TO: ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION

COMMITTEE

FROM: PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

AGENDA DATE: April 25, 2019

AGENDA TIME 1:30 PM/ No. 2 IS#19-0004 Coyote Wash Bridge PROJECT TYPE: Improvements Project (I.C. Public Works Dept.) SUPERVISOR DIST # 2 Approximately 3.35-milest northeast of LOCATION: Ocotillo, and approximately 2-miles northeast of the APN: N/A Junction of Interstate 8 (I-8) and Evan Hewes Highway PARCEL SIZE: N/A GENERAL PLAN (existing) Community GENERAL PLAN (proposed) N/A N/A ZONE (existing) N/A ZONE (proposed) GENERAL PLAN FINDINGS CONSISTENT MAY BE/FINDINGS INCONSISTENT PLANNING COMMISSION DECISION: HEARING DATE: \_\_\_ N/A **APPROVED** DENIED OTHER PLANNING DIRECTORS DECISION: HEARING DATE: N/A APPROVED DENIED OTHER ENVIROMENTAL EVALUATION COMMITTEE DECISION: HEARING DATE: 04/25/19 INITIAL STUDY:\_\_\_\_\_\_ 19-0004  $\square$  NEGATIVE DECLARATION  $\ igotimes$  MITIGATED NEG. DECLARATION  $\ igotimes$  EIR DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS / APPROVALS: **PUBLIC WORKS** NONE **ATTACHED** NONE **ATTACHED** AG **APCD** NONE **ATTACHED** E.H.S. NONE **ATTACHED** NONE FIRE / OES **ATTACHED SHERIFF** NONE **ATTACHED** 

# **REQUESTED ACTION:**

OTHER

IID

(See Attached)

# □ NEGATIVE DECLARATION□ MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Initial Study & Environmental Analysis For:

Imperial County Public Works Department (PWD)
Coyote Wash Bridge Improvements Project
Initial Study #19-0004



Prepared By:

## **COUNTY OF IMPERIAL**

**Planning & Development Services Department** 

801 Main Street El Centro, CA 92243 (442) 265-1736 www.icpds.com

**April 2019** 

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# SECTION 1 INTRODUCTION

#### A. PURPOSE

This document is a ☐ policy-level, ☒ project level Initial Study for evaluation of potential environmental impacts resulting with the proposed I.C. Public Works Department (PWD) Coyote Wash Bridge Improvements Project. (Refer to Exhibit "A" & "B").

# B. CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) REQUIREMENTS AND THE IMPERIAL COUNTY'S GUIDELINES FOR IMPLEMENTING CEQA

As defined by Section 15063 of the State California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines and Section 7 of the County's "CEQA Regulations Guidelines for the Implementation of CEQA, as amended", an **Initial Study** is prepared primarily to provide the Lead Agency with information to use as the basis for determining whether an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), Negative Declaration, or Mitigated Negative Declaration would be appropriate for providing the necessary environmental documentation and clearance for any proposed project.

- According to Section 15065, an **EIR** is deemed appropriate for a particular proposal if the following conditions occur:
- The proposal has the potential to substantially degrade quality of the environment.
- The proposal has the potential to achieve short-term environmental goals to the disadvantage of long-term environmental goals.
- The proposal has possible environmental effects that are individually limited but cumulatively considerable.
- The proposal could cause direct or indirect adverse effects on human beings.

	a Negative Declaration	ı is deemed appropria	te if the proposal would not	result
in any significant effect on the e	nvironment.			

According to Section 15070(b), a **Mitigated Negative Declaration** is deemed appropriate if it is determined that though a proposal could result in a significant effect, mitigation measures are available to reduce these significant effects to insignificant levels.

This Initial Study has determined that the proposed applications will not result in any potentially significant environmental impacts and therefore, a Negative Declaration is deemed as the appropriate document to provide necessary environmental evaluations and clearance as identified hereinafter.

This Initial Study and Negative Declaration are prepared in conformance with the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended (Public Resources Code, Section 21000 et. seq.); Section 15070 of the State & County of Imperial's Guidelines for Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, as amended (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15000, et. seq.); applicable requirements of the County of Imperial; and the regulations, requirements, and procedures of any other responsible public agency or an agency with jurisdiction by law.

Pursuant to the County of Imperial <u>Guidelines for Implementing CEQA</u>, depending on the project scope, the County of Imperial Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission and/or Planning Director is designated the Lead Agency,

in accordance with Section 15050 of the CEQA Guidelines. The Lead Agency is the public agency which has the principal responsibility for approving the necessary environmental clearances and analyses for any project in the County.

#### C. INTENDED USES OF INITIAL STUDY AND NEGATIVE DECLARATION

This Initial Study and Negative Declaration are informational documents which are intended to inform County of Imperial decision makers, other responsible or interested agencies, and the general public of potential environmental effects of the proposed applications. The environmental review process has been established to enable public agencies to evaluate environmental consequences and to examine and implement methods of eliminating or reducing any potentially adverse impacts. While CEQA requires that consideration be given to avoiding environmental damage, the Lead Agency and other responsible public agencies must balance adverse environmental effects against other public objectives, including economic and social goals.

The Initial Study and Negative Declaration, prepared for the project will be circulated for a period of 20 days (30days if submitted to the State Clearinghouse for a project of area-wide significance) for public and agency review and comments. At the conclusion, if comments are received, the County Planning & Development Services Department will prepare a document entitled "Responses to Comments" which will be forwarded to any commenting entity and be made part of the record within 10-days of any project consideration.

#### D. CONTENTS OF INITIAL STUDY & NEGATIVE DECLARATION

This Initial Study is organized to facilitate a basic understanding of the existing setting and environmental implications of the proposed applications.

#### **SECTION 1**

I. INTRODUCTION presents an introduction to the entire report. This section discusses the environmental process, scope of environmental review, and incorporation by reference documents.

#### **SECTION 2**

II. ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM contains the County's Environmental Checklist Form. The checklist form presents results of the environmental evaluation for the proposed applications and those issue areas that would have either a significant impact, potentially significant impact, or no impact.

PROJECT SUMMARY, LOCATION AND EVIRONMENTAL SETTINGS describes the proposed project entitlements and required applications. A description of discretionary approvals and permits required for project implementation is also included. It also identifies the location of the project and a general description of the surrounding environmental settings.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS evaluates each response provided in the environmental checklist form. Each response checked in the checklist form is discussed and supported with sufficient data and analysis as necessary. As appropriate, each response discussion describes and identifies specific impacts anticipated with project implementation.

#### **SECTION 3**

- III. MANDATORY FINDINGS presents Mandatory Findings of Significance in accordance with Section 15065 of the CEQA Guidelines.
- IV. PERSONS AND ORGANIZATIONS CONSULTED identifies those persons consulted and involved in

preparation of this Initial Study and Negative Declaration.

V. REFERENCES lists bibliographical materials used in preparation of this document.

VI. NEGATIVE DECLARATION - COUNTY OF IMPERIAL

VII. FINDINGS

#### **SECTION 4**

VIII. RESPONSE TO COMMENTS (IF ANY)

IX. MITIGATION MONITORING & REPORTING PROGRAM (MMRP) (IF ANY)

#### E. SCOPE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

For evaluation of environmental impacts, each question from the Environmental Checklist Form is summarized and responses are provided according to the analysis undertaken as part of the Initial Study. Impacts and effects will be evaluated and quantified, when appropriate. To each question, there are four possible responses, including:

- 1. **No Impact:** A "No Impact" response is adequately supported if the impact simply does not apply to the proposed applications.
- 2. **Less Than Significant Impact**: The proposed applications will have the potential to impact the environment. These impacts, however, will be less than significant; no additional analysis is required.
- 3. **Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated:** This applies where incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact".
- 4. **Potentially Significant Impact:** The proposed applications could have impacts that are considered significant. Additional analyses and possibly an EIR could be required to identify mitigation measures that could reduce these impacts to less than significant levels.

#### F. POLICY-LEVEL or PROJECT LEVEL ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

This Initial Study and Negative Declaration will be conducted under a  $\square$  policy-level,  $\boxtimes$  project level analysis. Regarding mitigation measures, it is not the intent of this document to "overlap" or restate conditions of approval that are commonly established for future known projects or the proposed applications. Additionally, those other standard requirements and regulations that any development must comply with, that are outside the County's jurisdiction, are also not considered mitigation measures and therefore, will not be identified in this document.

#### G. TIERED DOCUMENTS AND INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

Information, findings, and conclusions contained in this document are based on incorporation by reference of tiered documentation, which are discussed in the following section.

#### 1. Tiered Documents

As permitted in Section 15152(a) of the CEQA Guidelines, information and discussions from other documents can be included into this document. Tiering is defined as follows:

"Tiering refers to using the analysis of general matters contained in a broader EIR (such as the one prepared

for a general plan or policy statement) with later EIRs and negative declarations on narrower projects; incorporating by reference the general discussions from the broader EIR; and concentrating the later EIR or negative declaration solely on the issues specific to the later project."

Tiering also allows this document to comply with Section 15152(b) of the CEQA Guidelines, which discourages redundant analyses, as follows:

"Agencies are encouraged to tier the environmental analyses which they prepare for separate but related projects including the general plans, zoning changes, and development projects. This approach can eliminate repetitive discussion of the same issues and focus the later EIR or negative declaration on the actual issues ripe for decision at each level of environmental review. Tiering is appropriate when the sequence of analysis is from an EIR prepared for a general plan, policy or program to an EIR or negative declaration for another plan, policy, or program of lesser scope, or to a site-specific EIR or negative declaration."

Further, Section 15152(d) of the CEQA Guidelines states:

"Where an EIR has been prepared and certified for a program, plan, policy, or ordinance consistent with the requirements of this section, any lead agency for a later project pursuant to or consistent with the program, plan, policy, or ordinance should limit the EIR or negative declaration on the later project to effects which:

- (1) Were not examined as significant effects on the environment in the prior EIR; or
- (2) Are susceptible to substantial reduction or avoidance by the choice of specific revisions in the project, by the imposition of conditions, or other means."

#### 2. Incorporation By Reference

Incorporation by reference is a procedure for reducing the size of EIRs/MND and is most appropriate for including long, descriptive, or technical materials that provide general background information, but do not contribute directly to the specific analysis of the project itself. This procedure is particularly useful when an EIR or Negative Declaration relies on a broadly-drafted EIR for its evaluation of cumulative impacts of related projects (*Las Virgenes Homeowners Federation v. County of Los Angeles* [1986, 177 Ca.3d 300]). If an EIR or Negative Declaration relies on information from a supporting study that is available to the public, the EIR or Negative Declaration cannot be deemed unsupported by evidence or analysis (*San Francisco Ecology Center v. City and County of San Francisco* [1975, 48 Ca.3d 584, 595]). This document incorporates by reference appropriate information from the "Final Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Assessment for the "County of Imperial General Plan EIR" prepared by Brian F. Mooney Associates in 1993 and updates.

When an EIR or Negative Declaration incorporates a document by reference, the incorporation must comply with Section 15150 of the CEQA Guidelines as follows:

- The incorporated document must be available to the public or be a matter of public record (CEQA Guidelines Section 15150[a]). The General Plan EIR and updates are available, along with this document, at the County of Imperial Planning & Development Services Department, 801 Main Street, EI Centro, CA 92243 Ph. (442) 265-1736.
- This document must be available for inspection by the public at an office of the lead agency (CEQA Guidelines Section 15150[b]). These documents are available at the County of Imperial Planning & Development Services Department, 801 Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243 Ph. (442) 265-1736.
- These documents must summarize the portion of the document being incorporated by reference or briefly

describe information that cannot be summarized. Furthermore, these documents must describe the relationship between the incorporated information and the analysis in the tiered documents (CEQA Guidelines Section 15150[c]). As discussed above, the tiered EIRs address the entire project site and provide background and inventory information and data which apply to the project site. Incorporated information and/or data will be cited in the appropriate sections.

- These documents must include the State identification number of the incorporated documents (CEQA Guidelines Section 15150[d]). The State Clearinghouse Number for the County of Imperial General Plan EIR is SCH #93011023.
- The material to be incorporated in this document will include general background information (CEQA Guidelines Section 15150[f]). This has been previously discussed in this document.

## II. Environmental Checklist

- 1. Project Title: Imperial County Public Works Department (PWD) Coyote Wash Bridge Improvements Project Initial Study (IS) #19-0004
- 2. Lead Agency: Imperial County Planning & Development Services (ICPDS) Department
- 3. Contact person and phone number: Diana Robinson, Planner III, (442)265-1736, ext. 1751
- 4. Address: 801 Main Street, El Centro CA, 92243
- 5. E-mail: dianarobinson@co.imperial.ca.us
- 6. **Project location**: The existing bridge is located within the Colorado Desert, approximately 3.35 miles northeast of Ocotillo and approximately 2 miles northeast of the junction of Interstate 8 (I-8) and Evan Hewes Highway, in the unincorporated area of Imperial County.
- 7. **Project sponsor's name and address**: Imperial County Public Works Department (PWD), 155 S. 11th Street, El Centro, CA 92243.
- 8. General Plan designation: Community
- 9. **Zoning**: N/A. Surrounded by BLM Land as well as land zoned R-1-L-40 (Low Density Residential-Lots 40 ac min) and S-2 (Open Space/Recreation)
- 10. Description of project: The applicant (PWD) proposes to improve the existing Coyote Wash Bridge (No. 58C-0051), which is a simply supported timber bridge (306' long x 28'-8" wide), that has been rated as structurally deficient. This triggered the shutdown of the bridge until safe passage for the public could be guaranteed through the improvements project, which includes the repair or replacement of the following: crushed pier caps and column/pile #6 from pier 6, and concrete pedestals at abutment 17; it also includes the replacement or supplementation of damaged stinger, removal of asphalt (~10") and replacement with new 3" max layer from the entire length of the bridge, and the adjustment of the approach roadway profile in accordance with standards.
- 11. Surrounding land uses and setting: The project site is surrounded by vacant desert land. The bridge is used by local commuters and delivery trucks from the Gypsum plant in Plaster City, which is located approximately 5.5-miles northeast of the bridge. The area is highly disturbed by off road vehicles during all seasons. There is a camp site nearby, which is the Plaster City Camp Site, found approximately 1.6-miles northeast of the project site. The existing bridge, which is on Evan Hewes Highway, runs parallel approximately 420-feet north of some railroad tracks. The nearest residence is found approximately 2,835-feet southwest of the project site, and the nearest gas station can be found approximately 3.60 miles southwest of the site.
- 12. Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement.): Planning Commission
- 13. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1? If so, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentially, etc.?

Note: Conducting consultation early in the CEQA process allows tribal governments, lead agencies, and project proponents to discuss the level of environmental review, identify and address potential adverse impacts to tribal cultural resources, and reduce the potential for delay and conflict in the environmental review process. (See Public Resources Code, Section 21080.3.2). Information may also be available from

the California Native American Heritage Commission's Sacred Lands File per Public Resources Code, Section 5097.96 and the California Historical Resources Information System administered by the California Office of Historic Preservation. Please also note that Public Resources Code, Section 21082.3 (c) contains provisions specific to confidentiality.

Native American Tribes and members of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) have been invited to participate in the "Request for Review and Comment" as part of the Initial Study review process. In addition, letters requesting consultation pursuant to AB 52 were also sent at the beginning of the preparation of this Initial Study, along with a request to NAHC for Sacred Files Search. The consultation period for AB 52 will end on April 26, 2019.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:**

	nvironmental factors che a "Potentially Significan						east one impact
	Aesthetics		Agriculture and Fores	stry Resources		Air Quality	
	Biological Resources		Cultural Resources			Energy	
	Geology /Soils		Greenhouse Gas Em	issions		Hazards & Hazardous	s Materials
	Hydrology / Water Quality		Land Use / Planning			Mineral Resources	
	Noise		Population / Housing			Public Services	
	Recreation		Transportation			Tribal Cultural Resou	rces
	Utilities/Service Systems		Wildfire			Mandatory Findings of	of Significance
Foodsignification of the second secon	ARATION will be prepare bund that although the prepare ant effect in this case be GATED NEGATIVE DEFENDED and that the proposed ET REPORT is required. Dund that the proposed ed" impact on the environt to applicable legal sis as described on attact.	proposed pecause rev CLARATIO project Monment, but tandards,	isions in the projon will be preparty will be preparty have a signiful have a "point at least one efand 2) has been	ect have be red. ficant effect tentially sign fect 1) has I en addresse	on the environificant impactive adequated by mitigation	enment, and an <u>E</u> et" or "potentially ely analyzed in ar on measures bas	NVIRONMENTA significant unlead n earlier docume sed on the earli
only the Foliagonific in police DECLA	e effects that remain to lound that although the proant effects (a) have beauble standards, and (bARATION, including revise required.	be addres oposed pr en analyz o) have t	sed. oject could have ed adequately in oeen avoided c	a significant n an earlier or mitigated	teffect on the EIR or NEG/ pursuant to	environment, beca ATIVE DECLARA o that earlier Ell	ause all potentia TION pursuant R or NEGATIV
ALIF	ORNIA DEPARTMENT	OF FISH A	AND WILDLIFE I	DE MINIMIS	S IMPACT FIN	IDING: Yes	☐ No
	EEC VOTES  PUBLIC WORKS ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE EMERGEN APCD AG SHERIFF DEPARTM	CY SERVI		<u>NO</u>	ABSENT		
im Mir	nnick, Director of Plannii	ng/FFC C	hairman		Date:		

#### PROJECT SUMMARY

- A. Project Location: The existing bridge is located within the Colorado Desert, approximately 3.35 miles northeast of Ocotillo and approximately 2 miles northeast of the junction of Interstate 8 (I-8) and Evan Hewes Highway, in the unincorporated area of Imperial County.
- B. Project Summary: The applicant (PWD) proposes to improve the existing Coyote Wash Bridge (No. 58C-0051), which is a simply supported timber bridge (306' long by 28'-8" wide), that has been rated as structurally deficient. This triggered the shutdown of the bridge until safe passage for the public could be guaranteed through the improvements project, which includes the repair or replacement of the following: crushed pier caps and column/pile #6 from pier 6, and concrete pedestals at abutment 17; it also includes the replacement or supplementation of damaged stinger, removal of asphalt (~10") and replacement with new 3" max layer from the entire length of the bridge, and the adjustment of the approach roadway profile in accordance with standards.
- C. Environmental Setting: The existing bridge is surrounded by BLM Land as well as land zoned R-1-L-40 (Low Density Residential-Lots 40 ac min) and S-2 (Open Space/Recreation), although the environmental setting is mostly vacant desert land. The bridge is used by local commuters and delivery trucks from the Gypsum plant in Plaster City, which is located approximately 5.5-miles northeast of the bridge. The area is highly disturbed by off road vehicles during all seasons. There is a camp site nearby, which is the Plaster City Camp Site, found approximately 1.6-miles northeast of the project site. The existing bridge, which is on Evan Hewes Highway, runs parallel approximately 420-feet north of some railroad tracks. The nearest residence is found approximately 2,835-feet southwest of the project site, and the nearest gas station can be found approximately 3.60 miles southwest of the site.
- D. Analysis: The applicant shall contact IID to assess the impacts to their facilities. An encroachment permit from Imperial Irrigation District (IID) would be required if impacting IID facilities, and any construction or operation on IID property within its existing and proposed right of way or easements would require an encroachment permit. The zoning and land use designations of the project site or surrounding area would not change as a result of the proposed project. As such, the proposed project would not conflict with the Imperial County General Plan and Zoning Ordinance. Therefore, the adoption of the CEQA Initial Study for this project would be consistent with the applicable County and State ordinances and regulations.
- **E. General Plan Consistency**: In addition to the analysis stated above, the project application is found to be consistent, with the adoption of the CEQA Initial Study for the proposed project.

