

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Monterey County Public Works, Facilities and Parks
DATE: February 15, 2024
SUBJECT: Chualar Canyon Road Bridge Replacements Project

FILED

FEB 15 2024

CHUALAR, CALIF.- The Monterey County Public Works, Facilities and Parks (PWFP) is pleased to host a public meeting to present the Chualar Canyon Road Bridge Replacements Project and discuss the related environmental analysis document, as required under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The meeting will be held virtually on March 6, 2024, from 6:00-7:30pm.

**XOCHITL MARINA CAMACHO
MONTEREY COUNTY CLERK
DEPUTY**

The Chualar Canyon Road Bridge Replacement Project (Project) involves the replacement of four bridges along Chualar Canyon Road in Monterey County.

Project Description: The Monterey County Public Works, Facilities and Parks (PWFP) is proposing to implement bridge replacements for four different bridges (302, 303, 304, & 305) along Chualar Canyon Road in Monterey County.

Although the original date that the bridges were built is unknown, they were all modified sometime between 1940-1948. They are located approximately 1.8 miles, 2.1 miles, 2.7 miles, and 2.8 miles, respectively, east of the Chualar Canyon Road and Old Stage Road intersection east of the unincorporated community of Chualar, which is a census-designated place (CDP) in the Salinas Valley of Monterey County, California.

Moffatt & Nichol performed inspections of the four bridges in 2020 and subsequently load rated them. All bridges are approximately 15-foot-long single spans and therefore maintained by Monterey County Public Works, Facilities and Parks. A Planning Study submitted by Moffatt & Nichol recommended replacement of the bridges with either reinforced concrete box culverts or single span slab bridges due to their lack of capacity to carry heavy emergency vehicles. The project will replace the bridges with single span precast slab bridges. The bridge extensions will be paved and tied back.

The total impact area of the Chualar Creek stream bed is approximately less than 0.02 acres per bridge, totaling less than 0.08 acres of total impact area for the project. There will be detours adjacent to the four bridges during construction. There may be fill or earthwork for temporary bridges for these detours, and any fences that need to be taken down for the detour will be replaced after the bridge has been completed. These detours will be open to all traffic and any emergency vehicles, as the paved road will be closed during construction. With respect to cultural resources, the Area of Potential Effects (APE) will include permanent impact areas within the existing Monterey County Right of Way, and the detour will partially be outside of Monterey County Right of Way. The APE includes all area subject to ground disturbance for each bridge. Some trees/tree branches will need to be removed/trimmed, respectively, during the creation of the detours.

The project is slated to be completed within the same construction season between June to October 2025. Staging areas for the bridges will be on the adjacent paved road as traffic will be detoured around the bridge locations.

How to access: The virtual meeting will begin at 6:00pm until 7:30pm. Use the link below to access the meeting.

<https://moffattnichol.zoom.us/j/83473942161?from=addon>
(Meeting ID: 834 7394 2161) (669 900 6833)

Environmental Determination: An initial study was prepared to examine potential areas of impact resulting from the proposed Project. The Initial Study found that the proposed project would not have a significant impact on the environment with compliance with required regulatory permit conditions with the required implementation of mitigation, minimization and avoidance measures for Archeological/Historical, Biological Resources, Noise, and Soil Erosion. As a result, a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) has been prepared.

Availability of Documents: The Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) is now available for public review at 1441 Schilling Place, Salinas, CA 93901. The document can also be accessed online at www.co.monterey.ca.us/government/departments-i-z/public-works-facilities-parks/public-works/current-major-projects

Comments on the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration: Monterey County Public Works, Facilities and Parks requests any comments you may have on the IS/MND during a minimum 30-day public review period, which commences on February 15, 2024 and ends on March 22, 2024. Please submit any comments you may have in writing (letter or e-mail) by the end date listed above to:

Douglas Poochiglan, PE
Civil Engineer
Monterey County Department of Public Works, Facilities and Parks
1441 Schilling Place, South 2nd Floor
Salinas, California 93901
poochigliand@co.monterey.ca.us

(831) 755-4088

TO BE PUBLISHED ON OR BEFORE: February 15, 2024
PUBLISHED FOR: Monterey County Public Works, Facilities and Parks