

Attachment C

Initial Study/Mitigated Negative
Declaration for the Palo Colorado
Road Storm Damage Repair Project,
Monterey County, California

OCTOBER 2023

PREPARED FOR
County of Monterey

PREPARED BY
SWCA Environmental Consultants

SWCA

**INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
FOR THE
PALO COLORADO ROAD
STORM DAMAGE REPAIR PROJECT,
MONTEREY COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

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1 INTRODUCTION

The County of Monterey (County) is proposing the Palo Colorado Road Storm Damage Repair Project (project), which would replace damaged asphalt, install steel guardrails, install steel soldier pile or soil nail retaining walls, improve or replace existing drainages, improve drainage conditions, and temporarily relocate utility lines at 63 discontinuous potential work areas along an approximately 4.8-mile segment of Palo Colorado Road in unincorporated Monterey County. The purpose of this project is to repair existing damage from previous wildfire and storm events and increase roadway and drainage resilience during future natural disasters.

1.1 Project Location

The project site consists of 63 discontinuous potential work areas along an approximately 4.8-mile segment of Palo Colorado Road within the Coastal Zone of unincorporated Monterey County, California (Figures 1–13). The proposed work areas are located between Mile Post (MP) 2.77 near Highway 1 and MP 7.57 near the Bottcher’s Gap parking lot.

The 63 potential work areas include 13 storm damage sites and 44 drainage improvement sites, as well as 20 construction storage areas. A detailed description of the proposed work areas is summarized in Table 1 and shown on Figures 1 through 13.

Table 1. Proposed Work Area Locations

| Potential Work Area | Storm Damage / Culvert Number | Mile Post | Latitude, Longitude |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|
| 1 | Potential Staging Area | | |
| 2 | Storm Damage Retaining Wall Site #13 | 2.77 | 36.3845694, -121.8683639 |
| 3 | Potential Staging Area | | |
| 4 | Storm Damage Retaining Wall Site #12 | 3.47 | 36.37935, -121.8606083 |
| 5* | C40* | 3.74 | |
| 6 | Potential Staging Area | | |
| 7* | C39b* | 4.07 | 36.375894, -121.851747 |
| 8 | C39A | 4.22 | 36.375872, -121.848989 |
| | Storm Damage Retaining Wall Site #11 | 4.24 | 36.3758, -121.8487222 |
| | C38b | 4.25 | 36.375872, -121.848989 |
| 9 | C38A | 4.29 | 36.375522, -121.84829 |
| 10 | C37 | 4.34 | 36.375466, -121.847368 |
| | Potential Staging Area | | |
| 11 | C36 | 4.39 | 36.375392, -121.846751 |
| 12 | C35 | 4.44 | 36.374709, -121.846971 |
| 13 | C34 | 4.50 | 36.374468, -121.846366 |
| 14 | Potential Staging Area | | |
| 15 | C33 | 4.55 | 36.373754, -121.846268 |
| 16 | C32 | 4.61 | 36.373364, -121.84538 |
| | Storm Damage Retaining Wall Site #10 | 4.62 | 36.3734083, -121.84505 |
| 17 | C31 | 4.67 | 36.373386, -121.84441 |

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| Potential Work Area | Storm Damage / Culvert Number | Mile Post | Latitude, Longitude |
|----------------------------|--|----------------------|--|
| 18 | C30 Potential Staging Area | 4.77 | 36.373957, -121.843168 |
| 19* | C29c* | 4.91 | 36.373269, -121.840967 |
| 20 | C29b Potential Staging Area | 4.99 | 36.374117, -121.840269 |
| 21 | C29a | 5.03 | 36.37359, -121.839889 |
| 22 | C28 | 5.15 | 36.373425, -121.837906 |
| 23 | C27 Storm Damage Retaining Wall Site #9 | 5.25 5.26 | 36.373125, -121.837192 36.3729444, -121.8373889 |
| 24 | C26 | 5.34 | 36.372439, -121.838373 |
| 25 | C25b | 5.43 | 36.371472, -121.839292 |
| 26 | Potential Staging Area | | |
| 27 | Potential Staging Area | | |
| 28 | Storm Damage Retaining Wall Site #8 C24 | 5.58 5.59 | 36.3705528, -121.8368556 36.370599, -121.836937 |
| 29 | Potential Staging Area | | |
| 30 | C23 | 5.73 | 36.3699, -121.835122 |
| 31 | Potential Staging Area | | |
| 32 | C22 Storm Damage Retaining Wall Site #7 C21 | 5.79 5.80 5.84 | 36.369255, -121.834588 36.3691278, -121.8339444 36.368927, -121.833844 |
| 33* | Potential Staging Area* | | |
| 34 | Potential Staging Area | | |
| 35 | C20 | 5.92 | 36.368679, -121.83249 |
| 36 | C19 | 5.99 | 36.368468, -121.831218 |
| 37 | C18 Storm Damage Retaining Wall Site #6 C17* | 6.02 6.02 | 36.368602, -121.831699 36.3679583, -121.8311583 |
| 38* | C16* | | 36.367133, -121.830818 |
| 39* | C15* | | |
| 40 | Potential Staging Area | | |
| 41 | C14 Storm Damage Retaining Wall Site #5 | 6.19 6.19 | 36.366461, -121.829698 36.3663944, -121.8295028 |
| 42 | Potential Staging Area | | |
| 43 | C13 | 6.26 | 36.365887, -121.828467 |
| 44 | C12 | 6.29 | 36.365319, -121.827308 |
| 45 | C11 | 6.40 | 36.364818, -121.8272 |
| 46 | C10 Potential Staging Area | 6.49 | 36.364154, -121.825436 |
| 47 | C9 | 6.52 | 36.363949, -121.82528 |

| Potential Work Area | Storm Damage / Culvert Number | Mile Post | Latitude, Longitude |
|---------------------|--|-----------|--------------------------|
| 48 | Storm Damage Site #4 | 6.69 | 36.3625222, -121.8236417 |
| | C8A | 6.70 | 36.362624, -121.823714 |
| | C8b | 6.69 | 36.362624, -121.823714 |
| | Potential Staging Area | | |
| 49 | C7 | 6.82 | 36.361535, -121.822258 |
| 50 | Storm Damage Site #3 | 6.90 | 36.3609556, -121.8223444 |
| | C6 | 6.91 | 36.360969, -121.822389 |
| 51 | C5 | 6.99 | 36.359825, -121.821136 |
| 52 | N/A | | |
| | Potential Staging Area | | |
| 53* | C4* | 7.04 | 36.360031, -121.821749 |
| 54 | Storm Damage Site #2 | 7.10 | 36.3592028, -121.8199194 |
| | C3 | 7.11 | 36.359756, -121.820984 |
| 55 | C2C | 7.17 | 36.35853, -121.819476 |
| 56 | C2B | 7.24 | 36.358099, -121.818277 |
| | Potential Staging Area | | |
| 57 | C2A | 7.32 | 36.35722, -121.817458 |
| 58 | Storm Damage Site #1 | 7.38 | 36.3567972, -121.8164833 |
| | C1D | 7.38 | 36.356939, -121.816439 |
| 59 | C1C | 7.46 | 36.35612, -121.81566 |
| 60 | Potential Staging Area | | |
| 61 | C1B | 7.51 | 36.355526, -121.814851 |
| 62 | C1A | 7.57 | 36.355074, -121.814493 |
| 63 | Bottcher's Gap Parking Lot, Potential Staging Area | | 36.354068, -121.814006 |

* No work planned for this location / culvert will not be replaced.

1.2 Environmental Setting

Palo Colorado Road is a winding local road with steep side slopes (1H:1V and steeper) cut into mountainous terrain. The roughly 8 miles of roadway extend west to east from the intersection with Highway 1 to Bottcher's Gap crossing into the boundary of the Los Padres National Forest. Palo Colorado Road provides access to residents and visitors to recreational areas and forest as well as a Boy Scout camp. Palo Colorado Road parallels and/or crosses over Bixby, Brandon, Rocky, Turner, and Mill Creeks. The paved road width is between 17 and 22 feet with a few wider areas up to 30 feet. Based on 2022 County Reports, Palo Colorado Road has an average daily trip (ADT) rate of 577 vehicles per day (County of Monterey 2022).

1.3 Project Description

The proposed project includes various repairs, including replacement of damaged asphalt, installation of steel guardrails, replacement of existing retaining walls with either steel soldier pile or soil nail retaining walls, replacement or improvements to existing culverts, and temporary relocation of utility lines, at 63 discontinuous potential work areas along an approximately 4.8-mile segment of Palo Colorado Road. The project also includes the construction of temporary construction storage areas to serve the proposed work

areas. The 63 potential work areas include 13 storm damage retaining wall sites and 44 drainage improvement sites, as well as 20 potential construction storage areas.

1.3.1 Storm Damage Retaining Wall Sites

The project includes various repairs at 13 locations along the 4.8-mile segment of Palo Colorado Road, herein referred to as Storm Damage Sites. Steel soldier pile/lagging retaining wall systems would be constructed along the original edge of the road at Storm Damage Sites 1, 2, 4, 5, and 7 through 13. The steel soldier pile retaining wall system consists of steel wide flange piles installed in drilled concrete holes spaced approximately 8 feet on center. Where necessary, ground anchors would be installed in drilled holes, grouted, and post-tensioned. Soil nail retaining wall systems would be constructed on the face of the slip-outs at Storm Damage Sites 3 and 6. The soil nail retaining wall system would consist of installing steel rods (nails) into drilled and grouted holes. Alternatively, the steel rods (nails) could be pneumatically (compressed air cannon) shot into the sidehill. Following installation of the nails, the face would be secured using anchored wire mesh or shotcrete. A detailed description of the existing damage and proposed repairs at each Storm Damage Site is provided below.

STORM DAMAGE RETAINING WALL SITE 1 AT MP 7.38

A 58-foot-long road slip-out along the outboard edge of the road of Storm Damage Site 1 has reduced the traveled roadway by approximately a half-lane width. In addition, the existing culvert pipe (Culvert #C1D) is damaged and buried along the inboard side of the road. A natural drainage crosses Palo Colorado Road at this location.

The proposed project includes the installation of a 72-foot-long, 16-foot-tall soldier pile retaining wall with ground anchor tie backs along the outboard edge of the road. A rock slope protection (RSP) pad would be installed at the base of the retaining wall near the outfall of the culvert. The proposed project includes replacement of the damaged culvert with a 3-foot-diameter cross culvert with a new concrete inlet and outlet through the proposed retaining wall to capture off-site flows. The project also includes construction of inboard roadside ditches to capture on-site and high flows. The project would remove approximately 208 feet of damaged asphalt and replace it with hot mix asphalt (HMA) pavement mixtures with a modified cross slope to improve drainage patterns. In addition, approximately 99 feet of steel guardrail would be installed along this portion of the roadway. Proposed repairs would require a single-lane road closure and may also require relocation of buried American Telephone and Telegraph Company (AT&T) telecom lines prior to the commencement of construction activities.

STORM DAMAGE RETAINING WALL SITE 2 AT MP 7.10

A 67-foot-long road slip-out along the outboard edge of the road pipe at Storm Damage Site 2 has reduced the traveled roadway by approximately a quarter-lane width. Additionally, the existing culvert (Culvert #C3) is damaged along the inboard side of the road.

The proposed project includes installation of a 96-foot-long, 16-foot-tall soldier pile retaining wall with ground anchor tie backs along the outboard edge of the road. An RSP pad would be installed at the base of the retaining wall near the outfall of the culvert. The proposed project includes replacement of the damaged culvert with a 3-foot-diameter cross culvert with a new concrete inlet through the proposed retaining wall. The project also includes construction of inboard roadside ditches to capture on-site and high flows. The project would remove approximately 150 feet of damaged asphalt and replace it with HMA pavement mixtures with a modified cross slope to improve drainage patterns. In addition, approximately 89 feet of steel guardrail would be installed along this portion of the roadway. Proposed repairs would require a partial-lane road closure and may also require relocation of buried AT&T telecom lines prior to construction.

STORM DAMAGE RETAINING WALL SITE 3 AT MP 6.90

A steep 120-foot-long inboard slope has become unstable at Storm Damage Site 3 and reduced the traveled roadway by approximately a half-lane width. Additionally, the existing culvert pipe (Culvert #C6) is damaged and buried along the inboard side of the road.

The proposed project includes installation of a 245-foot-long, 40-foot-tall wire mesh-faced soil nail wall. Subsurface drainage out of the soil nail slope face would collect into an inboard V-ditch leading to an inlet and cross culvert. The existing cross culvert would be replaced with a 2-foot-diameter cross culvert to convey both on- and off-site flows. The project would remove approximately 267 feet of damaged asphalt and replace it with HMA pavement mixtures with a modified cross slope to improve drainage patterns. Proposed repairs would require a partial-lane road closure and may also require relocation of buried AT&T telecom lines prior to construction.

STORM DAMAGE RETAINING WALL SITE 4 AT MP 6.69

A 62-foot-long road slip-out along the outboard edge of the road at Storm Damage Site 4 has reduced the traveled roadway by approximately a quarter-lane width. Additionally, the existing culvert pipe (Culvert #C8) is damaged along the inboard side of the road. Two natural drainages cross the road at this location.

The proposed project includes installation of a 48-foot-long and 12-foot-tall cantilever soldier pile retaining wall. An RSP pad would be installed at the base of the retaining wall near the outfall of the two proposed culvert pipes. The proposed project includes replacement of an existing culvert with 2-foot-diameter cross culvert with a new concrete inlet and outlet and installation of a new 3-foot-diameter cross culvert with a new concrete inlet and outlet through the proposed retaining wall. The project also includes construction of inboard roadside ditches to capture on-site and high flows. The project would remove approximately 185 feet of damaged asphalt and replace it with HMA pavement mixtures with a modified cross slope to improve drainage patterns. In addition, approximately 121 feet of steel guardrail would be installed along this portion of the roadway. Proposed repairs would require a partial-lane road closure and may also require relocation of buried AT&T telecom lines prior to construction.

STORM DAMAGE RETAINING WALL SITE 5 AT MP 6.19

A 60-foot-long road slip-out along the outboard edge of the road at Storm Damage Site 5 has reduced the traveled roadway by approximately a one-and-a-half-lane width. Additionally, there is a damaged culvert pipe (Culvert #C14) along the inboard side of the road. A natural drainage crosses the road at this location.

The proposed project includes installation of a 96-foot-long, 18-foot-tall ground anchor soldier pile retaining wall. An RSP pad would be installed at the outfall of the retaining wall. The proposed project includes replacement of an existing culvert with a 3-foot-diameter cross culvert with a new concrete inlet and outlet onto the proposed RSP. The project also includes construction of inboard roadside ditches to capture on-site and high flows. The project would remove approximately 180 feet of damaged asphalt and replace it with HMA pavement mixtures with a modified cross slope to improve drainage patterns. In addition, approximately 126 feet of steel guardrail would be installed along this portion of the roadway. Proposed repairs would require a partial-lane road closure and may also require relocation of buried AT&T telecom lines prior to construction.

STORM DAMAGE RETAINING WALL SITE 6 AT MP 6.02

A steep 70-foot-long inboard slope has become unstable at Storm Damage Site 6 and has reduced the traveled roadway by approximately a quarter-of-a-lane width. Additionally, there are two damaged culvert pipes (Culverts #C17 and #C18) below the slope failure along the inboard side of the road.

The proposed project includes installation of a 116-foot-long, 38-foot-tall wire mesh-faced soil nail wall. The project would replace an existing culvert with a new 5-foot-diameter cross culvert with a new concrete headwall and RSP at the outlet. The project also includes construction of inboard roadside ditches to capture on-site and high flows. The project would remove approximately 189 linear feet of damaged asphalt and replace it with HMA pavement mixtures with a modified cross slope to improve drainage patterns. In addition, approximately 35 feet of steel guardrail would be installed along this portion of the roadway. Proposed repairs would require a partial-lane road closure and may also require relocation of buried AT&T telecom lines prior to construction.

STORM DAMAGE RETAINING WALL SITE 7 AT MP 5.80

A 70-foot-long road slip-out along the outboard edge of the road at Storm Damage Site 7 has reduced the traveled roadway by approximately a one-and-a-half lane width. Additionally, there is a corroded culvert pipe (Culvert #C22) down the road from this location. A natural drainage crosses the road at this location.

The proposed project includes installation of an 88-foot-long, 20-foot-tall soldier pile retaining wall with ground anchor tiebacks. The project includes replacement of two existing culverts near this location. One culvert replacement would include a new 3-foot-diameter cross culvert with a new concrete inlet and RSP at the outlet. The second culvert replacement (Culvert #C21) would include a new 2-foot-diameter cross culvert with a new open metal pipe (OMP) inlet and RSP at the outlet. The project includes construction of inboard roadside ditches to capture on-site and high flows. The project would remove approximately 285 feet of damaged asphalt and replace it with HMA pavement mixtures with a modified cross slope to improve drainage patterns. In addition, approximately 116 feet of steel guardrail would be installed along this portion of the roadway. Proposed repairs would require a partial-lane road closure and may also require relocation of buried AT&T telecom lines prior to construction.

STORM DAMAGE RETAINING WALL SITE 8 AT MP 5.58

An 80-foot-long road slip-out along the outboard edge of the road at Storm Damage Site 8 has reduced the traveled roadway by approximately a half-lane width. Additionally, there is a corroded culvert pipe (Culvert #C24) directly south of this location that outfalls close to the edge of the roadway.

The proposed project includes installation of a 64-foot-long, 14-foot-tall soldier pile retaining wall with ground anchor tiebacks. The project includes the replacement of an existing culvert with a 3-foot-diameter cross culvert with a new concrete inlet and outlet through the proposed retaining wall to capture off-site flows and construction of inboard roadside ditches to capture on-site and high flows. The project would remove approximately 325 feet of damaged asphalt and replace it with HMA pavement mixtures with a modified cross slope to improve drainage patterns. In addition, approximately 87 feet of steel guardrail would be installed along this portion of the roadway. Proposed repairs would require a partial-lane road closure and may also require relocation of buried AT&T telecom lines prior to construction.

STORM DAMAGE RETAINING WALL SITE 9 AT MP 5.26

A 52-foot-long roadway depression appears to be undergoing settlement at Storm Damage Site 9; however, no slip-out has formed along the outboard edge, although the outboard slope is steep. Additionally, the existing culvert pipe (Culvert # C27) was buried along the inboard side of the road.

The proposed project includes installation of a 64-foot-long and 21-foot-tall cantilever soldier pile retaining wall. The project includes replacement of the existing culvert with a 3-foot-diameter cross culvert with a new concrete inlet and outlet through the proposed retaining wall to capture off-site flows. The project also includes construction of inboard roadside ditches to capture on-site and high flows. The project would remove approximately 116 feet of damaged asphalt and replace it with HMA pavement mixtures with a modified cross slope to improve drainage patterns. In addition, approximately 86 feet of steel guardrail would be installed along this portion of the roadway. Proposed repairs would require a partial-lane road closure and may also require relocation of buried AT&T telecom lines prior to construction.

STORM DAMAGE RETAINING WALL SITE 10 AT MP 4.62

A 90-foot-long road slip-out along the outboard edge of the road at Storm Damage Site 10 has completely eliminated the traveled roadway. A timber viaduct bridge has been installed at this location to increase the roadway capacity to one lane. A damaged culvert pipe (Culvert # C32) that is buried along the inboard side of the road occurs directly north of this location. A natural drainage crosses the road at this location.

The proposed project includes installation of an 88-foot-long, 19-foot-tall soldier pile retaining wall with ground anchor tiebacks. The project includes replacement of an existing culvert with a 2-foot-diameter cross culvert with an OMP inlet and RSP at the outlet and construction of inboard roadside ditches to capture on-site and high flows. The project would remove approximately 250 feet of damaged asphalt and replace it with HMA pavement mixtures with a modified cross slope to improve drainage patterns. In addition, approximately 77 feet of steel guardrail would be installed along this portion of the roadway. Proposed repairs would require a partial-lane road closure and may also require relocation of buried AT&T telecom lines prior to construction.

STORM DAMAGE RETAINING WALL SITE 11 AT MP 4.24

A 100-foot-long road slip-out along the outboard edge of the road at Storm Damage Site 11 has reduced the traveled roadway by approximately a one-lane width. There is a corroded and undersized culvert pipe (Culvert #38B) north of this location. A natural drainage crosses the road at this location.

The proposed project includes installation of an 88-foot-long, 20-foot-tall soldier pile retaining wall with ground anchor tiebacks. The project includes replacement of an existing culvert with a 2-foot-diameter cross culvert with an OMP inlet and construction of a new culvert with a 2-foot-diameter cross culvert with an OMP inlet through the proposed retaining wall. The project also includes construction of inboard roadside ditches to capture on-site and high flows. The project would remove approximately 248 feet of damaged asphalt and replace it with HMA pavement mixtures with a modified cross slope to improve drainage patterns. In addition, approximately 159 feet of steel guardrail would be installed along this portion of the roadway. Proposed repairs would require a partial-lane road closure and may also require relocation of buried AT&T telecom lines prior to construction.

STORM DAMAGE RETAINING WALL SITE 12 AT MP 3.47

A 60-foot-long cracked and settled segment of pavement is located along the outboard edge of the road at Storm Damage Site 12 that indicates the occurrence of a shallow subsurface slope failure. No culvert pipes exist at this location.

The proposed project includes installation of a 64-foot-long, 12-foot-tall, cantilevered soldier pile retaining wall. No drainage repairs are proposed at this location. The project would remove approximately 149 feet of damaged asphalt and replace it with HMA pavement mixtures with a modified cross slope to improve drainage patterns. In addition, approximately 75 feet of steel guardrail would be installed along

this portion of the roadway. A partial-lane road closure would be required during construction and overhead Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) electrical and buried AT&T telecom lines may require relocation or de-energization during soldier pile wall construction.

STORM DAMAGE RETAINING WALL SITE 13 AT MP 2.77

A 60-foot-long road slip-out occurs along the outboard edge of the road at Storm Damage Site 13 that has reduced the traveled roadway by approximately a quarter-lane width. No culvert pipes exist at this location.

The proposed project includes the installation of a 112-foot-long, 19-foot-tall soldier pile retaining wall with ground anchor tiebacks. The project includes construction of inboard roadside ditches to capture on-site and high flows. The project would remove approximately 150 feet of damaged asphalt and replace it with HMA pavement mixtures with a modified cross slope to improve drainage patterns. In addition, approximately 118 feet of steel guardrail would be installed along this portion of the roadway. A partial-lane road closure would be required during construction and overhead PG&E electrical and buried AT&T telecom lines may require relocation or de-energization during soldier pile wall construction.

1.3.2 Drainage Improvements

The project includes the construction of drainage improvements at Storm Damage Retaining Wall Sites 1 through 11 and approximately 32 additional work areas along the 4.8-mile segment of Palo Colorado Road. Proposed drainage improvements were determined based on the findings of hydrologic/hydraulic analysis conducted by WRECO for all existing culverts along Palo Colorado Road. As a result, up to 42 culverts would be replaced because they are undersized for 10-year storm flows, two new culverts would be installed, and at least 11 existing culverts would remain unchanged. Many of the new culverts would include a grated inlet to prevent clogging during future storms. In addition, RSP would be added at the outlet of most drainages for improved erosion protection. A detailed description of the proposed drainage repairs and improvement is provided in Table 2.

Table 2. Drainage Improvement Areas

| Potential Work Area | Storm Damage / Culvert Number | Mile Post | Description of Construction |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|--|
| 5 | C40 | | Existing Culvert Location: No work proposed. |
| 7 | C39b | 4.07 | Existing Culvert Location: No work proposed. |
| 8 | C39A | 4.22 | Culvert Replacement: Replace existing culvert with a new 24-inch-diameter corrugated metal pipe (CMP) with new OMP inlet. |
| | C38b | 4.25 | New Culvert: Install a new culvert to allow flow to pass through Proposed Retaining Wall #11 . Place a new 24-inch-diameter CMP with new OMP inlet and outlet through Proposed Retaining Wall #11 . |
| 9 | C38A | 4.29 | Culvert Replacement: Replace existing 18-inch-diameter culvert with a new 24-inch-diameter CMP with new OMP inlet and RSP at the outlet. |
| 10 | C37 | 4.34 | Culvert Replacement: Replace existing 18-inch-diameter culvert with a new 24-inch-diameter CMP with new OMP inlet and RSP at the outlet. |
| 11 | C36 | 4.39 | Culvert Replacement: Replace existing 24-inch-diameter culvert with a new 36-inch-diameter CMP with new concrete inlet and RSP at the outlet. |
| 12 | C35 | 4.44 | Culvert Replacement: Replace existing 18-inch-diameter culvert with a new 24-inch-diameter CMP with new OMP inlet and RSP at the outlet. |
| 13 | C34 | 4.50 | Culvert Replacement: Replace existing 18-inch-diameter culvert with a new 24-inch-diameter CMP with new OMP inlet and RSP at the outlet. |

| Potential Work Area | Storm Damage / Culvert Number | Mile Post | Description of Construction |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|--|
| 15 | C33 | 4.55 | Culvert Replacement: Replace existing 18-inch-diameter culvert with a new 24-inch-diameter CMP with new OMP inlet and RSP at the outlet. |
| 16 | C32 | 4.61 | Culvert Replacement: Replace existing 15-inch-diameter culvert with a new 24-inch-diameter CMP with new OMP inlet and RSP at the outlet. |
| 17 | C31 | 4.67 | Culvert Replacement: Replace existing 15-inch-diameter culvert with a new 48-inch-diameter CMP with new concrete inlet and RSP at the outlet. |
| 18 | C30 | 4.77 | Culvert Replacement: Replace existing culvert with a new 48-inch-diameter CMP with new concrete headwall and RSP at the outlet. |
| 19 | C29c | 4.91 | Existing Culvert Location: No work proposed. |
| 20 | C29b | 4.99 | Culvert Replacement: Install new 36-inch-diameter CMP with new OMP inlet and RSP at the outlet. Construction storage area |
| 21 | C29a | 5.03 | Culvert Replacement: Replace existing 15-inch-diameter culvert with a new 24-inch-diameter CMP with new OMP inlet and RSP at the outlet. |
| 22 | C28 | 5.15 | Culvert Replacement: Replace existing 15-inch-diameter culvert with a new 24-inch-diameter CMP with new OMP inlet and RSP at the outlet. |
| 23 | C27 | 5.25 | Culvert Replacement: Replace existing 24-inch-diameter culvert with a new 36-inch-diameter CMP with new concrete inlet and outlet through Retaining Wall #9 . |
| 24 | C26 | 5.34 | Culvert Replacement: Replace existing 18-inch-diameter culvert with a new 24-inch-diameter CMP with new OMP inlet and RSP at the outlet. |
| 25 | C25b | 5.43 | Culvert Replacement: Replace existing 15-inch-diameter culvert with a new 24-inch-diameter CMP with new OMP inlet and RSP at the outlet. |
| 28 | C24 | 5.58 | Culvert Replacement: Replace existing 18-inch-diameter culvert with a new 36-inch-diameter CMP with new concrete inlet and outlet through Retaining Wall #8. |
| 30 | C23 | 5.73 | Culvert Replacement: Replace existing 15-inch-diameter culvert with a new 24-inch-diameter CMP with new OMP inlet and RSP at the outlet. |
| 32 | C22 | 5.79 | Culvert Replacement: Replace existing 18-inch-diameter culvert with a new 24-inch-diameter CMP with new OMP inlet and RSP at the outlet. |
| | C21 | 5.84 | Culvert Replacement: Replace existing 18-inch-diameter culvert with a new 36-inch-diameter CMP with new concrete inlet and RSP at the outlet. |
| 35 | C20 | 5.92 | Culvert Replacement: Replace existing 15-inch-diameter culvert with a new 36-inch-diameter CMP with new concrete inlet and RSP at the outlet. |
| 36 | C19 | 5.99 | Culvert Replacement: Replace existing 36-inch-diameter culvert with a new 36-inch-diameter CMP with new concrete inlet and RSP at the outlet. |
| 37 | C18 | 6.02 | Culvert Replacement: Replace existing 36-inch-diameter culvert with a new 60-inch-diameter CMP with new concrete headwall and RSP at the outlet. |
| | C17 | | Existing Culvert Location: No work proposed. |
| 38 | C16 | | Existing Culvert Location: No work proposed. |
| 39 | C15 | | Existing Culvert Location: No work proposed. |
| 41 | C14 | 6.19 | Culvert Replacement: Replace existing 15-inch-diameter culvert with a new 36-inch-diameter CMP with new concrete inlet and outlets next to Retaining Wall #5 onto RSP. Special care is required to prevent rock fall onto the residence below. |
| 43 | C13 | 6.26 | Culvert Replacement: Replace existing 18-inch-diameter culvert with a new 24-inch-diameter CMP with new OMP inlet and RSP at the outlet. |
| 44 | C12 | 6.29 | Culvert Replacement: Replace existing 18-inch-diameter culvert with a new 24-inch-diameter CMP with new OMP inlet and RSP at the outlet. |

| Potential Work Area | Storm Damage / Culvert Number | Mile Post | Description of Construction |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|---|
| 45 | C11 | 6.40 | Culvert Replacement: Replace existing 18-inch-diameter culvert with a new 24-inch-diameter CMP with new OMP inlet and RSP at the outlet. |
| 46 | C10 | 6.49 | Culvert Replacement: Replace existing 36-inch-diameter culvert with a new 72-inch-diameter CMP with new concrete headwall and RSP at the outlet. Construction storage areas |
| 47 | C9 | 6.52 | Culvert Replacement: Replace existing 18-inch-diameter culvert with a new 36-inch-diameter CMP with new concrete inlet and RSP at the outlet. |
| 48 | C8A | 6.70 | Culvert Replacement: Replace existing 18-inch-diameter culvert with a new 24-inch-diameter CMP with new concrete inlet and outlet through Retaining Wall #4 onto RSP. Culvert C8b would be added at this location. |
| | C8b | 6.69 | Proposed New Culvert: Required to capture flow from two drainage areas through the wall at Retaining Wall #4 . Place a new 36-inch-diameter CMP with new concrete inlet and outlet through Retaining Wall #4 onto RSP. |
| 49 | C7 | 6.82 | Culvert Replacement: Replace existing 18-inch-diameter culvert with a new 24-inch-diameter CMP with new OMP inlet and RSP at the outlet. |
| 50 | C6 | 6.91 | Culvert Replacement: Replace existing 12-inch-diameter culvert with a new 24-inch-diameter CMP with new OMP inlet and RSP at the outlet. |
| 51 | C5 | 6.99 | Culvert Replacement: Replace existing 18-inch-diameter culvert with a new 24-inch-diameter CMP with new OMP inlet and RSP at the outlet. |
| 53 | C4 | 7.04 | Existing Culvert Location: No work proposed. |
| 54 | C3 | 7.11 | Culvert Replacement: Replace existing 18-inch-diameter culvert with a new 36-inch-diameter CMP with new concrete inlet and soldier pile headwall and outlet through Retaining Wall #2 onto RSP. |
| 55 | C2C | 7.17 | Culvert Replacement: Replace existing 18-inch-diameter culvert with a new 24-inch-diameter CMP with new OMP inlet and RSP at the outlet |
| 56 | C2B | 7.24 | Culvert Replacement: Replace existing 18-inch-diameter culvert with a new 36-inch-diameter CMP with new concrete inlet and RSP at the outlet. Construction staging area |
| 57 | C2A | 7.32 | Culvert Replacement: Replace existing 18-inch-diameter culvert with a new 36-inch-diameter CMP with new concrete inlet and RSP at the outlet. |
| 58 | C1D | 7.38 | Culvert Replacement: Replace existing 18-inch-diameter culvert with a new 36-inch-diameter CMP with new concrete inlet and outlet through Retaining Wall #1 onto RSP. |
| 59 | C1C | 7.46 | Culvert Replacement: Replace existing 18-inch-diameter culvert with a new 24-inch-diameter CMP with new OMP inlet and RSP at the outlet. |
| 61 | C1B | 7.51 | Culvert Replacement: Replace existing 24-inch-diameter culvert with a new 36-inch-diameter CMP with new concrete inlet and RSP at the outlet. |
| 62 | C1A | 7.57 | Culvert Replacement: Replace existing 24-inch-diameter culvert with a new 36-inch-diameter CMP with new concrete inlet and RSP at the outlet. |

1.3.3 Construction Schedule

Proposed construction activities at each work area would occur concurrently. Construction is estimated to begin in June 2024 and would occur over 18 months. Construction activities would occur between approximately 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. each day. Construction equipment and materials would be stored within the 20 potential temporary construction storage areas along Palo Colorado Road. Although there are approximately 355 trees within the currently delineated Work Areas, this is not the number of trees that would need to be removed. The exact number of trees proposed for removal is currently not known; therefore, the following analysis assumes that there is potential for a maximum of 91 trees to be removed

from the project area, including redwood trees (*Sequoia sempervirens*), oak trees (*Quercus* sp.), madrones (*Arbutus menziesii*), and bay laurel trees (*Laurus nobilis*).

1.4 Potential Authorizations, Permits, and Approvals

The potential authorizations, permits, reviews, and approvals from federal, state, and local agencies that would be required for the project are listed in Table 3.

Table 3. Potential Authorizations, Permits, Reviews, and Approvals

| Permit / Approval / Consultation | Authorizing Agency |
|--|--|
| California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) | Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement |
| Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) | Section 401 Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements Report |
| California Coastal Commission (CCC) / County of Monterey | Coastal Development Permit |
| U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) | Section 404 Permit |
| U.S. Forest Service | Special-Use Permit |
| Monterey Bay Air Resources District (MBARD) | Authority to Construct/Permit to Operate |
| County of Monterey | Grading Permit; Tree Removal Permit |

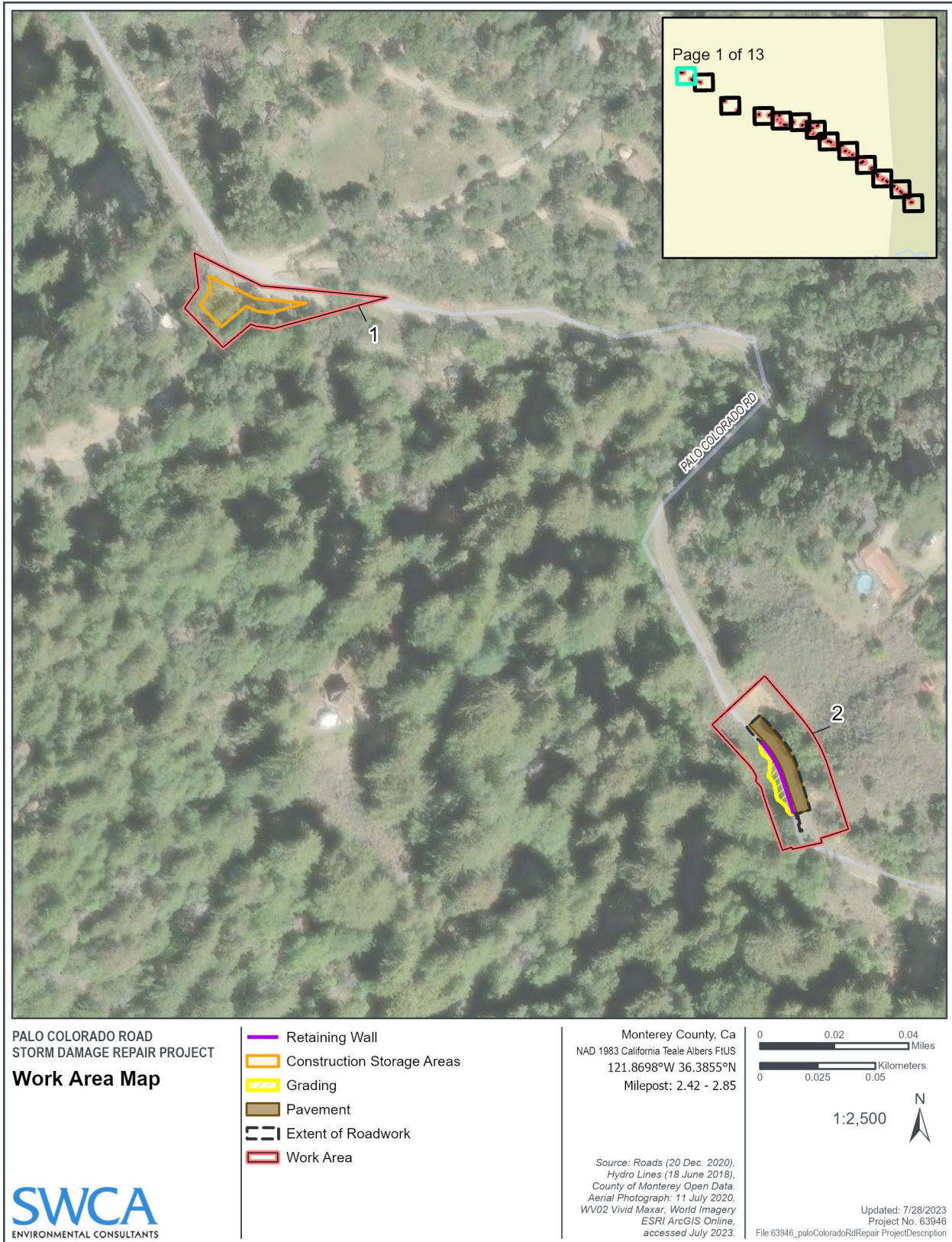


Figure 1. Proposed Project Work Areas (Map 1 of 13).

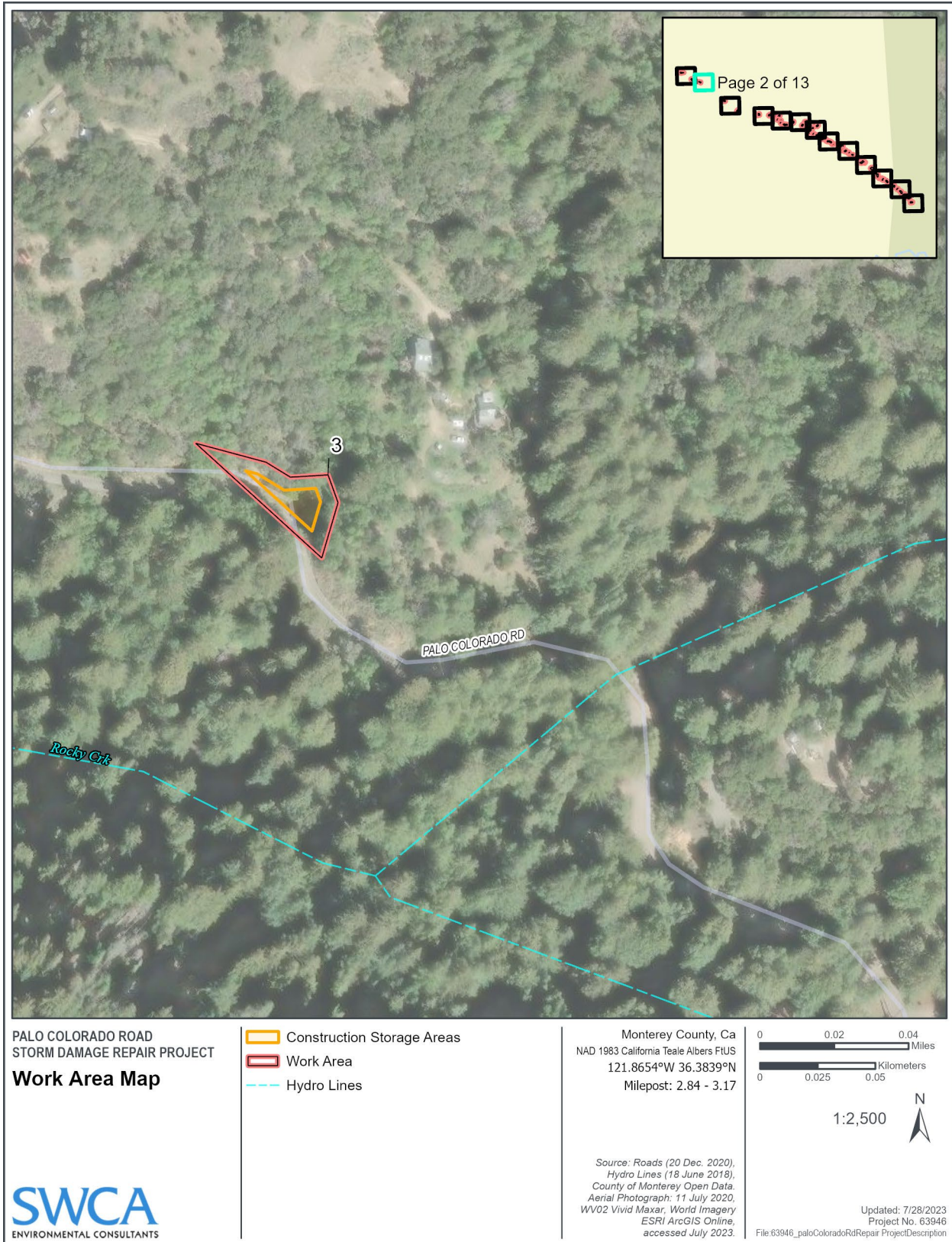


Figure 2. Proposed Project Work Areas (Map 2 of 13).

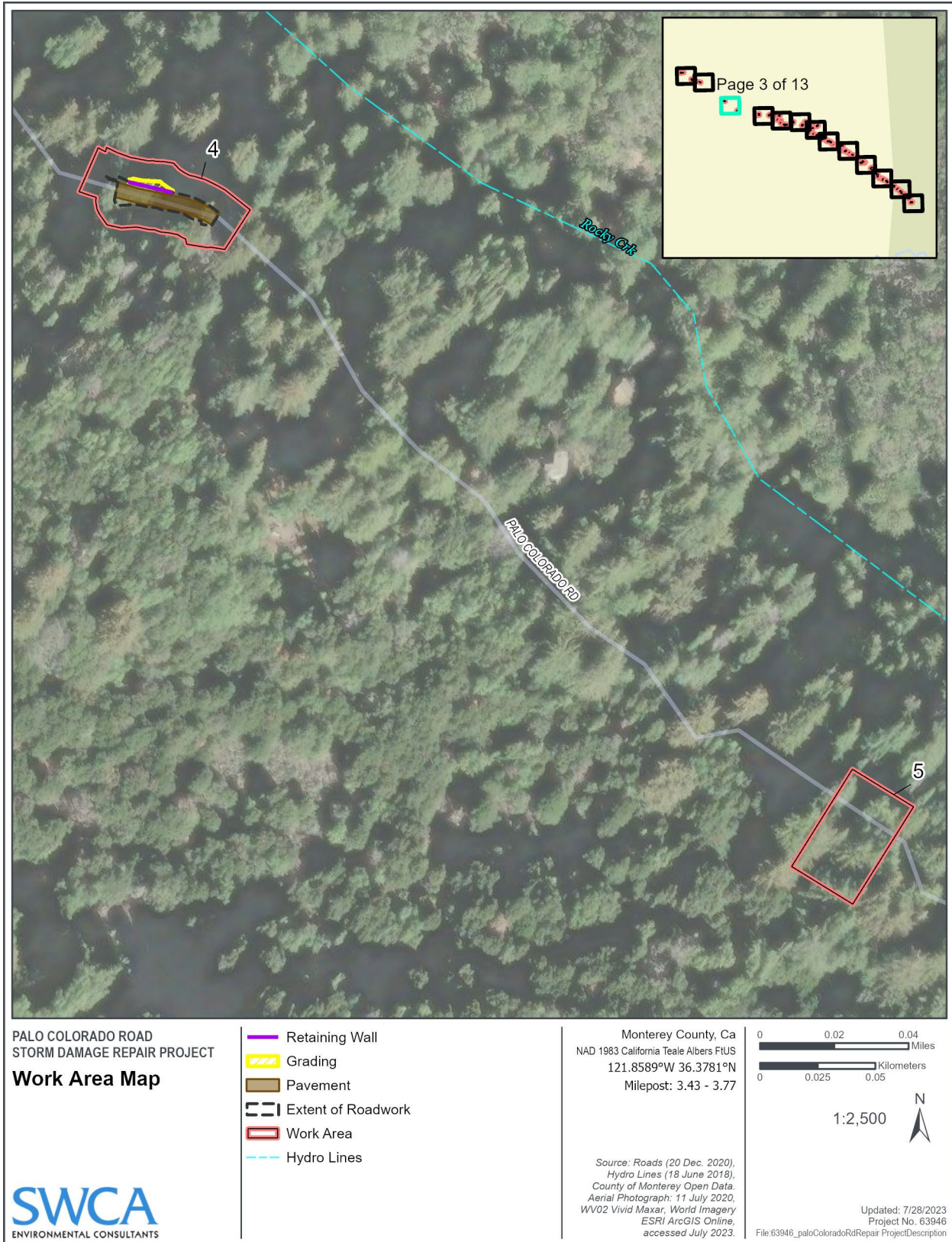


Figure 3. Proposed Project Work Areas (Map 3 of 13).