# Exhibit "A" Vicinity Map

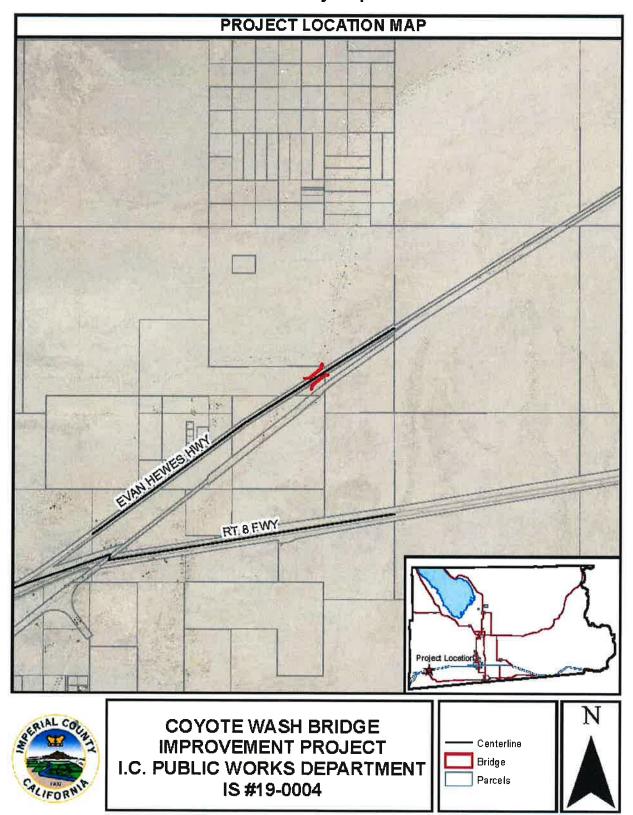


Exhibit "B" Site Plan



#### **EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:**

- A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
- 2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
- Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
- 4) "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from "Earlier Analyses," as described in (5) below, may be cross-referenced).
- 5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
  - a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
  - b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
  - c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
- 6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
- 7) Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
- 8) This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.
- 9) The explanation of each issue should identify:
  - a) the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
  - b) the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance

AESTHETICS  Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:      APSTHETICS  AP	per the on, Evan at can be
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista or scenic	per the on, Evan at can be
'	per the on, Evan at can be
highway?  a) The existing bridge is on Evan Hewes Highway, which is not considered a scenic highway. The nearest major high	per the on, Evan at can be
Interstate 8 (I-8), and although a segment of it has been considered eligible for state scenic highway designation imperial County Circulation & Scenic Highways Element, the project is not located within this segment. In additional Hewes Highway does not qualify as scenic per Caltrans' Scenic Highway Guidelines <sup>1</sup> . The only visual impacts that expected would be the impacts derived from the construction work, although they would be temporary and patch standards; therefore, less than significant impacts are expected.	
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within	$\boxtimes$
a state scenic highway?  b) Since Evan Hewes Highway is not considered scenic, and there are no scenic resources nearby; no impacts are expenses.	xpected.
c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surrounding? (Public views are those that are experienced from 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?  c) The project is not within an urbanized area, although it is on a segment of a highway that leads to a commu connects to San Diego County. The project consists of improving the existing bridge to provide safer transporta degradation of the visual character is expected; therefore, less than significant levels are expected.	
<ul> <li>d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?</li> <li>d) The project is not proposing any new source(s) of lighting. All construction work is expected to be performed daytime; therefore, less than significant impacts are expected.</li> </ul>	U d during
I. AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES	
In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an option use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources BoardWould the project:	al model to significant regarding
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?	
a) The project site appears as "Area Not Mapped" according to the California Department of Conservation Farmland and Monitoring Program (FMMP) <sup>2</sup> , and is surrounded by land under the same classification. This means that the a outside of the NRCS soil survey and was not mapped by FMMP. Since the proposed project does not convert prime for unique farmland or farmland of statewide importance (farmland) to non-agricultural use, no impacts are expected.	rea falls
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act Contract?  b) The project site is within an area labeled as "Non-Enrolled Land" under the 2016 State of California Williamson Act Contract Contr	⊠ Contract
Land Map <sup>3</sup> ; therefore, no impacts are expected.	
Caltrans' Scenic Highway Guidelines http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/16_livability/scenic_highways/guidelines/scenic_hwy_guidelines_04-12-20 California Important Farmland: 1984-2014 Maps https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/agriculture/     State of California Willimason Act Contract Land Map 2016	12.pdf

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		Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated (PSUMI)	Less Than Significant Impact (LTSI)	No impac (NI)
c)	Conflict with existing zoning for, 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))?  c) The project site is not surrounded by forest land; therefore	□ re, no impacts ar	re expected to occur.		$\boxtimes$
d)	Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?  d) There is no forest land in the area of the project site; there are expected.	Efore no impacts	regarding conversion	of land to non	⊠ -forest use
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?  e) The project site is not classified as Farmland, and the scotimpacts are expected	ppe of work does	not involve agricultur	al activities; the	⊠ erefore, no
AIR	QUALITY				
	available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air pon to the following determinations. Would the Project:	r quality managem	nent district or air polluti	on control distric	t may be
a)	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?  a) According to a comment letter received by I.C. Air Pollut located in an area identified in the Air District's "High Wind corridor that is subject to periodic strong westerly winds that for the emission of fugitive dust from construction projects the Air District is requiring that the applicant adhere to Regul (VDE) during construction and earthmoving activities. These reducing speed at the project site, and limiting the amount of intends to use any generators greater than 50 horsepower Engineering and Permitting Division of the Air District to o would lower potential impacts to less than significant levels.	Exceptional Ever create wind-dus such as this to a lation VIII Fugitive actions can inclue earthmoving acti during constructions ary	nt Fugitive Dust Mitiga t channels. As such, th ffect air quality monit e Dust Rules to minim ude, but are not limited vities as much as pos- tion operations, the a	ation Plan" as a nere is increase ors in the area. ize visible dust d to, constructio sible. Also, if the opplicant is to c	high wind d potential Therefore, emissions on vehicles e applicant contact the
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) To avoid any considerable increase of pollutants, the approximate The improvement project is expected to be temporary, by Compliance with the previous agencies' requirements would	ut all work shal	I be in accordance t	o state and lo	cal codes.
c)	Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutants concentrations?  c) The nearest residence is located approximately 2,835 approximately 3.35-miles southwest of the project site. The emissions during construction and earthmoving activities. C than significant levels.	applicant shall a	dhere to APCD's Fug	itive Dust Rules	s to lessen
d)	Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors adversely affecting a substantial number of people?  d) The project area is not within the immediate vicinity of expected to be substantial, but compliance with APCD's Re to less than significant levels.				

10.

		Significant Impact (PSI)	Unless Mitigation Incorporated (PSUMI)	Significant Impact (LTSI)	No Impac (NI)
IV. <b>B</b>	IOLOGICAL RESOURCES Would the project:				
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 or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?				
	a) After looking at the Imperial County General Plan's Conset it was found that the project site is near an area classified as "2 "Sensitive Species", shows that the project site is within the CNDDB Documented Species Occurrence shows the a identifies the area as being within the "Flat-Tailed Horned Lizarea identified as "BLM Area of Critical Environmental Conc 2019 <sup>5</sup> prepared for this project, one special-status plant and twithin the Biological Study Area (BSA). No vegetation or animere found in the Study Area. In addition, the applicant shall Division for working within a wash. The applicant shall also	'Active and Stal he "Flat-Tailed irea as "Not Li zard Species Di- ern (Habitat). A wo special-stat nals considered obtain a permit s submit a Strea	bilized/Partially Stabiliand Horned Lizard Species sted". Figure 3 "Agestribution Model" and according to the Biolous wildlife species have a wildlife species have the with U.S. Army Corparation Perisambed Alteration Perisambed Alteration	zed Desert Dur s Distribution ncy-Designated being directly gical Survey d re some potent ned or species s of Engineers nit through the	es". Figure Model" and d Habitats" north of an ated March ial to occur of concern Regulatory e California
	Department of Fish and Wildlife. Compliance with the two mit impacts to be less than significant.  MM BIO – 1:	igation measur	es below would cause	for potentially	significant
	A preconstruction survey should be conducted by a qualified	biologist for sp	pecial-status plans and	d nesting birds	
	<ol> <li>Nesting surveys by qualified biologists shall be preduced.</li> <li>Flat-Tailed Horned Lizard (FTHL) monitoring shall be with the following aspects:         <ul> <li>Biology and status of the FTHL;</li> <li>Protection measures designed to reduce designating authorized work areas;</li> <li>Reporting procedures to be used if a F techniques, for commuting, and driving of lidentification of nesting birds and procedures.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	ne required during birds and FT  uce potential in the country of the country of the project in t	ng construction by CI 'HL which will include mpacts to the speci tered in the field; and ct site, to reduce morta	DFW-qualified I les, function of d driving proceality of FTHL or	oiologists of flagging
	As an avoidance measure, areas outside of the project footp (ESA) on project plans. No project-related activities will take p	rint will be desi place within the	gnated as an "Enviror ESA-designated area	nmentally Sens s.	itive Area"
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 riparian habitat was found surrounding the project, a		⊠ not considered a sen	Sitive natural o	Community
	Compliance with the two mitigation measures above (MM B impacts to be less than significant.	IO -1 and MM	BIO -2) would cause	for potentially	significant
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?				
	<ul> <li>c) The project site is not within any area that is considered expected.</li> </ul>	state of federal	ly protected wetland;	therefore, no i	mpacts are
d)	Interfere substantially with the movement of any 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?				

Potentially Significant

Less Than

Potentially

<sup>4</sup> IC General Plan Conservation and Open Space Element Figure 1 http://www.icpds.com/CMS/Media/Conservation-&-Open-Space-Element-2016.pdf 5 Coyote Wash Bridge Improvement Project prepared by Barrett's Biological Surveys, dated March 2019

			Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated (PSUMI)	Less Than Significant Impact (LTSI)	No Impact (NI)
		d) There are no fish nor wildlife species surrounding the pro	ject area, so no	impacts are expected		
	e)	Conflict with any local policies or ordinance protecting biological resource, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?				
		e) There are no policies protecting biological resources toward	ards the area of	the project; therefore,	no impacts are	expected.
	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?  f) There are no Conservation Plans within the project area; the project area is the project area.	Daroforo no imp			
		if There are no conservation rians within the project area, the	nerelore, no mp	acis are expected.		
V.	CU	LTURAL RESOURCES Would the project:				
	a)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to \$15064.5?				
		a) The Imperial County General Plan's Conservation and Op Cultural Sensitivity Map" <sup>6</sup> shows that even though the project near an area classified as "Native American Sacred Sites" pursuant to AB52 were sent to tribe members requesting collaboration also sent to Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), significant impacts are expected.	ct is not within a '. A standard "I nsultation for th	Native American Cul Request for review a is project. A Sacred L	tural Sensitivity nd comment" a ands Search re	y area, it is and letters equest was
	b)	Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?				
		<ul> <li>b) According to the California Tribal Lands Map<sup>7</sup> from the U.</li> <li>Tribal Homelands and Trust Land Map of the U.S. Bureau of It</li> <li>the project area has been previously disturbed, so less than</li> </ul>	ndian Affairs <sup>8</sup> , t	he project site is not v		
	c)	Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries? c) The project site is not within a dedicated cemetery; however Health and Safety Code §7050.5, CEQA §15064.5, and Califo phase. Compliance with the said codes would lessen the imp	rnia Public Res	ources Code §5097.9		
VI.	EN	ERGY Would the project:				
	a)	Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?				$\boxtimes$
		<ul> <li>a) The proposed bridge improvement project does not have energy is anticipated. No impacts are expected.</li> </ul>	e an electrical co	omponent, so no unn	ecessary consi	umption of
	b)	Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?				$\boxtimes$
		b) There will be no energy consumption as part of the projecting; therefore, no impacts are expected.	ct and no energ	y will be used during	the operational	life of the
VII.	GE	OLOGY AND SOILS Would the project:				
	a)	Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
- 1	Califor	ial County General Plan Conservation and Open Space Element Fig 6 http:// rnia Tribal Lands Map https://www3.epa.gov/region9/air/maps/pdfs/air11000 nia Indian Tribal Homelands Map http://www.water.ca.gov/tribal/docs/maps/	40 3.pdf			-2016.pdf

Potentially

			Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated (PSUMI)	Less Than Significant Impact (LTSI)	No Impaci (NI)
	a) with (Se	cts, including risk of loss, injury, or death involving: According to the State of California Special Studies Zones hin a known fault. All construction shall be performed in ction 1626 through 1635), which requires development to in herence with said codes would cause for less than signific	accordance w incorporate the	ith the latest Californi	a Uniform Buil	Iding Code
	1)	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? 1) As per the statement above, the area is not near ar		a and the seems of ye	⊠	
		habitable structures; therefore, less than significant imp			JIK GOES HOL H	icidue any
	2)	Strong Seismic ground shaking?  2) Imperial County is subject to seismic ground shaking ground shaking; however, since there are no known faul				
	3)	Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction and seiche/tsunami?  3) According to the Department of Conservation Regulation	ory Maps, the p	oroject site is not within	the designate	⊠ ed Tsunami
	4)	areas; therefore, no impacts are expected.  Landslides?  4) Also using the Department of Conservation Regula landslide hazard zone; therefore, no impacts are expected.		was found that the site	e is not łocate	⊠ ed within a
b)	b) T	cult in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?  The project consists on the improvements of an existing labeled in soil erosion since the improvements have roved plans for the improvements shall cause for potential	e considered di	rainage patterns and g		
c)	wou pote subs c) T	located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable or that all become unstable as a result of the project, and entially result in on- or off-site landslides, lateral spreading, sidence, liquefaction or collapse?  The conditions for landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence expected to occur.	☐ e, liquefaction o	r collapse are not pres	ent; therefore,	⊠ no impacts
d)	Build or pr <b>d)</b> 1	ocated on expansive soil, as defined in the latest Uniform ding Code, creating substantial direct or indirect risk to life roperty?  The project site has been previously disturbed and it has being proposed; therefore, less than significant impacts a		ifled as expansive soil	⊠ I. No habitable	structures
e)	sept whe wate	e soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of tic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems are sewers are not available for the disposal of waste er?  No septic tanks are being proposed; therefore, no impacts	are expected.			
f)	or si f) Ti the	ctly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource ite or unique geologic feature? he site has been previously disturbed and no paleontological California Health and Safety Code §7050.5, CEQA §15064.	5, and Californi			
		nexpected finding will lessen impacts to less than signific			•	

<sup>9</sup> Fault Activity Map of California (2010) http://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/fam/

			Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated (PSUMI)	Less Than Significant Impact (LTSI)	No Impact (NI)
/III.	GR	REENHOUSE GAS EMISSION Would the project:				
	a)	Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?  a) The construction work is expected to be temporary and in expected to exceed the County agencies' thresholds; therefore				ime are not
	b)	Conflict with an applicable plan or policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?  b) There are no plans or policies that apply for this type construction measures will help reduce the emissions of greenhouse.				
IX.	HA	ZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS Would the project	•			
	a)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?				
		<ul> <li>a) No hazardous materials are included in the scope of working of the site; therefore, less than significant impacts are</li> </ul>		ct, and there are no re	sidents in the	immediate
	b)	Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonable foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?  b) As stated above, no hazardous materials are included in the	De proposed pr	Diect: therefore no imp	nacts are expe	⊠ cted
	c)	Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?  c) There are no school within one-quarter mile of the project				
	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?				$\boxtimes$
		<ul> <li>d) After looking at the EnvironStor Database<sup>10</sup> for the proje therefore, no impacts are expected to occur.</li> </ul>	ct site, it was	found that it was not	included in the	database;
	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?				$\boxtimes$
		<ul> <li>e) The project site is not within an airport area according to the Plan); therefore, no impacts are expected to occur.</li> </ul>	he Imperial Cou	inty Airport Land Use	Compatibility F	Plan (ALUC
	f)	Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?  f) The bridge improvements are meant to provide a safe pass	age for comm	Uters over the Counts	⊠ Wash Itwill n	
		with any emergency evacuation plan during its operational ph phase. The bridge is currently shutdown since it was deeme work has been completed. Since alternative routes have been impacts are expected.	ase, except du d structurally o	ring the construction a leficient, but will reop	nd earthmovin en once the co	g activities enstruction

<sup>10</sup> EnviroStor Database http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/map/?myaddress=Sacramento&tour=True

			Potentially Significant Impact ( <b>PSI</b> )	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated (PSUMI)	Less Than Significant Impact (LTSI)	No Impact (NI)
g)	signii g) T	se people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a ficant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires? he project is not in an area that is considered "wildland significant impacts are expected regarding potential fire		t does not include ha	⊠ bitable structu	res so less
X. <b>H</b> )	/DROL	OGY AND WATER QUALITY Would the project:				
a)	requi grour	te any water quality standards or waste discharge rements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ord water quality?			$\boxtimes$	
	proje U.S. Alter viola	e Imperial County General Plan's Conservation and O act area surrounded by streams/rivers. The bridge cross Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Division for worki ation Permit through the California Department of Fish a tions of water quality or degradation of surface or gra ntial impacts to less than significant levels.	es the Coyote W ing within a was and Wildlife. The	ash and the applicant h. The applicant shall se two permits shall b	shall obtain a palso submit a e obtained to p	permit with Streambed prevent any
b)	subst	tantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere antially with groundwater recharge such that the project impede sustainable groundwater management of the ?			$\boxtimes$	
	b) TI Supp	ne bridge improvement project is not expected to use an pression), it shall be from an approved local water source y. Less than significant levels are expected.				
c)	area, or riv	tantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or including through the alteration of the course of a stream er or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a er which would:			$\boxtimes$	
	to ch	e wash would not be altered since the project consists o ange as a consequence of the approval of this project, vill not interfere with any surrounding areas. Less than s	since it is mear	nt to improve the cond		
	(i) (i)	result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site; The project would not cause for erosion since the area to the existing bridge structure, and to be done in acco said codes would lower potential impacts to less than	ordance with app	olicable state and loca		
	(ii)	substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;			$\boxtimes$	
	(i)	There are no changes expected regarding surface rur structure and will maintain current slopes. The area Highway construction and when this bridge was built.	has been previo	usly disturbed at the	time of the Ev	
	(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; or;				$\boxtimes$
	(iii)	As per the statement above, there are no stormwater structure. The bridge has a natural slope and rain wate be an issue with the design of the project; therefore, no	r would slope to	wards the sides. No ru		
		impede or redirect flood flows?  The scope of work consists of making improvements of consequence of the approval of this project; therefore,			lows will be blo	⊠ ocked as a

15

<sup>11</sup> IC General Plan Conservation and Open Space Element Figure 1 http://www.icpds.com/CMS/Media/Conservation-&-Open-Space-Element-2016.pdf

			Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated (PSUMI)	Less Than Significant Impact (LTSI)	No Impac (NI)
	d)	In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?  d) The project site is within Zone A according to FIRM Pane Wash, water would flow underneath the unmanned structure;				
	e)	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?  e) The project is meant to improve the conditions of the bridge quality plans are expected to be obstructed with the project a				⊠ s. No water
XI.	LA	ND USE AND PLANNING Would the project:				
	a)	Physically divide an established community?  a) The project is not within the vicinity of an established com	 nmunity; therefo	re, no impacts can be	e expected.	$\boxtimes$
	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?				$\boxtimes$
		<ul> <li>b) The proposed project does not conflict with any applicable avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect; therefore, no</li> </ul>			idopted for the	purpose of
XII.	MIN	NERAL RESOURCES Would the project:				
	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?				
		<ul> <li>a) The project site area is not located in or near any exist Conservation and Open Space Element, Figure 8 "Existing Mi</li> </ul>				
	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?				
		<ul> <li>b) As previously stated, the proposed project would not resul in the Imperial County General Plan Conservation and Ope impacts are expected to occur.</li> </ul>				
CIII.	NO	ISE Would the project result in:				
	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?			$\boxtimes$	
		a) The proposed project is expected to temporarily increase expected to occur within business hours, and the noise level Imperial County General Plan "Noise Element". The appli earthmoving activities do not exceed the Construction Noise period, and measured at the nearest sensitive receptor. Adher to a less than significant level.	s are not expect cant and contr Standards of 75	ted to exceed the thre ractor shall make su dB Leq, when avera	esholds establisure the construged over an eig	shed in the uction and ht (8) hour
	b)	Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?  b) As previously stated, temporary noise levels and vibration would have to be maintained within the County's allowed the				

Potentially

<sup>12</sup> Imperial County Conservation and Open Space Element Figure 8 http://www.icpds.com/CMS/Media/Conservation-&-Open-Space-Element-2016.pdf
Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department
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í=			Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated (PSUMI)	Less Than Significant Impact (LTSI)	No Impact (NI)
		vibration. Adherence to the "Noise Element" standards would	ld bring any pote	ential impacts to a les	s than significa	nt levels.
	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?  c) The project site is not located within 2 miles of an airport.	; therefore, no ir	npacts are expected.		$\boxtimes$
XIV.	PO	PULATION AND HOUSING Would the project:				
	a)	Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and business) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?  a) The proposed project is not expected to cause for unplattherefore, no impacts are expected.	nned growth, bu	Lit to provide safe pass	Sage for local c	⊠ ommuters;
	b)	Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?  b) Since no housing is being proposed as part of the project	t: no impacts are	E expected to occur.		
XV.	Pl	UBLIC 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:  a) The project would not cause for the need of any provision would not substantially affect any type of public service, exceptase of the project. Less than significant impacts are to be	ept cause a temp	r alterations involving porary increase in traff	governmental ic during the co	facilities. It
		1) Fire Protection?  1) The Fire Department was consulted and requested to provide impacts are expected.	vide comments	on this project, but no	comments wer	e received.
		<ul><li>2) Police Protection?</li><li>2) No impacts are anticipated regarding an increase in servino impacts are expected.</li></ul>	ces as a conseq	uence of the approva	of this project	⊠ ; therefore,
		<ul><li>3) Schools?</li><li>3) There are no schools in the vicinity of the project. No imp</li></ul>	acts are anticipa	ated regarding increas	E in school ser	⊠ vices.
		<ul><li>4) Parks?</li><li>4) There are no parks within the vicinity of the project site; to</li></ul>	 herefore, no imp	pacts are expected.		$\boxtimes$
		<ul><li>5) Other Public Facilities?</li><li>5) No other public facilities are anticipated to be affected by are expected.</li></ul>	y the proposed	project; therefore, les	⊠ s than significa	int impacts
X۷	'l. <i>Rl</i>	ECREATION				
	a)	Would the project increase the use of the existing				$\boxtimes$

