

**Technical Memorandum**

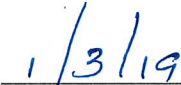
**To:** File

**From:** Laura Prickett and Alex Wolk

**Date:** November 16, 2018

**Re:** **Santa Cruz Route 1 Tier I/Tier II Project**  
**Biological Resources Memorandum to File**

**Approved:**   
Lara Bertaina, Senior Environmental Planner  
Caltrans

  
Date Signed

**Purpose and Organization of this Memorandum**

This memorandum documents decisions made by Caltrans District 5 regarding the preparation of Section 2.3, Biological Resources, of the Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment (EIR/EA) for the Santa Cruz Route 1 Tier I/Tier II Project, noting information in Section 2.3 of the Final EIR/EA is not reflected in the project's Natural Environment Study (NES, 2015) or NES Addendum (2018). The information in this memorandum is presented according to the order in which topics are organized in Section 2.3 of the Final EIR/EA.

**Decisions Regarding Section 2.3, Biological Resources, of the Final EIR/EA**

Section 2.3.1 Natural Communities

- A measure regarding the schedule of compensatory mitigation activities for on-site replacement of riparian vegetation for Tier II impacts was revised so that it is consistent with Army Corps of Engineers guidance for initiating mitigation activities (i.e., immediately following project completion, such that the initial physical and biological improvements specified in the approved mitigation plan shall be completed within the first full growing season following the impacts from project construction.)
- A measure regarding compensatory mitigation plantings for riparian forest habitat was revised to explain how to proceed in the event mitigation is not successful, which would include development of an adaptive management strategy to be approved by Caltrans, the Regional Transportation Commission, and the affected regulatory agencies.

- The Tier II Auxiliary Lane Alternative General Measure no. 7 (requiring work within stream channels to be conducted during the dry season) was revised to include a footnote that cross references measures for Cooper's hawk and short-eared owl, in Section 2.3.4 (Animal Species), identifying requirements for vegetation removal during the typical bird nesting season.

#### Section 2.3.3 Plant Species

- The date of the USFWS Official Species list has been updated in Section 2.3.3 to reflect the most recent list received on November 8, 2018. Appendix J of the FED now includes the updated USFWS list, along with the updated CNDDDB sensitive plant and animal species lists. Because these lists were generated in the fall of 2018, they do not appear in the Natural Environment Study Addendum (2018).

#### Section 2.3.5 Threatened and Endangered Species

- Measures for California red-legged frog, tidewater goby, least Bell's vireo, and southwestern willow flycatcher were updated for consistency with the Biological Opinion for the Tier II Project, issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on October 5, 2018.