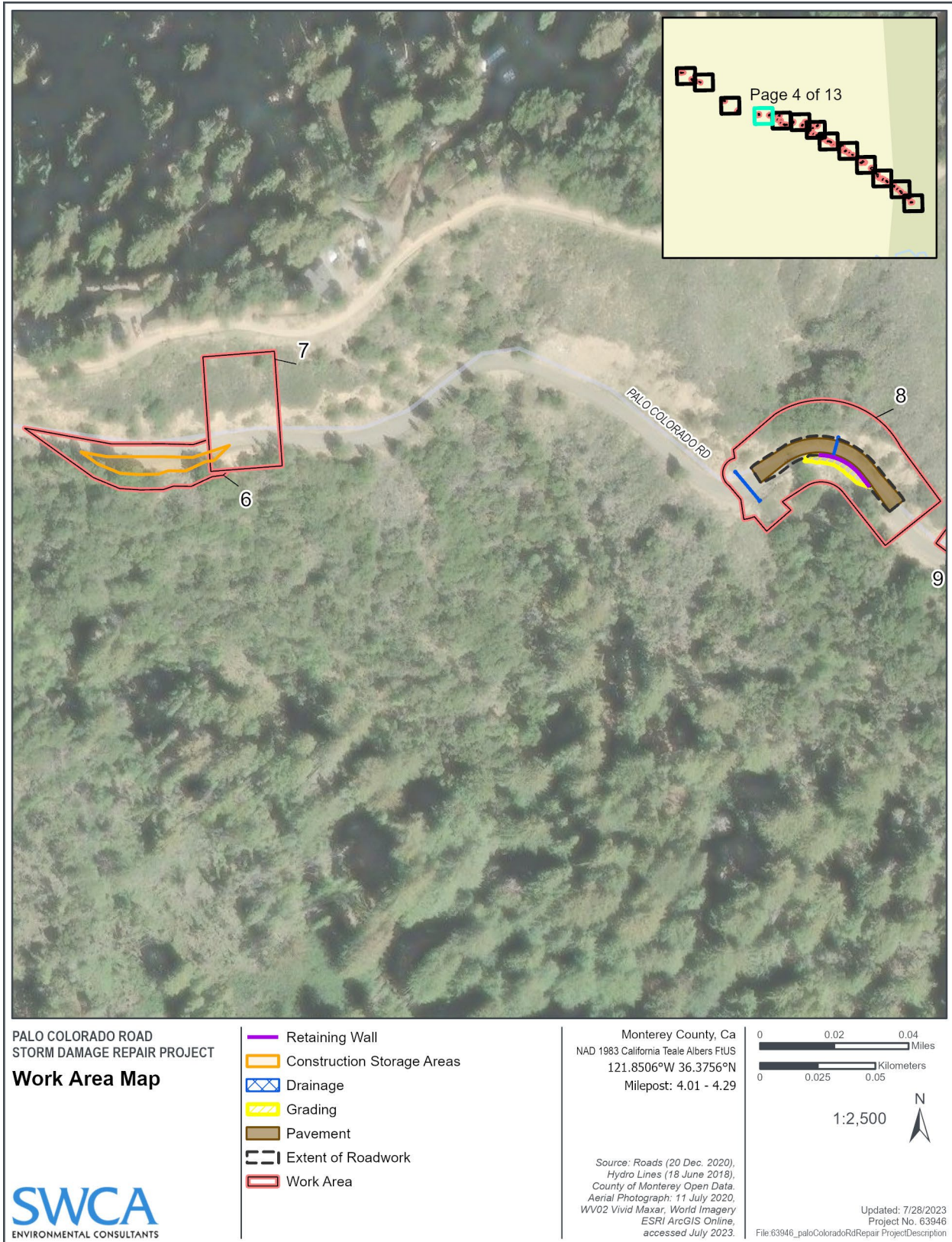


Figure 4. Proposed Project Work Areas (Map 4 of 13).

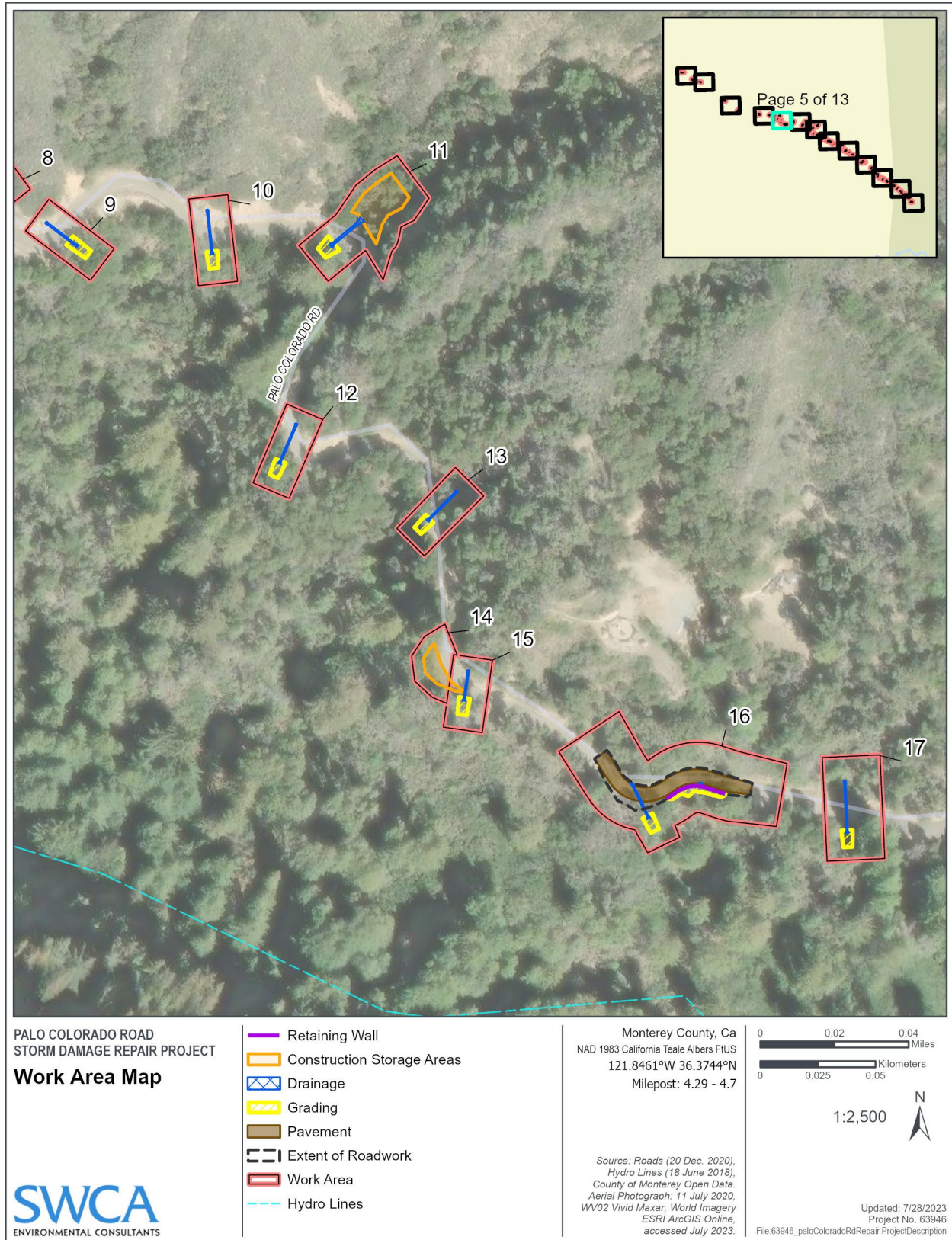


Figure 5. Proposed Project Work Areas (Map 5 of 13).

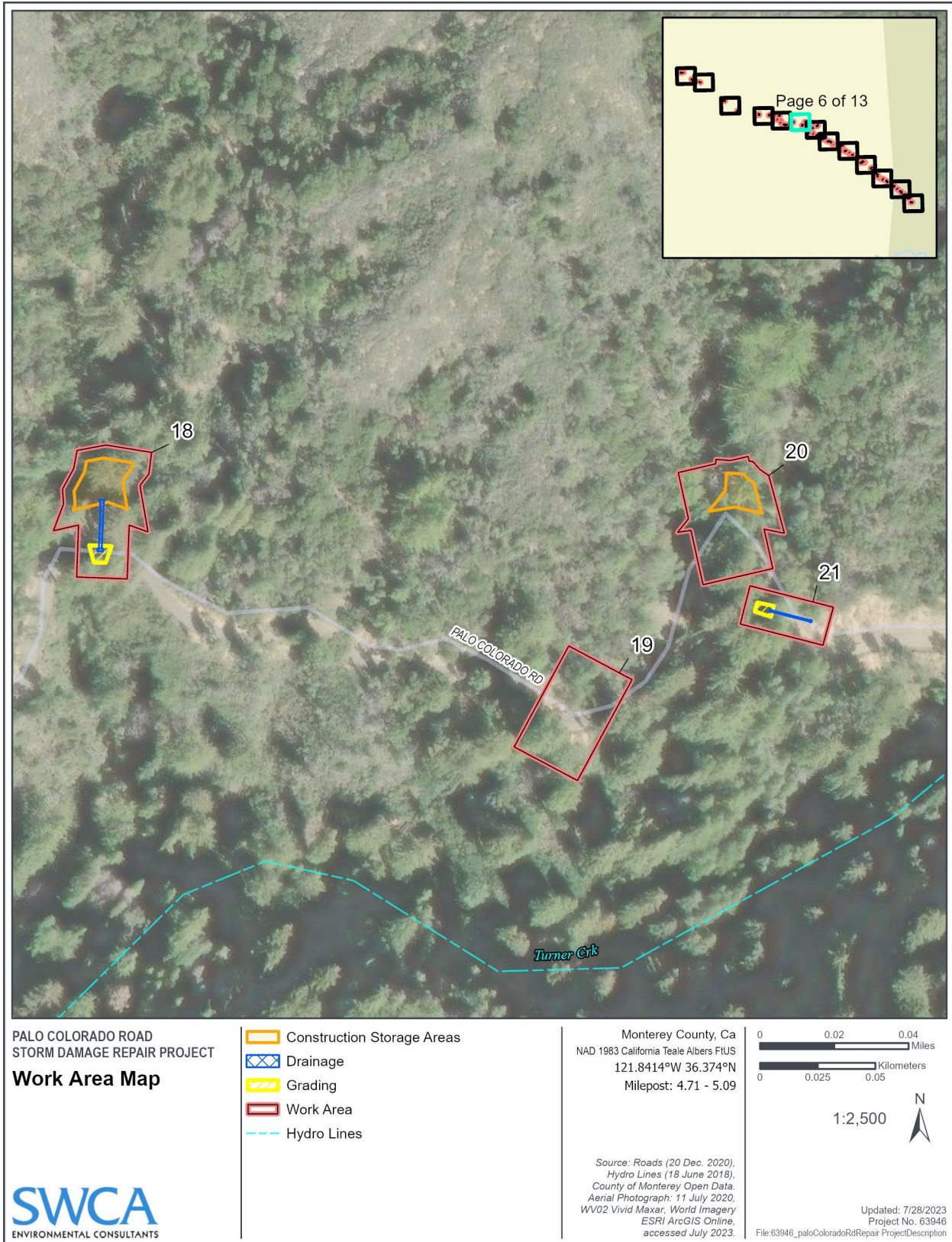


Figure 6. Proposed Project Work Areas (Map 6 of 13).

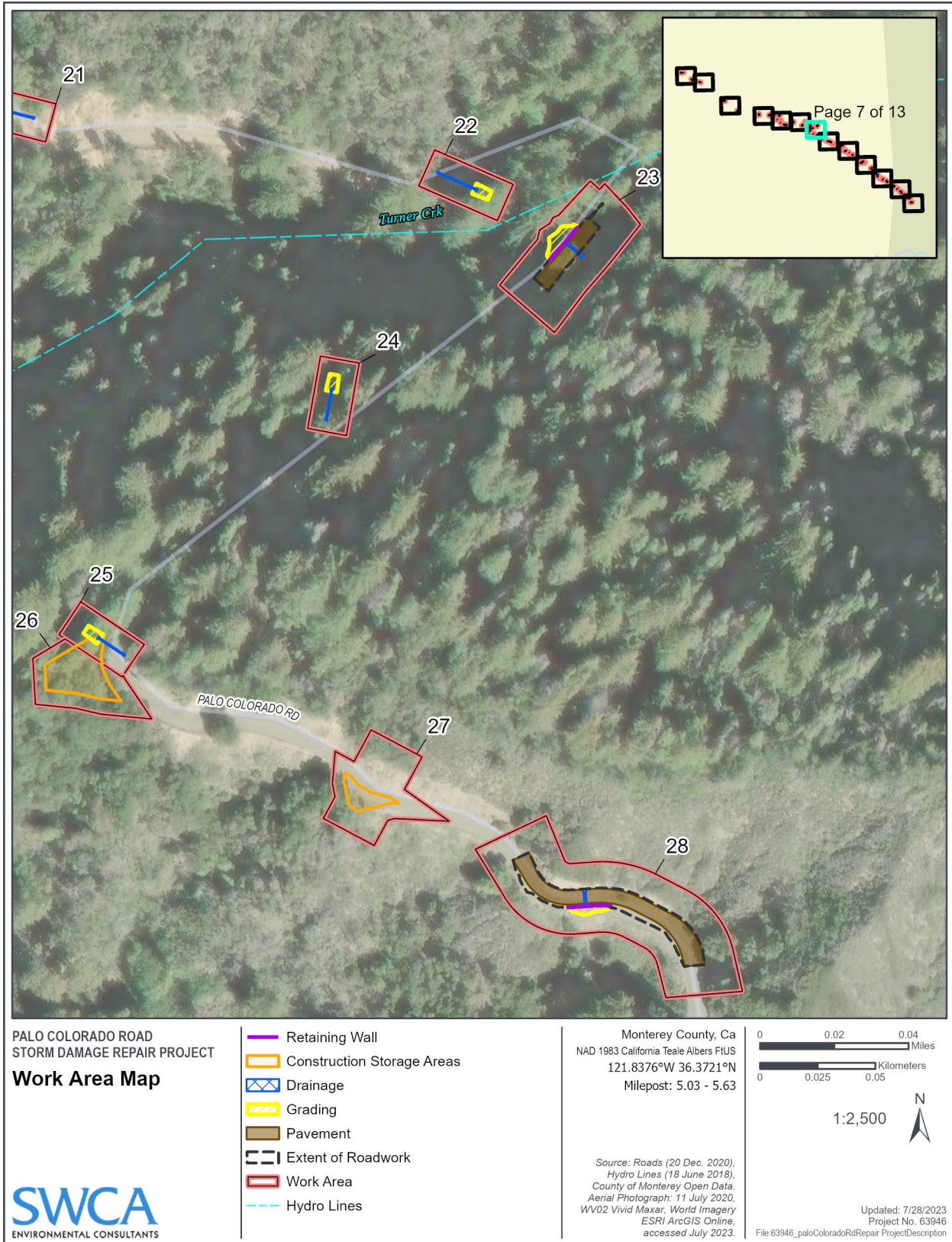


Figure 7. Proposed Project Work Areas (Map 7 of 13).

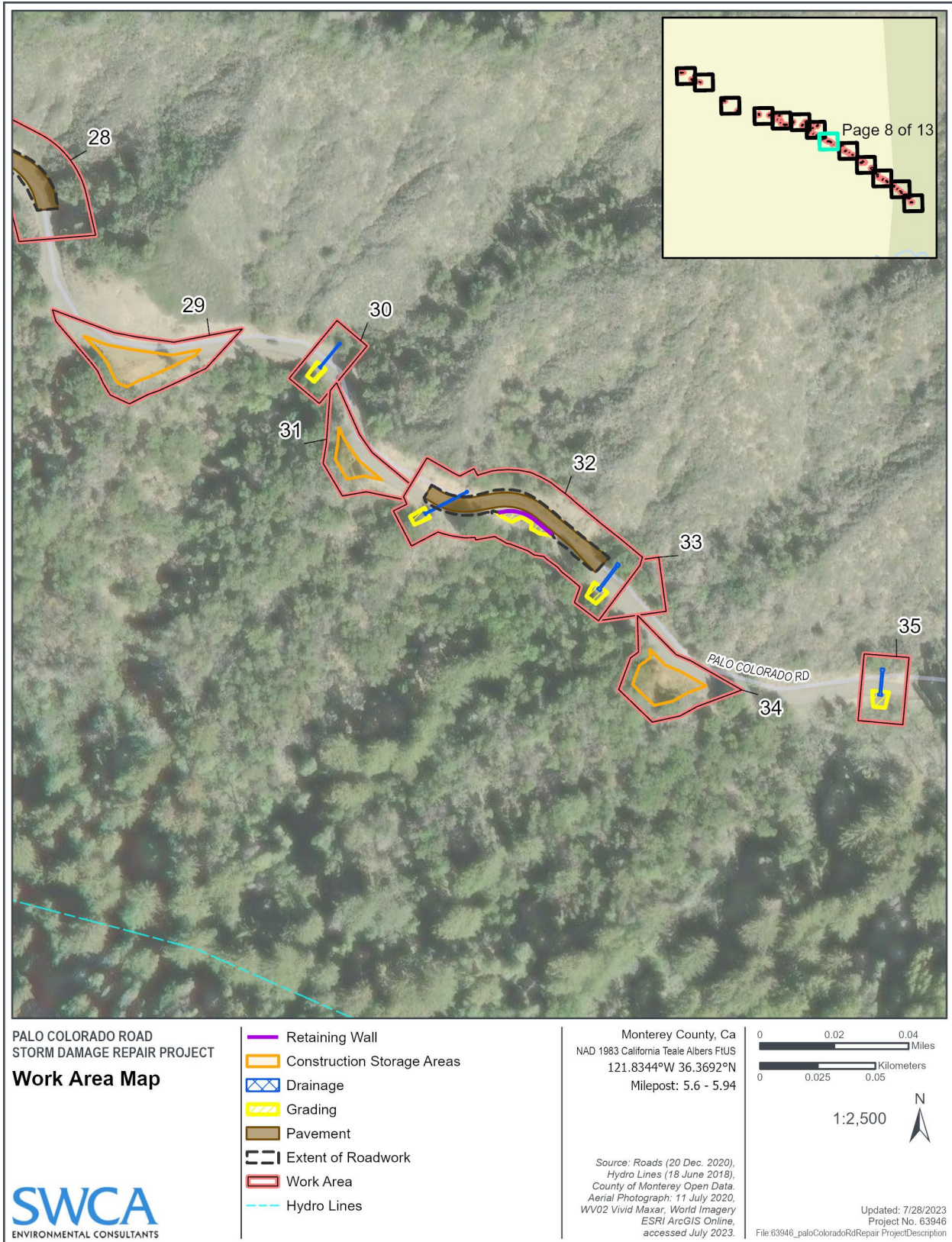


Figure 8. Proposed Project Work Areas (Map 8 of 13).

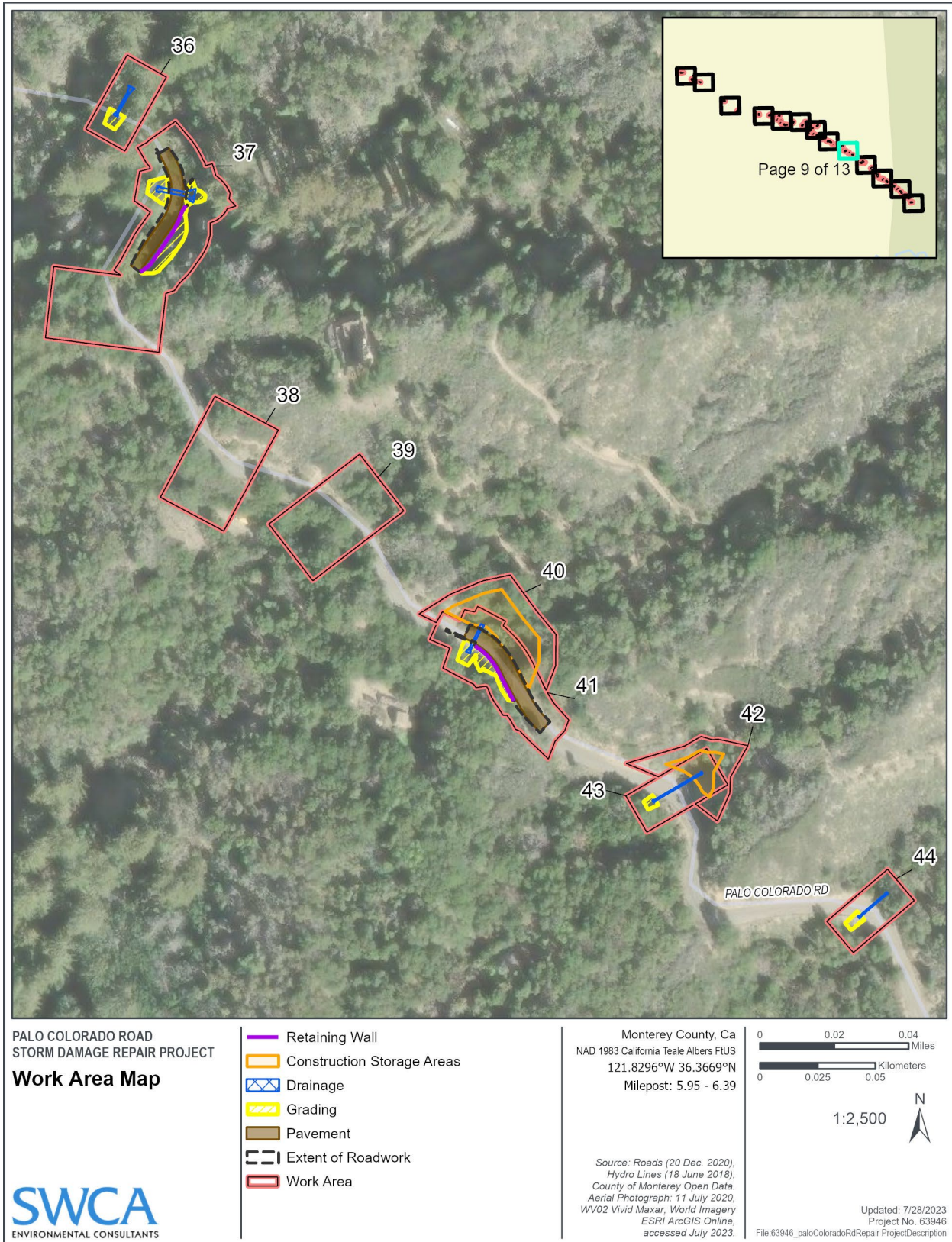


Figure 9. Proposed Project Work Areas (Map 9 of 13).

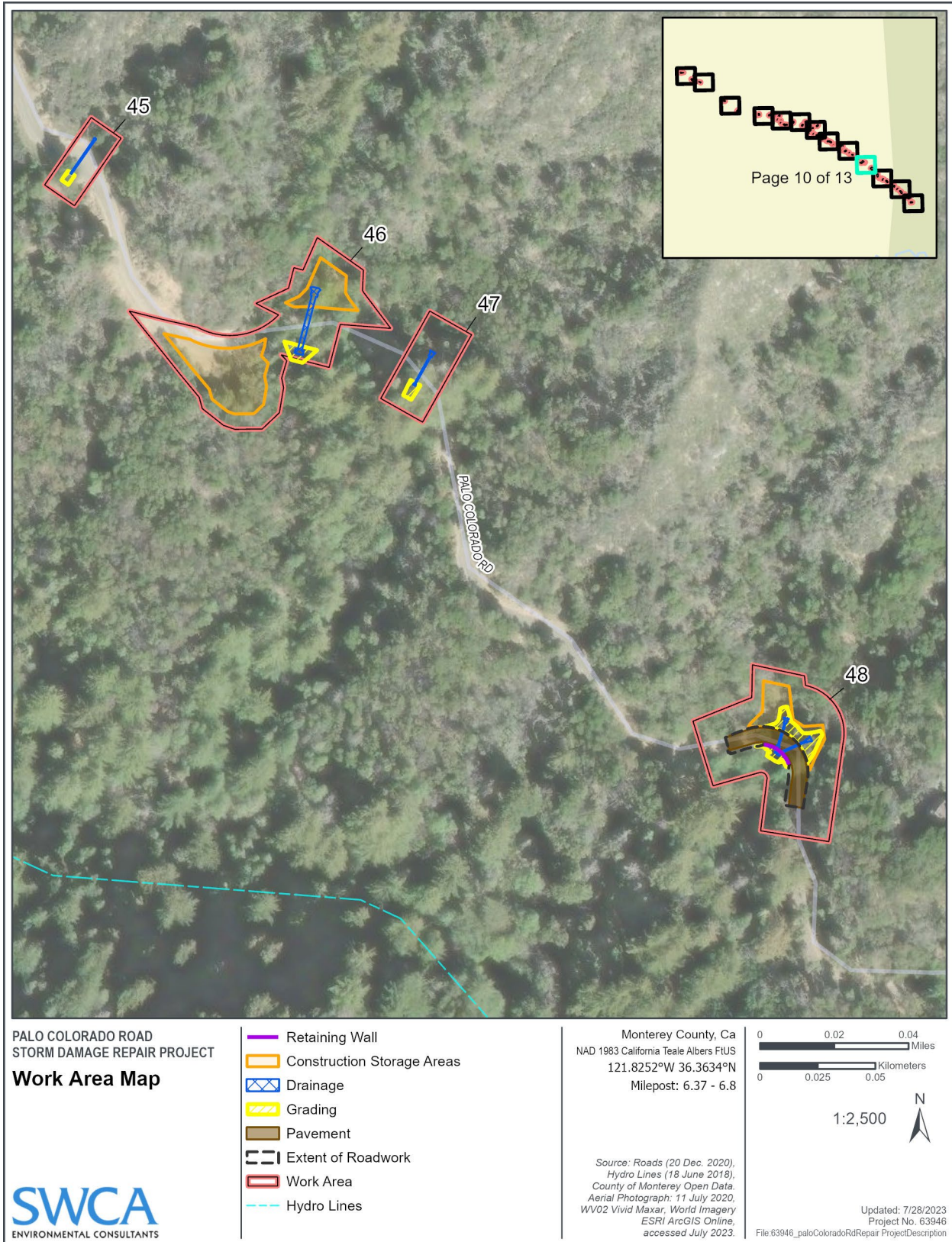


Figure 10. Proposed Project Work Areas (Map 10 of 13).

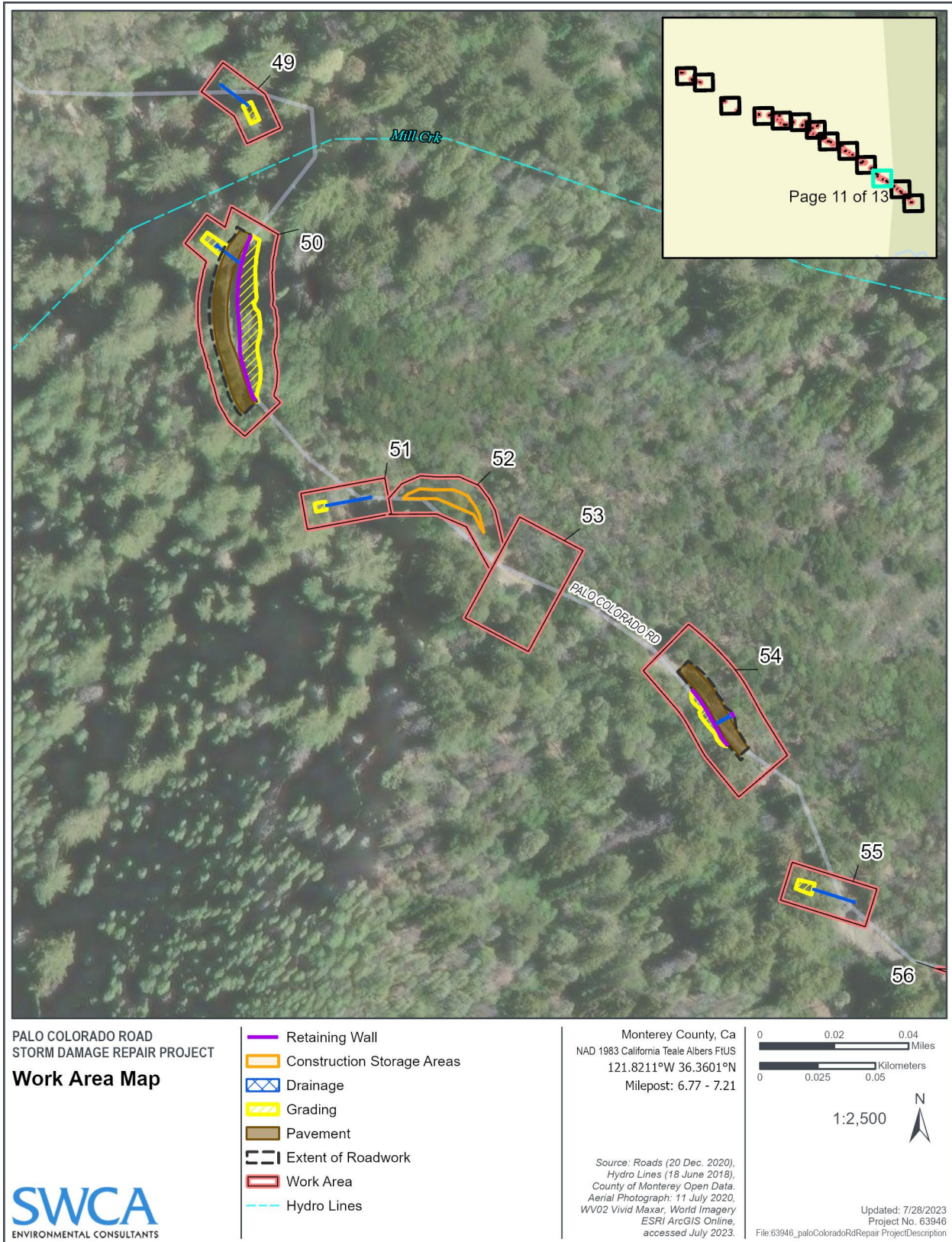


Figure 11. Proposed Project Work Areas (Map 11 of 13).

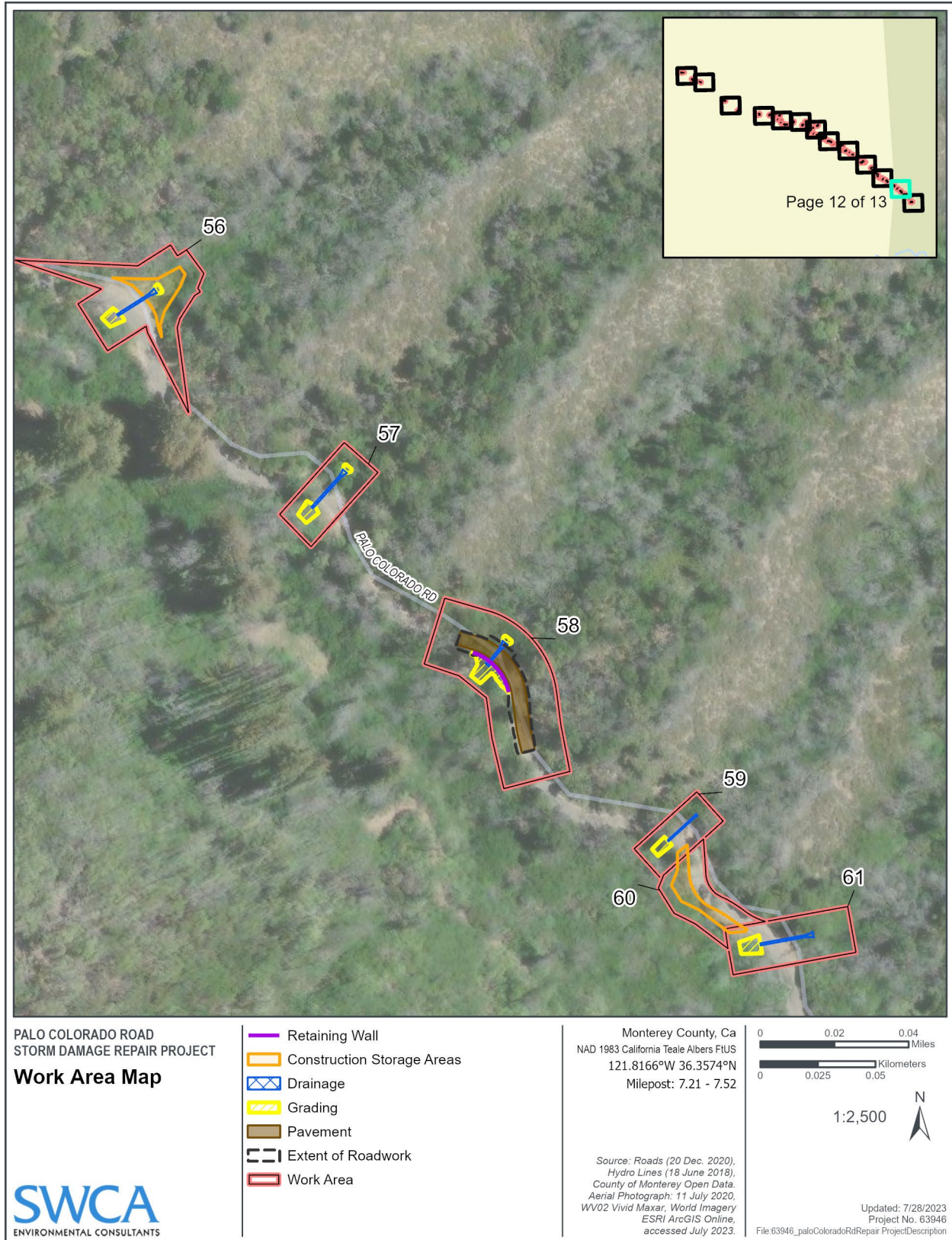


Figure 12. Proposed Project Work Areas (Map 12 of 13).

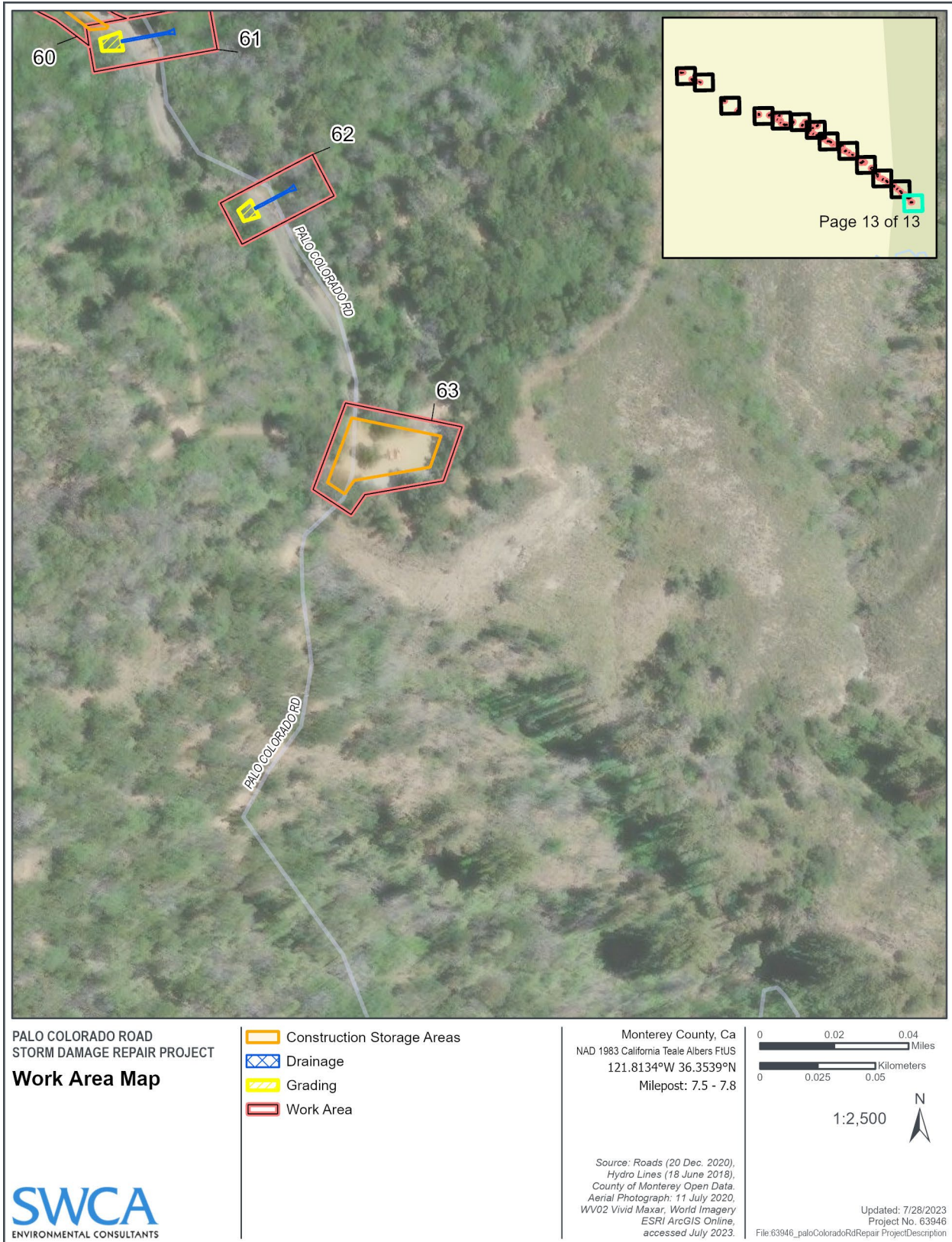


Figure 13. Proposed Project Work Areas (Map 13 of 13).

2 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION

Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

The proposed project could have a “Potentially Significant Impact” for environmental factors checked below. Please refer to the attached pages for discussion on mitigation measures or project revisions to either reduce these impacts to less than significant levels or require further study.

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas Emissions | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture and Forestry Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hazards and Hazardous Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Quality | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hydrology and Water Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land Use and Planning | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tribal Cultural Resources |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Utilities and Service Systems |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise | <input type="checkbox"/> Wildfire |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Geology and Soils | <input type="checkbox"/> Population and Housing | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance |

Environmental Determination

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a “potentially significant impact” or “potentially significant unless mitigated” impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measure based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Date: 10-03-2023

Signed: 

I. Aesthetics

| Environmental Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|--|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:</i> | | | | |
| (a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (public views are those that are experienced from 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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Setting

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) establishes that it is the policy of the state to take all action necessary to provide people of the state “with . . . enjoyment of aesthetic, natural, scenic and historic environmental qualities” (California Public Resources Code [PRC] Section 21001(b)). A scenic vista is generally defined as a high-quality view displaying good aesthetic and compositional values that can be seen from public viewpoints. Some scenic vistas are officially or informally designated by public agencies or other organizations. A substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista would occur if the project would significantly degrade the scenic landscape as viewed from public roads or other public areas. A proposed project’s potential effect on a scenic vista is largely dependent on the degree to which it would complement or contrast with the natural setting, the degree to which it would be noticeable in the existing environment, and whether it detracts from or complements the scenic vista.

The California Scenic Highway Program was created by the State Legislature in 1963 with the intention of protecting and enhancing the natural scenic beauty of California highways and adjacent corridors. A highway may be designated scenic depending on how much of the natural landscape can be seen by travelers, the scenic quality of the landscape, and the extent to which development intrudes upon the traveler’s enjoyment of the view. According to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) State Scenic Highway System Map, the nearest designated state scenic highway is Highway 1, which runs parallel to and then intersects Palo Colorado Road at MP 0.0. The nearest work area to Highway 1 is Work Area 1, approximately 2.77 miles west (Caltrans 2018).

The project site is located in a rural area of unincorporated Monterey County within the Coastal Zone. The project site consists of an approximately 4.8-mile segment of Palo Colorado Road, which is a winding local road with steep side slopes cut into mountainous terrain. Palo Colorado Road parallels and/or crosses over Bixby, Brandon, Rocky, Turner, and Mill Creeks. The limited development in the vicinity of the project site predominantly consists of rural residences. According to the Land Use Plan (LUP) for the Big Sur North Section, the project site is located in a Watershed and Scenic Conservation (WSC) area, which is intended to protect watersheds, streams, plant communities, and scenic values (County of Monterey 2008).

Environmental Evaluation

a) Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

A substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista would occur if the project would significantly degrade the scenic landscape as viewed from public roads or other public areas. According to the LUP for the Big Sur North Section, the project site is located in a WSC area, which is intended to protect watersheds, streams, plant communities, and scenic values (County of Monterey 2008). The project site is located in a rural area and public views are primarily limited to travelers along Palo Colorado Road. The project includes construction of roadway and drainage improvements, including replacement of damaged asphalt, installation of steel guardrails, replacement of existing retaining walls with either steel soldier pile or soil nail retaining walls, replacement or improvements to existing culverts, and temporary relocation of utility lines. Based on the nature of the proposed project, the project would not introduce new buildings, structures, or other features that could alter the existing scenic landscape or impede views along Palo Colorado Road.

During the 18-month construction period, construction equipment, vehicles, storage areas, materials, and signage would be visible along Palo Colorado Road. Following construction, equipment, vehicles, and signage would be removed from each site. Short-term construction activities would not substantially degrade the long-term existing character of the immediate or surrounding area; therefore, project impacts would be *less than significant*.

b) Would the project substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

The nearest designated state scenic highway is Highway 1, which runs parallel to and then intersects Palo Colorado Road at MP 0.0. The nearest work area to Highway 1 is Work Area 1, approximately 1.8 miles west (Caltrans 2018). Due to distance as well as intervening topography and vegetation, the project site would not be visible from Highway 1; therefore, *no impacts* would occur.

c) In non-urbanized areas, would the project substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (public views are those that are experienced from 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?

The project site encompasses an approximately 4.8-mile segment of Palo Colorado Road, which is located in a rural portion of unincorporated Monterey County. According to the LUP for the Big Sur North Section, the project site is located in a WSC area (County of Monterey 2008). The project would be limited to improvements to an existing roadway and would not introduce new buildings, structures, or other features that could degrade the existing visual character of the project area or impede views along Palo Colorado Road. The project would require the removal of between 31 and 91 trees from proposed work areas and the trimming of approximately 71 trees; however, removed trees would be replaced at the project site to avoid degradation of the visible scenic landscape of the project area.

During the 18-month construction period, construction equipment, vehicles, storage areas, materials, and signage would be visible to travelers along Palo Colorado Road and to surrounding land uses. Following

construction, equipment, vehicles, and signage would be removed from each site. Short-term construction activities would not substantially degrade the long-term existing character of the immediate or surrounding area; therefore, project impacts would be *less than significant*.

d) Would the project create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

The proposed project includes roadway and drainage repairs along an existing rural road. The project does not include installation of new lighting sources or other features that could increase light or glare in the area. Construction activities would occur between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. each day, and any nighttime lighting used during the construction period would be short term and exempt from the design guidelines for exterior lighting in accordance with County’s Municipal Code Section 21.63.020.D. The proposed project would not create a new source of substantial light or glare; therefore, *no impacts* would occur.

Conclusion

The project would not substantially affect a scenic vista, damage a scenic resource, conflict with zoning, or create a source of new light or glare; therefore, impacts related to aesthetics would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation is not necessary.

II. Agriculture and Forestry Resources

| Environmental Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|--|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state’s inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:</i> | | | | |
| (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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (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))? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

| Environmental Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| (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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Setting

The California Department of Conservation (CDOC) Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) produces maps and statistical data used for analyzing impacts on California’s agricultural resources. Agricultural land is rated according to soil quality and current land use. For environmental review purposes under CEQA, the FMMP categories of Prime Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Local Importance, and Grazing Land are considered “agricultural land.” Other non-agricultural designations include, but are not limited to, Urban and Built-up Land, Other Land, and Water. According to the FMMP, the project site is located on land that is designated as Other Land (CDOC 2016).

The Land Conservation Act of 1965, commonly referred to as the Williamson Act, enables local governments to enter into contracts with private landowners for the purpose of restricting specific parcels of land to agriculture or related open space uses. In return, landowners receive property tax assessments that are much lower than normal because they are based on farming and open space uses as opposed to full market value. The project site and surrounding parcels are not subject to a Williamson Act contract.

According to PRC Section 12220(g), forest land is defined as land that can support 10% native tree cover of any species, including hardwoods, under natural conditions, and that allows for management of one or more forest resources, including timber, aesthetics, fish and wildlife, biodiversity, water quality, recreation, and other public benefits. Timberland is defined as land, other than land owned by the federal government and land designated by the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection as experimental forest land, which is available for, and capable of, growing a crop of trees of a commercial species used to produce lumber and other forest products, including Christmas trees. The project site is not considered forestland by PRC Section 12220(g); however, the land surrounding Palo Colorado Road consists of dense tree cover and other resources that meets the definition of forest land as described in PRC Section 12220(g).

Environmental Evaluation

- a) Would the project 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?**

The project site is underlain by land designated as Other Land by the FMMP (CDOC 2016). The project site does not consist of Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance as designated by the FMMP; therefore, the proposed project would not result in conversion of Farmland, and *no impacts* would occur.

b) Would the project conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?