Impact Incorporated Impact No Impact (PSI) (PSUMI) (LTSI) (NI) facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated? a) The existing bridge spans the Coyote Wash, which is a typical sandy desert wash that is highly disturbed by vehicular traffic including All Terrain Vehicles (ATV) and other Off Highway Vehicles (OHV) (i.e. 4x4's), although these activities do not impact the project since that type of traffic occurs underneath the bridge. PWD will note to the contractor to keep the access open during construction as to not impact travel under the bridge. The nearest camp site is the Plaster City Camp Site, located approximately 1.6-miles northeast of the bridge. There are no neighborhood or regional parks nearby; therefore, less than significant impacts are expected. Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might П  $\boxtimes$ have an adverse effect on the environment? b) The project does not include recreational facilities; therefore, no impacts are expected. XVII. TRANSPORTATION Would the project: Conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and  $\boxtimes$ pedestrian facilities? a) The scope of work would help improve the passage for local commuters and would not conflict with any circulation system during its operational phase. The existing bridge is currently shutdown since it was deemed to be structurally deficient, but local commuters can take alternative routes. The approval of the project would benefit the community; therefore, no impacts are expected. Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with the CEQA M П Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)? b) The project is on Evan Hewes highway; therefore, less than significant impacts are expected. Substantially increases hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or  $\boxtimes$ incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)? c) The existing bridge and improvements are to be designed per state standards and shall not increase hazards due to design features; therefore, no impacts are expected to occur. Result in inadequate emergency access? M d) The project is surrounded by desert vacant land and it not expected to result in an inadequate emergency access. XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES 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 П the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and a) The Imperial County General Plan's Conservation and Open Space Element Figure 6 "Known Areas of Native American Cultural Sensitivity Map" 13 shows that even though the project is not within a Native American Cultural Sensitivity area, it is near an area classified as "Native American Sacred Sites". A standard "Request for review and comment" and letters pursuant to AB52 were sent to tribe members requesting consultation for this project. A Sacred Lands Search request was also sent to Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). Our office has not received any response; therefore, no impacts are expected. (i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of M historical resources as define in Public Resources

Code Section 5020.1(k), or

Potentially

Significant

Unless Mitigation

Less Than

Significant

Potentially

Significant

<sup>13</sup> Imperial County General Plan Conservation and Open Space Element Fig 6 http://www.icpds.com/CMS/Media/Conservation-&-Open-Space-Element-2016.pdf

			Potentially Significant Impact (PSI)	Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated (PSUMI)	Less Than Significant Impact (LTSI)	No impact (NI)
		<ul> <li>(i) The proposed site does not appear to be eligibe therefore, less than significant impacts are to be exp</li> </ul>	Resources Code Sec	ction 21074 or	5020.1 (k);	
		<ul> <li>(ii) 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 is subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American Tribe.</li> <li>(ii) The Native American Heritage Commission Sac potential project effect (APE) but our office has no impacts are expected.</li> </ul>	cred Lands was	Contacted for a reconely response; therefor	⊠ rd search for tore, less than	the area of significant
XIX.	UT	ILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS Would the project:				
	a)	Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?				
		<ul> <li>The bridge improvements project will not cause for the re work consists on making repairs where needed so that the br significant impacts are expected.</li> </ul>	idge can no lon	ger be deemed structu	vastewater. In Irally deficient.	e scope of Less than
	b)	Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?  b) The project would not require a substantial amount of w procedures. Water would be trucked in since the amount antica new water well. Less than significant impacts are expected.	cipated to be us	dust suppression as ed would not trigger the	part of the co	nstruction drilling of
	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?  c) There will be no wastewater as part of the operational phywastewater but the amount could not be substantial to alter tare expected.	ase of the proje	ct. The construction careas; therefore, less	of the project of than significal	could have nt impacts
	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?  d) No solid waste are expected from the proposed project or shall be done per State and Local codes (i.e. all waste shall be codes would lessen potential impacts to less than significant	oe taken to a Co	ebris from the constru bunty approved landfil	Ction activities	S. All work
	e)	Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?  e) As previously mentioned, all solid waste shall be taken to a lessen potential impacts to less than significant levels.	County approv	ed landfill. Complianc	⊠ ce with said co	 des would
ΚX.		DFIRE				
		ed in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very hig	h fire hazard sev	erity zones, would the F	Project:	
	a)	Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?  a) The project site is located within a Local Responsibility Are	a /I PA\ alaaaifi	od as "Madarete"		iro Herend

Significant Unless Mitigation Significant Impact Incorporated Impact No Impact (PSI) (PSUMI) (LTSI) (NI) Severity Zone Map. 14 Zones are classified based on a combination of how a fire will behave and the probability of flames and embers threatening buildings, as well of the likelihood of the area burning. Since the proposed project consists of an unmanned structure with no sensitive receptors in its immediate vicinity, less than significant impacts are expected. Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to П X П pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire? b) Since the project area is not within a "high fire hazard severity zone", less than significant impacts are to be expected. 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 M П risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the c) No additional infrastructure will be required that may exacerbate fire risks; therefore, less than significant impacts are expected. Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result  $\boxtimes$ of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes? d) The project is not within a downstream area or an area with landslides; therefore, no impacts are expected. Note: Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21083.05, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 65088.4, Gov. Code; Sections 21080(c), 21080.1, 21080.3, 21083, 21083.05, 21083.3, 21093, 21094, 21095, and 21151, Public Resources Code; Sundstrom v. County of Mendocino, (1988) 202 Cal. App. 3d 296; Leonoff v. Monterey Board of Supervisors, (1990) 222 Cal. App. 3d 1337; Eureka Citizens for Responsible Govt. v. City of Eureka (2007) 147 Cal. App. 4th 357; Protect the Historic Amador Waterways v. Amador Water Agency (2004) 116 Cal. App. 4th at 1109; San Franciscans Upholding the Downtown Plan v. City and County of San Francisco (2002) 102 Cal. App. 4th 656.

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<sup>14</sup> FRAP Fire Hazard Severity Zones http://frap.fire.ca.gov/webdata/maps/imperial/fhszl06\_1\_map.13.pdf

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# **SECTION 3**

# **III. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The following are Mandatory Findings of Significance in accordance with Section 15065 of the CEQA Guidelines.

а)	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, eliminate tribal cultural resources or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?		
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.)		
c)	Does the project have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?		

#### IV. PERSONS AND ORGANIZATIONS CONSULTED

This section identifies those persons who prepared or contributed to preparation of this document. This section is prepared in accordance with Section 15129 of the CEQA Guidelines.

#### A. COUNTY OF IMPERIAL

- Jim Minnick, Director of Planning & Development Services
- Michael Abraham, AICP, Assistant Director of Planning & Development Services
- Diana Robinson, Planner III
- Imperial County Air Pollution Control District
- Department of Public Works
- Fire Department
- Ag Commissioner
- Environmental Health Services
- Sheriff's Office

#### **B. OTHER AGENCIES/ORGANIZATIONS**

- Native American Heritage Commission
- Imperial Irrigation District

(Written or oral comments received on the checklist prior to circulation)

#### ٧. **REFERENCES**

Caltrans' Scenic Highway Guidelines

California Important Farmland: 1984-2014 Maps https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/agriculture

State of California Williamson Act Contract Land Map 2016
Imperial County General Plan Conservation and Open Space Element Figure 1
Coyote Wash Bridge Improvement Project - Barrett's Biological Survey, dated March 2019
Imperial County General Plan Conservation and Open Space Element Figure 6
California Tribal Lands Map https://www3.epa.gov/region9/air/maps/pdfs/air1100040\_3.pdf
California Indian Tribal Homelands Map

- California Indian Tribal Homelands Map http://www.water.ca.gov/tribal/docs/maps/CalifornialndianTribalHomelands24x30\_20110719.pdf
   Fault Activity Map of California (2010) http://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/fam
   EnviroStor Database http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/map/?myaddress=Sacramento&tour=True
   Imperial County General Plan Conservation and Open Space Element Figure 1
   Imperial County General Plan Conservation and Open Space Element Figure 8
   Imperial County General Plan Conservation and Open Space Element Figure 6
   FRAP Fire Hazard Severity Zones http://frap.fire.ca.gov/webdata/maps/imperial/fhszl06\_1\_map.13.pdf
   Federal Emergency Management Area (FEMA)

#### VI. NEGATIVE DECLARATION – County of Imperial

The following Negative Declaration is being circulated for public review in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act Section 21091 and 21092 of the Public Resources Code.

**Project Name:** Imperial County Public Works Department (PWD) Coyote Wash Bridge Improvements Project – Initial Study #19-0004

Project Applicant: Imperial County Public Works Department (PWD), 155 S. 11th Street, El Centro, CA 92243

**Project Location:** The existing bridge is located within the Colorado Desert, approximately 3.35 miles northeast of Ocotillo and approximately 2 miles northeast of the junction of Interstate 8 (I-8) and Evan Hewes Highway, in the unincorporated area of Imperial County

**Description of Project:** The applicant (PWD) proposes to improve the existing Coyote Wash Bridge (No. 58C-0051), which is a simply supported timber bridge (306' long x 28'-8" wide), that has been rated as structurally deficient. This triggered the shutdown of the bridge until safe passage for the public could be guaranteed through the improvements project, which includes the repair or replacement of the following: crushed pier caps and column/pile #6 from pier 6, and concrete pedestals at abutment 17; it also includes the replacement or supplementation of damaged stinger, removal of asphalt (~10") and replacement with new 3" max layer from the entire length of the bridge, and the adjustment of the approach roadway profile in accordance with standards.

1

# VII. **FINDINGS** This is to advise that the County of Imperial, acting as the lead agency, has conducted an Initial Study to determine if the project may have a significant effect on the environmental and is proposing this Negative Declaration based upon the following findings: The Initial Study shows that there is no substantial evidence that the project may have a significant effect on the environment and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared. The Initial Study identifies potentially significant effects but: (1) Proposals made or agreed to by the applicant before this proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration was released for public review would avoid the effects or mitigate the effects to a point where clearly no significant effects would occur. (2) There is no substantial evidence before the agency that the project may have a significant effect on the environment. Mitigation measures are required to ensure all potentially significant impacts are reduced to levels of (3)insignificance. A NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared. If adopted, the Negative Declaration means that an Environmental Impact Report will not be required. Reasons to support this finding are included in the attached Initial Study. The project file and all related documents are available for review at the County of Imperial, Planning & Development Services Department, 801 Main Street, El Centro, CA 92243 (442) 265-1736. NOTICE The public is invited to comment on the proposed Negative Declaration during the review period. Date of Determination Jim Minnick, Director of Planning & Development Services The Applicant hereby acknowledges and accepts the results of the Environmental Evaluation Committee (EEC) and

hereby agrees to implement all Mitigation Measures, if applicable, as outlined in the MMRP.

Date

**Applicant Signature** 

# **SECTION 4**

VIII.

**RESPONSE TO COMMENTS** 

(ATTACH DOCUMENTS, IF ANY, HERE)

18

TELEPHONE: (442) 265-1800 FAX: (442) 265-1799

AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT

March 29, 2019

Jim Minnick, Director Imperial County Planning & Development Services 801 Main Street El Centro, CA 92243 RECEIVED

MAR 29 2019

IMPERIAL COUNTY
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

SUBJECT: Initial Study 19-0004—Coyote Wash Bridge Improvement Project

Dear Mr. Minnick:

The Imperial County Air Pollution Control District ("Air District") would like to thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on Initial Study (IS) 19-0004 that would allow repairs to the existing Coyote Wash Bridge (No. 58C-0051) located at Evan Hewes Highway and Coyote Wash, approximately 3.5 miles east of Ocotillo (APN 033-590-005-001). Repairs to the 16-span supported timber bridge will include, but not be limited to, the repair or replacement of crushed pier caps and column/pile #6 from pier 6, the repair of a damaged concrete pedestal at abutment 17, the replacement or the supplement of a damaged stringer, removal of the asphalt-concrete (AC ~10") from the entire length of the bridge and replacement with a new 3" maximum layer, and adjustment of the approach roadway profile in accordance with standards.

### Air District comments

Upon review, the Air District points out that the project lies in an area identified in the Air District's High Wind Exceptional Event Fugitive Dust Mitigation Plan as a high wind corridor that is subject to periodic strong westerly winds that create wind-dust channels. As such, there is increased potential for the emission of fugitive dust from construction projects such as this to affect air quality monitors in the area. Therefore, the Air District politely requests that the applicant adhere to Regulation VIII Fugitive Dust Rules to minimize visible dust emissions (VDE) during construction and earthmoving activities. These actions can include, but are not limited to, construction vehicles reducing speed at the project site, and limiting the amount of earthmoving activities as much as possible. Finally, if the applicant intends to use any generators greater than 50 horsepower during construction operations, the applicant is encouraged to contact the Engineering & Permitting Division of the Air District to obtain any necessary permits.

The Air District's Rules & Regulations can be found on its website (www.co.imperial.ca.us/AirPollution) under the "Planning" tab. Should the applicant have any questions, please contact our office at (442) 265-1800.

Respectfully Curtis Blandell Curtis Blondell

Curtis Diolidell

APC Environmental Coordinator





March 29, 2019

Ms. Diana Robinson
Planner III
Planning & Development Services Department
County of Imperial
801 Main Street
El Centro, CA 92243

RECEIVED

MAR 29 2019

IMPERIAL COUNTY
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

SUBJECT: Coyote Wash Bridge Improvement Project

Dear Ms. Robinson:

On March 21, 2019, the Imperial Irrigation District received from the Imperial County Planning & Development Services Department, a request for agency comments on the initial environmental study for the Coyote Wash Bridge improvement project. The Imperial County Public Works Dept. proposes to repair the existing 16-span timber Coyote Wash Bridge located approximately 3.5 miles east of Ocotillo, CA at the crossing of Evan Hewes Highway and Coyote Wash.

The Imperial Irrigation District has reviewed the information and has the following comments:

- 1. At the bridge location, IID Energy has an existing 4-wire overhead 12kV primary line that parallels Evan Hewes Highway to the northwest. The line is approximately 70 feet northwest of the highway bridge (see attached map). If the ICPWD intends to work within 20 feet of the existing overhead conductors, the department should be advised to contact Mr. Ernesto Benitez, Customer Project Development Planner, at (760) 482-3405 or at <a href="mailto:eibenitez@iid.com">eibenitez@iid.com</a> to initiate the assessment of impacts to IID facilities. The district will require that ICPWD provide a set of bridge improvement plans and a construction plan to determine if any construction equipment and/or procedure may affect the above-mentioned distribution line.
- 2. Any construction or operation on IID property or within its existing and proposed right of way or easements including but not limited to: surface improvements such as proposed new streets, driveways, parking lots, landscape; and all water, sewer, storm water, or any other above ground or underground utilities; will require an encroachment permit, or encroachment agreement (depending on the circumstances). A copy of the IID encroachment permit application and instructions for its completion are available at <a href="http://www.iid.com/departments/realestate">http://www.iid.com/departments/realestate</a>. The IID Real Estate Section should be contacted at (760) 339-9239 for

Diana Robinson March 29, 2019 Page 2

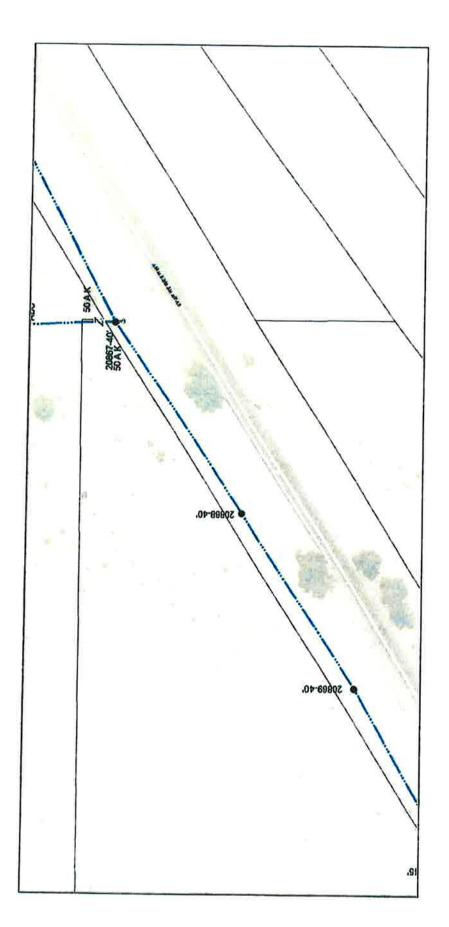
- additional information regarding encroachment permits or agreements. No foundations or buildings will be allowed within IID's right of way.
- 3. Any new, relocated, modified or reconstructed IID facilities required for and by the project (which can include but is not limited to electrical utility substations, electrical transmission and distribution lines, etc.) need to be included as part of the project's CEQA and/or NEPA documentation, environmental impact analysis and mitigation. Failure to do so will result in postponement of any construction and/or modification of IID facilities until such time as the environmental documentation is amended and environmental impacts are fully analyzed. Any and all mitigation necessary as a result of the construction, relocation and/or upgrade of IID facilities is the responsibility of the project proponent.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 760-482-3609 or at dvargas@iid.com. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter.

Respectfully,

**Donald Vargas** 

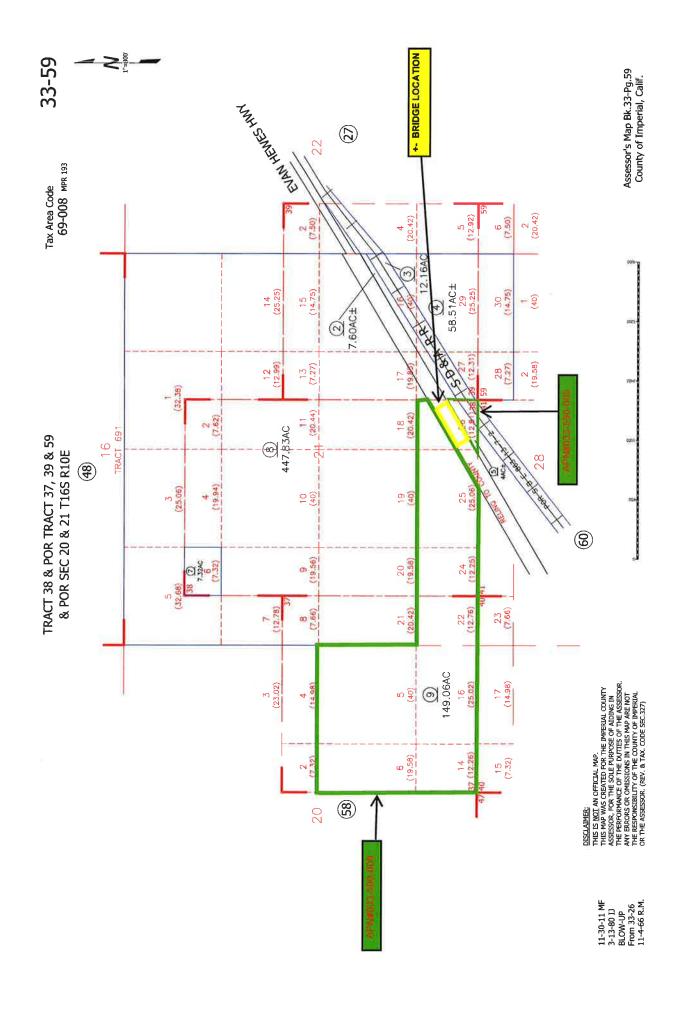
Compliance Administrator II



IID Facilities in Project Vicinity

IX.	MITIGATION MONITORING & REPORTING PROGRAM (MMRP)	
(ATTACH DOCUME	ENTS, IF ANY, HERE)	
S:\CEQA RULES\CEQA R	Rules 2018\Initial Study - Environmental Checklist Template 032219.docx	
		861

### Attachment A. Initial Study Application



### **Diana Robinson**

From: Jenell Guerrero

Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2019 8:39 AM

To: Diana Robinson

Cc: Michael Abraham; John Gay

**Subject:** RE: Evan Hewes Highway Bridge over Coyote Wash **Attachments:** 226818-0000398 Coyte Wash Bridge 20190207.pdf;

bioasessment coyotewash bridgereport.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up Flag Status: Completed

### Good Morning Diana:

As per your request please find attached the following documents:

- Scope of Work/Description
  - Evan Hewes Highway Bridge over South Fork Coyote Wash is located approximately 3.5 miles east of Imperial highway in Ocotillo. It is anticipated that the project limits would extend 120 feet beyond both abutments for a smooth transition to existing pavement. Imperial County Department of Public Works (ICDPW) proposes to repair the existing 16-span simply supported timber bridge. Such work includes, but is not limited to, repair or replace crushed pier caps and column/pile #6 from pier 6, repair damaged concrete pedestal at abutment 17, replace or supplement damaged stinger, remove AC (~10") from entire length of bridge and replace with new 3" max layer and adjust approach roadway profile in accordance with standards.
- Construction plans (for informational purposes only)
- Biological Survey
- (minus the \$2,500 fee at this time)
  - Will work on issuing this payment today

Should you have any questions or require additional information please do not hesitate to let me know. Thank you.

