

# Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration and Notice of Availability for Public Review

TO:  Interested Individuals  
 San Benito County Clerk

FROM: San Benito County Resource Management Agency  
2301 Technology Parkway  
Hollister, CA 95023-2513

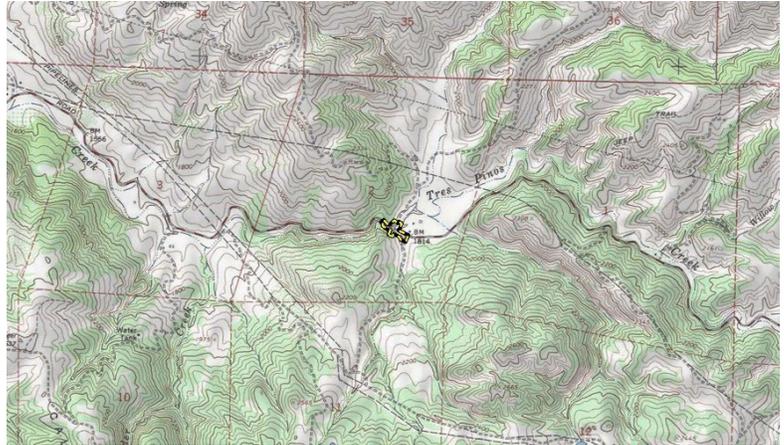
**Contact Person:** Steve Loupe, Interim RMA Director, (831) 902-2271, [SLoupe@cosb.us](mailto:SLoupe@cosb.us)

**Project File No.:** Panoche Road Bridge (No. 43C0027) Replacement at Tres Pinos Creek San Benito County, California 05-SBT-0-CR Federal Project No. BRLO-5943 (056)

**Project Applicant:** San Benito County Resource Management Agency, Public Works Division

**Project Location:** 17441 Panoche Road, Paicines, CA 95043 (Assessor's Parcel 0271500030)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Initial Study and Proposed Mitigated Measures for Panoche Road Bridge (No. 43C0027) Replacement at Tres Pinos Creek San Benito County, California 05-SBT-0-CR Federal Project No. BRLO-5943 (056) is available for public review and that the County as **LEAD AGENCY** intends to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for this project, which finds that the project, provided mitigation measures are incorporated, will not have a significant effect on the environment. The public review period in which comments will be accepted for the proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration begins **August 30, 2022**, and ends at 5 p.m. on **September 28, 2022**.



The project's Initial Study, its proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration, and the documents referenced in the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration are available for review at or the following website:

<https://www.cosb.us/departments/resource-management-agency/public-works>

Printed copies of the IS/MND are available for review at the following locations:

- San Benito County Resource Management Agency  
2301 Technology Parkway, Hollister, California 95023
- San Benito County Administrative Office, County Administration Building  
481 4th Street, 1st Floor, Hollister, California 95023
- County of San Benito, Office of the Clerk  
440 Fifth Street, Second Floor, Room 206, Hollister, California 95023
- San Benito County Free Library  
470 Fifth Street, Hollister, California 95023

Comments may be addressed to the contact person noted above, and written comments are preferred. Please reference the project file number in all communications.

Comments shall be directed to:

San Benito County Resource Management Agency  
Steve Loupe, Interim RMA Director  
2301 Technology Parkway Hollister, California 95023  
[SLoupe@cosb.us](mailto:SLoupe@cosb.us)

## **Project Description**

The project area is in unincorporated San Benito County, approximately 13 mi east of Paicines and 11 mi west of the intersection of Little Panoche Road and Panoche Road. The bridge runs generally in an east-west direction, with Tres Pinos Creek flowing under the bridge in a north-south direction. The surrounding land uses are primarily agricultural.