The project site consists of Palo Colorado Road, which is surrounded by land currently zoned for Rural Density Residential (RDR) and WSC uses (County of Monterey 2023a). The project site and surrounding areas are not subject to a Williamson Act contract. Therefore, the project would not result in a conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract, and *no impacts* would occur.

c) Would the project 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))?

The project site and surrounding area is not within forest land, timberland, or timberland production land use or zoning designations. Therefore, the proposed project would not conflict with the zoning, or cause rezoning of, designated forest land, timberland, or timberland production, and *no impacts* would occur.

d) Would the project result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

The project site consists of an existing roadway and is not considered forestland by PRC Section 12220(g). However, the land surrounding Palo Colorado Road consists of dense tree cover and other resources that meet the definition of forest land described in PRC Section 12220(g). There are approximately 355 trees within the project area and the project would require the removal of up to 91 trees within the project site and surrounding area for construction of the proposed roadway repairs and drainage improvements. Since the area surrounding the project site meets the definition of forest land as described by PRC Section 12220(g) and the project requires the removal of between 31 and 91 trees from the project area and the trimming of approximately 71 trees, Mitigation Measure (MM) BIO-11 has been identified to avoid the removal of protected trees to the maximum extent practicable through redesign of the project grading footprint. If tree removal cannot be avoided, MM BIO-11 requires the replacement of removed trees. With implementation of MM BIO-11, the project would not result in the loss or conversion of forest land; therefore, impacts would be *less than significant with mitigation*.

e) Would the project 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?

There are no areas zoned for agricultural or forest uses within the vicinity of the project site. As previously evaluated, with implementation of MM BIO-11, the project would not result in the conversion of Farmland or forest land and would not interfere with zoning for agricultural or forest land uses. The proposed project would be limited to drainage and roadway repairs along an existing road and would not result in new land uses that could reduce the availability of water for existing agricultural uses in the vicinity of the project site. In addition, the proposed repairs would be paved and would not increase long-term dust generation that could inadvertently damage crops in the vicinity of the project site. The project would not indirectly result in the conversion of Farmland or forest land; therefore, impacts would be *less than significant with mitigation*.

Conclusion

The proposed project would not result in the conversion of Farmland and would not interfere with zoning for agricultural uses. With implementation of MM BIO-11, the project would not result in the conversion of forest land and would not interfere with zoning for forest uses. Therefore, the project would not result in impacts related to agriculture and forestry resources.

Mitigation Measures

Implement MM BIO-11.

III. Air Quality

| Environmental Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:</i> | | | | |
| (a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Setting

Monterey County is within the North Central Coast Air Basin (NCCAB) and is under the jurisdiction of the Monterey Bay Air Resources District (MBARD). According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), Monterey County is in attainment for all criteria air pollutants according to federal standards (USEPA 2022). According to the California Air Resources Board (CARB), Monterey County is not in attainment for particulate matter 10 microns or less in diameter (PM₁₀) standards established by the state (CARB 2020b). According to the 2012 Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP), the NCCAB is not in attainment for the 8-hour ozone standards established by the state (MBARD 2017). The MBARD 2005 Particulate Matter Plan includes reduction goals and strategies related to PM emission standards and the 2012 AQMP includes reduction goals and strategies related to the 8-hour ozone emission standards (MBARD 2005, 2017).

The Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District (MBUAPCD) prepared *Guidelines for Implementing the California Environmental Quality Act* to identify procedures for complying with CEQA for permit issuance, rulemaking, and adoption of plans established by the MBUAPCD (MBUAPCD 2016). The MBUAPCD has established air quality thresholds of significance for projects in Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz Counties. A project will not have a significant air quality effect on the environment if the criteria identified in Table 4 are met (MBUAPCD 2016).

Table 4. Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District Thresholds

| Pollutant/Precursor | Construction Emissions (pounds per day) | Operational Emissions (pounds per day) |
|---------------------|--|---|
| CO | 550 | 550 |
| NO _x | 137 | 137 |
| ROG | 137 | 137 |
| PM ₁₀ | 82 | 82 |
| PM _{2.5} | 55 | 55 |

Source: MBUAPCD (2016)

Sensitive receptors are people that have an increased sensitivity to air pollution or environmental contaminants, such as the elderly, children, people with asthma or other respiratory illnesses, and others who are at a heightened risk of negative health outcomes due to exposure to air pollution. Some land uses are considered more sensitive to changes in air quality than others due to the population that occupies the uses and the activities involved. Sensitive receptor locations include schools, parks and playgrounds, daycare centers, nursing homes, hospitals, and residences. The nearest sensitive receptor to the project work areas is a rural residence located approximately 200 feet northeast of Storm Damage Retaining Wall Site 1 at MP 7.38.

Environmental Evaluation

a) Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?

The MBARD 2005 Particulate Matter Plan includes reduction goals and strategies related to PM emission standards and the 2012 AQMP includes reduction goals and strategies related to the 8-hour ozone emissions standards (MBARD 2005, 2017). The 2005 Particulate Matter Plan identifies construction activities, agricultural activities, and vehicle use on unpaved roadways as the primary source of PM emissions (MBARD 2005). In addition, the 2012 AQMP identifies mobile source emissions as the primary contributor to reactive organic gas (ROG) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) emissions, which are ozone precursor emissions (MBARD 2017).

The potential for the project to result in air pollutant emissions, including ROG, NO_x, and PM, is described in detail in Impact III(b). The project does not include development of new land uses or transportation corridors that would be subject to land use and transportation strategies included in the 2012 AQMP or the *2010 Monterey County General Plan*. Operation of the project would require a negligible number of vehicle trips for maintenance activities and would not result in a substantial number of new vehicle trips along Palo Colorado Road. The project would not result in substantial pollutant emissions or interfere with land use and transportation strategies related to reduction of pollutant emissions; therefore, the project would be consistent with the 2005 Particulate Matter Plan, 2012 AQMP, and County's General Plan, and potential impacts would be *less than significant*.

b) Would the project 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?

Monterey County is not in attainment of the PM₁₀ standards established by the state (CARB 2022). In addition, according to the 2012 AQMP, the NCCAB is not in attainment of the 8-hour ozone standards established by the state (MBARD 2017). The project would primarily generate emissions during construction of the proposed roadway repairs and drainage improvements.

Short-Term Emissions

Heavy equipment and earth-moving construction activities generate fugitive dust and combustion emissions; these may have substantial temporary impacts on local air quality. Fugitive dust emissions would result from land clearing, demolition, excavation, trenching, grading activities, and trip generation. Combustion emissions, such as NO_x and PM₁₀, are most significant when using large diesel-fueled scrapers, loaders, bulldozers, haul trucks, compressors, generators, and other types of equipment.

Estimated construction air emissions were calculated for the proposed project using the California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod). The CalEEMod results are included in Appendix A, and the results of the unmitigated estimated construction emission calculations for the proposed project are shown in Table 5.

Table 5. Annual Construction Emissions for the Proposed Project

| Source | Criteria Pollutant (pounds per day) | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|-----------------|------------|------------------|-------------------|
| | ROG | NO _x | CO | PM ₁₀ | PM _{2.5} |
| Project Construction (2024) | 1 | 10 | 10 | 1 | 0.5 |
| Project Construction (2025) | 0.5 | 4 | 5 | 0.5 | 0.2 |
| MBUAPCD Threshold | 137 | 137 | 550 | 82 | 55 |
| Exceed threshold? | No | No | No | No | No |

Source: MBUAPCD (2016)

Based on the results shown in Table 5, construction air emissions would be in compliance with the MBUAPCD thresholds for all pollutants; therefore, construction-related impacts would be *less than significant*.

Long-Term Emissions

The project would be limited to the operation of an existing roadway and does not include the establishment of new land uses or activities that could generate long-term air pollutant emissions in the region; therefore, the project would not be expected to exceed MBUAPCD operational thresholds. Following construction activities, the roadway would be paved and would not generate long-term dust emissions that could exceed the MBUAPCD threshold of significance for fugitive dust emissions. Further, the project would not increase roadway capacity in a manner that could increase the number of vehicle trips along this roadway or require long-term maintenance trips that could generate a new source of mobile-source emissions. Therefore, the project would not be expected to exceed the MBUAPCD threshold of significant for combustion emissions. Based on the limited amount of operational emissions

generated by the project, potential impacts related to long-term air pollutant emissions would be *less than significant*.

c) Would the project expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

The nearest sensitive receptor is a rural residence located approximately 200 feet northeast of Storm Damage Retaining Wall Site 1 at MP 7.38. As described previously, the project would result in limited, short-term construction-related emissions, including ROG, NO_x, and PM. Additionally, construction activities would be required to comply with diesel-idling requirements identified by the CARB, including limiting idling to 5 minutes or less, which would further reduce the potential for substantial construction-related emissions to occur during construction (CARB 2020a). Although the project would result in limited emissions, due to the proximity of the nearest sensitive receptor location, MM AQ-1 and MM AQ-2 have been included to further reduce the potential for construction-related emissions to affect nearby sensitive receptors. With adherence to the diesel idling restrictions identified by the CARB and implementation of MM AQ-1 and MM AQ-2, the project would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations; therefore, impacts would be *less than significant with mitigation*.

d) Would the project result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?

Construction activities generally have the potential to emit odors from diesel equipment, paints, solvents, fugitive dust, and adhesives. Any odors generated by construction activities would be intermittent and temporary, and generally would not extend beyond the construction area. Any construction odors would be temporary and limited to the construction phase of the proposed project. The project does not include the establishment of new land uses or other activities that could generate long-term odors within the project area.

The project would not expose people to other emissions, such as naturally occurring asbestos (NOA), because the project site is not located in an area with the potential for NOA to occur (California Geological Survey [CGS] 2011). Additionally, the project would require the demolition and removal of damaged portions of the roadway and damaged culverts that have the potential to contain asbestos-containing material (ACM). MM AQ-3 has been identified to reduce the potential to release ACM during proposed demolition activities. Construction-related odors would be temporary, intermittent, and undetectable and with implementation of MM AQ-3, the project would not expose people to other emissions, including NOA or ACM; therefore, potential impacts would be *less than significant with mitigation*.

Conclusion

The project would be consistent with the MBARD 2005 Particulate Matter Plan and 2012 AQMP and would not exceed established MBUAPCD emissions thresholds during project construction or operation. MM AQ-1 and MM AQ-2 have been included to reduce diesel exhaust and fugitive dust exposure to sensitive receptors during construction. MM AQ-3 has been included to reduce the potential to disturb ACM and result in other air emissions. Upon implementation of the identified mitigation measures, potential impacts related to air quality would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

MM AQ-1 The following measures shall be implemented and shown on project specifications to minimize construction equipment-generated emissions:

1. Substitute alternative fueled or catalyst equipped diesel construction equipment, when available.
2. Minimize idling time to not exceed 5 minutes, to the maximum extent feasible.
3. Minimize the hours of operation of heavy-duty equipment and/or the amount of equipment in use to the greatest extent feasible.
4. Replace fossil-fueled equipment with electrically driven equivalents (provided they are not run through a portable generator set) when available.
5. Implement activity management (e.g., reschedule activities to reduce short-term impacts).

MM AQ-2 The following measures shall be implemented and shown on project specifications to minimize construction-generated dust emissions:

1. Water unpaved construction areas as needed. Frequency should be based on the type of operation, soil, and wind exposure.
2. Prohibit all grading activities during periods of high wind (over 15 miles per hour).
3. Apply chemical soil stabilizers on inactive construction areas (disturbed lands within construction projects that are unused for at least four consecutive days).
4. Hydroseed exposed areas after cut and fill operations.
5. Haul trucks shall maintain at least 2 feet of freeboard.
6. Cover all trucks hauling dirt, sand, or loose materials.
7. Cover inactive storage piles.
8. Install wheel washers at the entrance to construction sites for all exiting trucks.
9. Pave all roads on construction sites.
10. Sweep streets if visible soil material is carried out from the construction site.
11. Post a publicly visible sign that specifies the telephone number and person to contact regarding dust complaints. This person shall respond to complaints and take corrective action within 48 hours. The phone number of the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District shall be visible to ensure compliance with Rule 402 (Nuisance).

MM AQ-3 Prior to initiation of demolition and ground disturbance activities, the County of Monterey shall retain a Certified Asbestos Consultant to conduct a thorough inspection of the roadway and culverts proposed for demolition and removal to determine if asbestos-containing material (ACM) is present. If asbestos is determined to be present within the materials proposed for demolition and/or removal, proposed activities shall be conducted in accordance with the requirements stipulated in the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) (40 Code of Federal Regulations 61, Subpart M – Asbestos).

IV. Biological Resources

| Environmental Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Would the project:</i> | | | | |
| (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 Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (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 Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Setting

PROJECT SETTING

The project incorporates approximately 4.8 miles of Palo Colorado Road, from PM 2.77 to 7.57. Palo Colorado Road is a winding local road with steep side slopes (1H:1V and steeper) cut into mountainous terrain. The roughly 8 miles of Palo Colorado roadway extends west to east from the intersection with Highway 1 to Bottcher's Gap crossing into the boundary of the Los Padres National Forest. Palo Colorado Road provides access for residents and visitors to recreational areas and forest as well as a Boy Scout camp. The project area is located within the Mount Carmel and Big Sur, California U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute quadrangles. The 63 potential work areas were buffered by 100 feet to establish the project area, which totals approximately 115.4 acres.

The study area occurs within the Ecoregion subset known as Santa Lucia Coastal Forest and Woodland (ID# 6ah), with heavier rain and fog compared to areas to the east and steep relief compared to surrounding areas to the north and south. Landslides are frequent with the steep relief and friable soils, especially during heavy rains.

Topography in the project area consists of very steep relief with Palo Colorado Road traversing Palo Colorado Canyon and paralleling and/or crossing over Bixby, Brandon, Rocky, Turner, and Mill Creeks. Elevation ranges from approximately 920 to 2,100 feet above mean sea level over the course of the approximately 4.8-mile stretch of road. Land uses in the vicinity of the project area include a mix of rural residential development, the Mill Creek Redwood Preserve, and the Los Padres National Forest along the far eastern boundary of the project area.

The project site occurs within several distinct natural communities as defined by the *Manual of California Vegetation*, Second Edition (MCV) and MCV Online Edition (Sawyer et al. 2009; California Native Plant Society [CNPS] 2023a) with redwood forest and woodland dominant throughout the more coastal climates along the western portion of the project and along certain north-facing slopes farther east. Interior live oak – Shreve oak woodland and forest, madrone forest, and manzanita-chamise scrub are more prevalent within the more xeric climates on south-facing slopes and as the elevation increases.

Soils

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Web Soil Survey database (NRCS 2023) identifies the occurrence of eight soil units within the project site (Table 6; Figure 14). The majority of the project area consists of Cieneba fine gravelly sandy loam, 30 to 75 percent slopes (45 acres) and Sur-Junipero complex (36 acres).

Table 6. Soil Types found within the Project Area

| Soil Type | Characteristics | Area (acres) | Hydric |
|---|---|--------------|--------|
| Cieneba fine gravelly sandy loam, 30 to 75 percent slopes | Cieneba series consists of very shallow and shallow, somewhat excessively drained soils that formed in material weathered from granitic rock. Vegetation is mainly chaparral and chemise. | 44.59 | No |
| Sur-Junipero complex | Junipero series consists of moderately deep, well-drained soils that formed in material weathered from igneous rocks. Well-drained; rapid and very rapid runoff; moderately rapid permeability. Principal native plants are madrone, laurel, tanoak, black oak, and canyon live oak. | 36.22 | No |
| Los Gatos gravelly loam, 50 to 75 percent slopes | Los Gatos series is a member of the fine loamy, mixed, mesic family of Typic Argixerolls. Well-drained; rapid to very rapid runoff; moderate permeability. | 21.48 | No |
| Sur-Plaskett complex | Plaskett soils have dark grayish brown and dark brown, medium and slightly acid, gravelly and very shaly loam A horizons over bedrock at a depth of about 10 inches. Occurs on steep and very steep side slopes and are excessively drained, with rapid or very rapid runoff and moderately rapid permeability. | 2.97 | No |
| Sheridan coarse sandy loam, 30 to 75 percent slopes | Sheridan soils have dark grayish brown slightly acid, coarse sandy loam A horizons over weathered granite at a depth of about 39 inches. | 5.41 | No |
| Junipero sandy loam, 30 to 75 percent slopes | Junipero series consists of moderately deep, well-drained soils that formed in material weathered from igneous rocks. | 2.31 | No |
| Millsholm-Gazos complex | Millsholm series consists of shallow, well-drained soils that formed in material weathered from sandstone, mudstone, and shale. | 1.94 | No |
| Rock outcrop-Xerorthents association, 30 to 75 percent slopes | This association consists of rock outcrop and very shallow soils on strongly sloping to extremely steep mountains. The content of gravel, cobblestones, and stones and of silt and debris varies considerably. | 0.46 | No |

Source: NRCS (2023)

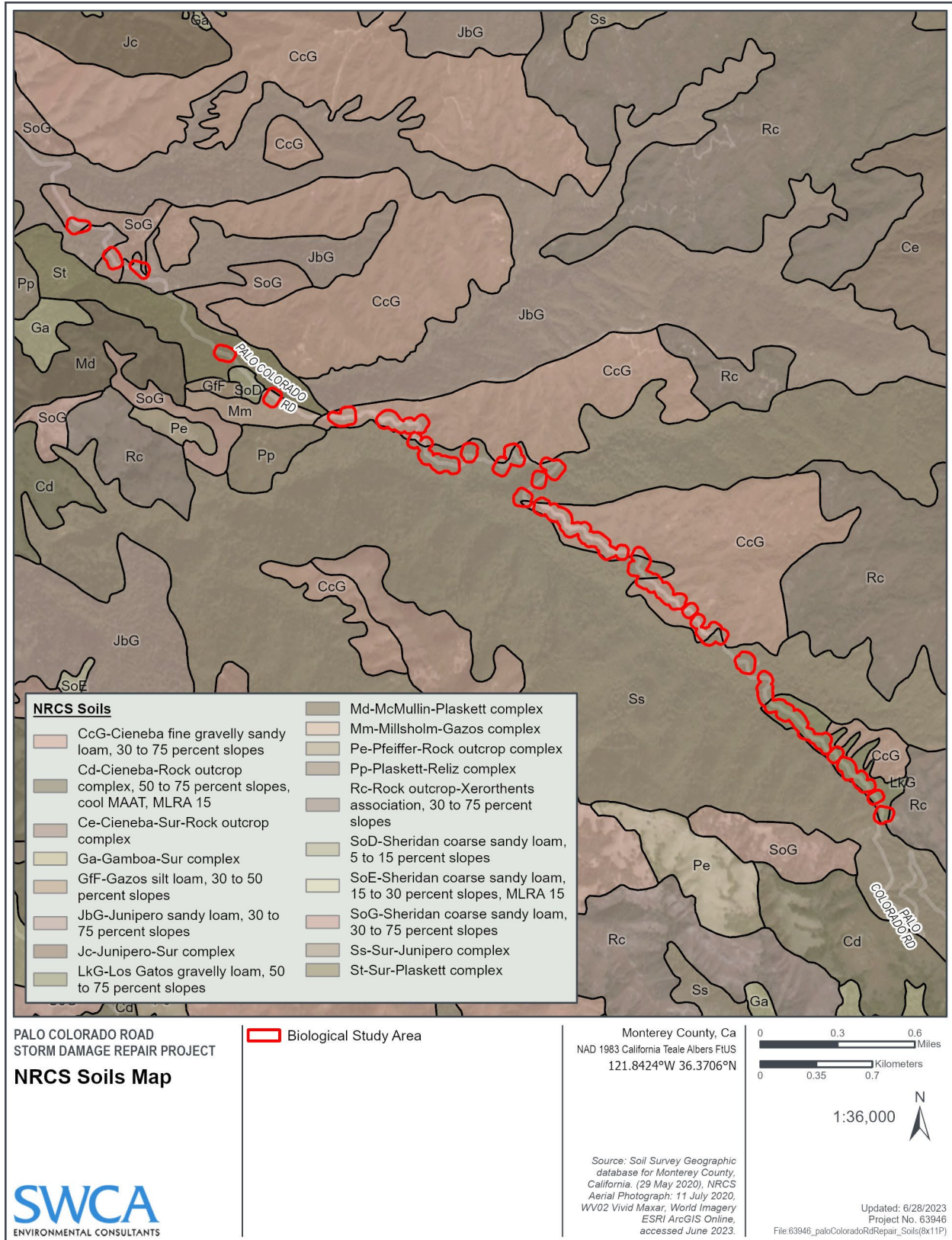


Figure 14. NRCS Soils Map.

Hydrology

The project site is within the USGS Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) Central Coastal Subbasin (18060006) and Bixby Creek-Frontal Pacific Ocean watershed (180600060205) (Figure 15). The portion of Palo Colorado Road within the project area parallels and/or crosses over five main drainages: Bixby, Brandon, Rocky, Turner, and Mill Creeks. Mill Creek and Turner Creek are blue line streams originating east of Palo Colorado Road and terminating in the confluence of Bixby Creek. Bixby Creek is a blue line stream that terminates into the Pacific Ocean approximately 4 miles downstream from its confluence with Mill and Turner Creeks. A National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) map is included as Figure 16.

Vegetation

The project site occurs within several distinct natural communities, as defined by the MCV and MCV Online Edition (Sawyer et al. 2009; CNPS 2023a), with redwood forest and woodland dominant throughout the more coastal climates along the western portion of the project and along certain north-facing slopes farther east. Interior live oak – Shreve oak woodland and forest, madrone forest, and manzanita-chamise scrub are more prevalent within the more xeric climates on south facing slopes and as the elevation increases. The vegetation and landcover types within the project area are listed in Table 7 and mapped in Figures 17 through 23.

Sensitive Natural Community is a statewide designation given by the CDFW to specific vegetation associations of ecological importance. Rarity and ranking of Sensitive Natural Communities involves the knowledge of range and distribution of a given type of vegetation, and the proportion of occurrences that are of good ecological integrity (CDFW 2023b). Evaluation is conducted at both the Global (G) and State (S) levels, resulting in a rank ranging from 1 for very rare and threatened to 5 for demonstrably secure. CDFW considers natural communities with State Rarity ranks of S1 through S3 Sensitive Natural Communities in California.

Redwood Forest and Woodland

The Redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) Forest and Woodland Alliance is characterized by a dominance of coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) in the tree canopy (greater than 50% relative cover in the tree canopy). Generally, coast redwoods are often the sole dominant in the tree canopy, generally in dense cover, but stands in the project area also contained a hardwood component of tanoak (*Notholithocarpus densiflorus*) or California bay (*Umbellularia californica*). This alliance has a State Rarity ranking of S3, making it a sensitive natural community.

Redwood forest and woodland is the dominant vegetation type within the project area and occurs in 35 work areas (see Table 7). Stands are somewhat restricted to mid- and lower-northerly trending slopes, in canyon bottoms and along riparian corridors. It typically integrates with Interior live oak – Shreve's oak woodland and forest and in a few places abruptly transitions to drier chaparral. The shrub layer when present was typically dominated by poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*). Other shrubs include California blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*), California coffeeberry (*Frangula californica*), and toyon (*Heteromeles arbutifolia*). In disturbed areas along the roadways, the shrub understory was typically dominated by invasive French broom (*Genista monspessulana*). The herbaceous layer was typically dominated by western swordfern (*Polystichum munitum*), western bracken fern (*Pteridium aquilinum*), California hedge nettle (*Stachys bullata*), and redwood sorrel (*Oxalis oregana*).

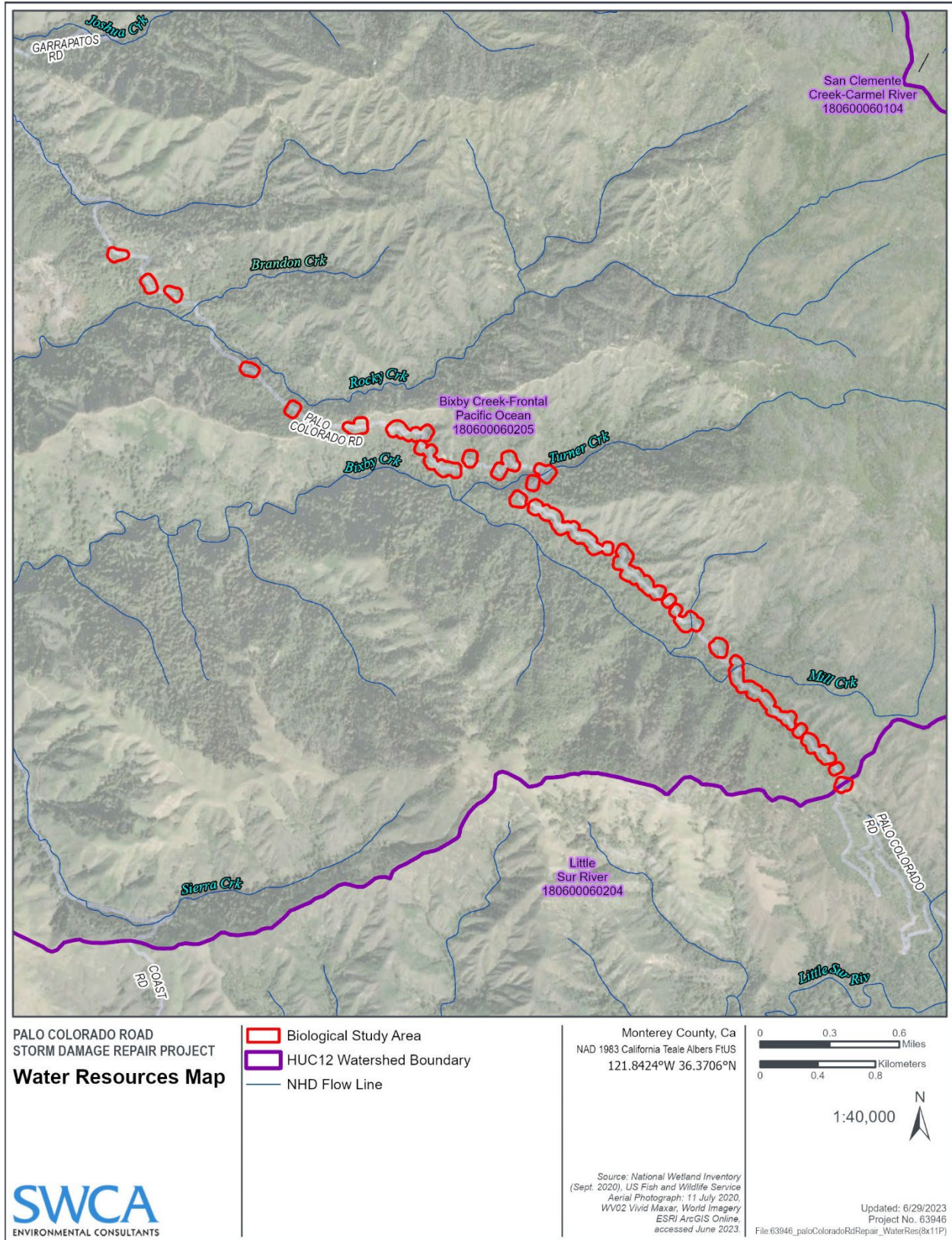


Figure 15. Water Resources Map.

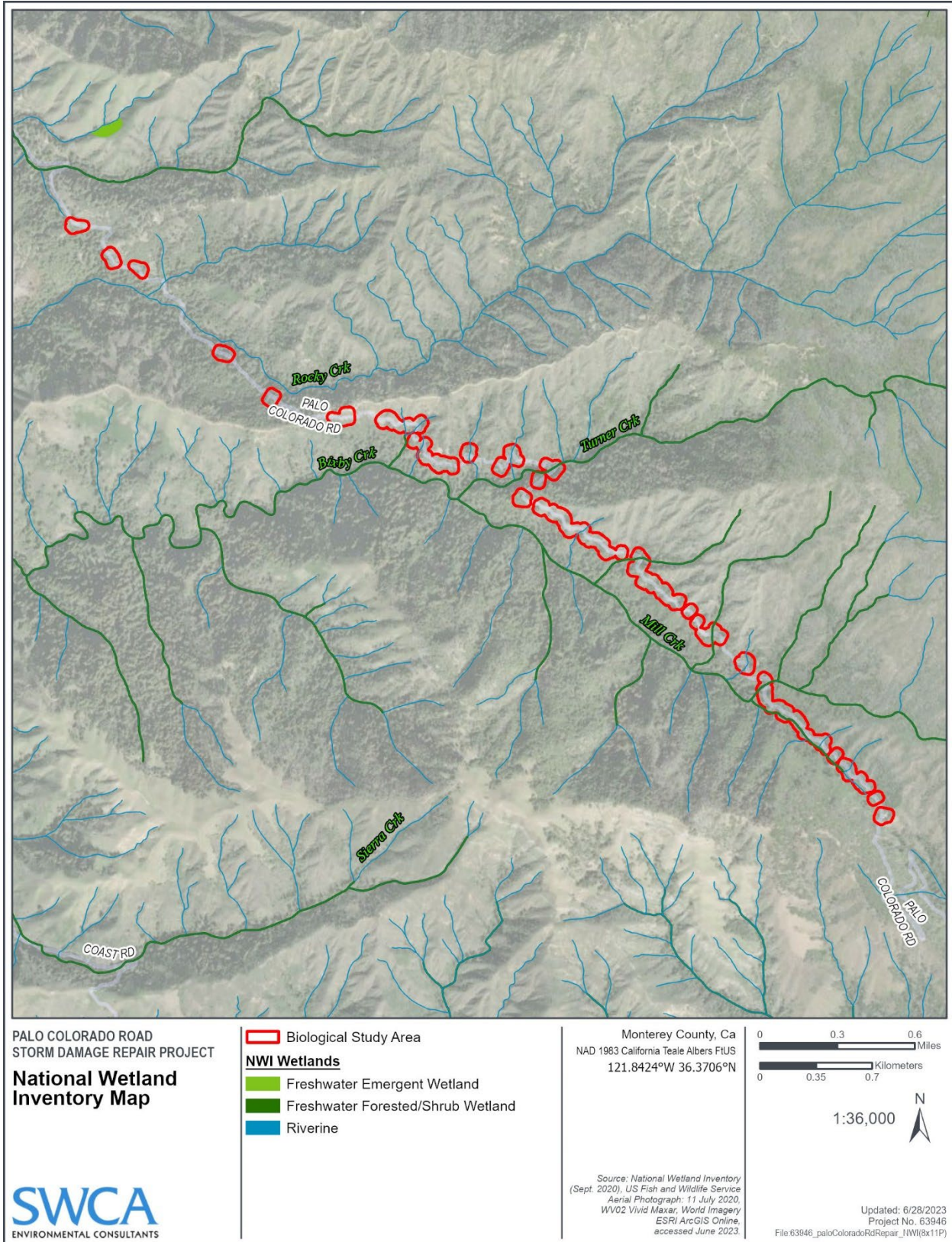


Figure 16. National Wetland Inventory Map.

Table 7. Vegetation and Landcover Types found within the Project Area

| Vegetation and Land Cover Type | Work Area | Acres within the Project Area | Permanent Impact Areas (Acres) | Temporary Impacts from road grading (Acres) | Potential Temporary Impacts from Staging Areas (Acres) |
|--|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--|
| Redwood Forest and Woodland* | 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 36, 37, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56 | 43.39 | 0.481 | 0.183 | 0.616 |
| Interior Live Oak – Shreve Oak Woodland and Forest | 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46 | 22.13 | 0.105 | 0.026 | 0.151 |
| Interior Live Oak – Madrone Forest | 25, 26, 30, 31, 35, 37, 38, 39, 45, 46, 48 | 6.50 | 0.061 | 0.005 | 0.162 |
| Interior Live Oak – Madrone Forest – Recently Burned | 50, 51, 52, 53, 54 | 3.43 | 0.061 | 0.022 | |
| Mixed Oak Forest and Woodland | 63 | 0.72 | - | - | 0.005 |
| Mixed Oak Forest and Woodland – Recently Burned | 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61 | 7.62 | 0.067 | 0.034 | 0.056 |
| Coast Live Oak Woodland and Forest | 1, 62, 63 | 3.00 | 0.015 | - | 0.001 |
| California Bay Forest and Woodland* | 2, 3, 40, 41, 60, 61 | 3.93 | 0.058 | 0.016 | 0.207 |
| Madrone Forest | 22 | 0.38 | < 0.001 | - | - |
| Madrone Forest – Recently Burned | 55 and 56 | 1.18 | < 0.001 | - | 0.017 |
| Monterey Pine Stands | 1 | 0.24 | - | - | - |
| Manzanita – Chamise Chaparral* | 8, 9, 27, 28, 29, 30, 32, 34, 35, 38, 39, 41, 42 | 8.26 | 0.005 | 0.006 | 0.010 |
| Manzanita – Black Sage Chaparral* | 46 | 0.19 | - | - | < 0.001 |
| Chamise Chaparral | 6, 7, 31 | 1.43 | - | - | 0.035 |
| Chamise – Sage Chaparral | 28, 63 | 1.16 | 0.014 | 0.027 | - |
| Black Sage Scrub | 32 | 0.20 | 0.022 | 0.06 | - |
| Coyote Brush Scrub | 2 | 0.91 | - | - | - |
| Broom Patches | 2, 14, 15, 52, 59, 60, 61 | 0.44 | 0.043 | 0.013 | 0.115 |
| Deerweed Scrub | 29 | 0.13 | - | - | 0.057 |
| Ruderal / Disturbed | 8, 9, 46 | 0.27 | 0.002 | 0.005 | 0.027 |
| Bare Ground | 1, 6, 7 | 0.63 | - | - | 0.114 |
| Landscaped / Ornamental | 63 | 0.19 | - | - | - |
| Developed | All work areas | 9.07 | 1.178 | 0.084 | 0.326 |
| Total | | | 2.113 | 0.427 | 1.920 |

* Indicates sensitive natural community with a State Rarity ranking of S1 to S3.

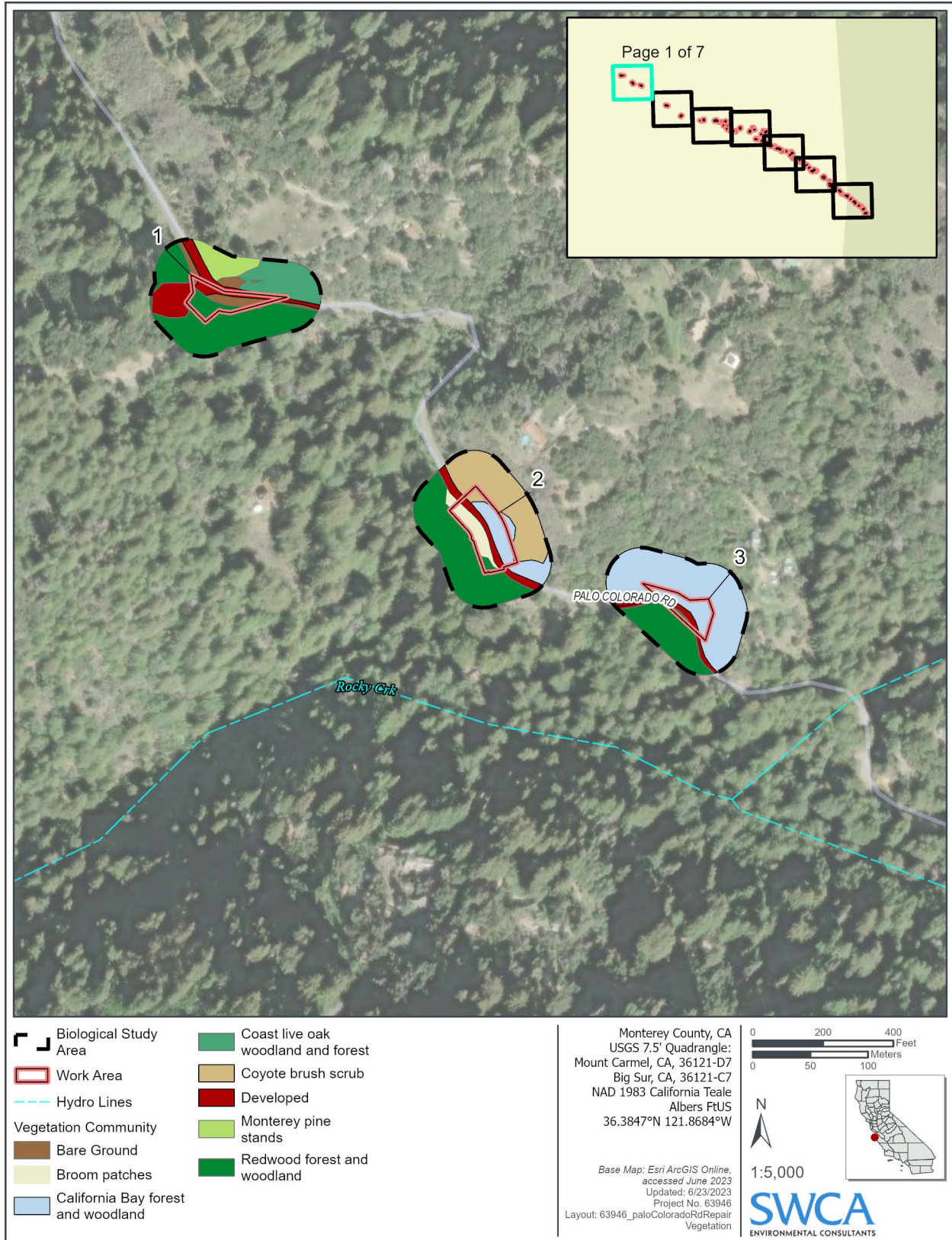


Figure 17. Vegetation and Landcover Types within the Project Area (Map 1 of 7)

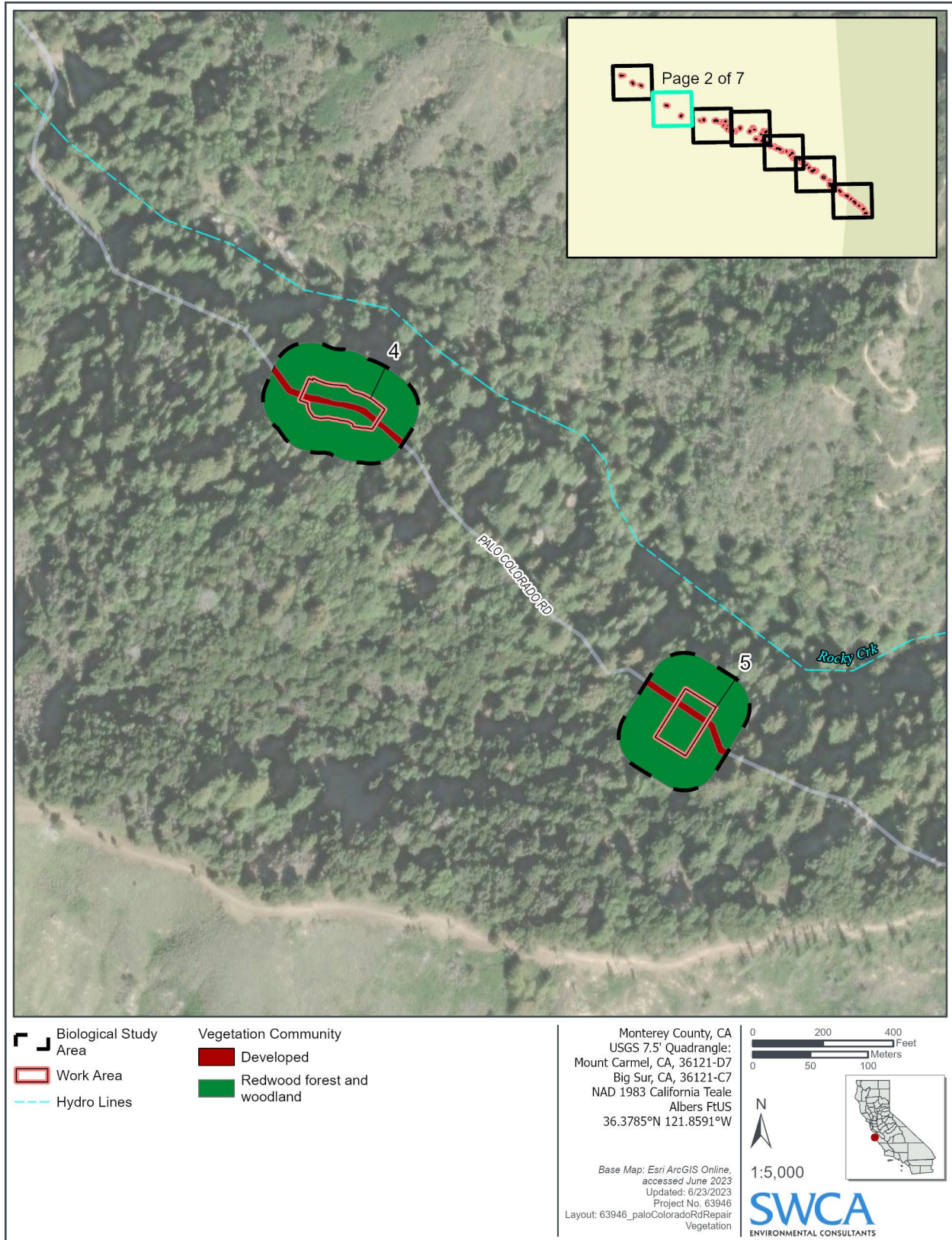


Figure 18. Vegetation and Landcover Types within the Project Area (Map 2 of 7)

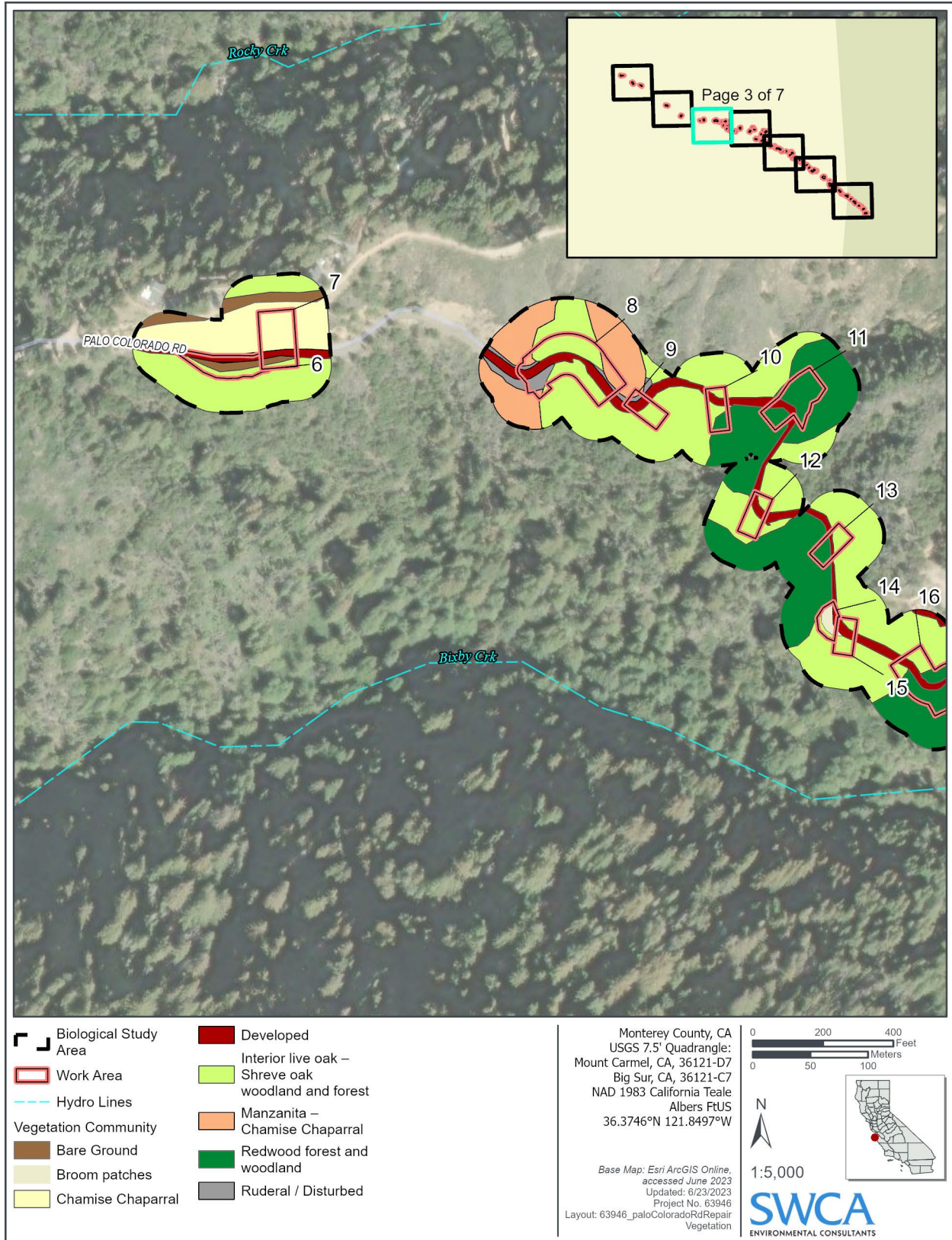


Figure 19. Vegetation and Landcover Types within the Project Area (Map 3 of 7)