### Respectfully,

Jenell Guerrero, MPA | Administrative Analyst II Imperial County Department of Public Works 155 S. 11th St., El Centro, CA 92243 Cell: (760) 604-2162 | Direct: (442) 265-1815

From: Diana Robinson < DianaRobinson@co.imperial.ca.us>

Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2019 7:53 AM

To: Jenell Guerrero < Jenell Guerrero@co.imperial.ca.us>

Cc: Michael Abraham < Michael Abraham@co.imperial.ca.us>; John Gay < John Gay@co.imperial.ca.us>

Subject: FW: Evan Hewes Highway Bridge over Coyote Wash

Good morning Jenell,

Could you please provide a detailed scope of work (project description), site plan(s) and a copy of the biological survey that was prepared for this project? Also, please provide a \$2,500 fee.

Thank you, Diana Robinson

From: Jenell Guerrero

Sent: Tuesday, March 12, 2019 3:52 PM

To: Diana Robinson < Diana Robinson@co.imperial.ca.us >

Cc: John Gay < John Gay@co.imperial.ca.us>

Subject: Evan Hewes Highway Bridge over Coyote Wash

### Good Afternoon Diana:

John and discussed the above mentioned project with Michael Abraham and it has been determined for Public Works to commence the Initial Study phase of the CEQA process for this project. With that being said, could you please provide assistance as to what you will need from me to get this going. It would be greatly appreciated.

Should you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to let me know. Thank you.

### Respectfully,

Jenell Guerrero, MPA | Administrative Analyst II Imperial County Department of Public Works 155 S. 11th St., El Centro, CA 92243 Cell: (760) 604-2162 Direct: (442) 265-1815 Fax: (442) 265-1858

www.co.imperial.ca.us



Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail



# COUNTY OF IMPERIAL EVAN HEWES HIGHWAY BRIDGE OVER COYOTE WASH, BR. NO. 58C-0051

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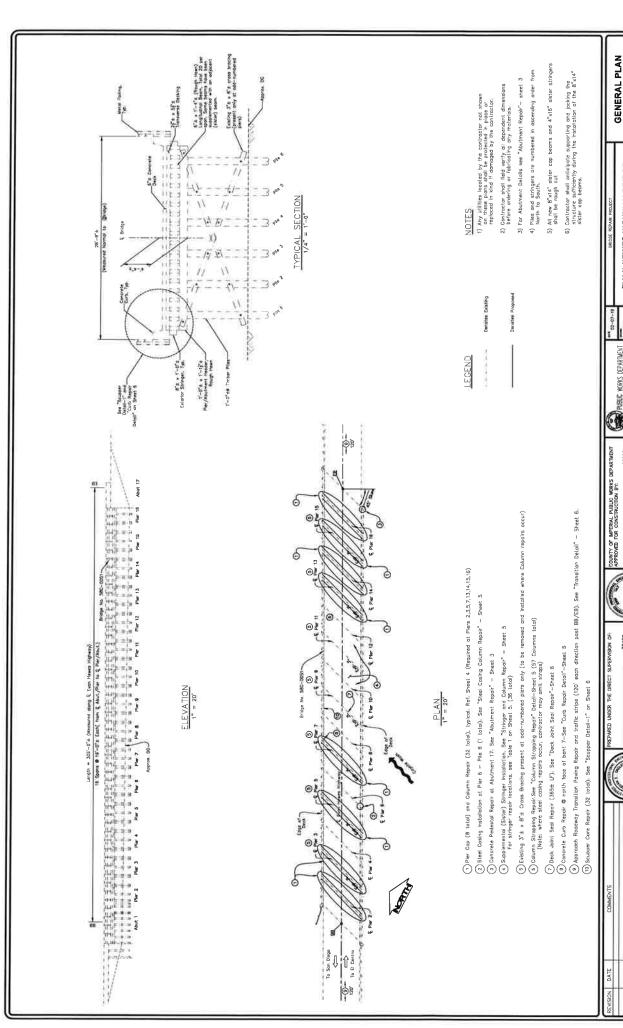
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R.C.E. No.

JOHN GAY PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

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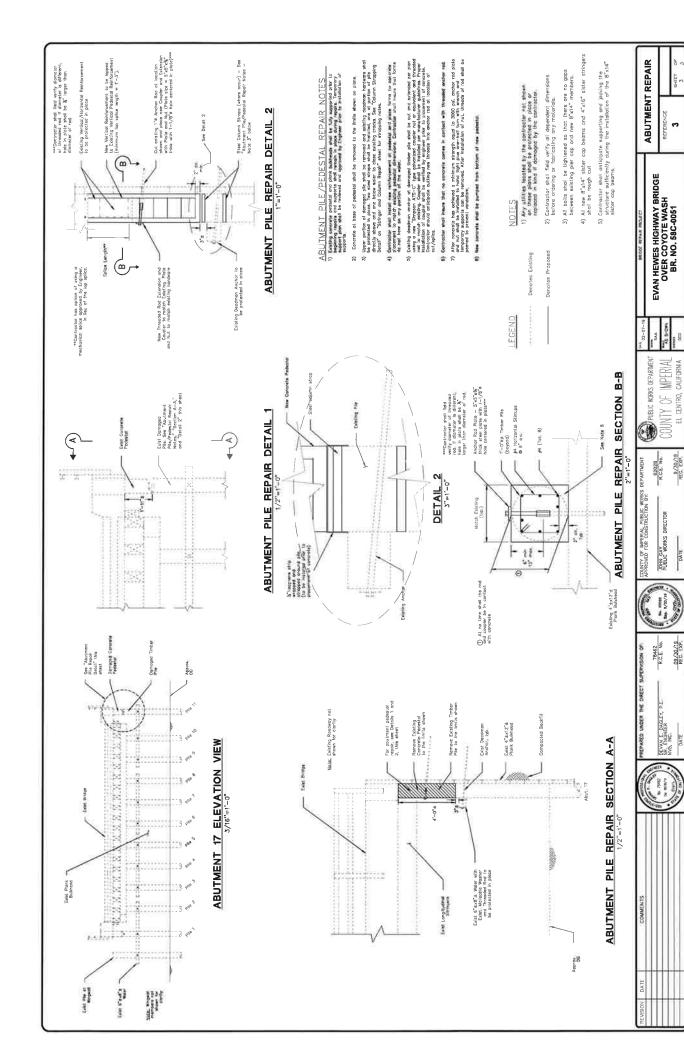


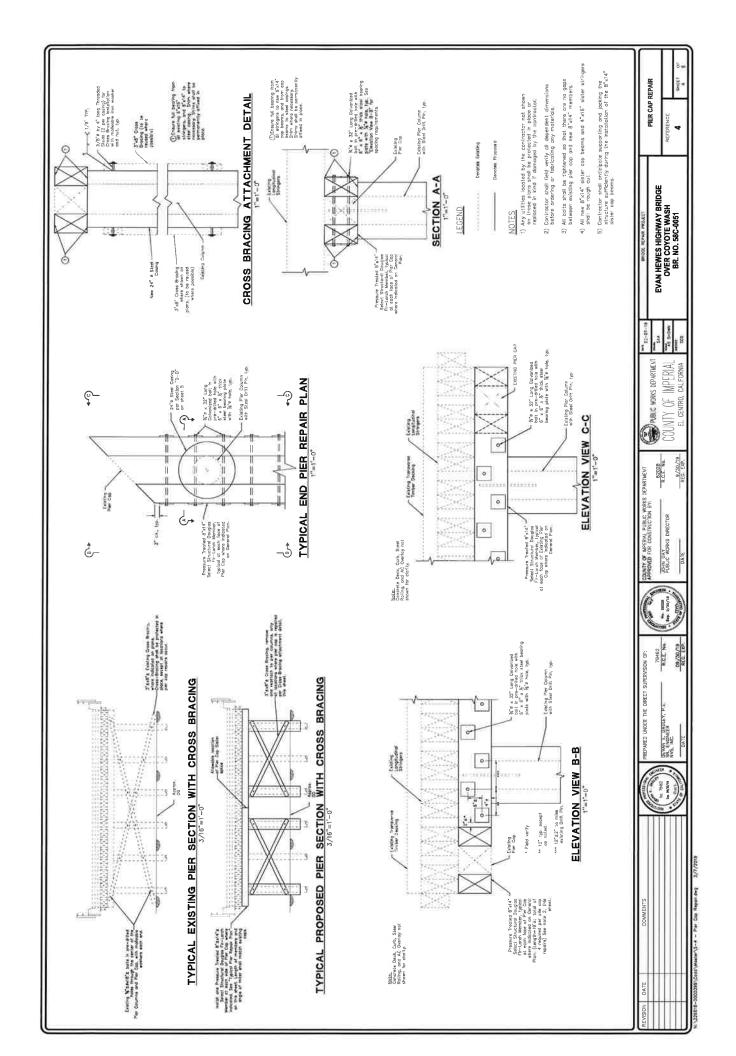
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT COUNTY OF IMPERIAL EL CENTRO, CALIFORNIA 62028 R.C.E. No. 9/30/18 REG. EXP. COUNTY OF IMPERIAL PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT APPROVED FOR CONSTRUCTION BY: JOHN GAY PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR No. States Ery 8/50/19 78462 R.C.E. No. 09/30/19 REC. DP. DEVAN E. DAGLEY, P.E. SR. ENGINEER NVS, INC. No. 78462 Es- 08/33/19

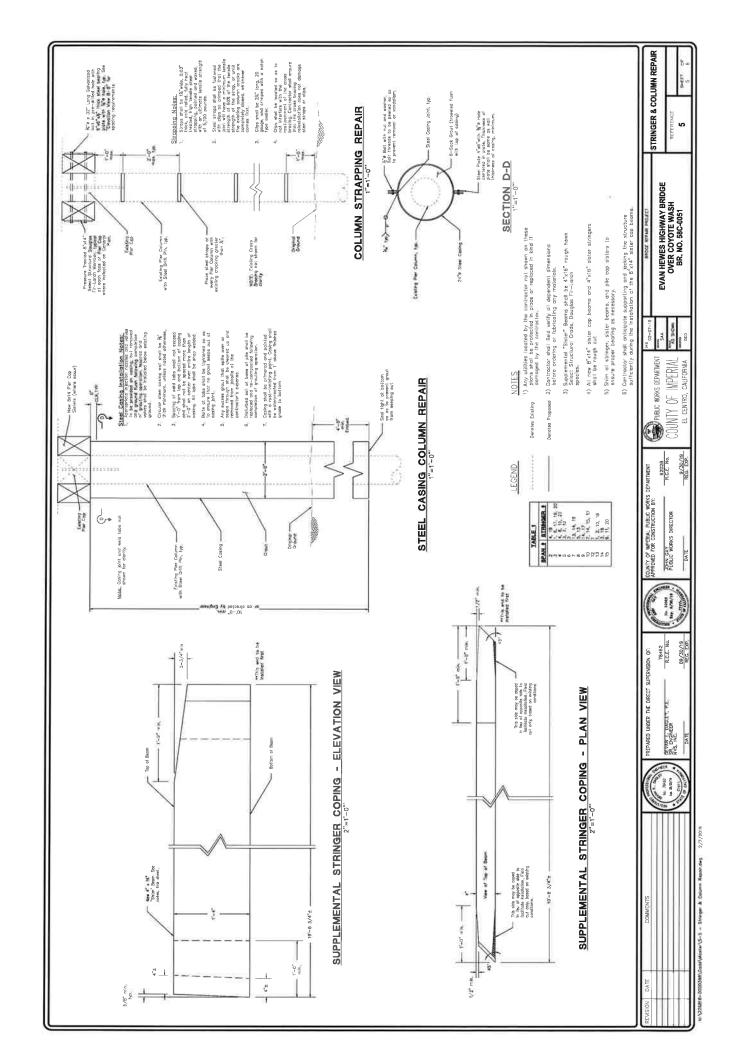
EVAN HEWES HIGHWAY BRIDGE OVER COYOTE WASH BR. NO. 68C-0061

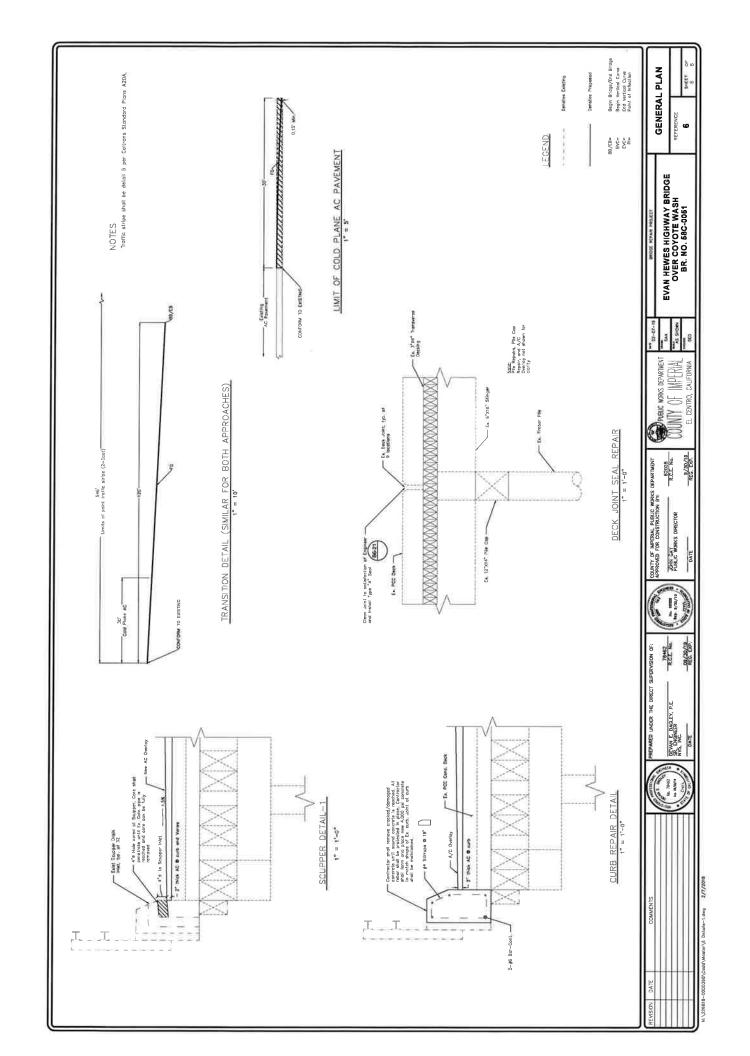
8

REFERENCE









### Attachment B.

Natural Environment Study (Biological Survey) for the Coyote Wash Bridge Improvements

Project

Natural Environment Study

(Minimal Impacts)

Coyote Wash Bridge Improvement Project

Imperial County, California east of the Township of Ocotillo and west of the City of El Centro

Bridge No. 58C-0051

March 2019

Prepared By and Certified as performed in accordance with established biological practices by:

Marie Barrett

**Biologist** 

Barrett's Biological Surveys

manie & Barrett

**Imperial County** 

(760) 352 4159

Date: 5 March 2019

### Summary

The Coyote Wash Bridge Improvement Project (proposed project) involves repairing several deficient components of the existing bridge along Evan Hewes Highway (S80) that crosses Coyote Wash in Imperial County. Several deficiencies have been noted over the years, from minor cracking in the asphalt concrete (AC) overlay, to large cracks in the pier caps and supporting columns, causing the County to shut down the bridge to traffic. These deficiencies have caused the bridge to be rated as structurally deficient with a sufficiency rating (SR) of 27. The purpose of the proposed project is to provide safe passage for the public over Coyote Wash.

This report presents the findings of general reconnaissance biological surveys of the project site. One special-status plant and two special-status wildlife species have some potential to occur within the Biological Study Area, therefore monitoring tasks are recommended.

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### 1. Introduction

### 1.1 History

The project is located approximately 3.5 miles east of the City of Ocotillo in Imperial County, at the crossing of Evan Hewes Highway and Coyote Wash. The original timber structure was built in 1932, and consisted of a total of 16 spans for a total length of 306 feet, and a roadway width of 24 feet 4 inches. In 1948, the bridge was widened to 28 feet 8 inches by replacing the timber decking with a new concrete deck with a curb and railing. Several deficiencies have been noted over the years, from minor cracking in the asphalt concrete (AC) overlay, to large cracks in the pier caps and supporting columns, causing the County to shut down the bridge to traffic. These deficiencies have caused the bridge to be rated as structurally deficient with a sufficiency rating (SR) of 27. The project proposes to fix all the deficiencies, and place 2 inches of AC at the curbs with a maximum 1.5% slope up to the crown.

### 1.2 Project Purpose and Need

Evan Hewes Highway is an east/west highway north of Interstate 8 serving local commuters as well as the delivery trucks from the Gypsum plant located approximately 5.5 miles east of the bridge. Re-opening the structure to traffic will reduce the lengthy detour for all commuters that either live, or work along that stretch of Evan Hewes Highway.

Specific work to be done from below the structure will include a total of 8 pier caps have been identified for repairs. The existing damaged pier caps which are 12" wide by 14" high, will be supplemented by two 8" wide by 14" high members on each side of the existing one, by slightly jacking the superstructure from below, and attaching the two new members using 32" long galvanized bolts with plate washers at 12" on centers. A severely damaged column/pile at Pier 6 will be encased with a steel jacket and pressure grouted from the bottom. A total of 32 columns/piles will receive 1-1/4" wide straps placed at 24" on centers. A total of 36 new stringers will be added to supplement damaged ones. The damaged concrete pedestal at the south end of Abutment 17 will be repaired.

Specific work to be done from the deck will include a total of 9 deck joints will be cleaned and new joint sealant installed; a small portion of the concrete curb at the north face of Pier 7 will be repaired. Also, a total of 32 scupper inlet drains will be cored (4" diameter core) to provide for proper drainage and approximately 120 feet of approach roadway at each end of the bridge will require removal of the existing AC and appropriate replacement to match the new proposed AC depth on the bridge. Three hundred and six (306) feet of new AC will be placed on the bridge; and a total of 546 feet of pavement striping will be installed.

### 2. Study Methods

### 2.1 Regulatory Requirements

The primary regulations affecting biological resource impacts are discussed in this section. If construction of this project, or related activities associated with construction, impact federal-and/or state-listed species, the project may be subject to the California Endangered Species Act

(CEPA) and the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). If activities directly impact migratory birds or cause the destruction or abandonment of nests, the project would be subject to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Additional regulations could also apply to the project. The following paragraphs provide a brief summary of the applicable provisions of these regulations.

### 2.1.1 Federal Endangered Species Act

The federal ESA provides protection for plants and animals listed as threatened or endangered by U.S. Wildlife and Forestry Service (USWFS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Marine Fisheries Service. Section 9 of the ESA (50 CFR 17.3) prohibits the take, possession, sale, or transport of any federal ESA-listed species. Take is defined as "to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, capture, collect, or attempt to engage in any such conduct" (16 U.S. Code [USC] Section 1532(19)). Federal regulation 50 CFR 17.3 further defines the term harm in the take definition to mean any act that actually kills or injures a federally listed species, including significant habitat modification or degradation. For plants, the federal ESA prohibits removing, possessing, maliciously damaging, or destroying any listed plant on areas under federal jurisdiction, and removing, cutting, digging up, damaging, or destroying any listed plant on non-federal land in knowing violation of state law (16 USC Section 1538(a)(2)(B)).

The federal ESA requires the federal government to designate critical habitat for any species listed under the federal ESA but also allows areas to be excluded from critical habitat (16 USC Section 1533(b)(2)). Critical habitat is a specific area(s) that is essential for the conservation of a threatened or endangered species and that may require special management and protection. Critical habitat may also include specific areas outside the geographical area occupied by the species if the agency determines that the area itself is essential for conservation.

Section 7 of the federal ESA requires federal agencies to consult with USFWS and/or NOAA Marine Fisheries Service for any federal activity that may affect any federally listed species or its critical habitat. Informal consultation may precede, and obviate the need for formal consultation if USFWS and/or NOAA Marine Fisheries Service concur that the proposed agency action is not likely to adversely affect listed species. In the formal consultation process, USFWS and/or NOAA Marine Fisheries Service must issue a Biological Opinion as to the potential for effect to listed species. USFWS and/or NOAA Marine Fisheries Service may issue an incidental take permit, allowing take of the species that is incidental to an authorized activity, provided that the action will not jeopardize the continued existence of the species. Section 10(a) of the ESA provides for issuance of incidental take permits for private actions that have no federal involvement, through the development of a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP).

