DRAFT

INITIAL STUDY
NEGATIVE DECLARATION

PESCADERO STATE BEACH
NORTH POND FOOTBRIDGE PROJECT

February 2009

State of California
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
Santa Cruz District Headquarters
303 Big Trees Park Road
Felton, CA 95018

NEGATIVE DECLARATION

PROJECT: **NORTH POND FOOTBRIDGE PROJECT**

LEAD AGENCY: California Department of Parks and Recreation

AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS: The Initial Study for this Negative Declaration is available for review at:

- Santa Cruz District Headquarters
  California Department of Parks and Recreation
  Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park
  303 Big Trees Park Road
  Felton, CA 95018

- Half Moon Bay State Beach
  95 Kelly Avenue
  Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

- Half Moon Bay Library
  620 Correas Street
  Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

- California State Parks website
  www.parks.ca.gov

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The project consists of three components:

- Footbridge;
- Hiking trail; and
- Observation Platform

<u>Footbridge</u>

A pre-fabricated 115 foot by 6 foot fiberglass footbridge will be installed over the tidal channel that enters North Pond. The bridge will sit on abutments constructed well above the tidal range and the maximum lagoon height.

<u>Hiking Trail</u>

Approximately 588 feet of 36” wide hiking trail will be constructed to replace an existing trail leading from the bridge site to an observation platform. The trail will be constructed entirely by hand crews using hand tools.

Observation Platform

An 18 foot by 12 foot redwood observation platform will be constructed on the site of an existing deteriorated 18 foot by 10 foot platform. All work will be done with hand crews using hand and hand-held power tools.

Areas disturbed by construction will be revegetated with native plant materials from local genetic sources. All work will be carefully monitored during construction to minimize any potential short-term impacts on biological resources.

A copy of the Initial Study is attached. Questions or comments regarding this Initial Study/ Negative Declaration may be addressed to:

Victor S. Roth, Jr., Environmental Coordinator
California Department of Parks and Recreation
303 Big Trees Park Road
Felton, CA 95018
(831) 335-6394 fax

Pursuant to Section 21082.1 of the California Environmental Quality Act, the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has independently reviewed and analyzed the Initial Study and Negative Declaration for the proposed project and finds that these documents reflect the independent judgment of DPR. DPR, as lead agency, also confirms that the project mitigation measures detailed in these documents are feasible and will be implemented as stated in the Negative Declaration.

_____ORGINAL SIGNATURE ON FILE _____ _____
Victor S. Roth, Jr. Date
Environmental Coordinator, Santa Cruz District

_____ORIGINAL SIGNATURE ON FILE__ _____
Chet Bardo Date
District Superintendent, Santa Cruz District

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CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION AND REGULATORY GUIDANCE

The Initial Study/Negative Declaration (IS/ND) has been prepared by the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to evaluate the potential environmental effects of the proposed North Pond Footbridge Project at Pescadero State Beach, San Mateo County, California. This document has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code §21000 *et seq*., and the State CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations (CCR) §15000 *et seq*.

An Initial Study is conducted by a lead agency to determine if a project may have a significant effect on the environment [CEQA Guidelines §15063(a)]. If there is substantial evidence that a project may have a significant effect on the environment, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) must be prepared, in accordance with CEQA Guidelines §15064(a). However, if the lead agency determines that there is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the project may have a significant effect on the environment, a Negative Declaration may be prepared instead of an EIR [CEQA Guidelines §15070(a)]. The lead agency prepares a written statement describing the reasons a proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment and, therefore, why an EIR need not be prepared. This IS/ND conforms to the content requirements under CEQA Guidelines §15071.

1.2 LEAD AGENCY

The lead agency is the public agency with primary approval authority over the proposed project. In accordance with CEQA Guidelines §15051(b)(1), "the lead agency will normally be an agency with general governmental powers, such as a city or county, rather than an agency with a single or limited purpose." The lead agency for the proposed project is DPR. The contact person for the lead agency is:

Joanne Kerbavaz, Senior Environmental Scientist
California Department of Parks & Recreation
San Mateo Coast Sector
95 Kelly Avenue
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019
(650) 726-8805

Questions or comments regarding this Initial Study/Negative Declaration should be submitted to:

Victor S. Roth, Jr.
California Department of Parks and Recreation
303 Big Trees Park Road
Felton, CA 95018
(831) 335-6394 fax

Submissions must be in writing and postmarked or received by fax no later than _____ The originals of any faxed document must be received by regular mail within ten working days following the deadline for comments, along with proof of successful fax transmission. Fax submissions must include full name and address.

1.3 PURPOSE AND DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION

The purpose of this document is to evaluate the potential environmental effects of the proposed North Pond Footbridge Project at Pescadero State Beach.

This document is organized as follows:

- Chapter 1 - Introduction.
  This chapter provides an introduction to the project and describes the purpose and organization of this document.

- Chapter 2 - Project Description.
  This chapter describes the reasons for the project, scope of the project, and project objectives.

- Chapter 3 - Environmental Setting, Impacts, and Mitigation Measures.
  This chapter identifies the significance of potential environmental impacts, explains the environmental setting for each environmental issue, and evaluates the potential impacts identified in the CEQA Environmental (Initial Study) Checklist. Mitigation measures are incorporated, where appropriate, to reduce potentially significant impacts to a less-than-significant level.

- Chapter 4 - Mandatory Findings of Significance
  This chapter identifies and summarizes the overall significance of any potential impacts to natural and cultural resources, cumulative impacts, and impact to humans, as identified in the Initial Study.

- Chapter 5 - Summary of Conditions and Mitigation Measures.
  This chapter summarizes the conditions and mitigation measures incorporated into the project as a result of the Initial Study.

- Chapter 6 - References.
  This chapter identifies the references and sources used in the preparation of this IS/ND.

- Chapter 7 - Report Preparation
  This chapter provides a list of those involved in the preparation of this document.

1.4 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Chapter 3 of this document contains the Environmental (Initial Study) Checklist that identifies the potential environmental impacts (by environmental issue) and a brief discussion of each impact resulting from implementation of the proposed project.

Based on the IS and supporting environmental analysis provided in this document, the proposed North Pond Footbridge Project would result in less-than-significant impacts for the following issues: aesthetics, agricultural resources, air quality and climate change, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, and utilities and service systems.

In accordance with §15070(a) of the CEQA Guidelines, a ND shall be prepared if the proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment. Based on the available project information and the environmental analysis presented in this document, there is no substantial evidence that the proposed project would have a significant effect on the environment. It is proposed that a Negative Declaration be adopted in accordance with the CEQA Guidelines.

CHAPTER 2
PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 INTRODUCTION

This Initial Study/Negative Declaration (IS/ND) has been prepared by the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) to evaluate the potential environmental effects of the proposed North Pond Footbridge Project at Pescadero State Beach, located in the town of Pescadero, San Mateo County, California. The proposed project would install a 115 foot long footbridge over the tidal channel that enters North Pond, re-route approximately 588 feet of hiking trail, and rebuild an observation platform.

2.2 PROJECT LOCATION

Pescadero State Beach is located on the central California coast, 17 miles south of Half Moon Bay in San Mateo County. This park unit contains sandy beaches and coastal dunes. The state beach also contains Pescadero Marsh Natural Preserve, a coastal wetland complex that includes a lagoon at the confluence of Pescadero and Butano Creeks, fresh and brackish water marshes, and brackish water ponds. The North Pond Footbridge project is located along the tidal channel entering North Pond and upland areas adjacent to North Pond, within the natural preserve. Public facilities are limited to day use. Maps of the project region and location are in Appendix A.

2.3 BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR THE PROJECT

The purpose of the proposed project is to restore access between North Pond and Pescadero Lagoon, by installing a new footbridge and re-routing a portion of the existing trail. In addition, the project would restore a location for environmental education activities, by rebuilding a deteriorated observation platform.

Pescadero State Beach offers valuable habitat for many species of plants, fish, and wildlife, and is a popular location for environmental education and nature study. Visitors to Pescadero State Beach enjoy trails that allow them to observe the variety of habitats and species at the marsh. A tidal channel into North Pond was excavated at the current project location in the mid-1990s as part of a wetland enhancement project. The excavation of this channel truncated a trail that had previously allowed visitors to hike between North Pond and the main portion of the lagoon. The proposed project would restore this access, and improve the existing trail system by re-routing a connector trail and reconstructing an observation platform.

2.4 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this project are to restore access between North Pond and Pescadero Lagoon, and to improve the existing trail system to provide better opportunities for environmental education and nature study in Pescadero State Beach.

2.5 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project consists of three components:

- installing a 115 foot fiberglass footbridge over the tidal channel at North Pond;
- re-routing approximately 588 feet of hiking trail; and
- removing and rebuilding an approximately 18 foot by 12 foot observation platform.

FOOTBRIDGE

A pre-fabricated 115 foot by 6 foot fiberglass footbridge will be installed over the tidal channel that enters North Pond. The free span portion of the bridge will be 99 feet long. The green-colored bridge will have a railing 42 inches high, that will slope at both ends. Figures in Appendix B show the bridge design and the project location. The bridge will sit on 8 foot wide cribbed redwood abutments constructed on uplands well above the tidal range and the maximum lagoon height. Figures in Appendix B show the design for the abutments. The bridge abutments will be constructed by hand crews using hand and hand-held power tools. The fiberglass bridge will be assembled off-site, placed on the abutments by helicopter, and fastened in place by hand crews. The total area of activity will be limited to the minimum necessary to construct the pedestrian bridge.

HIKING TRAIL

An existing pedestrian trail leads to the observation platform, then down a ridge to the footbridge site. The portion of the trail from the observation platform to the footbridge site has become overgrown and obstructed. The route of this portion of the trail follows a straight path down the ridge to the former crossing; re-opening the trail in this location would cause unnecessary erosion. We propose re-routing the trail to better follow the topographic contour, to avoid disruption of natural drainage and to reduce the potential for soil erosion. The proposed trail segment will be 588 feet long and 36 inches wide. The trail will be constructed entirely by hand crews using hand tools.

Figures in Appendix B show typical trail construction methods to be used in this project. Hand crews will cut vegetation and construct the new trail tred with hand tools. Soil disturbed for this project will be stabilized by being compacted or revegetated. As part of the project, non-native species along the trail corridor will be removed by hand crews using hand tools. Native vegetation removed from the trail corridor will be used to block an undesignated path that leads toward North Marsh; this will limit erosion and allow natural recovery of the vegetation.

OBSERVATION PLATFORM

The existing North Pond trail terminates at an observation platform that was designed to provide a sweeping view of Pescadero Marsh. Prior to the break in the trail caused by dredging the tidal channel, environmental education classes would use the observation platform as a destination for educational activities. We propose removing the existing deteriorated 18 foot by 10 foot platform, and replacing it with an 18 foot by 12 foot redwood platform constructed on the same site. All work removing the old platform and constructing the new platform will be done with hand crews accessing the site by foot

and using hand and hand-held power tools. All debris will be hauled from the site by hand crews.

Appendix B includes a figure showing the proposed design for the observation deck. The new construction will be within the area disturbed by the construction and use of the existing deck. If soil is disturbed during the construction, the area will be revegetated using native species from local genetic stock.

No sensitive species are known from the immediate site of any of the project components. Because the three project components are within a general area known to support San Francisco garter snakes and California red-legged frogs, the area within the construction footprint will be fenced with exclusion fencing prior to ground-disturbing activities; the type and location of the fencing will be approved by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game. Approved biological monitors will be on site during all construction activities. Construction is planned for May through June 2010, which is a time period considered acceptable for avoiding impacts on both San Francisco garter snake and California red-legged frog.

2.6 PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

Construction for this project is expected to begin in May 2010 and will take approximately one month to complete. All work will be done with hand crews using hand tools and power tools. If construction is delayed for any reason, it will be scheduled for another time outside of the rainy season and during periods expected to limit impacts to the San Francisco garter snake and the California red-legged frog. During this time the state beach will remain open, although access to the work areas will be restricted to authorized personnel. Work will normally occur Monday through Friday, approximately 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

2.7 VISITATION TO PESCADERO STATE BEACH

Each year, approximately 400,000 visitors use the three parking lots that serve the coastal portion of Pescadero State Beach. An estimated 20,000 school children visit Pescadero Marsh each year as students in organized environmental education classes.

This project is designed to accommodate the existing level of visitation at Pescadero State Beach; however, it is possible that an enhanced trail system may encourage additional visitation, especially by those involved in environmental education and nature study.

2.8 CONSISTENCY WITH LOCAL PLANS AND POLICIES

This plan is consistent with local plans and policies. For more information, see Chapter 3, Section IX, Land Use and Planning.

2.9 DISCRETIONARY APPROVALS

DPR has approval authority for implementation of projects within the boundaries of Pescadero State Beach. However, the following permits and consultations also may be required before work can begin:

- Section 7 Consultation from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Consultations with the California Department of Fish and Game, NOAA Fisheries, and the Army Corps of Engineers
- Streambed Alteration Agreement
- Coastal Development Permit

2.10 RELATED PROJECTS

Additional projects to restore access and improve trails may occur in other portions of the state beach; however, no additional projects are currently anticipated.

CHAPTER 3
ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

PROJECT INFORMATION

1.	Project Title:	North Pond Footbridge
2.	Lead Agency Name & Address:	California Department of Parks and Recreation
3.	Contact Person & Phone Number:	Joanne Kerbavaz, Senior Environmental Scientist (650) 726-8805
4.	Project Location:	Pescadero State Beach, San Mateo County
5.	Project Sponsor Name & Address:	California Department of Parks and Recreation Santa Cruz District 303 Big Trees Park Road Felton, CA 95018
6.	General Plan Designation:	Public Recreation
7.	Zoning:	Planned Agricultural Development
8.	Description of Project:	Refer to Chapter 2, Section 2.5 of this document
9.	Surrounding Land Uses & Setting:	Refer to Chapter 3 of this document (Section IX, Land Use Planning)
10.	Approval Required from Other Public Agencies	Refer to Chapter 2, Section 2.9

1. ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact", as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

☐ Aesthetics	☐ Agricultural Resources	☐ Air Quality
☐ Biological Resources	☐ Cultural Resources	☐ Geology/Soils
☐ Hazards & Hazardous Materials	☐ Hydrology/Water Quality	☐ Land Use/Planning
☐ Mineral Resources	☐ Noise	☐ Population/Housing
☐ Public Services	☐ Recreation	☐ Transportation/Traffic
☐ Utilities/Service Systems	☐ Mandatory Findings of Significance	☒ None

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 original scope of the proposed project **COULD** have had a significant effect on the environment, there **WILL NOT** be a significant effect because revisions/mitigations to the project have been made by or agreed to by the applicant. 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** or its functional equivalent will be prepared. ☐

I find that the proposed project **MAY** have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated impact" on the environment. However, at least one impact has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document, pursuant to applicable legal standards, and has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis, as described in the report's attachments. An **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required, but it must analyze only the impacts not sufficiently addressed in previous documents. ☐

I find that, although the proposed project could have had a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects have been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or Negative Declaration, pursuant to applicable standards, and have been avoided or mitigated, pursuant to an earlier EIR, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, all impacts have been avoided or mitigated to a less-than-significant level and no further action is required. ☐

_____ _____

Victor S. Roth, Jr. Date
Environmental Coordinator

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

1. A brief explanation is required for all answers, except "No Impact", that are adequately supported by the information sources cited. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact does not apply to the project being evaluated (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on general or project-specific factors (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).

2. All answers must consider the whole of the project-related effects, both direct and indirect, including off-site, cumulative, construction, and operational impacts.

3. Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, the checklist answers must indicate whether that impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate when there is sufficient evidence that a substantial or potentially substantial adverse change may occur in any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the project that cannot be mitigated below a level of significance. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required.

4. A "Mitigated Negative Declaration" (Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated) applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures, prior to declaration of project approval, has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level.

5. Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR (including a General Plan) or Negative Declaration [CCR, Guidelines for the Implementation of CEQA, § 15063(c)(3)(D)]. References to an earlier analysis should:

   a) Identify the earlier analysis and state where it is available for review.

   b) Indicate which effects from the environmental checklist were adequately analyzed in the earlier document, pursuant to applicable legal standards, and whether these effects were adequately addressed by mitigation measures included in that analysis.

   c) Describe the mitigation measures in this document that were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and indicate to what extent they address site-specific conditions for this project.

6. Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate references to information sources for potential impacts into the checklist or appendix (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances, biological assessments). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should include an indication of the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.

7. A source list should be appended to this document. Sources used or individuals contacted should be listed in the source list and cited in the discussion.

8. Explanation(s) of each issue should identify:
   a) the criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate the significance of the impact addressed by each question **and**
   b) the mitigation measures, if any, prescribed to reduce the impact below the level of significance.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

I. AESTHETICS

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Pescadero State Beach is located on the central California coast, 17 miles south of Half Moon Bay in San Mateo County. This park unit contains sandy beaches and coastal dunes. The state beach also contains Pescadero Marsh Natural Preserve, a coastal wetland complex that includes a lagoon at the confluence of Pescadero and Butano Creeks, fresh and brackish water marshes, and brackish water ponds. The North Pond footbridge project is located in an upland area adjacent to North Pond, within the natural preserve.

The footbridge site is in an area that was disturbed as part of a wetland restoration project in the mid-1990s (see the site photograph in Appendix B). The bridge abutments will be in an area with coastal scrub and some non-native species that have returned to the site following the previous disturbance. The connector trail and observation deck will be across the tidal channel on a ridge of coastal scrub.

The tidal channel into North Pond connects to Pescadero lagoon through a series of tide gates (see the map in Appendix A). There is no direct, navigable connection between the tidal channel and Pescadero and Butano Creeks or the Pacific Ocean.

This project is within a Scenic Corridor, as defined in Section 8.28 of the 1998 Local Coastal Program. Portions of this project will be visible from Highway 1 and will be visible to visitors to this portion of Pescadero State Beach.

The Visual Resources Component of the 1998 Local Coastal Program Policies for San Mateo County calls for the preservation of scenic resources and views. The applicable LCP policies include the following:

8.6 Streams, Wetlands, and Estuaries

d. Retain wetlands intact except for public accessways designed to respect the visual and ecological fragility of the area and adjacent land.

8.10 Vegetative Cover

Replace vegetation removed during construction with plant materials (trees, shrubs, ground cover) which are compatible with surrounding vegetation and is suitable to the climate, soil, and ecological characteristics of the area.

8.15 Coastal Views

Prevent development (including buildings, structures, fences, unnatural obstructions, signs, and landscaping) from substantially blocking views to or along the shoreline from coastal roads, roadside rests and vista points, recreation areas, trails, coastal accessways, and beaches.

8.18 Development Design

a. Require that development (1) blend with and be subordinate to the environment and the character of the area where located, and (2) be as unobtrusive as possible and not detract from the natural, open space or visual qualities of the area, including but not limited to siting, design, layout, size, height, shape, materials, colors, access and landscaping.

The colors of exterior materials shall harmonize with the predominant earth and vegetative colors of the site. Materials and colors shall absorb light and minimize reflection…

The project has been designed to blend with the adjacent landscape, and provide visitors an enhanced aesthetic experience within the park. The bridge is made of non-reflective material, and will be a soft green color that will harmonize with the color of existing vegetation. The redwood observation deck will also be non-reflective, and the natural wood will blend with the colors of soil and vegetation. Neither structure will block coastal views; both will be as unobtrusive as possible. The bridge, observation deck, and trail will not detract from the natural visual qualities of the area, and will allow visitors access to better appreciate the natural scenic vistas within the park.

WOULD THE PROJECT:	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☐	☒

DISCUSSION

a) The project site is visible from Highway 1, and will result in new construction within a scenic corridor. The footbridge is not within the central portion of Pescadero Marsh; however, the entire area may be considered part of a scenic vista. The project is designed to provide an interesting visual element that will not degrade the vista, but will invite visitors to explore this portion of the marsh. The project is consistent with applicable policies of the Visual Resources Element of the San Mateo County Local Coastal Program Policies in that the proposed project is a coastal accessway designed to blend with the adjacent landscape. No structures will block coastal views, and all vegetation removed during will be replaced with native vegetation. Less than significant impact.

b) The project does not affect trees, rock outcroppings, buildings, or other fixed resources along Highway One. No adverse impact.

c) As above, the project will change the exiting visual character of the site, but the change will not substantially degrade that character. No adverse impact.

d) No light sources will be installed at the project site. The brief construction period will take place during the day. The fiberglass bridge, redwood abutments and redwood observation deck are not reflective and will not create glare. No impact.

II. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project area is not farmland. Some areas of Pescadero State Beach were formerly used for agricultural purposes; agricultural use was halted before the state purchased the land. Land adjoining the state beach to the southeast is privately owned and is still used for agricultural purposes. The state beach itself has a planning designation of "Recreation" and is zoned "Planned Agricultural District."

WOULD THE PROJECT*:	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒

* In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997), prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model for use in assessing impacts on agricultural and farmland.

DISCUSSION

a-c) As noted in the Environmental Setting above, Pescadero State Beach is zoned "Recreation" and does not support any agricultural operations or farmland. This public access project contains no component that will interfere with the use of or result in the conversion of agricultural land to a non-agricultural use. Although some land adjoining the park is used for agricultural purposes, as defined by the United States Department of Agriculture land inventory and monitoring criteria, as modified for California, this project will have no effect on any category of California Farmland, conflict with any existing zoning for

agricultural use or Williamson Act contract, or result in the conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use. No impact.

III. AIR QUALITY and CLIMATE CHANGE

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Pescadero State Beach is located in San Mateo County, within the southwestern portion of the San Francisco Bay Area Air Basin (SFBAAB), and falls under the jurisdiction of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) and United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) Region IX.

The San Francisco Bay Area Air Basin is characterized by cool summers, mild winters, and infrequent rainfall. The atmospheric processes often combine to restrict the ability of the atmosphere to disperse air pollution. Frequent dry periods occur during the winter when ventilation (rapid horizontal movement of air and injection of clean air) and vertical mixing are low, and pollutant levels build up. During rainy periods, however, ventilation and vertical mixing are usually high, leading to low levels of air pollution.

Both the State and Federal governments have established health-based Ambient Air Quality Standards (AAQS) for seven air pollutants: ozone (O_3), particulate matter (PM_{10}, or particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter), fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$, or particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in diameter), carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), sulfur dioxide (SO_2) and lead (Pb). These seven pollutants are known to have adverse effects on human health and the environment. In addition, the State has set standards for sulfates, hydrogen sulfide (H_2S), vinyl chloride (VC), and visibility-reducing particles (VRPs).

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) measures four air pollutants in San Mateo County at a test site in Redwood City. These are: ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide (O_3), and fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$). The major pollutants of concern in the San Francisco Bay Area Air Basin include ozone (O_3), suspended particulate matter (PM_{10}), and carbon monoxide (CO).

SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA AIR BASIN AIR QUALITY DESIGNATIONS

An area is designated in attainment if the state or federal standard for the specified pollutant was not violated at any site during a three-year period. An area is designated in nonattainment if there was at least one violation of a state or federal standard for the specified pollutant within the area boundaries. An area is designated unclassified if the data are incomplete and do not support a designation of attainment or nonattainment.

Ozone (O_3)

Ozone results from a chemical reaction that takes place in the atmosphere between nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), and reactive organic gases under the photochemical influence of sunlight. While ozone (O_3) in the upper atmosphere is beneficial and helps reflect radiation away from the Earth's surface, it is an irritant to people's eyes and lungs when it exists in the lower atmosphere.

The SFBAAB continues to experience violations of both the State and Federal ozone standards and these violations pose challenges to State and local air pollution control agencies (ARB Almanac, 2009). California's standards for ozone are more stringent than Federal standards. The California 8-hour standard for ozone is 0.070 parts per million (ppm) compared to the federal 8-hour standard of 0.075 ppm. Emissions of ozone precursors have generally decreased in the SFBAAB for both mobile and stationary sources, despite a significant increase in vehicle miles traveled (VMT), but overall ozone concentrations have flattened out since 2000 (ARB Almanac 2009). San Mateo County experiences relatively few days on which ozone levels exceed State or Federal standards (Community Assessment, 2008). According to the 2008 Bay Area Air Pollution Summary, the Redwood City test station did not record any days that exceeded either the State or Federal ozone standards. However, the County's cleaner air may be largely due to prevailing winds that carry pollution elsewhere (Community Assessment, 2008). As of 2009, the SFBAAB was in nonattainment with respect to State and Federal standards for ozone.

Particulate Matter (PM_{10})

Particulate matter (PM_{10}) is a major air pollutant consisting of tiny solid or liquid particles of soot, dust, smoke, fumes, or mists. The size of the particles (10 microns or smaller, about 0.0004 inches or less) allows them to enter the air sacs deep in the lungs where they may be deposited and result in adverse health effects. Smoke, composed of carbon and other products of incomplete combustion, is the most obvious form of particulate pollution. PM_{10} also causes visibility reduction. PM_{10} levels are reported as 24-hour average concentrations in $\mu g/m^3$ (weight of particles in micrograms per one cubic meter of air).

California's standards for particulate matter are more stringent than Federal standards. The California standard for suspended particulate matter is 50 micrograms per cubic meter ($\mu g/m^3$) compared to the Federal standard of 150 $\mu g/m^3$). The annual mean concentration of PM10 in the SFBAAB has been declining since 1988, except for a spike in 2006 (ARB Almanac, 2009). San Mateo County has not exceeded the Federal standard for PM_{10} since 1991. As of 2009, the SFBAAB was in nonattainment with respect to State standards for PM_{10} and unclassified with respect to Federal standards.

Carbon Monoxide (CO)

State and Federal carbon monoxide (CO) AAQS have not been exceeded in San Mateo County since 1991. Because there were no violations of the state or federal CO standard during a continuous three-year period, the BAAQMD granted attainment status in 1995 for CO. The current state CO Standards are 20 ppm for 1 hour and 9.0 ppm for 8 hours while the National CO Standards are 35 ppm for 1 hour and 9ppm for 8 hours.

Other Pollutants

The SFBAAB is in attainment with California standards for sulfates and unclassified for hydrogen sulfide (CARB Area Designations Maps, 2009). According to the California Air Resources Board (2009), all areas in the State are in attainment for nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, lead, and are either in attainment or unclassified under state standards for visibility reducing particles. All areas in the State are either in attainment or unclassified for federal standards for nitrogen dioxide and sulfur dioxide.

Greenhouse Gases

Certain gases in Earth's atmosphere naturally trap solar energy to maintain global average temperatures within a range suitable for terrestrial life. Those gases – which primarily include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons and sulfur hexafluoride – act as a greenhouse on a global scale. (Health and Safety Code, § 38505(g).) Thus, those heat-trapping gases are known as greenhouse gases. The Legislature defined "greenhouse gases" to include the six gases mentioned above in California's Global Warming Solutions Act. (Health & Safety Code, § 38500 et seq.) Similarly, the U.S. EPA has proposed regulation of those same six gases under the authority of the Clean Air Act.

WOULD THE PROJECT*:	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan or regulation?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is in non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations (e.g., children, the elderly, individuals with compromised respiratory or immune systems)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☐	☒

* Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied on to make these determinations.

DISCUSSION

a) The proposed project will occur at Pescadero State Beach, located in San Mateo County. Work proposed by this project, and any associated emissions, will not conflict with or obstruct the implementation of any applicable air quality management plan. There would be no change to greenhouse gas admissions, and no contribution to global climate change. The project would not be impacted by projected sea level rise. No impact.

b,c) The proposed project will not emit contaminants at levels that will violate any air quality standard, or contribute to a permanent or long-term increase in any air contaminant. The project will be constructed by hand crews using hand tools and limited power tools. Construction is planned to occur during spring, when moisture in the soil will further limit the potential for dust from the small area of exposed soil. A one-time visit by a helicopter

to place the bridge will not produce measurable emissions. No impact.

d) The project is not located near any known sensitive receptors, such as a school, hospital, or residential area. The nearest residences are over one mile away on Water Lane, adjacent to agricultural fields that are regularly tilled. Use of trails and facilities at Pescadero State Beach is a discretionary act; therefore, visitors with conditions that make them sensitive to any construction activities will have the option of avoiding the area.

e) The proposed work will not result in the generation of odors. No impact.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Pescadero State Beach is located on the central California coast, 17 miles south of Half Moon Bay in San Mateo County. This park unit contains sandy beaches and coastal dunes. The state beach also contains Pescadero Marsh Natural Preserve, a coastal wetland complex that includes a lagoon at the confluence of Pescadero and Butano Creeks, fresh and brackish water marshes, and brackish water ponds. The North Pond footbridge project is located in an upland area adjacent to North Pond, and is within the natural preserve.

The highly diverse habitats of Pescadero State Beach support many different species. The state beach includes designated critical habitat for the Federal threatened California red-legged frog *(Rana aurora draytonii)* and is a target unit for the recovery of the Federal and State endangered San Francisco garter snake *(Thamnophis sertalis tetrataenia).* Several other sensitive species are found in this unit and will be discussed further in this chapter.

The project site is a relatively disturbed area due to levee and road building, historical agricultural use, and past restoration project construction. Important natural habitats immediately adjacent to the project site include the tidal wetlands in North Pond and the tidal channel into North Pond.

VEGETATION

Most of the project elements are within northern coastal scrub, with some elements of the adjacent coastal strand plant community. The bridge abutments are adjacent to, but well above, the coastal salt marsh community (Ornduff, et al., 2003). The northern coastal scrub is dominated by shrubs including coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*), bush monkey flower (*Mimulus aurantiacus*), blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*), lizard tail (*Eriophyllum staechadifolium*) and poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*). Other common species include coffee berry (*Rhamnus californica*), California bee plant (*Scrophularia californica*) Douglas iris (*Iris douglasiana*) and yellow bush lupine (*Lupinus arboreus*). Included within the coastal scrub are pockets of coastal prairie; species in these areas include purple needlegrass (*Nassella pulchra*) and California oatgrass (*Danthonia californica*). The proposed bridge abutments are within an area with elements of coastal strand. Species in that area include yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) and the non-native ice plant (*Carpobrotus edulis*).

SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES

Sensitive biological resources that occur or potentially occur on the proposed project site are discussed in this section. Sensitive biological resources include the plants and animals that have been given special recognition by federal, state, or local resource agencies and organizations. Also considered are habitats that are listed as critical for the survival of a listed species or have special value for wildlife, and plant communities that are unique or of limited distribution. Specific information on the biological resources is provided along with potential impacts to those resources from the proposed footbridge, trail, and observation deck.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) web site provided an official list of sensitive species that may be present in the project area or may be affected by the project (December 2009). Sensitive species includes Threatened and Endangered plant and wildlife species, and California Species of Special Concern (species that receive protection because of declining populations, limited ranges, or continuing threats that make them vulnerable to extinction). All sensitive species and their habitats were evaluated for potential impacts by this project. A query of the California Department of Fish and Game's Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB 2009) was conducted for locations of sensitive species and habitats within the San Gregorio 7.5-minute USGS quadrangle map. Special-status plant species potentially occurring in the San Gregorio quadrangle map were derived from the California Native Plant Society's (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California (online version, 2009).