The project site is located on Panoche Road, across Tres Pinos Creek. Panoche Road runs roughly east to west, connecting SR-25 and I-5 within San Benito County, California. The project is located approximately 25 miles (mi) west of Interstate (I) 5 and approximately 9.5 mi east of State Route (SR) 25. East of the project site, Panoche Road is degraded and hinders drivers from using the road as a preferred alternate route to I-5.

The San Benito County Department of Public Works proposes to replace the existing two-lane Panoche Road Bridge (bridge), Bridge No. 43C-0027, over the Tres Pinos Creek in San Benito County, California (proposed project) (see Figure 2-3: Project Design). The new bridge would be constructed south of the existing bridge. The roadway approach from the east would be realigned to allow construction of the new bridge in one stage while maintaining traffic flow on the existing bridge during construction. Additionally, shifting the alignment of the eastern roadway approach would improve roadway geometry by eliminating the slight "S" curve over the existing bridge. Upon completion of the new bridge, the existing bridge would be demolished. The proposed project would also widen the roadway approaches on the east and west ends of the bridge to conform to the new bridge width and profile. After construction, both the bridge and roadway approaches would contain two 12-foot (ft) lanes (one in each direction) and two 4 ft shoulders and would meet current American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) minimum design speed standards.

The Panoche Road Bridge was originally constructed in 1960. The existing bridge is 87 ft long and 16 ft wide with two 8 ft travel lanes (one in each direction) and no shoulders. The existing bridge structure has two piers located within the channel. According to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) California Road System Map, Panoche Road is classified as a Major Collector (Rural Roadway). The average daily traffic (ADT) for Panoche Road in 2010 was 800 cars per day, and by 2029, the ADT is projected to be 1,024 cars per day.

The proposed project includes the demolition of the existing single-lane 87 ft long and 16 ft wide bridge and the construction of a 132 ft long and 35 ft wide cast-in-place (CIP) pre-stressed concrete slab bridge. The replacement bridge would have two equal (66 ft) long spans, two 12 ft travel lanes, and two 4 ft wide paved shoulders along each side of the travel lanes. The proposed project would also include the construction of a wingwall at the southeast corner of the bridge and the placement of rock slope protection on both sides of the creek banks to protect the new abutments from hydraulic scour. Other proposed improvements include the modification of the east and west roadway approaches to conform to the width and location of the new bridge and to reduce the S-curve existing along Panoche Road. Additionally, a 110 ft wide by 120 ft long retaining wall would be installed against the hillside east of Tres Pinos Creek and south of Panoche Road to minimize excavation into the hillside and to protect from erosion and scour from Tres Pinos Creek.

Construction is expected to occur between June 2025 and October 2026. Construction would occur year-round and is anticipated to be 13 months in duration. Construction within the channel of the river is anticipated to take a total of approximately 2.5 months. On average, approximately 5–10 workers would be on the construction site per day. Traffic would be maintained on the existing bridge for the duration of project construction. During construction of the proposed bridge one lane would remain open to vehicular traffic on the existing bridge. Upon completion of the proposed project the existing bridge would be demolished completely, and the new bridge would facilitate two lanes of traffic.

Funding for the proposed project shall come from the federal Highway Bridge Program (HBP) and local matching funds. It is anticipated that the local match shall come from the San Benito County Department of Public Works.

Temporary access easements from adjacent properties would be needed for a contractor staging area, materials storage, and construction operations. No structures would be impacted.