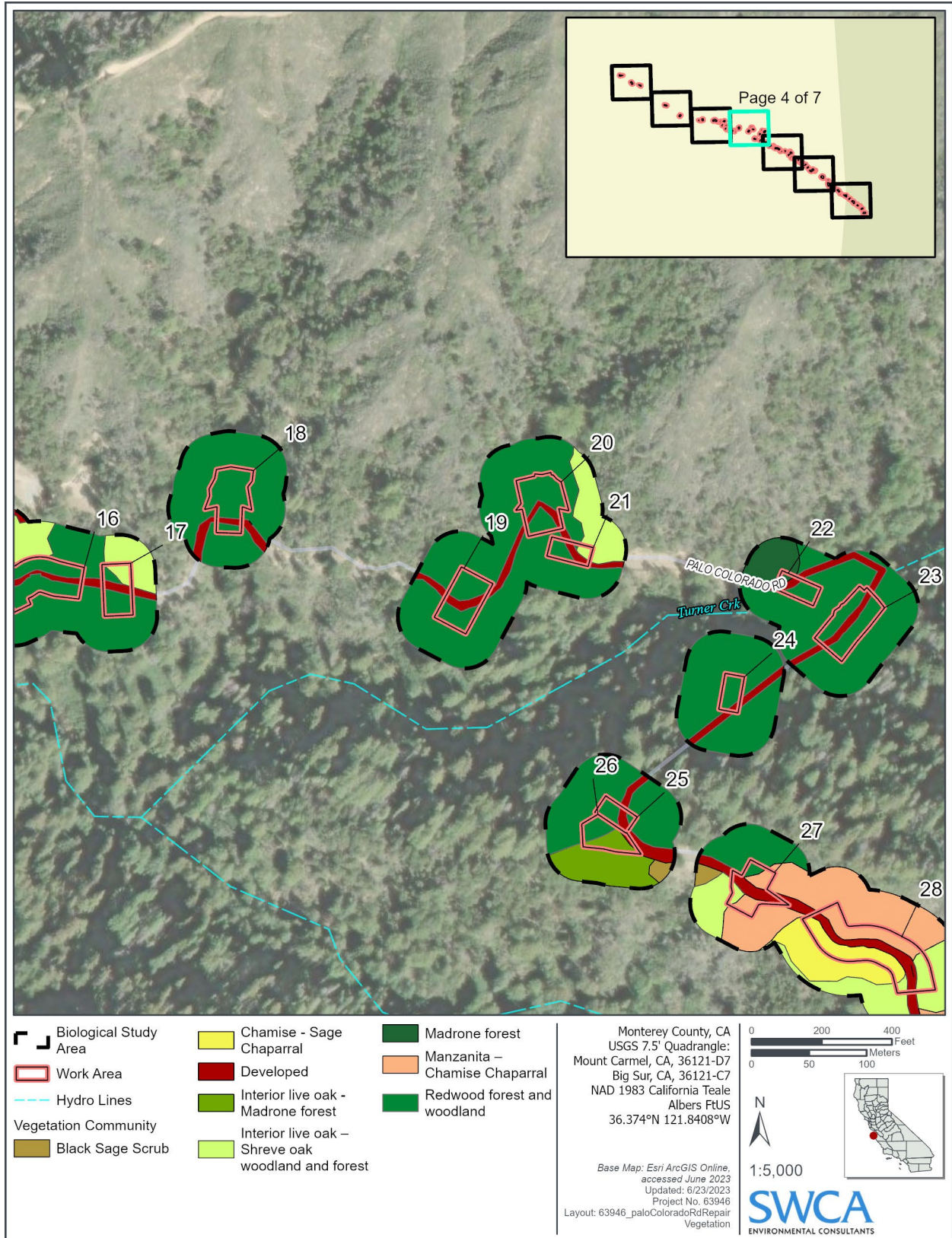


Figure 20. Vegetation and Landcover Types within the Project Area (Map 4 of 7)

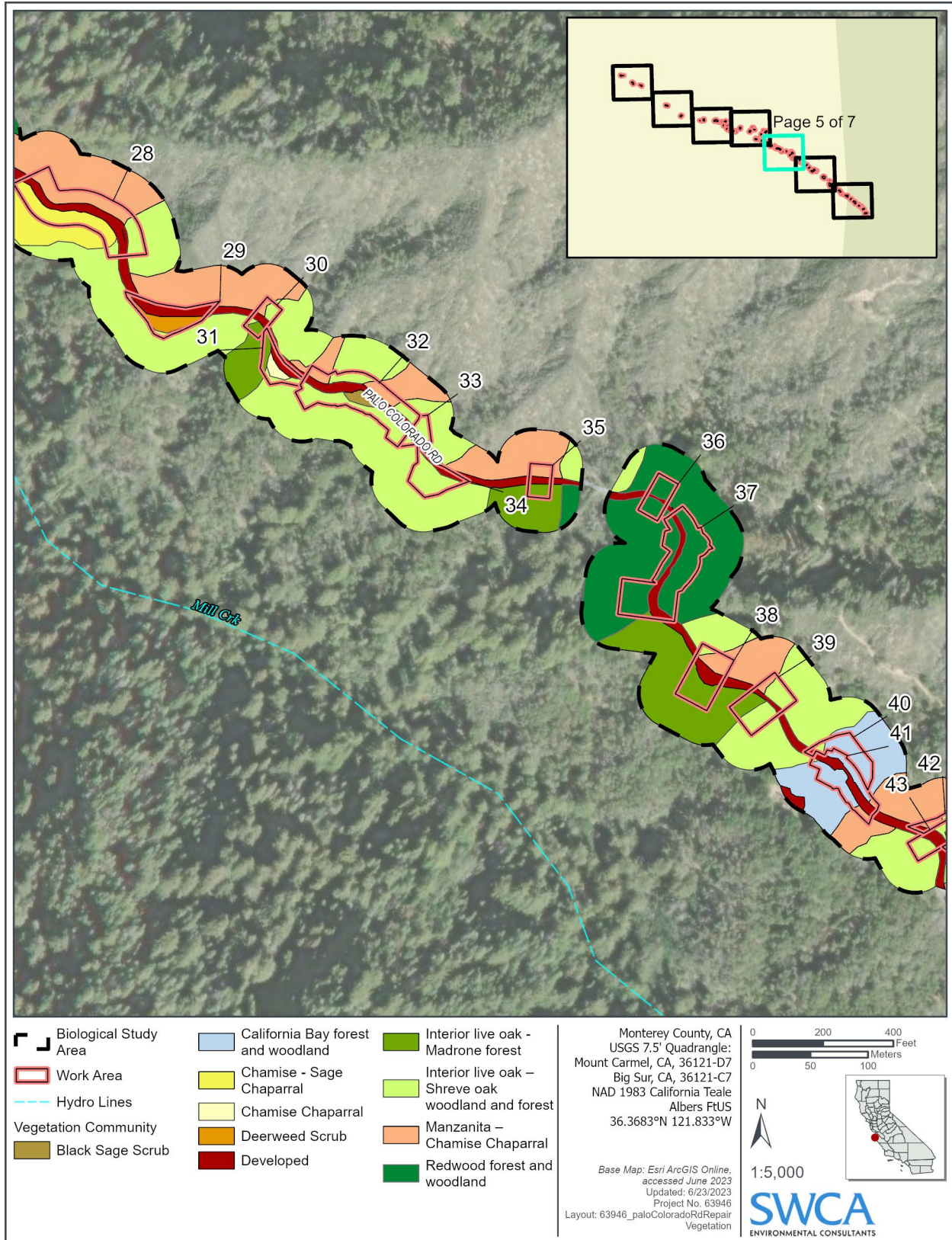


Figure 21. Vegetation and Landcover Types within the Project Area (Map 5 of 7)

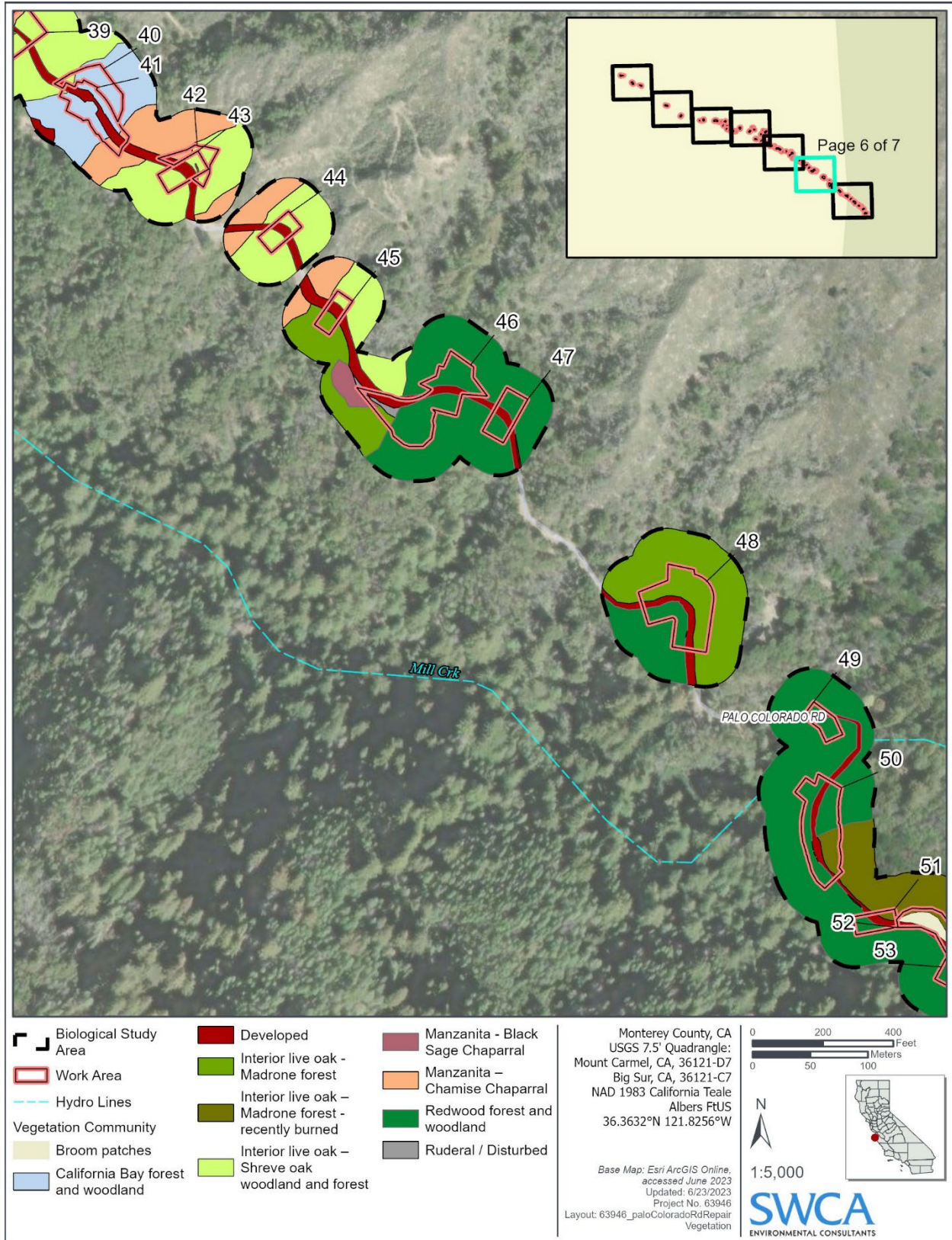


Figure 22. Vegetation and Landcover Types within the Project Area (Map 6 of 7)

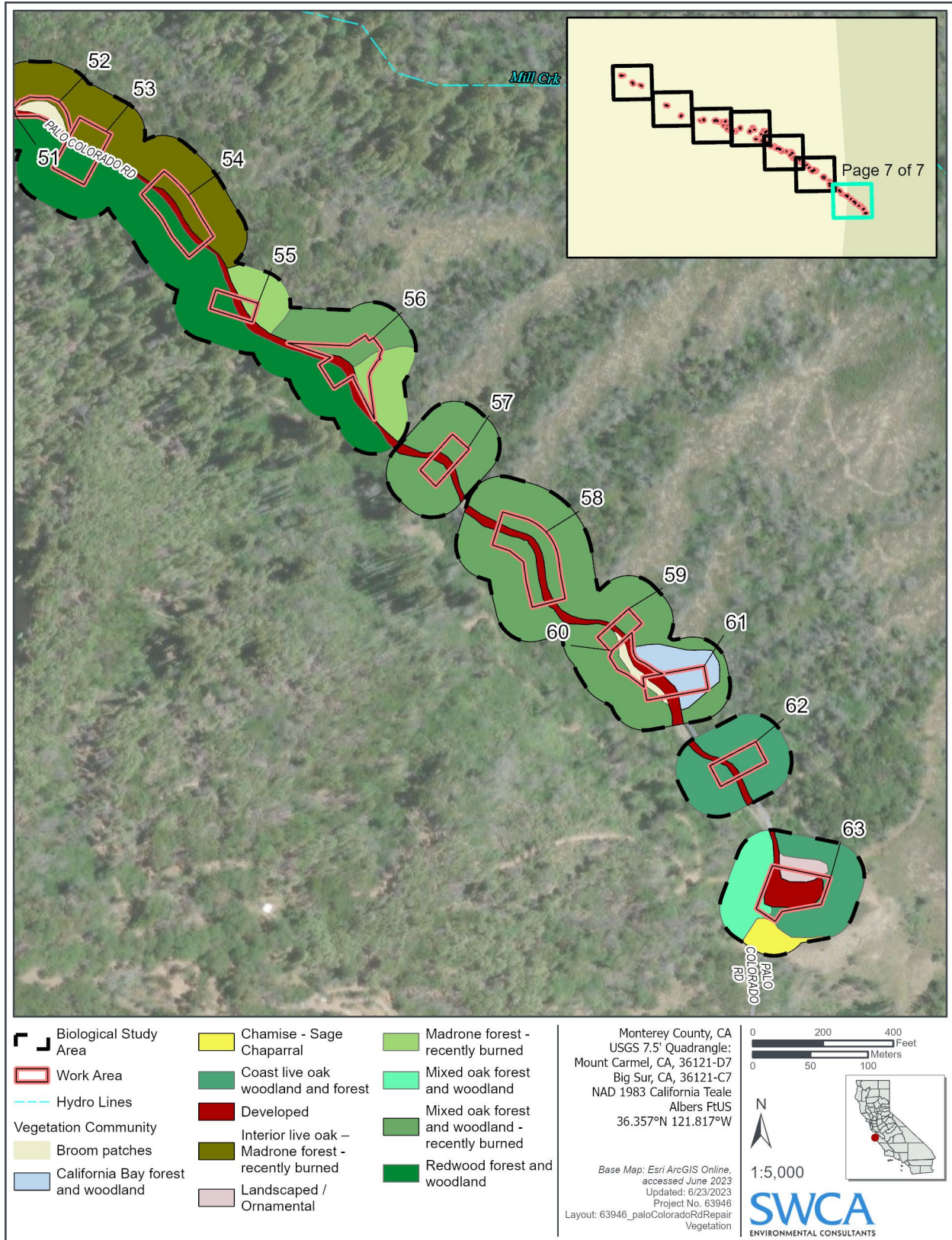


Figure 23. Vegetation and Landcover Types within the Project Area (Map 7 of 7)

Interior Live Oak – Shreve Oak Forest and Woodland

The Interior live oak – Shreve’s oak (*Quercus wislizeni* – *Quercus parvula* [tree]) Forest and Woodland Alliance is characterized by 50% relative cover of interior live oak (*Quercus wislizeni*) or Shreve’s oak (*Quercus parvula*) in the tree canopy. Within the project area, the primary oak species was Shreve’s oak. The shrub layer was typically dominated by poison oak, French broom (particularly adjacent to the roadways), and Jim brush (*Ceanothus oliganthus* var. *sorediatus*) (particularly in areas recently burned). Other shrubs that were prevalent in the understory include California blackberry, California coffeeberry, and toyon. This alliance has a State Rarity ranking of S4 (California Department of Fish and Wildlife [CDFW] 2023b). This vegetation alliance occurs in 29 work areas and is the dominant vegetation, second to redwood forest, stretching from Work Area 6 to Work Area 49 and encompassing over 22 acres of the project area.

Interior Live Oak – Madrone Forest

Areas where Pacific madrones (*Arbutus menziesii*) were codominant in the tree canopy, but less than 50% relative cover in the tree canopy, were mapped as Interior Live Oak – Madrone Forest, which corresponds to the MCV Association: *Quercus* (*Parvula, wislizeni*) – *Arbutus menziesii* / *Toxicodendron diversilobum* (CNPS 2023b; CDFW 2023b). Areas where Pacific madrones were greater than 50% relative cover in the tree canopy were mapped as Madrone Forest (see below). This vegetation association occurs from Work Area 25 to Work Area 48 and encompasses 6.5 acres of the project area.

Interior Live Oak – Madrone Forest – Recently Burned

A fire had recently burned through a portion of the project area covering Work Areas 50 to 61. These areas were mapped into three categories: Mixed Oak Forest and Woodland – Recently Burned, Interior Live Oak – Madrone Forest – Recently Burned and Madrone Forest – Recently Burned. Several of these areas were likely dominated by Shreve’s oak, but it was not possible to fully identify which oaks were present given the recent fire. In these areas, the understory shrub layer was dominated by Jim brush, which was growing robustly given the recently opened canopy. Interior Live Oak – Madrone Forest – Recently Burned occurs from Work Area 50 to 54 and encompasses 3.4 acres of the project area.

Coast Live Oak Woodland

Coast Live Oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) Woodland and Forest Alliance is characterized by a dominance of coast live oaks (*Quercus agrifolia*) in the tree canopy. Coast live oaks were only present at the very western and eastern extent of the project area in Work Areas 1, 62, and 63. The shrub layer was dominated by poison oak and Jim brush. Other shrubs that were prevalent in the understory include California blackberry, California coffeeberry, sticky monkeyflower (*Diplacus aurantiacus*), and toyon. This alliance has a State Rarity ranking of S4 (CDFW 2023b).

Mixed Oak Forest and Woodland

The Mixed Oak (*Quercus* [*agrifolia, douglasii, garryana, kelloggii, lobata, wislizeni*]) Forest and Woodland Alliance is characterized by three or more *Quercus* species that are present at greater than 30% constancy and co-dominant in the tree canopy. This vegetation type was divided into two categories in the project area: Mixed Oak Forest and Woodland and Mixed Oak Forest and Woodland – Recently Burned. The Mixed Oak Forest and Woodland was only mapped in the western portion of the project area adjacent to Work Area 63 and encompassed only 0.72 acre. In this area Coast live oak, Shreve’s oak, and black oak (*Quercus kelloggii*) were codominant in the tree canopy. The understory was dominated by poison oak, California blackberry, and western bracken fern.

Areas mapped as Mixed Oak Forest and Woodland – Recently Burned occur in the project area adjacent to Work Areas 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, and 61 and encompass approximately 6.5 acres of the project area. The recent fire left the canopy open, making it difficult to identify the oak species present and their dominance in the tree layer. Because these areas were adjacent to an unburned area mapped as Mixed Oak Forest, they were also categorized as Mixed Oak Forest. Given the recent opening of the canopy, the understory was thriving. The understory shrub layer was heavily dominated by Jim brush, and other species thriving in the shrub layer include California coffeeberry, poison oak, California blackberry, young madrones, and French broom. The Mixed Oak Forest and Woodland Alliance has a State Rarity ranking of S4 (CDFW 2023b).

Madrone Forest

Madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*) Forest Alliance is characterized by a dominance (> 50% relative cover) of madrones in the tree canopy. In the project area, madrones were typically codominant with Shreve's oak in the tree canopy. Other species present in these areas also included Shreve's oak, California bay, and toyon. The shrub layer was typically dominated by Jim brush (particularly in burned areas), poison oak, California blackberry, and California coffeeberry. Madrone Forest occurred in Work Areas 22, 55, and 56; however, the latter two were classified as recently burned. Madrone Forest (unburned) only encompasses 0.4 acre and occurs on the northern slope of Turner Creek adjacent to the redwood riparian area (see Figures 17–23). Madrone Forest – Recently Burned encompasses 1.18 acres and occurs upslope of Palo Colorado Road. This alliance has a State Rarity ranking of S4 (CDFW 2023b).

California Bay Forest and Woodland

The California Bay (*Umbellularia californica*) Forest and Woodland Alliance is characterized by California bay having greater than 50% relative cover in the overstory as a tree or tall shrub. This vegetation type occurs in the project area adjacent to Work Areas 2, 3, 40, 41, 60, and 61 and encompasses approximately 3.93 acres. Other tree species present in this vegetation type include Shreve's oak, coast redwood, and tanoak, and other shrub species present included California coffeeberry, Jim brush, and poison oak. This alliance has a State Rarity ranking of S3 (CDFW 2023b).

Manzanita Chaparral

Two species of manzanitas were identified in the project area during botanical surveys: Eastwood manzanita (*Arctostaphylos glandulosa*) and brittle leaf manzanita (*A. crustacea*). These two species are associated with two vegetation alliances: Eastwood Manzanita Chaparral (*Arctostaphylos glandulosa*) Shrubland Alliance and Brittle Leaf – Woolly Leaf Manzanita Chaparral (*Arctostaphylos crustacea, tomentosa*) Shrubland Alliance. These two species were not distinguished during vegetation mapping; however, Eastwood manzanita is typically more prevalent inland and brittle leaf manzanita is typically more prevalent closer to the coast. Both vegetation alliances have a State Rarity ranking of S3 and are both considered Sensitive Natural Communities by CDFW. Eastwood Manzanita Chaparral Shrubland Alliance has a Global Rarity ranking of G4 and Brittle Leaf – Woolly Leaf Manzanita Chaparral Shrubland Alliance has a Global Rarity Ranking of G3.

Within the project area, this vegetation type typically occurs along the drier south-facing slopes at higher elevations. It is characterized by a dominance of *Arctostaphylos* species (*glandulosa* or *crustacea*) in the shrub layer and was almost always co-dominant with chamise (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*), with one exception in Work Area 46 where it was codominant with black sage (*Salvia mellifera*). Other species present in the shrub layer include black sage, California sage brush (*Artemisia californica*), buckbrush (*Ceanothus cuneatus* var. *cuneatus*), and coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*). Areas closer to the road were also heavily invaded by French broom, but this was less prevalent in more pristine patches farther from

the road. Steeper road cuts were also characterized by small patches of chaparral yucca (*Hesperoyucca whipplei*).

Chamise – Sage Chaparral

The Chamise – Sage Chaparral (*Adenostoma fasciculatum* – *Salvia* spp.) Shrubland Alliance is characterized by chamise and sage having between 30% and 60% relative cover in the shrub canopy. This vegetation alliance occurs in two areas of the project area adjacent to Work Areas 28 and 63 and encompasses approximately 1.16 acres. This alliance was differentiated from the areas mapped as manzanita chaparral because of the distinct absence of any *Arctostaphylos* species in the shrub layer but is functionally very similar to that habitat type. This alliance has a State Rarity ranking of S4 (CDFW 2023b).

Chamise Chaparral

Chamise Chaparral (*Adenostoma fasciculatum*) Shrubland Alliance is characterized by chamise representing greater than 60% relative cover in the shrub canopy. This vegetation alliance occurs adjacent to Work Areas 6, 7 and 31 and encompasses approximately 1.43 acres. The distinct difference between what was mapped as chamise chaparral versus other chaparral alliances was the distinct lack of other species, primarily *Arctostaphylos* and *Salvia* species, in the shrub layer. This alliance has a State Rarity ranking of S5 (CDFW 2023b).

Broom Patches Semi-Natural Alliance

Within the project area, Broom Patches (*Cytisus scoparius* – *Genista monspessulana* – *Cotoneaster* spp.) Shrubland Semi-Natural Alliance corresponded to patches of French broom and are characterized by French broom with greater than 15% absolute cover and greater than 60% relative cover in the shrub canopy. French broom, which has a California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) rating of high, was prevalent throughout the project area along the roadways and in the understory of areas mapped as redwood or oak forest. However, small pockets were mapped adjacent to the roadway in areas lacking a tree canopy or other dominant shrub species. This vegetation type was mapped in the project area associated with Work Areas 2, 14, 15, 52, 59, 60, and 61 and encompasses 0.44 acre. This vegetation type was commonly mapped in areas identified as potential construction staging areas. This alliance does not have a State Rarity ranking (CDFW 2023b).

Coyote Brush Scrub

Coyote Brush Scrub (*Baccharis pilularis*) Shrubland Alliance is characterized by coyote brush with greater than 15% shrub cover over grassy understory or shrub-dominant community where coyote brush relative cover is greater than 50% over other shrub species. This vegetation community can also be more generically classified as coastal scrub as defined by the CDFW in the California Wildlife Habitat Relationships System (California Department of Fish and Game [CDFG, now CDFW] 1988). Coyote brush scrub has a State Rarity ranking of S5.

Coyote brush scrub was only mapped in Work Area 2 along a southern-facing hillside between a residence and Palo Colorado Road (see Figures 17–23). It was distinctly different than the chaparral communities mapped along other areas of the road and primarily dominated by coyote brush, with French broom and sticky monkeyflower.

Deerweed Scrub

A small patch of Deerweed (*Acmispon glaber* var. *glaber*) Scrub was mapped in Work Area 29 and encompassed 0.13 acre. This area mostly consists of a flat area adjacent to the pavement and is proposed as a construction staging area.

Monterey Pine Stands

Monterey Pine Stands (or Monterey cypress – Monterey pine stands [*Hesperocyparis macrocarpa* – *Pinus radiata*]) Forest and Woodland Semi-Natural Alliance, as described by MCV (CNPS 2023a), are dominated by coniferous tree species, such as Monterey pine (*Pinus radiata*) or Monterey cypress (*Hesperocyparis macrocarpa*). This habitat association consists of planted trees, groves, and windbreaks that have become naturalized in coastal areas; therefore, it does not have a Global or State Rarity ranking (CNPS 2023b).

In the project area, planted Monterey pines occur in the project area adjacent to Work Area 1 and are associated with an adjacent residence. Monterey pines are considered a special-status plant species and have a CNPS California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) of 1B.2, but this only applies to native groves. The trees within the project area were planted as windbreaks and/or as ornamental trees and are not considered rare occurrences.

Ruderal

Ruderal habitats are common in disturbed areas and are typically comprised of non-native species that are successful in disturbed areas. Native forbs are often present at low cover. In the project area, ruderal vegetation occurs primarily along the side of the road and in turnouts that were identified as potential construction storage areas.

Landscaped / Ornamental

Landscaped or ornamental vegetation does not fit the description of any of the vegetation alliances described by Sawyer et al. (2009) or in the *Preliminary Descriptions of the Terrestrial Natural Communities of California* (Holland 1986). These are landscape plantings that consist of trees and shrubs that may or may not be native to the area and were established around residential development for aesthetic purposes. Landscaped vegetation was only mapped in three work areas that were established as potential construction staging areas.

Developed

Developed areas include paved roads and residential areas. Most of the developed area consists of Palo Colorado Road and is considered to occur in all work areas.

Special-Status Plant Species

For the purposes of this section, special-status plant species are defined as the following:

- Plants listed or proposed for listing as threatened or endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) (50 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 17.12 for listed plants and various notices in the *Federal Register* for proposed species).
- Plants that are candidates for possible future listing as threatened or endangered under the FESA.
- Plants that meet the definitions of rare or endangered species under CEQA (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15380).

- Plants considered by the CNPS to be “rare, threatened, or endangered” in California (CRPR 1B and 2 in CNPS 2023).
- Plants listed by CNPS as plants about which we need more information and plants of limited distribution (CRPR 3 and 4 in CNPS 2023).
- Plants listed or proposed for listing by the State of California as threatened or endangered under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) (14 California Code of Regulations [CCR] 670.5).
- Plants listed under the California Native Plant Protection Act (California Fish and Game Code Section 1900 et seq.).
- Plants considered sensitive by other federal agencies (i.e., U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management), state and local agencies, or jurisdictions.

Based on a query of the USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) system (USFWS 2023b), California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) (CNDDDB 2023), CNPS Online Inventory (CNPS 2023a), and review of other background literature sources, a total of 52 special-status plant species have been documented in the Big Sur, California USGS quadrangle and surrounding six quadrangles (CNDDDB 2023) (Appendix B). A preliminary analysis of the 52 special-status plant species known to occur in the project region was conducted to identify which species have the potential to occur in or near the project area. The preliminary analysis evaluated the known range and habitat preferences of the species in comparison to the existing habitat type present/absent, elevation, and soils within the project area. Based on this preliminary analysis, it was determined that potentially suitable conditions occur within the project area for 24 special-status plant species and marginal conditions are present in the project area for six additional species (Table 8). However, no special-status plant species were observed during a focused botanical survey of the project area conducted by SWCA Biologist John Moule on May 12 and 13 and June 24 and 25, 2021, during the appropriate blooming period for special-status plant species, and no special-status plant species were observed within the project area.

Table 8. Special-Status Plant Species with Suitable to Marginally Suitable Habitat in the Project Area.

| Species Name | Habitat and Distribution | Flower Season | Legal Status Federal/State/ CNPS Rare Plant Rank/ USFS | Rationale for Expecting Presence or Absence |
|--|---|---------------|--|--|
| Bryophytes | | | | |
| Tear drop moss <i>Dacryophyllum falcifolium</i> | Occurs in North Coast coniferous forest; Carbonate. Elevation: 50–275 meters. | N/A | --/--/1B.3/S | Marginal Conditions Present: Marginal habitat for this species is present in the redwood forest areas of the project area, but it is outside of the known elevation range for this species. This species was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted for this project. This species is unlikely to occur in areas impacted by project activities. |
| Toren's grimmia <i>Grimmia torenii</i> | Moss that grows in chaparral, cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest in Carbonate, Openings, Rocky, Volcanic. Elevation: 325–1,160 meters. | N/A | --/--/1B.3/-- | Suitable Conditions Present: Suitable habitat for this species is present in the project area. There is one occurrence documented in California in the Los Padres National Forest, south of Coast Ridge Road. This species was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted for this project. This species is unlikely to be impacted by project activities. |
| Gymnosperms | | | | |
| Bristlecone fir <i>Abies bracteata</i> | Perennial evergreen tree that grows in broad-leafed upland forest, chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest, riparian woodland. Usually in rocky conditions. Elevation: 183–1,550 meters. | N/A | --/--/1B.3/-- | Suitable Conditions Present: Suitable habitat for this species is present in the project area. The closest CNDDB occurrences are documented 1.3 miles east and 2.75 miles south on U.S. Forest Service (USFS) land, but these records are historic and need fieldwork to verify. This species was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted for this project. No impacts to this species are anticipated from project activities. |
| Monterey pine <i>Pinus radiata</i> | Evergreen tree that occurs in closed-cone coniferous forest and cismontane woodland. Only native stands restricted to Año Nuevo, Cambria, and Monterey Peninsula. Elevation: 25–185 meters. | N/A | --/--/1B.1 | Suitable Conditions Present; Species Present: A planted stand of Monterey pine occurs in Work Area 1, but these trees are planted and not considered a native stand. Work Area 1 is a staging area, and no impacts would occur to these pines. |

| Species Name | Habitat and Distribution | Flower Season | Legal Status Federal/State/ CNPS Rare Plant Rank/ USFS | Rationale for Expecting Presence or Absence |
|--|--|----------------|--|---|
| Monocots | | | --/--/1B.2/-- | |
| San Luis Obispo sedge <i>Carex obispoensis</i> | Occurs in closed cone coniferous forests, chaparral, coastal prairie, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland. Usually adjacent to seeps, springs, stream sides or other water sources with sand, clay, or serpentine. Elevation: 5–790 meters. | April–June | --/--/1B.2/-- | Suitable Conditions Present: Potentially suitable habitat for this species is present in the project area; however, most occurrences are documented in San Luis Obispo County and closer to the coast. The closest occurrence is documented approximately 2 miles south in Andrew Molera State Park. This species was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted for this project. Compliance with MM BIO-4 would require future botanical surveys to be conducted prior to construction activities to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to this species. |
| Stinkbells <i>Fritillaria agrestis</i> | Perennial bulbiferous herb that grows in chaparral, cismontane woodland, pinyon and juniper woodland, valley and foothill grassland usually in clay and sometimes serpentinite. Elevation: 10–1,555 meters. | March–June | --/--/4.2/-- | Suitable Conditions Present: Potentially suitable habitat for this species is present in the project area; however, this species was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted for this project. Compliance with MM BIO-4 would require future botanical surveys to be conducted prior to construction activities to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to this species. |
| Talus fritillary <i>Fritillaria falcata</i> | Occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and lower montane coniferous forest. Mostly on serpentine talus, but occasionally found on granitics. Elevation: 425–1,435 meters. | March–May | --/--/1B.2/-- | Suitable Conditions Present: Potentially suitable habitat for this species is present in the project area; however, this species was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted for this project. Compliance with MM BIO-4 would require future botanical surveys to be conducted prior to construction activities to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to this species. |
| Fragrant fritillary <i>Fritillaria liliacea</i> | Bulbiferous herb that occurs in cismontane woodland, coastal prairies, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland; often associated with serpentinite. Elevation: 3–410 meters. | February–April | --/--/1B.2/-- | Marginal Conditions Present: Marginally suitable habitat for this species is potentially present in the project area; however, the project area lacks serpentinite soil. This species was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted for this project. Compliance with MM BIO-4 would require future botanical surveys to be conducted prior to construction activities to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to this species. |

| Species Name | Habitat and Distribution | Flower Season | Legal Status Federal/State/ CNPS Rare Plant Rank/ USFS | Rationale for Expecting Presence or Absence |
|---|--|----------------|--|--|
| Michael's rein orchid <i>Piperia michaelii</i> | Perennial herb that occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, closed-cone coniferous forest, coastal bluff scrub, Coastal scrub, and lower montane coniferous forest. Elevation: 3–915 meters. | April–August | --/–/4.2/– | Suitable Conditions Present: Potentially suitable habitat for this species is present in the project area. This species was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted for this project. Compliance with MM BIO-4 would require future botanical surveys to be conducted prior to construction activities to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to this species. |
| Yadon's rein orchid <i>Piperia yadonii</i> | Perennial herb that occurs in coastal bluff scrub, closed-cone coniferous forest, and maritime chaparral with sandy soil. On sandstone and sandy soil, but poorly drained and often dry. Elevation: 10–510 meters. | May–August | FE/–/1B.1/– | Marginal Conditions Present: Marginally suitable habitat for this species is present in the project area; however, no sandy soil is present. There is a CNDDDB occurrence documented approximately 1.3 miles west along the ridgeline dividing Las Piedras Canyon and Palo Colorado Canyon. This species was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted for this project. Based on the elevation of the project area, there is low potential for this species to occur. Compliance with MM BIO-4 would require future botanical surveys to be conducted prior to construction activities to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to this species. |
| Dicots | | | | |
| Brewer's alandrinia <i>Calandrinia breweri</i> | Annual herb that occurs in chaparral, coastal scrub in burned areas, disturbed areas, loam (sometimes), or sandy (sometimes) soils. Elevation: 10–1,220 meters. | (Jan)Mar–Jun | --/–/4.2 | Suitable Conditions Present: Suitable conditions for this species are present in chaparral habitat within the project area. The closest occurrence is documented near Bixby Creek Road, approximately 2.4 miles west. This species was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted for this project. Compliance with MM BIO-4 would require future botanical surveys to be conducted prior to construction activities to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to this species. |
| Monterey ceanothus <i>Ceanothus rigidus</i> | Evergreen shrub that occurs in closed-cone, coniferous forest, chaparral, and coastal scrub with sandy soil. Elevation: 3–550 meters | February–April | --/–/4.2 | Suitable Conditions Present: Suitable conditions for this species are present in chaparral habitat within the project area. Most occurrences are documented north of Palo Colorado Canyon around Monterey; however, this species was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted for this project. Compliance with MM BIO-4 would require future botanical surveys to be conducted prior to construction activities to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to this species. |

| Species Name | Habitat and Distribution | Flower Season | Legal Status Federal/State/ CNPS Rare Plant Rank/ USFS | Rationale for Expecting Presence or Absence |
|--|---|---------------|--|---|
| Jolon clarkia <i>Clarkia jolonensis</i> | Annual herb that occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, and riparian woodland. Elevation: 20–660 meters. | April–June | --/--1B.2 | Suitable Conditions Present: Suitable habitat for this species is present in chaparral and riparian areas within the project site. The closest CNDDDB occurrence is documented on Rocky Ridge Trail (may be misidentified) 5 miles northwest. There are also several occurrences documented by Calflora in Monterey County; however, this species was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted for this project. Compliance with MM BIO-4 would require future botanical surveys to be conducted prior to construction activities to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to this species. |
| Monkey-flower savory <i>Clinopodium mimuloides</i> | Perennial herb that occurs in chaparral and north coast coniferous forest in mesic areas or along streambanks. Elevation: 305–1,800 meters. | June–October | --/--4.2 | Suitable Conditions Present: Potentially suitable habitat for this species is present in the project area. There are several occurrences documented by Calflora in Monterey County; however, this species was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted for this project. Compliance with MM BIO-4 would require future botanical surveys to be conducted prior to construction activities to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to this species. |
| Hutchinson's larkspur <i>Delphinium hutchinsoniae</i> | Perennial herb that occurs in broad-leaved upland forest, chaparral, coastal prairie, and coastal scrub. Elevation: 0–427 meters. | March–June | --/--1B.2 | Marginal Conditions Present: Suitable habitat for this species is present in chaparral habitat and coastal scrub in the project area. The closest CNDDDB occurrence is documented 3 miles east near Hurricane Point on USFS land; however, this species was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted for this project. The project area is likely too far inland and over half of it occurs outside of the elevation range of this species. |
| Umbrella larkspur <i>Delphinium umbracolorum</i> | Perennial herb that occurs in cismontane woodland and chaparral; typically on mesic sites. Elevation: 215–2,075 meters. | April–June | --/--1B.3 | Suitable Conditions Present: Suitable habitat for this species is present in the project area in woodlands. There is a CNDDDB occurrence documented south of Bixby Creek on Bonafacio Hill, approximately 1 mile south; however, this species was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted for this project. Compliance with MM BIO-4 would require future botanical surveys to be conducted prior to construction activities to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to this species. |

| Species Name | Habitat and Distribution | Flower Season | Legal Status Federal/State/ CNPS Rare Plant Rank/ USFS | Rationale for Expecting Presence or Absence |
|---|---|-----------------|--|---|
| Cone Peak bedstraw <i>Galium californicum</i> ssp. <i>luciense</i> | Perennial herb that occurs in broad-leaved upland forest, chaparral, cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest in rocky (often) and serpentinite (rarely) soils. Elevation: 400–1,525 meters. | March–September | --/--1B.3/FS | Suitable Conditions Present: Potentially suitable habitat for this species is present in the project area. The closest Calflora occurrence is documented south in the Ventana Wilderness; however, this species was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted for this project. Compliance with MM BIO-4 would require future botanical surveys to be conducted prior to construction activities to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to this species. |
| Santa Lucia reparat <i>Horkelia yadonii</i> | Perennial rhizomatous herb that occurs in broad-leaved upland forest, chaparral, cismontane woodland, meadows and seeps, and riparian woodlands in granitic or sandy soils. Elevation: 300–1,900 meters. | April–July | --/--4.2 | Suitable Conditions Present: Potentially suitable habitat for this species is present in the project area; however, this species was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted for this project. Compliance with MM BIO-4 would require future botanical surveys to be conducted prior to construction activities to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to this species. |
| Harlequin lotus <i>Hosackia gracilis</i> | Perennial rhizomatous herb that occurs in broad-leaved upland forest, cismontane woodland, closed-cone coniferous forest, coastal bluff scrub, coastal prairie, coastal scrub, marshes and swamps, meadows and seeps, North Coast coniferous forest, and valley and foothill grasslands. Elevation: 0–700 meters. | March–July | --/--4.2 | Suitable Conditions Present: Potentially suitable habitat for this species is present in the project area; however, this species was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted for this project. Compliance with MM BIO-4 would require future botanical surveys to be conducted prior to construction activities to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to this species. |
| Large-flowered leptosiphon <i>Leptosiphon grandiflorus</i> | Annual herb that occurs in cismontane woodland, closed-cone coniferous forest, coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes, coastal prairie, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grasslands; usually in sandy soils. Elevation: 5–1,220 meters. | April–August | --/--4.2 | Suitable Conditions Present: Potentially suitable habitat for this species is present in the project area; however, this species was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted for this project. Compliance with MM BIO-4 would require future botanical surveys to be conducted prior to construction activities to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to this species. |

| Species Name | Habitat and Distribution | Flower Season | Legal Status Federal/State/ CNPS Rare Plant Rank/ USFS | Rationale for Expecting Presence or Absence |
|--|--|-------------------|--|---|
| Small-leaved lomatium <i>Lomatium parvifolium</i> | Perennial herb that occurs in closed-cone coniferous forest, chaparral, coastal scrub, riparian woodland; often associated with serpentinite. Elevation: 20–700 meters. | January–June | --/--/4.2 | Marginal Conditions Present: Marginally suitable habitat for this species is potentially present in the project area; however, the project area lacks serpentinite soil, and this species was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted for this project. Compliance with MM BIO-4 would require future botanical surveys to be conducted prior to construction activities to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to this species. |
| Abrams' lupine <i>Lupinus albifrons</i> var. <i>abramsi</i> | Occurs in broad-leafed upland forest, Chaparral, Coastal scrub, Lower montane coniferous forest, Valley and foothill grassland. Serpentinite (sometimes). Elevation: 125–2,000 meters. | April–June | --/--/3.2 | Suitable Conditions Present: Potentially suitable habitat for this species is present in the project area; however, this species was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted for this project. Compliance with MM BIO-4 would require future botanical surveys to be conducted prior to construction activities to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to this species. |
| Carmel Valley bush-mallow <i>Malacothamnus palmeri</i> var. <i>involucratus</i> | Perennial shrub that occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and coastal scrub. Elevation: 30–1,100 meters. | May–August | --/--/1B.2 | Suitable Conditions Present: Potentially suitable habitat for this species is present in the project area; however, this species was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted for this project. Compliance with MM BIO-4 would require future botanical surveys to be conducted prior to construction activities to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to this species. |
| Arroyo Seco bush-mallow <i>Malacothamnus palmeri</i> var. <i>lucianus</i> | Perennial shrub that occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, meadows, and seeps. Elevation: 9–915 meters. | (April)May–August | --/--/1B.2 | Suitable Conditions Present: Potentially suitable habitat for this species is present in the project area; however, this species was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted for this project. Compliance with MM BIO-4 would require future botanical surveys to be conducted prior to construction activities to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to this species. |

| Species Name | Habitat and Distribution | Flower Season | Legal Status Federal/State/ CNPS Rare Plant Rank/ USFS | Rationale for Expecting Presence or Absence |
|--|---|----------------------|--|--|
| Carmel Valley malacothrix <i>Malacothrix saxatilis</i> var. <i>arachnoidea</i> | Perennial rhizomatous herb that occurs in chaparral (rocky) and coastal scrub. Elevation: 25–1,036 meters. | (March)June–December | --/--1B.2 | Suitable Conditions Present: Potentially suitable habitat for this species is present in the project area; however, this species was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted for this project. Compliance with MM BIO-4 would require future botanical surveys to be conducted prior to construction activities to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to this species. |
| Organ meconella <i>Meconella oregana</i> | Annual herb that occurs in coastal prairie and coastal scrub habitats. Elevation: 250–620 meters. | March–April | --/--1B.1 | Suitable Conditions Present: Potentially suitable habitat for this species is present in the project area; however, this species was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted for this project. Compliance with MM BIO-4 would require future botanical surveys to be conducted prior to construction activities to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to this species. |
| Dudley's lousewort <i>Pedicularis dudleyi</i> | Perennial herb that occurs in cismontane woodland, chaparral, North Coast coniferous forest, and valley and foothill grassland. Elevation: 60–900 meters. | April–June | --/SR/1B.2 | Suitable Conditions Present: Potentially suitable habitat for this species is present in the project area. There are CNDDDB occurrences documented within 10 miles, and the closest occurrence is documented 3.9 miles southeast along the north fork of the Little Sur River; however, this species was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted for this project. Compliance with MM BIO-4 would require future botanical surveys to be conducted prior to construction activities to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to this species. |
| Hooked popcorn-flower <i>Plagiobothrys uncinatus</i> | Annual herb that occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and valley and foothill grassland with sandy soils. Elevation: 300–760 meters. | April–May | --/--1B.2 | Suitable Conditions Present: Potentially suitable habitat for this species is present in the project area. The closest CNDDDB occurrence is documented 1.5 miles north in headwaters of Palo Colorado Canyon; however, this species was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted for this project. Compliance with MM BIO-4 would require future botanical surveys to be conducted prior to construction activities to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to this species. |

| Species Name | Habitat and Distribution | Flower Season | Legal Status Federal/State/ CNPS Rare Plant Rank/ USFS | Rationale for Expecting Presence or Absence |
|---|---|---------------|--|--|
| Maple-leaved checkerbloom <i>Sidalcea malachroides</i> | Perennial herb that occurs in broad-leaved upland forest, coastal prairies, coastal scrub, north coast coniferous forest, and riparian woodland. Often found in disturbed areas. Elevation: 2–730 meters. | April–August | --/--/4.2 | Suitable Conditions Present: Potentially suitable habitat for this species is present in the project area; however, this species was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted for this project. Compliance with MM BIO-4 would require future botanical surveys to be conducted prior to construction activities to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to this species. |
| Pacific Grove clover <i>Trifolium polyodon</i> | Annual herb usually associated with mesic sites in closed-cone coniferous forest, coastal prairies, meadows and seeps, and valley and foothill grassland. Elevation: 5–260 meters | April–June | --/SR/1B.1 | Marginal Conditions Absent: Suitable habitat for this species may be present within the wooded forest habitat along Palo Colorado Road; however, the project area falls outside of the known elevation range of this species. The closest CNDDDB occurrences are documented 6.2 miles northeast, 8.2 miles north, and 9.6 miles northwest. Therefore, there is moderate potential for this species to occur within the project area; however, this species was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted for this project. Compliance with MM BIO-4 would require future botanical surveys to be conducted prior to construction activities to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to this species. |

General references: Baldwin et al. (2012); all plant descriptions paraphrased from CNPS (2023b).

