the California Relay Service 1-800-735-2929 (TTY), 1-800-735-2929 (Voice), or 711.

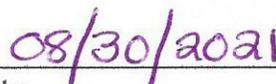
Construct a single-lane roundabout at the intersection of State Route 180 and Dickenson Avenue from post miles 47.4 to 47.8 in Fresno County, California

**INITIAL STUDY  
with Proposed Negative Declaration**

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

THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
Department of Transportation  
Responsible Agency: California Transportation Commission

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer H. Taylor  
Office Chief, Central Region  
Environmental South  
California Department of Transportation  
CEQA Lead Agency

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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**DRAFT**  
**Proposed Negative Declaration**

Pursuant to: Division 13, Public Resources Code

**District-County-Route-Post Mile:** 06-FRE-180-Post Miles 47.4 to 47.8

**EA and Project Identification Number:** 06-0Y410 and 0619000172

**Project Description**

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to construct a single-lane roundabout at the intersection of State Route 180 and Dickenson Avenue in Fresno County, California.

**Determination**

An Initial Study has been prepared by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), District 6. 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 would have no effect on aesthetics, coastal resources, wild and scenic rivers, parks and recreational facilities, forest resources, growth, community character and cohesion, water quality and stormwater runoff, environmental justice, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazardous materials, paleontological resources, hydrology and floodplains, existing and future land use, mineral resources, noise, energy, public services, recreation, tribal cultural resources, invasive species, and wildfire.

The project would have no significant effect on farmland, population and housing, utilities and service systems, biology, traffic and transportation, air quality, and greenhouse gas emissions.

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Jennifer H. Taylor  
Office Chief, Central Region  
Environmental South  
California Department of Transportation  
CEQA Lead Agency

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Date

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# **Chapter 1**      Proposed Project

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## **1.1 Introduction**

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to construct a single-lane roundabout at the intersection of State Route 180 and Dickenson Avenue, between post miles 47.4 and 47.8. See Figure 1-1 for the project vicinity map and Figure 1-2 for the project location map. The project lies in Fresno County, less than a mile west of the small unincorporated agricultural community of Rolinda.

This safety project is funded from the 2020 State Highway Operation and Safety Improvements Program 20.XX.201.010 for the 2023-2024 fiscal year. The project would improve safety and reduce the number of accidents at this intersection. The project's estimated cost is \$12,150,000. Construction is expected to begin in 2024 and end in 2025.

Existing State Route 180 is a two-lane conventional highway on level terrain. This rural highway provides access for the movement of agricultural goods and regional commuters (through Fresno, Kerman, and the small agricultural community of Rolinda) as well as interregional traffic from State Routes 145 and 33 on the west and to State Routes 99, 168 and 41 to the east.

This project is one of several projects that have been planned for State Route 180 within this area of Fresno County. Others include the following:

1. 06-0M7204 (FRE-180-24.5/53.6) completed in 2012—a rubberized hot mix asphalt overlay of the pavement.
2. 06-0N8204 (FRE-180-47.6) completed in 2014—a pavement rehabilitation of the westbound State Route 180 through lane at the Dickenson Avenue intersection.

## **1.2 Purpose and Need**

### **1.2.1 Purpose**

The purpose of the project is to improve safety at the intersection of State Route 180 and Dickenson Avenue.

### **1.2.2 Need**

The intersection of State Route 180 and Dickenson Avenue has been experiencing a high number of collisions due to unsafe driver speed.