### 2.1.2 Migratory Bird Treaty Act

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) provides protection for migratory birds. Conditions for permits to "take" migratory birds (as defined in the MBTA) are set forth in 50 CFR Part 13 [General Permit Procedures] and 50 CFR Part 21 [Migratory Bird Permits]). Unless expressly authorized in the regulations or by permit, activities such as hunting, pursuing, capturing, killing, selling, and shipping migratory birds are prohibited. The MBTA allows USFWS to issue permits to qualified applicants for certain types of activities. This protection extends to all migratory

birds, parts, nests, and eggs. The full list of species protected under this act is found in 50 CFR 10.13.

### 2.1.3 California Endangered Species Act

The California Endangered Species Act (CESA) provides protection for candidate plants and animal species as well as those listed as threatened or endangered by CDFW. CESA prohibits the take of any such species unless authorized; however, California case law has not interpreted habitat destruction, alone, as included in the state's definition of take. Take is defined in Section 86 of the Fish and Game Code as "hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill" (Cal. Fish and Game Code §86). CDFW administers the act and authorizes take through Section 2081 agreements, Section 2080.1 consistency determinations (for species that are also listed under the federal ESA) or NCCPs.

### 2.1.4 Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, as amended

This act is administered by the State Water Resource Control Board (SWRCB) to protect water quality and is an avenue to implement CA responsibilities under the federal Clean Water Act. This act regulates discharge of waste into a water resource.

### **2.1.5 Clean Water Act, 1972** (CWA 33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.)

This act regulates discharges into waters of the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE) is given the responsibility to implement programs to prevent pollution.

### 2.2 Studies Required

### 2.2.1 Literature Search

Prior to conducting field surveys, a review of pertinent literature, regulatory requirements, special-status species lists and recorded occurrences was conducted to determine if the proposed bridge repairs are within the range of sensitive resources such as state and/or federal listed threatened and/or endangered species. Available literature was reviewed including the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) for the Painted Gorge U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute Topographic Quadrangle and the surrounding eight quadrangles within the United States including Coyote Wells, Yuha Basin, Plaster City, Superstition Mountains, Plaster City NW, Carrizo Mountain NE, Carrizo Mountain and In·Ko·Pah Gorge.

### 2.2.2 Survey Methodologies

Marie Barrett and Glenna Barrett performed the biological assessment surveys within and adjacent to the Biological Study Area (BSA).

All proposed impact areas within the BSA were visited on foot and any nests were evaluated for activity.

### 2.2.3 Personnel and Survey Dates

Marie Barrett and Glenna Barrett of Barrett's Biological Surveys performed the biological assessment survey on January 23, 2019 (62°F, clear and calm). Resumes are attached.

### 2.2.4 Limitations That May Influence Results

Due to a wet fall and winter, rain fall was sufficient to germinate seeds and therefore, botanical specimens were present.

This area is highly disturbed by off road vehicles during all seasons and typical damage was observed.

### 3. Results: Environmental Setting

### 3.1 Description of the Existing Biological and Physical Conditions

### 3.1.1 Biological Study Area (BSA)

This site is located within the Colorado Desert which is a subdivision of the larger Sonoran Desert and covers approximately 7 million acres. The desert encompasses Imperial County and includes parts of San Diego County, Riverside County, and a small part of San Bernardino County. This site is in Imperial County.

This desert lies at a relatively low elevation, below 1,000 feet, with the lowest point of the desert floor is 275 feet below sea level at the Salton Sea; northeast of the site. The highest peaks of the Peninsular Ranges which reach elevations of nearly 10,000 feet are to the west of the site.

The Colorado Desert's climate differs from other deserts. The region experiences greater summer daytime temperatures (up to 120°F) than higher-elevation deserts and rarely experiences frost. In addition, the Colorado Desert experiences two rainy seasons per year usually in the winter and late summer in this portion.

### 3.1.2 Physical Conditions

The original timber bridge was built in 1932, and consisted of a total of 16 spans for a total length of 306 feet, and a roadway width of 24 feet 4 inches. In 1948, the bridge was widened to 28 feet 8 inches by replacing the timber decking with a new concrete deck with a curb and railing. The bridge spans the Coyote Wash, which is a typical sandy desert wash. It is highly disturbed by vehicular traffic including All Terrain Vehicles (ATV) and other Off Highway Vehicles (OHV). While the bridge is closed, a bypass to the south has been vehicles leaving the paved road to the south of Evan Hewes Highway of both approaches.

### 3.1.3 Biological Conditions in the Study Area

The top of the bridge is paved and is not biologically sensitive. Underneath the bridge, within the sandy wash, little flora or fauna were observed. Tables 1 and 2 (below) list species observations within the buffer zone of the site.

Table 1: Vegetation Found in Vicinity

Common Name	Scientific Name
Grass	Poa spp
Creosote	Larrea tridentata
Saltcedar	Tamarix spp.
Silver cholla	Cylindropuntia echinocarpa

Burrobush	Ambrosia dumosa
Desert lily	Hesperocallis undulata
Smoketree	Psorothamnus spinosus
5 hook bassia	Bassia hyssopifolia
Heliotrope	Heliotropium curassavicum

No vegetation was found that would be considered endangered, threatened or species of concern.

Table 2: Animals/Insects Found in Vicinity

Common Name	Scientific Name
Desert termite	Gnathamitermess perplexu
Harvester Ants	Pogonomyrmex barbatus
Ravens	Corvus albicollis
Canine tracks	unknown
Abandoned avian nests under	unknown
bridge	

No animals were found that would be considered endangered, threatened or species of concern.

### 3.1.4 Habitat Connectivity

The habitat is divided by Evan Hewes Highway which runs from El Centro to Ocotillo, CA and Interstate 8 (I-8). Evan Hewes Highway is easily crossed while I-8 is fenced to prevent access. There are many bridges under Evan Hewes Highway which can be accessed by wildlife. This project will not change the existing connectivity.

### 3.2 Regional Species and Habitats/Natural Communities of Concern

### 3.2.1 Habitat/Natural Communities of Special Concern

There are no Habitat/Natural Communities of Special Concern found within the BSA.

### 3.2.2 Special-Status Plant Species

Appendix: Sensitive Botanical and Zoological SPECIES (CNDDB/CNPS) Painted Gorge Quadrangle (Nine Quad Search) January, 2019 (attached) listed 26 botanical species within the 9 Quadrangles searched. Of these, one species (Harwood's milk-vetch, *Astragalus insularis var. harwoodii*) could be expected within the BSA.

### 3.2.3 Special-Status Animal Species

Appendix: Sensitive Botanical and Zoological SPECIES (CNDDB/CNPS) Painted Gorge Quadrangle (Nine Quad Search) January, 2019 (attached) listed 25 zoological species within the 9 Quadrangles searched. Of these, two species (Le Conte's Thrasher *Toxostoma lecontei* and Flat-tailed horned lizard (FTHL), *Phrynosoma mcallii*) could be expected within the BSA.

### 4. Results: Biological Resources, Discussion of Impacts & Mitigation

### 4.1 Habitats/Natural Communities of Special Concern

There are no habitats/Natural Communities of Special Concern.

### 4.2 Special-Status Plant Species

One species, Harwood's milk-vetch, *Astragalus insularis var. harwoodii*, could be found within the BSA. CNDDB Ranks: G5T3, S2.2; CNPS: 2B.2. Annual herb with a blooming period between January and May. Found in sandy or gravelly soils; desert dunes and Mojavean desert scrub. Peirson's milk-vetch is a stout, short-lived perennial with a single woody stem 1/3 to 1/2 the height of the plant that branches into a broom-like growth of smaller stems, 20-70 cm long. Stems are covered closely with fine silky grayish hairs. The leaves, 5-15 cm long, have a flattened rachis and 8 to 12 small, scattered, oblong lateral leaflets. The terminal leaflet is continuous with the rachis. 10-17 dull purple flowers occur in a raceme and are asymmetric with a banner approx. 10-14 mm long. Calyx tube is bell-shaped. The seeds (4.5-5.5 mm long) occur in an inflated bladder-like pod, 2-3.5 cm long, which is broadly ellipsoid with a triangular beak.

### 4.2.1 Discussion of Plant Species

### Survey Results

It was not observed within the BSA during survey.

### Project Impacts

None are expected with avoidance and minimization efforts.

### Avoidance and Minimization Efforts/Compensatory Mitigation

A preconstruction survey should be conducted by a qualified biologist.

### 4.3 Special-Status Animal Species

Le Conte's Thrasher *Toxostoma lecontei*, CNDDB Rank: G3, S3; CDFW: Species of Concern Sexes are alike. This sandy-colored, 10-inch long bird blends well with dry desert vegetation. Its black tail contrasts with its gray, unspotted breast and belly. Le Conte's Thrasher is a widespread, but rare permanent resident in the western and southern San Joaquin Valley, upper Kern River Basin, Owens Valley, Mojave Desert, and Colorado Desert in southwestern United States.

Flat-tailed horned lizard (FTHL), *Phrynosoma mcallii*, CNDDB Rank: G3; S2 CDFW: Species of Concern. A small (up to 87 mm or 3.4" from snout to vent), exceptionally flat and wide lizard with a long (for a horned lizard) broad, flat tail and a dark stripe running down the middle of the back. It occupies a small range in the Sonoran Desert of southwestern California, southwestern Arizona, and extreme northern Mexico.

### 4.3.1 Discussion of Animal Species

Survey Results

Neither species were found within the BSA during the survey.

### **Project Impacts**

No impacts are expected with avoidance and minimization efforts.

### Avoidance and Minimization Efforts/Compensatory Mitigation

- 1. Nesting surveys by qualified biologists during nesting season (February through August)
- 2. FTHL monitoring during construction by CDFW-qualified biologists
- 3. Worker environmental awareness training for nesting birds and FTHL which will include the following aspects:
  - Biology and status of the FTHL;
  - Protection measures designed to reduce potential impacts to the species, function of flagging designating authorized work areas;
  - Reporting procedures to be used if a FTHL is encountered in the field; and driving
    procedures and techniques, for commuting, and driving on, to the project site, to
    reduce mortality of FTHL on roads;
  - Identification of nesting birds and procedures to follow if nesting is suspected.
- 4. Areas outside of the project footprint will be designated as an "Environmentally Sensitive Area" (ESA) on project plans. No project-related activities will take place within the ESA-designated areas.

### 5. Conclusions & Regulatory Determination

### 5.1 Agency Coordination

Consultation has begun with Stephen R Roethle, Regulatory Project Manager U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Division to obtain the required permit for working within a wash.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM), El Centro, CA office has been contacted. The adjacent property is Plaster City OHV Open Area, managed by BLM.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Bermuda Dunes, has been contacted regarding a Streambed Alteration Permit.

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### 7. Appendix

Sensitive Botanical and Zoological SPECIES (CNDDB/CNPS) Painted Gorge Quadrangle (Nine Quad Search) January, 2019

Biological Study Area Map

**Engineering Plans** 

Resumes

### SITE POTENTIAL OBSERVATION/ No milk-vetches observed on site. None observed None observed No habitat; not None observed No habitat; not No habitat; not None observed expected expected centimeters long; leaves are a a dicot, is an annual herb that Habitat- vernal pools in areas few centimeters long and are Found in desert to mountain with Mediterranean climates oval-shaped leaflets with an This is an annual / perennial is native to California and is herb with a blooming period marshes and swamps (lake California but is confined to Wetlands, wetland-riparian. habitats. Hairy annual herb pale lilac flowers each less of Jan-Jul Habitat: found in Deserts of northern Mexico than a centimeter in length. SENSITIVE BOTANICAL AND ZOOLOGICAL SPECIES (CNDDB/CNPS) Valley Grassland, Coastal inflorescence that is open with stems up to about 26 array of 2 to 7 off-white to made up of several hairy Sage Scrub, Freshwater western North America. Painted Gorge Quadrangle (Nine Quad Search) January, 2019 Native to the Sonoran also found outside of HABITAT margins, riverbanks) gray-green stems and leaves and spinose lobes. Small gray-green shrub dicot, is a shrub that is native to California found outside of California but is a dicot, is an annual herb that is native to California. a dicot, is an annual herb that is DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES Mostly annual parsley reaching native to California and is also 16 in (40.6 cm) in height with confined to western North America Federal: Rare CNPS: List 2B.2 CNPS: List 2B.2 CNPS: List 2B.2 CNPS: List 1B.1 STATUS Astragalus sabulonum Eryngium aristulatum San Diego button-BOTANICAL Nama stenocarpa Gravel milk-vetch Croton wigginsii SPECIES Wiggins' croton var. parishii Mud nama celery

		and Arizona, Baja California, Sonora, Mexico.	and Arizona, into the Colorado Desert in California where it is an inhabitant of sand dunes.	expected
Baja California ipomopsis Ipomopsis effusa	CNPS: List 2.1	Native to California and to Baja California; perennial herb taking the form of a neat clump of slender, erect multibranched stems reaching a maximum height near 40 centimeters. Red 5 petal flowers	Creosote Bush Scrub, Chaparral Alluvial fans.	L None observed

BOTANICAL SPECIES	STATUS	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	HABITAT	OBSERVATION/ SITE POTENTIAL
Emory's Crucifixion- Thorn <i>Castela emoryi</i>	CNPS: List 2.3	A large sprawling, dense shrub or small tree, up to 3(-3.7) m (to 10[-12] feet) tall, with a round crown often with descending branches heavy with thorns. Gray brown bark has narrow ridges with smooth ridges. The stout twigs are blue, gray or yellow green, may be finely hairy, very rigid, up to 20 cm (8 in) long with numerous stout thorns.	Sonoran Desert of southern Arizona and far southeastern California, south into Baja California and Sonora, Mexico.	None observed
Annual rock-nettle Eucnide rupestris	CNPS List 2.2	is a small, perennial, rounded shrub that grows to at most 3-feet tall. The leaves are about 1/2-inch long, oval, irregularly toothed, and graygreen. The leaves are covered with tiny, needle-like, barbed, stinging hairs that are very difficult to remove from human skin. The flowers are fairly large and open, with five, pale cream-colored petals.	fairly common component of vegetation communities on well-drained sandy, gravelly, and rocky soils in washes and on rocky outcrops in the Upper Sonoran (Mojave Desert Scrub) life zone.	L No habitat on site; none observed
Hairy Stickleaf Mentzelia hirsutissima	CNDDB Ranks G3, S2S3; CNPS: 2.3	Annual to shrub; hairs needle-like, stinging, or rough. Leaves are long, very narrow, and serrated-pinnate-like; also medium to light grayish green; flowers are a bright, glossy medium yellow, the major petals are variable, sometimes 5 major, 5 minor; also 4 and 4. Covered in minute elaborations known as trichomes, which pierce and trap insects that land on it.	Creosote Bush Scrub	None observed

.

BOTANICAL SPECIES	STATUS	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	HABITAT	OBSERVATION/ SITE POTENTIAL
Arizona pholistoma Pholistoma auritum var. arizonicum	CNPS List 2B.3	The foliage is coated in hairs and bristles. The inflorescence is made up of one or more widely bellshaped flowers up to 1.5 centimeters long and 3 wide. The hair-lined flowers are blue to purple with darker markings in the centers.	It is native to California, southern Nevada, and Arizona, where it can be found in from mountain talus to coastal bluffs to desert scrub.	None observed
Spiny-hair blazing star Mentzelia tricuspis	CNDDB Ranks 2B.1	An annual/perennial herb growing erect or spreading to a maximum height near 27 centimeters. The leaves are up to 12 centimeters long and toothed or wavy along the edges. The inflorescence is a cluster of cream-colored flowers with petals up to 5 centimeters long and thready-tipped stamens.; hairs barbed to needle-like	It is native to the Southwestern United States and California where it grows in deserts, such as the Sonoran Desert, and adjacent mountains in scrub and woodland habitats.	None observed
Jacumba Mountains linanthus Linanthus maculatus ssp. emaculatus	CNDDB Ranks 18.1	Annual herb, very small; white flowers blooms March-May	Sandy or course, opaque-white, decomposed granite soils of washes and on flats near wash margins. Known only to occur at a few desert sites in San Diego County (southern Anza Borrego St. Pk.) and on BLM land in imperial county	None observed

BOTANICAL SPECIES	STATUS <sup>1</sup>	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	HABITAT	OBSERVATION/ SITE POTENTIAL
desert spike-moss Selaginella eremophila	CNDDB Ranks 2B.2	This lycophyte forms dense mats of spreading stems with small, forking branches. The lance-shaped leaves are up to 3 millimeters long on the lower stem surfaces and a little shorter on the upper sides. The tiny leaves have pointed tips with soft, twisted bristles. The strobili bearing the reproductive parts are under a centimeter long. Perennial	native to California, Arizona, Baja California, New Mexico, Texas. It grows in sandy and rocky habitat.	Not observed
dwarf germander Teucrium cubense ssp. depressum	CNDDB Ranks 28.2	Leaves are generally withering in fruit, lower 2-4 cm, blade ovate to obovate, crenate to lobed; upper 0.5-1.5 cm, generally deeply 3-lobed. Flower: calyx tube 13 mm, lobes 3-6 mm, bristle-tipped; corolla 715 mm, +- puberulent inside; filaments glabrous. Found in sandy soils, washes, fields, alkaline flats; Elevation found 400 m. Bioregional Distribution: Sonoran (Colorado) desert; Flowering Time: MarMay	This herb can be found in full sun to part shade, in hot climates, or poor and rocky soil.	Not observed

Not observed	No Habitat	Not observed
Habitats include glades, dry sand prairies, cropland, gravelly areas along railroads and roadsides, lawns and gardens, cracks in sidewalks and pavement, borders along buildings, and sterile waste areas containing sand, gravel, or compacted soil.	Coastal Strand, Creosote Bush Scrub, Dunes.	An annual grass that is native to California. sandy, silty,
Annual, glabrous. Stem: prostrate, repeatedly forking, 2-faced. Leaf: opposite throughout, short petioled; stipules free, 23-lobed; blade 510 mm, oblong to obovate, entire, base rounded or tapered, +-asymmetric, tip obtuse to rounded.	Plants ascending to erect, 0.4-2.5(-4) × 0.4-2 dm. Leaf-blades usually linear or narrowly spatulate, 1-7 × 0.1-0.6 cm. Inflorescences with slender, light brown branches; glomerules distinctly pedunculate, 2-4 mm across. Peduncles 0.5-3 mm, light brown to yellowish-green in the tawny tomentum. Flowers 5(-12), usually obscured by the tomentum, 0.5-1.2 mm; outer perianth lobes linear to oblong.	A monocot, an annual grass; blooms Aug-Dec Annual. Stem: 1 8 dm. Leaves with sheath 26 cm, axis glabrous to short-hairy; ligule
CNDDB Ranks 18.2	CNDDB Ranks: G4T1, S1; CNPS: 2.2	CNDDB Ranks 2B.1
flat-seeded spurge Euphorbia platysperma	Slender Cottonheads Nemacaulis denudata var. gracilis	Roughstalk witch grass Panicum hirticaule ssp. hirticaule

	No habitat	
depressions.  • Desert dunes  • Joshua tree woodland  • Mojavean desert scrub  • Sonoran desert scrub Elevation: < 1400 m	Rocky areas  Chaparral Cismontane woodland Pinyon and juniper woodland Riparian scrub Valley and foothill grassland Elevation: 8501200 m.	Baja California where it grows in scrubby habitat in the dry canyons of the Sonoran Desert. It often grows in
membrane 0.5–2 mm, ciliate; blade 7–20 cm, 3–15 mm wide, upper surface generally sparsely shorthairy. Inflorescence: 5–20 cm, open; 1° branches 3–8 cm, glabrous; spikelets 1–2 per node, stalk 0.5–3 mm, generally appressed. Spikelet: +- 2.5–3 mm, +- 1 mm wide, lanceolate to ovate, green; axis between glumes and florets visible; lower glume +- 1.5–2.5 mm, generally 5-veined, acuminate to acute, palea generally clemma; upper floret 0.7–0.8 × lower floret, stipitate, with paired crescent-shaped scars, often enlarged.  Ecology: Sandy soils, open sites, creosote-bush scrub;	Perennial herb with a Stem of +- stiffly erect, 410 dm. Leaflets 13—19 with a flower: calyx tube most densely hairy between lobes, lobes generally 0.72.2 mm, triangular, +- as wide as long. Fruit: 3560 mm. Chromosomes: 2n=22.	shrub with branching, mostly hairless stems that may reach 1.5 meters in length. The leaves are lance-shaped to oblong with smooth, toothed, or spiny edges.
	CNDDB Ranks 18.2	CNDDB Ranks 18.2
	Jacumba milk-vetch Astragalus douglasii var. perstrictus Orcutt's woody-aster	Aylol IIIza Olcdiii