Status Codes:

-- = No status

Federal: FE = Federally Endangered; FT = Federally Threatened

State: SE = State Endangered; ST = State Threatened; SR = State Rare

California Native Plant Society (CNPS):

Rank 1B = rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere

Rank 2 = rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere

Rank 3 = Plants about which more information is needed

Rank 4 = Plants of limited distribution

Threat Code:

_.1 = Seriously endangered in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened / high degree and immediacy of threat)

_.2 = Fairly endangered in California (20-80% occurrences threatened)

_.3 = Not very endangered in California (<20% of occurrences threatened, or no current threats known)

Rationale Terms:

Species Present: Species was or has been observed in the survey area.

Suitable Conditions Present: The survey area is within the species range and supports the appropriate habitat, soils, elevation, and other habitat requirements.

Marginal Conditions Present: The survey area is in the species range and supports the appropriate habitat but other factors (past disturbances, presence of predators, etc.) may preclude species occurrence.

Suitable Conditions Absent: The survey area is not in the species range and/or does not support the appropriate habitat, soils, elevation, and/or other habitat requirements.

Special Status Animal Species

For the purposes of this section, special-status animal species are defined as the following:

- Animals listed or proposed for listing as threatened or endangered under the FESA (50 CFR 17.11 for listed animals and various notices in the *Federal Register* for proposed species).
- Animals that are candidates for possible future listing as threatened or endangered under the FESA.
- Animals that meet the definitions of rare or endangered species under CEQA (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15380).
- Animals listed or proposed for listing by the State of California as threatened and endangered under the CESA (14 CCR 670.5).
- Animal species of special concern to CDFW.
- Animal species that are fully protected in California (California Fish and Game Code Sections 3511 [birds], 4700 [mammals], and 5050 [reptiles and amphibians]).

Based on a query of the USFWS IPaC system (USFWS 2023b) and CNDDDB (CNDDDB 2023) and a review of existing literature, a total of 35 special-status animal species were assessed for their potential to occur in the project area (see Appendix B). An analysis of the range, habitat preferences, and previous survey data for those species was conducted to identify which special-status animal species have the potential to occur in or near the project area (Table 9). As a result of this analysis, it was determined that suitable habitat is present for the following five special-status animal species (plus nesting birds):

- Pinnacles optioservus riffle beetle (*Optioservus canus*);
- Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus* South-Central California Coast Distinct Population Segment [DPS]);
- Foothill yellow-legged frog (*Rana boylei*, South Coast DPS);
- Coast Range newt (*Taricha torosa torosa*); and
- California spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis occidentalis*, Coastal-Southern California DPS).

In addition, marginally suitable habitat is present for the following four additional special-status animal species: monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*), California condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*), bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), and Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*).

Table 9. Special-Status Wildlife Species with Potential to Occurrence in the Project Area

| Species Name | Habitat and Distribution | Legal Status Federal/State/ Other Status | Rationale for Expecting Presence or Absence |
|--|---|--|--|
| Insects | | | |
| Monarch butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> | Occurs along the coast from northern Mendocino to Baja California, Mexico. Winter roosts in wind-protected tree groves (eucalyptus, Monterey pine and cypress), with nectar and water sources nearby. | FC/--/USFS S | Suitable Winter Roost Conditions Absent; Adult Foraging Habitat Present: The project area lacks large stands of eucalyptus, Monterey pine, or cypress. There are four CNDDDB occurrences documented within 10 miles of the project area: 1.9 miles northwest, 5.6 miles southwest, 6.9 miles south, and 8.27 miles northwest. Flowering plants are abundant in the chaparral, scrub, and oak woodland communities, providing suitable foraging habitat for adults. No milkweed was observed in the project area during the 2021 botanical surveys. Therefore, monarch butterfly individuals are only expected to temporarily occupy the project site, and this species would not be impacted by project activities. |
| Pinnacles optioservus riffle beetle <i>Optioservus canus</i> | Tiny (2-millimeter) brown aquatic beetle that lives in fast-flowing creeks in Monterey and San Benito Counties. Type locality is Chalone Creek in Pinnacles National Park. | --/--/SA | Suitable Conditions Present; No Impacts: Very little is known about the range of this species, except it occurs in fast-flowing creeks in Monterey County. Suitable habitat is present in Mill, Bixby, and Turner Creeks in the project area. There are 11 CNDDDB occurrences documented, primarily based on detections from the 1980s and early 2000s. No impacts are proposed in the wetted channels of these creeks. Therefore, this species would not be impacted by project activities. |
| Fish | | | |
| South-Central California Coast steelhead DPS <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus</i> | Occurs in clear, cool water with abundant in-stream cover, well-vegetated stream margins, relatively stable water flow, and a 1:1 pool-to-riffle ratio. | FT, PCH /-- /SSC | Suitable Conditions Present: Rocky and Bixby Creeks are tributaries to the Pacific Ocean. There is one unprocessed CNDDDB occurrence from 2018 documented in Rocky Creek along Palo Colorado Road bridge between Work Areas 3 and 4. Bixby and Rocky Creeks are designated as critical habitat. The closest CNDDDB occurrences are documented 1.4 miles north in Garrapata Creek, 5.5 miles south in Big Sur River, and 7.9 miles east in Carmel River. Based on the presence of suitable habitat and documented occurrences, there is potential for steelhead to occur within the project area. However, there would be no impacts to the wetted channels of any of the creeks. Through installation of BMPs, this species would not be impacted by project activities. Preventing future erosion would benefit the long-term water quality of the creeks. |

| Species Name | Habitat and Distribution | Legal Status Federal/State/ Other Status | Rationale for Expecting Presence or Absence |
|--|---|--|--|
| Amphibians | | | |
| Foothill yellow-legged frog <i>Rana boylei</i> South Coast DPS | Frequents rocky streams and rivers with rocky substrate and open, sunny banks, in forests, chaparral, and woodlands. Range in California includes north and central coasts and western Sierras. | FE/SE/-- | Suitable Conditions Present: The project site supports wooded forest habitat and surface water resources within the project area that may provide suitable habitat for this species. The closest CNDDDB occurrence is documented in Turner Creek within the Ventana Wilderness, approximately 1.7 miles upstream of the Palo Colorado Road bridge, which is adjacent to Work Areas 22 and 23. There are additional CNDDDB occurrences documented 2.4 and 3.74 miles southeast and 2.6 miles southwest. Given the proximity of the record in Turner Creek and suitable habitat present, this species is likely present in the project area and could potentially be impacted by the project. With implementation of MM BIO-1 and MM BIO-5, these impacts would be avoided. |
| Coast Range newt <i>Taricha torosa torosa</i> | Breeds in ponds, reservoirs, and slow-moving streams. Frequents terrestrial habitats such as oak woodlands. | --/--/SSC | Suitable Conditions Present: Turner and Mill Creeks provide suitable breeding habitat for this species. The closest CNDDDB occurrence is documented 8.6 miles east in the Carmel River. No direct impacts will occur to potential breeding habitat; however, they could potentially be present in the upland within the redwood and oak forest and woodland areas where adults could be estivating under downed woody debris. Therefore, the project could potentially have direct impacts to individuals and indirect impacts to aquatic breeding habitat. With implementation of MM BIO-1 and MM BIO-6, these impacts would be avoided. |
| Birds | | | |
| California condor <i>Gymnogyps californianus</i> | Occurs in open savannahs, grasslands, and foothill chaparral in mountain ranges with moderate altitudes. Nests in deep canyons on rock walls with clefts. | FE/SE/-- | Marginal Conditions Present: The project area does not support suitable breeding habitat and only supports marginal foraging habitat. The closest CNDDDB occurrence is documented 35 miles east near Pinnacles National Monument; however, this species has a large range and may be observed transiently flying over the project area. Therefore, this species would not be impacted by project activities. |

| Species Name | Habitat and Distribution | Legal Status Federal/State/ Other Status | Rationale for Expecting Presence or Absence |
|---|--|--|---|
| Bald eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> | Occurs along ocean shore, lake margins, and rivers for both nesting and wintering. Most nests found within 1 mile of water. | MBTA, BGEPA/ SE/-- | Marginal Conditions Present: Potentially suitable breeding habitat for this species is present in the project area, but is not adjacent to foraging habitat (i.e., is not close enough to the ocean, a lake, or a large river). The closest CNDDDB occurrence is documented 37 miles southeast near Fort Hunter Liggett; however, this species does not have a large range and may be observed transiently flying over the project area. Therefore, this species would not be impacted by project activities. |
| California spotted owl <i>Strix occidentalis occidentalis</i> Coastal-southern California DPS | Inhabits older forests that contain structural characteristics necessary for nesting, roosting, and foraging. On central coast of California and in southern California, owls are found in riparian/hardwood forests and woodlands, live oak/big cone fir forests, and redwood/California laurel forests. Nests are typically found in areas of high canopy cover, high number of large trees, and downed trees. | FPE, MBTA/--/ SSC, USFS SS | Present: There are six observations of owls within the project area in the Spotted Owl Observations Database (SPOWDB; CDFW 2023c) that correspond to two activity centers, and there are 12 additional observations within the riparian corridor of Mill Creek and its tributary directly adjacent to the project area also associated with these activity centers. Because work will occur adjacent to mapped activity centers, which may or may not be active, project activities could affect individuals through increased disturbance from use of machinery and human presence. |
| Mammals | | | |
| Townsend's big-eared bat <i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i> | Occurs in a wide variety of habitats; most common in mesic (wet) sites. May use trees for day and night roosts; however, requires caves, mines, rock faces, bridges or buildings for maternity roosts. Maternity roosts are in relatively warm sites. | --/--/SSC | Marginal Conditions Present: No suitable habitat for maternity roosts for this species is present in the project area; however, there is potentially suitable habitat in the trees for day and night roosts. The closest CNDDDB occurrence is documented 3.8 miles southwest, but this species is often underrepresented in the CNDDDB. Therefore, this species would not be impacted by project activities. |

General references: Unless otherwise noted all habitat and distribution data provided by the CNDDDB (2023).

Status Codes

--= No status

Federal: FE = Federal Endangered; FT = Federal Threatened; FC = Federal Candidate; FPE = Federally Proposed Endangered; CH = Federal Critical Habitat; PCH = Proposed Federal Critical Habitat; MBTA = Protected by Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act

State: SE = State Endangered; ST = State Threatened

CDFW: SSC = California Special Concern Species; FP = Fully Protected Species; SA = Not formally listed but included in CDFW "Special Animal" List; WL = Watch List

USFS: USFS SS = U.S. Forest Service Sensitive Species

Rationale Terms:

Species Present: Species was or has been observed in the survey area.

Suitable Conditions Present: The survey area is within the species range and supports the appropriate habitat, soils, elevation, and other habitat requirements.

Marginal Conditions Present: The survey area is in the species range and supports the appropriate habitat but other factors (past disturbances, presence of predators, etc.) may preclude species occurrence.

Suitable Conditions Absent: The survey area is not in the species range and/or does not support the appropriate habitat, soils, elevation, and/or other habitat requirements.

Environmental Evaluation

- a) **Would the project 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 Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?**

The project includes ground-disturbing activities for proposed roadway repairs and drainage improvements, which would have the potential to result in direct removal of special-status plant species if present within the project site during construction. In addition, proposed construction activities have the potential to result in direct (i.e., take) or indirect (i.e., noise, dust, light pollution) impacts to special-status animal species if present within the project area during project construction. MM BIO-1 through MM BIO-3 have been identified to reduce potential impacts to special-status plant and animal species through implementation of construction best management practices (BMPs) and biological monitoring during vegetation removal and initial ground disturbance, installation of temporary Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) fencing in sensitive areas, and temporary erosion control installation and through participation in an environmental awareness training.

Special-Status Plant Species

The project area supports potentially suitable habitat conditions for 23 special-status plant species and marginal conditions for seven additional species (see Appendix B). As previously stated, the project includes ground-disturbing activities for proposed roadway repairs and drainage improvements, which would have the potential to result in direct removal of special-status plant species if present within the project site during construction. A field survey was conducted by SWCA biologist John Moule on May 12 and 13 and June 24 and 25, 2021, during the appropriate blooming period for special-status plant species. During the field survey, no special-status plant species were observed within the project area; however, several of these plant species bloom seasonally and their populations fluctuate from year to year based on rainfall and other climatic conditions. Therefore, there is still potential for special-status plant species to occur in the project area and be directly impacted by project-related activities. MM BIO-4 requires seasonally timed botanical surveys to be conducted prior to start of construction. If federally or state-listed plant species are found, construction would be required to cease in those immediate work areas and either the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) or CDFW shall be contacted for further guidance. If other special-status plant species are found, the County shall include restoration of populations of these species in the revegetation/restoration plan required in MM BIO-9 to prevent potential impacts to special-status plant species. With implementation of MM BIO-4 and MM BIO-9, the project would not result in a significant adverse effect to special-status plant species; therefore, potential impacts to would be *less than significant with mitigation*.

Special-Status Animal Species

As previously identified, there is potential for 10 special-status animal species to occur within the project area. Proposed construction activities have the potential to result in direct (i.e., take) or indirect (e.g., noise, dust, light pollution) impacts to special-status animal species if present within the project area during project construction.

Pinnacles Optioservus Riffle Beetle

The project area supports suitable habitat conditions for Pinnacles optioservus riffle beetle, a CDFW Special Animal, within the channels of Mill, Turner, and Bixby Creeks. However, the project does not require work within the channels of Mill, Turner, and Bixby Creeks; therefore, direct impacts to this species would not occur. Further, MM BIO-1 requires the implementation of construction BMPs, which would avoid and/or minimize the potential for erosion and other pollutants to degrade the water quality of these resources and indirectly impact Pinnacles optioservus riffle beetle. With implementation of MM BIO-1, the project would not adversely affect Pinnacles optioservus riffle beetle or its habitat; therefore, impacts would be *less than significant with mitigation*.

Monarch Butterfly

Monarch butterflies are a Federal Candidate species and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Sensitive Species (SS). The project area was determined to provide suitable foraging habitat for adults, particularly within the chaparral and scrub natural communities and in the oak woodland areas with abundant understories of Jim brush and other flowering plants. However, the project area lacks large stands of eucalyptus, Monterey pine, or cypress that could provide suitable roosting habitat for monarch butterfly. Additionally, milkweed, an important larval host plant, was not observed during botanical surveys in 2021. As such, monarch butterfly individuals are only expected to temporarily occupy the project site and construction activities would not result in direct impacts to this species. Therefore, potential impacts related to monarch butterfly would be *less than significant*.

South-Central California Coast Steelhead DPS

The steelhead South-Central California Coast DPS is federally listed as threatened and a CDFW Species of Special Concern (SSC). Optimal habitat for steelhead on the Pacific Coast can be characterized by clear, cool water with abundant instream cover (e.g., submerged branches, rocks, logs), well-vegetated stream margins, relatively stable water flow, and a 1:1 pool-to-riffle ratio (Raleigh et al. 1984). There is one unprocessed CNDDDB occurrence from 2018 documented in Rocky Creek along Palo Colorado Road bridge between Work Areas 3 and 4. Rocky and Bixby Creeks are designated as critical habitat for this species. Rocky Creek falls outside of the project area and no work areas occur within its riparian corridor. Bixby Creek starts at the confluence of Mill and Turner Creeks, which is also outside of the project area. Therefore, the project would have no impact on steelhead critical habitat.

Based on the presence of suitable habitat in Mill and Turner Creeks, there is potential for steelhead to occur within the project area. However, the project would avoid work within Turner and Mill Creeks; thus, the project would not result in direct impacts to steelhead. However, erosion and other pollutants from proposed construction activities have the potential to run off from the project and indirectly affect steelhead. MM BIO-1 requires implementation of construction BMPs to avoid potential indirect impacts to water quality and steelhead habitat. With implementation of MM BIO-1, the project would not adversely affect steelhead; therefore, impacts would be *less than significant with mitigation*.

Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog

The foothill yellow-legged frog (FYLF) Central Coast DPS is proposed as Endangered under the FESA (USFWS 2022). FYLF is a highly aquatic amphibian, spending most, if not all, of its life in or near streams, although it has been documented more than 165 feet from water (Nussbaum et al. 1983). FYLF occurs in small to moderate-sized streams with a moderate gradient and at least some cobble-sized substrate (Hayes and Jennings 1988). Adults are often found in pools with submerged cover. There is a CNDDDB occurrence documented in Turner Creek within the Ventana Wilderness approximately 1.7 miles upstream of the Palo Colorado Road bridge, which is adjacent to Work Areas 22, 23, and 24. There are

additional CNDDDB occurrences documented 2.4 and 3.74 miles southeast and 2.6 miles southwest of the project area. Suitable habitat also occurs in Mills Creek, which is adjacent to Work Areas 49 and 50. Given the proximity of the record in Turner Creek and suitable habitat present, FYLF could be present in the project area and potentially impacted by project activities. MM BIO-5 requires preconstruction surveys in Work Areas 22, 23, 24, 49, and 50 prior to construction. In addition, MM BIO-1 requires implementation of construction BMPs to avoid potential indirect impacts to aquatic habitat, which may have indirect impacts on this species. With incorporation of MM BIO-1 and MM BIO-5, the project would not adversely affect FYLF; therefore, impacts would be *less than significant with mitigation*.

Coast Range Newt

The Coast Range newt is listed as an SSC by the CDFW (CDFW 2023a). This species frequents terrestrial habitats, where it lives in moist to dry habitats under woody or leafy debris, in rock crevices, or in animal burrows. During the breeding season, which ranges from late December and early May, depending on the location, Coast Range newt migrates to breed in ponds, reservoirs, and slow-moving streams (Thomson et al. 2016); the breeding season lasts between 6 and 12 weeks. Turner and Mill Creeks provide suitable breeding habitat for this species; however, the closest CNDDDB occurrence is documented 8.6 miles east in the Carmel River. Nevertheless, this species could potentially be present in the redwood and oak forest and woodland areas within the project area. MM BIO-6 requires preconstruction surveys for Coast Range newt in redwood and oak forest and woodland areas where adults could be estivating under downed woody debris. In addition, MM BIO-1 requires implementation of construction BMPs to avoid potential indirect impacts to aquatic habitat, which may have indirect impacts on this species. With incorporation of MM BIO-1 and MM BIO-6, the project would not adversely affect Coast Range newt; therefore, impacts would be *less than significant with mitigation*.

California Spotted Owl

The California spotted owl (CSO) is a CDFW SSC and USFS SS, and in February 2023, the USFWS proposed to list the CSO Coastal-Southern California DPS as Endangered under the FESA (USFWS 2023a). Suitable CSO habitat consists of both high-quality nesting and roosting habitat and sufficient habitat diversity/heterogeneity to provide for foraging (USDA 2019). The breeding season begins in mid-February and the juvenile dependency period can last through mid-September. During the breeding season, owls tend to spend most of their time at activity centers of around 300 acres (Berigan et al. 2012). Activity centers are the areas where owls nest, roost, and forage (USFWS 2023a).

CSO nests in cavities, broken treetops and split tops with multiple terminal leaders, and occasionally, on platforms, such as old nests or mistletoe brooms in large conifers, oaks, and snags (USFWS 2017). The highest-quality nesting and roosting habitat consists of areas with large/tall trees (more than 24 inches diameter at breast height [DBH]) and moderate (40%–70%) to high (more than 70%) canopy cover (USDA 2019). Nest stands encompass an approximate 10-acre areas and consist of forest stand with complex structure, high canopy cover (more than 70%), large trees (more than 24 inches DBH), and multiple canopy layers dominated by medium-sized trees (12–24 inches DBH) (USDA 2019). Owls tend to avoid nest trees close to forest edges with sharp contrast, such as large trees adjacent to shrubs (USFWS 2017). Conversely, for foraging, some studies suggest CSO may select edge habitat and that small open areas, areas of low canopy cover (less than 40%), and edges interspersed with high-quality habitat are considered important for owl foraging and habitat diversity (USDA 2019).

CDFW tracks spotted owl records in the Spotted Owl Observations Database (SPOWDB) (CDFW 2023c). There are six observations of owls within the project area in the SPOWDB (CDFW 2023c) that correspond to two activity centers. Activity centers are a location or point representing “the best of” detections such as nest stands, stands used by roosting pairs or territorial singles, or concentrated nighttime detections (CDFW 2019). There is one activity center located in the riparian corridor of Rocky

Creek approximately 0.1 mile northwest of Work Area 4. This activity center has four observations—three positive and one young—associated with it, dating from 1998 to 2009. The second activity center is mapped in the riparian corridor of Mill Creek approximately 0.1 mile south of Work Area 48 and approximately 0.13 mile west from Work Areas 49 and 50. This activity center has 13 observations—eight nest records, one young, and four positive—associated with it, dating from 1998 to 2009.

Because the proposed activities are located along existing rights-of-way and access roads, which are not the preferred nest and roost habitat for this species, direct impacts to nesting habitat for this species in these areas are not expected and indirect impacts are expected to be minimal. However, because the work areas occur within mapped activity centers, which may or may not be active, project activities could affect individuals through increased disturbance from use of machinery and human presence. These disturbances may cause changes in behavior such as fleeing, habitat avoidance, nest abandonment, and interference with foraging. The potential for disruptive activities to occur would be reduced following implementation of mitigation measures. MM BIO-7 would minimize impacts from disturbance by prohibiting sounds greater than 90 decibels (dB) within a 0.25-mile buffer of any un-surveyed nesting/roosting or foraging habitat or known activity center during the nesting season, preventing the removal of potential nest trees, and requiring protocol-level surveys if continuous noise greater than 90 dB is unavoidable during the breeding season. If CSO is determined to be present after protocol surveys, the County shall consult with the USFWS and CDFW and follow all additional protection measures required by the agencies. With implementation of MM BIO-7, the project would not adversely affect California spotted owl; therefore, potential impacts would be *less than significant with mitigation*.

Migratory Birds and Raptors

The vegetation occurring in the project area provides suitable nesting habitat for a variety of bird species. Raptors are also likely to utilize the forest and woodland environments for nesting. This potential nesting habitat would be impacted by project activities, including grading, tree removal, and vegetation removal. If project activities are conducted between February 15 and September 15, birds may be nesting in affected areas and individuals could be directly or indirectly impacted. Direct impacts could include loss of active nests during vegetation removal and injury/mortality. Indirect impacts could include nest abandonment due to excessive disturbance from construction-related activities. MM BIO-8 requires that a nesting bird survey be conducted by a qualified biologist no more than 2 weeks prior to the start of construction to determine presence/absence of nesting birds and appropriate avoidance buffers if nests are detected as specified in MM BIO-8. With implementation of MM BIO-8, the project would not adversely affect migratory birds or raptors; therefore, impacts would be *less than significant with mitigation*.

Roosting Bats

Roosting bat species may forage over a wide variety of habitats, including, but not limited to, grassland, wetland, shrub, and wooded habitats. Species may roost in caves, rock crevices, bridges, buildings, and tree cavities. No bats or evidence of bat activity (e.g., guano, urine staining, etc.) was observed during visual reconnaissance surveys of the project area; however, the forest and woodland habitat may support suitable roosting habitat for multiple bat species. If bats were to utilize the project area and surrounding trees for seasonal roosting, direct impacts to bats, such as injury or mortality of individuals, could occur during removal of trees. Implementation of MM BIO-9 would allow bats roosting in trees or branches to leave at night prior to removal of trees. With implementation of MM BIO-9, the project would not adversely affect roosting bats; therefore, potential impacts would be *less than significant with mitigation*.

b) Would the project 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 Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?

The vegetation alliances within CDFW’s current ranking system (CDFW 2023b) are based on the vegetation classification system described in the MCV (Sawyer et al. 2009). It is a hierarchical classification based on dominant plant species grouped, at the lowest level, into plant alliances and plant associations (several associations may be under an alliance). Based on this classification system four sensitive natural community alliances with State Rarity rankings of S3 were mapped within the project area: Redwood Forest and Woodland, California Bay Woodland and Forest Alliance, Eastwood Manzanita Chaparral Shrubland Alliance and Brittle Leaf – Woolly Leaf Manzanita Chaparral (both shrubland alliances were mapped as manzanita-chamise/black sage chaparral). Table 10 summarizes the potential permanent impact areas, temporary impact areas from road grading, and potential temporary impact areas from construction storage.

Table 10. Temporary and Permanent Impacts to Sensitive Natural Communities within the Project Area

| Sensitive Natural Community | Work Area | Acres within Project Area | Permanent Impact Areas (Acres) | Temporary Impacts from road grading (Acres) | Potential Temporary Impacts from Staging Areas (Acres) |
|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--|
| Redwood Forest and Woodland | 1, 2,3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 36, 37, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56 | 43.39 | 0.481 | 0.183 | 0.616 |
| California Bay Forest and Woodland | 2, 3, 40, 41, 60, 61 | 3.93 | 0.058 | 0.016 | 0.207 |
| Manzanita – Chamise Chaparral | 8, 9, 27, 28, 29, 30, 32, 34, 35, 38, 39, 41, 42 | 8.26 | 0.005 | 0.006 | 0.010 |
| Manzanita – Black Sage Chaparral | 46 | 0.19 | - | - | < 0.001 |

The project area encompasses portions of the riparian corridor of Turner and Mill Creeks. Work Areas 22, 23, 24, 25, and 26 fall within the riparian area of Turner Creek, which is comprised of Redwood Forest and Woodland. Similarly Work Areas 49 and 50 fall within the riparian area of Mill Creek, which is also Redwood Forest and Woodland habitat. There is a tributary to Mill Creek that parallels Palo Colorado Road along the eastern portion of the project area. The southwestern portions of Work Areas 51 through 62 occur within the riparian corridor of this tributary to Mill Creek. Riparian vegetation in Work Areas 51 through 56 consists of Redwood Forest and Woodland. Work Areas 57 through 62 consist of Mixed Oak Forest and Woodland. Impacts within these areas, including tree removal, would be considered an impact to riparian habitat.

MM BIO-10 requires the County to prepare a revegetation/restoration plan to restore sensitive natural communities disturbed by project activities. Any disturbed areas with sensitive vegetation would be restored at a 1:1 ratio for temporary impacts and at a 2:1 ratio for permanent impacts. For impacts to the Redwood Forest and Woodland and California Bay Forest and Woodland Alliances, MM BIO-11 requires the replacement of impacted trees through planting additional trees. Several of the areas that would be impacted adjacent to the existing road are dominated by an understory of invasive French broom. With

implementation of MM BIO-12, any invasive plant material removed in areas temporarily disturbed would be disposed of off-site to prevent the spread of viable seeds and propagules. In addition to mitigation for direct impacts, MM BIO-1 requires implementation of construction BMPs to avoid potential indirect impacts to sensitive natural communities adjacent to work areas. With implementation of MM BIO-1 and MM BIO-10 through MM BIO-12, the project would not have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community; therefore, potential impacts would be *less than significant with mitigation*.

c) Would the project 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?

No wetland features were mapped in the study area; therefore, no impacts to federally and state-protected wetlands would occur as a result of the project. The project area encompasses portions of Turner and Mill Creeks, which are tributaries to Bixby Creek, but no impacts would occur in these creeks below the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) (i.e., within waters of the United States). Waters of the state and areas under the jurisdiction of the CDFW include the areas below the OHWM, the streambanks (up to the top-of-bank), and riparian areas (whichever is greater). The project site is also located within the California Coastal Commission's (CCC) Coastal Zone Boundary Map for Monterey County (<https://www.coastal.ca.gov/maps/czb/>). For the purposes of this analysis, the jurisdiction of the CCC was interpreted as including Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas (ESHAs) such as wetlands, riparian areas, and natural streams within the Coastal Zone.

Work areas with potentially jurisdictional features include Work Areas 8, 11, 13, 18, 20, 22 through 24, 30, 36, 37, and 49 through 62. MM BIO-13 requires the County to obtain the proper regulatory permits prior to construction and implement any additional avoidance and mitigation measures required by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), CDFW, CCC, and Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). MM BIO-10 requires the County to prepare a revegetation/restoration plan to restore impacted riparian vegetation. Any jurisdictional features and riparian vegetation would be restored at a 1:1 ratio for temporary impacts and at a 2:1 ratio for permanent impacts. In addition to mitigation for direct impacts to jurisdictional features and riparian vegetation, MM BIO-1 requires implementation of construction BMPs to avoid potential indirect impacts to these resources. With implementation of MM BIO-1, MM BIO-10, and MM BIO-13, the project would not result in a substantial adverse effect on wetlands; therefore, impacts would be *less than significant with mitigation*.

d) Would the project interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?

The project site is located along an existing paved asphalt road. Therefore, the project would not create any new barriers to wildlife movements or exacerbate existing wildlife movement barriers, and impacts would be *less than significant*.

e) Would the project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

Protected trees within Monterey County are regulated by the County of Monterey Zoning Ordinance, Title 21, Chapter 21.64.260 – Preservation of Oak and Other Protected Trees (tree ordinance). The ordinance protects native trees 6 inches or more in diameter 2 feet above ground level. Native trees include coast redwoods, oaks, madrones, California laurel, willows, black and Fremont cottonwoods, box elders, and sycamores. There are approximately 355 trees within the currently delineated work areas; however, this is not the number of trees that would need to be removed. Based on current engineering drawings, this analysis assumes that there is potential for a maximum of 91 trees to be removed from the project area. Implementation of MM BIO-11 requires avoidance of the removal of protected trees to the maximum extent practicable through redesign of the project grading footprint. If avoidance is not possible, MM BIO-11 also requires replacement of trees that are removed. With implementation of MM BIO-11, the project would not conflict with Chapter 21.64.260 of the County of Monterey Zoning Ordinance; therefore, impacts would be *less than significant with mitigation*.

f) Would the project conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

The project area does not overlap with any adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other conservation plans. Therefore, the project would not conflict with any approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plans, and *no impacts* would occur.

Conclusion

The project area has the potential to support several sensitive biological resources. This potentially includes special-status plant and animal species. Animal species of particular concern include steelhead South-Central California Coast DPS, FYLF, Coast Range newt, CSO, nesting migratory birds and raptors, and roosting bats. Four sensitive natural community alliances were mapped within the project area: Redwood Forest and Woodland, California Bay Woodland and Forest Alliance, Eastwood Manzanita Chaparral Shrubland Alliance, and Brittle Leaf – Woolly Leaf Manzanita Chaparral. No federal or state jurisdictional wetlands were mapped in the project area. The project area also includes waters of the United States and State. No impacts are anticipated to waters of the United States; however, the project would have impacts to waters of the state. Finally, trees protected by the County are anticipated to be removed as part of project activities. With implementation of MM BIO-1 through MM BIO-13, impacts related to Biological Resources would be reduced to less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

MM BIO-1 Construction Best Management Practices. The County of Monterey (County) shall follow the applicable Best Management Practices (BMPs) as outlined in their Construction BMPs Handbook (Monterey Sea 2015). At a minimum, these BMPs will include the following:

1. Prior to project implementation, the project area shall be clearly flagged or fenced so that the contractor is aware of the limits of allowable site access and disturbance. Areas within the designated project site that do not require regular access shall be clearly flagged as off-limit areas to avoid unnecessary damage to sensitive habitats or existing vegetation within the project area.

2. Prior to project implementation, a project Erosion Control Plan shall be prepared. During project activities, erosion control measures shall be implemented. Silt fencing, fiber rolls, and barriers (e.g., hay bales) shall be installed to establish a minimum 25-foot setback distance between the project impact areas and adjacent waters. At a minimum, silt fencing shall be checked and maintained on a weekly basis throughout the construction period.
3. Prior to construction, the County or the County's Contractor shall prepare a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The SWPPP shall identify the selected stormwater management procedures, pollution control technologies, spill response procedures, and other means that will be used to minimize erosion and sediment production and the release of pollutants to surface water during construction. The County shall ensure that sedimentation and erosion control measures are installed prior to any ground-disturbing activities.
4. Prior to the commencement of site preparation, ground-disturbing, or construction activities, the County will identify required BMPs on all construction plans. These BMPs will be implemented prior to, during, and following construction activities as necessary to ensure their intended efficacy. Measures will include, but not necessarily be limited to, the placement of silt fencing along the down-slope side of the construction zone, on-site storage of a spill and clean-up kit at all times, and employment of both temporary and permanent erosion and sedimentation control measures (e.g., silt fencing, hay bales, straw wattles).
5. Prior to construction, the County shall ensure preparation and implementation of a Spill Prevention and Contingency Plan that includes provisions for avoiding and/or minimizing impacts to sensitive habitat areas, including wetland and riparian areas and waterbodies due to equipment-related spills during project implementation. The County shall ensure contamination of habitat does not occur during such operations. Prior to the onset of work, the County shall ensure that the plan allows a prompt and effective response to any accidental spills. All workers shall be informed of the importance of preventing spills and of the appropriate measure to take should a spill occur. The plan shall include the following provisions:
 - a. All equipment fueling shall be conducted within the designated construction storage areas of the project site. Such areas shall consist of roadway or ruderal habitat. At no time shall any equipment fueling be conducted within 100 feet of any riparian habitat area.
 - b. An overview of the containment measures to appropriately store and contain all fuels and associated petroleum products during the project shall be included in the plan. This shall include provisions for equipment staging and storage areas, such as the need for drip pans underneath parked equipment and designated storage areas for fuel dispensing.

MM BIO-2 Biological Monitor. A qualified biological monitor(s) will ensure compliance with avoidance and minimization measures within the project environmental documents. Full-time monitoring shall occur during vegetation removal and initial ground disturbance, installation of temporary Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) fencing in any areas described above as being sensitive, and installation of temporary erosion control. Monitoring may be reduced to part time once construction activities are underway and the potential for additional impacts is reduced.

- MM BIO-3 Environmental Training Session.** Prior to initial ground disturbance, a qualified biologist shall conduct an environmental training session for all construction and maintenance personnel. At a minimum, the training shall include a description of the special-status species that may occur in the project area, their habitat requirements, and the measures being implemented to avoid and minimize impacts to these species. The environmental training shall include a discussion of the boundaries behind which the workers and equipment must remain.
- MM BIO-4 Special-Status Plant Surveys.** Several special-status plant species have the potential to occur within the project area; however, these species may be unlikely to occur in areas of direct ground disturbance. Appropriately timed surveys for special-status plants will be conducted by a qualified biologist prior to the start of construction to identify the location of any special-status plant species within the areas of proposed disturbance. If found, any special-status plant species will be flagged and avoided. If federally or state-listed plant species are found, construction will stop in those immediate work areas and either the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or California Department of Fish and Wildlife shall be contacted for further guidance. If other special-status plant species are found and populations cannot be avoided, the County of Monterey shall include restoration of populations of these species in the revegetation/restoration plan required in Mitigation Measure BIO-10. Impacts to special-status plant species with a California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) of 1 to 3 shall be restored at a ratio of 2:1. For special-status plant species with a CRPR of 4, unavoidable impacts of 10% or more of each occurrence shall be restored at a 1:1 ratio. Additionally:
1. Prior to grading, plant and seed material shall be salvaged and used to enhance or establish populations in protected habitat areas.
 2. The revegetation/restoration plan shall establish a mitigation receptor site for the long-term storage of salvaged material.
- MM BIO-5 Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog Preconstruction Survey.** A U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)-approved biologist will conduct a preconstruction survey for foothill yellow-legged frog (FYLF) in Work Areas 22, 23 24, 25, 49, and 50 where construction will occur within the riparian areas of Turner and Mill Creeks. Because the species is only proposed for federal listing and no federal survey guidance is available, surveys for FYLF shall follow the recommendations (considered non-protocol) of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) *Considerations for Conserving the Foothill Yellow-legged Frog* (CDFW 2018). In the unlikely event that FYLF is observed during preconstruction surveys, the USFWS will be notified. After negative preconstruction survey findings, in the unlikely event that FYLF is observed during monitoring of construction, all construction activities shall cease within 500 feet of the observed location and the County of Monterey shall coordinate with USFWS to determine if further action is required.
- MM BIO-6 Coast Range Newt Preconstruction Survey.** A qualified biologist shall conduct a preconstruction survey for Coast Range newt within the Redwood and Oak Forest and Woodland immediately prior to construction. The preconstruction survey shall include looking under downed logs and in leaf litter for estivating adults. If a Coast Range newt is found in the project area immediately prior to or during project activities, the newt shall be allowed to move out of the area of its own volition. If this is not feasible, the newt shall be captured by a qualified biologist and relocated out of harm's way to the nearest suitable habitat at least 100 feet away from the project site in a damp location preferably adjacent to Turner or Mills Creeks if nearby.

MM BIO-7 California Spotted Owl Surveys and Monitoring. The following measures shall be implemented prior to and throughout construction activities to avoid and minimize impacts to California spotted owl (CSO):

1. No continuous noise greater than 90 decibels (dB) for more than 2 hours will occur within a 0.25-mile buffer of any un-surveyed nesting/roosting or foraging habitat or current (within 5 years) occupied (reproductive) territory from February 1 through July 9, unless surveys determine the site to be unoccupied or the owls to be non-nesting. The County of Monterey (County) may propose reduced buffers for work in areas with moderate to high ambient (existing pre-project) noise levels based on *Estimating the Effects of Auditory and Visual Disturbance to Northern Spotted Owls and Marbled Murrelets in Northwestern California* (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS 2020a]) and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) will review the proposed changes to determine if they are acceptable. There is no restriction on noise less than 90 dB, and no noise restriction from July 10 through January 31.
2. No trees greater than 26 inches diameter at breast height (DBH) will be removed unless the tree removal is within the County right-of-way and is determined by a qualified biologist, in concurrence with the CDFW, to not be a suitable nest tree(s) for CSO (e.g., the tree is not located within suitable CSO nest habitat based on observed stand structure, canopy cover, etc.) or is not an active nest tree.
3. If work is proposed during the breeding season that will require continuous noise greater than 90 dB, protocol-level surveys (following the northern spotted owl survey protocol [USFWS 2012]) shall be conducted and approved by the CDFW to assure absence of nesting/roosting CSOs within suitable nesting/roosting or foraging habitat.
4. If after protocol-level surveys CSOs are determined to be present within 0.25 mile of a work area, and continuous noise greater than 90 dB cannot be avoided during the nesting season, the County shall consult with the USFWS and CDFW, if applicable, and follow all additional protection and mitigation measures required. These may include, but are not limited to, continuous monitoring, additional owl surveys, spot checks, and compensatory mitigation.

MM BIO-8 Nesting Birds. The County of Monterey (County) shall require the construction contractor to avoid vegetation removal and trimming during the breeding season for birds (i.e., February 15–September 15) to the extent practicable. This shall discourage birds from nesting in construction areas and greatly reduce the potential for nesting birds to delay the construction schedule. If vegetation removal and trimming cannot be avoided during the breeding season, then the following measures shall be implemented:

1. All suitable nesting habitat within 50 feet of the work limits shall be surveyed by a qualified biologist no more than 14 days prior to ground-disturbing/vegetation removal activities and again within 2 days (48 hours) of such activities. Areas outside the public right-of-way (ROW) shall not be surveyed for active nests unless such areas are visible from the public ROW.
2. If an active nest is found, a qualified biologist shall delineate an appropriate buffer using plastic construction fencing (Environmentally Sensitive Areas [ESA] fencing), pin flags, or other easily identified fencing material. If necessary, the biologist shall consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and/or California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to

determine an appropriate buffer size. Typically, buffers range from 250 to 500 feet, depending on the species and the location of the nest. However, smaller buffers have been accepted depending on the species, nest location, surrounding habitat, and the nature of the adjacent construction activity. During construction, the qualified biologist shall conduct regular monitoring (at CDFW-approved intervals) to evaluate the nest for potential disturbances associated with construction activities. Construction within the buffer shall be prohibited until the qualified biologist determines the nest is no longer active.

3. If an active nest is found after completion of the preconstruction surveys and after construction begins, all construction activities in the nest vicinity shall stop until a qualified biologist has evaluated the nest and erected an appropriate buffer around the nest. If establishment of the buffer is not feasible, the USFWS and/or CDFW shall be contacted for further avoidance and minimization guidelines.

MM BIO-9 Roosting Bats. During tree removal, a qualified biologist shall be present to ensure that all limbs and trees are left in place overnight after being cut to allow time for bats to leave the trees during the night. Trees and limbs can be removed from the project site the following day.

MM BIO-10 Revegetation/Restoration Plan. Prior to the start of construction, the County of Monterey shall prepare a revegetation/restoration plan to restore sensitive natural communities and riparian vegetation impacted by the proposed project. The revegetation/restoration plan shall be approved by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) as part of the Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement required as part of Mitigation Measure BIO-13. The plan shall specify the use of native tree species that were impacted during construction. Native trees will be of nursery stock from the local area and/or cuttings taken from within the project area. Redwood Forest and Woodland, California Bay Forest and Woodland, Eastwood Manzanita Chaparral Shrubland Alliance, and Brittle Leaf – Woolly Leaf Manzanita Chaparral Shrubland Alliance shall be restored at a 2:1 ratio of habitat restored to habitat lost. For the Redwood Forest and Woodland and California Bay Forest and Woodland Alliances, trees shall be replaced at the following ratios:

1. At a 1:1 ratio for upland trees with a diameter at breast height (DBH) between 6 and 24 inches.
2. At a 3:1 ratio for riparian trees with a DBH between 6 and 12 inches.
3. At a 10:1 ratio for riparian trees with a DBH greater than 12 inches or Landmark trees in upland areas with a DBH larger than 24.

If special-status plant populations are impacted by the project, the restoration plan shall specify criteria for reestablishing populations and designating a mitigation receptor site for the long-term storage of salvaged material.

MM BIO-11 Tree Replacement. All native trees considered a “significant tree” by the County of Monterey (6 inches or more in diameter 2 feet above ground level) shall be avoided to the maximum extent practicable through redesigning the project grading footprint. However, if removal of a “significant tree” is necessary, the tree shall be replaced at the following ratios:

1. At a 1:1 ratio for upland trees with a diameter at breast height (DBH) between 6 and 24 inches.

2. At a 3:1 ratio for riparian trees with a DBH between 6 and 12 inches.
3. At a 10:1 ratio for riparian trees with a DBH greater than 12 inches or Landmark trees in upland areas with a DBH larger than 24.

The location of replacement plantings shall be on-site, to the maximum extent practicable, and closely associated with existing habitats for the purposes of providing continuity with the existing forest and woodland habitat. If on-site mitigation is not feasible, off-site locations may be acceptable if they are located within the same watershed. Compensatory mitigation shall be implemented immediately following project completion. Compensatory mitigation plantings shall be monitored on a quarterly basis. Any required maintenance shall also occur on a quarterly basis. Maintenance activities will include weeding, debris removal, replanting (if necessary), repair of any vandalism, fertilizing, and/or pest control and will be dictated by the results of the quarterly monitoring effort. Supplemental water shall be provided for no more than 3 years after planting. The annual monitoring report submitted at Year 5 shall serve as a final completion report should the mitigation be successful. Tree replacement efforts shall achieve 75% success at the end of a 5-year period and require no further maintenance for survival.

MM BIO-12 Invasive Species Abatement and Eradication Program. Prior to the start of construction, the County of Monterey (County) shall ensure the preparation and approval of an invasive species abatement and eradication program to be implemented during construction. The invasive species abatement and eradication measures shall be included in the project design and contract specifications. At a minimum, the abatement and eradication measures shall include:

1. The construction contractor shall inspect and clean construction equipment at the beginning and end of each day and prior to transporting equipment from one project location to another and between work areas and staging areas.
2. Soil and vegetation disturbance shall be minimized to the greatest extent feasible.
3. Soil/gravel/rock shall be obtained from weed-free sources.
4. All invasive plant material removed during construction shall be disposed of properly in a landfill or other suitable facility where it can be chipped and composted to prevent spreading viable seeds or propagules that could take root on another site.
5. Only certified weed-free straw, mulch, and/or fiber rolls shall be used for erosion control.
6. Prior to completion of construction, disturbed areas adjacent to native vegetation shall be revegetated with plant species that are native to the vicinity and approved by the County.
7. The use of species listed in the California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) Invasive Plant Inventory that have a high or moderate rating in revegetated areas shall be prohibited.
8. Eradication procedures (e.g., spraying and/or hand weeding) shall be implemented should an infestation occur.
9. The use of herbicides shall be prohibited within and adjacent to native vegetation, except as specifically authorized and monitored by the County.