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES AND SPECIES OF SPECIAL CONCERN

The CNDDB, CNPS, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have identified the following species as occurring or potentially occurring in the USGS quadrangle encompassing the proposed project site and adjacent habitats. Eight special-status plant species, ten wildlife species, three stream corridors, and one plant community appear on the species lists for the San Gregorio USGS quadrangle map.

Plant Species Potentially Occurring Within the Project Area

Coastal marsh milkvetch *(Astragalus pycnostachyus* var. *pycnostachyus)* – This CNPS List 1B.2 species occurs on the central coast of California, and is found in coastal marshes and seeps. It blooms May-August. This species is present in the state beach and has been surveyed and mapped. The closest colonies are about 1200 feet away from the project site.

Round-leaved filaree *(Erodium macrophyllum)* – This CNPS List 1B.1 species occurs in central western California below 3500 feet. It is found on open sites in grassland and shrubland, and blooms March-May. This species has not been documented in the state beach and is unlikely to be found at the project site.

Fragrant fritillary *(Fritillaria liliacea)* – This CNPS List 1B.2 species occurs in central western California. It is found in cismontane woodlands, coastal prairies, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grasslands. It requires heavy soils and moist areas, and blooms February-April. It has not been documented on the state beach and is unlikely to be found at the project site.

San Francisco gumplant (*Grindelia hirsutula* var. *maritima*) – This CNPS List 1B.2 species

occurs in coastal bluff scrub, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grassland. This small gumplant blooms August-September. It requires sandy or serpentine soil. This species has not been documented on the state beach and is unlikely to be found at the project site due to lack of habitat.

Perennial goldfields (*Lasthenia californica ssp. macrantha*) – This CNPS List 1B.2 species occurs in coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes, and coastal scrub. It blooms January through November. Habitat may exist for this species within the project area; however, this species was not observed during project surveys, and has not been documented on the state beach.

Rose leptosiphon (*Leptosiphon rosaceus*) – This CNPS List 1B.1 species occurs in coastal bluff scrub. It is thought to be extirpated in the San Gregorio quadrangle. It has not been documented on the state beach and is unlikely to be found at the project site.

Marsh microseris (*Microseris paludosa*) – This CNPS List 1B.2 species is found in closed-cone coniferous forest, cismontane woodlands, coastal scrub, and valley and foothill grasslands. Found along the central coast, it is thought to be extirpated in the San Gregorio quadrangle. It has not been documented on the state beach and is unlikely to be found at the project site.

Choris' popcorn-flower *(Plagiobothrys chorisianus var. chorisianus)* – This CNPS List 1B.2 species occurs in chaparral, coastal prairie, and coastal scrub. Habitat may exist for this species within the project area; however, this species was not observed during project surveys, and has not been documented on the state beach.

<u>Animal Species Potentially Occurring Within The Project Area</u>

Anadromous salmonid species:

Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) – a Federal Threatened species, and **coho salmon** (*O. kisutch*) – a Federal Endangered species, spawn and live in streams before migrating to the open ocean. Spawning is usually done in spring (February-June), nearly always on gravel stream riffles. Both species require cool clear water. These species feed mainly on aquatic invertebrates.

Tidal gates separate the North Pond tidal channel (and North Pond) from Pescadero lagoon and the ocean. These gates have deteriorated, and it is possible that fish can cross this barrier, but it is highly unlikely that anadromous salmonid species venture into the tidal channel and remain in this system.

Tidewater goby (*Eucyclogobius newberryi*) – A Federal Endangered species and a California Species of Special Concern that occurs in brackish water habitats. While these fish can survive the high salinities of the ocean, they are weak swimmers that need protection from ocean currents and winter storm flows. The species is found in shallow lagoons and lower stream reaches. They are generally found in water less than 1 meter deep, although they have been observed as deep as 2.3 m. This species appears to be annual, and individuals nest during spring through summer. Males dig vertical nests 10 to 20 cm in clean, coarse sand. Salinities of 5 ppt to 10 ppt are needed for egg development. Tidewater gobies feed on aquatic

invertebrates (DOI 1994, NatureServe 2004).

Tidewater goby were historically found within the North Pond channel, prior to the connection of the channel to tidal influence. There have been no recent surveys to determine the distribution of tidewater goby in Pescadero marsh; however, the tidal channel, with rapidly moving ocean water, may not be prime habitat for the species.

California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*) – A Federal Threatened species and a DFG Species of Special Concern that occurs in lowlands and foothills in still or slow moving fresh water with dense shoreline vegetation. These frogs disperse between aquatic breeding sites and have been found up to one mile from water. If water is not available in summer, red-legged frogs can find shelter under rocks, logs, burrows, or other cover. They breed from November through April in calm water with salinity below 4.5 ppt. Tadpoles hatch within two weeks. These larval frogs can survive salinity up to 7 ppt, and nearly all of them will metamorphose into adult frogs by the end of September. Their diet is mostly composed of various invertebrates, although they may eat vertebrates such as tree frogs or even mice. Bullfrogs are known competitors and predators.

California red-legged frogs are known to occur within Pescadero State Beach. Pescadero marsh contains designated critical habitat for the California red-legged frog. The Recovery Plan for the California red-legged frog designates Pescadero Marsh Natural Preserve as a core area for focused recovery efforts (USFWS 2002).

The proposed project is adjacent to channels and ponds with saline ocean water. The closest suitable fresh water aquatic habitats are approximately 3000 feet from the project site. California red-legged frogs would not typically use the salt water channels, and because of the distance to appropriate aquatic breeding habitat, it is unlikely that upland coastal scrub habitats within the project area are used by dispersing California red-legged frogs.

San Francisco garter snake (*Thamnophis sertalis tetrataenia*) – A Federal and California Endangered species, found largely in San Mateo County. This species commonly uses standing open water such as ponds and marshes as well as seasonal water bodies. Emergent and bank-side vegetation are typically used for foraging, basking, and cover. Upland habitats such as grassy or scrubby hillsides with rodent burrows are also used for basking, cover, and nesting. Mating occurs in spring or fall, and young are born live during the first three weeks of August. These reptiles are inactive during the cool winter season. Tadpoles are the most common prey, and small fish such as stickleback are also eaten.

San Francisco garter snakes are known to occur within Pescadero State Beach. Protection of the San Francisco garter snake at Pescadero Marsh Natural Preserve is identified as a primary objective in the Recovery Plan for the San Francisco Garter Snake (USFWS 1985).

The proposed project is adjacent to channels and ponds with saline ocean water. The closest suitable fresh water aquatic habitats are approximately 3000 feet from the project site. San Francisco garter snakes would not typically use the salt water channels, and because of the distance to appropriate aquatic feeding habitat, it is unlikely that upland coastal scrub habitats

within the project area are used by San Francisco garter snakes.

Western pond turtle (*Actinemys marmorata*) – A California Species of Concern that requires slow moving streams or pond habitats as well as upland sites. Western pond turtles may use aquatic sites year-round in mild climates, and they move to upland sites to lay eggs, usually in open, grassy areas. Females lay eggs from April through mid-August, and the eggs incubate 80 to 126 days (Lovich). This species is a dietary generalist, mainly eating invertebrates.

Although it is not documented in the CNDDB, western pond turtles are known from Pescadero Creek, approximately 3000 feet from the project area. Western pond turtles would not use the tidal channels, and it would be highly unlikely that they would be found in the upland coastal scrub habitats with the project area.

Western snowy plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*) – A Federal Threatened species and a DFG Species of Special Concern that occurs on sandy beaches, salt pond levees, and shores of large alkali lakes. This shorebird needs sandy, gravelly, or friable soils for nesting. This species may use the sandy beaches across Highway 1 from the project area. There is no suitable habitat near the project site.

Great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*) This species itself is not listed as sensitive; however, its rookeries are. A rookery has been observed in the large *Eucalyptus* grove along North Marsh, the closest point of which is about 1500 feet from the project site. The project will have no impact on the great blue heron rookery.

Saltmarsh common yellowthroat (*Geothlypis trichas sinuosa*) – This California Species of Special Concern requires thick, continuous cover down to water surface for foraging, and tall grasses, tule patches, or willows for nesting. Marshes are primary habitat, with riparian corridors acting as migration or other habitat. Its diet includes insects, spiders, and caterpillars. The breeding season begins in April, and birds nest from early May to mid-July. Nests are usually placed in emergent vegetation over open water. Breeding habitat throughout the state varies. It includes woody swamp, brackish marsh, and freshwater marsh. The common factor is moisture. They choose to nest in areas that have standing water or are very wet, which will support abundant insect life through summer (Foster, 1977).

Saltmarsh common yellowthroat has been observed in riparian woodlands along Butano Creek within Pescadero State Beach. Pescadero State Beach supports more individuals in winter than during summer breeding season. At Pescadero State Beach, saltmarsh common yellowthroats tend to nest in willow stands that have a thick undergrowth of herbaceous plants. This project will not impact and nesting habitat for this species.

California brackishwater snail (*Tryonia imitator*) – This species inhabits coastal lagoons, estuaries, and salt marshes. It is found only in permanently submerged areas in a variety of sediment types, and is able to withstand a wide range of salinities. A small population was found at the mouth of Butano and Pescadero Creeks in 1980. Another was found in a ditch between Butano Creek, Delta Marsh, and East Delta Marsh in 2004. There is no appropriate habitat for this species at the project site.

The following species were included on the USFWS list, but are not discussed here because these are species found in the ocean or, in the case of the birds, are at most transitory through the area. There is no potential impact on these species from the proposed project:

Black abalone (*Haliotes cracherodii*)
White abalone (*Haliotes sorenseni*)
Delta smelt (*Hypomesus transpacificus*)
Marbled murrelet (*Brachyramphus marmoratus*)
California brown pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis californicus*)
California least tern (*Sternula antillarum (=Sterna, =albifrons) browni*)
Guadalupe fur seal (*Arctocephalus townsendi*)
Sei whale (*Balaenoptera borealis*)
Blue whale (*Balaenoptera musculus*)
Finback (*Balaenoptera physalus*)
Southern sea otter (*Enhydra lutris nereis*)
Right whale (*Eubalaena (=Balaena) glacialis*)
Steller (=northern) sea-lion (*Eumetopias jubatus*)
Sperm whale (*Physeter catodon (=macrocephalus)*)

SENSITIVE NATURAL COMMUNITIES

Sensitive natural communities are plant or aquatic communities that are regionally uncommon or unique, unusually diverse, or of special concern to local, state, and federal agencies. Removal or substantial degradation of these plant communities constitutes a significant adverse impact under CEQA.

The CNDDB record search produced a list of four sensitive natural communities for the San Gregorio 7.5-minute USGS quadrangle map: Northern California Coast California Roach/Stickleback/Steelhead Stream, North Central Coast Steelhead/Sculpin Stream, Sacramento-San Joaquin Coastal Lagoon, and Valley Needlegrass Grassland.

Sensitive Natural Communities Potentially Occurring Within the Project Area

Northern California Coast California Roach/Stickleback/Steelhead Stream – This community is found along the entire reach of Pescadero Creek, from its headwaters to its confluence with Butano Creek downstream of the project area. Species known to occupy this freshwater system include steelhead, coho salmon, pacific lamprey, California roach, threespine stickleback, and prickly and riffle sculpin.

North Central Coast Steelhead/Sculpin Stream – Species known to occupy this freshwater system include steelhead, pacific lamprey, threespine stickleback, and sculpin species. While these species are found in Pescadero Creek, the more inclusive Northern California Coast California Roach/Stickleback/Steelhead Stream classification is used for this stream.

Sacramento-San Joaquin Coastal Lagoon – This community is found in the lower reaches of Pescadero and Butano Creeks near the ocean. Species known to occupy this brackish marsh system are tidewater goby, steelhead, coho salmon, threespine stickleback, pacific lamprey,

and prickly and riffle sculpin.
Valley Needlegrass Grassland – Patches of grassland containing purple needlegrass are found within a matrix of coastal scrub on the slopes about North Pond. The proposed project will not impact this community.

WETLANDS AND WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES

Waters of U.S. are defined as all waters used in interstate or foreign commerce, waters subject to the ebb and flow of the tide, all interstate waters including interstate wetlands and all other waters such as: intrastate lakes, rivers, streams, mudflats, sandflats, wetlands, sloughs, prairie potholes, wet meadows, playa lakes, and natural ponds. Waters of the U.S. are under the USACE jurisdiction.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) defines wetlands as lands inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support vegetation adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Typically, USACE jurisdictional wetlands meet three criteria: they have hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils, and wetland hydrology.

The California Coastal Commission defines wetlands as all "lands which may be covered periodically or permanently with shallow water…" (Section 30121, Coastal Act). The presence of only one of the three wetland parameters (i.e., soils, vegetation, or hydrology) that are needed to meet the USACE definition of a wetland is needed to meet the criteria for a Coastal Commission wetland.

There are both Coastal Commission defined wetlands and USACE wetlands and waters of the U.S. at Pescadero State Beach. However, no wetlands will be impacted by the proposed project. The abutments for the footbridge will be constructed well above tidal influence and wetlands associated with the North Pond tidal channel. The footbridge will be constructed in a manner to avoid all impacts on the tidal channel.

WOULD THE PROJECT:	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modification, on any species identified as a sensitive, candidate, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands, as defined by §404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal,	☐	☐	☐	☒

filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?				
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

DISCUSSION

a) (i) There are eight CNPS listed plant species that have reported occurrences within the San Gregorio USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle. Based on plant habitat requirements, past agricultural use, and staff surveys of the site, the listed plant species have not been found and are not expected to occur in the project area.

a) (ii) San Francisco garter snakes and California red-legged frogs are known to occupy habitats within approximately 3,000 feet of the project site. Western pond turtles and saltmarsh common yellowthroats may occur within 2,000 to 3,000 feet of the project site. The project has been designed to minimize the possibility that construction activities could result in impacts to San Francisco garter snakes, California red-legged frogs, western pond turtles, and saltmarsh common yellowthroats. The following mitigation measures will make sure that any potential impact will be less than significant.

MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-1 SAN FRANCISCO GARTER SNAKE, CALIFORNIA RED-LEGGED FROG, WESTERN POND TURTLE, AND SALTMARSH COMMON YELLOWTHROAT

- As directed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), all areas within the construction footprint will be fenced with snake-exclusion fencing. The location and design of the fencing will be determined in consultation with USFWS and DFG. San Francisco garter snakes emerge from hibernation in March. The project area is not adjacent to ponds or other fresh-water foraging areas, therefore active snakes are likely to leave the fenced project area to forage. Exclusion fencing will also prevent western pond turtles from entering the project area to nest or burrow.
- At least seven days prior to the onset of activities, the names and credentials will be submitted to the USFWS of biologists who will act as approved biologists and biological monitors, who will conduct activities specified in the following measures.
- At least seven days prior to the start of work, a preconstruction survey for San Francisco garter snakes, California red-legged frogs, Western pond turtles, and saltmarsh common yellowthroats will be conducted in the construction area. If any of these species is found, the biologist will contact the Service and request guidance on any additional conservation measures or authorizations that may be needed. Measures may include delaying work temporarily.