Dated: August 19, 2022

PUBLISHED: Friday, August 26, 2022, ~ *Hollister Free Lance*

*Arielle Goodspeed*  
Signature

Principal Planner  
Title

August 19, 2022  
Date

Figure 2-3: Project Design

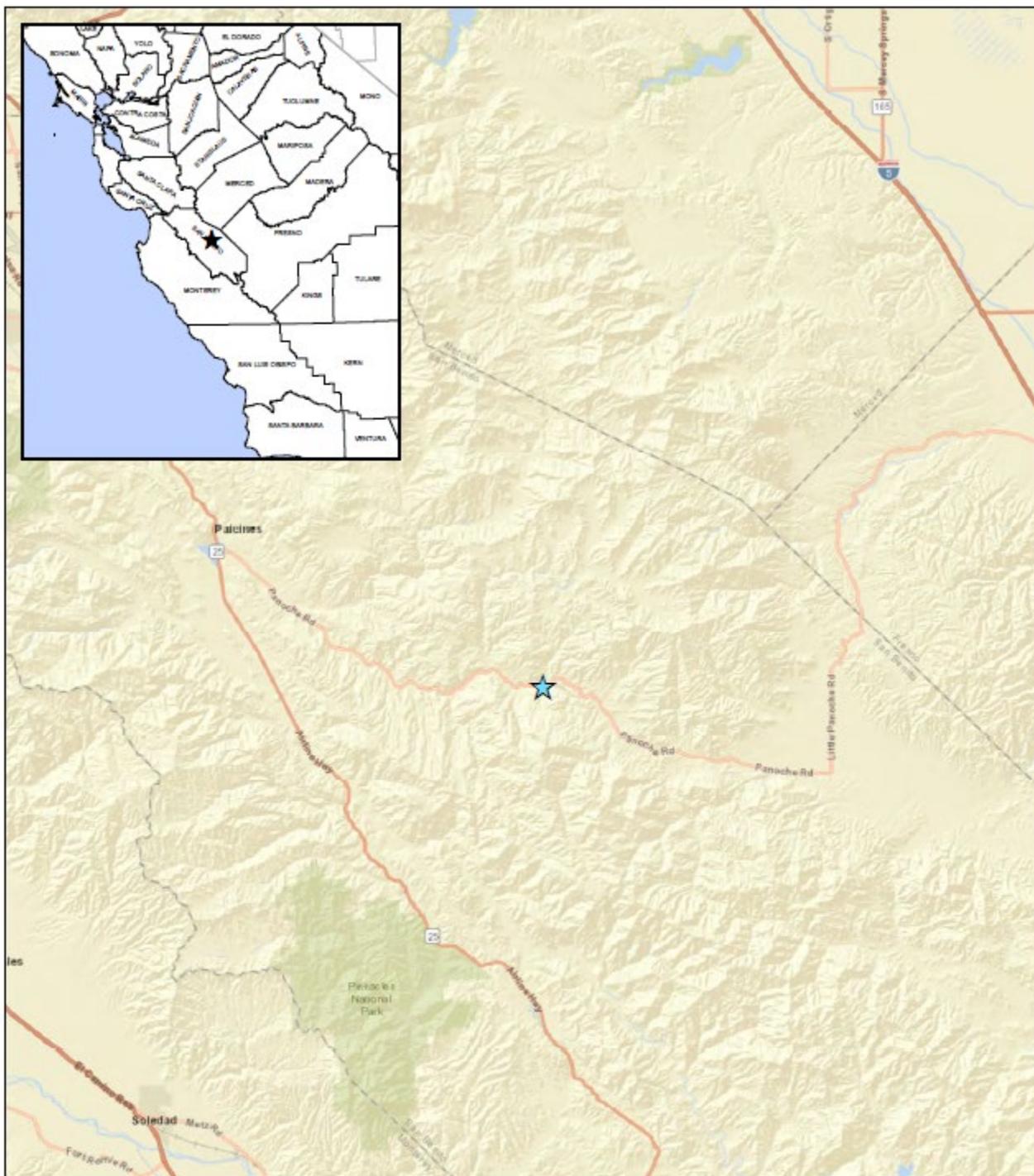


FIGURE 1

**LEGEND**

 Project Location







*Panoche Road Bridge (No. 43C0027) over  
Tres Pinos Creek Replacement Project  
San Benito County, California; Caltrans District 5  
Federal Project No. BRLO-5943(056)*

**Regional Location**

SOURCE: ESRI World Street Map (05/2020)  
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