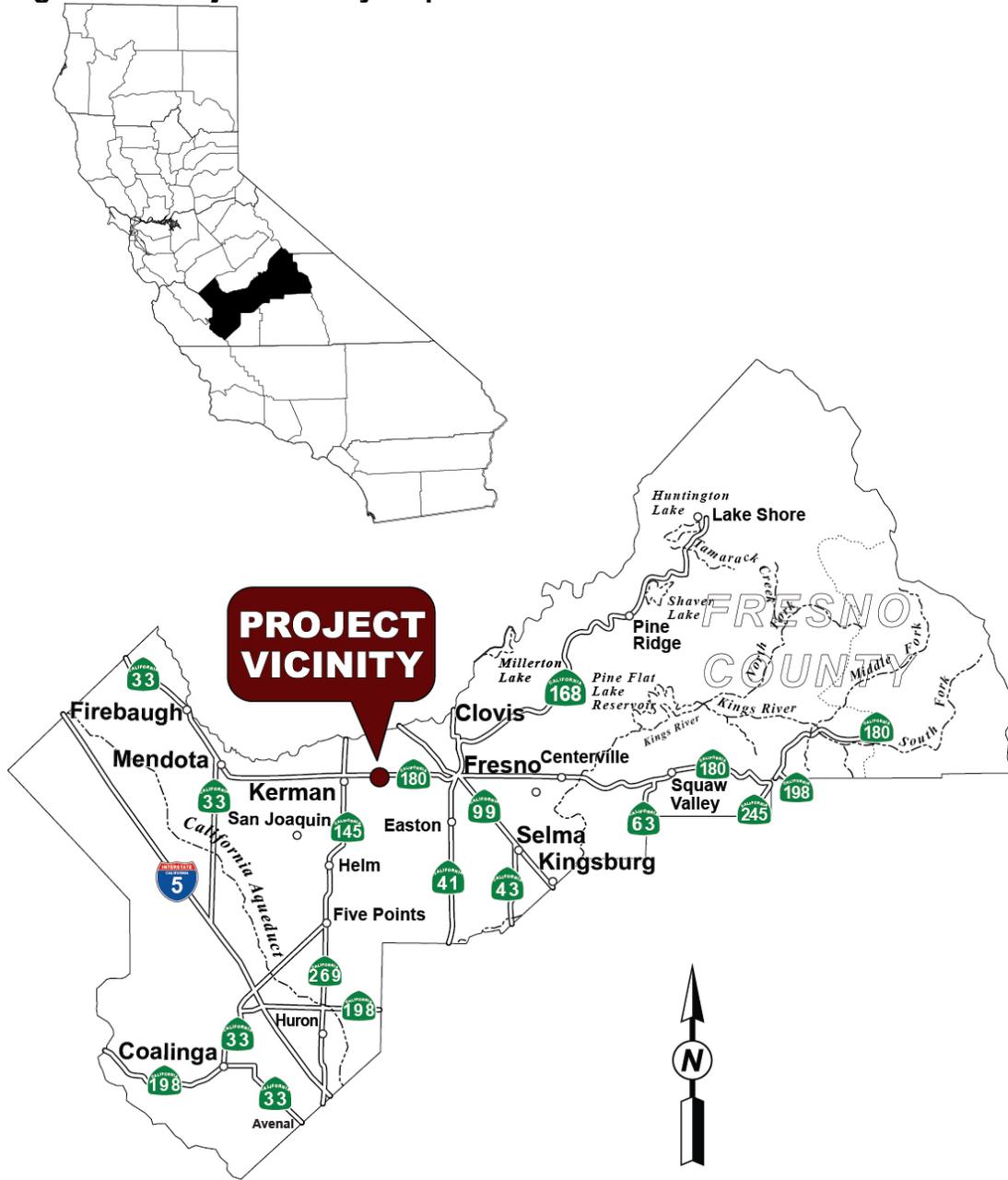
Fourteen accidents were recorded at the intersection during the three-year study period between January 2016 and December 2018. The actual fatal-plus-injury and total accident rates for the intersection are higher than the statewide average for similar intersections with comparable traffic volumes. The fatal accident rate, however, is 0.001, lower than the statewide average for similar intersections with comparable traffic volumes.

The main collision factors for the accidents were rear-end accidents and speeding under clear weather conditions.

### **1.3 Project Description**

The project would improve safety at the intersection of State Route 180 and Dickenson Avenue by constructing a single-lane roundabout. The roundabout would accommodate larger trucks under the Federal Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982. The roundabout would maintain existing traffic patterns with modified driveways, a truck apron, a landscape buffer, a shared-use path and splitter islands with curb ramps. In addition, the existing drainage and electrical systems would be upgraded, and signs would be replaced or upgraded.