- A training session will be conducted for all personnel involved in the construction of the project. This training will take place prior to the initiation of the project and will include a description of the San Francisco garter snake, California red-legged frog, Western pond turtle, and saltmarsh common yellowthroat. Also discussed will be their habitats, the conservation measures that are being implemented for these species, and the physical boundaries within which the project must be accomplished. The training will include instruction in the appropriate protocol to follow in the event that a San Francisco garter snake, California red-legged frog, Western pond turtle, or saltmarsh common yellowthroat is found on site. Brochures, books, and briefings may be used in the training session and qualified personnel will be on hand to answer any questions.
- A Service-approved biologist will be present at the work site until instruction of workers has taken place. After the instruction, DPR will designate one or more persons to serve as biological monitors for on-site compliance with all conservation measures. The Service-approved biologist will ensure that this individual receives training in the identification of San Francisco garter snakes, California red-legged frogs, Western pond turtles, and saltmarsh common yellowthroats. In the event that any of these species are encountered in the project area during project construction by anyone, the Project Manager will put work on hold at that specific location and hand crews will be redirected to other tasks. If work is stopped, the Service shall be notified within one workday by the Service-approved biologist or the on-site biological monitor.
- The biological monitor will inspect the project area each morning to ensure that San Francisco garter snakes, California red-legged frogs, Western pond turtles, and saltmarsh common yellowthroats are not in the project area.
- Rocks, logs, or other habitat features that are moved during construction will be done so with the monitor present, and will be replaced in adjacent suitable habitat.
- The number of access routes, the size of the staging area, and the total area of activity will be limited to the minimum necessary to achieve the project goal. Routes and boundaries will be clearly demarcated and approved by the biological monitor. These areas will not include wetlands or other sensitive habitats. Work crews will remain within designated staging areas and work areas. If crews must go outside of designated areas, crew leaders will obtain approval from the on-site biological monitor.
- The project will be constructed by hand crews using hand tools and portable power tools. There will be no use of vehicles and heavy equipment.

a) (iii) The North Pond tidal channel connects with Pescadero Creek and Pescadero lagoon. Pescadero and Butano Creeks and Pescadero lagoon support anadromous fish. Two other sensitive species are within this system: the tidewater goby and the California brackishwater snail. Because the project will not impact water quality, wetlands, or stream corridors, there will be no impact.

b) The project will not have an adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive community, including the Northern California Coast California Roach/Stickleback/Steelhead Stream, North Central Coast Steelhead/Sculpin Stream, and Sacramento-San Joaquin Coastal Lagoon. No impact.

c) This project will not have an adverse effect on federally protected wetlands, through direct

removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means. No impact.

d) Implementation of **Mitigation Measure BIO-1** will ensure that potential impacts to movements, migration, or nursery sites of the San Francisco garter snake, California red-legged frog, western pond turtle, and saltmarsh common yellowthroat are avoided. Any potential impacts will be less than significant.

e,f) This project does not conflict with any local ordinances, adopted conservation plans, or policies. No impact.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Information about the historic environmental setting of the San Francisco Bay area and peninsula coast indicates that the native people lived in a landscape of great ecological diversity. Their environment brought them within close proximity to marine, sandy beach, rocky shore, tidal and freshwater marsh, grassland prairie, and oak grassland savanna, riparian, chaparral, mixed hardwood, and evergreen forest habitats, which frequently converged in geographically narrow areas. The mosaic distribution of environmental zones and productive biological communities gave a significant advantage to the ancestral Ohlone Indians by enabling them to formulate alternative subsistence strategies such as co-harvesting, long-term storage, and exchange systems. Enhancing vegetal productivity through the application of fire, along with institutionalized leadership roles and kinship/alliance systems served to ameliorate episodes of scarcity, and the effects of resource over-exploitation (Basgall 1987; Bean and Lawton 1973; Bean and King 1974; Blackburn and Anderson 1993; Chagnon 1970; Fages 1937; Lewis 1973; Milliken 1983; Simons 1992).

Kinship data derived from Spanish Mission records show that coastal communities ultimately assimilated into the larger Bay Shore alliance network (King 1994; Milliken 1983, 1991). At the time of first European contact in the fall of 1769, a small tribal community called the *Quiroste* controlled the vicinity of Pescadero and Año Nuevo. This group was one of over fifty politically autonomous tribal groups composing what ethnographers have called the Costanoan cultural division (Levy 1978). This term was derived from the Spaniards' designation of the coastal tribes as c*osteños,* meaning coastal people. Brown (1994) has discussed the later popularity of the term *Ohlone*, which is currently used to describe those tribes from the Big Sur coast northward to San Francisco, and inland from Livermore southward to Soledad. The descendants of the Mission Period Native Americans of the Ohlonean cultural sphere usually refer to themselves collectively as the Ohlone, or by the newly organized band names that are emerging as the descendants regroup into "revitalized" communities (Leventhal, Field, Alvarez, and Cambra 1994).

Early explorers noted that the people seasonally relocated from the coastal terrace to residential locations in the nearby Santa Cruz Mountains (Palou, Vol. 3 in Bolton 1926; Crespi in Stanger and Brown 1969). In 1769, while visiting a large village near Point Año Nuevo, Father Juan Crespi commented that in its center was a "very large grass-roofed house, round like a half-orange, which by what we saw of it inside, could hold everyone in the whole village"

(Crespi in Stanger and Brown 1969). Although most ethnohistoric accounts of the Ohlone describe pole framed dwellings thatched with tule reeds, Miguel Costanso observed that the village near Año Nuevo contained about 200 people who lived in small, pyramidal shaped split wood structures that surrounded the large house (Stanger and Brown 1969). Five years later, the Rivera expedition observed that near this same village "was planted a high pole, this being the monument used by the heathen for the sepulchers of the chief men of the village" (Bolton 1926).

Native life ways began to quickly transform after the arrival of the Spaniards. The Presidio of San Francisco and Mission Dolores were established in 1776 with the purpose of managing the native population and converting them to Christianity. Mission Santa Clara and the early Pueblo of San Jose de Guadalupe were established in 1777 and Spanish influence was soon extended to the coastal *Quiroste* Ohlone people who were brought into Mission Santa Clara from the "*San Bernardino District*." Even later, with the establishment of Mission Santa Cruz in 1797, *Quiroste* conversions were still occurring—an indication they were still maintaining some sort of indigenous community organization. Ultimately the goal was to bestow Spanish citizenship on the Indian neophytes and use them to create agricultural communities and thus prepare Upper California for colonization. Between the years of 1779 and 1805 several thousand coastal Ohlone were brought into the missions, but soon thereafter most died upon exposure to foreign diseases, abuse and malnutrition (Cook 1976; Milliken 1991).

The vicinity of Año Nuevo State Reserve was referred to as "*el Rancho Del Punta de Año Nuevo*" and Pescadero Marsh was known as "*Rancho San Antonio*." Both areas functioned as pasture lands for Mission Santa Cruz (Stanger 1963). The need to acquire pasturage lead to the reach of Mission Santa Cruz up as far as "*Rancho San Gregorio*" to the north of Pescadero, where by 1810 a sheep ranch was established. Some surviving *Quiroste* members are noted as having been employed at the mission cattle ranches as late as 1823.

During the 1820s, after the Mexican Revolution divested Spain of its title to the lands, more settlers moved into the coastal area as ranches continued to expand. Former mission lands were parceled out to petitioners among the citizenry and military as the new regime sought to "secularize" the mission system. In 1833, *Rancho San Antonio* was granted to Juan Jose Gonzales, a former foreman at Mission Santa Cruz. Interestingly, he was assisted in acquiring the lands by the padres from the mission during its secularization. His new grant was titled "*el Rancho Pescadero"* (or Ranch at the Fishing Place) and consisted of approximately 3,282 acres. His adobe house was near Pescadero Creek at the site of the present town of Pescadero. Eventually, the mission ranch at Año Nuevo and the lands between the point and *Rancho Pescadero* were partitioned into two land grants; one was referred to by the same name and the other was called *Rancho Butano,* which was granted to Ramona Sanchez in 1838.

Between 1840 and 1850, increasing numbers of American settlers arrived on the coast and encroached on the large Mexican ranchos as they set up small communities focused on the newly developed logging industry. After the Mexican-American War ended in 1848, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo guaranteed the property rights of the Mexican ranchers, but Congress later required that individual Mexican land grants be approved by a United States Land

Commission through judicial proceedings. After California Statehood in 1850, many of the Hispanic ranchers lost title to their lands, and like the Indians before them, lost their property (Harlow 1989).

Bartlett Weeks, who had arrived in Santa Cruz two years before the Gold Rush, was the first American settler at Pescadero. He soon sold his property to Alexander Moore whose house still stands close to town. By 1860 Pescadero was a prosperous town surrounded by farms, lumber mills and interestingly, was becoming a popular summer resort frequented by people from San Francisco. Pescadero Creek became a favorite fishing stream for sports anglers. By 1884 a published description of coast side hotels spoke highly of Pebble Beach where visitors crowded to collect water polished agates and opals. A hotel established by John Coburn near the mouth of the Creek adjacent to the marsh upset the local town's people who were restricted from trespassing to gain access to the beach. This lead to a legal conflict, which Coburn eventually won. Nonetheless, his hotel lost popularity and ultimately burned to the ground, and the court later reversed its decision. Construction of Highway 1 removed remnants of the once famous hotel. Agriculture, logging, and fishing continued to dominate the area's development and many of the levees constructed in the marsh date to the 1920s and 30s. By 1958, Pescadero Beach was acquired by the state from San Mateo County.

A field survey of the project site was conducted by State Parks Archaeologist Mark Hylkema in December, 2009. A pedestrian survey of the area of potential affects (APE) was done to look for evidence of prehistoric archaeological materials (i.e., shell, bone chipped stone, burned rocks, etc.) as well as historic artifacts (i.e, glass, ceramics, metal, masonry, etc.).

No surface indicators of archaeological materials were found; however, given the alluvial conditions of the terrain, it is possible that buried cultural deposits exist at greater depths (Hylkema 2009). Because of this possibility, a qualified archaeologist will be present during any substantial excavation phase to monitor earth removal activities.

	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
WOULD THE PROJECT:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource, as defined in §15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource, pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☐	☐	☐	☒

DISCUSSION

a) There are no significant historical resources on the project site. No impact.

b,c) A surface archaeological survey did not find any evidence of archaeological resources or human remains. There is, however, a small possibility of finding subsurface cultural resources. Implementation of **Mitigation Measure CULT-1** below will ensure that there will be no impacts, or impacts at a less than significant level.

MITIGATION MEASURE CULT-1

A qualified archaeologist will be present during the excavation phase of the project to monitor earth removal activities. In the unlikely event that significant archaeological resources are encountered during project development, all excavation work at the location of the find will temporarily cease so the project archaeologist can evaluate the find and provide appropriate management recommendations.

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

TOPOGRAPHY

The project site at Pescadero State Beach is located adjacent to a tidal channel that enters North Pond. The tidal channel was connected to North Pond during a restoration project in the mid-1990s. The abutment site is well above the highest high tide, and also well about the highest reach of a flooded Pescadero lagoon.

North Pond is in a small bowl surrounded on three sides by uplands covered in coastal scrub. The trail and observation platform will be on the small ridge south of North Pond.

GEOLOGY

Pescadero State Beach is located in the California Coast Range Geomorphic Province, a northwest-trending chain of mountains that formed primarily due to movement along the San Andreas Fault and associated faults. Regionally, the igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary basement rocks are part of the Jurassic to Cretaceous age Salinian Block, a tectonic block bounded to the east by the San Andreas Fault. These rocks originated some 350 miles to the south and began moving north during the Miocene (26 to seven million years ago) as the San Andreas Fault was activated. The Salinian Block (Pacific Plate) continues to move in a relative northerly direction along the northeast trending San Andreas Fault Zone.

The project site is located on an alluvial floodplain, which is underlain by the 13-20 million year old Monterey Formation.

SOILS

According to the USDA soil survey map (USDA 1961) the project area contains three soil types: two types of Colma Sandy loam and Coquille loam. The overlook and the majority of the trail are within Colma Sandy loam, moderately steep, eroded (CmD2) and Colma sandy loam, steep, eroded (CmE2). The Colma series consists of sloping to fairly steep, moderately coarse-textured to medium-textured, well-drained soils that were formed in weakly consolidated marine sediments. Some areas of Colma soils have been used for growing flax,

grain, or hay; most of the Colma soils are too steep for cultivation. The bridge area portion of the trail and the abutments are within an area mapped as Coquille loam. The Coquille series consists of nearly level, poorly drained soils developed in alluvium of mixed sources. The Coquille soil mapped in the area is Coquille loam, nearly level, saline (CoA). Permeability is moderate to moderately soil, and the water holding capacity is high.

SEISMICITY

The project site is located in the seismically active Central California Coast region. The closest major active (Holocene to Recent) fault, which runs less than a mile from the project site, is the San Gregorio Fault, which is considered a segment of the San Andreas Fault. Pescadero State Beach is about 13 miles west of the San Andreas Fault.

WOULD THE PROJECT:	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
a) Expose people or structures to 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.)	☐	☐	☐	☒
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iv) Landslides?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1997), creating substantial risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste disposal systems, where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site, or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☐	☒

DISCUSSION

a) The project site is located within the seismically active Central California coastal region, within the San Gregorio Fault Zone. The chance of the rupture of a known earthquake fault, strong seismic ground-shaking, or seismic-related ground failure is possible in this area. This project will not increase the risk to structures because no structures are planned. The project will not increase the risk to visitors or employees in a seismic event. No impact.

b) The project will disturb soil to construct the bridge abutments and the new connector trail. The small size of the construction footprint, the fact that all soil disturbance will be done by hand crews using hand tools, and the incorporation of standard Best Management Practices (BMPs) into the project design will ensure that soil erosion will be minor. In addition, the permanent closure of the existing poorly designed connector trail will remove a potential source of soil erosion. No impact.

c-e) This project will not affect visitors or employees beyond the construction period. Any geological hazards occurring at the project site will be natural in origin. No structures, utilities, or people will be affected. No impact.

f) This project will not destroy any paleontological or geological features. No impact.

VII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The proposed project site at Pescadero State Beach, prior to European occupation, was part of a saline or brackish marsh. The general area was utilized by Native Americans and was later settled by European-American farmers. During the ranch era, the surrounding land use was agricultural. There has been no industrial use or construction of buildings on the parcel that could have been a source of hazardous materials.

The project site is not located within an airport land use zone, or within two miles of an airport. There are no functioning private airstrips in the vicinity of the park. The closest school is 1.5 miles away. The closest city is Half Moon Bay, located approximately 17 miles north.

	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
WOULD THE PROJECT:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset	☐	☐	☐	☒

	and/or accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials, substances, or waste into the environment?				
c)	Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d)	Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites, compiled pursuant to Government Code §65962.5, and, as a result, create a significant hazard to the public or environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e)	Be 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? If so, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f)	Be located in the vicinity of a private airstrip? If so, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g)	Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
h)	Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death from wildland fires, including areas where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	☐	☐	☐	☒

DISCUSSION

a) Aside from fuel in vehicles and fuel for some power tools, no hazardous materials will be used transported, used, or disposed of. No impact.

b) There are no reasonably foreseeable conditions involving a significant hazard to the public. No impact.

c) As noted in the Environmental Setting, there are no schools in the general vicinity of the project or within one-quarter mile of the proposed project site. There will be no impact from this project.

d) No part of Pescadero State Beach, including the project site, is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code §65962.5. No area within the project site is currently restricted or known to have hazardous materials present. No impact.

e,f) Pescadero State Beach is not located within an airport land use plan, within two miles of a public airport, or in the vicinity of a functioning private air strip. No impact.

g) All construction activities associated with the proposed project will occur within the boundaries of Pescadero State Beach. Work will not restrict access to or block any public road. There will be no impact on any response or evacuation plans. No impact.

h) Construction of these access improvements will not expose people or structures to a significant risk from wild land fire. No impact.

