

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration/Initial Study for the U.S. Department of Transportation's proposed Los Padres Road Repair Project (I.D. SB14004IN; USACE SPL-2014-00281-BAH)

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), as the lead agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), is presenting for public review the Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND), including the Initial Study (IS), for the U.S. Department of Transportation's proposed Emergency Relief for Federally Owned Roads-funded projects referred to by USDOT as CA ERFO 5N6N7N11N and CA ERFO 20S05 (for convenience, "Los Padres Road Repair Project," or "Project"). These documents will be submitted to the State Clearinghouse on September 23, 2014. No SCH number is yet assigned.

The State Water Board also intends to issue a Clean Water Act section 401 Water Quality Certification in association with this MND.

The public review and comment period for the MND will extend from September 25, 2014 through 12:00 noon on October 27, 2014.

Background: The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Central Federal Lands Highway Division (CFLHD), in cooperation with United States Forest Service (USFS), Los Padres National Forest (LPNF) is proposing to repair storm damage that occurred during the winter of 2011-2012. Nineteen sites located on various forest roads within the LPNF are proposed for repairs. The projects are planned for portions of LPNF that lie within Monterey, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties.

Repairs entail culvert replacements and one low-water crossing structure. Most of the proposed construction activities will occur within previously disturbed areas, which include the existing road prism itself, areas scoured from the flooding, and areas impacted during the immediate response efforts to re-establish the road and embankments.

The project is eligible to receive funds for improvement and construction under the Emergency Relief for Federally Owned Roads (ERFO) program. The intent of the ERFO program is to repair and reconstruct Federal roads that have been damaged by a natural disaster over a wide area or by a catastrophic failure from any external cause. The ERFO program provides emergency funds when it severely impacts the safety, capacity, or usefulness of the roadway. Prompt attention is needed to restore safety and functionality of these roads. The overall purpose of this project is to restore the capacity and functionality to these roadways.

These roadways provide important access for wildfire access, recreation, camping, and sightseeing activities, and some private residences. Numerous secondary Forest Service roads lead off of Squaw Flat Road, Figueroa Road, North Coast Ridge Road, Central Coast Road, South Coast Road, Big Caliente Road, Rose Lake Road, Mutau Road, Bates Canyon Road, Miranda Pines Road, and Colson Canyon Road providing access to hundreds of acres of the LPNF.

Roadway repairs are needed at nineteen different sites under the U.S. Federal Highways approved ERFO program across the LPNF (See Table 1 below). The proposed work is needed to provide safe passage along affected roads and to repair the roads to their originally designed and constructed condition (roadway width and storm runoff conveyance).

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Determination: The MND describes and evaluates potential environmental impacts associated with the Project. The MND establishes that there is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the State Water Board, that the project may have a significant effect on the environment, with incorporated mitigation measures to avoid or mitigate potential significant impacts. All of the mitigation measures needed to avoid or minimize potentially significant impacts are set out in the MND.

Document Availability: Electronic copies and hard copies of these documents may be requested from the State Water Board or may be viewed at the State Water Board offices at the address listed in the next section below. Please contact Clifford Harvey at (916) 558-1709 to make arrangements.

Submission of Written Comments: Interested persons may submit their comments, evidence, and other material by email, fax, or hard copy. In order to be fully considered, written materials must be received by **12:00 noon on October 27, 2014.**

Email comments are encouraged, but must be less than 15 MB total size. To ensure proper routing, all comment letters, regardless of the method of delivery, must have the following in the subject line: "**Comment Letter: Los Padres Roads**".

Please send comment letters to Clifford Harvey

- by email: commentletters@waterboards.ca.gov
- by fax: (916) 341-5808
- or by U.S. mail or other delivery service, addressed to:
Clifford Harvey
State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Quality / 401 Certification and Wetlands
1001 I Street, 15th Floor
P.O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95814

Comments may also be hand delivered. Couriers delivering comment letters must check in with lobby security personnel on the first floor of the Cal-EPA Building at the address shown above. Questions on comments may be directed to Mr. Harvey at (916) 558-1709.

Parking and Accessibility: The Joe Serna Jr./Cal-EPA Building is accessible to persons with disabilities. All visitors to the Joe Serna Jr./Cal-EPA Building are required to sign in and obtain a building pass at the Visitor Services office located just inside the main entrance. Valid photo identification may be required. Please allow up to 15 minutes for receiving security clearance.