	No habitat	Not observed
rocky and sandy substrates, clay, and alkaline soils amongst cactus.	It is endemic to Southern California, where it is known only from the San Bernardino and San Gabriel Mountains of the Transverse Ranges, and part of the Peninsular Ranges to the south. It grows in grassland and meadow habitat and in disturbed areas.	native to northwestern Mexico and the southwestern United States. It has been reported from Chihuahua, Sonora, trans-Pecos Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, Nevada and from California. The species occurs in sandy flats, in desert scrub, and on disturbed sites such as roadsides.
	This is a perennial herb growing from a long rhizome to a maximum height near one meter. Leaves are widely lance-shaped to oblong and pointed, the largest ones near the base of the stem reaching up to 12 centimeters long. The stem and leaves are roughly hairy. The fruit is a hairy achene with a long pappus.	Is an annual herb up to 200 cm (78.5 in) tall. Leaves are trifoliate, the leaflets ovate (egg-shaped), up to 5 cm (2 in) long. Flowers are yellow.
	CNDDB Ranks 18.2	CNDDB Ranks 18.2
	San Bernardino aster Symphyotrichum defoliatum	jackass-clover Wislizenia refracta ssp. refracta

BOTANICAL SPECIES	STATUS	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	HABITAT	OBSERVATION/ SITE POTENTIAL
Brown turbans Malperia tenuis	CNDDB Ranks G4, S1.3; CNPS: 2.3	is recognized by its annual duration, linear leaves densely arranged along stems or concentrated near bases of stems, loosely arranged heads, and pappi of two kinds of scales.	Sonoran Desert Scrub is the general habitat for Brown Turbans.  Near Ocotillo it grows on arid slopes with shallow soils, rocky surface rubble with few large boulders, and little competition from shrubs.	L No habitat on site; none observed
Pink Fairy Duster Calliandra eriophylla	CNDDB Ranks G5, S2S3; CNPS: 2.3	Fairy Duster is a low, densely branched shrub 8 to 48 inches high. The leaves are formed by 2-to-4 pairs of 1/4-inch, oblong leaflets. It is a member of the Pea Family (Fabaceae) which includes acacias and mimosas.	Open hillsides, sandy desert washes and slopes below 5,000 feet.	L None observed
Abrams's Spurge Chamaesyce abramisiana	CNPS list: 2	Annual herbaceous blooms Sept/Nov. Common spurge in area has large purple spot and is prostrate; Abram's is not as colorful.	Sonoran Desert Shrub	L None observed.
Borrego bedstraw Galium angustifolium ssp. borregoense	CNPS list: 1B.3	Plant glabrous, woody above base. Stem: 3560 cm, slender, ridges wider than grooves. Leaf: < 8 mm. Inflorescence: many-flowered, +-dense. Flower: corolla hairy externally.	Among boulders, granitic northern slopes; Elevation: 3501250 m.	L No habitat
Harwood's milk-vetch Astragalus insularis var. harwoodii	CNDDB Ranks: G5T3, S2.2; CNPS: 2B.2	Long leaves with purplish flowers	Creosote Bush Scrub. Dunes	L None observed; preconstruction survey recommended

ZOOLOGICAL SPECIES	STATUS	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	HABITAT	OBSERVATION/ SITE POTENTIAL
sticky geraea Geraea viscida	CNDDB Ranks 18.2	is a bristly, glandular perennial geophyte producing scrubby stems reaching anywhere from 30 centimeters (12 inches) to nearly a meter (39 inches) in height. The slightly hairy leaves are several centimeters long and generally oval-shaped, sometimes with small teeth and basal lobes.	It is native to southern California, mainly the chaparral hills of eastern San Diego County, and nearby Baja California.	L No habitat

ZOOLOGICAL SPECIES	STATUS	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	HABITAT	OBSERVATION/ SITE POTENTIAL
Birds				
Yuma clapper rail Rallus longirostris yumanensis	Fed:Endangered Ca: Threatened	A chickenlike marsh bird with a long, slightly drooping bill and an often upturned tail. Light brownish with dark streaks above. Rust-colored breast; bold, vertical gray and white bars on the flanks; white undertail coverts	Lives in freshwater and brackish marshes. Prefers dense cattails, bulrushes, and other aquatic vegetation. Nests in riverine wetlands near upland, in shallow sites dominated by mature vegetation, often in the base of a shrub. Prefers denser cover in winter than in summer. Very shy.	L No suitable habitat on site
Burrowing Owl Athene cunicularia	CDFW: SC Species of Concern	Small raptors that nest in burrows that have been borrowed from other species in open grassland areas. Have adapted well in Imperial County using canals/drains/ditches to establish burrows and foraging for insects in agricultural fields	Open, dry annual or perennial grasslands; deserts & scrublands	L No suitable burrowing habitat on site; prey availability low

ZOOLOGICAL SPECIES	STATUS	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	HABITAT	OBSERVATION/ SITE
Vermillion flycatcher	CDEW. SC	l anoth: 5 inches The adult male	Drog composition of a constraint of a constrai	_
Pyrocephalis rubins	Species of	has a Bright red can throat and	nonde in and areae.	N
Springs i springs of the	Concern	Indemark: with a Black eveline	parionitrus areas,	מסומו
		מווספו שנווים, שונוו מ שמכת משפווופ,	agilicululal aleas	
		nape, back, wings, and tail The		
		Immature male similar to female but		
		has variable amount of red on		
		underparts. The female and		
		immature has Brown upperparts		
		with White underparts with faint		
		streaks on breast with an undertail		
		coverts tinged pink The adult male		
		Vermilion Flycatcher is very		
		distinctive. The female and		
		immatures are more nondescript		
		but the streaking on the breast and		
		pink tinge to the undertail coverts		
		distinguish them from other		
		flycatchers.		

ZOOLOGICAL SPECIES	STATUS	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	HABITAT	OBSERVATION/ SITE POTENTIAL
Yellow Warbler Dendroica petechia brewsteri	CNDDB Rank; G5T3, S2; CDFW: SC	A Family of seed-eating, small to moderately large passerine birds that have strong, stubby beaks, which in some species can be quite large. They have a bouncing flight, alternating flapping with gliding on closed wings. Most sing well.	Yellow warblers in southern California breed in lowland and foothill riparian woodlands dominated by cottonwoods, alders, or willows and other small trees and shrubs typical of low, open-canopy riparian woodland(Garrett and Dunn 1981). During migration, they occur in lowland and foothill woodlands, oak woodlands, mixed deciduous-coniferous woodlands, suburban and urban gardens and parks, groves of exotic trees, farmyard windbreaks, and orchards (Small 1994).	L No suitable habitat on site
Le Conte's Thrasher <i>Toxostoma lecontei</i>	CNDDB Rank: G3, S3; CDFW: SC	Sexes are alike. This sandy-colored, 10-inch long bird blends well with dry desert vegetation. Its black tail contrasts with its gray, unspotted breast and belly.	Le Conte's Thrasher is a widespread, but rare permanent resident in the western and southern San Joaquin Valley, upper Kern River Basin, Owens Valley, Mojave Desert, and Colorado Desert in southwestern United States.	None observed

ZOOLOGICAL SPECIES	STATUS	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	HABITAT	OBSERVATION/ SITE POTENTIAL
Ferruginous hawk Buteo regalis	Species of concern	The male and female have identical markings. The main difference is size, with the female being larger. Perched birds have a white breast and body with dark legs. The back and wings are a brownish rust color. The head is white with a dark streak extending behind the eye. The wing tips almost reach the tip of the tail.	Found in arid to semiarid regions, as well as grasslands and agricultural areas in southwestern Canada, western United States, and northern Mexico.	L No suitable habitat on site
California Black Rail Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus	CDFW: Threatened	The smallest of all rails, the black rail is slate-colored, with a black bill, red eyes and a white-speckled back. The legs are moderately long and the toes are unwebbed. The sexes are similar.	Most commonly occurs in tidal emergent wetlands dominated by pickleweed or in brackish marshes with bulrushes in association with pickleweed. In freshwater, usually found in bulrushes, cattails, and saltgrass and in immediate vicinity of tidal sloughs.  Typically occurs in the high wetland zones near upper limit of tidal flooding, not in low wetland areas with considerable annual or daily fluctuations in water levels. Nests are concealed in dense vegetation, often pickleweed, near upper limits of tidal flooding	No habitat on site

Sonoran desert toad CDFW: SC La Incillius alvarius sk ele ele ele ele ele ele ele ele ele el	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	HABITAT	OBSERVATION/ SITE POTENTIAL
	Large: 7.5 inches or more in length. smooth, typically olive-green/brown skin, cranial crests, and prominent, elongated glands on both sides of the back of the head (parotoid glands) and on the hind legs. Young toads have small dark, orange-tipped spots on the back. Larger tadpoles are gray or brown with a rounded tail tip, and grow to about 2.25 inches.	Sonoran Desert scrub, semi-desert grasslands. Can be tied to permanent water, such as major rivers or the edges of agriculture. May be found many miles from water, particularly during the summer monsoons. Most Sonoran Desert toads are found at night during the monsoon season, but they may emerge a month or more before the summer rains begin, particularly in areas of permanent water. Can be found in rodent burrows or underground retreats.	L No habitat present on site.
Leopard frog CDFW:Species Taithobates of concern to Value in the Shannon Shann	Tan, gray-brown or light gray-green to green above; yellow below. Vague upper lip stripe, tuberculate skin. Dark network on rear of thighs; yellow groin color often extends onto rear of belly and underside of legs. Male will exhibit a swollen and darkened thumb base.	Find in desert grassland and in woodlands. Uses permanent water sources, stays near water. Breed Feb-April. Bullfrogs are predators	L No permanent water sources on site; not expected on site.
Yuma Ridgway's rail Rallus obsoletus CDFW: SSC wi	35–40 cm; male 194–347 g, female 160–310 g (yumanensis). Large rail with long, slender, slightly decurved bill.	Salt and brackish marshes, particularly those with tidal sloughs; favors marshes with tall, dense brush	L No Habitat

lowland leopard frog Lithobates	CDFW: SSC	is a relatively small leopard frog - maximum length is about 3.4	is a species of frog in the Ranidae family that is	L No habitat
yavapaiensis		inches. It is distinguished from other Arizona leopard frogs by a combination of characters,	found in Mexico and the United States; Its natural habitats are temperate	
		including dorsolateral folds that are broken and inset towards the rear,	forests, rivers, intermittent rivers, freshwater lakes,	
		a dark prown and tight reticulate pattern on the rear of the thigh, and usually no spots on the snout.	and resnwater marsnes.	
Northern leopard frog	CDFW: SC	2-3½ inches long and has randomly distributed black spots on its back, sides, and legs. Each spot is surrounded by a light halo. The background colors of the frog can range from cold to green.	NLF needs permanent water for overwintering, floodplains and marshes for breeding, and wet meadows and fields for	_
Lithobates pipiens		brown dorsolateral ridges often stand out in contrast.	9 ag	No habitat on site or nearby
ZOOLOGICAL SPECIES	STATUS	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	HABITAT	OBSERVATION/ SITE POTENTIAL
Flat-tailed horned lizard Phrynosoma mcallii	CNDDB Rank: G3; S2 CDFW: SC	A small (up to 87 mm or 3.4" from snout to vent), exceptionally flat and wide lizard with a long (for a	occupy a small range in the Sonoran Desert of southwestern California,	M Habitat present; preconstruction survey
-6		horned lizard) broad, flat tail and a dark stripe running down the middle of the back.	southwestern Arizona, and extreme northern Mexico.	recommended; monitoring
Colorado Desert fringe-toed lizard <i>Uma notata</i>	CNDDB Rank: G3, S2; CDFW: SC	2 3/4 to 4 4/5 inches long from snout to vent (7 - 12.2 cm). (Stebbins 2003) The tail is about	Sparsely-vegetated arid areas with fine wind-blown sand, including dunes, flats	L No loose sandy habitat habitat
		the same length as the body.	with sandy hummocks formed around the bases of vegetation, washes, and	
			the banks of rivers. Needs fine, loose sand for	

N/ SITE	ourrows badger iics	Not bitat; no bridge	+ <del>-</del>
OBSERVATION/ SITE POTENTIAL	L None seen; no burrows observed with badger characteristics observed.	L None seen. Not expected; no habitat; no roosting found in bridge	L No Habitat
HABITAT	Found in drier open areas with friable soils	It occurs in the arid lowlands of the desert Southwest, and primarily roosts in crevices in rugged cliffs, slopes, and tall rocky outcrops.	In the United States, they are found as far north as Nebraska in the west and coastal and central Virginia to the east. There is also an isolated population in southeastern California in the Imperial Valley along the Colorado River. Hispid cotton rats prefer dense, grassy areas.
DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	Burrowing animals that feed on ground squirrels, rabbits, gophers and other small animals. Prefer grasslands, agricultural areas.	A small fold, or "pocket" in the wing membrane of the free-tailed bat, near its knee, gives this bat its common name. Pocketed free-tailed bats have large ears and long wings, and fly rapidly, generally pursuing insects on the wing. They eat many kinds of insects, but seem to prefer small moths.	Hispid cotton rats are small to medium sized rodents, with adults weighing 100 to 225 g (average 159 g). Total length ranges from 80 to 320 mm, with males slightly longer than females. The color of both sexes consists of a mixture of tan, brown, and black fur on their dorsal parts, giving them a coarse, or "hispid," appearance. The underparts are white to greyish, the tail is sparsely haired and considerably shorter than the considerably shorter than the body.
STATUS	CDFW: Species of Concern	CNDDB Rank: G4, S2S3; CDFW: SC	CDFW: SC
ZOOLOGICAL SPECIES	American Badger <i>Taxidea taxus</i>	Pocketed free-tailed bat <i>Nyctinomops</i> <i>femorosaccus</i>	Yuma hispid cotton rat Sigmodon hispidus eremicus

ZOOLOGICAL SPECIES	STATUS	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	HABITAT	OBSERVATION/ SITE POTENTIAL
California leaf-nosed bat Macrotus californicus	CDFW: SC	The California leaf-nosed bat weighs between 12 and 20 grams, has a wingspan of over 30 centimeters and a body length of over 6 centimeters, and is brown in color. As its name implies, it has a triangular fleshy growth of skin, called a noseleaf, protruding above the nose.	It is found in Mexico and the United States. Its natural habitat is hot deserts. It is threatened by habitat loss.	L None seen. Not expected; no habitat; no roosting found in bridge
Big free-tailed bat Nyctinomops macrotis	CDFW: SC	They have a wingspan of 435 mm and an average length of 140 mm. Little is known of mortality and longevity. Breeding probably occurs in midwinter while the species is in warmer latitudes. Moths seem to be the mainstay of their diet, although few data have been collected. This bat emerges late in the evening and forages at high altitudes.	a bat species found in South, North and Central America. This bat frequents rocky or canyon country where it roosts in crevices	L None seen. Not expected; no habitat; no roosting found in bridge
Western Mastiff Bat	CNDDB Rank: G5T4, S3; CDFW: SC	distinguished from all other North American molossid (free-tail) species based on size. With a forearm of 73-83 mm, it is North	In California, the E. perotis is most frequently encountered in broad open areas. Generally, this bat is found in a variety of	L None seen. Not expected; no habitat; no roosting found in bridge
Eumops perotis californicus		America's largest species.	nabitats, from any desert washes, flood plains, chaparral, oak woodland, open ponderosa pine forest, grassland, montane meadows, and agricultural areas.	

ZOOLOGICAL SPECIES	STATUS	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	HABITAT	OBSERVATION/ SITE POTENTIAL
Western Yellow bat Lasiurus xanthinus	CDFW SC:	Consumes small to medium-sized, night flying insects. Yellow color/short ears.	Roosts in leafy vegetation the deserts of the southwestern United States. Roosts among the dead fronds of palm trees and cottonwoods	L None seen. Not expected; no habitat; no roosting found in bridge
Big free tailed bat Nyctinonmops macrotis	CDFW: SC	Body length of 5 1/8 to 5 3/4", with a 17" wingspan, which makes it bigger than other free tailed bats. Fur is reddish brown to dark brown, with hairs white at base. Tail extends past membrane at least an inch. Big ears are joined at base and extend out over face like a hat. Eats mostly moths, some crickets, grasshoppers, ants, various other insects.	Lives in rocky areas of desert scrub or coniferous forests. During day roosts in crevices on cliff faces.	L None seen. Not expected; no habitat; no roosting found in bridge
Palm Springs pocket mouse Perognathus longimembris bangsi	CDFW: SC	This is a small heteromyid rodent with TL from about 110 to 151 mm and weight from 8 to 11 g. As in all silky pocket mice, the pelage is spineless, and there are usually two small patches of lighter hairs at the base of the ear. Silky pocket mice can be distinguished from sympatric pocket mice of the genus Chaetodipus (fallax, formosus, and penicillatus) by their smaller size (see Ingles 1965 for comparisons), the absences of a tail-crest, and an unlobed antitragus in the outer ear.	Historically known from the San Gorgonio Pass area east to southern Joshua Tree National Park, south through the Coachella Valley to Ocotillo. Its historical range extends from Joshua Tree National Park southward, west to San Gorgonio Pass and down to Borrego Springs and the east side of San Felipe Narrows (Hall 1981)	L No habitat

ZOOLOGICAL SPECIES	STATUS	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	HABITAT	OBSERVATION/ SITE POTENTIAL
Colorado Valley	CNDDB Rank:	a small rodent measuring an	Typically found at an	_
woodrat	G5T3T4, S1S2	average of 12.9 inches (32.8 cm)	altitude of 0 to 1,966	Not observed
Neotoma albigula		and weighing an average of 188 g	meters (0 to 6,450 feet).	
venusta		for females and 224 g for males	Mesquite-creosotebush	

# Special Status Species that Occur in Imperial County (USFWS)

Common Name Scientific Name	Status1 Federal/CDFW /CNPS	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	Habitat	Suitability Of Habitat In Survey Area
Plants				
Peirson's milk-vetch	T/E/1B	Silvery, short-lived perennial plant	Desert dune habitats. In	_
Astragalus		that is somewhat broom like in	California, known from	None observed. No
magdalenae var.		appearance. A member of the pea	sand dunes in the	dune habitat
peirsonii		and bean family, it can grow to 2.5	Algodones Dunes system	
		feet tall and is notable among	of Imperial County. Was	
		milkvetches for its greatly reduced	known historically from	
		leaves. Peirson's milkvetch	Borrego Valley in San	
		produces attractive, small purple	Diego County and at a site	
		flowers , generally in March or April,	southwest of the Salton	
		with 10 to 17 flowers per stalk. It	Sea in Imperial County	
		yields inflated fruit similar to yellow-		
		green pea pods with triangular		
		beaks.		