VIII. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Pescadero State Beach contains Pescadero Marsh, a coastal wetland complex that includes a lagoon at the confluence of Pescadero and Butano Creeks, fresh and brackish water marshes, and brackish water ponds. The North Pond Footbridge project is located in an upland area adjacent to North Pond, and is within Pescadero Marsh Natural Preserve.

WATERSHED

The Pescadero-Butano watershed is the largest coastal watershed between the Golden Gate and the San Lorenzo River. The watershed's two principal streams, Pescadero Creek and Butano Creek, have their confluence in Pescadero Marsh. These two perennial streams drain 81 square miles of the Santa Cruz Mountains and the coastal valleys, hills, and terraces around the town of Pescadero (ESA 2004). The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) defines the area for groundwater purposes as the Pescadero Valley groundwater basin (DWR 2003).

FLOODING

The project area is located above the FEMA 100-year floodplain, with the trail segment, observation deck, and eastern abutment in an area mapped as Zone C, "areas of minimal flooding." The western abutment is within an area mapped as Zone D, "areas of undetermined, but possible flood hazard." Because both abutments will be at the same elevation, and because the abutments are sited at a level well about the maximum height of Pescadero lagoon, both abutments should be considered in an area of minimal potential for flooding (FEMA, 1984).

WATER QUALITY

The Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (CCRWQCB) regulates water quality in the region and provides water quality standards and management criteria as required by the Clean Water Act. These standards and criteria are presented in the 1994 Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) for the Central Coast Basin (CCRWQCB, 1994). The Basin Plan identifies the beneficial uses and water quality objectives for the Central Coast region. The three surface water bodies adjacent to the project site are Pescadero Creek, Butano Creek, and the Pacific Ocean. Beneficial uses for Pescadero Creek are listed in the following table:

Beneficial Use	Pescadero Creek
Municipal and Domestic Supply	X
Agricultural Supply	X
Water Contact Recreation	X
Non-Contact Water Recreation	X
Wildlife Habitat	X
Cold Freshwater Habitat	X
Warm Freshwater Habitat	X
Migration of Aquatic Organisms	X
Spawning, Reproduction and/or Early Development for Fish	X
Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species*	X

*Potential Species: Steelhead, Coho Salmon, California Red-Legged Frog, Western Pond Turtle, San Francisco Garter Snake, Tidewater Goby, California Brackishwater Snail

	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
WOULD THE PROJECT:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge, such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level that would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial on- or off-site erosion or siltation?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in on- or off-site flooding?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Substantially degrade water quality?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area, as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map, or other flood hazard delineation map?	☐	☐	☐	☒
h) Place structures that would impede or redirect flood flows within a 100-year flood hazard area?	☐	☐	☐	☒

i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death from flooding, including flooding resulting from the failure of a levee or dam?	☐	☐	☐	☒
j) Result in inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	☐	☐	☐	☒

DISCUSSION

a) The project site is bordered by vegetation, which will act to capture any dislodged sediment. The minor soil disturbance involved in the project will take place in late spring, when sediment is highly unlikely to move due to the absence of rain. There is no reasonable potential for the release of other pollutants. No impact.

b) The project will not involve any increase in water use, and it will not deplete any local aquifer. No impact.

c,d) The project is well above the highest flows in the adjacent tidal channel. The trail project is designed to not intercept or redirect drainage. The project will not alter drainage or flows in a way that would increase erosion or flooding. No impact.

e) There are no existing or planned stormwater drainage systems in or downstream of the project area. This project will not create or contribute runoff water that will exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems. No substantial additional sources of polluted runoff are expected from this project. No impact.

f) This project will involve only minor soil disturbance, and does not have the potential to substantially degrade water quality. No impact.

g) This project does not involve housing or any developments. No impact.

h) This project will place a structure above the 100 year flood hazard area. The bridge abutments and bridge structure would not impede or redirect flood flows within a 100 year flood hazard area. No impact.

i) This project should have no effect on local flooding concerns. There are no inhabited structures at or downstream of the project site. No impact.

j) No mudflows are expected to occur at the project site due to the low relief topography. Although the project is located in an area that could be possibly inundated by either a seiche or a tsunami, the risk would be no more significant than in other areas of the state beach. No impact.

IX. LAND USE AND PLANNING

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Pescadero State Beach is located on the central California coast, 17 miles south of Half Moon Bay in San Mateo County. This park unit contains sandy beaches and coastal dunes, as well as a coastal wetland complex that includes a lagoon at the confluence of Pescadero and Butano Creeks, fresh and brackish water marshes, and brackish water ponds. The North Pond Footbridge project is located in an upland area adjacent to North Pond, within Pescadero Marsh Natural Preserve.

Facilities at the State Beach include three paved parking lots with vault toilets. Two additional unpaved parking lots are located in the state beach: one at the boat launch area, and another at the ranger station. Two interpretive signs and displays are located near the beach side of the state beach. Public facilities are restricted to day use.

DPR developed a General Plan for Pescadero State Beach in 1979 to facilitate long-range planning at the park and to establish guidelines for the long-term use, management, and development. The General Plan (p. 40) calls for the protection of wetland and riparian areas; protection of the marsh from anthropogenic sedimentation; and restoration and establishment of the natural ecosystems in the formerly cultivated lands immediately adjacent to the wetlands of the marsh.

The proposed project is within Pescadero Marsh Natural Preserve, a designated area of Pescadero State Beach. State Parks guidelines require that Natural Preserves be managed to preserve their special natural features, and to allow natural dynamics of ecological interaction to continue without interference. Permitted uses within Natural Preserve include environmental education and nature study.

The San Mateo County General Plan has several resource goals and objectives that will be met through this project. These include the protection of sensitive habitats, and the conservation, enhancement, protection, maintenance and management of vegetative, water, fish and wildlife resources.

Pescadero State Beach is designated Public Recreation in the County's General Plan (GP). The GP describes land uses associated with the Public Recreation designation as: Recreation uses including but not limited to publicly owned park and recreation facilities such as playgrounds, parks, golf courses, and natural preserves. According to San Mateo County Planning Department personnel, Pescadero State Beach has a zoning designation of Planned Agricultural District (PAD). Per section 6350 of the County's zoning regulations, the purpose of the Planned Agricultural District is to: 1) preserve and foster existing and potential agricultural operations in San Mateo County in order to keep the maximum amount of prime agricultural land and all other lands suitable for agriculture in agricultural production, and (2) minimize conflicts between agricultural and non-agricultural land uses.

Pescadero State Beach is located entirely within the coastal zone and is subject to the provisions of the San Mateo County Local Coastal Program (LCP). The LCP calls for the protection of sensitive habitats, including riparian corridors and habitats that support rare,

endangered, and unique species. The LCP designates Pescadero Marsh as a high priority resource management project. It specifies that DPR shall manage Pescadero Marsh in a manner to maximize its wildlife potential. Allowed uses within habitats of rare and endangered species include research, and fish and wildlife management to restore damaged habitats and to protect and encourage the survival of rare and endangered species. The State beach is located within the appeal jurisdiction of the California Coastal Commission (CCC).

	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
WOULD THE PROJECT:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with the applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of any agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to, a general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

DISCUSSION

a) The proposed project will not introduce a new land use nor substantially alter existing land uses at the site. The project will be located entirely within the boundaries of Pescadero State Beach and will not divide an established community because none exists within the boundaries of the state beach. No impact.

b) This access improvement project is consistent with all applicable state and local land use plans, policies, and regulations, including the applicable provisions of the San Mateo County General Plan, Local Coastal Program, Zoning Regulations, and the Pescadero State Beach General Plan. No impact.

c) There is no habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan that includes this California State Park unit. There is no impact.

X. MINERAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

No significant mineral resources have been identified within the boundaries of the project area at Pescadero State Beach. Mineral resource extraction is not permitted under the Resource Management Directives of the Department of Parks and Recreation.

WOULD THE PROJECT:	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that is or would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

DISCUSSION

a) The project will not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource because no known mineral resources exist within the project boundary. No impact.

b) The project will not result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site because none exist within the project boundary. No impact.

XI. NOISE

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project area at Pescadero State Beach is located adjacent to Highway 1. The existing noise environment is primarily influenced by natural sounds (ocean waves, wind, birds, etc.), with occasional noises from visitors and from vehicle traffic on Highway 1. The nearest sensitive receptors are residences adjacent to farming operations about a half mile to a mile away from the project. The closest school is over 1.5 miles away. The closest airport is at Half Moon Bay, about 20 miles north of Pescadero State Beach.

WOULD THE PROJECT:	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
a) Generate or expose people to noise levels in excess of standards established in a local general plan or noise ordinance, or in other applicable local, state, or federal standards?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Generate or expose people to excessive groundborne vibrations or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Create a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project (above levels without the project)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Create a substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project, in excess of noise levels existing without the project?	☐	☐	☐	☒

e) Be 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? If so, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Be in the vicinity of a private airstrip? If so, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒

DISCUSSION

a) Construction and use of the project will neither generate substantial noise levels nor expose people to high noise levels. No impact.

b) Construction will be done by hand crews using hand tools and hand-held power tools that will not generate significant ground vibration or noise. No impact.

c) Visitors using these facilities will cause temporary minor local increases in noise levels. Nothing within the scope of the proposed project will result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels. No impact.

d) By allowing visitors increased access to the existing trail system, there may occasionally be temporary minor local increases in noise levels. This potential increase in noise levels would be minimal. No impact.

e) As noted in the Environmental Setting above, the nearest airport is more than 20 miles away. No impact.

f) The proposed project site is not located in the vicinity of a known private airstrip. No impact.

XII. POPULATION AND HOUSING

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

There is no housing within the boundaries of Pescadero State Beach. The state beach is both a local and regional recreational resource, used by the local population as well as tourists, but does not offer business or residential opportunities within its boundaries.

	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
WOULD THE PROJECT:				
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☐	☒

b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒

DISCUSSION

a-c) The project does not have a housing or infrastructure component. All work will take place within the confines of the state beach boundaries. No new public or private projects are anticipated to be initiated as a result of this project. No impact.

XIII. PUBLIC SERVICES

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

DPR provides law enforcement services within units of the State Park System. State Park Peace Officers with law enforcement authority patrol the park in vehicles and on foot; enforce the public resource code, and guard against misuse of park property and resources. San Mateo County Sheriff's Department and the California Highway Patrol provide backup law enforcement services at Pescadero State Beach.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CDF) provides fire protection services for the state beach. The CDF station is located on Pescadero Road off State Route 1, immediately adjacent to the state beach boundary and about a mile from the project site.

There are no schools within a mile of the state beach.

There are several other state parks located in the surrounding area, including Pomponio State Beach immediately to the north on Highway One, and San Gregorio State Beach less than five miles to the north on Highway One. Bean Hollow State Beach is about three miles to the south. All three of these state beaches are open for day use only. Butano State Park is located inland, approximate seven miles to the southeast, and allows overnight camping. San Mateo County Memorial Park is seven miles to the east and also offers day use and camping.

	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
WOULD THE PROJECT:				
a) Result in significant environmental impacts from construction associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:	☐	☐	☐	☒

Fire protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Police protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Parks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒

DISCUSSION

a) The proposed project will not directly result in an increase of visitation to the park, and the level of required fire or police services will not change as a result of the project. No impact.

The project does not result in any change of use or introduce any new use at the park that will affect existing schools or require additional schools or school personnel. No impact.

The project will only affect the North Pond area, which is commonly accessed from the North Pescadero parking lot. A temporary closure of the immediate project area may occur during construction. After construction the area will be reopened to visitor use.

The proposed project will have no impact on other public services.

XIV. RECREATION

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Pescadero State Beach is located on the central California coast, 17 miles south of Half Moon Bay in San Mateo County. This park unit contains sandy beaches and coastal dunes, as well as a coastal wetland complex that includes a lagoon at the confluence of Pescadero and Butano Creeks, fresh and brackish water marshes, and brackish water ponds. The North Pond Footbridge project is located in an upland area adjacent to North Pond, within Pescadero Marsh Natural Preserve.

The majority of visitors spend their time at the beach. Those who enter the marsh currently hike in to either North Pond (from the North Pescadero parking lot) or into the main lagoon area (from the Middle Pescadero Parking lot). The marsh is a popular destination for short hikes and interpretive walks, and environmental education groups lead school field trips here. Bird watching, fishing, and kayaking are other popular activities.

Facilities at the state beach include three paved parking lots with vault toilets. Two additional unpaved parking lots are located in the state beach: one at the boat launch area, and another at the ranger station. Two interpretive signs and displays are located near the beach side of the state beach. The North Pond tidal channel presents a barrier to public access, and currently few visitors go through the project site.

There are several other recreation resources within ten miles of Pescadero State Beach. These include Pomponio, San Gregorio, and Bean Hollow State Beaches; Butano State Park; and San Mateo County Memorial Park.

	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
WOULD THE PROJECT:				
a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities, such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒

DISCUSSION

a) The proposed project is intended to accommodate existing use of Pescadero State Beach, especially the existing use for nature study and environmental education. The project could cause a minor increase in recreational use at Pescadero State Beach, as visitors are attracted to the improved trail system. The project has been designed to be sustainable with recreational use, and any minor increased use would not cause physical deterioration of the facility.

b) Recreational facilities within the project will not have an adverse physical effect on the environment. The project will not displace any existing recreational facilities, or result in the need for the construction or expansion of existing recreational facilities. No impact.

XV. TRANSPORATION/TRAFFIC

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

ROADS AND HIGHWAYS

Regional access to the project site is via State Route 1, a two-lane highway on a northwest-southeast alignment. State Route 1 at the project site is designated as a State Scenic Highway, from the Santa Cruz County line south of the state beach to the southern city limit of Half Moon Bay to the north.

Construction and staging activities for the proposed project will take place entirely within the park boundaries. No lane or road closures are anticipated. The proposed project will not change the Level of Service on State Route 1. In addition, no parking will change as a result of the project.

PUBLIC TRANSIT

Public transit service within the County of San Mateo is provided by the San Mateo County Transit District (SamTrans). Route 15 provides limited service from Half Moon Bay to the city of Pescadero, within walking distance of the state beach. In 2001 the County of San Mateo adopted Countywide Transportation Plan 2010, which includes policies for improving transportation within the County. It seeks to increase capacity of and demand for transit systems, and a decrease in traffic congestion.

BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN ACCESS

Bicyclists may use State Route 1. Because of the remote nature of the state beach, bicycle and pedestrian access is minimal for all but local users and some travelers on State Route 1.

WOULD THE PROJECT:	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
a) Cause a substantial increase in traffic, in relation to existing traffic and the capacity of the street system (i.e., a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Exceed, individually or cumulatively, the level of service standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Cause a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location, that results in substantial safety risks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Contain a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or a dangerous intersection) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment) that would substantially increase hazards?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	☐	☐	☐	☒

DISCUSSION

a) Construction and use of the proposed footbridge, trail, and observation deck will not cause a substantial increase in traffic. No impact.

b) A potential minor increase in visitation would not cause an increase in traffic that would exceed service standards for the adjacent roads. No impact.

c) The project site is not located within an airport land use plan, within two miles of a public airport, or in the vicinity of a private air strip, and does not serve as a normal reporting point for air traffic in the area. Nothing in the proposed project will in any way affect or change existing air traffic patterns in the area. Therefore, no impact will occur as a result of this project.

d) No portion of the project design or implementation contains any element that will increase hazards to traffic or other forms of transportation. No impact.

e) All construction activities associated with the project will occur within the boundaries of Pescadero State Beach. No emergency access will be affected. No impact.

f) This project is not expected to substantially increase the number of visitors to the project area. It will not make any changes to existing parking areas. No impact.

g) This project will not result in any changes regarding alternative transportation. The project does not conflict with San Mateo County's Countywide Transportation Plan 2010. No impact.