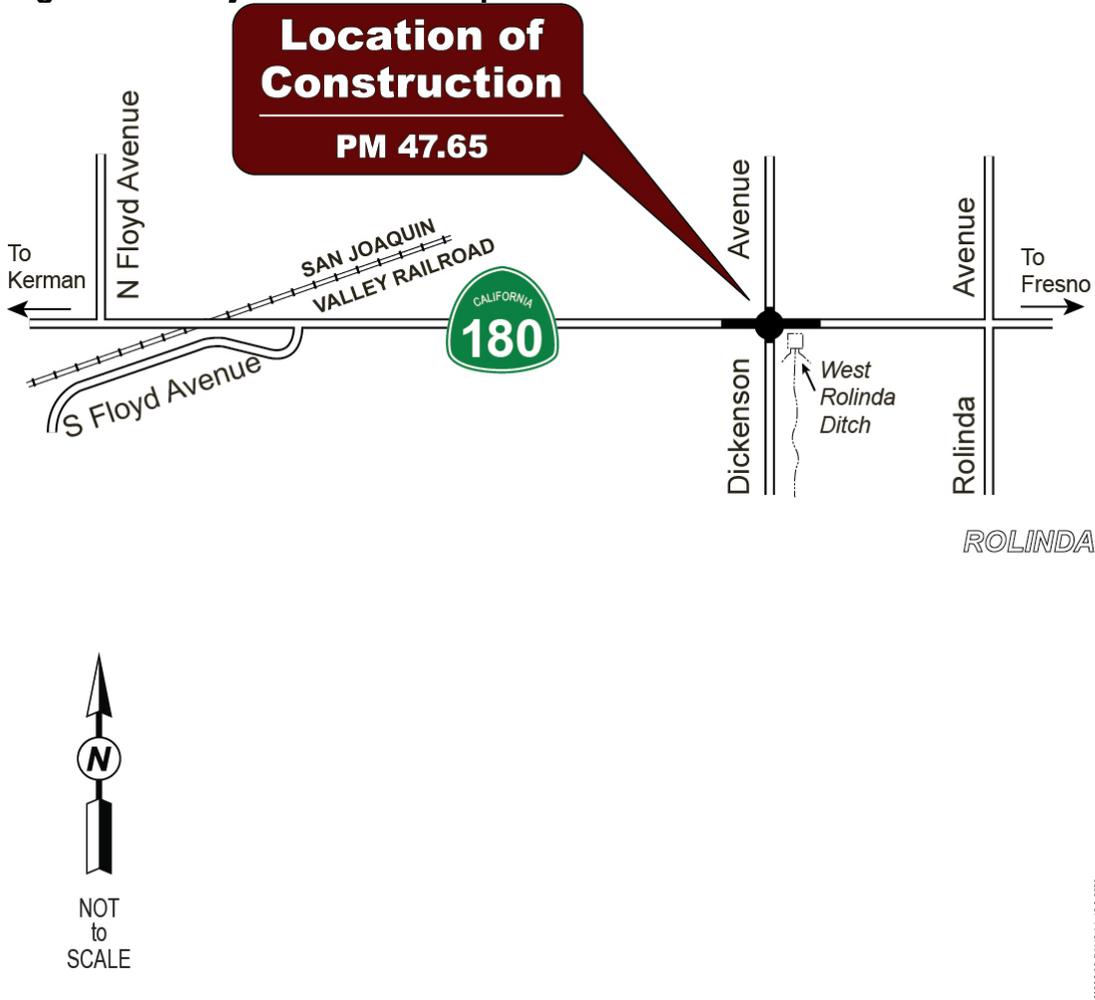
Figure 1-1 Project Vicinity Map



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Figure 1-2 Project Location Map



## 1.4 Project Alternatives

Two alternatives—the Build Alternative and the No-Build Alternative—are being considered.

### 1.4.1 Build Alternative

This safety improvement project proposes to improve the intersection of State Route 180 and Dickenson Avenue, ease traffic congestion, and introduce a traffic-calming circulation pattern by constructing a roundabout at the site.

The project would do the following:

- Construct a single-lane roundabout that would accommodate oversized trucks and the Surface Transportation Assistance Act standard.
- Construct a truck apron approximately 20 feet wide.

- Construct eight curb ramps compliant with Americans with Disabilities Act standards.
- Construct 8 bike ramps, for each direction of traffic.
- Provide a central island with a diameter of 54 feet, and a 5-foot sidewalk hardscape buffer.
- Construct 300-foot-long splitter islands on all legs.
- Construct storage ditches along State Route 180 and Dickenson Avenue.
- Construct the roundabout, circulatory roadway and truck apron using colored jointed plain concrete pavement (JPCP) and hot mix asphalt (Type A). The legs of the roundabout would be constructed of hot mix asphalt (Type A) and aggregate base. The project would use shoulder widening, cold-planing and an overlay to conform to the existing pavement.
- Install a 10-foot shared-use path on all directions of the intersection, accommodating pedestrians and bicyclists with Americans with Disabilities Act curb ramps and bike ramps. Include high-visibility crosswalks and island refuges.
- Require utility adjustments and relocations for AT&T, Kerman Telephone doing business as (DBA) Sebastian, and PG&E. The project would also require work on Fresno Irrigation District facilities, done as part of the construction contract.
- Remove the existing lighting and flashing beacon systems and replace with new lighting and flashing beacon systems at all approaches to the roundabout. Also, replace existing Traffic Census Stations with powered Traffic Monitoring Stations.
- Acquire additional right-of-way and Temporary Construction Easements for construction of a temporary detour alignment during stage construction. Also acquire an easement outside of state right-of-way for the relocation of Fresno Irrigation District facilities. Approximately 7.18 acres would be acquired from five parcels within the project area.

There would be three stages of construction for the project:

1. Stage 1 would include the undergrounding and relocation of a portion of the Rolinda Canal and construction of a temporary detour alignment for traffic on State Route 180.
2. In Stage 2, the northern leg of Dickenson Avenue would be closed, and State Route 180 traffic would be rerouted to the temporary detour alignment. The roundabout circle, both legs of State Route 180, the northern leg of Dickenson Avenue, and the final portion of the Rolinda Canal relocation would then be constructed.
3. For Stage 3, the southern leg of Dickenson Avenue would be closed, traffic on State Route 180 would be shifted to the newly constructed roundabout,

traffic on the northern leg of Dickenson Avenue would be open to use the newly constructed roundabout, and the southern leg of Dickenson Avenue would be constructed. The northern leg of Dickenson Avenue would be closed during Stage 2 and the southern leg of Dickenson Avenue would be closed during Stage 3 of construction, and local traffic would be rerouted.

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

The No-Build Alternative would leave the intersection of State Route 180 and Dickenson Avenue as it is, without a roundabout. This alternative does not meet the purpose and need for the project to reduce the number and severity of collisions at this intersection.

#### **1.4.3 Alternative Considered but Eliminated from Further Discussion**

The following alternative was considered for the project but was eliminated for the reason stated.

An alternative proposing to construct a traffic signal at the intersection of State Route 180 and Dickenson Avenue was considered, but it was not advanced further. According to an Intersection Control Evaluation Step One Screening from Caltrans Traffic Operations dated October 9, 2019, the intersection would not achieve the required safety warrant from a proposed traffic signal. In addition, the 2017 Highway Safety Improvement Program Guidelines indicated that the traffic signal alternative proposed at this intersection would not be a viable alternative to satisfy the purpose and need of the project. Therefore, this alternative was eliminated from further discussion.