	Status1			
Common Name Scientific Name	Federal/CDFW /CNPS	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	Habitat	Suitability Of Habitat In Survey Area
H-18 5-19				
California brown pelican Pelecanus occidentalis	endangered	Large size and brown color. Adults weigh approximately 9 pounds, and have a wingspan of over 6 feet.  They have long, dark bills with big pouches for catching and holding fish. Pelicans breed in nesting colonies on islands without mammal predators. Roosting and loafing sites provide important resting habitat for breeding and non-breeding birds.	Open water, estuaries, beaches; roosts on various structures, such as pilings, boat docks, breakwaters, and mudflats	None observed. No open water

Common Name Scientific Name	Status1 Federal/CDFW /CNPS	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	Habitat	Suitability Of Habitat In Survey Area
Southwestern willow flycatcher <i>Empidonax traillii</i> <i>extimus</i>	- <i>!-</i> -/-	Small; usually a little less than 6 inches in length, including tail. Conspicuous light-colored wingbars. Lacks the conspicuous pale eye-ring of many similar <i>Empidonax</i> species. Overall, body brownish-olive to gray-green above. Throat whitish, breast pale olive, and belly yellowish. Bill relatively large; lower mandible completely pale. The breeding range of extimus includes Arizona and adjacent states.	At low elevations, breeds principally in dense willow, cottonwood, and tamarisk thickets and in woodlands, along streams and rivers. Migrants may occur more widely. Prefers riparian willow/cottonwood but will use salt cedar thickets	None Observed; no suitable thickets on site
Yuma clapper rail Rallus longirostris yumanensis	Е/Т/-	A chickenlike marsh bird with a long, slightly drooping bill and an often upturned tail. Light brownish with dark streaks above. Rust-colored breast; bold, vertical gray and white bars on the flanks; white undertail coverts. Very shy.	Lives in freshwater and brackish marshes. Prefers dense cattails, bulrushes, and other aquatic vegetation. Nests in riverine wetlands near upland, in shallow sites dominated by mature vegetation, often in the base of a shrub. Prefers denser cover in winter than in summer.	L None observed or heard; no suitable habitat; not immediately adjacent to cattails or water

Common Name Scientific Name	Status1 Federal/CDFW /CNPS	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	Habitat	Suitability Of Habitat In Survey Area
Yellow-billed cuckoo	C/E/-	Medium-sized cuckoo with gray- brown upperparts and white underparts. Eye-rings are pale yellow. Bill is mostly yellow. Wings are gray-brown with rufous primaries. Tail is long and has white-spotted black edges. Sexes are similar.	Found in forest and open woodlands, especially in areas with dense undergrowth, such as parks, riparian woodlands, and thickets	L  None observed; no habitat on site. Thickets are not present.
Bald eagle Haliaeetus Ieucocephalus	T, PD/E/-	The distinctive white head and tail feathers Beak and eyes yellow. Bald Eagles are about 29 to 42 inches long, can weigh 7 to 15 pounds, and have a wing span of 6 to 8 feet.	Found on shores, lake margins, and near large rivers. Nests in large trees. Winters at lakes, reservoirs, river systems, and some rangelands and coastal wetlands (breeding range is mainly in mountainous habitats near reservoirs, lakes and rivers, mainly in the northern two-thirds of California)	L None observed; no habitat
		D		

Common Name Scientific Name	Status1 Federal/CDFW	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	Habitat	Suitability Of Habitat
l east tern	E/E/	Small form During brooding	Chollod of good of the local	
	- ' ' '	Small term. Duming bleeding, black	Snallow areas of estuaries,	L
Sterna antillarum		cap enging at white forenead, short white eyestripe. Bill yellow with	lagoons, and at the joining points between rivers and	None observed; no
		black tip. Back light gray. Underside	estuaries	ומסומו
		white. Black leading edge to wing.		
		In nonbreeding plumage has black		
		eyestripe extending to back of		
		head, white top of head, and black		
		bill. Size: 21-23 cm (8-9 in)		
		Wingspan: 48-53 cm (19-21 in)		
		Weight: 30-45 g (1.06-1.59 ounces)		
Least Bell's Vireo	E/E/-	Drab gray to green above and white	Formerly a common and	
Vireo bellii pusillus		to yellow below. It has a faint white	widespread summer	None observed: no
		eyering and two pale wingbars; has	resident below about 2,000	habitat on site
		pale whitish cheeks and forehead	feet in western Sierra	
		and greenish wings and tail. longer	Nevada. Also was common	
		tail and subtle wingbars. The song	in coastal southern	
		is a varied sequence of sharp,	California, from Santa	
		slurred phrases that typically end	Barbara County south,	
		with an ascending or descending	below about 4,000 feet	
		note.	east of the Sierra Nevada.	
			Prefers thickets of willow,	
			and other low shrubs afford	
			nesting and roosting cover	

Common Name	Status1 Federal/CDFW	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	14 H	Suitability Of Habitat
Scientific Name	CNPS			In Survey Area
Mountain plover Charadrius montanus	FPT/SC/-	Medium-sized plover with pale brown upperparts, white underparts, and brown sides. Head has brown cap, white face, and dark eyestripe. Upperwings are brown with black edges and white bars; underwings are white. Tail is brown-black with white edges. Sexes are similar.	Avoids high and dense cover. Uses open grass plains, plowed fields with little vegetation, and open sagebrush areas. Likes to follow livestock grazing or burned off fields.	L No habitat

Common Name Scientific Name	Status1 Federal/CDFW /CNPS	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	Habitat	Suitability Of Habitat In Survey Area
Black rail Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus	-/T/-	The smallest of all rails, the black rail is slate-colored, with a black bill, red eyes and a white-speckled back. The legs are moderately long and the toes are unwebbed. The sexes are similar.	Most commonly occurs in tidal emergent wetlands dominated by pickleweed or in brackish marshes with bulrushes in association with pickleweed. In freshwater, usually found in bulrushes, cattails, and saltgrass and in immediate vicinity of tidal sloughs.  Typically occurs in the high wetland zones near upper limit of tidal flooding, not in low wetland areas with considerable annual or daily fluctuations in water levels. Nests are concealed in dense vegetation, often pickleweed, near upper limits of tidal flooding	None observed; no habitat

Common Name Scientific Name	Status1 Federal/CDFW /CNPS	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	Habitat	Suitability Of Habitat In Survey Area
Raptors				
Peregrine Falcon	D/E/-	Large, powerful falcon, pointed winged falcon silhouette. Strong shallow wingbeats may dive at	Most often found along coastlines or marshy habitats. Nest in cliffs and	_
Falco peregrinus		speeds up to 100 mph. Dark with dark hooded effect. Blue gray below with narrow bars Longwinged, long tailed hawk. Habitually flys low over onen fields and	have been known to nest in tall buildings	None observed; rare visitors to area outside of the Salton Sea. No waterfowl for prey or
		marshes watching and listening for prey such as rodents and birds. (I observed Harrier with a white faced		cliffs/tall buildings for nesting
		ibis as prey). Perches low or on ground. Low slow flight. Nests in reeds. Grey with black wingtips.		
Northern Harrier	-/SC/-	Blue gray above pale reddish	Marshes, open fields.	_
		below; small size. TIP of tall squared off. Nesting occurs in	ממסוס דו נפסח	L No habitat
Circus cyaneus		dense tree stands which are		
		usually near water. Hunt in		
		openings at the edges of woodlands and also brushy		
		pastures.		
Sharp-shinned Hawk	-/SC/-	Gray and white with black on Ishoulders and under bend of wing.	Sharp-shinned hawks may appear in woodland habitats	7
Acciniter etriatus		Graceful flyer. Adults have bright red eves. Medium size hawk; aboaut 15	during winter and migration periods and are often	your months to tolk
Scriptics stratus		inches long and about 12 ounces.	common in southern	hot observed. Low prey base
		and thigh feathers. White tail washed with rufous Wide head winds in	lowlands and desert areas; winters in woodlands and	
		Shallow v when sparing	other habitats	

Common Name Scientific Name	Status1 Federal/CDFW /CNPS	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	Habitat	Suitability Of Habitat In Survey Area
White tailed Kite Elanus leucurus	/E/		Found in open country; like to perch on treetop. May be seen hovering prior to attack of a rodent.	L Not observed. Low prey base
Ferruginous hawk Buteo regalis	/SC/		Found in arid to semiarid regions, as well as grasslands and agricultural areas in southwestern Canada, western United States, and northern Mexico.	L Not observed. Low prey base
Mammals Bighorn sheep Ovis canadensis	E/E/-	Sheep have short hair which is light gray to grayish brown, except around their stomachs and rump, where it is creamy white. Their tails are about four inches long. Full-grown rams weigh between 180 and 240 pounds,	Desert Bighorn sheep occupy a variety of plant communities, ranging from mixed-grass hillsides, shrubs. Avoids dense vegetation	L None observed; no habitat – area very disturbed

Common Name Scientific Name	Status1 Federal/CDFW /CNPS	DESCRIPTION OF SPECIES	Habitat	Suitability Of Habitat In Survey Area
Reptiles and Amphibians	ans			
Desert tortoise	T/T/-	A herbivore that may attain a length	Dry, flat, and gravelly or	7
		ors to 15 inches in upper snell (carapace) length. The tortoise is	sandy ground in desert shrub communities where	
Gopherus agassizii		able to live where ground	annual and perennial	None observed; habitat
		temperature may exceed 140	grasses are abundant.	not favorable
		degrees F because of its ability to	Frequent habitats with a	
		aig underground burrows and	mix of shrubs, forbs, and	
		escape the neat. At least 95% of its	grasses	
		life is spent in purrows. Their shells		
		to dark brown in color Desert		
		to daily blowin in color. Desert		
		Tollolses can grow from 4—o In		
		height and weigh 8–15 lb (4–7 kg)		
		when fully grown. The front limbs		
		have heavy, claw-like scales and		
		are flattened for digging. Back legs		
		are more stumpy and elephantine		
Flat-tailed horn lizard	PT/-/-	Closely related to Desert horned	Desert washes/sandy	M
		lizard (scat indistinquishable); only	areas with vegetative	
		found in Imperial, Riverside	cover. Diet of ants	
Phrynosoma mcallii		County, Ca and Yuma area, Az.		Sandy habitat; ants
		Small round lizard with		noticed – recommend
		distinguishing round spots on back.		preconstruction survey
		Diet of ants; needs sandy soil,		and monitoring
		shade bushes to survive.		

Fish Desert pupfish Continuedon			In Survey Area
Svorinodon	Small, silvery-colored fish with 6 to 9 dark bands on its sides. Grows to a full average length of only 2 E	Springs, seeps, and slow- moving streams in Salton	_
macularius	inches; develop quickly, sometimes reaching full maturity within 2 to 3	and sloughs of the Colorado River	None observed; no habitat
	months. Although their average life span is 6 to 9 months, some		
	survive more than one year.		
	with an upturned mouth. The anal		
	and dorsal fins are rounded with the		
	blotch. The caudal fin is convex at		
	the rear.		
Razorback Sucker   Fed/CA:	One of the largest suckers in North	Colorado River	7
Endangered	America, can grow to up to 13		
Xyrauchen texanus	pounds and lengths exceeding 3 feet. The razorback is brownish-		None observed: no
	green with a yellow to white-colored		habitat
	belly and has an abrupt, bony hump		
	on its back shaped like an upside- down boat keel		

USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern

7		USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern	Soncern		
Common Name	Species Name	Habitat	Potential Onsite	Region 8 Imperial County	National Rating
Bald Eagle	Haliaeetus Ieucocephalus	Nests on tall trees or on cliffs in forested areas near large bodies of water. Winters in coastal areas, along large rivers, and large unfrozen lakes.	Low Not expected. No tall trees; not observed in area	×	×
Swainson's Hawk	Buteo swainsoni	Breeds in open country such as grassland, shrubland, and agricultural areas. Usually migrates in large flocks often with Broadwinged Hawks. Winters in open grasslands and agricultural areas of Southern America.	L Not observed. Low prey base		×
Peregrine Falcon	Falco peregrinus	Inhabits open wetlands near cliffs for nesting. Also uses large cities and nests on buildings.	L Not observed. Low prey base	×	×
Black Rail	Laterallus jamaicensis	Nests in high portions of salt marshes, shallow freshwater marshes, wet meadows, and flooded grassy vegetation.	Low No salt or freshwater marshes; no vegetation	×	×

Common Name	Species Name	Habitat	Potential Onsite	Region 8 Imperial County	National Rating
Snowy Plover	Chardrius alexandrinus	Barren to sparsely vegetated sand beaches, dry salt flats in lagoons, dredge spoils deposited on beach or dune habitat, levees and flats at salt-evaporation ponds, river bars, along alkaline or sailne lakes, reservoirs, and ponds.	Low No habitat; not observed	×	×
Mountain Plover	Charadrius montanus	Breeds on open plains at moderate elevations. Winters in short-grass plains and fields, plowed fields, and sandy deserts.	L No habitat	×	×
Black Oystercatcher	Haematopus bachmani	Rocky seacoasts and islands, less commonly sandy beaches.	Low No habitat	×	×
Solitary Sandpiper	Tringa solitaria	Breeds in taiga, nesting in trees in deserted songbird nests. In migration and winter found along freshwater ponds, stream edges, temporary ponds, flooded ditches and fields, more commonly in wooded regions, less frequently on mudflats and open marshes.	Low No habitat		×
Lesser Yellowlegs	Tringa flavipes	Breeds in open boreal forest with scattered shallow wetlands. Winters in wide variety of shallow fresh and saltwater habitats.	Low No habitat		×
Common Name	Species Name	Habitat	Potential Onsite	Region 8 Imperial County	National Rating

	×		×	×	×	×
			×	×	×	
	Low	No habitat	L No habitat	L No habitat	L No habitat	Low No habitat
	Native prairie and other dry grasslands, including airports and some croplands.		Breeds in various tundra habitat, from wet lowlands to dry heath. In migration, frequents various coastal and inland habitats, including fields and beaches. Winters in tidal flats and shorelines, occasionally visiting inland habitats.	Nests in wet and dry uplands. In migration and winter found on wetlands, grain fields, lake and river shores, marshes, and beaches.	Breeds in muskegs of taiga to timberline, and barely into subarctic tundra. Winters on coastal mud flats and brackish lagoons. In migration prefers saltwater tidal flats, beaches, and salt marshes. Also found in freshwater mud flats and flooded agricultural fields.	Nest on flat vegetated islands on or near the coast. Vegetation includes dwarf-shrub tundra, grass and sedgemeadows, and coastal marsh. Migration and winter
	Bartramia Iongicauda		Numenius phaeopus	Numenius americanus	Limnodromus griseus	Sterna aleutica
:	Upland Sandpiper		Whimbrel	Long-billed Curlew	Short-billed Dowitcher	Aleutian Tern

Common Name	Species Name	Habitat	Potential Onsite	Region 8 Imperial County	National Rating
Least Tern	Sterna antillarum	Seacoasts, beaches, bays, estuaries, lagoons, lakes and rivers, breeding on sandy or gravelly beaches and banks of rivers or lakes, rarely on flat rooftops of buildings.	Low No habitat		×
Gull-billed Turn	Sterna nilotica	Breeds on gravelly or sandy beaches. Inters in salt marshes, estuaries, lagoons and plowed fields, along rivers, around lakes and in freshwater marshes.	Low No habitat		×
Black Skimmer	Rynchops niger	Breeds in large colonies on sandbars and beaches. Forages in shallow bays, inlets, and estuaries.	Low No habitat	×	×
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	Coccyzus americanus	Open woodlands with clearings, orchards, dense scrubby vegetation, mainly cottonwood, willow, and adler, often along water.	Low No habitat	×	×
Black Swift	Cypseloides niger	Nests on steep ledges on cliffs or canyons. Migrates and winters over coastal lowlands.	Low No habitat	×	×
Costa's Hummingbird	Calypte costae	Primarily low deserts and arid brushy foothills, but also chaparral and coastal sage scrub closer to the coast. Often visits ornamental plantings and feeders in desert communities. In migration and winter frequents a wider variety of habitats, occasionally ranging into pineoak woodlands in adjacent mountains.	Low No habitat	×	×
Calliope Hummingbird	Stellula calliope	Open montane forest, mountain meadows, and thickets of willow and alder. In migration and winter also in chaparral, oak and pine-oak woodlands, deserts, and gardens.	Low No habitat	×	×

Common Name	Species Name	Habitat	Potential Onsite	Region 8 Imperial	National Rating
Rufous Hummingbird	Selasphorus rufus	Breeds in a variety of forested habitats where flowers are found. Frequents montane meadows and just about anywhere else with flowers or feeders during migration. Winters primarily in pine and pine-oak forests in Mexico, but most birds wintering farther north are attracted either to flowers or feeders in gardens.	Low No habitat		×
Allen's Hummingbird	Selasphorus sasin	Breeds in coastal sage scrub, chaparral, and riparian corridors within coastal forests. In Mexico winters in forest edge and scrub clearings with flowers. The resident population on the mainland of southern California is largely restricted to suburban neighborhoods where feeders and flowers are plentiful.	Low No habitat	×	×
Lewis's Woodpecker	Melanerpes lewis	Breeds in open arid conifer, oak, and riparian woodlands: rare in coastal areas. Winters in breeding habitat, and oak savannas, orchards, and even in towns.	Low No habitat	×	×
Olive-sided Flycatcher	Contopus cooperi	Montane and northern coniferous forests, at forest edges and openings such as meadows, and at ponds and bags. Winters at forest edges and clearings where tall trees or snags are present.	Low No habitat	×	×
Willow Flycatcher	Empidonax trailii	Breeds in moist, shrubby areas, often with standing or running water. Winters in shrubby clearings and early successional growth.	Low No habitat	×	×
Loggerhead Shrike	Lanius Iudovicianus	Open or brushy areas.	Medium Could forage in area; plentiful prey	×	×

Common Name	Species Name	Habitat	Potential Onsite	Region 8 Imperial County	National Rating
Bell's Vireo	Vireo bellii	Dense, low, shrubby vegetation generally early successional stages in riparian areas, brushy fields, young second-growth forest or woodland, scrub oak, coastal chaparral, and mesquite brushlands, often near water in arid regions.	Low Scant shrubby vegetation on site	×	×
Gray Vireo	Vireo vicinior	Found in desert scrub, mixed oak-juniper and pinyon-juniper woodlands, dry chaparral, and thorn scrub in hot, arid mountains and high-plains.	Low No scrub habitat	×	×
LeConte's Thrasher	Toxostoma lecontei	Desert scrub, mesquite, tall riparian brush and, locally, chaparral.	Low Could be found in adjacent habitat	×	×
Yellow Warbler	Dendroica petechia	Breeds in wet, deciduous thickets, especially in willows and adler. Also in shrubby areas, old fields, gardens and orchards. In southern Florida and farther south, found in mangroves.	Low No habitat	×	
Common Yellowthroat	Geothlypis trichas	Thick vegetation from wetlands to prairies to pine forests. Frequently near water.	Low No habitat; not observed	×	
Rufous-winged Sparrow	Aimophila carpalis	Found in flat areas of tall desert grass mixed with brush and cactus, and thorn scrub.	Low No habitat		×
Brewer's Sparrow	Euphagus cyanocephalus	Found in a variety of habitats, but prefers open, human-modified areas, such as farmland, fields, residential lawns, and urban parks.	Low No habitat	×	×
Black-chinned Sparrow	Spizella atrogularis	Arid brush land, commonly in tall and fairly dense sagebrush, and dry chaparral. Often in rocky, rugged country from sea level to around 8,900 ft (2700m).	Low No habitat	×	×

				Region 8	National
Common Name	Species Name	Habitat	Potential Onsite	Imperial County	Rating
Tricolored Blackbird	Agelaius tricolor	Breeds in marsh vegetation, particularly cattails, near grain fields, riparian scrubland, and forests, but always near water. Dairies and feedlots also commonly used for foraging. Urban and suburban areas occasionally utilized, particularly park lawns. Cultivated lands also suitable for foraging. Large night-time roosts form during nonbreeding season in cattail marshes near foraging grounds.	Low No habitat	×	×
Lawrence's Goldfinch	Carduelis lawrencei	Prefers dry interior foothills, mountain valleys, open woodlands, chaparral, and weedy fields. Often found near isolated water sources such as springs and cattle troughs.	Low No habitat	×	×
		CNPS Species or Community Level	-		
G1 = Less than 6 viable elem	ent occurrences (EOs)	= Less than 6 viable element occurrences (EOs) OR less than 1,000 individuals OR less than 2,000 acres.	.000 acres.		
G2 = 6-20 EOs OR 1,000-3,000 individuals OR 2,000-10,000 acres.	00 individuals OR 2,000	0-10,000 acres.			
G4 = Apparently secure; this	rank is clearly lower th	G4 = Apparently secure; this rank is clearly lower than G3 but factors exist to cause some concern; i.e., there is some threat, or somewhat narrow habitat.	rn; i.e., there is some threat, or som	ewhat narrow hal	oitat.
G5 = Population or stand de	monstrably secure to in	G5 = Population or stand demonstrably secure to ineradicable due to being commonly found in the world	the world.		
		State Ranking			
The state rank (S-rank) is assigned much the same way as the global rank, e in California often also contain a threat designation attached to the S-rank.	signed much the same vain a threat designation	The state rank (S-rank) is assigned much the same way as the global rank, except state ranks in California often also contain a threat designation attached to the S-rank.	The R-E-D Code contains information on Rarity, Endangerment, and Distribution, ranked as a 1, 2, or 3 for each value (as below). This code was originally known as the R-E-V-D Code	on on Rarity, Enda or 3 for each valu own as the R-E-V	ngerment, : (as D Code
			(through the 3rd edition 1980), and the V (Vigor) was removed in the 4th edition (1984).	d the V (Vigor) wa	s removed
S1 = Less than 6 EOs OR less than 1,000 individuals OR less	than 1,000 individuals	OR less than 2,000 acres	R - Rarity		
S1.1 = very threatened			1 – Rare, but found in sufficient numbers and distributed widely enough that the potential for extinction is low at this time	nt numbers and d or extinction is lov	stributed v at this

C4 2 - 4 has a 4 a a a	
ST.Z = III eatened	2 – Distributed in a limited number of occurrences,
C13 - Translate the sector first	occasionally more in each occanience is small
S.L.S = no current threats known	3 – Distributed in one to several highly restricted
	occurrences, or present in such small numbers that it is seldom
	reported
S2 = 6-20 EOs OR 1,000-3,000 individuals OR 2,000-10,000 acres	E - Endangerment
S2.1 = very threatened	1 – Not very endangered in California
S2.2 = threatened	2 – Fairly endangered in California
S2.3 = no current threats known	3 – Seriously endangered in California
S3 = 21-80 EOs or 3,000-10,000 individuals OR 10,000-50,000 acres	D - Distribution
S3.1 = very threatened	1 – More or less widespread outside California
S3.2 = threatened	2 – Rare outside California
S3.3 = no current threats known	3 – Endemic to California
S4 = Apparently secure within California; this rank is clearly lower than S3 but factors exist to	
cause some concern; i.e. there is some threat, or somewhat narrow habitat. NO THREAT	
S5 = Demonstrably secure to ineradicable in California. NO THREAT RANK.	
Course: CDEM/CND	ANDS 2017. LISEIAKS 201E
Societies wilding social socia	CIALS 2011, OST WS, 2013
State/CDFG:	¹Status: Federal:
E = Listed as an endangered species; or previously known as "rare, fully protected"	E = Listed as an endangered species
T = Listed as a threatened species	T = Listed as a threatened species
SC = species of special concern (designation intended for use as a management tool and for	C = Candidate for listing
information; species of special concern have no legal status (www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/species/ssc/birds.html))	
CNPS (California Native Plant Society):	D = Delisted
1B = Rare, threatened, or endangered in California or elsewhere	PD = Proposed for delisting/PT = Proposed for threatened status
2= Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in Ca, but more common elsewhere	
3=Plants about which more information is needed	
Habitat Suitability Codes: H = Habitat is of high suitability for this species M = Habitat is of moderate suitability for this species L = Habitat is of low or no suitability for this species	