XVI. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

A DPR well provides water service to staff facilities at Pescadero State Beach, and drinking water is trucked through a commercial service. Sewage treatment for staff is provided via leach fields. There is no public access to water or restrooms at the ranger station. The three beach parking lots along Highway One have vault toilets, which are serviced by DPR staff. DPR staff also manages the collection and disposal of refuse. Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) supplies electricity and AT&T supplies phone service. The project does not require access to or any change in existing utilities at the state beach.

WOULD THE PROJECT:	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
a) Exceed wastewater treatment restrictions or standards of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities?	☐ Yes	☒ No		
Would the construction of these facilities cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities?	☐ Yes	☒ No		

	Would the construction of these facilities cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d)	Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e)	Result in a determination, by the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may serve the project, that it has adequate capacity to service the project's anticipated demand, in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f)	Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g)	Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations as they relate to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	☒

DISCUSSION

a) Pescadero State Beach is within the jurisdiction of the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (CCRWQCB). The project will be in compliance with all applicable water quality standards and waste discharge requirements. No impact.

b, c, d) There is no water, wastewater, or stormwater drainage related to this project. No impact.

e, f) Wastewater treatment services are provided by DPR personnel with DPR-owned facilities. The proposed work will not increase the park's wastewater or solid waste disposal needs. No impact.

g) The project will comply with all federal, state, and applicable local statutes and regulations as they relate to solid waste. No impact.

CHAPTER 4
MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT WITH MITIGATION	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
WOULD THE PROJECT:				
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Have the potential to eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, other current projects, and probably future projects?)	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on humans, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☐	☒

DISCUSSION

a) This project has been designed to avoid impacts on natural resources, including sensitive species. The inclusion of mitigations measures will ensure that the risk of impacts to sensitive species will be at a less than significant level.

b) No examples of California history or prehistory will be eliminated by this project. No impact.

c) The potential negative impacts of the project are minor. There are no additional projects planned in the vicinity. The risk of cumulatively considerable impacts from past and planned projects is less than significant.

d) This project will not directly or indirectly have substantial adverse effects on humans. No impact.

CHAPTER 5
SUMMARY OF CONDITIONS

The following mitigation measures will be implemented by DPR as part of the Pescadero Footbridge Project.

AESTHETICS

- **NO MITIGATION MEASURES NEEDED**

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

- **NO MITIGATION MEASURES NEEDED**

AIR QUALITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

- **NO MITIGATION MEASURES NEEDED**

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-1 SAN FRANCISCO GARTER SNAKE, CALIFORNIA RED-LEGGED FROG, WESTERN POND TURTLE, AND SALTMARSH COMMON YELLOWTHROAT

- As directed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), all areas within the construction footprint will be fenced with snake-exclusion fencing. The location and design of the fencing will be determined in consultation with USFWS and DFG. San Francisco garter snakes emerge from hibernation in March. The project area is not adjacent to ponds or other fresh-water foraging areas, therefore active snakes are likely to leave the fenced project area to forage. Exclusion fencing will also prevent western pond turtles from entering the project area to nest or burrow.
- At least seven days prior to the onset of activities, the names and credentials will be submitted to the USFWS of biologists who will act as approved biologists and biological monitors, who will conduct activities specified in the following measures.
- At least seven days prior to the start of work, a preconstruction survey for San Francisco garter snakes, California red-legged frogs, Western pond turtles, and saltmarsh common yellowthroats will be conducted in the construction area. If any of these species is found, the biologist will contact the Service and request guidance on any additional conservation measures or authorizations that may be needed. Measures may include delaying work temporarily.
- A training session will be conducted for all personnel involved in the construction of the project. This training will take place prior to the initiation of the project and will include a description of the San Francisco garter snake, California red-legged frog, Western pond turtle, and saltmarsh common yellowthroat. Also discussed will be their habitats, the conservation measures that are being implemented for these species, and the physical boundaries within which the project must be accomplished. The training will include instruction in the appropriate protocol to follow in the event that a San Francisco garter

snake, California red-legged frog, Western pond turtle, or saltmarsh common yellowthroat is found on site. Brochures, books, and briefings may be used in the training session and qualified personnel will be on hand to answer any questions.

- A Service-approved biologist will be present at the work site until instruction of workers has taken place. After the instruction, DPR will designate one or more persons to serve as biological monitors for on-site compliance with all conservation measures. The Service-approved biologist will ensure that this individual receives training in the identification of San Francisco garter snakes, California red-legged frogs, Western pond turtles, and saltmarsh common yellowthroats. In the event that any of these species are encountered in the project area during project construction by anyone, the Project Manager will put work on hold at that specific location and hand crews will be redirected to other tasks. If work is stopped, the Service shall be notified within one workday by the Service-approved biologist or the on-site biological monitor.
- The biological monitor will inspect the project area each morning to ensure that San Francisco garter snakes, California red-legged frogs, Western pond turtles, and saltmarsh common yellowthroats are not in the project area.
- Rocks, logs, or other habitat features that are moved during construction will be done so with the monitor present, and will be replaced in adjacent suitable habitat.
- The number of access routes, the size of the staging area, and the total area of activity will be limited to the minimum necessary to achieve the project goal. Routes and boundaries will be clearly demarcated and approved by the biological monitor. These areas will not include wetlands or other sensitive habitats. Work crews will remain within designated staging areas and work areas. If crews must go outside of designated areas, crew leaders will obtain approval from the on-site biological monitor.
- The project will be constructed by hand crews using hand tools and portable power tools. There will be no use of vehicles and heavy equipment.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

MITIGATION MEASURE CULT-1

- A qualified archaeologist will be present during the excavation phase of the project to monitor earth removal activities. In the unlikely event that significant archaeological resources are encountered during project development, all excavation work at the location of the find will temporarily cease so the project archaeologist can evaluate the find and provide appropriate management recommendations.

GEOLOGY AND SOILS

- **NO MITIGATION MEASURES NEEDED**

HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

- **NO MITIGATION MEASURES NEEDED**

HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

- **NO MITIGATION MEASURES NEEDED**

LAND USE AND PLANNING

- **NO MITIGATION MEASURES NEEDED**

MINERAL RESOURCES

- **NO MITIGATION MEASURES NEEDED**

NOISE

- **NO MITIGATION MEASURES NEEDED**

POPULATION AND HOUSING

- **NO MITIGATION MEASURES NEEDED**

PUBLIC SERVICES

- **NO MITIGATION MEASURES NEEDED**

RECREATION

- **NO MITIGATION MEASURES NEEDED**

TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC

- **NO MITIGATION MEASURES NEEDED**

UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

- **NO MITIGATION MEASURES NEEDED**

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CHAPTER 7
REPORT PREPARATION

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

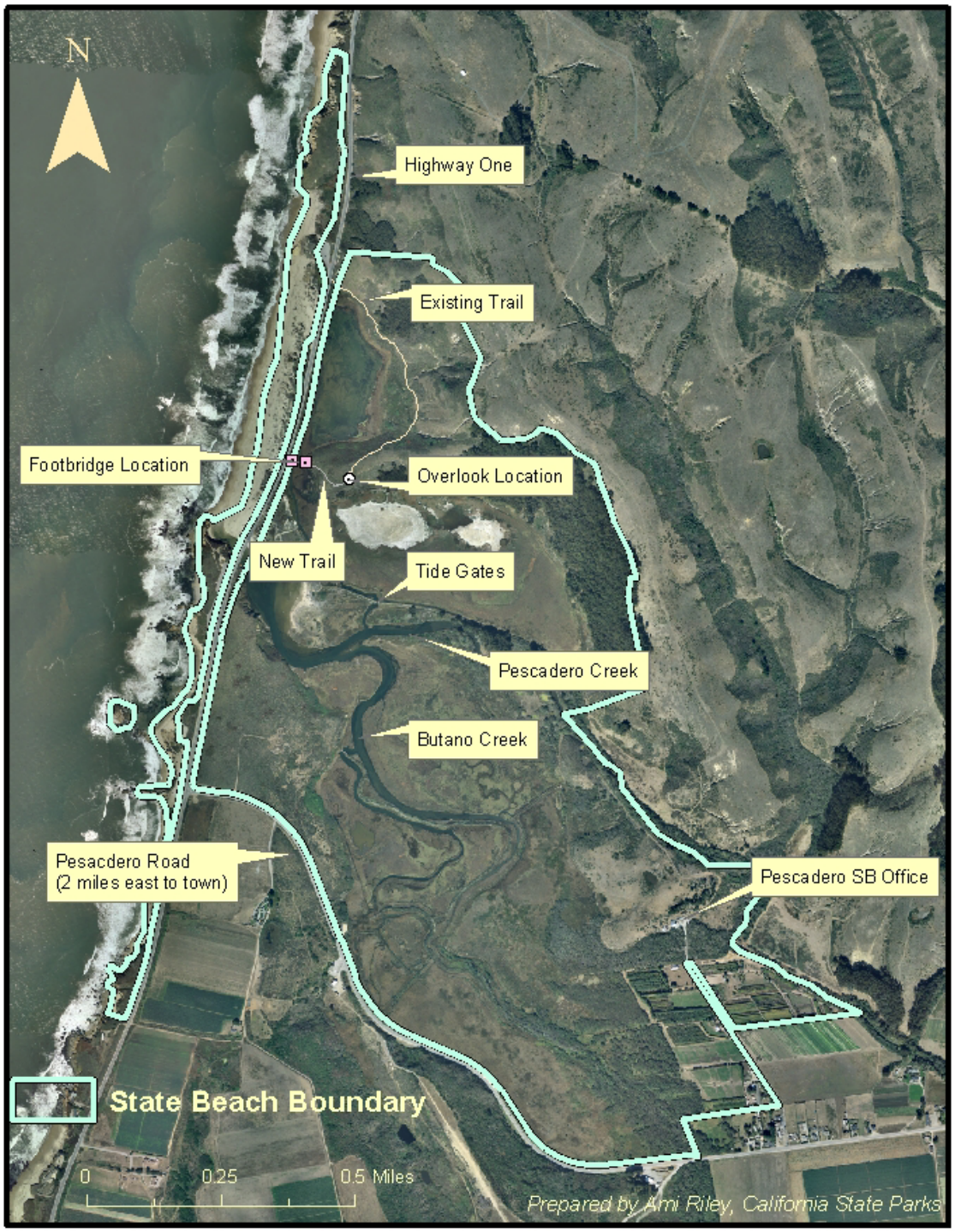
JOANNE KERBAVAZ, SENIOR ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENTIST
MARK HYLKEMA, ASSOCIATE STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST
AMI RILEY, ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES INTERN

APPENDIX A
MAPS

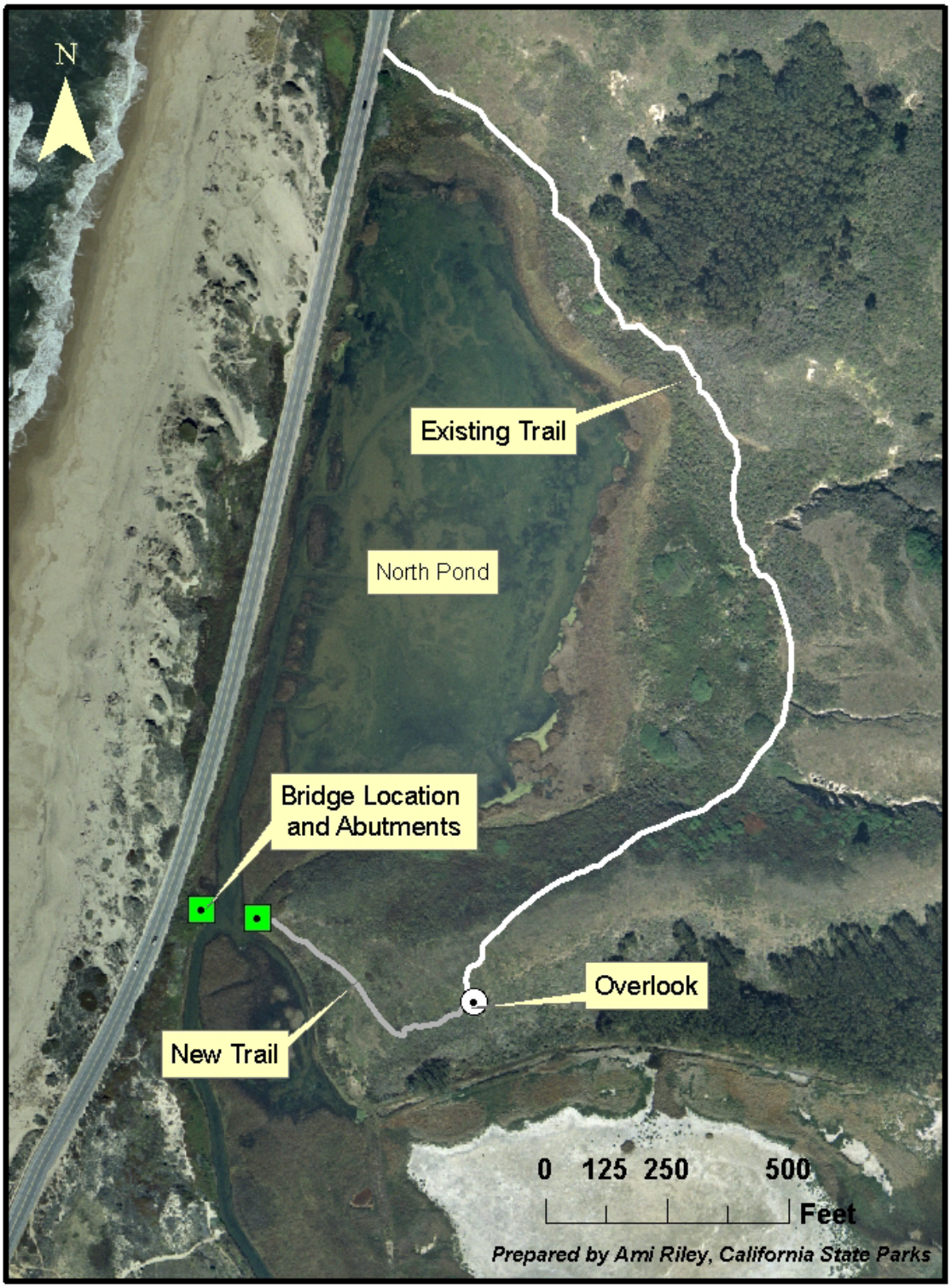
REGIONAL MAP

North Pond Footbridge Project
Pescadero State Beach
California Department of Parks & Recreation