### **1.5 Standard Measures and Best Management Practices**

This project contains several standard measures and best management practices that are used on most, if not all, Caltrans projects and were not developed in response to any specific environmental impact resulting from the proposed project. These include the following:

**Air Quality**—Effectively reduce and control emission impacts during construction. The provisions of Caltrans Standard Specifications, Section 14-9.02 “Air Pollution Control” and Section 10-5 “Dust Control.”

**Biology**—Swainson’s hawk preconstruction surveys will be completed according to “Recommended Timing and Methodology for Swainson’s Hawk Nesting Surveys in California’s Central Valley” (May 31, 2001) during nesting season (February 1 to September 30) the year prior to groundbreaking activities to ensure no nesting Swainson’s hawks will be affected if construction is to occur during the nesting season.

**Hazardous Waste**—Applicable Standard Special Provisions may include, but not be limited to: Standard Special Provision 7-1.02K (6)(j)(iii)—ground

disturbance of unregulated materials; Standard Special Provision 14-11.08—ground disturbance of regulated Aerially Deposited Lead materials; Non-Standard Special Provision 14-11.14—disposal and handling of treated wood waste; Standard Special Provision 36-4 and/or 84-9.03B—cold-planing and/or removal of white/new yellow striping material; and/or Standard Special Provision 14-11.12—removal of old yellow striping material.

Paleontological- If unanticipated fossil discovery occurs during utility work, Specification 14-7.03 of the *2018 Standard Specifications* identifies the procedures to be implemented to protect the paleontological resource(s).

## **1.6 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, will be provided in the final document prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. When needed for clarity, or as required by the California Environmental Quality Act, this document may contain references to federal laws and/or regulations (the California Environmental Quality Act, 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—that is, species protected by the Federal Endangered Species Act).

## **1.7 Permits and Approvals Needed**

No permits, licenses, agreements, and certifications are required for project construction.

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# Chapter 2 CEQA Evaluation

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## 2.1 CEQA Environmental Checklist

This checklist identifies physical, biological, social, and economic factors that might be affected by the proposed project. Potential impact determinations include Significant and Unavoidable 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 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 in the Visual Impact Assessment Memo dated March 2021, the following significance determinations have been made:

Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099:

Question—Would the project:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Aesthetics
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—Would 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, would 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 would 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 AD-1006 Farmland Conversion Impact Rating form evaluated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service on August 20, 2021 and based on the Fresno County Geographic Information System zoning designation as Unincorporated (source dated December 29, 2017), the following significance determinations have been made.

Question—Would 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>Less Than Significant Impact.</b> Additional right-of-way would be acquired from prime farmland next to the state right-of-way for the proposed roundabout. However, it is a minor right-of-way acquisition. The Natural Resources Conservation Service Farmland Conversion Impact Rating form was completed and submitted for the project on August 13, 2021 (see Appendix B). The form was evaluated by Natural Resources Conservation Service staff on August 20, 2021.
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<b>No Impact.</b>
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>

**Affected Environment**

The Natural Resources Conservation Service Farmland Conversion Impact Rating form was completed for the project on August 13, 2021 (see Appendix B). According to the 2017 California Department of Conservation, Fresno County has a total of 1,514,402 acres of prime farmland, farmland of statewide importance, farmland of local importance, and unique farmland. The top commodities are almonds, grapes and pistachios.

The proposed roundabout right-of-way acquisition area falls within five parcels. All five parcels are classified as “prime farmland” by the Department of Conservation. It is estimated that a total of 7.18 acres would be acquired for the proposed roundabout from these five farmland parcels, all acreage devoted to agricultural use. Surrounding these parcels are mostly low-density rural settlements and agricultural land.

**Environmental Consequences**

Approximately 7.18 acres of land would be converted between these larger parcels: Assessor’s Parcel Number 025-071-047 (0.10 acre), Assessor’s Parcel Number 025-071-053 (1.52 acre), Assessor’s Parcel Number 025-071-62S (formerly 025-031S and 025-071-40S) (1.35 acre), Assessor’s Parcel Number 025-221-51 (2.53 acre) and 025-320-028 (1.68 acre). These parcels sit at the intersection of Dickenson Avenue and State Route 180. The land is not Williamson Act contract land but is designated as “prime farmland.”

The project will acquire approximately 7.18 acres that are currently zoned for agricultural use. According to the Farmland Conversion Impact Rating form (see Appendix B), the impact rating total for the Build Alternative is 110 points. This rating form determines the relative value of farmland to be converted by using a formula that weighs farmland classification, such as how much land is in nonurban use, the size of the present farm unit compared to the average in Fresno County, the availability of onsite farm investments, storage facilities and wherever the proposed project would reduce the demand for farm support service or the viability of the farms remaining in the area. If the impact rating is 160 or greater, the project is considered to have high potential for impacts and is suitable for protection under the Farmland Protection Policy Act.