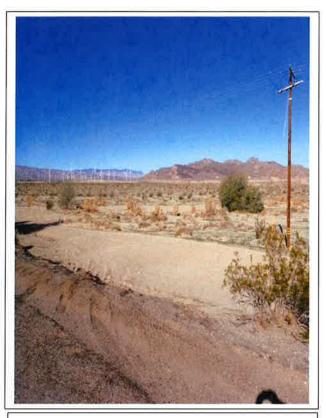
# **PHOTOGRAPHS**



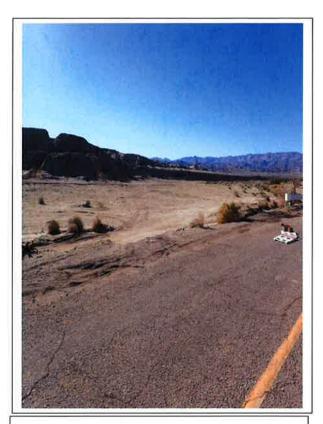
1. Evan Hewes Highway at Coyote Wash Bridge looking west; saltcedar to right



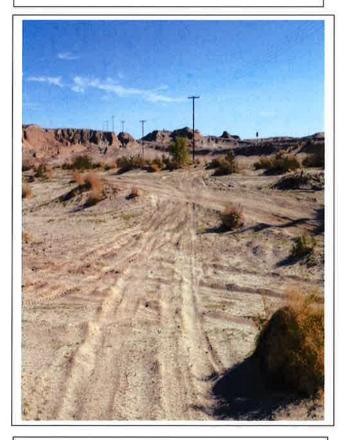
2. Evan Hewes Highway at Coyote Wash Bridge looking east; saltcedar on both sides



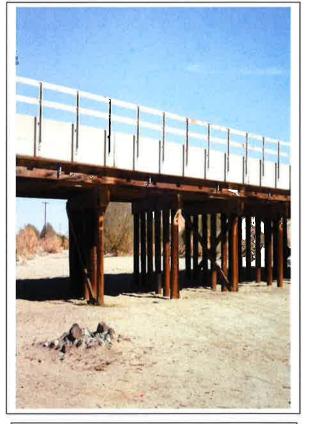
3. Area to north of bridge; area being used illegally as a bypass to closed bridge



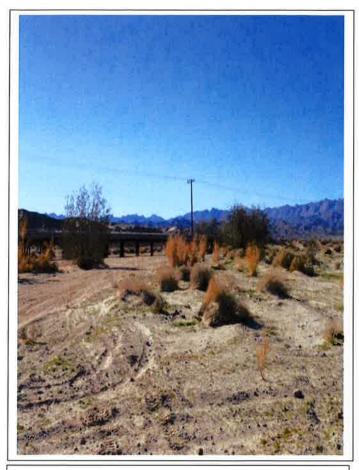
4. Area to south of bridge; area being used illegally as a bypass to closed bridge



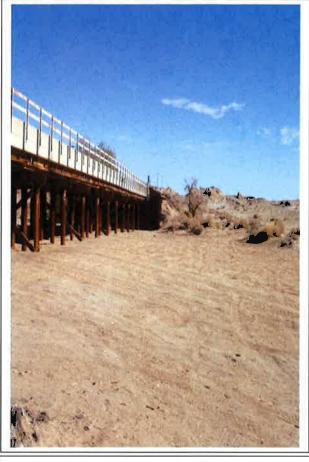
5. Highly disturbed area to north of bridge area; offroad vehicular activity



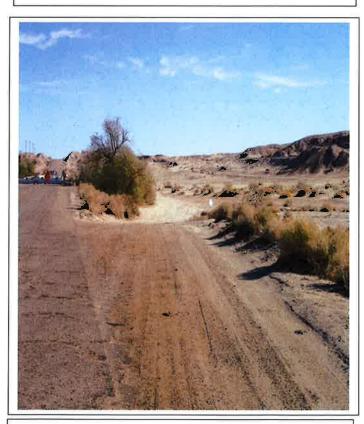
6. Bridge at wash looking north; firepit in foreground



7. Bridge at wash looking east; off road vehicle road which goes under bridge



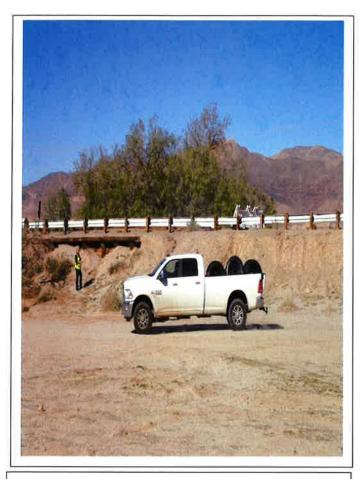
8. Bridge at south side of wash; off road vehicle road which goes under bridge



9. Illegal bypass road around bridge looking east



10. Railroad tracks to south; various off road vehicular roads



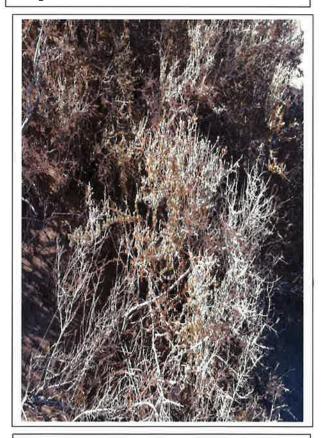
11. Vehicle illegally bypassing closed Coyote Wash bridge



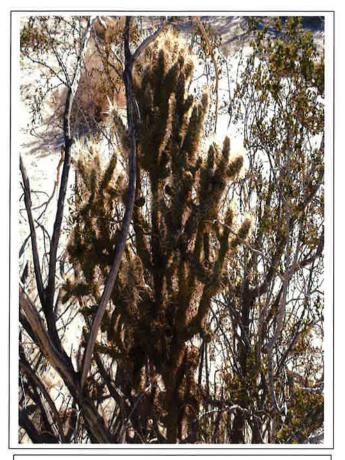
13. Abandoned nest in bridge supports



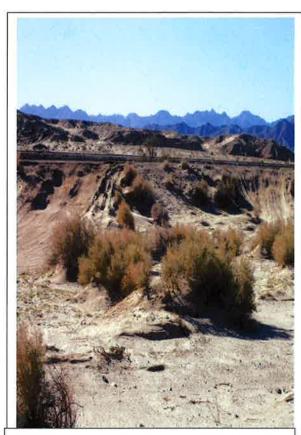
12. Creosote along approach to Coyote Wash bridge



14. Burrobush (*Ambrosia dumosa*) found adjacent to biological study area (BSA)



15. Creosote (*Larrea tridentate*) and cholla (*Cylindropuntia echinocarpa*) observed in BSA



16. 5 hook bassia, (*Bassia hyssopifolia*) found in BSA



17. Smoketree, (*Psorothamnus spinosus*) found in BSA



# **GLENNA MARIE BARRETT**

PO Box 636 Imperial, California 92251 (760) 425-0688 glennabarrett@outlook.com

# **PROFILE**

Organized and focused individual, adept at implementing multifaceted projects while working alone or as an integral part of a team . Skilled in client/employee communications, report preparation, program analyses and development. Cost conscious, safety oriented and empathetic. A strong communicator with excellent interpersonal skills, which allows development of rapport with individuals on all levels. A sound professional attitude, strong work ethic and pride in personal performance.

### WORK EXPERIENCE

Senior Biologist/Partner, Barrett's Biological Surveys, GP. El Centro, CA April 2016-currently. Principal Biological Consultant, Barrett Biological Enterprises, Inc. Imperial, CA December 2001 - currently. Compile information and complete local, state, and federal government forms; such as conditional use permits, reclamation plan applications, Financial Assurance Cost Estimates, zone changes, CEQA, Environmental Evaluation Committee responses, and 501 (c)(3) tax exemption applications. Act as liaison between local businesses and local, state, and federal government agencies. Certified to survey for Flat-Tailed Horned Lizards in California and Arizona. Certified to survey for Burrowing Owls and the Desert Tortoise.

Extensive knowledge in southwestern United States, non-migratory and migratory avian biology and ecology. Strong knowledge of common Flora and Fauna communities associated with Southern California and surrounding environs. CEQA, NEPA, California Endangered Species Act (CESA) and Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) knowledge gained through work experience. I have excellent analytical skills, multi-tasking and writing abilities. My past work experience has provided me with many years of hands on experience working with and managing others to find practical solutions to solve problems and achieve common goals.

Grant writing experience: Awarded two grants for BUOW educational programs for \$15,000 each from Imperial Valley Community Foundation. Awarded \$35,700 for a total of \$75,000 with matching funds to establish the Imperial Valley Small Business Development Center with the Imperial Reginal Alliance. Awarded \$450,000 from the California Public Utilities Commission for a broadband connectivity initiative in Imperial County with Imperial Reginal Alliance and Imperial Valley Economic Development Corporation. Assisted in writing two grants with the Imperial County Film Commission (ICFC). The first grant written with the ICFC from the Imperial Valley Community Foundation for educational film classes at the 2017 Film Festival, which was awarded for \$5,000. Another grant co-written with the ICFC from the Imperial Irrigation District Local Entity Grant for office assistants, etc. Successfully wrote USDA grant in the amount of \$60,000 for a Feasibility Study to be completed in Imperial County.

Broadband and Business Development at Imperial Valley Economic Development Corporation. Director of the Southern Border Broadband Consortium formed by using grant funding from the California Advanced Service Fund to close the Digital Divide in unserved and underserved areas of Imperial and San Diego counties. Coordinate meetings with stakeholders, collect data and create quarterly reports to submit to the California Public Utilities Commission. Coordinate Environmental Protection Agency grant application and grant funding with agency contacts. May 2017-current.

# FIELD EXPERIENCE

Ms. Barrett has done the field work and contributed to the required reports for the following projects:

**DeShaw- Onsite Biologist for Mount Signal 2 Solar Farm,** this is the second phase of the Mount Signal Solar Farm in Calexico, Imperial County, CA. Ms. Barrett is attending all Plan of the Day (POD) meetings, scheduling

and surveying biological surveys (pre/during/post), scheduling monitoring and providing monitoring, and giving biological opinions to the owner, as well as the EPC< Swinerton. August 2018- currently.

8 Minute Energy- Onsite Biologist for Mount Signal 3 Solar Farm, a 328 megawatt-dc photovoltaic (PV) project in the city of Calexico in California's Imperial County. The project is part of the 800 MW Mount Signal Solar Farm which is among the largest PV installations in the world. Barrett's Biological Surveys has been the only onsite biologists for all three phases of Mount Signal. Burrowing owls are the main species of concern on this project and the population on the third phase has doubled with conservation efforts. Ms. Barrett attended all Plan of the Day (POD) meetings, scheduled and participated in surveys (pre/during/post), scheduled and conducted monitoring, and gave biological opinions. April 2017- currently.

**Dominion- Midway 2 Carcass Persistence Surveys,** provide scheduling for the carcass search trials weekly, conduct Searcher Efficiency and Carcass Persistence trials multiple times throughout the year at a solar farm in Calipatria, CA. Collect data and work with subconsultants to prepare the data in the fashion US Fish and Wildlife Services prefer. Collaborate with client and USFW. February 2018-currently.

All American Aggregates/ Gibson and Schaeffer- a sand and gravel operation located in Imperial County, CA. Ms. Barrett consults with owners on any biological issues that may arise, completes annual Financial Assurance Cost Estimates for Imperial County. 2011- currently.

Kruger- Environmental Compliance Coordinator (ECC) for Seville Solar Complex for a 626-acre solar farm in Imperial County, CA. Compiled and submitted data and reports for APCD such as equipment lists and man hours, water hours for dust suppression; Planning reports such as weekly monitoring reports and scheduling with the third party monitor for work on BLM land; Assisted in writing the Emergency Response Action Plan; CDFW quarterly reports for the Incidental Take Permit for the Flat Tail Horned Lizard (FTHL), CNDDB reports, FTHL Observation Data Sheets, site tours and any other information CDFW asks for; Agriculture Commissioner's Office quarterly reports; provides the hazardous reporting information for the CERS online reporting system; assisted writing the FTHL ITP; trained new hires; contacted various local businesses for different on-call services; also provides any updates for plans and schedules necessary throughout the life of the project; etc. (January 2015- March 2016).

NAF-EC – FTHL monitoring for Holtville Airstrip project with USMC personnel to widen a six-mile BLM road and re-strip an airfield. Monitored and consulted with above-mentioned agencies for FTHL. (October 2014) Sol Orchard - El Centro, CA: Successfully completed BUOW relocation and artificial burrow installation for six burrows. (August 2013)

**Burrtec- FTHL Surveys** in Salton City, CA: Team leader for eight people to complete a pre-construction site sweep for 320 acres in Imperial County. (June 2013)

Applied Biological Consulting- Approved Biological Monitor on DPV2: The 500kV transmission line traverses approximately 153 mi from Bythe, CA to Menifee in Riverside County, CA. Crossing private, state and Federal lands, such as the Bureau of Land Management [BLM], U.S. Forest Service [USFS]. Ms. Barrett monitored for Desert Tortoise on this project. (November 2011 to May 31, 2013)

**GeoMorphis- gas pipeline in Mesquite, Nevada:** This was an underground gas pipeline project in which Ms. Barrett monitored Desert Tortoise. (November 2010-March 2011).

# **EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

Received Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a focus on Management, along with Economics and Leadership minors, December 2000. Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA.

Special Status/listed species observed/ identified, surveyed, monitored and/or relocated: Mohave desert tortoise, Coachella valley milkvetch, Desert kit fox, Mountain lion, Coachella valley fringe toed lizard, Mohave fringe toed lizard, Stephen's kangaroo rat, Mohave ground squirrel, Coast horned lizard, Flat-tailed horned lizard, Burrowing Owl.

# **CERTIFICATIONS/ WORKSHOPS**

- FTHL Workshop, 2008 El Centro BLM office.
- •USFW Desert Tortoise Egg Handling Desert Tortoise Council Survey Techniques Workshop Certificate, 2008 and 2010.
- Anza Borrego State Park Wildflower Identification Workshop, 2010.
- Southwest Willow Flycatcher Workshop Kernville, CA, 2010.

- •SCE TRTP Construction Monitoring Training Class and WEAP Redlands, CA 2011.
- •DPV2 Construction Monitoring Training Class and WEAP Santa Ana, CA 2011.
- Helicopter flight trained on DPV2, 2012.
- •Certified to handle/ move venomous snakes on DPV2, 2012.
- Bat monitoring with Ms. Pat Brown BLM El Centro, CA Office, 2010.
- Salton Sea International Bird Festival 2007 Coordinator
- Mountain Plover/ Long-billed Curlew surveys, L.A. Museum of Natural History.
- Current First Aid certification to 2016.
- Presented at the Fourth Annual BUOW Symposium in Pasco, Washington, 2014.
- Board Member- Colorado River Citizens Forum, 2014-2016.
- •BUOW Educational outreach grantee from IVCF, interacting with IID, IVROP, ICFB, Ag Commissioner's Office, 2015.
- Pets for Vets, Imperial Valley Chapter, Director 2015
- Friends of the Sonny Bono National Wildlife Refuge, Member 2015
- •Imperial County Film Commission, Vice-President, Member 2016

# MARIE S. BARRETT

2035 Forrester Road, El Centro, CA 92243 (760) 352 4159 mariebarrett@roadrunner.com

# LICENSES/CERTIFICATES

Flat Tailed Horn Lizard Surveyor CDFG/BLM Burrowing Owl Surveyor (CDFG/USFWS)

USFW Desert Tortoise Egg Handling Desert Tortoise Council Survey Techniques Workshop Certificate
BCI Bat Conservation and Management Workshop (Acoustic) Certificate
Southwestern Willow Flycatcher Workshop Kernville, CA 2010
CA Scientific Collection Permit 126/USFWS Salvage Permit MB52633B-1

# **CAREER HISTORY**

# Barrett's Biological Surveys, El Centro, California BIOLOGIST 3/95 -present

Helped established protocol and perform Vegetative Baseline Studies and Biological Surveys for Mining Reclamation Plans in Imperial County. Have performed numerous (over 20,000 acres) surveys involving varied wildlife including burrowing owl, nesting birds and plant species and writing reports and biological assessments. Certified to perform Flat Tailed Horned Lizard Surveys; completed Desert Tortoise workshops; approved to handle desert tortoise (American Girl Mine/BLM project, 1/2013). Work closely with governmental agencies such as Such as Bureau of Land Management, State Office of Mining Reclamation, California Department of Fish and Game. Written over ten Environmental Assessments for BLM, El Centro office. Over 150 days spent in field monitoring/surveying for FTHL; 98 days in field monitoring/surveying for desert tortoise and 32,000 acres surveyed for burrowing owl and nesting birds; 2 IID Burrowing owl surveys with AECOM (2011/12-226 hrs). Wrote Imperial Irrigation District Artificial Burrow Installation Manual (2009). Over 25 active burrowing owl burrows passively relocated and 50 artificial burrows installed. Volunteered for desert tortoise work (20 hrs) with Dr. Jeff Lovich. Coachella Valley Projects: Torres-Martinez (Desert Cahuilla Composting Facility Biological Resource Technical Report/Surveys 60 acres, SR 86/Ave 84, 2013; Augustine Tribe (Solar Farm Biological Resource Technical Report/Surveys 10 acres, La Quinta, CA, 2010); Benitez Family Trust Therapeutic Community, Dillon and Cabazon Roads, 10 acres, 2008); Chandri Group (Dairy Queen Chill/Grill Project, 1.5 acres, Date Palm Drive/I-10, La Quinta, CA, 2014). Blythe 8Minutenergy Mt. Signal Solar 5000 acres Preconstruction surveys/construction monitoring and BUOW Post construction monitoring; Biological report. 2010-2017 Black Mt. MetTower Installation: desert tortoise survey and monitoring approved by BLM, El Centro office Salton City Burrtec Landfill FTHL monitoring/clearance 2010-2014 (42.5 hrs); Superior Redi Mix: FTHL surveys, Oat Pit Environmental Assessment for BLM, El Centro, 2009-14. (20 hours) SDG&E La Rosite Pole Replacement FTHL Monitoring 2012-2013(410 hrs); Imperial County Department of Public Works, FTHL surveys for Coyote Mine Environmental Assessment, BLM, El Centro, 2008. (10 hours) All American Aggregates, FTHL surveys, Boyd Road Mine Environmental Assessment, BLM El Centro, 2007. (9.5 hours) All American Aggregates. FTHL surveys. Wheeler Road Mine Environmental Assessment, BLM, El Centro, 2006. (8.5 hours); ValRock, FTHL surveys, Ocotillo ByPass Road Environmental Assessment, County of Imperial/BLM, El Centro, 2004. (7 hours). USFWS Authorized desert tortoise biologist: American Girl Mine and Mesquite Mine.

Citizens' Congressional Task Force on the New River, Brawley, Ca PROGRAM COORDINATOR 1/98 - present

Assisted with design, construction, planting and monitoring of four constructed wetlands in Imperial County.

Responsible for coordinating activities relating to student and public outreach education to promote the water quality opportunities of wetlands ponding systems on the New River.

Imperial Valley College, Imperial, California ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PROJECT COORDINATOR 9/95-12/99

Responsible for establishing an Environmental Technology curriculum, presenting public forums, short courses and certificate courses in hazardous materials and safety areas. In conjunction with Division Chairman, established a budget for 96-98 program and obtained funding of \$131,000 based on 95-96 program performance. Established short courses that trained over 700 people in hazardous materials safety programs. Compiled a survey of employers, which provided direction for the program.

**VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS** 

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY: Imperial Valley Coordinator, 2006-2016.

SALTON SEA INTERNATIONAL BIRD FESTIVAL: Coordinator: 2001-2010. Organize bird festival in the Imperial Valley that attracts over 300 birders.

COLORDO RIVER WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD: Board member Dec 05-Sept 06. FRIENDS OF SONNY BONO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE: Board Chairman, May 2015-16

# **EDUCATION**

University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona

Masters of Science Degree – AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

Thesis: Survey and training protocol for documenting burrowing owls and habitat in Imperial County, California California State Polytechnic College, Kellogg-Voorhis Campus, Pomona, California

Bachelor of Science Degree.- AGRICULTURAL BIOLOGY

Imperial Valley College, Imperial, California Associate of Science Degree. AGRICULTURE