MM BIO-13 Regulatory Permits. Prior to construction, if required, the County of Monterey (County) shall obtain a Section 404 permit (anticipated to be Nationwide Permit 14 for linear transportation projects) from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, a Section 401 Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirement from the Regional Water Quality Control Board, a Section 1602 Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and a Coastal Development Permit or waiver from the California Coastal Commission/applicable Local Coastal Programs. The County shall comply with any additional protection and mitigation measures required by the regulatory agencies.

V. Cultural Resources

| Environmental Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Would the project:</i> | | | | |
| (a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to § 15064.5? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Setting

PRC Section 5024.1 requires that any properties that can be expected to be directly or indirectly affected by a proposed project be evaluated for California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) eligibility. The purpose of the CRHR is to maintain listings of the state's historical resources and to indicate what properties are to be protected, to the extent prudent and feasible, from material impairment and substantial adverse change.

As defined by CEQA, a historical resource includes:

- A resource listed in or determined to be eligible for listing in the CRHR.
- Any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which a lead agency determines to be historically significant or significant. The architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural records of California may be considered to be a historical resource, provided the lead agency's determination is supported by substantial evidence.

Resources are evaluated for eligibility for the CRHR under the following four criteria:

- **Criterion 1:** The resource is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage;
- **Criterion 2:** The resource is associated with the lives of persons important in our past;

- **Criterion 3:** The resource embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values; and
- **Criterion 4:** The resource has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

A Cultural Resources Survey Report (CRSR) was prepared for the proposed project to determine the presence and the likelihood of presence of cultural resources within the project area (SWCA Environmental Consultants [SWCA] 2023). The CRSR includes the results and findings of background review and a pedestrian survey of the project area. A California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) records search was conducted at the Northwest Information Center (NWIC) at Sonoma State University to identify any previously recorded cultural resources within the project area. The records search revealed that there are 15 previously conducted cultural resources studies within a 0.25-mile radius of the project area, two of which overlap the project area. In addition, the records search revealed that two previously documented archaeological resources are located within a 0.25-mile radius of the project area; one resource (P-27-001409) is mapped as overlapping with the project area. In addition, SWCA contacted the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) to request a search of their Sacred Lands File (SLF), which was negative for previously recorded resources. The pedestrian field survey, which was conducted within the project area on December 9, 2022, did not identify any elements of P-27-001409 or other previously unidentified cultural resources within the project area (SWCA 2023).

Environmental Evaluation

a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to § 15064.5?

The project site consists of an approximately 4.8-mile segment of Palo Colorado Road. Based on the records search conducted for the proposed project, two previously documented archaeological resources are located within a 0.25-mile radius of the project area; one resource (P-27-001409) is mapped as overlapping with the project area. P-27-001409 consists of the historic Mill Turner-Bixby Creek Site and associated archaeological resources. The pedestrian field survey of the project area did not identify any elements of P-27-001409 or other previously unidentified historic resources within the project area (SWCA 2023); therefore, the project would not cause an adverse change in the significance of a historical resource, and impacts would be *less than significant*.

b) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5?

The project includes various repairs, including replacement of damaged asphalt, installation of steel guardrails, addition of either steel soldier pile or soil nail retaining walls, and replacement or improvements to existing drainages and would require approximately 3.88 acres of ground-disturbing activities. Based on a records search conducted at the NWIC, two previously documented archaeological resources are located within a 0.25-mile radius of the project area, one of which is mapped as overlapping with the project area (P-27-001409). However, the pedestrian field survey of the project area did not identify any elements of P-27-001409 or other previously unidentified cultural resources within the project area (SWCA 2023). Based on the findings of the records search and pedestrian field survey, the project area is considered to have low sensitivity for the presence of unidentified prehistoric or historic archaeological resources; therefore, proposed ground-disturbing activities are not anticipated to adversely affect any known or unknown cultural resources sites within the project area. Further, MM CR-1 has been included in the unlikely event that previously unidentified cultural resources are uncovered during

proposed ground-disturbing activities. Based on the low potential to uncover archaeological resources within the project area and implementation of MM CR-1, the project would not result in adverse impacts to known or unknown cultural resources, and impacts would be *less than significant with mitigation*.

c) Would the project disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?

There are no known human remains or cemeteries located within or in the immediate vicinity of the project site and the project area is considered to have low sensitivity for the presence of unidentified human resources (SWCA 2023). The project would be required to comply with California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5, which outlines the protocol for unanticipated discovery of human remains. Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to PRC Section 5097.98. The County Coroner must be notified of the find immediately. If the human remains are determined to be prehistoric, the coroner will notify the NAHC, which will determine and notify a Most Likely Descendant (MLD). The MLD shall complete the inspection of the site within 48 hours of notification and may recommend scientific removal and nondestructive analysis of human remains and items associated with Native American burials. Based on required compliance with California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5, impacts related to disturbance of human remains would be *less than significant*.

Conclusion

There are no historic resources located within the project area. With implementation of MM CR-1 and required compliance with California Health and Safety Code 7050.5, the proposed project would not adversely affect archaeological resources or human remains, and impacts related to cultural resources would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

MM CR-1 In the event that cultural resources are encountered during project activities, all ground-disturbing activities within a 25-foot radius of the find shall cease and the County of Monterey shall be notified immediately. Work shall not continue until a qualified archaeologist assesses the find and determines the need for further study. If the find includes Native American-affiliated materials, a local Native American tribal representative will be contacted to work in conjunction with the approved archaeologist to determine the need for further study. A standard inadvertent discovery clause shall be included in every grading and construction contract to inform contractors of this requirement.

VI. Energy

| Environmental Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|--|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Would the project:</i> | | | | |
| (a) Result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

| Environmental Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|--|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| (b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Setting

PG&E is the primary energy provider in the project area. The 2021 PG&E electric power mix consists of 50% renewable energy sources and 43% greenhouse gas (GHG)-free energy sources (PG&E 2021).

VEHICLE FUEL ECONOMY STANDARDS

In October 2012, the USEPA and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), on behalf of the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), issued final rules to further reduce GHG emissions and improve corporate average fuel economy (I) standards for light-duty vehicles for model years 2017 and beyond. The NHTSA's I standards have been enacted under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act since 1978. This national program requires automobile manufacturers to build a single light-duty national fleet that meets all requirements under both federal programs and the standards of California and other states. This program would increase fuel economy to the equivalent of 54.5 miles per gallon (mpg), limiting vehicle emissions to 163 grams of carbon dioxide (CO₂) per mile for the fleet of cars and light-duty trucks by the model year 2025.

In January 2017, USEPA Administrator Gina McCarthy signed a Final Determination to maintain the current GHG emissions standards for the model years 2022 through 2025 vehicles. However, on March 15, 2017, USEPA Administrator Scott Pruitt and USDOT Secretary Elaine Chao announced that the USEPA intends to reconsider the Final Determination. On April 2, 2018, USEPA Administrator Pruitt officially withdrew the January 2017 Final Determination, citing information that suggests that these current standards may be too stringent due to changes in key assumptions since the January 2017 Determination. According to the USEPA, these key assumptions include gasoline prices and overly optimistic consumer acceptance of advanced technology vehicles. The April 2, 2018, notice is not USEPA's final agency action, and the USEPA intends to initiate rulemaking to adopt new standards. Until that rulemaking has been completed, the current standards remain in effect.

As part California's overall approach to reducing pollution from all vehicles, the CARB has established standards for clean gasoline and diesel fuels and fuel economies of new vehicles. The CARB has also put in place innovative programs to drive the development of low-carbon, renewable, and alternative fuels, such as their Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) Program pursuant to California Assembly Bill (AB) 32 and the Governor's Executive Order S-01-07.

In January 2012, the CARB approved the Advanced Clean Cars Program, which combines the control of GHG emissions and criteria air pollutants, as well as requirements for greater numbers of zero-emission vehicles, into a single package of standards for vehicle model years 2017 through 2025. The new rules strengthen the GHG standard for 2017 models and beyond. This would be achieved through existing technologies, the use of stronger and lighter materials, and more efficient drivetrains and engines. The program's zero-emission vehicle regulation requires battery, fuel cell, and/or plug-in hybrid electric vehicles to account for up to 15% of California's new vehicle sales by 2025. The program also includes a clean fuels outlet regulation designed to support the commercialization of zero-emission hydrogen fuel cell vehicles planned by vehicle manufacturers by 2015 by requiring increased numbers of hydrogen fueling stations throughout the state. The number of stations would grow as vehicle manufacturers sell

more fuel cell vehicles. By 2025, when the rules would be fully implemented, the statewide fleet of new cars and light trucks would emit 34% fewer global warming gases and 75% fewer smog-forming emissions than the statewide fleet in 2016 (CARB 2022).

All self-propelled off-road diesel vehicles 25 horsepower or greater used in California and most two-engine vehicles (except on-road two-engine sweepers) are subject to the CARB's Regulation for In-Use Off-Road Diesel Fueled Fleets (Off-Road regulation). This includes vehicles that are rented or leased (rental or leased fleets). The overall purpose of the Off-Road regulation is to reduce emissions of NO_x and PM from off-road diesel vehicles operating within California through the implementation of standards, including, but not limited to, limits on idling, reporting and labeling of off-road vehicles, limitations on use of old engines, and performance requirements.

Environmental Evaluation

a) Would the project result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?

During construction, fossil fuels, electricity, and natural gas would be used by construction vehicles and equipment. The energy consumed during construction would be temporary in nature and typical of other similar construction activities in the county. Federal and state regulations in place require the use of fuel-efficient equipment and vehicles and require wasteful activities, such as diesel idling, to be limited. Construction contractors, in an effort to ensure cost efficiency, would not be expected to engage in wasteful or unnecessary energy and fuel practices. Energy consumption during construction would not conflict with a state or local plan for renewable energy and would not be wasteful, unnecessary, or inefficient; therefore, would be *less than significant*.

Following construction, the project would operate as a roadway and would not require significant use of energy resources, such as electricity and natural gas. The project does not include the installation of streetlights or other infrastructure that could increase the use of electricity. In addition, the project does not include the establishment of new land uses or activities that could generate an increase in vehicle trips to and from the project site and would not otherwise increase the use of fossil fuels. Based on the nature of the proposed project, the project would not cause a substantial increase in energy use; therefore, operational impacts would be *less than significant*.

b) Would the project conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?

The *Monterey County General Plan Conservation/Open Space Element* identifies goals and policies to promote efficient energy use, including increasing use of renewable energy resources, directing new development toward existing urbanized areas, and increasing access to alternative forms of transportation. As previously identified, the project would operate as a roadway and would not require significant use of energy resources, such as electricity and natural gas, which would be consistent with the County's goal to promote efficient energy use. Therefore, the project would not conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency, and impacts would be *less than significant*.

Conclusion

The project would not result in excessive energy use during construction or operation and would be consistent with applicable energy efficiency plans; therefore, impacts related to energy would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation is not necessary.

VII. Geology and Soils

| Environmental Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Would the project:</i> | | | | |
| (a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving: | | | | |
| (i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (ii) Strong seismic ground shaking? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (iv) Landslides? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Setting

Ground shaking refers to the motion that occurs in response to regional and local earthquakes. Seismic ground shaking is influenced by the proximity of the site to an earthquake fault, the intensity of the seismic event, and the underlying soil composition. Ground shaking can endanger life and safety due to damage or collapse of structures or lifeline facilities. Liquefaction is the sudden loss of soil strength due to a rapid increase in soil pore water pressure resulting from ground shaking during an earthquake. Landslides and slope instability can occur as a result of wet weather, weak soils, improper grading, improper drainage, steep slopes, adverse geologic structure, earthquakes, or a combination of these factors.

Monterey County is located in a seismically active region. According to the CDOC Fault Activity Map of California, the project site is underlain by the San Gregorio-Palo Colorado Fault, which is a late quaternary fault. Other faults in the region include the Sur-Nacimiento Fault, a late quaternary fault approximately 1.8 miles west of the project site, and the Church Creek Fault, a pre-quaternary fault approximately 1.7 miles east of the project site (CDOC 2015a).

Highly erodible soils are those that are easily carried by water and, to a lesser extent, by wind. Surface erosion is more commonly visible, but subsurface erosion can lead to damage to pipes, roads, foundations, and other structural elements. Expansive soils are largely comprised of clays, which expand in volume when water is absorbed and shrink as the soil dries. Expansion is measured by shrink-swell potential, which is the volume change in soil with a gain in moisture. If the shrink-swell potential is rated moderate to high, then damage to buildings, roads, structural foundations, and pipes can occur. Expansive clay problems can be surmounted by appropriate engineering design and construction techniques. Typically, soils with high shrink-swell potential are comprised of clay and clay materials. According to Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the project site is underlain with approximately 10 soil types, which are primarily comprised of sand and loam components; therefore, the project site is located in an area with low potential for expansion.

According to the USGS, the project site is primarily underlain by Coast Ridge belt (M_zP_zc) from the late Paleozoic Period with areas of unnamed marine sandstone (Kss) from the late Cretaceous Period (USGS 2016). Due to the age of these formations, there is potential for paleontological resources to be present within the bedrock of these formations.

Environmental Evaluation

a) Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:

a-i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.

According to the Geologic Hazards Map for Monterey County, the only Alquist-Priolo Fault Zone in Monterey County is the San Andreas Fault, located within the southeastern portion of the county approximately 50 miles southeast of the project site. Because the project site would not be underlain by an Alquist-Priolo Fault, the project would not result in risk of loss, injury, or death involving rupture of an Alquist-Priolo Fault Zone, and *no impacts* would occur.

a-ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?

a-iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

a-iv) Landslides?

The county of Monterey is located in a seismically active region; therefore, there is potential for ground shaking to occur. The project site is underlain by the San Gregorio-Palo Colorado Fault, which is a late quaternary fault. Other faults in the region include the Sur-Nacimiento Fault, a late quaternary fault approximately 1.8 miles west of the project site, and the Church Creek Fault, a pre-quaternary fault approximately 1.7 miles east of the project site (CDOC 2015b). According to the Geologic Hazards Map for Monterey County, the project site is located in an area with low risk of landslide and liquefaction. The

project includes drainage and roadway repairs along an existing roadway and does not include the construction of new buildings or other structures that could result in the risk of loss, injury, or death involving seismic-related hazards. In addition, proposed roadway repairs would be required to be designed in a manner that would avoid or minimize risk of loss, injury, or death as a result of seismic activity and related ground failure. The project would also be required to meet or exceed seismic design standards identified in Caltrans Seismic Design Criteria (SDC), Version 2.0 (Caltrans 2019). Based on required compliance with applicable roadway design standards, the project would not result in the risk of loss, injury, or death as a result of seismic-related risk; therefore, impacts would be *less than significant*.

b) Would the project result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

Construction of the proposed project would result in approximately 3.88 acres of site disturbance. Proposed ground-disturbing activities have the potential to increase erosion at the project site, which could run off into surrounding drainages and other areas. MM BIO-1 requires implementation of construction BMPs to reduce the potential for erosive runoff to enter into the nearby creeks and drainages. The project would disturb more than 1 acre of soils and would be required to comply with RWQCB general construction permit requirements, which require the preparation and implementation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) with BMPs to reduce erosive runoff during construction. Following project construction, drainage conditions along Palo Colorado Road would be improved and the roadway would be replaced with new pavement, which would ultimately reduce the long-term potential for erosion at the project site. Based on implementation of MM BIO-1 and required compliance with the RWQCB, the project would not result in substantial erosion or loss of topsoil; therefore, impacts would be *less than significant with mitigation*.

c) Would the project be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?

As previously described, the project site is located in an area with low potential for landslide and liquefaction to occur. Additionally, the project site is not located in an area with known land subsidence (USGS 2023a). The project would be designed in a manner that would avoid or minimize risk as a result of potential ground-failure events and would be required to meet or exceed seismic design standards identified in the Caltrans SDC. Based on required compliance with applicable roadway design standards, the project would not result in risk related to potential ground failure events; therefore, impacts would be *less than significant*.

d) Would the project be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?

Typically, expansive soils are comprised of clay. According to the NRCS, soils at the project site are primarily comprised of sand and loam components, which have a low potential for expansion (NRCS 2023). Further, the project would be required to comply with Caltrans requirements for roadway design to reduce potential risks related to development on expansive soils. Based on existing site conditions and required compliance with the applicable roadway design standards, the project would not result in risk to life or property as a result of development on expansive soils; therefore, impacts would be *less than significant*.

e) Would the project have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?

The project does not include the installation of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems; therefore, *no impacts* would occur.

f) Would the project directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

According to the USGS, the project site is primarily underlain by Coast Ridge belt (MzPzc) from the late Paleozoic Period with areas of unnamed marine sandstone (Kss) from the late Cretaceous Period (USGS 2016). Due to the age of these formations, there is potential for paleontological resources to be present within the bedrock of these formations. The project site primarily consists of previously developed areas; therefore, there is low potential for intact paleontological resources to be present within the proposed area of disturbance. Construction activities are anticipated to be within the existing developed prism of the road and are not expected to disturb the underlying bedrock. Based on the limited excavation activity, the project would not disturb paleontological resources; therefore, impacts would be *less than significant*.

Conclusion

Proposed roadway repairs would be required to be designed and constructed according to Caltrans standards and requirements, which would reduce the potential for risk of loss, injury, or death as a result of seismic or other geologic stresses. Based on required compliance with RWQCB requirements, the project would not result in impacts related to substantial erosion. The project does not include the installation of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems. In addition, based on the limited excavation activity, the project would not disturb paleontological resources. Therefore, impacts related to geology and soil would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation is not necessary.

VIII. Greenhouse Gas Emissions

| Environmental Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Would the project:</i> | | | | |
| (a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Setting

GHGs are any gases that absorb infrared radiation in the atmosphere and are different from the criteria pollutants discussed in Section III, *Air Quality*. The primary GHGs that are emitted into the atmosphere as a result of human activities are CO₂, methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), and fluorinated gases.

CALIFORNIA GLOBAL WARMING SOLUTIONS ACT

Under the California Global Warming Solutions Act, also known as AB 32, the CARB established statewide GHG emissions cap for 2020, adopted mandatory reporting cards for significant sources of GHG, and adopted a comprehensive plan, known as the Climate Change Scoping Plan, identifying how emission reductions would be achieved from significant GHG sources.

In 2016 Senate Bill (SB) 32 was signed into law, amending the California Global Warming Solutions Act. SB 32, and accompanying Executive Order B-30-15, requires CARB to ensure that statewide GHG emissions are reduced to 40% below the 1990 level by 2030. The CARB updated its Climate Change Scoping Plan in December 2017 to express the 2030 statewide target in terms of million metric tons of CO₂ equivalent (MMTCo₂e). Based on the emissions reductions directed by SB 32, the annual 2030 statewide target emissions level for California is 260 MMTCo₂e.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES STRATEGY AND CLIMATE PROTECTION ACT

The Sustainable Communities Strategy and Climate Protection Act (SB 375) was signed into law in September 2008. SB 375 builds upon AB 32 by requiring the CARB to develop regional GHG reduction targets for automobile and light truck sectors for 2020 and 2035, as compared to 2005 emissions levels. Regional metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) will be responsible for preparing a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) with their Regional Transportation Plans (RTPs).

MONTEREY BAY 2040 METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN/SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES STRATEGY

The Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) is the federally designated MPO for the three-county, 18-city Monterey Bay metropolitan region and is the transportation planning agency responsible for developing and implementing the long-range metropolitan transportation plan, known as the Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS). The MTP/SCS, combines the RTP contributions from three different county transportation planning agencies that represent San Benito, Santa Cruz, and Monterey Counties. The MTP/SCS provides land use and transportation planning strategies, including transportation system management, transportation demand management, active transportation, telecommuting, and an increase in zero-emission vehicles, to reduce GHG emissions (AMBAG 2018).

Environmental Evaluation

a) Would the project generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?

During construction, fossil fuels, electricity, and natural gas would be used by construction vehicles and equipment that could generate GHG emissions. Federal and state regulations in place require the use of fuel-efficient equipment and vehicles and require wasteful activities, such as diesel idling, to be limited. Construction contractors, in an effort to ensure cost efficiency, would not be expected to engage in wasteful or unnecessary energy and fuel practices. Temporary traffic controls may temporarily increase

traffic congestion and associated idling emissions during the 18-month construction period; however, following construction, traffic controls would be removed, and traffic flow would return to preconstruction conditions. Therefore, any increase in GHG emissions from vehicle idling would be temporary in nature and would not result in a new, permanent source of GHG emissions in the area. Therefore, construction activities are not anticipated to result in significant emissions and construction-related impacts would be *less than significant*.

Typically, operational GHG emissions are generated from electricity and fossil fuel use. The project does not include installation of streetlights or other infrastructure that could increase the use of electricity and associated GHG emissions. In addition, the project does not include the establishment of new land uses or activities that could generate an increase in vehicle trips to and from the project site or would otherwise increase the use of fossil fuels. Based on the nature of the proposed project, the project would not cause a substantial increase in GHG emissions; therefore, operational impacts would be *less than significant*.

b) Would the project conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

The AMBAG 2045 MTP/SCS outlines the region’s plan for integrating the transportation network within an overall land use pattern that responds to projected growth, housing needs, changing demographics, and transportation demands while reducing GHG emissions. The proposed project would be limited to roadway repairs and drainage improvements along an existing roadway and does not include the development of new land uses that would be subject to mixed-land use development, transportation demand measures, or other planning strategies to reduce GHG-emissions. Therefore, the project would not conflict with an applicable GHG-reduction plan or policy, and *no impacts* would occur.

Conclusion

The project would be consistent with the AMBAG 2045 MTP/SCS and would not generate a substantial amount of short- or long-term GHG emissions; therefore, impacts related to GHG emissions would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation is not necessary.

IX. Hazards and Hazardous Materials

| Environmental Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|--|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Would the project:</i> | | | | |
| (a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

| Environmental Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|--|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| (c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Setting

The Hazardous Waste and Substances Site (Cortese) List is a planning tool used by the state, local agencies, and developers to comply with CEQA requirements related to the disclosure of information about the location of hazardous materials release sites. California Government Code Section 65962.5 requires the California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA) to develop at least annually an updated Cortese List. Various state and local government agencies are required to track and document hazardous material release information for the Cortese List. The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) EnviroStor database tracks DTSC cleanup, permitting, enforcement, and investigation efforts at hazardous waste facilities and sites with known contamination, such as federal superfund sites, state response sites, voluntary cleanup sites, school cleanup sites, school investigation sites, and military evaluation sites (DTSC 2023). The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) GeoTracker database contains records for sites that impact, or have the potential to impact, water in California, such as Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) sites, Department of Defense sites, and Cleanup Program Sites (SWRCB 2023). The remaining data regarding facilities or sites identified as meeting the “Cortese List” requirements can be located on the CalEPA website:

<https://calepa.ca.gov/sitecleanup/corteselist/>.

Based on a query of the DTSC EnviroStor and SWRCB GeoTracker databases, there are no hazardous materials sites located within or adjacent to the project site (DTSC 2023; SWRCB 2023).

Environmental Evaluation

a) Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?

The project would require limited quantities of hazardous substances, including gasoline, diesel fuel, hydraulic fluid, solvents, oils, paints, etc. during construction, which has the potential to result in an accidental spill or release. Construction contractors would be required to comply with applicable federal and state environmental and workplace safety laws for the handling, transport, and storage of hazardous materials, including California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 22, Division 4.5. In addition, MM BIO-1 requires the implementation of construction BMPs to reduce the potential for accidental spills and other construction-related hazards from entering into surrounding creeks and drainages. Operation of the project would be limited to the operation of an existing roadway and would not require the use of hazardous or acutely hazardous materials. With implementation of MM BIO-1 and required compliance with 22 CCR Division 4.5, the project would not create a significant hazard associated with the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials; therefore, impacts would be *less than significant with mitigation*.

b) Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?

The project does not include the handling or use of hazardous materials or volatile substances that would result in a significant risk of upset or accidental release conditions. As previously discussed, temporary construction activities would include the use of construction equipment, vehicles, and commonly used hazardous substances, including, but not limited to, paint, solvents, oils, fuel, and gasoline. Commonly used hazardous substances within the project site would be transported, stored, and used according to regulatory requirements and existing procedures for the handling of hazardous materials. In addition, MM BIO-1 requires implementation of construction BMPs to reduce the potential for accidental spills and other construction-related hazards from entering into surrounding creeks and drainages.

Aerially deposited lead (ADL) from the historical use of leaded gasoline exists along heavily traveled roadways throughout California (i.e., Principal Arterial roadways, freeways, and expressways). Palo Colorado Road is a rural roadway with an ADT rate of 577 vehicles per day (County of Monterey 2022). Based on the rural nature of the roadway and the limited number of daily vehicle trips, ADL is not expected to be found within the roadway or surrounding soils. As discussed in Section III, *Air Quality*, the project site is not located in an area with the potential for NOA to occur. However, the project would require the demolition and removal of damaged portions of the roadway and damaged culverts that have the potential to contain ACM. MM AQ-3 has been identified to reduce the potential to disturb ACM during proposed demolition activities.

Based on implementation of MM AQ-3 and MM BIO-1 and required compliance with CCR Title 22, the project would not create significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset or accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment; therefore, impacts would be *less than significant with mitigation*.

c) Would the project emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

The project site is located in a rural area and the nearest school is Apple Pie Preschool, approximately 5.6 miles southwest of Storm Damage Site 1. Therefore, the project would not emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within 0.25 mile of a school, and *no impacts* would occur.

d) Would the project 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?

Based on a query of the DTSC EnviroStor and SWRCB GeoTracker databases, there are no hazardous materials sites located within or adjacent to the project site (DTSC 2023; SWRCB 2023). The project site is not located on or adjacent to a site that is on a list of hazardous materials sites pursuant to California Government Code Section 65962.5; therefore, the project would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment related to disturbance in a hazardous materials site, and *no impacts* would occur.

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?

The nearest airport is Carmel Valley Village Airport, located approximately 10 miles northeast of the project site; therefore, the project would not result in airport-related safety or noise hazards, and *no impacts* would occur.

f) Would the project impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

The project includes roadway and drainage repairs at 63 discontinuous potential work areas along an approximately 4.8-mile segment of Palo Colorado Road, which has an ADT rate of 577 vehicles per day (County of Monterey 2022). The project would require temporary partial lane closures at work areas along Palo Colorado Road during the 18-month construction period, which would result in a short-term increase in vehicle congestion. However, the roadway would remain open to allow for emergency and other vehicle ingress and egress along Palo Colorado Road. Following project construction, temporary partial lane closures would be removed, and the roadway would be repaired to improve vehicle flow and safety along Palo Colorado Road. Therefore, the project would ultimately improve emergency response and evacuation efforts, and impacts would be *less than significant*.

g) Would the project expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?

Palo Colorado Road is a winding road with steep side slopes cut into mountainous terrain within a very high Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ) (California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection [CAL FIRE] 2023). However, the project would be limited to roadway and drainage repairs along an existing roadway and would not include the development of any structures or buildings that could increase the potential for a wildfire to occur in the immediate or surrounding area. Therefore, the project would not expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, and impacts would be *less than significant*.

Conclusion

Based on implementation of MM BIO-1 and required compliance with 22 CCR Division 4.5, the project is not anticipated to create significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials or through reasonably foreseeable upset or accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment. The project would not be located within 0.25 mile of an existing or proposed school, within 2 miles of an airport, or located on or adjacent to an active hazardous materials site. Additionally, the project would not expose project occupants to risk associated with wildland fires. Construction and operation of the project would not interfere with an emergency response or evacuation plan. With implementation of MM BIO-1, potential impacts related to hazards and hazardous materials would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

Implement MM AQ-3 and MM BIO-1.

X. Hydrology and Water Quality

| Environmental Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Would the project:</i> | | | | |
| (a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would: | | | | |
| (i) Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site; | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (ii) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site; | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

| Environmental Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| (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 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (iv) Impede or redirect flood flows? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Setting

The federal Clean Water Act mandates that any municipal, industrial or commercial facility that discharges storm water runoff must first obtain coverage under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. In California, the SWRCB and nine RWQCBs have been given regulatory authority by the federal government to manage NPDES programs. In July 2013, the Central Coast RWQCB adopted Order R3-2013-0032 with more stringent Post Construction Requirements (PCRs). The PCRs apply to projects located in the Urbanized Area that create or replace 2,500 square feet or more of impervious area.

The proposed project occurs within the USGS Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) Central Coastal Subbasin (18060006) and Bixby Creek-Frontal Pacific Ocean watershed (180600060205). The portion of Palo Colorado Road within the project area parallels and/or crosses over five main drainages: Bixby, Brandon, Rocky, Turner, and Mill Creeks. Mill and Turner Creeks are blue line streams originating east of Palo Colorado Road and terminating in the confluence of Bixby Creek. Bixby Creek is a blue line stream that terminates into the Pacific Ocean approximately 4 miles downstream from its confluence with Mill and Turner Creeks.

According to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) 06053C0705G (effective 4/2/2009) and 06053C0515G (effective 4/2/2009), the entire project site is in Zone X, an area of minimal flood hazard (FEMA 2023).

Environmental Evaluation

a) Would the project violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?

Proposed roadway repairs and drainage improvements would require work in several areas with mapped creeks and drainages. Construction of the project would result in approximately 3.88 acres of ground disturbance. Proposed ground-disturbing activities and vehicle and equipment use would have the potential to result in erosion or other pollutants that could run off from the site to surrounding creeks and drainages. MM BIO-1 requires implementation of construction BMPs to reduce the potential for polluted runoff to enter into the nearby creeks and drainages. In addition, MM BIO-8 requires the project to obtain the proper regulatory permits from USACE, RWQCB, CDFW, and/or CCC prior to construction and to

implement any additional avoidance and mitigation measures required by these agencies. Further, the project would disturb more than 1 acre of soils and would be required to comply with the Central Coast RWQCB general construction permit requirements, which requires the preparation and implementation of a SWPPP with BMPs to reduce and/or eliminate pollutant discharge during construction activities. Based on implementation of MM BIO-1 and MM BIO-13 and required compliance with existing RWQCB requirements, the project would not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality; therefore, impacts would be *less than significant with mitigation*.

b) Would the project substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?

The project site is located in the Central Coastal Subbasin of the Central California Coastal Basin, which covers an area of approximately 1,527 square miles along the coast of California. The project includes various repairs along an approximately 4.8-mile segment of Palo Colorado Road, including replacement of damaged asphalt, installation of steel guardrails, addition of either steel soldier pile or soil nail retaining walls, and replacement or improvements to existing drainages. Project activities would result in a marginal increase in impervious surface area within the Central Coastal Subbasin and would not substantially interfere with groundwater recharge in a manner that could impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin. In addition, the project does not require any connections to water and would not require any long-term operational water use. During construction, water may be used for dust suppression; however, any water used during construction would be limited in volume and supplied from off-site sources. Therefore, the project would not decrease groundwater supply or interfere with groundwater recharge, and impacts would be *less than significant*.

c) Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:

c-i) Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?

There are several mapped creeks and drainages located throughout the project site (USFWS 2023c; USGS 2023b). Construction of the project would result in approximately 3.88 acres of ground disturbance, which has the potential to directly disturb mapped creeks and increase erosion at the project site that could run off to surrounding creeks and drainages. MM BIO-1 requires the implementation of construction BMPs to reduce the potential for erosive runoff to enter into the nearby creeks and drainages. In addition, MM BIO-13 requires the project to obtain the proper regulatory permits from the USACE, RWQCB, CDFW, and/or CCC prior to construction and to implement any additional avoidance and minimization measures required by these agencies. The project would disturb more than 1 acre of soils and would be required to comply with RWQCB general construction permit requirements, which requires the preparation and implementation of a SWPPP with BMPs to reduce and/or eliminate pollutant discharge during construction. Following project construction, drainage conditions along Palo Colorado Road would be improved and the roadway would be replaced with new pavement, which would ultimately reduce the long-term potential for erosion at the project site. Based on implementation of MM BIO-1 and MM BIO-13 and required compliance with RWQCB requirements, the project would not result in a substantial increase in erosion; therefore, impacts related to substantial erosion would be *less than significant with mitigation*.

c-ii) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?

The project includes various repairs along an approximately 4.8-mile segment of Palo Colorado Road, including replacement of damaged asphalt, installation of steel guardrails, addition of either steel soldier pile or soil nail retaining walls, and replacement or improvements to existing drainages. Proposed roadway repairs and drainage improvements would require work in several areas with mapped creeks. The project would result in a marginal increase in impervious surface area at the project site and would not be expected to substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that could lead to flooding in the project area. In addition, the project would be required to prepare and implement a SWPPP with BMPs to address surface water runoff during construction. The project would ultimately improve drainage conditions in the project area, which would reduce the potential for flooding to occur on- or off-site. Based on required compliance with RWQCB requirements, the project would not result in an increase in stormwater runoff in a manner that could lead to flooding; therefore, impacts would be *less than significant*.

c-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?

The project would result in a marginal increase in impervious surface area at the project site and would not be expected to substantially increase the rate or amount of polluted surface runoff. In addition, MM BIO-1 and MM BIO-13 have been identified to reduce potential impacts associated with polluted stormwater runoff as a result of direct and indirect disturbances to mapped creeks and drainages through implementation of constructions BMPs and adherence to permitting requirements. The project would also be required to prepare and implement a SWPPP with BMPs to further address polluted surface water runoff during construction activities. The project would ultimately improve drainage conditions in the project area, which would reduce the potential for long-term polluter stormwater runoff in the project area. Based on implementation of MM BIO-1 and MM BIO-13 and required compliance with RWQCB requirements, the project would not result in an increase in polluted stormwater runoff; therefore, impacts would be *less than significant with mitigation*.

c-iv) Impede or redirect flood flows?

According to FEMA FIRMs 06053C0705G (effective 4/2/2009) and 06053C0515G (effective 4/2/2009), the entire project site is in Zone X, an area of minimal flood hazard; therefore, flood flows are not expected to occur in the project area (FEMA 2023). In addition, the project would result in a minimal increase in impervious surface area at the project site and would ultimately improve drainage conditions along Palo Colorado Road, which would further reduce the potential to impede or redirect flood flows; therefore, impacts would be *less than significant*.

d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, would the project risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?

According to FEMA FIRMs 06053C0705G (effective 4/2/2009) and 06053C0515G (effective 4/2/2009), the entire project site is in Zone X, an area of minimal flood hazard (FEMA 2023). Additionally, the project site is not located in an area that would be subject to tsunami risk and is not located in proximity to any impounded body of water that would be subject to seiche (CDOC 2021). The project is not within a flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zone and would not risk release of pollutants due to project inundation; therefore, *no impacts* would occur.

e) Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?

As previously evaluated, the project would result in a marginal increase in impervious surface area within the Central Coastal Subbasin and would not substantially interfere with groundwater recharge in a manner that could impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin. In addition, the project does not require any connections to water and would not require any long-term operational water use. Therefore, the project would not interfere with sustainable management of the Central Coast Basin, and impacts would be *less than significant*.

The project site is under the jurisdiction of the Central Coast RWQCB and would be subject to the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Central Coastal Basin* (Basin Plan), which sets water quality objectives and criteria to protect water quality in the Central Coast region (RWQCB 2019). MM BIO-1 requires implementation of construction BMPs to reduce the potential for polluted runoff to enter into the nearby creeks and drainages. MM BIO-13 requires the project to obtain the proper regulatory permits from the USACE, RWQCB, CDFW, and/or CCC prior to construction and to implement any additional avoidance and mitigation measures required by these agencies. Further, the project would disturb more than 1 acre of soils and would be required to comply with the Central Coast RWQCB general construction permit requirements, which requires the preparation and implementation of a SWPPP with BMPs to reduce and/or eliminate pollutant discharge during construction activities. Based on implementation of MM BIO-1 and MM BIO-13 and required compliance with RWQCB requirements, the project would be consistent with water quality protection efforts included in the Basin Plan; therefore, impacts would be *less than significant with mitigation*.

Conclusion

Based on implementation of MM BIO-1 and MM BIO-13 and required compliance with RWQCB requirements, the project would not result in adverse impacts related to water quality, groundwater quality, or stormwater runoff. The project would not require connection to groundwater resources and would not be located in an area that would be subject to inundation. The project would be consistent with sustainable management of the Central Coastal Subbasin and the Basin Plan. With implementation of MM BIO-1 and MM BIO-13, impacts related to hydrology and water quality would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

Implement MM BIO-1 and MM BIO-13.

XI. Land Use and Planning

| Environmental Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Would the project:</i> | | | | |
| (a) Physically divide an established community? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Setting

The project site is located within the Big Sur Coast LUP within the Coastal Zone of Monterey County. The LUP carries out the requirements of the California Coastal Act of 1976. The Coastal Act places emphasis on environmental protection, public recreation, and access. According to the LUP, the County's primary land use planning objective is to minimize development of the Big Sur coast in order to preserve the coast as a scenic rural area, to preserve traditional ranching uses, and to allow the public to enjoy nature and find refuge from the pace of urban life.

Environmental Evaluation

a) Would the project physically divide an established community?

The project would result in various repairs along an approximately 4.8-mile segment of Palo Colorado Road, including replacement of damaged asphalt, installation of steel guardrails, addition of either steel soldier pile or soil nail retaining walls, replacement or improvements to existing drainages, and temporary relocation of utility lines. The project would require temporary traffic controls, including partial lane closures, during the 18-month construction period; however, the roadway would remain open during project construction and temporary traffic controls would be removed following completion of the construction period. Proposed roadway repairs would improve roadway conditions in the area. The project would not result in the removal or blockage of existing public roadways or other circulation paths and would not otherwise include any features that would physically divide an established community; therefore, impacts would be *less than significant*.

b) Would the project 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?

As evaluated throughout this Initial Study, the project would be consistent with standards and policies set forth in the County's General Plan, Municipal Code, and Local Coastal Policies; MBARD 2005 Particulate Matter Plan and 2012 AQMP; and AMBAG MTP/SCS. The project would be required to implement MM AQ-1 through MM AQ-3, MM BIO-1 through MM BIO-13, MM CR-1, and MM N-1 to mitigate potential impacts associated with Agriculture and Forestry Resources, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, and Noise, which is consistent with the identified plans and policies intended to avoid or mitigate adverse environmental effects. Upon implementation of identified mitigation, the project would not conflict with other local policies or regulations adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating environmental effects; therefore, impacts would be *less than significant with mitigation*.

Conclusion

The proposed project would not physically divide an established community. Upon implementation of mitigation measures identified throughout this document, the project would be consistent with the County's General Plan, Municipal Code, and Local Coastal Policies; MBARD 2005 Particulate Matter Plan and 2012 AQMP; and AMBAG MTP/SCS. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant upon implementation of the identified mitigation measures.

Mitigation Measures

Implement MM AQ-1 through MM AQ-3, MM BIO-1 through MM BIO-13, MM CR-1, and MM N-1.

XII. Mineral Resources

| Environmental Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Would the project:</i> | | | | |
| (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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Setting

The California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) of 1975 requires that the State Geologist classify land into mineral resource zones (MRZs) according to the known or inferred mineral potential of the land (PRC Sections 2710–2796).

The CGS *Special Report 251: Update of the Mineral Land Classification for Construction Aggregate Resources in the Monterey Bay Production-Consumption Region* (CGS 2021) classifies land within the Monterey Bay Production-Consumption (P-C) Region into one of the following four categories:

- **MRZ-1:** Areas where available geologic information indicates that little likelihood exists for the presence of significant construction aggregate resources.
- **MRZ-2:** Areas where geologic information indicates the presence of significant construction aggregate resources.
- **MRZ-3:** Areas containing known or inferred construction aggregate resources of undetermined mineral resource significance.
- **MRZ-4:** Areas where available geologic information is inadequate to assign to any other mineral resource zone category.

Environmental Evaluation

- a) **Would the project result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?**
- b) **Would the project 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?**

According to the CGS *Mineral Resource Zone Map for Construction Aggregate in the Monterey Bay Production-Consumption Region*, the project site designated as MRZ-4 and does not contain any known or inferred mineral resources (CGS 2021). In addition, the project site is not zoned or designated for mineral extraction. Therefore, the project would not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource or result in the loss of availability of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site, and *no impacts* would occur.

Conclusion

No impacts to mineral resources would occur as a result of the project.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation is not necessary.

XIII. Noise

| Environmental Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|--|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Would the project result in:</i> | | | | |
| (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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Setting

Chapter 10.60 (Noise Control) of the County's Municipal Code establishes standards and regulations for noise levels within the county. Table 11 defines the County's thresholds for nighttime exterior noise levels within the County.

Table 11. Exterior Noise Level Standards (Nighttime Only)

| | Standard |
|---|----------|
| Nighttime hourly equivalent sound level (L_{eq} dBA) | 45 |
| Maximum level, dBA | 65 |

Note: dBA = A-weighted decibels

According to Chapter 10.60 (Noise Control) of the County’s Municipal Code, the generation of any loud and unreasonable sound any day of the week between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. is prohibited within the unincorporated area of Monterey County.

Environmental Evaluation

- a) **Would the project result in 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?**

The project site is located in a rural area and existing ambient noise levels in the project area are limited to intermittent vehicle trips along Palo Colorado Road, which has an ADT rate of 577 vehicles per day (County of Monterey 2022). During project construction, noise from construction activities may intermittently dominate the noise environment in the immediate project area. The project would require the use of typical construction equipment (e.g., dozers, excavators, etc.) during proposed construction activities. According to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), noise from standard construction equipment generally ranges from 80 to 85 A-weighted decibels (dBA) at 50 feet from the source, as shown in Table 12.

Table 12. Construction Equipment Noise Emission Levels

| Equipment Type | Typical Noise Level (dBA) 50 Feet from Source |
|--|--|
| Concrete Mixer, Dozer, Excavator, Jackhammer, Man Lift, Paver, Scraper | 85 |
| Heavy Truck | 84 |
| Crane, Mobile | 83 |
| Concrete Pump | 82 |
| Backhoe, Compactor | 80 |

Source: FHWA (2018)

The project site is located in a rural area with limited development. The nearest sensitive receptor is a rural residence located approximately 200 feet northeast of Storm Damage Site 1. Construction-related noise would be short term and intermittent and would not result in a permanent increase in ambient noise within the project area. In accordance with Chapter 10.60 (Noise Control) of the County’s Municipal Code, construction activities would be limited to the hours between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m. Due to the proximity of nearby sensitive receptors, MM N-1 has been identified to reduce construction-related noise. With implementation of MM N-1, construction-related noise would not exceed County noise standards; therefore, impacts would be *less than significant with mitigation*.

The project includes roadway repairs and drainage improvements along an existing roadway and does not include the establishment of new land uses that could permanently increase ambient noise levels within

the project area. Therefore, operational noise generated by the project would be consistent with the existing level of noise within the project area, and potential impacts would be *less than significant*.

b) Would the project result in generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

The proposed project has the potential to generate limited groundborne vibration during demolition of the existing roadway. Equipment for proposed demolition activities would be most similar to a large bulldozer and a jackhammer, which would generate a vibration level of approximately 0.089 inches per second at 25 feet from the source and 0.035 inches per second at 25 feet from the source, respectively. These vibration levels would fall below the 0.3 inch per second building damage criterion established by Caltrans (Federal Transit Administration [FTA] 2018). Operation of the project does not include new features that could generate substantial long-term groundborne noise above existing conditions. Therefore, impacts related to exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels would be *less than significant*.

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?

The project site is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip, within an airport land use plan, or within 2 miles of an airport; therefore, the project would not expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels, and *no impacts* would occur.

Conclusion

With implementation of MM N-1, the project would not generate a substantial increase in temporary or permanent ambient noise levels or generate groundborne noise in a manner that would result in disturbance. The project site is not located within an airport land use plan or within 2 miles of an airport. Therefore, with implementation of MM N-1, impacts related to noise would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

MM N-1 For the entire duration of the construction phase of the project, the following noise reduction measures shall be implemented to ensure that noise levels are maintained within levels allowed by Chapter 10.60 (Noise Control) of the Monterey County Municipal Code:

1. Stationary construction equipment that generates noise that exceeds 65 A-weighted decibels (dBA) at the project boundaries shall be shielded with the most modern noise control devices (i.e., mufflers, lagging, and/or motor enclosures).
2. Impact tools (e.g., jackhammers, pavement breakers, rock drills, etc.) used for project construction shall be hydraulically or electrically powered wherever possible to avoid noise associated with compressed air exhaust from pneumatically powered tools.
3. Where use of pneumatic tools is unavoidable, an exhaust muffler on the compressed air exhaust shall be used.

4. All construction equipment shall have the manufacturers' recommended noise abatement methods installed, such as mufflers, engine enclosures, and engine vibration insulators, intact and operational.
5. All construction equipment shall undergo inspection at periodic intervals to ensure proper maintenance and presence of noise control devices (e.g., mufflers, shrouding, etc.).
6. Construction activities shall be limited to the hours between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., Monday through Sunday. No movement of heavy equipment shall occur on official holidays (e.g., Thanksgiving, Labor Day).
7. The project contractor shall inform residents at properties within 300 feet of the project of proposed construction timelines and noise compliant procedures to minimize potential annoyance related to construction noise.