PESCADERO STATE BEACH



NORTH POND FOOTBRIDGE PROJECT LOCATION



APPENDIX B
PROJECT DESIGN GRAPHICS

FIGURE 1: FOOTBRIDGE DESIGN

FIGURE 2: ARTISTS CONCEPTION OF INSTALLED FOOTBRIDGE

FIGURE 3: FOOTBRIDGE LOCATION, FACING WEST

FIGURE 4: FOOTBRIDGE LOCATION DURING 1995 EXCAVATION, FACING EAST

FIGURE 5: EXISTING OBSERVATION DECK

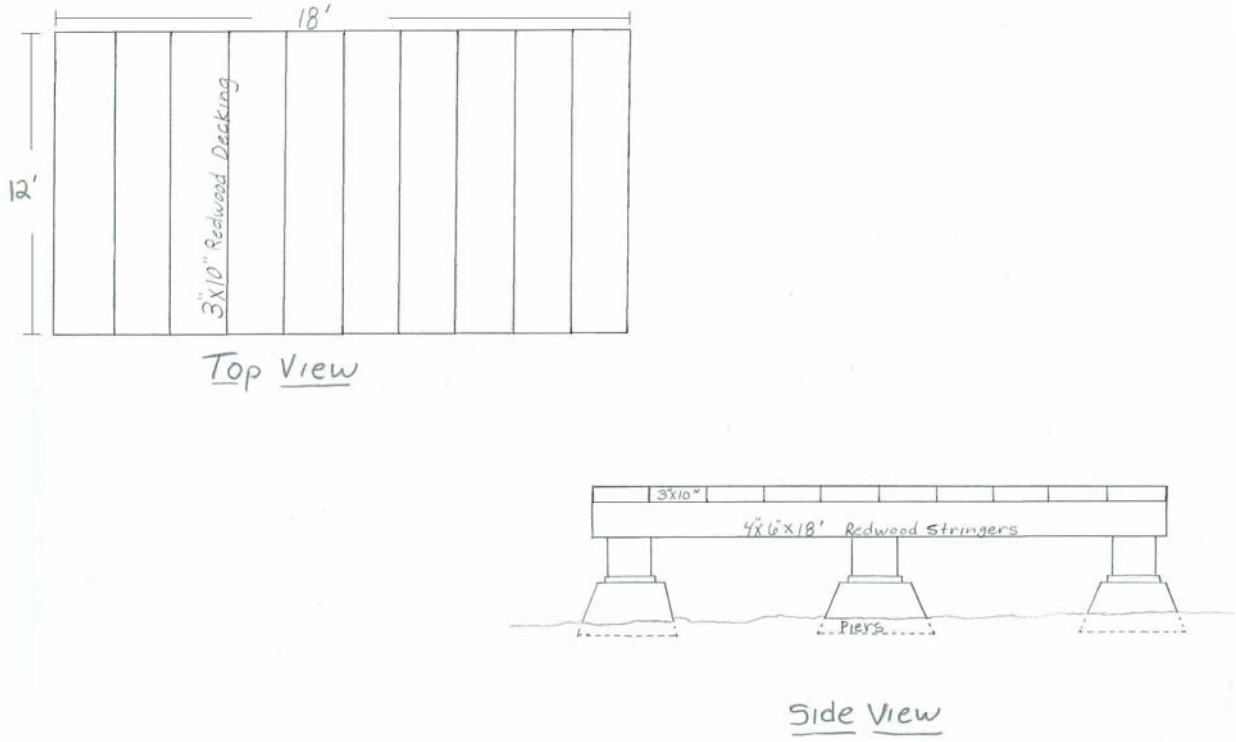


FIGURE 6: PROPOSED DESIGN FOR OBSERVATION DECK

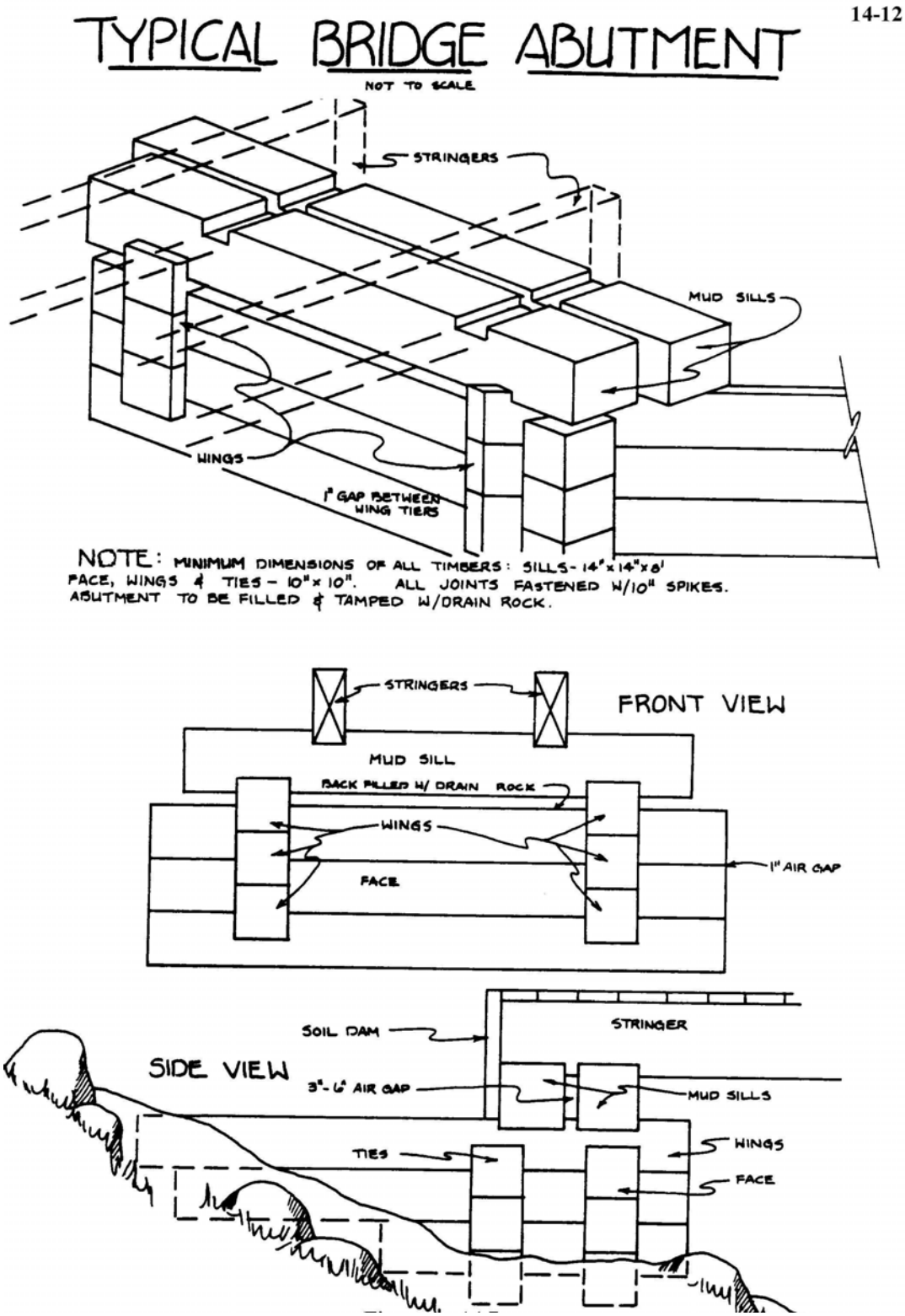


FIGURE 7: TYPICAL BRIDGE ABUTMENT DESIGN

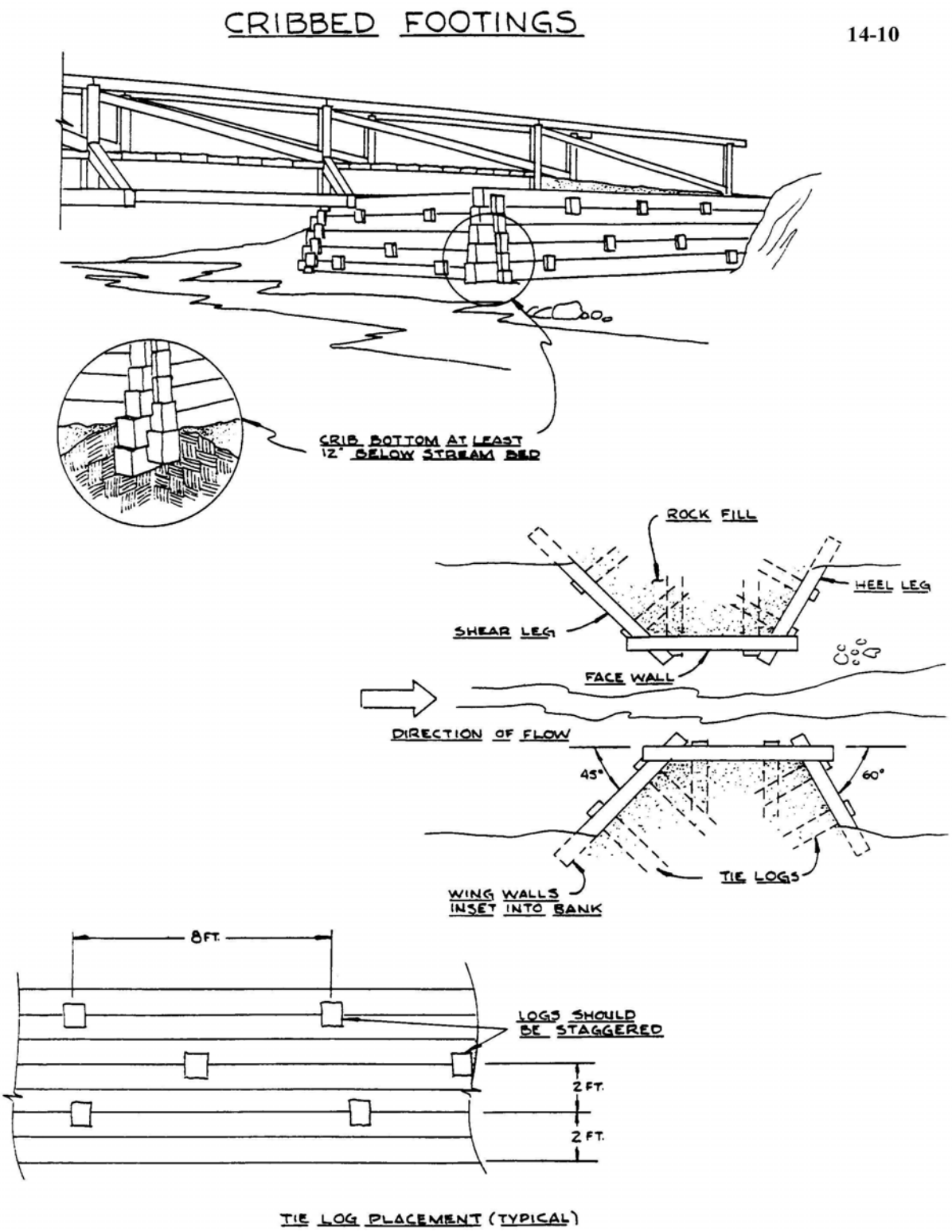


FIGURE 8: TYPICAL CRIBBED FOOTINGS

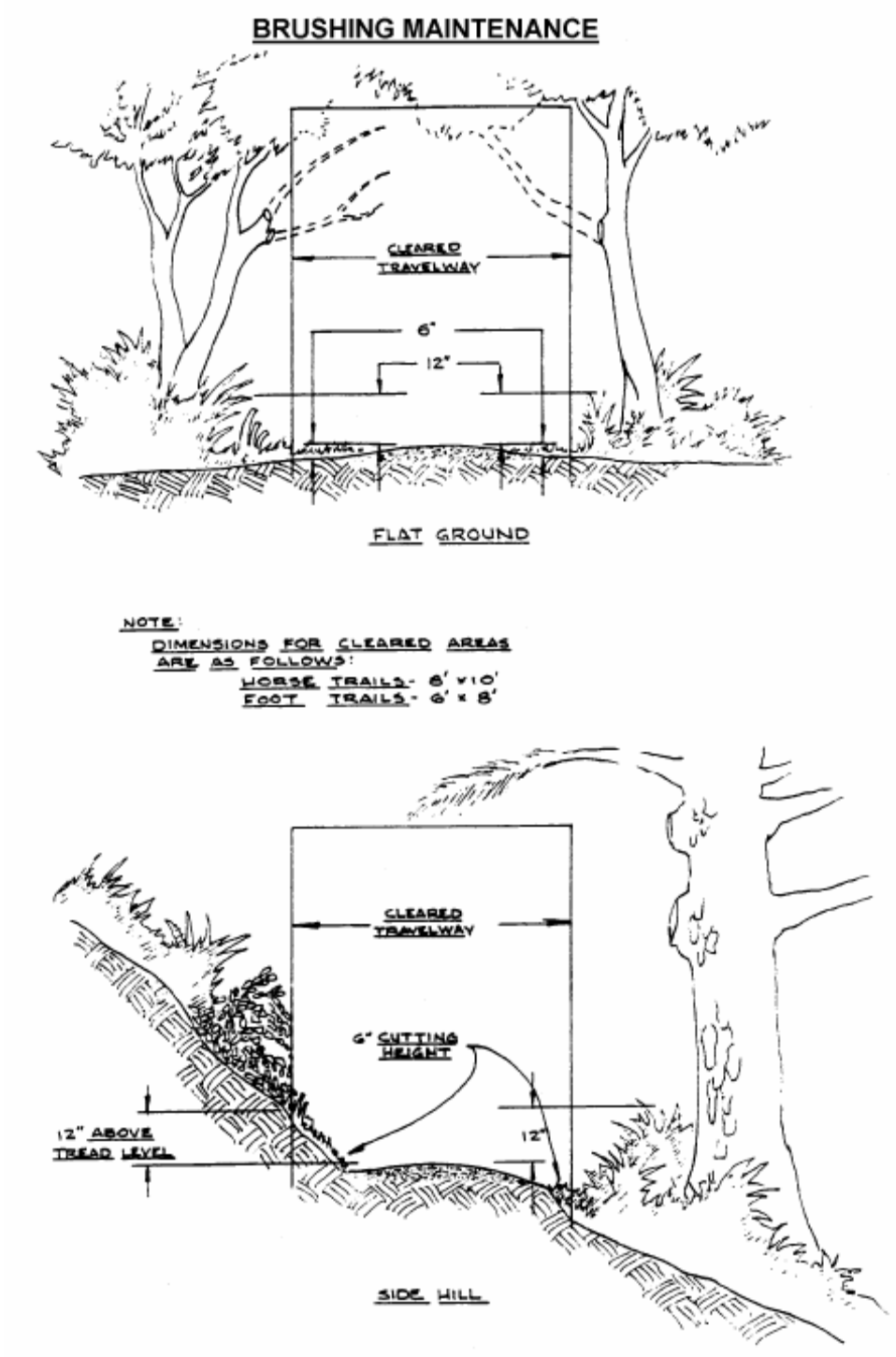


FIGURE 9: BRUSHING MAINTENANCE

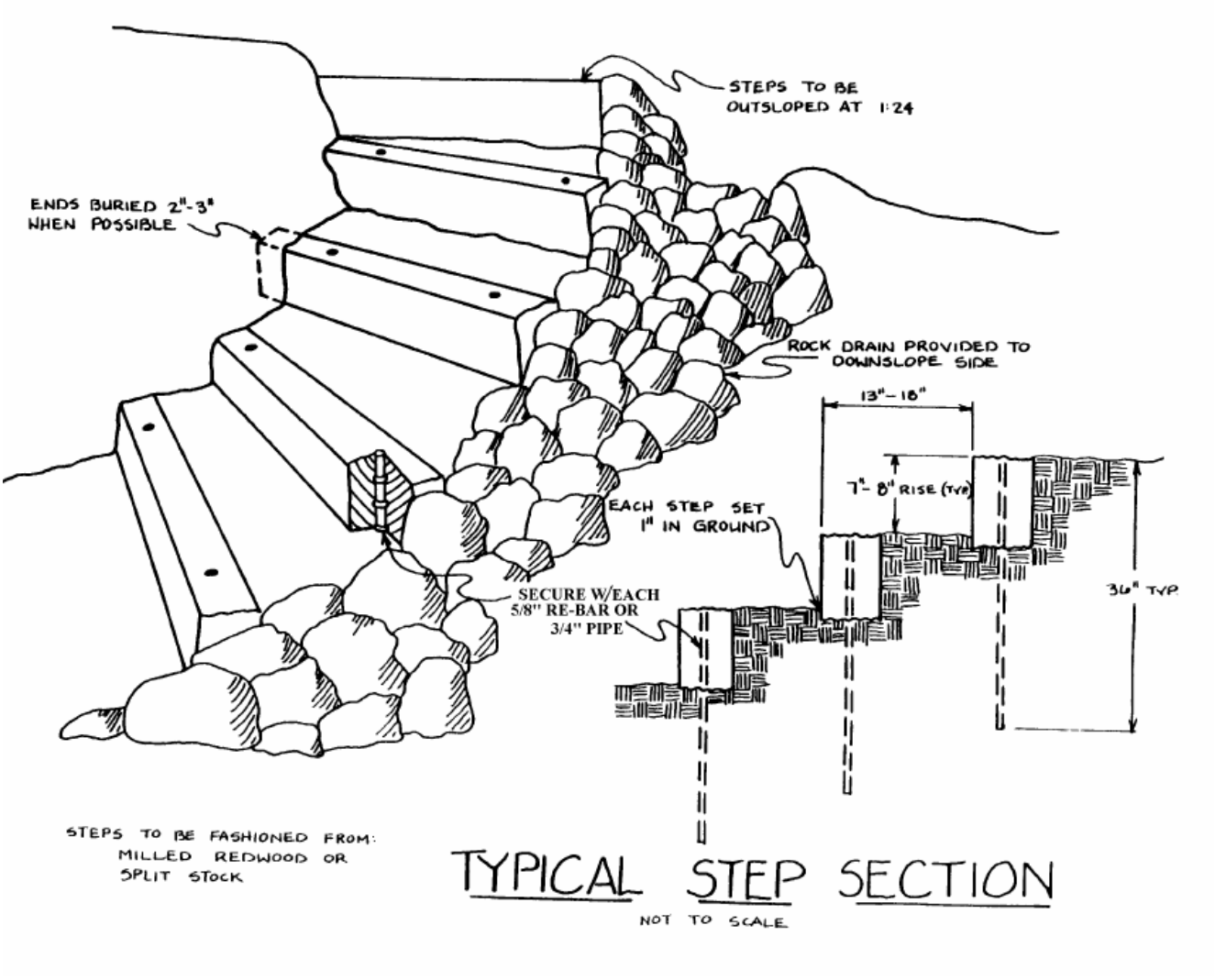


FIGURE 10: TYPICAL STEP SECTION

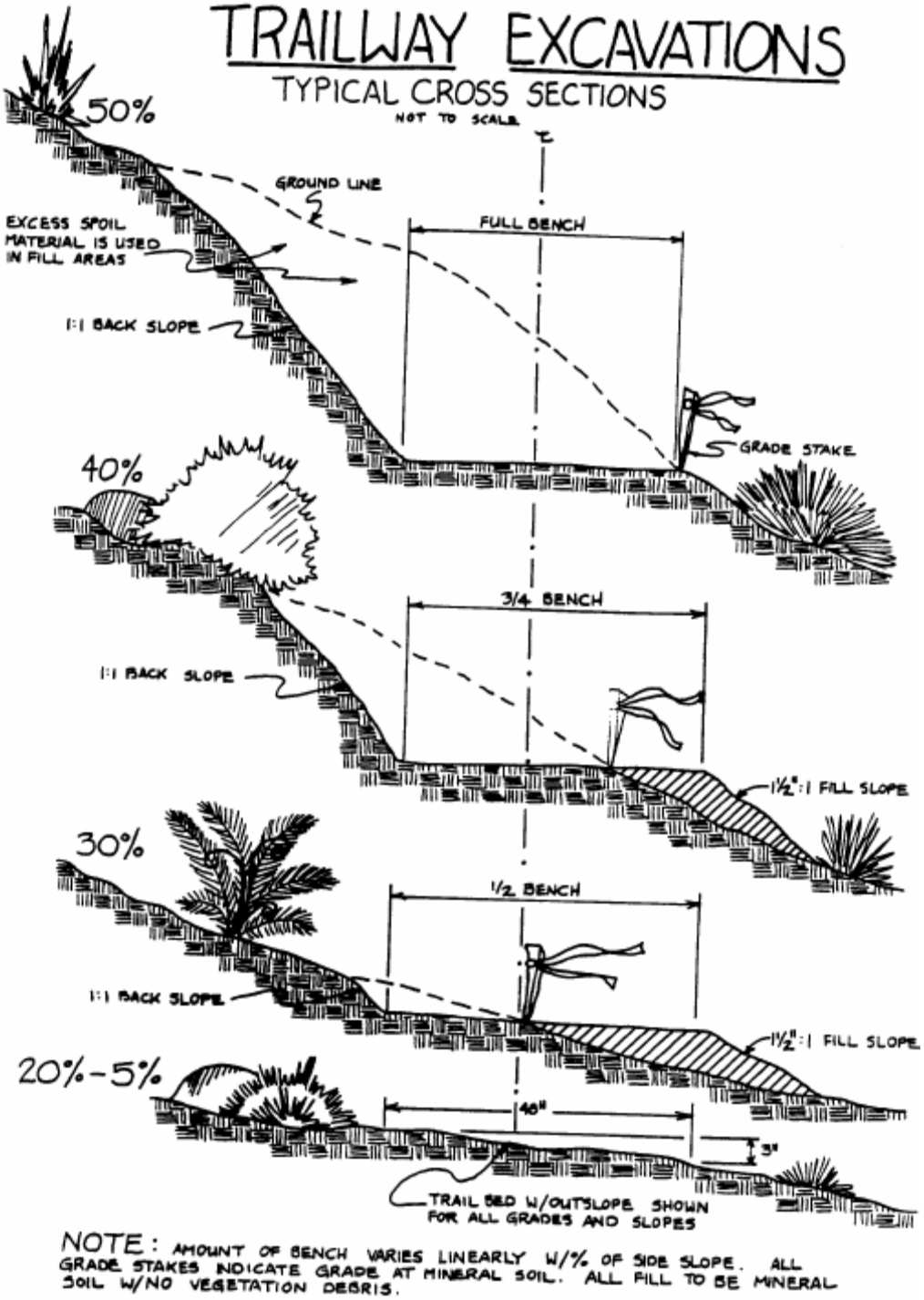


FIGURE 11: TRAILWAY EXCAVATIONS

APPENDIX C

SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES LISTS

California Department of Fish and Game
Natural Diversity Database
Selected Elements by Scientific Name
San Gregorio List

	Scientific Name/Common Name	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	DFGStatus	CNPSList
1	*Ardea herodias* great blue heron	ABNGA04010				
2	*Astragalus pycnostachyus var. pycnostachyus* coastal marsh milk-vetch	PDFAB0F7B2				1B.2
3	*California macrophylla* round-leaved filaree	PDGER01070				1B.1
4	*Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus* western snowy plover	ABNNB03031	Threatened		SSC	
5	*Eucyclogobius newberryi* tidewater goby	AFCQN04010	Endangered		SSC	
6	*Geothlypis trichas sinuosa* saltmarsh common yellowthroat	ABPBX1201A			SSC	
7	*Lasthenia californica ssp. Macrantha* perennial goldfields	PDAST5L0C5				1B.2
8	*Leptosiphon rosaceus* rose leptosiphon	PDPLM09180				1B.1
9	*Microseris paludosa* marsh microseris	PDAST6E0D0				1B.2
10	N. Central Coast Calif. Roach/Stickleback/Steelhead Stream	CARA2633CA				
11	North Central Coast Steelhead/Sculpin	CARA2637CA				
12	*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus* steelhead-central California coast ESU	AFCHA0209G	Threatened			
13	*Plagiobothrys chorisianus var. chorisianus* Choris' popcorn-flower	PDBOR0V061				1B.2
14	*Rana draytonii* California red-legged frog	AAABH01022	Threatened		SSC	
15	Sacramento-San Joaquin Coastal Lagoon	CALA1360CA				
16	*Thamnophis sirtalis tetrataenia* San Francisco garter snake	ARADB3613B	Endangered	Endangered	FP	
17	*Tryonia imitator* mimic tryonia (=California brackishwater snail)	IMGASJ7040				
18	Valley Needlegrass Grassland	CTT42110CA				

Key to DFGStatus and CNPSList

DFGStatus Indicates whether the species has a special California Department of Fish and Game designation. This applies to animals only. For the plant equivalent, see CNPSLIST.

DFGStatus	Description
FP	Fully Protected
SSC	Species of Special Concern
WL	Watch List

CNPSList *California Native Plant Society (CNPS) List*. This field applies to plants only. The California Native Plant Society currently tracks 2,073 plant species, subspecies, and varieties as rare in California. They are assigned to one of five "lists" in an effort to categorize their degree of rarity and endangerment:

CNPSList	Description
1A	Plants presumed extinct in California
1B	Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere
2	Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere
3	Plants about which we need more information - a review list
4	Plants of limited distribution - a watch list

See: CNPS, 2001. Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California (sixth edition). Rare Plant Scientific Advisory Committee, David P. Tibor, Convening Editor. California Native Plant Society. Sacramento, CA.

San Gregorio Quadrangle

Scientific Name	Common Name	CNPS List	State Rank	CA Global Rank
Astragalus pycnostachyus var. pycnostachyus	coastal marsh milk-vetch	1B.2	S2.2	G2T2
California macrophylla	round-leaved filaree	1B.1	S3.1	G3
Fritillaria liliacea	fragrant fritillary	1B.2	S2.2	G2
Grindelia hirsutula var. maritima	San Francisco gumplant	1B.2	S2.1	G5T2
Lasthenia californica ssp. macrantha	perennial goldfields	1B.2	S2.2	G3T2
Leptosiphon rosaceus	rose leptosiphon	1B.1	S1.1	G1
Microseris paludosa	marsh microseris	1B.2	S2.2	G2
Plagiobothrys chorisianus var. chorisianus	Choris' popcorn-flower	1B.2	S2.2	G3T2Q

Key to CNPS Rare Plant Lists

1A Presumed Extinct in California
1B Rare or Endangered in California and Elsewhere
2 Rare or Endangered in California, More Common Elsewhere
3 Need More Information
4 Plants of Limited Distribution
  0.1: Seriously endangered in California
  0.2: Fairly endangered in California

Key to Global Ranking

The global rank (G-rank) is a reflection of the overall condition of an element throughout its global range.
Species or Community Level
G1 = Less than 6 viable element occurrences (EOs) OR less than 1,000 individuals OR less than 2,000 acres.