Because the impact rating total for the proposed roundabout area (110 points) is less than the 160-point limit, protection under the Farmland Protection Policy Act is not needed for this project.

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

Land acquisition and impacts for the project would be considered minimal and would not require mitigation measures.

**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 in the Dickenson Roundabout Air Quality Memorandum dated April 15, 2021, the following significance determinations have been made:

Question—Would the project:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Air Quality
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<b>No Impact.</b>

Question—Would the project:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Air Quality
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 in the Natural Environment Study (Minimal Impacts) dated February 2021, the following significance determinations have been made:

Question—Would 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>Less Than Significant Impact.</b> The project may affect the Swainson's hawk ( <i>Buteo swainsoni</i> ), which is state listed as threatened.
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>

Question—Would the project:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Biological Resources
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>

**Affected Environment**

A Natural Environment Study (Minimal Impacts) was prepared for the project to determine to what extent the project may affect threatened, endangered, candidate, or sensitive species. This section focuses on the issues covered in the Natural Environment Study (Minimal Impacts) prepared for the project in February 2021 and describes a special-status species—the Swainson’s hawk—that may occur or have the potential to occur within the project limits.

Special-status animals are considered of “special concern” based on (1) federal, state, or local laws regulating their development; (2) limited distributions; and/or (3) the habitat requirements of special-status animals occurring onsite. Suitable habitat for the Swainson’s hawk was found within the project limits.

*Swainson’s Hawk (Buteo swainsoni)*

The Swainson’s hawk is state listed as threatened and is protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Swainson’s hawks are broad-winged hawks between 18 and 22 inches long; the female is slightly larger than the male. During summer, the Swainson’s hawk is found in California’s Central Valley. In winter, the hawk heads south toward South America.

Swainson’s hawks hunt for food in grasslands, agricultural fields, and livestock pastures. Their main food sources are mice, gophers, ground squirrels, rabbits, large insects, reptiles, amphibians, and small birds. Swainson’s hawks generally rest in trees but they will rest on the ground if no trees are present.

This hawk breeds in open stands of juniper-sage flats, riparian areas and oak savannahs in the Central Valley. Breeding areas are normally close to food sources. The Swainson’s hawk can also nest in landscape trees near human

structures and sometimes in orchards. Breeding occurs from late March to late August, with peak activity in late May or July. Swainson's hawks produce two to four eggs in the nest; eggs take 25 to 28 days to hatch.

Habitat types in the project area include scattered trees, large shrubs as well as agricultural areas. A site visit was made on May 28, 2020; no active or inactive Swainson's hawks' nests were seen. No hawks were seen flying or roosting during this field survey. Also, a California Natural Diversity Database query found no occurrences of Swainson's hawks in or around the project area, nor were any active raptor structures found. However, open fields that could provide a food source for Swainson's hawks are present and so are suitable nesting trees.

### ***Environmental Consequences***

#### ***Swainson's Hawk***

The project would result in permanent impacts to about 7.18 acres of open fields or agricultural areas that may provide foraging habitat for the Swainson's hawk. Tree removal is anticipated for the project, and the project area contains suitable nesting trees for the Swainson's hawk. However, open fields next to State Route 180 contain very low-quality foraging habitat, and noise disturbance from the active highway nearby with a high volume of vehicle traffic may cause Swainson's hawks to avoid the project area.

The large suitable nesting trees would be surveyed for nesting raptors during the appropriate season prior to construction, and any nests found would be avoided per the minimization efforts described below.

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

#### ***Swainson's Hawk***

While the likelihood that Swainson's hawks would be found in the project area is low, if Swainson's hawks were to nest within 600 feet of the project area, a no disturbance buffer would be implemented to avoid and minimize the potential for impacts to the species. If nests are found farther than 600 feet from the project area, any noise or disturbance from construction would have no greater impact to a Swainson's hawk than the current disturbances from vehicle traffic at the site of proposed work.

Caltrans proposes the following avoidance and minimization efforts to ensure the project would not result in measurable impacts to this species:

- Preconstruction surveys will be completed according to "Recommended Timing and Methodology for Swainson's Hawk Nesting Surveys in California's Central Valley" (May 31, 2001) during nesting season (February 1 to September 30) the year prior to groundbreaking activities to ensure no nesting Swainson's hawks will be affected if construction is to occur during the nesting season.

- A Worker Environmental Awareness Training (WEAT) will be administered by a qualified biologist to any personnel working onsite, covering the biology and life history of the Swainson’s hawk and the penalties for take of the species if discovered.
- If nesting Swainson’s hawks are observed onsite, then the nest site will be designated an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA), with a buffer zone of 600 feet until it has been determined that the young have fledged out of the nest.
- A biologist will be present to monitor the active nest during construction activities.
- A special provision for migratory birds will be included to ensure that no potential nesting migratory birds are affected during construction activities.
- Removal of any trees within the project area should be done outside of the nesting season; however, if a tree within the project area needs to be removed during the nesting season, a qualified biologist will inspect the tree prior to removal to ensure that no nests are present.