XIV. Population and Housing

| Environmental Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|--|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Would the project:</i> | | | | |
| (a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Setting

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, as of 2022, the Monterey County had a population of approximately 432,858 persons. The average household size was approximately 3.24 persons (U.S. Census Bureau 2022).

Environmental Evaluation

- a) Would the project induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?**

The proposed project would be limited to roadway and drainage repairs along an existing roadway. The project does not include the construction of new residences, businesses, or other uses that could directly include population growth within the county. Proposed construction activities have the potential to generate short-term employment opportunities; however, project construction is expected to use workers from the local employment force and would not require workers to relocate to the project area. Therefore, the project would not induce substantial or unplanned population growth, and impacts would be *less than significant*.

b) Would the project displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

The project would be located in a rural area and would not require the removal or demolition of existing residences; therefore, the project would not require the construction of replacement housing elsewhere, and *no impacts* would occur.

Conclusion

The project would not induce substantial or unplanned population growth and does not require the removal of existing residences; therefore, impacts related to population and housing would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation is not necessary.

XV. Public Services

| Environmental Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|--|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Would the project:</i> | | | | |
| (a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services: | | | | |
| Fire protection? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Police protection? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Schools? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Parks? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Other public facilities? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Setting

The Monterey County Regional Fire District (MCRFD) provides fire protection services to approximately 400 square miles and 40,000 residents within Monterey County. The MCRFD staffs seven fire stations with 70 full-time employees that are supported by three volunteer firefighters. CAL FIRE also provides fire protection services within the county from seven fire stations and one conservation camp located in the county. There are other volunteer fire protection services located within the county. The nearest fire station to the project site is the Mid Coast Fire Brigade, which is a volunteer fire station located approximately 0.2 mile northwest of Storm Damage Site 1.

Police services are provided by the Monterey County Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office contains approximately 450 employees and provides law enforcement and emergency response to approximately 110,000 residents in Monterey County. The nearest sheriff's station is located in the city of Monterey, approximately 14 miles north of Storm Damage Site 1.

The Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD) operates approximately 24 parks and open spaces over an approximately 500-square-mile area in Monterey County. The project site is located adjacent to Mill Creek Redwood Preserve, which is operated by the MPRPD. The project site is also located in close proximity to the Los Padres National Forest, which is operated by the USFS. Bottcher's Gap Campground is located approximately 0.25 mile southeast of Storm Damage Site 13.

Environmental Evaluation

- a) **Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:**

Fire Protection?

The project does not include the construction of new buildings or structures that would directly increase demand on existing fire protection services. The proposed project would be limited to roadway and drainage repairs along an existing roadway and would not facilitate unplanned or substantial population growth in a manner that would increase demand on existing fire protection services. The project would not require new or physically altered governmental facilities for fire protection services; therefore, *no impacts* related to fire protection would occur.

Police Protection?

The project does not include the construction of new residences, businesses, or other uses that would directly increase demand on existing police protection services. The project would be limited to roadway and drainage improvements along an existing roadway and would not facilitate unplanned or substantial population growth in a manner that would increase demand on existing police protection services. The project would not require new or physically altered governmental facilities for police protection services; therefore, *no impacts* would occur.

Schools?

As discussed in Section XIV, *Population and Housing*, the project would not induce direct or indirect population growth. The project would not result in an increase of school-aged children in the area; therefore, the project would not create an increased demand on local schools, and *no impacts* would occur.

Parks?

As discussed in Section XIV, *Population and Housing*, the project would not induce direct or indirect population growth. The project would not result in a population increase that could result in deterioration

of existing recreation facilities or require the expansion of new facilities; therefore, the project would not create an increased demand on public recreation facilities, and *no impacts* would occur.

Other Public Facilities?

As discussed in Section XIV, *Population and Housing*, the project would not induce direct or indirect population growth. The project does not propose features that would significantly increase the demand on public facilities, such as libraries or post offices, or result in the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities; therefore, *no impacts* would occur.

Conclusion

The project would not increase demand for fire or police protection services, schools, parks, libraries, or other public facilities; therefore, no impacts related to public services would occur as a result of the project, and mitigation measures are not necessary.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation is not necessary.

XVI. Recreation

| Environmental Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| (a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Setting

The Monterey Peninsula Regional Park District (MPRPD) operates approximately 24 parks and open spaces over an approximately 500-square-mile area in Monterey County as well as the Mill Creek Redwood Preserve, which is adjacent to the project site. The project site is also located in close proximity to the Los Padres National Forest, which is operated by the USFS. Bottcher’s Gap Campground is operated by the USFS and is located approximately 0.25 mile southeast of Storm Damage Site 1.

Environmental Evaluation

- a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?**

As discussed in Section XIV, *Population and Housing*, the project would be limited to roadway repairs and drainage improvements along an existing rural roadway and would not induce substantial or

unplanned population growth in the county. Based on the negligible population growth associated with the proposed project, the project would not increase the use of existing recreational facilities in a manner that would lead to substantial deterioration of existing recreational facilities; therefore, *no impacts* would occur.

b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

The project does not include the construction of new recreational facilities, nor would it require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities elsewhere; therefore, *no impacts* would occur.

Conclusion

The project would not directly or indirectly increase the use of existing recreational facilities in a manner that would result in substantial physical deterioration of these facilities or require the construction of new or expanded facilities that could result in adverse physical effects on the environment. Therefore, *no impacts* related to recreation would occur, and mitigation measures are not necessary.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation is not necessary.

XVII. Transportation

| Environmental Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Would the project:</i> | | | | |
| (a) Conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (b) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (d) Result in inadequate emergency access? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Setting

The *Monterey County General Plan Circulation Element* identifies goals and policies to provide adequate transportation systems to serve the unincorporated lands of Monterey County through the year 2030. These goals and policies are intended to achieve an acceptable level of service (LOS) along roadways, optimize the use of transportation facilities, reduce adverse environmental impacts associated with transportation planning, provide for safe movement of people and goods, protect scenic roadways, and promote alternative modes of transportation (County of Monterey 2010). In addition, the AMBAG MTP/SCS provides land use and transportation planning strategies, including transportation system

management, transportation demand management, active transportation, telecommuting, and an increase in zero-emission vehicles, intended to reduce GHG emissions (AMBAG 2018).

Palo Colorado Road is a winding local road with steep side slopes (1H:1V and steeper) cut into mountainous terrain. The roughly 8 miles of roadway extend west to east from the intersection with Highway 1 to Botcher's Gap crossing into the boundary of the Los Padres National Forest. Palo Colorado Road provides access for residents and visitors to recreational areas and forest as well as a Boy Scout camp. Palo Colorado Road parallels and/or crosses over Bixby, Brandon, Rocky, Turner, and Mill Creeks. The paved road width is between 17 and 22 feet with a few wider areas up to 30 feet. Based on 2022 County Reports, Palo Colorado Road has an ADT rate of 577 vehicles per day (County of Monterey 2022).

Environmental Evaluation

a) Would the project conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?

The project includes construction of roadway repairs and drainage improvements along an existing roadway and would not include the development of new land uses or transportation corridors that would be applicable to transportation and/or land use planning strategies included in the County's Circulation Element or the AMBAG MTP/SCS. The project would ultimately improve vehicle flow and safety along Palo Colorado Road, which would be consistent with goals and policies included in the County's Circulation Element related to providing safe and optimal travel along County roadways. The project does not propose features that would increase capacity of the existing roadway or increase long-term circulation to and from the project site; therefore, the project would not result in a substantial increase in long-term vehicle trips that could reduce the existing LOS or result in adverse environmental impacts, which is consistent with the County's Circulation Element. Therefore, the project would be consistent with the goals and policies of the County's Circulation Element and the AMBAG MTP/SCS, and impacts would be *less than significant*.

b) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?

According to the *Technical Advisory on Evaluating Transportation Impacts in CEQA* (California Governor's Office of Planning and Research [OPR] 2018), projects that would not generate a potentially significant level of vehicle miles traveled (VMT), that are consistent with an SCS or general plan, or that would generate or attract fewer than 110 trips per day would not result in significant transportation impacts. The project does not propose features that would increase long-term circulation to or from the project site. The project would continue to operate as a roadway and would not generate new vehicle trips that could meet or exceed 110 trips per day and would not generate a significant increase in VMT; therefore, project impacts would be *less than significant*.

c) Would the project substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

The project includes the construction of roadway repairs and drainage improvements along an approximately 4.8-mile segment of Palo Colorado Road to repair existing storm damage and protect the roadway against future storm events. Proposed roadway and drainage repairs would be constructed in

compliance with American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), the County’s Roadway Design Standards, and other applicable engineering practices to avoid risk associated with hazardous roadway design. In addition, the project does not include the development of new land uses that could introduce incompatible uses along Palo Colorado Road. Based on required compliance with AASHTO, the County’s Roadway Design Standards, and other applicable engineering practices, the project would not result in hazardous roadway design features; therefore, impacts would be *less than significant*.

d) Would the project result in inadequate emergency access?

The project includes roadway and drainage improvements in 63 discontinuous potential work areas along an approximately 4.8-mile segment of Palo Colorado Road, which has an ADT rate of 577 vehicles per day (County of Monterey 2022). The project would require temporary partial lane closures at work areas along Palo Colorado Road during the 18-month construction period. However, the roadway would remain open to maintain emergency response and evacuation efforts along Palo Colorado Road. Following project construction, temporary partial lane closures would be removed, and the roadway would be repaired to improve vehicle flow and safety along Palo Colorado Road. Therefore, the project would ultimately improve emergency response and evacuation efforts, which would be consistent with the Big Sur Coast LUP, and impacts would be *less than significant*.

Conclusion

The project would be consistent with the County’s Circulation Element and the AMBAG MTP/SCS. The project does not propose features that would increase long-term circulation to or from the project site and would not exceed the established VMT threshold of 110 trips per day. Proposed roadway repairs would be subject to AASHTO, the County’s Roadway Design Standards, and other applicable engineering practices and would not result in hazardous features. The project would ultimately improve emergency response and evacuation efforts along Palo Colorado Road. Therefore, impacts related to transportation would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation is not necessary.

XVIII. Tribal Cultural Resources

| Environmental Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| (a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is: | | | | |
| (i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

| Environmental Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| (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 in 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. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Setting

Approved in 2014, AB 52 added tribal cultural resources to the categories of resources that must be evaluated under CEQA. Tribal cultural resources are defined as either of the following:

1. Sites, features, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that are either of the following:
 - a. Included or determined to be eligible for inclusion in the CRHR; or
 - b. Included in a local register of historical resources as defined in PRC Section 5020.1(k).
2. A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in PRC Section 5024.1(c). In applying these criteria for the purposes of this paragraph, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American Tribe.

Recognizing that tribes have expertise with regard to their tribal history and practices, AB 52 requires lead agencies to provide notice to tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of a proposed project if they have requested notice of projects proposed within that area. If the tribe requests consultation within 30 days upon receipt of the notice, the lead agency must consult with the tribe regarding the potential for adverse impacts on tribal cultural resources as a result of a project. Consultation may include discussing the type of environmental review necessary, the presence and/or significance of tribal cultural resources, the level of significance of a project’s impacts on the tribal cultural resources, and available project alternatives and mitigation measures recommended by the tribe to avoid or lessen potential impacts on tribal cultural resources.

Environmental Evaluation

- a) **Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:**

a-i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(k)?

Based on the records search conducted for the proposed project, there are no previously documented historical tribal cultural resources located within the project area. The records search revealed two previously documented archaeological resources that are located within a 0.25-mile radius of the project area, one of which (P-27-001409) is mapped as overlapping with the project area. P-27-001409 consists of the historic Mill Turner-Bixby Creek Site and associated archaeological resources. However, the pedestrian field survey of the project area did not identify any elements of P-27-001409 or other previously unidentified historic resources within the project area (SWCA 2023). Therefore, the project would not cause an adverse change in the significance of a historical tribal cultural resource, and impacts would be *less than significant*.

a-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 in 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.

Pursuant to AB 52, the County provided notice to local California native tribes with geographic and/or cultural ties to the project region. Referral letters were sent to tribal representatives in April 2023. No tribes have requested consultation or provided information regarding significant tribal cultural resources to date.

As part of the CRSR prepared for the project, SWCA contacted the California NAHC by email on March 14, 2022, requesting a review of the SLF. The NAHC responded on April 10, 2022, indicating that the search of the SLF was negative for the presence of Native American cultural resources within the immediate project area and provided a list of 14 tribal contacts. As part of the preliminary review process for the CRSR, SWCA mailed letters to these contacts on April 14, 2023, requesting information about potential archaeological resources within the project area. One response was received from Tom Little Bear Nason, Chairperson for the Esselen Tribe of Monterey County (ETMC), stating that the project area is within the ETMC's cultural and ancestral landscape and requesting both monitoring of ground disturbance activities by an ETMC representative and formal consultation with the County. However, formal consultation was not requested during the AB 52 consultation process.

The project includes various repairs, including replacement of damaged asphalt, installation of steel guardrails, addition of either steel soldier pile or soil nail retaining walls, and replacement or improvements to existing drainages and would require approximately 3.88 acres of ground-disturbing activities. Based on a records search conducted at the NWIC, two previously documented archaeological resources are located within a 0.25-mile radius of the project area, one of which (P-27-001409) is mapped as overlapping with the project area. However, the pedestrian field survey of the project area did not identify any elements of P-27-001409 or other previously unidentified cultural resources within the project area (SWCA 2023). Based on the findings of the records search and pedestrian field survey, the project area is considered to have low sensitivity for the presence of unidentified prehistoric or historic archaeological resources; therefore, proposed ground-disturbing activities are not anticipated to adversely affect any known or unknown cultural resource sites within the project area. Further, MM CR-1 has been included in the unlikely event that previously unidentified cultural resources are uncovered during proposed ground-disturbing activities. Based on the low potential to uncover cultural resources within the

project area and implementation of MM CR-1, the project would not result in adverse impacts to known or unknown cultural resources; therefore, impacts would be *less than significant with mitigation*.

Conclusion

Based on the low potential to uncover cultural resources within the project area and implementation of MM CR-1, the project would not result in adverse impacts to known or unknown tribal cultural resources. Therefore, with implementation of MM CR-1, impacts related to tribal cultural resources would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

Implement MM CR-1.

XIX. Utilities and Service Systems

| Environmental Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <i>Would the project:</i> | | | | |
| (a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| (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? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Setting

The project site is located in a rural area in Monterey County. Existing utility infrastructure within the project area is limited to existing overhead PG&E electrical and buried AT&T telecom lines.

There are three landfills located in Monterey County, including Johnson Canyon Sanitary Landfill, approximately 27.75 miles northeast of the project site; Monterey Regional Waste Management District (MRWMD; ReGen Monterey Landfill), approximately 23.3 miles northeast of the project site; and Salinas Transfer Station and Recycling Center, approximately 23.85 miles northeast of the project site.

Environmental Evaluation

- a) Would the project require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?**

The project may require the relocation of overhead PG&E electrical and buried AT&T telecom lines prior to the start of construction activities at each work area. Proposed relocation of utility infrastructure would be installed within the footprint of the proposed project. As evaluated throughout this Initial Study, the project has the potential to result in adverse impacts related to Agriculture and Forestry Resources, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, and Noise. MM AQ-1 through MM AQ-3, MM BIO-1 through MM BIO-13, MM CR-1, and MM N-1 have been included to avoid and/or minimize adverse impacts to less-than-significant levels. Therefore, upon implementation of the identified mitigation measures, relocation of utility infrastructure would not result in adverse impacts to the environment; therefore, potential impacts would be *less than significant with mitigation*.

- b) Would the project have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?**

The project does not require any connections to water and would not require any long-term operational water use. During construction, water may be used for dust suppression; however, any water used during construction would be limited in volume and supplied from off-site sources. Therefore, *no impacts* would occur.

- c) Would the project 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?**

Operation of the project does not include connection to any public or private wastewater treatment providers. Portable restrooms would likely be used by workers and other personnel throughout the construction period; therefore, the project would not require short- or long-term connections to wastewater treatment providers, and *no impacts* would occur.

- d) Would the project 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?**

Construction of the project may result in a temporary increase in solid waste, which would be disposed of in accordance with applicable state and local laws and regulations, such as California's Green Building Standards Code (CALGreen) Sections 4.408 and 5.408, which requires diversion of at least 75% of construction waste. Based on required compliance with CALGreen regulations, construction of the project would not generate solid waste in excess of local infrastructure capacity. Solid waste landfills within Monterey County have adequate capacity to dispose of the marginal amount of solid waste generated by the proposed project. Operation of the project would result in the continued operation of a roadway and

would not generate waste in excess of state or local standards or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure; therefore, impacts would be *less than significant*.

e) Would the project comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

As previously described, operation of the project would not result in the long-term generation of solid waste. Construction-related waste (i.e., excavated soils) would be disposed of according to federal and state regulations, including CALGreen standards for diversion of construction waste. Therefore, the project would not generate long-term solid waste and would be compliant with solid waste reduction statutes and regulations, and impacts would be *less than significant*.

Conclusion

Implementation of MM AQ-1 through MM AQ-3, MM BIO-1 through MM BIO-13, MM CR-1, and MM N-1 would reduce potential adverse environmental impacts related to relocation of overhead PG&E electrical and buried AT&T telecom lines to less-than-significant levels. The project does not require connection to groundwater resources or a local water or wastewater provider. The project would not generate solid waste in exceedance of state or local regulations. Therefore, with implementation of Mitigation Measures AQ-1 through AQ-3, BIO-1 through BIO-13, CR-1, and N-1, impacts related to utilities and service systems would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

Implement Mitigation Measures AQ-1 through AQ-3, BIO-1 through BIO-13, CR-1, and N-1.

XX. Wildfire

| Environmental Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:</i> | | | | |
| (a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Setting

A wildfire is any uncontrolled fire occurring on undeveloped land that requires fire suppression. Wildfires put lives and property at risk and compromise rivers and watersheds, open space, timber, range, recreational opportunities, wildlife habitats, historic and cultural areas assets, scenic assets, and local economies. The potential for significant damage to life and property increases in areas where development is adjacent to dense vegetation, known as wildland urban interface (WUI) areas. The severity of the wildland fire hazard is determined by the relationship between three factors: fuel classification, topographic slope, and critical fire weather frequency (County of Monterey 2023b).

The history of wildfires in Monterey County is significant. Since 1911, there has been an average of four wildfires per year, with an average of 17,000 acres burning annually. Each area of the county consists of unique variations of topography, fuel, and weather that impact wildfire behavior. According to the CAL FIRE FHSZ Viewer, the project site is located in a very high FHSZ within a State Responsibility Area (SRA) (CAL FIRE 2023).

Environmental Evaluation

- a) **If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?**

The project site is located within a very high FHSZ within an SRA (CAL FIRE 2023). The project includes roadway and drainage improvements at 63 discontinuous potential work areas along an approximately 4.8-mile segment of Palo Colorado Road, which has an ADT rate of 577 vehicles per day (County of Monterey 2022). The project would require temporary partial lane closures at work areas along Palo Colorado Road during the 18-month construction period, which would result in a short-term increase in vehicle congestion. However, the roadway would remain open to allow for emergency and other vehicle ingress and egress along Palo Colorado Road. Following project construction, temporary partial lane closures would be removed, and the roadway would be repaired to improve vehicle flow and safety along Palo Colorado Road. Therefore, the project would ultimately improve emergency response and evacuation efforts, which would be consistent with the goals and policies of the Big Sur Coast LUP to maintain emergency vehicle access and access to evacuation routes, and impacts would be *less than significant*.

- b) **Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, if located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?**

Palo Colorado Road is a winding road with steep side slopes cut into mountainous terrain within a very high FHSZ (CAL FIRE 2023). However, the project would be limited to roadway and drainage repairs along an existing roadway and would not include the development of any structures or buildings that could increase the potential for a wildfire to occur in the immediate or surrounding area. Therefore, the project would not expose nearby residents to wildfire, and impacts would be *less than significant*.

- c) If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?**

The project site is located within a very high FHSZ (CAL FIRE 2023). The project may require the relocation of overhead PG&E electrical and buried AT&T telecom lines prior to the start of construction activities at each work area. However, the project does not include the construction of new overhead utility lines or other utilities that could increase the risk of wildfire ignition in the project area. The project would be limited to roadway and drainage repairs along an existing roadway and would not result in the construction of new roadways that could exacerbate wildfire risk within the project area. In addition, proposed roadway repairs would be conducted in accordance with AASHTO requirements, the County's Roadway Design Standards, and other applicable engineering practices, which would reduce the potential to increase wildfire risk within the project area. Based on the nature of the proposed project and required compliance with AASHTO and County requirements, the project would not exacerbate wildfire risk; therefore, impacts would be *less than significant*.

- d) If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?**

According to the Geologic Hazards Map for Monterey County, the project site is located in an area with low risk of landslide and liquefaction. In addition, the project site is not located within a 100-year flood zone or other area at risk of flooding (FEMA 2023). The project would not include the development of any structures or buildings that could expose people or structures to post-fire risks. The project includes the construction of roadway repairs and drainage improvements to repair existing storm damage and protect the roadway against future storm events. Proposed roadway and drainage repairs would be constructed in compliance with AASHTO, the Caltrans SDC, the County's Roadway Design Standards, and other applicable engineering practices to further avoid risk associated with post-fire flooding and ground-failure events. Based on the low risk of flooding and ground-failure events, proposed repairs, and required compliance with AASHTO, the Caltrans SDC, the County's Roadway Design Standards, and other applicable engineering practices, the project would not expose people or structure to post-fire risks; therefore, impacts would be *less than significant*.

Conclusion

The project would not expose people or structures to new or exacerbated wildfire risks or require the development of new or expanded infrastructure or maintenance to reduce wildfire risks, and impacts related to wildfire would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation is not necessary.

XXI. Mandatory Findings of Significance

| Environmental Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| (a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (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)? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Environmental Evaluation

- a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?**

Based on the analysis provided in individual resource sections above, the project has the potential to disturb sensitive biological resources and unknown cultural and/or tribal cultural resources. MM BIO-1 through MM BIO-13 have been identified and would reduce potential impacts related to sensitive biological resources to less than significant. Additionally, MM CR-1 has been identified to reduce impacts to unknown cultural and/or tribal cultural resources if present within the project area. Therefore, potential impacts would be *less than significant with mitigation*.

- 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)?**

Based on the nature of proposed development and the analysis provided in resource sections above, the project would have the potential to result in environmental impacts associated with Agriculture and Forestry Resources, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources, Geology

and Soils, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, and Noise that could have a cumulative effect with other development projects in the project region. MM AQ-1 through MM AQ-3, MM BIO-1 through MM BIO-13, MM CR-1, and MM N-1 have been identified to reduce potential environmental impacts associated with the project to a less-than-significant level. Other past and future development projects requiring a discretionary permit in the project region would also be subject to applicable mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts associated with these impact issue areas. Therefore, based on implementation of project-level mitigation measures and discretionary review and CEQA review of other projects within the project area, potential impacts would be *less than cumulatively considerable with mitigation*.

c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

Based on the nature and scale of the proposed project and the analysis provided in individual resource sections above, the project has the potential to cause environmental effects that could result in substantial adverse effects on human beings. Potential impacts associated with air quality and hazards and hazardous materials would be reduced to less-than-significant levels with implementation of MM AQ-1 through MM AQ-3 and MM BIO-1. Therefore, potential impacts associated with environmental effects that would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings would be *less than significant with mitigation*.

Conclusion

Based on implementation of MM AQ-1 through MM AQ-3, MM BIO-1 through MM BIO-13, MM CR-1, and MM N-1, all potential impacts associated with the construction and operation of the proposed project would be mitigated to less-than-significant levels.

3 REFERENCES

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APPENDIX A

California Emissions Estimator Model Results

Palo Colorado Road Repair Project Summary Report

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1. Basic Project Information

1.1. Basic Project Information

| Data Field | Value |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Project Name | Palo Colorado Road Repair Project |
| Construction Start Date | 6/13/2024 |
| Lead Agency | — |
| Land Use Scale | Project/site |
| Analysis Level for Defaults | County |
| Windspeed (m/s) | 2.80 |
| Precipitation (days) | 43.0 |
| Location | 36.38358442560799, -121.86591728430608 |
| County | Monterey |
| City | Unincorporated |
| Air District | Monterey Bay ARD |
| Air Basin | North Central Coast |
| TAZ | 3208 |
| EDFZ | 6 |
| Electric Utility | Pacific Gas & Electric Company |
| Gas Utility | Pacific Gas & Electric |
| App Version | 2022.1.1.16 |

1.2. Land Use Types

| Land Use Subtype | Size | Unit | Lot Acreage | Building Area (sq ft) | Landscape Area (sq ft) | Special Landscape Area (sq ft) | Population | Description |
|------------------|------|------|-------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|------------|-------------|
| Road Widening | 4.80 | Mile | 3.88 | 0.00 | — | — | — | — |

1.3. User-Selected Emission Reduction Measures by Emissions Sector

No measures selected

2. Emissions Summary

2.1. Construction Emissions Compared Against Thresholds

Criteria Pollutants (lb/day for daily, ton/yr for annual) and GHGs (lb/day for daily, MT/yr for annual)

| Un/Mit. | TOG | ROG | NOx | CO | SO2 | PM10E | PM10D | PM10T | PM2.5E | PM2.5D | PM2.5T | BCO2 | NBCO2 | CO2T | CH4 | N2O | R | CO2e |
|---------------------|------|------|------|------|---------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|------|-------|-------|------|------|------|-------|
| Daily, Summer (Max) | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Unmit. | 4.66 | 3.90 | 36.4 | 37.7 | 0.07 | 1.69 | 3.82 | 5.51 | 1.55 | 0.43 | 1.98 | — | 7,945 | 7,945 | 0.33 | 0.11 | 0.78 | 7,988 |
| Daily, Winter (Max) | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Unmit. | 4.66 | 3.90 | 36.4 | 37.7 | 0.07 | 1.69 | 3.82 | 5.51 | 1.55 | 0.43 | 1.98 | — | 7,944 | 7,944 | 0.33 | 0.11 | 0.02 | 7,985 |
| Average Daily (Max) | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Unmit. | 1.26 | 1.05 | 9.82 | 10.2 | 0.02 | 0.45 | 0.99 | 1.43 | 0.41 | 0.11 | 0.52 | — | 2,131 | 2,131 | 0.09 | 0.03 | 0.11 | 2,143 |
| Annual (Max) | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Unmit. | 0.23 | 0.19 | 1.79 | 1.86 | < 0.005 | 0.08 | 0.18 | 0.26 | 0.07 | 0.02 | 0.10 | — | 353 | 353 | 0.01 | 0.01 | 0.02 | 355 |

6. Climate Risk Detailed Report

6.2. Initial Climate Risk Scores

| Climate Hazard | Exposure Score | Sensitivity Score | Adaptive Capacity Score | Vulnerability Score |
|------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Temperature and Extreme Heat | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Extreme Precipitation | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Sea Level Rise | 1 | 0 | 0 | N/A |
| Wildfire | 1 | 0 | 0 | N/A |
| Flooding | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Drought | 0 | 0 | 0 | N/A |
| Snowpack Reduction | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Air Quality Degradation | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |

The sensitivity score reflects the extent to which a project would be adversely affected by exposure to a climate hazard. Exposure is rated on a scale of 1 to 5, with a score of 5 representing the greatest exposure.

The adaptive capacity of a project refers to its ability to manage and reduce vulnerabilities from projected climate hazards. Adaptive capacity is rated on a scale of 1 to 5, with a score of 5 representing the greatest ability to adapt.

The overall vulnerability scores are calculated based on the potential impacts and adaptive capacity assessments for each hazard. Scores do not include implementation of climate risk reduction measures.

6.3. Adjusted Climate Risk Scores

| Climate Hazard | Exposure Score | Sensitivity Score | Adaptive Capacity Score | Vulnerability Score |
|------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Temperature and Extreme Heat | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Extreme Precipitation | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Sea Level Rise | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Wildfire | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Flooding | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Drought | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Snowpack Reduction | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| Air Quality Degradation | N/A | N/A | N/A | N/A |

The sensitivity score reflects the extent to which a project would be adversely affected by exposure to a climate hazard. Exposure is rated on a scale of 1 to 5, with a score of 5 representing the greatest exposure.

The adaptive capacity of a project refers to its ability to manage and reduce vulnerabilities from projected climate hazards. Adaptive capacity is rated on a scale of 1 to 5, with a score of 5 representing the greatest ability to adapt.

The overall vulnerability scores are calculated based on the potential impacts and adaptive capacity assessments for each hazard. Scores include implementation of climate risk reduction measures.

7. Health and Equity Details

7.3. Overall Health & Equity Scores

| Metric | Result for Project Census Tract |
|---|---------------------------------|
| CalEnviroScreen 4.0 Score for Project Location (a) | 2.00 |
| Healthy Places Index Score for Project Location (b) | 75.0 |
| Project Located in a Designated Disadvantaged Community (Senate Bill 535) | No |
| Project Located in a Low-Income Community (Assembly Bill 1550) | No |
| Project Located in a Community Air Protection Program Community (Assembly Bill 617) | No |

a: The maximum CalEnviroScreen score is 100. A high score (i.e., greater than 50) reflects a higher pollution burden compared to other census tracts in the state.

b: The maximum Health Places Index score is 100. A high score (i.e., greater than 50) reflects healthier community conditions compared to other census tracts in the state.

7.5. Evaluation Scorecard

Health & Equity Evaluation Scorecard not completed.

APPENDIX B

Special-Status Plant and Wildlife Species Evaluated for Potential Occurrence

Table B-1. Special-Status Plant Species Evaluated for Potential Occurrence

| Species Name | Habitat and Distribution | Flower Season | Legal Status Federal / State / CNPS Rare Plant Rank / USFS | Rationale for Expecting Presence or Absence |
|--|--|---------------|--|---|
| Bryophytes | | | | |
| tear drop moss <i>Dacryophyllum falcifolium</i> | Occurs in North Coast coniferous forest and carbonate. Elevation: 50–275 meters. | N/A | -- / -- / 1B.3 / USFS SS | Marginal Conditions Present: Marginal habitat for this species is present in the redwood forest areas of the project area, but it is outside of the known elevation range for this species. This species was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted for this project. This species is unlikely to occur in areas impacted by project activities. |
| Toren's grimmia <i>Grimmia torenii</i> | Moss that grows in chaparral, cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest in carbonate, openings, rocky, and volcanic. Elevation: 325–1,160 meters. | N/A | -- / -- / 1B.3 / -- | Suitable Conditions Present: Suitable habitat for this species is present in the project area. There is one occurrence documented in California in the Los Padres National Forest, south of Coast Ridge Road. This species was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted for this project. This species is unlikely to be impacted by project activities. |
| California screw moss <i>Tortula californica</i> | Moss that grows in chenopod scrub and valley and foothill grassland. Elevation: 10–1,460 meters. | N/A | -- / -- / 1B.2 / -- | Suitable Conditions Absent: Suitable conditions for this species are absent in the project area. The closest CNDDDB occurrence is documented 9.5 miles northwest just south of Garrapata State Park. |
| Monilophytes | | | | |
| Carlotta Hall's lace fern <i>Aspidotis carlotta-halliae</i> | Perennial rhizomatous herb that grows in chaparral or cismontane woodland often in serpentinite soil. Elevation: 100–1,400 meters. | N/A | -- / -- / 4.2 / -- | Suitable Conditions Absent: The project area lacks serpentinite soil. The closest occurrences are documented in southern Monterey County. |
| Gymnosperms | | | | |
| bristlecone fir <i>Abies bracteata</i> | Perennial evergreen tree that grows in broadleaved upland forest, chaparral, lower montane coniferous forest, and riparian woodland, usually in rocky conditions. Elevation: 183–1,550 meters. | N/A | -- / -- / 1B.3 / USFS SS | Suitable Conditions Present: Suitable habitat for this species is present in the project area. The closest CNDDDB occurrences are documented 1.3 miles east and 2.75 miles south on U.S. Forest Service (USFS) land, but these records are historic and need fieldwork to verify. This species was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted for this project. No impacts to this species are anticipated from project activities. |

| Species Name | Habitat and Distribution | Flower Season | Legal Status Federal / State / CNPS Rare Plant Rank / USFS | Rationale for Expecting Presence or Absence |
|--|--|---------------|--|---|
| Monterey pine <i>Pinus radiata</i> | Evergreen tree that occurs in closed-cone coniferous forest and cismontane woodland. Only native stands restricted to Año Nuevo, Cambria, and Monterey Peninsula. Elevation: 25–185 meters. | N/A | -- / -- / 1B.1 / -- | Suitable Conditions Present; Species Present: A planted stand occurs in Work Area 1, but these trees are planted and not considered a native stand. Work Area 1 is a staging area, and no impacts to this species are anticipated from project activities. |
| Monocots | | | | |
| Blasdale's bent grass <i>Agrostis blasdalei</i> | Perennial rhizomatous herb that occurs in coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes, and coastal prairie in sandy and gravelly soil. Elevation: 0–365 meters. | May–July | -- / -- / 1B.2 / -- | Suitable Conditions Absent: No coastal dune habitat or sandy soils are present in the project area. |
| San Luis Obispo sedge <i>Carex obispoensis</i> | Occurs in closed-cone coniferous forests, chaparral, coastal prairie, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland; usually adjacent to seeps, springs, stream sides or other water source with sand, clay or serpentine. Elevation: 5–790 meters. | April–June | -- / -- / 1B.2 / USFS SS | Suitable Conditions Present: Potentially suitable habitat for this species is present in the project area; however, most occurrences are documented in San Luis Obispo County and closer to the coast. The closest occurrence is documented approximately 2 miles south in Andrew Molera State Park. This species was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted for this project. Compliance with MM BIO-4 would require future botanical surveys to be conducted prior to construction activities to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to this species. |
| stinkbells <i>Fritillaria agrestis</i> | Perennial bulbiferous herb that grows in chaparral, cismontane woodland, pinyon and juniper woodland, and valley and foothill grassland; usually in clay and sometimes serpentinite. Elevation: 10–1,555 meters. | March–June | -- / -- / 4.2 / -- | Suitable Conditions Present: Potentially suitable habitat for this species is present in the project area; however, this species was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted for this project. Compliance with MM BIO-4 would require future botanical surveys to be conducted prior to construction activities to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to this species. |
| talus fritillary <i>Fritillaria falcata</i> | Occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and lower montane coniferous forest. Mostly on serpentine talus, but occasionally found on granitics. Elevation: 425–1,435 meters. | March–May | -- / -- / 1B.2 / -- | Suitable Conditions Present: Potentially suitable habitat for this species is present in the project area; however, this species was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted for this project. Compliance with MM BIO-4 would require future botanical surveys to be conducted prior to construction activities to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to this species. |

| Species Name | Habitat and Distribution | Flower Season | Legal Status Federal / State / CNPS Rare Plant Rank / USFS | Rationale for Expecting Presence or Absence |
|---|---|----------------|--|---|
| fragrant fritillary <i>Fritillaria liliacea</i> | Bulbiferous herb that occurs in cismontane woodland, coastal prairies, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland; often associated with serpentinite. Elevation: 3–410 meters. | February–April | -- / -- / 1B.2 / USFS SS | Marginal Conditions Present: Marginally suitable habitat for this species is potentially present in the project area; however, the project area lacks serpentinite soil. This species was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted for this project. Compliance with MM BIO-4 would require future botanical surveys to be conducted prior to construction activities to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to this species. |
| Michael's rein orchid <i>Piperia michaelii</i> | Perennial herb that occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, closed-cone coniferous forest, coastal bluff scrub, coastal scrub, and lower montane coniferous forest. Elevation: 3–915 meters. | April–August | -- / -- / 4.2 / -- | Suitable Conditions Present: Potentially suitable habitat for this species is present in the project area. This species was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted for this project. Compliance with MM BIO-4 would require future botanical surveys to be conducted prior to construction activities to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to this species. |
| Yadon's rein orchid <i>Piperia yadonii</i> | Perennial herb that occurs in coastal bluff scrub, closed-cone coniferous forest, and maritime chaparral with sandy soil on sandstone and sandy soil, but poorly drained and often dry. Elevation: 10–510 meters. | May–August | FE / -- / 1B.1 / -- | Marginal Conditions Present: Marginally suitable habitat for this species is present in the project area; however, no sandy soil is present. There is a CNDDB occurrence documented approximately 1.3 miles west along the ridgeline dividing Las Piedras Canyon and Palo Colorado Canyon. This species was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted for this project. Based on the elevation of the project area, there is low potential for this species to occur. Compliance with MM BIO-4 would require future botanical surveys to be conducted prior to construction activities to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to this species. |
| Dicots | | | | |
| little sur manzanita <i>Arctostaphylos edmundsii</i> | Evergreen shrub that occurs on sandy soils in coastal bluff scrub and chaparral. Elevation: 30–105 meters. | November–April | -- / -- / 1B.2 / -- | Suitable Conditions Absent: No suitable habitat for this species is present in the project area because the elevation at the project site ranges from 275 to 645 meters. |
| Hooker's manzanita <i>Arctostaphylos hookeri</i> ssp. <i>hookeri</i> | Evergreen shrub that occurs on sandy soils, shaly soils, and sandstone outcrops associated with closed-cone coniferous forest, chaparral, and coastal scrub. Elevation: 85–536 meters. | January–June | -- / -- / 1B.2 / -- | Suitable Conditions Absent: Potentially suitable conditions are present in the project area, but the project area is outside of the known range of this species. The closest CNDDB occurrence documented is 7.5 miles north in Palo Corona Regional Park. The species was not observed during the 2021 botanical surveys. |

| Species Name | Habitat and Distribution | Flower Season | Legal Status Federal / State / CNPS Rare Plant Rank / USFS | Rationale for Expecting Presence or Absence |
|---|---|----------------------|--|--|
| toro manzanita <i>Arctostaphylos montereyensis</i> | Evergreen shrub that occurs in cismontane woodland, chaparral, and coastal scrub on sandy soils. Elevation: 35–190 meters. | February– March | -- / -- / 1B.2 / -- | Suitable Conditions Absent: No suitable sandy soil is present in the project area, and the project area occurs outside of the known range of this species. The closest CNDDDB occurrence is documented 10 miles north in Carmel Valley Village. Not observed during 2021 botanical surveys. |
| marsh sandwort <i>Arenaria paludicola</i> | Occurs in sandy soils and openings in marshes and swamps (freshwater or brackish). Elevation: 3–170 meters. | May–August | FE / SE / 1B.2 / - - | Suitable Conditions Absent: No suitable sandy soils or marsh or swampy conditions, and the project area is outside of the elevational range of this species. There are no CNDDDB occurrences documented within 10 miles. The closest occurrence is documented 41 miles northwest. |
| ocean bluff milk-vetch <i>Astragalus nuttallii</i> var. <i>nuttallii</i> | Perennial herb that occurs on coastal bluffs and dunes. Elevation: 3–20 meters. | January– November | -- / -- / 4.2 / -- | Suitable Conditions Absent: No suitable habitat for this species is present in the project area because the elevation at the project site ranges from 275 to 645 meters. |
| Brewer's calandrinia <i>Calandrinia breweri</i> | Annual herb that occurs in chaparral, coastal scrub in burned areas, disturbed areas, loam (sometimes), or sandy (sometimes) soils. Elevation: 10–1,220 meters. | (Jan)Mar–Jun | -- / -- / 4.2 / -- | Suitable Conditions Present: Suitable conditions for this species are present in chaparral habitat within the project area. The closest occurrence is documented near Bixby Creek Road, approximately 2.4 miles west. This species was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted for this project. Compliance with MM BIO-4 would require future botanical surveys to be conducted prior to construction activities to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to this species. |
| Muir's tarplant <i>Carlquistia muirii</i> | Perennial rhizomatous herb that occurs in chaparral (montane), lower montane coniferous forest, upper montane coniferous forest in granitic soils. Elevation: 775–2,500 meters. | Jul–Aug(Oct) | -- / -- / 1B.3 / USFS SS | Suitable Conditions Absent: No suitable habitat for this species is present in the project area because the elevation at the project site ranges from 275 to 645 meters. |
| Monterey ceanothus <i>Ceanothus rigidus</i> | Evergreen shrub that occurs in closed-cone, coniferous forest, chaparral, and coastal scrub with sandy soil. Elevation: 3–550 meters. | February– April | -- / -- / 4.2 / -- | Suitable Conditions Present: Suitable conditions for this species are present in the chaparral habitat within the project area. Most occurrences are documented north of Palo Colorado Canyon around Monterey; however, this species was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted for this project. Compliance with MM BIO-4 would require future botanical surveys to be conducted prior to construction activities to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to this species. |
| compact cobwebby thistle <i>Cirsium occidentale</i> var. <i>compactum</i> | Perennial herb that occurs in chaparral, coastal dunes, coastal prairie, and coastal scrub. Elevation: 5–150 meters. | April–June | -- / -- / 1B.2 / -- | Suitable Conditions Absent: No suitable habitat for this species is present in the project area because the elevation at the project site ranges from 275 to 645 meters. |

| Species Name | Habitat and Distribution | Flower Season | Legal Status Federal / State / CNPS Rare Plant Rank / USFS | Rationale for Expecting Presence or Absence |
|--|---|---------------|--|--|
| Jolon clarkia <i>Clarkia jolonensis</i> | Annual herb that occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal scrub, and riparian woodland. Elevation: 20–660 meters. | April–June | -- / -- / 1B.2 / USFS SS | Suitable Conditions Present: Suitable habitat for this species is present in the chaparral and riparian areas within the project site. The closest CNDDDB occurrence (may be misidentified) is documented on Rocky Ridge Trail 5 miles northwest. There are also several occurrences documented by Calfora in Monterey County; however, this species was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted for this project. Compliance with MM BIO-4 would require future botanical surveys to be conducted prior to construction activities to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to this species. |
| monkey-flower savory <i>Clinopodium mimuloides</i> | Perennial herb that occurs in chaparral and north coast coniferous forest in mesic areas or along streambanks. Elevation: 305-1,800 meters. | June–October | -- / -- / 4.2 / -- | Suitable Conditions Present: Potentially suitable habitat for this species is present in the project area. There are several occurrences documented by Calfora in Monterey County; however, this species was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted for this project. Compliance with MM BIO-4 would require future botanical surveys to be conducted prior to construction activities to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to this species. |
| seaside bird's-beak <i>Cordylanthus rigidus</i> ssp. <i>littoralis</i> | Annual herb that occurs in closed-cone coniferous forest, chaparral, cismontane woodland, coastal dunes, and coastal scrub with sandy soils; often found in disturbed sites. Elevation: 0–425 meters. | April–October | -- / SE / 1B.1 / -- | Suitable Conditions Absent: The project site includes wooded forests at elevations between 275 and 625 meters. Based on elevation, there is no suitable habitat for this species in the project area. There is a CNDDDB occurrence documented within 10 miles of the project area approximately 0.4 mile west. Therefore, there is low potential for this species to occur within the project area. |
| Hutchinson's larkspur <i>Delphinium hutchinsoniae</i> | Perennial herb that occurs in broadleaved upland forest, chaparral, coastal prairie, and coastal scrub. Elevation: 0–427 meters. | March–June | -- / -- / 1B.2 / USFS SS | Marginal Conditions Present: Suitable habitat is present in the chaparral habitat and coastal scrub in the project area. The closest CNDDDB occurrence is documented 3 miles east near Hurricane Point on USFS land. The project area is likely too far inland and over half of it occurs outside of the elevational range of this species. |
| umbrella larkspur <i>Delphinium umbraculorum</i> | Perennial herb that occurs in cismontane woodland and chaparral; typically on mesic sites. Elevation: 215–2,075 meters. | April–June | -- / -- / 1B.3 / USFS SS | Suitable Conditions Present: Suitable habitat is present in the project area in the woodlands. There is a CNDDDB occurrence documented 1 mile south of Bixby Creek on Bonafacio Hill. This species was not observed during the 2021 botanical surveys. |