G2 = 6-20 EOs OR 1,000-3,000 individuals OR 2,000-10,000 acres.
G3 = 21-80 EOs OR 3,000-10,000 individuals OR 10,000-50,000 acres.
G4 = Apparently secure; this rank is clearly lower than G3 but factors exist to cause some concern; i.e., there is some threat, or somewhat narrow habitat.
G5 = Population or stand demonstrably secure to ineradicable due to being commonly found in the world.
GH = All sites are historic; the element has not been seen for at least 20 years, but suitable habitat still exists.
GX = All sites are extirpated; this element is extinct in the wild.
GXC = Extinct in the wild; exists in cultivation
G1Q = The element is very rare, but there are taxonomic questions associated with it

Subspecies Level

Subspecies receive a T-rank attached to the G-rank. With the subspecies, the G-rank reflects the condition of the entire species, whereas the T-rank reflects the global situation of just the subspecies or variety.

Key to State Ranking

The state rank (S-rank) is assigned much the same way as the global rank, except state ranks in California often also contain a threat designation attached to the S-rank.

S1 = Less than 6 EOs OR less than 1,000 individuals OR less than 2,000 acres
  S1.1 = very threatened
  S1.2 = threatened
  S1.3 = no current threats known
S2 = 6-20 EOs OR 1,000-3,000 individuals OR 2,000-10,000 acres
  S2.1 = very threatened
  S2.2 = threatened
  S2.3 = no current threats known
S3 = 21-80 EOs or 3,000-10,000 individuals OR 10,000-50,000 acres
  S3.1 = very threatened
  S3.2 = threatened
  S3.3 = no current threats known
S4 = Apparently secure within California; this rank is clearly lower than S3 but factors exist to cause some concern; i.e. there is some threat, or somewhat narrow habitat. NO THREAT RANK.
S5 = Demonstrably secure to ineradicable in California. NO THREAT RANK.
SH = All California sites are historic; the element has not been seen for at least 20 years, but suitable habitat still exists.
SX = all California sites are extirpated; this element is extinct in the wild.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Sacramento Fish & Wildlife Office Species List
Federal Endangered and Threatened Species that

Occur or may be Affected by Projects in the San Gregorio 7 ½ minute Quad
Listed Species

Invertebrates
Haliotes cracherodii
black abalone (E) (NMFS)

Haliotes sorenseni
white abalone (E) (NMFS)

Fish
Eucyclogobius newberryi
critical habitat, tidewater goby (X)
tidewater goby (E)

Hypomesus transpacificus
delta smelt (T)

Oncorhynchus kisutch
Coho salmon - central CA coast (E) (NMFS)
Critical habitat, coho salmon - central CA coast (X) (NMFS)

Oncorhynchus mykiss
Central California Coastal steelhead (T) (NMFS)
Central Valley steelhead (T) (NMFS)
Critical habitat, Central California coastal steelhead (X) (NMFS)

Amphibians
Rana aurora draytonii
California red-legged frog (T)

Reptiles
Caretta caretta
loggerhead turtle (T) (NMFS)

Chelonia mydas (incl. agassizi)
green turtle (T) (NMFS)

Dermochelys coriacea
leatherback turtle (E) (NMFS)

Lepidochelys olivacea
olive (=Pacific) ridley sea turtle (T) (NMFS)

Thamnophis sirtalis tetrataenia
San Francisco garter snake (E)

Birds
Brachyramphus marmoratus
marbled murrelet (T)

Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus
western snowy plover (T)

Diomedea albatrus
short-tailed albatross (E)

Pelecanus occidentalis californicus
California brown pelican (E)

Sternula antillarum (=Sterna, =albifrons) browni
California least tern (E)

Mammals
Arctocephalus townsendi
Guadalupe fur seal (T) (NMFS)

Balaenoptera borealis
sei whale (E) (NMFS)

Balaenoptera musculus
blue whale (E) (NMFS)

Balaenoptera physalus
finback (=fin) whale (E) (NMFS)

Enhydra lutris nereis
southern sea otter (T)

Eubalaena (=Balaena) glacialis
right whale (E) (NMFS)

Eumetopias jubatus
Steller (=northern) sea-lion (T) (NMFS)

Physeter catodon (=macrocephalus)
sperm whale (E) (NMFS)

Proposed Species
Amphibians
Rana aurora draytonii
Critical habitat, California red-legged frog (PX)

Key:

- (E) *Endangered* - Listed as being in danger of extinction.
- (T) *Threatened* - Listed as likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future.
- (P) *Proposed* - Officially proposed in the Federal Register for listing as endangered or threatened.
- (NMFS) Species under the Jurisdiction of the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Service. Consult with them directly about these species.
- *Critical Habitat* - Area essential to the conservation of a species.
- (PX) *Proposed Critical Habitat* - The species is already listed. Critical habitat is being proposed for it.
- (C) *Candidate* - Candidate to become a proposed species.
- (V) Vacated by a court order. Not currently in effect. Being reviewed by the Service.
- (X) *Critical Habitat* designated for this species