### 2.1.5 Cultural Resources

Considering the information in the Archaeological Survey Report dated December 2020 and Historic Property Survey Report dated May 2021, the following significance determinations have been made:

Question—Would 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>
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 would construct a single roundabout with improvements for operation and visibility, the following significance determinations have been made:

Question—Would 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 Paleontological Identification Report dated April 2020, the California Geological Survey and Fresno County General Plan update in February 2000, the following significance determinations have been made:

Question—Would 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:  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.	<b>No Impact.</b>
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<b>No Impact.</b>
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<b>No Impact.</b>
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 would 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>

Question—Would the project:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Geology and Soils
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	<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 in the Climate Change Report dated July 2021 and Air Quality Memorandum dated April 2021, the following significance determinations have been made:

Question—Would 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> The project would not generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment. Greenhouse gas emissions impacts of operational improvements projects such as this are considered less than significant under the California Environmental Quality Act because there would be no increase in operational emissions. While some greenhouse gas emissions during the construction period would be unavoidable, with implementation of standard measures or Best Management Practices designed to reduce or eliminate emissions as part of the project, the impact would be less than significant.
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> The project would not conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases.

### ***Affected Environment***

The project lies in Fresno County, less than a mile west of the small unincorporated agricultural community of Rolinda. Existing State Route 180 is a two-lane conventional highway on level terrain. This rural highway provides access for the movement of agricultural goods and regional commuters (through Fresno, Kerman, and the small agricultural community of Rolinda) as well as interregional traffic from State Routes 145 and 33 on the west and State Routes 99, 168 and 41 to the east.

### ***Environmental Consequences***

Construction greenhouse gas emissions would result from material processing, onsite construction equipment, and traffic delays due to construction. These emissions would be produced at different levels throughout the construction phase; their frequency and occurrence can be reduced through innovations in plans and specifications and by implementing better traffic management during construction phases. Furthermore, construction emissions could be offset by the operational improvements that will result from the construction of the roundabout.

Per Caltrans protocol, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions generated from construction equipment (which are used to gauge impacts to climate change) were estimated using the Caltrans Construction Emissions Tool (CALCET). The estimated carbon dioxide construction emissions are 216 U.S. tons over a 130-day work period.

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

While the project would result in greenhouse gas emissions during construction, it is anticipated that the project would not result in any increase in operational greenhouse gas emissions. The project does not conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases. With the implementation of construction greenhouse gas reduction measures, the impacts would be less than significant.

Caltrans Specification 14.9.02, Air Pollution Control, requires contractors to comply with all air pollution control rules, regulations, ordinances, and statutes. Measures that reduce construction vehicle emissions also help reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The following greenhouse gas reduction measures will be implemented for the project:

*Project-Level Measures to be Implemented to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions Related to Construction Activities (Additional environmental measures would be determined at the final design phase)*

- Schedule truck trips outside of peak monitoring and evening commute hours.

- Use alternate one-way (reversing) traffic control when lane closures are necessary during construction.

*Project-Level Measures to be Implemented to Reduce Operational Greenhouse Gas Emissions*

- Incorporate Complete Streets components.
- Use hardscape landscaping to reduce the need for irrigation and maintenance.

**2.1.9 Hazards and Hazardous Materials**

Considering the information in the Initial Site Assessment dated June 2020 and updated on July 2021, the following significance determinations have been made:

Question—Would the project:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Hazards and Hazardous Materials
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 one-quarter 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, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<b>No Impact.</b>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would 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>

Question—Would the project:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Hazards and Hazardous Materials
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>

**2.1.10 Hydrology and Water Quality**

Considering the information in the Water Compliance Memorandum dated January 2021, the following significance determinations have been made:

Question—Would the project:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Hydrology and Water Quality
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water 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 would:  (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 would result in flooding onsite or offsite;	<b>No Impact.</b>
(iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?	<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—Would 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 in the Transportation Concept Report for State Route 180 dated October 2015, the following significance determinations have been made:

Question—Would 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 in the California Department of Conservation Mineral Land Classification Interactive Map dated 1998, the following significance determinations have been made:

Question—Would the project:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Mineral Resources
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would 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 in the Noise Compliance Study dated February 2021, the following significance determinations have been made:

Question—Would 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?	<b>No Impact.</b>
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<b>No Impact.</b>
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 two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<b>No Impact.</b>

### 2.1.14 Population and Housing

Considering the information in the Fresno County General Plan 2000, and the Caltrans Project Initiation Report dated January 2020, the following significance determinations have been made:

Question—Would 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)?	<b>No Impact.</b>
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<b>No Impact.</b>

### 2.1.15 Public Services

Considering the information in the Fresno County General Plan 2000, the following significance determinations have been made:

Question:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Public Services
a) Would 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 the information in the Fresno County General Plan 2000, the following significance determinations have been made:

Question—Would the project:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Recreation
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would 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 Fresno County General Plan 2000 and the Caltrans Project Initiation Report dated January 2020, the following significance determinations have been made:

Question—Would 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?	<b>No Impact.</b>
b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	<b>No Impact.</b>
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<b>No Impact.</b>
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<b>No Impact.</b>

**2.1.18 Tribal Cultural Resources**

Considering the information in the Archaeological Survey Report dated December 2020 and Historic Property Survey Report dated May 2021, the following significance determinations have been made:

Would 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	<b>No Impact.</b>
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.	<b>No Impact.</b>

### 2.1.19 Utilities and Service Systems

Considering the information in the Draft Project Report dated August 2021 and Paleontological Identification Report dated April 2020, the following significance determinations have been made:

Question—Would 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 storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<b>Less Than Significant Impact.</b> The project would result in utility adjustments and relocations for AT&T, Kerman Telephone doing business as Sebastian, PG&E, and Fresno Irrigation District facilities.
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>

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

Various utilities within the project area would need to be relocated or modified to construct the project. The utilities are located along State Route 180 and Dickenson Avenue. The utilities include AT&T overhead and underground telephone lines, Kerman Telephone doing business as Sebastian underground fiber optic and telephone lines, and PG&E overhead electric lines. The project would also affect the Fresno Irrigation District canal west of Rolinda.

#### ***Environmental Consequences***

##### ***Utilities***

This project would require utility coordination with AT&T, Kerman Telephone doing business as Sebastian, PG&E, and Fresno Irrigation District. Work

includes but is not limited to pole relocation and undergrounding of existing overhead lines, vault and pedestal relocations and modifications, and underground line reconfiguration. Potholing is anticipated to positively locate existing underground utilities. This project would also require an undergrounding and realignment of Fresno Irrigation District facilities, which would be done as part of the construction contract.

There would be excavation for underground utility line modifications, the undergrounding of AT&T overhead telephone line, pole removals and relocations, and Fresno Irrigation District canal undergrounding and irrigation pipe relocation. These excavation and ground-disturbing activities would impact the underlying paleontological resource, the Pleistocene-age Modesto Formation. However, as these excavations are limited in width, lateral extent, and/or located within soils and sediments that were previously disturbed during installation of the original utilities, it is unlikely scientifically significant fossils will be encountered.

### *Emergency Services*

Emergency services provided by the Fresno County Fire Department, Fresno County Sheriff's Department, and the California Highway Patrol would not be impacted by the project. The nearest Fresno County Fire Station is the Fresno/North Central Fire Station 22 at 806 South Garfield Avenue in Fresno, approximately 3 miles south of the project site, south of State Route 180.

Law enforcement service is provided in the area by the Fresno County Sheriff's Department and the California Highway Patrol. The project would benefit emergency services by improving traffic operations and traffic safety at State Route 180/Dickenson Avenue intersection.

Either the southern leg or northern leg of Dickenson Avenue would be closed at times during construction. At least one leg on Dickenson Avenue will remain open for the duration of construction. A temporary detour alignment and alternate one-way (reversing) traffic control would be used to keep State Route 180 open during construction. There are no public facilities within the project area.

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

The following avoidance and minimization measures would prevent temporary impacts to utilities and emergency services:

#### *Utilities*

- Utility relocation and modification are needed to accommodate construction of the project. The utility work for Kerman Telephone doing business as Sebastian, PG&E, and AT&T would be done by the utility companies. Utility users would be informed of the date and time in advance of any service disruptions.

- All construction work on the irrigation pipes and canal would be done as part of the construction contract and coordinated with the Fresno Irrigation District.
- Standard Special Provisions 7-1.02K (6)(j)(iii) and 14-11.08 are required if there is ground disturbance of unregulated earth material containing lead. Standard Special Provision 14-11.14 is required if treated wood waste will be generated during the project. Standard Special Provision 14-11.12 is required for proper management of hazardous waste residue (if yellow striping will be removed separately). Residue from removal of yellow thermoplastic pavement marking and/or yellow-painted traffic stripe may contain lead chromate. Residue produced from the separate removal of any yellow thermoplastic pavement marking and/or yellow-painted traffic stripe may contain heavy metals in concentrations that exceed thresholds established by the Health and Safety Code and 22 California Code of Regulations. Standard Special Provisions 36-4 and/or 84-9.03B would be required for work involving residue from grinding and cold-planing that contains lead from paint and thermoplastic and/or white, black, or new yellow paint/striping/markings that are removed separately.
- If unanticipated fossil discovery occurs during utility work, Specification 14-7.03 of the *2018 Standard Specifications* identifies the procedures to be implemented to protect the paleontological resource(s).

### *Emergency Services*

A Traffic Management Plan would be developed to minimize delays and maximize safety during construction. The Traffic Management Plan may include, but is not limited to, the following:

- Release of information through brochures and mailers, press releases, and notices from the Caltrans public information office to notify and inform motorists, businesses, community groups, local entities, and emergency services of upcoming closures or detours.
- Use of portable Changeable Message Signs and a Construction Zone Enhanced Enforcement Program may be used to minimize delay to the traveling public.

### **2.1.20 Wildfire**

Considering the information in the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection online Fire Hazard Severity Zones Maps dated November 2007, 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—Would 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>
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>

Question:	CEQA Significance Determinations for Mandatory Findings of Significance
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<b>No Impact.</b>

a) **No Impact.** The project does not have the potential to 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 major periods of California history or prehistory. (Natural Environment Study, Minimal Impacts February 2021, Caltrans Archaeological Survey Report December 2020, Historic Property Survey Report May 2021).

b) **No Impact.** The project would not have a negative effect on current projects nearby or future projects; rather, it would provide additional operational improvements at the State Route 180 and Dickenson Avenue intersection.

c) **No Impact.** The project would not cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly. During project construction, the project would have temporary increases in noise and air pollution. Project construction is also expected to result in temporary and minor traffic delays that could affect response time of emergency services or affect evacuation time in emergency situations. However, these temporary effects would be minimized with implementation of the project's Transportation Management Plan, per Caltrans guidelines (see Noise Compliance Study February 2021 and Air Quality Memo April 2021).