| Species Name | Habitat and Distribution | Flower Season | Legal Status Federal / State / CNPS Rare Plant Rank / USFS | Rationale for Expecting Presence or Absence |
|--|---|-----------------|--|---|
| Eastwood's goldenbush <i>Ericameria fasciculata</i> | Perennial shrub that occurs in closed-cone coniferous forest, chaparral, coastal dunes, and coastal scrub within openings on sandy soil. Elevation: 30–275 meters. | July–October | -- / -- / 1B.1 / -- | Suitable Conditions Absent: No suitable sandy soil is present in the project area. No suitable habitat for this species is present in the project area because the elevation at the project site ranges from 275 to 645 meters. |
| Pinnacles buckwheat <i>Eriogonum nortonii</i> | Annual herb that is found in sandy soils among chaparral and valley and foothill grassland; often follows fire. Elevation: 300–975 meters. | April–September | -- / -- / 1B.3 / -- | Suitable Conditions Absent: The project area occurs outside of the known range of this species. There are CNDDDB occurrences documented north of Garrapata State Park and in the Salinas Valley. |
| bay buckwheat <i>Eriogonum umbellatum</i> var. <i>bahiiiforme</i> | Perennial herb that occurs in cismontane woodland and lower montane coniferous forest often in rocky or serpentinite (often) areas. Elevation: 700–2,200 meters. | July–September | -- / -- / 4.2 / -- | Suitable Conditions Absent: Suitable habitat occurs in woodland and redwood forest and there are two Calflora occurrences documented in the Santa Lucia Mountains south of the project area; however, the project area is outside of the known elevational range of this species. The project area lacks serpentinite soil. This species was not observed during the 2021 botanical surveys. |
| sand-loving wallflower <i>Erysimum ammophilum</i> | Perennial herb that occurs in chaparral, coastal dunes, and coastal scrub with sandy soils and openings. Elevation: 0–60 meters. | February–June | -- / -- / 1B.2 / -- | Suitable Conditions Absent: The project area occurs outside of the known elevational range of this species. |
| Cone Peak bedstraw <i>Galium californicum</i> ssp. <i>lucienne</i> | Perennial herb that occurs in broadleaved upland forest, chaparral, cismontane woodland, and lower montane coniferous forest in rocky (often) and serpentinite (rarely) soils. Elevation: 400–1,525 meters. | March–September | -- / -- 1B.3 / USFS SS | Suitable Conditions Present: Potentially suitable habitat for this species is present in the project area. The closest Calflora occurrence is documented south in the Ventana Wilderness; however, this species was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted for this project. Compliance with MM BIO-4 would require future botanical surveys to be conducted prior to construction activities to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to this species. |
| Santa Lucia bedstraw <i>Galium clementis</i> | Perennial herb that occurs in lower and upper montane coniferous forests; associated with granitic and serpentine rocky soils. Elevation: 1,130–1,780 meters. | April–July | -- / -- 1B.3 / USFS SS | Suitable Conditions Absent: The project area occurs outside of the known elevational range of this species. |
| Santa Lucia horkelia <i>Horkelia yadonii</i> | Perennial rhizomatous herb that occurs in broadleaved upland forest, chaparral, cismontane woodland, meadows and seeps, and riparian woodlands in granitic or sandy soils. Elevation: 300–1,900 meters. | April–July | -- / -- / 4.2 / -- | Suitable Conditions Present: Potentially suitable habitat for this species is present in the project area; however, this species was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted for this project. Compliance with MM BIO-4 would require future botanical surveys to be conducted prior to construction activities to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to this species. |

| Species Name | Habitat and Distribution | Flower Season | Legal Status Federal / State / CNPS Rare Plant Rank / USFS | Rationale for Expecting Presence or Absence |
|---|--|---------------|--|---|
| harlequin lotus <i>Hosackia gracilis</i> | Perennial rhizomatous herb that occurs in broadleaved upland forest, cismontane woodland, closed-cone coniferous forest, coastal bluff scrub, coastal prairie, coastal scrub, marshes and swamps, meadows and seeps, north coast coniferous forest, and valley and foothill grasslands. Elevation: 0–700 meters. | March–July | -- / -- / 4.2 / -- | Suitable Conditions Present: Potentially suitable habitat for this species is present in the project area; however, this species was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted for this project. Compliance with MM BIO-4 would require future botanical surveys to be conducted prior to construction activities to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to this species. |
| large-flowered leptosiphon <i>Leptosiphon grandiflorus</i> | Annual herb that occurs in cismontane woodland, closed-cone coniferous forest, coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes, coastal prairie, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grasslands. Usually in sandy soils. Elevation: 5–1,220 meters. | April–August | -- / -- / 4.2 / -- | Suitable Conditions Present: Potentially suitable habitat for this species is present in the project area; however, this species was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted for this project. Compliance with MM BIO-4 would require future botanical surveys to be conducted prior to construction activities to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to this species. |
| small-leaved lomatium <i>Lomatium parvifolium</i> | Perennial herb that occurs in closed-cone coniferous forest, chaparral, coastal scrub, riparian woodland; often associated with serpentinite. Elevation: 20–700 meters. | January–June | -- / -- / 4.2 / -- | Marginal Conditions Present: Marginally suitable habitat for this species is potentially present in the project area; however, the project area lacks serpentinite soil, and this species was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted for this project. Compliance with MM BIO-4 would require future botanical surveys to be conducted prior to construction activities to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to this species. |
| Abrams' lupine <i>Lupinus albifrons</i> var. <i>abramsi</i> | Occurs in broadleaved upland forest, chaparral, coastal scrub, lower montane coniferous forest, valley and foothill grassland in serpentinite (sometimes). Elevation: 125–2,000 meters. | April–June | -- / -- / 3.2 / -- | Suitable Conditions Present: Potentially suitable habitat for this species is present in the project area; however, this species was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted for this project. Compliance with MM BIO-4 would require future botanical surveys to be conducted prior to construction activities to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to this species. |
| clover lupine <i>Lupinus tidestromii</i> | Occurs in coastal foredunes and adjacent sandy microsities in dune scrub vegetation and/or coastal prairie. Elevation: 0–100 meters. | April–June | FE / SE / 1B.1 / -- | Suitable Conditions Absent: No suitable habitat for this species is present in the project area. The project area occurs outside of the elevational range of this species. There are no CNDDDB occurrences documented within 10 miles. The closest occurrence is documented 12 miles northwest. Therefore, there is low potential for this species to occur within the project area. |

| Species Name | Habitat and Distribution | Flower Season | Legal Status Federal / State / CNPS Rare Plant Rank / USFS | Rationale for Expecting Presence or Absence |
|---|---|--------------------------|--|--|
| Carmel Valley bush-mallow <i>Malacothamnus palmeri</i> var. <i>involucratus</i> | Perennial shrub that occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and coastal scrub. Elevation: 30–1,100 meters. | May–August | -- / -- / 1B.2 / -- | Suitable Conditions Present: Potentially suitable habitat for this species is present in the project area; however, this species was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted for this project. Compliance with MM BIO-4 would require future botanical surveys to be conducted prior to construction activities to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to this species. |
| Arroyo Seco bush-mallow <i>Malacothamnus palmeri</i> var. <i>lucianus</i> | Perennial shrub that occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, meadows, and seeps. Elevation: 9–915 meters. | (April)May– August | -- / -- / 1B.2 / USFS SS | Suitable Conditions Present: Potentially suitable habitat for this species is present in the project area; however, this species was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted for this project. Compliance with MM BIO-4 would require future botanical surveys to be conducted prior to construction activities to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to this species. |
| Carmel Valley malacothrix <i>Malacothrix saxatilis</i> var. <i>arachnoidea</i> | Perennial rhizomatous herb that occurs in chaparral (rocky) and coastal scrub. Elevation: 25–1036 meters. | (March)June– December | -- / -- / 1B.2 / USFS SS | Suitable Conditions Present: Potentially suitable habitat for this species is present in the project area; however, this species was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted for this project. Compliance with MM BIO-4 would require future botanical surveys to be conducted prior to construction activities to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to this species. |
| organ meconella <i>Meconella oregana</i> | Annual herb that occurs in coastal prairie and coastal scrub habitats. Elevation: 250–620 meters. | March–April | -- / -- / 1B.1 / -- | Suitable Conditions Present: Potentially suitable habitat for this species is present in the project area; however, this species was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted for this project. Compliance with MM BIO-4 would require future botanical surveys to be conducted prior to construction activities to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to this species. |
| Dudley's lousewort <i>Pedicularis dudleyi</i> | Perennial herb that occurs in cismontane woodland, chaparral, North Coast coniferous forest, and valley and foothill grassland. Elevation: 60–900 meters. | April–June | -- / SR / 1B.2 / USFS SS | Suitable Conditions Present: Potentially suitable habitat for this species is present in the project area. There are CNDDDB occurrences documented within 10 miles, and the closest occurrence is documented 3.9 miles southeast along the north fork of the Little Sur River; however, this species was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted for this project. Compliance with MM BIO-4 would require future botanical surveys to be conducted prior to construction activities to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to this species. |

| Species Name | Habitat and Distribution | Flower Season | Legal Status Federal / State / CNPS Rare Plant Rank / USFS | Rationale for Expecting Presence or Absence |
|--|--|------------------|--|---|
| San Benito Pentachaeta <i>Pentachaeta exilis</i> ssp. <i>aeolica</i> | Annual herb that occurs in cismontane woodland and valley and foothill grassland. Elevation: 480–855 meters. | March–May | -- / -- / 1B.2 / -- | Suitable Conditions Absent: No valley and foothill grassland occurs in the project area. This species was not observed during the 2021 botanical surveys. |
| Gairdner's yampah <i>Perideridia gairdneri</i> ssp. <i>gairdneri</i> | Perennial herb that occurs in broadleaved upland forest, chaparral, coastal prairie, valley and foothill grassland, and vernal pools. Elevation: 0–610 meters. | June–October | -- / -- / 4.2 / -- | Suitable Conditions Absent: No suitable coastal prairie, foothill grasslands, or vernal pools are present in the project area. This species was not observed during the 2021 botanical surveys. |
| hooked popcorn-flower <i>Plagiobothrys uncinatus</i> | Annual herb that occurs in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and valley and foothill grassland with sandy soils. Elevation: 300–760 meters. | April–May | -- / -- / 1B.2 / USFS SS | Suitable Conditions Present: Potentially suitable habitat for this species is present in the project area. The closest CNDDDB occurrence is documented 1.5 miles north in headwaters of Palo Colorado Canyon; however, this species was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted for this project. Compliance with MM BIO-4 would require future botanical surveys to be conducted prior to construction activities to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to this species. |
| pine rose <i>Rosa pinetorum</i> | Perennial shrub occurs in closed-cone coniferous forest. Elevation: 2–300 meters. | May–July | -- / -- / 1B.2 / -- | Suitable Conditions Absent: There is only a small overlap in the elevational range of this species and the project site. There are known occurrences documented north near Carmel and Monterey closer to the coast. This species was not observed during the 2021 botanical surveys. |
| adobe sanicle <i>Sanicula maritima</i> | Moist seeps within coastal prairie, chaparral, meadows, and valley and foothill grassland habitats in clay or serpentine soils. Elevation: 30–240 meters. | February– May | -- / SR / 1B.1 / USFS SS | Suitable Conditions Absent: Based on the elevation, there is no suitable habitat for this species within the project area, and the project area lacks coastal prairies and meadows. There are no CNDDDB occurrences documented within 10 miles. The closest occurrence is documented 95 miles northwest. |
| maple-leaved checkerbloom <i>Sidalcea malachroides</i> | Perennial herb occurs in broad-leaved upland forest, coastal prairies, coastal scrub, north coast coniferous forest, and riparian woodland. Often found in disturbed areas. Elevation: 2–730 meters. | April–August | -- / -- / 4.2 / -- | Suitable Conditions Present: Potentially suitable habitat for this species is present in the project area; however, this species was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted for this project. Compliance with MM BIO-4 would require future botanical surveys to be conducted prior to construction activities to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to this species. |

| Species Name | Habitat and Distribution | Flower Season | Legal Status Federal / State / CNPS Rare Plant Rank / USFS | Rationale for Expecting Presence or Absence |
|---|--|---------------|--|--|
| Pacific Grove clover <i>Trifolium polyodon</i> | Annual herb that is usually associated with mesic sites in closed-cone coniferous forest, coastal prairies, meadows and seeps, and valley and foothill grassland. Elevation: 5–260 meters. | April–June | -- / SR / 1B.1 / -- | Marginal Conditions Absent: Suitable habitat for this species may be present within the wooded forest habitat along Palo Colorado Road; however, the project area falls outside of the known elevation range of this species. The closest CNDDDB occurrences are documented 6.2 miles northeast, 8.2 miles north, and 9.6 miles northwest. Therefore, there is moderate potential for this species to occur within the project area; however, this species was not observed during the botanical surveys conducted for this project. Compliance with MM BIO-4 would require future botanical surveys to be conducted prior to construction activities to avoid and/or minimize potential impacts to this species. |
| Natural Communities of Concern | | | | |
| Central Maritime Chaparral | Variable scrub community of moderate to high cover dominated by various <i>Arctostaphylos</i> sp. Found on well-drained sandy soils in areas subject to summer fog. | | | Present. |
| Monterey Pine Forest | Open to dense forest dominated by Monterey pine with a significant presence of coast live oak. Understory is variable in density and composition. Monterey pine forests are limited to areas with well-drained sandy soils and marine fog. | | | Monterey Pine is present as a planted stand. |

General references: Baldwin et al. (2012); all plant descriptions paraphrased from CNPS (2023).

Status Codes:

-- = No status

Federal: FE = Federally Endangered; FT = Federally Threatened

State: SE = State Endangered; ST = State Threatened; SR = State Rare

USFS: USFS SS = U.S. Forest Service Sensitive Species

California Native Plant Society (CNPS):

Rank 1B = rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere.

Rank 2 = rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere.

Rank 3 = Plants about which more information is needed

Rank 4 = Plants of limited distribution

Threat Code:

.1 = Seriously endangered in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened / high degree and immediacy of threat)

.2 = Fairly endangered in California (20-80% occurrences threatened)

.3 = Not very endangered in California (<20% of occurrences threatened, or no current threats known)

Rationale Terms:

Species Present: Species was or has been observed in the survey area.

Suitable Conditions Present: The survey area is within the species range and supports the appropriate habitat, soils, elevation, and other habitat requirements.

Marginal Conditions Present: The survey area is in the species range and supports the appropriate habitat but other factors (past disturbances, presence of predators, etc.) may preclude species occurrence.

Suitable Conditions Absent: The survey area is not in the species range and/or does not support the appropriate habitat, soils, elevation, and/or other habitat requirements.

Table B-2. Special-Status Wildlife Species Investigated for Potential Occurrence

| Species Name | Habitat and Distribution | Legal Status Federal / State / Other Status | Rationale for Expecting Presence or Absence |
|--|--|---|--|
| Arachnids | | | |
| Dolloff Cave spider <i>Meta dolloff</i> | Occurs in caves or cave-like environments within Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties. Cave-like environments have included soil pits, abandoned train tunnels, and tunnel through cliff on Big Sur coast. | -- / -- / SA | Suitable Conditions Absent: The project area does not contain caves or cave-like habitats. |
| Insects | | | |
| obscure bumble bee <i>Bombus caliginosus</i> | Inhabits open grassy coastal prairies and Coast Range meadows. Nests underground and aboveground in abandoned bird nests. | -- / -- / SA | Suitable Conditions Absent: The coastal prairies or meadow habitat necessary to support this species was not observed within the project area. |
| globose dune beetle <i>Coelus globosus</i> | Occurs in foredunes, sand hummocks, and backdunes along immediate coast in sand and under vegetation or debris. Found in Los Angeles, Marin, Mendocino, Monterey, Orange, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, Sonoma, and Ventura Counties. | -- / -- / SA | Suitable Conditions Absent: The dune and foredune habitat necessary to support this species was not observed within the project area. |
| Monarch butterfly <i>Danaus plexippus</i> | Occurs along coast from northern Mendocino to Baja California, Mexico. Winter roosts in wind-protected tree groves (eucalyptus, Monterey pine, and cypress), with nectar and water sources nearby. | FC / -- / USFS SS | Suitable Winter Roost Conditions Absent; Adult Foraging Habitat Present: The project area lacks large stands of eucalyptus, Monterey pine, or cypress. There are four CNDDDB occurrences documented within 10 miles of the project area: 1.9 miles northwest, 5.6 miles southwest, 6.9 miles south, and 8.27 miles northwest. Flowering plants are abundant in the chaparral, scrub, and oak woodland communities, providing suitable foraging habitat for adults. No milkweed was observed in the project area during the 2021 botanical surveys. Therefore, monarch butterfly individuals are only expected to temporarily occupy the project site, and this species would not be impacted by project activities. |
| Smith's blue butterfly <i>Euphilotes enoptes smithi</i> | Occurs in coastal dunes and coastal sage scrub plant communities in Monterey and Santa Cruz Counties. Utilizes seaside buckwheat (<i>Eriogonum latifolium</i>) and seacliff buckwheat (<i>Eriogonum parvifolium</i>) as host plants for larva and food. | FE / -- / SA | Suitable Conditions Absent: The project site does not support coastal dune, prairie, or scrub habitat. There are several CNDDDB occurrences documented within 10 miles of the project area: 1.7 miles southwest, 3.3 miles northwest, 5.3 miles north, 5.3 miles northeast, and 5.62 miles northwest. Based on the lack of suitable habitat, there is low potential for this species to occur within the project area. |

| Species Name | Habitat and Distribution | Legal Status Federal / State / Other Status | Rationale for Expecting Presence or Absence |
|--|--|---|--|
| Pinnacles optioservus riffle beetle <i>Optioservus canus</i> | Tiny (2-millimeter) brown aquatic beetle that lives in fast-flowing creeks in Monterey and San Benito Counties; type locality is Chalone Creek in Pinnacles National Park. | -- / -- / SA | Suitable Conditions Present; No Impacts: Suitable habitat for this species is present in Mill, Bixby, and Turner Creeks in the project area. Very little is known about the range of this species, except it occurs in fast-flowing creeks in Monterey County. There are 11 CNDDDB occurrences documented, primarily based on detections from the 1980s and early 2000s. There would be no impacts to the wetted channels of these creeks. Therefore, this species would not be impacted by project activities. |
| Branchiopods | | | |
| vernal pool fairy shrimp <i>Branchinecta lynchi</i> | Occurs in vernal pool habitats, including depressions in sandstone, to small swale, earth slump, or basalt-flow depressions with a grassy or, occasionally, muddy bottom in grassland. | FT / -- / -- | Suitable Conditions Absent: No suitable habitat for this species is present in the project area, and there are no CNDDDB occurrences documented within 10 miles. The closest occurrence is documented 44 miles southeast. Therefore, there is low potential for this species to occur within the project area. |
| Fish | | | |
| tidewater goby <i>Eucyclogobius newberryi</i> | Occurs in brackish shallow lagoons and lower stream reaches where water is fairly still, but not stagnant. | FE / -- / SSC | Suitable Conditions Absent: Surface water features within the project area are not expected to be suitable for this species. There are no CNDDDB occurrences documented within 10 miles of the project area. The closest occurrence is documented 24 miles north. Therefore, there is low potential for this species to occur within the project area. |
| South California steelhead DPS <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus</i> | Occurs in clear, cool water with abundant in-stream cover, well-vegetated stream margins, relatively stable water flow, and 1:1 pool-to-riffle ratio. | FT, PCH / -- / SSC | Suitable Conditions Present: Suitable habitat for this species is present in the project area. Rocky and Bixby Creeks are tributaries to the Pacific Ocean. There is one unprocessed CNDDDB occurrence from 2018 documented in Rocky Creek along Palo Colorado Road bridge between Work Areas 3 and 4. Bixby and Rocky Creeks are designated as critical habitat. The closest CNDDDB occurrences are documented 1.4 miles north in Garrapata Creek, 5.5 miles south in Big Sur River, and 7.9 miles east in Carmel River. Based on presence of suitable habitat and documented occurrences, there is potential for steelhead to occur within the project area. However, there would be no impacts to the wetted channels of any of the creeks. Through installation of BMPs, this species would not be impacted by project activities. Preventing future erosion would benefit the long-term water quality of the creeks. |

| Species Name | Habitat and Distribution | Legal Status Federal / State / Other Status | Rationale for Expecting Presence or Absence |
|--|---|---|--|
| Amphibians | | | |
| California tiger salamander <i>Ambystoma californiense</i> | Occurs in grasslands or oak woodlands that support natural ephemeral pools or ponds that mimic them. Requires seasonal water for breeding and small mammal burrows, crevices in logs, piles of lumber, and shrink-swell cracks in ground for refuges. To be suitable, aquatic sites must retain at least 30 centimeters of water for minimum of 10 weeks in winter. | FT / ST / SSC | Suitable Conditions Absent: No suitable habitat for this species is present in the project area. The closest CNDDDB occurrences are documented 5.7 miles northeast, 8 miles north, and 9.7 miles east in the Carmel Valley. |
| foothill yellow-legged frog – South Coast DPS <i>Rana boylei</i> | Frequents rocky streams and rivers with rocky substrate and open, sunny banks in forests, chaparral, and woodlands. Range in California includes north and central coasts and western Sierra Nevada. | FE / SE / USFS SS | Suitable Conditions Present: The project site supports wooded forest habitat and surface water resources within the project area that may provide suitable habitat for this species. The closest CNDDDB occurrence is documented in Turner Creek within the Ventana Wilderness, approximately 1.7 miles upstream of the Palo Colorado Road bridge, which is adjacent to Work Areas 22 and 23. There are additional CNDDDB occurrences documented 2.4 and 3.74 miles southeast and 2.6 miles southwest. Given the proximity of the record in Turner Creek and suitable habitat present, this species is likely present in the project area and could potentially be impacted by the project. With implementation of MM BIO-1 and MM BIO-5, these impacts would be avoided. |
| California red-legged frog <i>Rana draytonii</i> | Occurs in aquatic habitats with little or no flow and surface water depths to at least 2.3 feet. Prefers presence of fairly sturdy underwater supports such as cattails. | FT / -- / SSC | Suitable Conditions Absent: Rocky Creek, Bixby Creek, and Mill Creek potentially provide aquatic dispersal habitat but do not contain slow moving deep pools suitable for breeding. There are several records in the Carmel Valley and along the coast south of Point Sur. However, the closest occurrences are documented 5.5 miles southwest and 7.5 miles east. |
| Coast Range newt <i>Taricha torosa torosa</i> | Breeds in ponds, reservoirs, and slow-moving streams. Frequents terrestrial habitats such as oak woodlands. | -- / -- / SSC | Suitable Conditions Present: Turner and Mill Creeks provide suitable breeding habitat for this species. The closest CNDDDB occurrence is documented 8.6 miles east in the Carmel River. No direct impacts will occur to potential breeding habitat; however, this species could potentially be present in the upland within the redwood and oak forest and woodland areas where adults could be estivating under downed woody debris. Therefore, the project could potentially have direct impacts to individuals and indirect impacts to aquatic breeding habitat. With implementation of MM BIO-1 and MM BIO-6, these impacts would be avoided. |

| Species Name | Habitat and Distribution | Legal Status Federal / State / Other Status | Rationale for Expecting Presence or Absence |
|---|--|---|---|
| Reptiles | | | |
| Northern California legless lizard <i>Anniella pulchra</i> | Occurs from southern edge of San Joaquin River in northern Contra Costa County south to Ventura County and in scattered locations in San Joaquin Valley, along southern Sierra Nevada mountains, and on desert side of Tehachapi Mountains and part of San Gabriel Mountains. Prefers sandy or loose loamy soils with high moisture content under sparse vegetation. | -- / -- / SSC, USFS SS | Suitable Conditions Absent: The steep slopes, soils, and dense vegetation do not provide suitable habitat for this species in the project area. The closest CNDDDB occurrence is documented 10 miles north in Carmel Valley. |
| western pond turtle <i>Emys marmorata</i> | Occurs in quiet waters of ponds, lakes, streams, and marshes; typically in the deepest parts with an abundance of basking sites. | -- / -- / SSC, USFS SS | Suitable Conditions Absent: Rocky, Bixby, and Mill Creeks do not contain slow-moving deep pools with suitable basking sites for this species. |
| coast horned lizard <i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i> | Frequents wide variety of habitats, commonly occurring in lowlands along sandy washes, coastal sage scrub, and chaparral in arid and semi-arid climate conditions. Prefers friable, rocky, or shallow sandy soils. | -- / -- / SSC | Suitable Conditions Absent: The steep slopes, soils, and dense vegetation do not provide suitable habitat for this species in the project area. The closest CNDDDB occurrence is documented 7 miles north on Mount Carmel. |
| Birds | | | |
| tricolored blackbird <i>Agelaius tricolor</i> | Typically nests within or adjacent to open water aquatic habitats in protected nesting substrate such as cattails (<i>Typha</i> spp.) or tules (<i>Schoenoplectus</i> spp.). May also nest in agricultural areas in tall stands of vegetation. Forages within semi-natural grasslands and agricultural lands with area with insect prey. | MBTA / ST / -- | Suitable Conditions Absent: Potential freshwater/forested shrub wetlands that may provide suitable habitat for this species is present in the project area. There are two CNDDDB occurrences documented within 10 miles of the project area: 5.2 miles northeast and 6 miles north. Therefore, there is potential for this species to occur within the project area. |
| marbled murrelet <i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i> | Found in mature or old-growth forests near shoreline. Forests are usually characterized by large trees (greater than 12 inches [8 centimeters] in diameter), many-wide canopies, medium to high canopy closures or an open crown canopy, larger trunks, and numerous down-to-bottom snags up to diameter at breast height (DBH). | MBTA, FT / -- / SSC | Suitable Conditions Present; Species Absent: Wooded forest habitat is present in the project area; however, it is outside of the range of this species. The closest occurrence is documented 49 miles north in the Santa Cruz Mountains. |
| western snowy plover <i>Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus</i> | Occurs on sandy beaches, salt pond levees, and shores of large alkali lakes. Needs sandy, gravelly or friable soils for nesting. | MBTA, FT / -- / SSC | Suitable Conditions Absent: Some sandy soils are present in the project area; however, there is no beach habitat, salt pond levees, or shores of large alkali lakes within the project area. The closest CNDDDB occurrence is documented 4 miles southwest along the coast of Point Sur. |
| western yellow-billed cuckoo <i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i> | Occurs in forests to open riparian woodlands with thick understory. Found in low- to moderate-elevation native forests lining rivers and streams of western United States. | FT, MBTA / SE / -- | Suitable Conditions Absent: No suitable habitat is present in the project area. The project area occurs outside of the typical elevational range of this species. |

| Species Name | Habitat and Distribution | Legal Status Federal / State / Other Status | Rationale for Expecting Presence or Absence |
|---|---|---|--|
| black swift <i>Cypseloides niger</i> | Occurs along coastal belt of Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties, central and southern Sierra Nevada, and in San Bernardino and San Jacinto Mountains. Breeds in small colonies on cliffs, near waterfalls, and on sea bluffs above ocean. | -- / -- / SSC | Suitable Conditions Absent: No suitable cliffs or sea bluffs are present in the project area. |
| southwestern willow flycatcher <i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i> | Occurs in riparian woodlands of southern California. | FE / SE / -- | Suitable Conditions Absent: The redwood riparian forests in the project area do not provide suitable habitat for this species. The project area occurs outside of the known range of this species. The closest occurrence is documented 150 miles south. |
| prairie falcon <i>Falco mexicanus</i> | Occurs in dry, open terrain that is level or hilly and breeds on cliffs. | MBTA / -- / WL | Suitable Conditions Absent: No suitable breeding habitat for this species is present in the immediate project area. The vegetation in the project area is too dense to provide suitable foraging habitat. |
| Tufted puffin <i>Fratercula cirrhata</i> | Sea bird that forages in open ocean habitats and nearshore marine aquatic areas. Nests on islands with grassy steep slopes or cliffs. North American range extends from Alaska to San Francisco with occasional winter migrations into southern California. | MBTA / -- / SSC | Suitable Conditions Absent: No suitable breeding or nesting habitat for this species is present in the project area. The project area occurs outside of the known range of this species. |
| California condor <i>Gymnogyps californianus</i> | Occurs in open savannahs, grasslands, and foothill chaparral in mountain ranges with moderate altitudes. Nests in deep canyons on rock walls with clefts. | FE / SE / -- | Marginal Conditions Present: No suitable breeding habitat for this species is present in the project area; however, marginal foraging habitat is present. The closest CNDDDB occurrence is documented 35 miles east near Pinnacles National Monument; however, this species has a large range and may be observed transiently flying over the project area. Therefore, this species would not be impacted by project activities. |
| bald eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i> | Occurs along ocean shore, lake margins, and rivers for both nesting and wintering. Most nests found within 1 mile of water. | MBTA, BGEPA / SE / -- | Marginal Conditions Present: Marginally suitable breeding habitat for this species is present in the project area, but the project area is not adjacent to foraging habitat (i.e., is not close enough to the ocean, a lake, or a large river). The closest CNDDDB occurrence is documented 37 miles southeast near Fort Hunter Liggett; however, this species does not have a large range and may be observed transiently flying over the project area. Therefore, this species would not be impacted by project activities. |
| Ashy storm-petrel <i>Hydrobates homochroa</i> | Forages over open ocean. Colonial nester on off-shore islands; usually nests on driest part of islands in crevices beneath loosely piled rocks or driftwood or in caves. | MBTA / -- / SSC | Suitable Conditions Absent: No suitable breeding or foraging habitat for this species is present in the project area. |

| Species Name | Habitat and Distribution | Legal Status Federal / State / Other Status | Rationale for Expecting Presence or Absence |
|--|---|---|---|
| Double-crested cormorant <i>Nannopterum auritum</i> | Colonial nester on coastal cliffs, offshore islands, and along lake margins in interior of state. Nests along coast on sequestered islets, usually on ground with sloping surface, or in tall trees along lake margins. | MBTA / -- / WL | Suitable Conditions Absent: No suitable breeding or foraging habitat for this species is present in the project area. |
| California least tern <i>Sternula antillarum browni</i> | Largely coastal species that feeds on fish and nests on sandy dunes or beaches. Once common in California; currently nesting colonies are isolated to southern California and scattered Bay Area beaches. | FE / SE / -- | Suitable Conditions Absent: No suitable habitat for this species is present in the project area and there are no CNDDDB occurrences documented within 10 miles. The closest occurrence is documented 72 miles north. |
| California spotted owl – Coastal-southern California DPS <i>Strix occidentalis occidentalis</i> | Inhabits older forests that contain structural characteristics necessary for nesting, roosting, and foraging. On central coast of California and in southern California, found in riparian/hardwood forests and woodlands, live oak/big cone fir forests, and redwood/California laurel forests. Nests are typically found in areas of high canopy cover, high number of large trees, and downed trees. | FPE, MBTA / -- / SSC, USFS SS | Present: There are six observations of owls within the project area in the Spotted Owl Observations Database (SPOWDB; CDFW 2023c) that correspond to two activity centers, and there are 12 additional observations within the riparian corridor of Mill Creek and its tributary directly adjacent to the project area also associated with these activity centers. Because work will occur adjacent to mapped activity centers, which may or may not be active, project activities could affect individuals through increased disturbance from use of machinery and human presence. |
| least Bell's vireo <i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i> | Summer resident of southern California; occurs in low riparian areas in vicinity of water or in dry river bottoms below 2,000 feet. Nests along margins of bushes or twigs of willow, <i>Baccharis</i> , or mesquite. | FE / SE / | Marginal Conditions Present, Species Absent: The redwood riparian forests in the project area do not provide suitable habitat. Based on the elevation of the project area, it does not support suitable habitat for this species. There are no CNDDDB occurrences documented within 10 miles of the project area. The closest CNDDDB occurrence is documented 39 miles east. |
| Class Aves Other migratory bird species (nesting) | Annual grasslands, coastal scrub, chaparral, and oak woodlands may provide nesting habitat. | MBTA / -- / -- | Suitable Conditions Present: Potential nesting habitat for this species is present throughout the project area. Pre-disturbance nesting bird surveys are proposed to avoid impacts to nesting birds. |
| Mammals | | | |
| Townsend's big-eared bat <i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i> | Occurs in wide variety of habitats; most common in mesic (wet) sites. May use trees for day and night roosts; however, requires caves, mines, rock faces, bridges or buildings for maternity roosts, which are found in relatively warm sites. | -- / -- / SSC, USFS SS | Marginal Conditions Present: No suitable habitat for maternity roosts for this species is present in the project area; however, there is potentially suitable habitat in the trees for day and night roosts. The closest CNDDDB occurrence is documented 3.8 miles southwest, but this species is often underrepresented in the CNDDDB. Therefore, this species would not be impacted by project activities. |

| Species Name | Habitat and Distribution | Legal Status Federal / State / Other Status | Rationale for Expecting Presence or Absence |
|---|--|---|---|
| Stellar sea lion <i>Eumetopias jubatus</i> | Occurs in marine intertidal and splash zone communities, protected deep water coastal communities or rock shore. Breeds on Año Nuevo, San Miguel, and Farallon Islands; Point St. George, and Sugarloaf. Hauls-out on islands and rocks. Needs haul-out and breeding sites with unrestricted access to water, near aquatic food supply, and with no human disturbance. | -- / -- / SSC, USFS SS | Suitable Conditions Absent: No suitable habitat for this species is present in the project area. |
| American badger <i>Taxidea taxus</i> | Occurs in open stages of shrub, forest, and herbaceous habitats; needs uncultivated ground with friable soils. | -- / -- / SSC | Suitable Conditions Absent: No suitable habitat for this species is present in the project area. |

General references: Unless otherwise noted all habitat and distribution data provided by the CNDDDB (2023).

Status Codes

--= No status

Federal: FE = Federal Endangered; FT = Federal Threatened; FC = Federal Candidate; FPE = Federally Proposed Endangered; CH = Federal Critical Habitat; PCH = Proposed Federal Critical Habitat; MBTA = Protected by Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act

State: SE = State Endangered; ST = State Threatened;

CDFW: SSC = California Special Concern Species; FP = Fully Protected Species; SA = Not formally listed but included in CDFW "Special Animal" List; WL = Watch List

USFS: USFS SS = U.S. Forest Service Sensitive Species

Rationale Terms:

Species Present: Species was or has been observed in the survey area.

Suitable Conditions Present: The survey area is within the species range and supports the appropriate habitat, soils, elevation, and other habitat requirements.

Marginal Conditions Present: The survey area is in the species range and supports the appropriate habitat but other factors (past disturbances, presence of predators, etc.) may preclude species occurrence.

Suitable Conditions Absent: The survey area is not in the species range and/or does not support the appropriate habitat, soils, elevation, and/or other habitat requirements.

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APPENDIX C

Responses to Public Comments

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Palo Colorado Storm Damage Repair Project

Response to Comments Received on Project IS/MND

| Commenter | Comment | Response |
|---|---|---|
| Public Comment #1 Public Meeting – October 25, 2023 | Sounds like you're planning a good job! | This comment expresses support for the project. This comment does not identify any deficiency with the IS/MND and does not require any change to the environmental document. |
| | Most of the traffic is on the Lower Canyon road. | This comment states that most traffic occurs on the lower canyon portion of the road. As described in Section 1.2, <i>Environmental Setting</i> , of the IS/MND, Palo Colorado Road has an average daily trip (ADT) rate of 577 vehicles per day. This comment does not identify any deficiency with the IS/MND and does not require any change to the environmental document. |
| | The road to Hwy 1 needs attention. It sinks in places, towards the creek. | This comment states that additional roadway repairs should be considered on the roadway leading to Highway 1. As described in Chapter 1, <i>Introduction</i> , of the IS/MND, the proposed project includes various roadway repairs along an approximately 4.8-mile segment of Palo Colorado Road located between Mile Post (MP) 2.77 near Highway 1 and MP 7.57 near the Bottcher's Gap parking lot. The project area was selected because this portion of the road qualifies for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant funding assistance. As such, additional roadway improvements along other segments of Palo Colorado Road are not included in the proposed project or evaluated in the IS/MND. This comment does not identify any deficiency with the IS/MND and does not require any change to the environmental document. |

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| <p>Public Comment #2 Public Meeting – October 25, 2023</p> | <p>When driving in the canyon, most residents follow this: incoming (or uphill) traffic has the right of way.</p> | <p>This comment states that incoming traffic typically has the right of way along Palo Colorado Road. This comment does not identify any deficiency with the IS/MND and does not require any change to the environmental document.</p> |
| <p>Oliver Bates Public Meeting – October 25, 2023</p> | <p>Let us know when you're coming for maintenance. We are ready to help!</p> | <p>This comment expresses support for the project. This comment does not identify any deficiency with the IS/MND and does not require any change to the environmental document.</p> |

| | | |
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| <p>Heidi Hybl Public Meeting – October 25, 2023</p> | <p>We have a neighborhood email list. I don't know what the plans are to notify people of road closures but that is a good way to get the word out.</p> | <p>This comment asks how the public will be notified of road closures. As stated in the IS/MND, the project would require temporary partial lane closures at work areas along Palo Colorado Road during the 18-month construction period. Road closures would occur for approximately 3 to 4 hours at a time with breaks in between to allow traffic. It is expected that the project team will reach out to the surrounding parcels when developing the project specifications to identify the most effective way to notify the public of construction activities and road closures. The contractor will be responsible for ensuring proper notification of road closures. This comment does not identify any deficiency with the IS/MND and does not require any change to the environmental document.</p> |
| <p>Public Comment #3 Public Meeting – October 25, 2023</p> | <p>Are you going to address the road prior to the chain gate, to keep Long Ridge Road from falling onto Palo Colorado? About 35 people live up Long Ridge.</p> | <p>This comment states that additional roadway repairs should be considered on the roadway prior to the chain gate. As described in Chapter 1, <i>Introduction</i>, of the IS/MND, the proposed project includes various roadway repairs along an approximately 4.8-mile segment of Palo Colorado Road located between MP 2.77 near Highway 1 and MP 7.57 near the Bottcher's Gap parking lot. As identified in the IS/MND, there are two retaining walls proposed at MP 2.77 and Mile Post 3.47, which would address potential issues associated with Long Ridge Road. This comment does not identify any deficiency with the IS/MND and does not require any change to the environmental document.</p> |
| <p>Public Comment #4 Public Meeting – October 25, 2023</p> | <p>If the lower canyon road closes, your project further in is stopped.</p> | <p>This comment expresses concern related to stable access to all project areas. Prior to construction, the project team will identify potential areas that could hinder the contractor's ability to traverse to the project site. Stability issues may be repaired to allow for improved access as necessary. This comment does not identify any deficiency with the IS/MND and does not require any change to the environmental document.</p> |

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| | <p>Let's have a walking/bike trail from the Hoist to Botcher's Gap (residents can use a quad).</p> | <p>This comment states that pedestrian and bicycle facilities should be considered. As described in Chapter 1, <i>Introduction</i>, of the IS/MND, the proposed project includes various roadway repairs along an approximately 4.8-mile segment of Palo Colorado Road. Based on funding limitations and road width constraints, pedestrian and bicycle facilities are not feasible. This comment does not identify any deficiency with the IS/MND and does not require any change to the environmental document.</p> |
| <p>RG Rainer Public Meeting – October 25, 2023</p> | <p>Faulkenberg slide needs to be removed.</p> | <p>This comment states that the Faulkenberg slide needs to be removed. The Falkenberg residence is located outside of the proposed project area. The project area was selected because this portion of the road qualifies for FEMA grant funding assistance. As such, additional roadway improvements along other segments of Palo Colorado Road are not included in the proposed project or evaluated in the IS/MND. This comment does not identify any deficiency with the IS/MND and does not require any change to the environmental document.</p> |
| | <p>The culverts and road need to be repaired from Hwy 1 to Botcher's Gap; not just from 4.4 miles to Botcher's Gap. Both sections of road are important.</p> | <p>This comment states that additional roadway repairs should be considered on the roadway leading to Highway 1. As described in Chapter 1, <i>Introduction</i>, of the IS/MND, the proposed project includes various roadway repairs along an approximately 4.8-mile segment of Palo Colorado Road located between MP 2.77 near Highway 1 and MP 7.57 near the Bottcher's Gap parking lot. The project area was selected because this portion of the road qualifies for FEMA grant funding assistance. As such, additional roadway improvements along other segments of Palo Colorado Road are not included in the proposed project or evaluated in the IS/MND. This comment does not identify any deficiency with the IS/MND and does not require any change to the environmental document.</p> |

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| <p>Public Comment #5 Public Meeting – October 25, 2023</p> | <p>Some of the embankments (lower canyon) need to be reinforced.</p> | <p>This comment states that some of the embankments on the lower canyon portion of the road need to be reinforced. Prior to construction, the project team may repair potential areas that could hinder the contractor’s ability to traverse to the project site as necessary. The proposed project includes various roadway repairs located between MP 2.77 near Highway 1 and MP 7.57 on Palo Colorado Road. The project area was selected because this portion of the road qualifies for FEMA grant funding assistance. As such, additional roadway improvements along other segments of Palo Colorado Road are not included in the proposed project or evaluated in the IS/MND. This comment does not identify any deficiency with the IS/MND and does not require any change to the environmental document.</p> |
| <p>Public Comment #6 Public Meeting – October 25, 2023</p> | <p>It would be great if the County could check all Palo Colorado culverts prior to this year’s (2023-2024) rains.</p> | <p>This comment states that the County should check all Palo Colorado culverts prior to the 2023-2024 rains. This comment does not identify any deficiency with the IS/MND and does not require any change to the environmental document.</p> |

| <u>NAME</u> | <u>PHONE NUMBER</u> | <u>E-MAIL</u> |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Colleen Courtney | Supervisor Adams Office | courtney.c@co.monterey.ca.us |
| Teresa Fife | 775-354-5983 | tcarriefife@gmail.com |
| Jan White | 831 624 0180 | coreyemma@people.com |
| Brent Bispo | 831-915-2234 | bisposurf@yahoo.com |
| Jerraldine Masten Hansen | 831 624 6217 | Jerraldine101@gmail.com |
| Grace Rainer | 831-917-1956 | rgwrainer@gmail.com |
| Steve Goetz | 831 622-9571 | snsgoetz@yahoo.com |
| Oliver Bates | 831-747-7461 | biggarfarms@gmail.com |
| M. Masten | 831-624-5791 | chmichamp@earthlink.net |
| Anna Linden | 831-626-9138 | alindenwitch@gmail.com |
| Warren Masten | 831 622 5285 | oncor 3 + part 4 link 2 net |
| Daniel + Kris McKegney | (831) 626-1024 | darkbluewave@gmail.com |
| LARRY BOAM | 831-625-5833 | |
| ANDREW HARTH | 510-435-3011 | a-harth@yahoo.com |

Palo Colorado Road Storm Damage Repair Project, Monterey County, CA

Public Meeting – October 25, 2023

Public Comment Card

| | | | |
|---|----------|--------|--------|
| Name: | Address: | Phone: | Email: |
| Comment: | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sounds like you're planning a good job!• Most of the traffic is on the Lower Canyon roads.• The road to Hwy 1 needs attention. It sinks in places, towards the creek. | | | |

Palo Colorado Road Storm Damage Repair Project, Monterey County, CA

Public Meeting – October 25, 2023

Public Comment Card

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|--|----------|--------|--------|
| Name: | Address: | Phone: | Email: |
| Comment: | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• When driving in the canyon, most residents follow this: incoming (or uphill) traffic has the right of way. | | | |

Palo Colorado Road Storm Damage Repair Project, Monterey County, CA

Public Meeting – October 25, 2023

Public Comment Card

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|--|------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| Name: Oliver Bates | Address: 38997 Palo Colorado | Phone: 831-747-7961 | Email: bigsurfarms@gmail.com |
| Comment: Let us know when your coming for maintenance. we are ready to help! | | | |

Palo Colorado Road Storm Damage Repair Project, Monterey County, CA

Public Meeting – October 25, 2023

Public Comment Card

| | | | |
|---|--|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| Name: HEIDI HYBL | Address: 37921 Palo Colorado Rd Carmel 93923 | Phone: 831.718.0109 | Email: bigsurfpainter@gmail.com |
| Comment: We have a neighborhood email list. I don't know what the plans are to notify people of road closures but that is a good way to get the word out. | | | |

Palo Colorado Road Storm Damage Repair Project, Monterey County, CA

Public Meeting – October 25, 2023

Public Comment Card

| | | | |
|--|----------|--------|--------|
| Name: | Address: | Phone: | Email: |
| Comment: | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Are you going to address the road prior to the ^{chain} gate, to keep Long Ridge Road from falling onto Palo Colorado? About 35 people live up Long Ridge. | | | |

Palo Colorado Road Storm Damage Repair Project, Monterey County, CA

Public Meeting – October 25, 2023

Public Comment Card

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|---|----------|--------|--------|
| Name: | Address: | Phone: | Email: |
| Comment: | | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• If the lower canyon road closes, your project is further in is stopped.• Let's have a walking / bike trail from The Hoist to Butcher's Gap. (Residents can use a quad.) | | | |

Palo Colorado Road Storm Damage Repair Project, Monterey County, CA

Public Meeting – October 25, 2023

Public Comment Card

| | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Name: RGRainer | Address: 1122 Palo Colorado | Phone: 625-3546 | Email: rgwrainer@gmail.com |
| Comment: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Faulkenberg slide needs to be removed.• The culverts + road need to be repaired from Hwy 1 to Botcher's Gap; not just from 4.4 mi to Botcher's Gap. Both sections of road are important. | | | |

Palo Colorado Road Storm Damage Repair Project, Monterey County, CA

Public Meeting – October 25, 2023

Public Comment Card

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|---|----------|--------|--------|
| Name: | Address: | Phone: | Email: |
| Comment: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some of the embankments (lower canyon) need to be reinforced. | | | |

Palo Colorado Road Storm Damage Repair Project, Monterey County, CA

Public Meeting – October 25, 2023

Public Comment Card

| | | | |
|--|----------|--------|--------|
| Name: | Address: | Phone: | Email: |
| Comment: It would be great if the county could check all Palo Colorado culverts prior to this year's (2023-2024) rains. | | | |