# Appendix A Title VI Policy Statement

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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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



# Appendix B Farmland Conversion Impact

U.S. Department of Agriculture						
FARMLAND CONVERSION IMPACT RATING						
<b>PART I</b> (To be completed by Federal Agency)			Date Of Land Evaluation Request 8/13/2021			
Name of Project: Dickenson Avenue Roundabout			Federal Agency Involved FHWA			
Proposed Land Use: Transportation			County and State: Fresno, California			
<b>PART II</b> (To be completed by NRCS)			Date Request Received By NRCS 08/13/2021		Person Completing Form: Philip Smith	
Does the site contain Prime, Unique, Statewide or Local Important Farmland? (If no, the FPPA does not apply - do not complete additional parts of this form)			YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>	Acres Irrigated 972,576	Average Farm Size 345
Major Crop(s): Almonds, Grapes and Pistachios		Farmable Land In Govt. Jurisdiction Acres: 1,717,438 % 44.5		Amount of Farmland As Defined in FPPA Acres: 1,514,402 % 39.3		
Name of Land Evaluation System Used CA Revised Storie Index		Name of State or Local Site Assessment System None		Date Land Evaluation Returned by NRCS 08/20/2021		
<b>PART III</b> (To be completed by Federal Agency)			Alternative Site Rating			
			Site A	Site B	Site C	Site D
A. Total Acres To Be Converted Directly			7.18			
B. Total Acres To Be Converted Indirectly			0			
C. Total Acres In Site			7.18			
<b>PART IV</b> (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Information						
A. Total Acres Prime And Unique Farmland			7.18			
B. Total Acres Statewide Important or Local Important Farmland			0			
C. Percentage Of Farmland in County Or Local Govt. Unit To Be Converted			0.0005			
D. Percentage Of Farmland in Govt. Jurisdiction With Same Or Higher Relative Value			13.64			
<b>PART V</b> (To be completed by NRCS) Land Evaluation Criterion Relative Value of Farmland To Be Converted (Scale of 0 to 100 Points)			88			
<b>PART VI</b> (To be completed by Federal Agency) Site Assessment Criteria (Criteria are explained in 7 CFR 658.5 b. For Corridor project use form NRCS-CPA-106)			Maximum Points	Site A	Site B	Site C
1. Area In Non-urban Use			(15)	14		
2. Perimeter In Non-urban Use			(10)	10		
3. Percent Of Site Being Farmed			(20)	19		
4. Protection Provided By State and Local Government			(20)	20		
5. Distance From Urban Built-up Area			(15)	15		
6. Distance To Urban Support Services			(15)	14		
7. Size Of Present Farm Unit Compared To Average			(10)	1		
8. Creation Of Non-farmable Farmland			(10)	0		
9. Availability Of Farm Support Services			(5)	1		
10. On-Farm Investments			(20)	16		
11. Effects Of Conversion On Farm Support Services			(10)	0		
12. Compatibility With Existing Agricultural Use			(10)	0		
TOTAL SITE ASSESSMENT POINTS			180	110	0	0
<b>PART VII</b> (To be completed by Federal Agency)						
Relative Value Of Farmland (From Part V)			100	88	0	0
Total Site Assessment (From Part VI above or local site assessment)			180	110	0	0
TOTAL POINTS (Total of above 2 lines)			280	198	0	0
Site Selected: Build Alternative		Date Of Selection 8/13/2021		Was A Local Site Assessment Used?		
				YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Reason For Selection: Build Alternative (Site A) is being selected because it meets the project purpose and need. Official approval of Build Alternative will occur upon the final environmental document in early 2022.						
Name of Federal agency representative completing this form: Phonga Duong					Date: 8/13/2021	
(See Instructions on reverse side)					Form AD-1006 (03-02)	



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

Air Quality Memorandum  
Noise Compliance Study  
Water Quality Report  
Natural Environment Study-Minimal Impacts  
Floodplain Evaluation  
Archaeological Survey Report  
Hazardous Waste Reports

- Initial Site Assessment

Visual Impact Assessment  
Paleontological Identification Report  
Climate Change Report

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

Trais Norris, Senior Environmental Planner  
Central Region Environmental  
California Department of Transportation  
2015 East Shields Avenue, Suite 100  
Fresno, CA 93726

Or send your request via email to: [trais.norris@dot.ca.gov](mailto:trais.norris@dot.ca.gov)  
Or call Trais Norris at: (209) 601-3521

Please provide the following information in your request:

Dickenson Avenue Roundabout  
On State Route 180 at Dickenson Avenue  
06-FRE-180-PM 47.4/47.8  
EA: 06-1Y410/Project ID: 0619000172