Future Notices: Staff intends to submit the MND for adoption in September 25, 2014. Notices will be posted on the State Water Board's website at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/notices/2014.shtml
(http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/notices/2014.shtml)

To be notified of future updates, interested parties may subscribe to our email list service at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml
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An interested party that does not have access to e-mail must contact the staff member listed below to request paper copies of future notices.

Contact Information: Please direct questions to Clifford Harvey at (916) 558-1709, or at clifford.harvey@waterboards.ca.gov

Date: September 25, 2014.

Note: No regulatory decision on the application is implied or intended in this public notice.

KEEP INFORMED OF PROJECT MILESTONES

To be informed of milestones in the development of this proposed Water Quality Certification, any interested persons should enroll in the State Water Board's 401 Program e-mail notification service. Click the SUBSCRIBE button under the "Quick Links" section of the 401 Program Webpage at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/index.shtml

By enrolling in this list, you will receive notices for all current 401 project applications, including the project announced in this notice. You will need a valid e-mail address to use this service. If you do not have internet access or do not wish to participate in the Lyris list, contact the staff person named in the notice to express your interest in receiving notices by other means.

You can enroll or un-enroll at any time. The State Water Board will not disclose your name or e-mail information to any outside parties, and will not use this information for any other purpose.

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Table 1: Los Padres National Forest Road Repair Project Locations

(Figure numbers refer to site descriptions – available upon request – in the project application. Because some sites originally included in the project have been eliminated, Figure numbers are not sequential.)

DSR Number	Road Name	Longitude	Latitude	7.5 Quad	PLSS	County	Figure Number
Sites (20S05)							
6N16-2.6	Squaw Flat Rd	-118.9053632958920	34.4664578765112	Fillmore, CA	S6, T4N, R19W	Ventura	3
7N07-7.4	Figueroa Mtn Rd	-119.9362519884430	34.7195845478174	Figueroa Mtn, CA	S4, T22S, R5E	Santa Barbara	4
20S05.3-0.9	Central Coast Rd	-121.4611835336510	36.1292702233510	Cone Peak, CA	T22S, R5E	Monterey	8
20S05.3-1.7	Central Coast Rd	-121.4665357644930	36.1585245289060	Cone Peak, CA	T22S, R5E	Monterey	10
20S05.3-3.2	Central Coast Rd	-121.4705352699270	36.2727166648110	Cone Peak, CA	T22S, R5E	Monterey	11
Sites (5N,6N,7N,11N)							
5N16-1.2	Big Caliente RD	-119.5660656217810	34.5267564355859	Hildreth, Peak, CA	S12, T5N, R26W	Santa Barbara	14
5N16-1.9	Big Caliente RD	-119.5634400786380	34.5345553968283	Hildreth, Peak, CA	S12, T5N, R26W	Santa Barbara	15
6N31F-0.2	Rose Lake	-119.1870697829240	34.5417712615079	Lion Canyon, CA	S4, T5N, R22W	Ventura	16
7N11-0.2	Reyes Creek	-119.3031941430440	34.6909611716990	Reyes Peak, CA	S22, T7N, R23W	Ventura	17
7N03-1.1	Mutau Road	-119.1240686624470	34.7050382029985	Lockwood Valley, CA	S17, T7N, R21W	Ventura	19
11N01-0.1	Bates Canyon	-119.9080385842960	34.9491774058071	Bates Canyon, CA	S1, T10N, R28W	Santa Barbara	20
11N03-0.2	Miranda Pines	-120.3471069065600	35.2884638450510	Miranda Pine Mtn, CA	S15, T11N, R30W	Santa Barbara	21
11N03-1.2	Miranda Pines	-120.0399601294300	35.2716669666970	Miranda Pine Mtn, CA	S16, T11N, R30W	Santa Barbara	22
11N03-1.4	Miranda Pines	-120.4089287777700	35.2923270995140	Miranda Pine Mtn, CA	S16, T11N, R30W	Santa Barbara	23
11N03-1.6	Miranda Pines	-120.0436574256900	35.2698997932860	Miranda Pine Mtn, CA	S16, T11N, R30W	Santa Barbara	24
11N03-2.1	Miranda Pines	-120.4765377565200	35.2471368098420	Miranda Pine Mtn, CA	S16, T11N, R30W	Santa Barbara	25

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Table 1: Los Padres National Forest Road Repair Project Locations

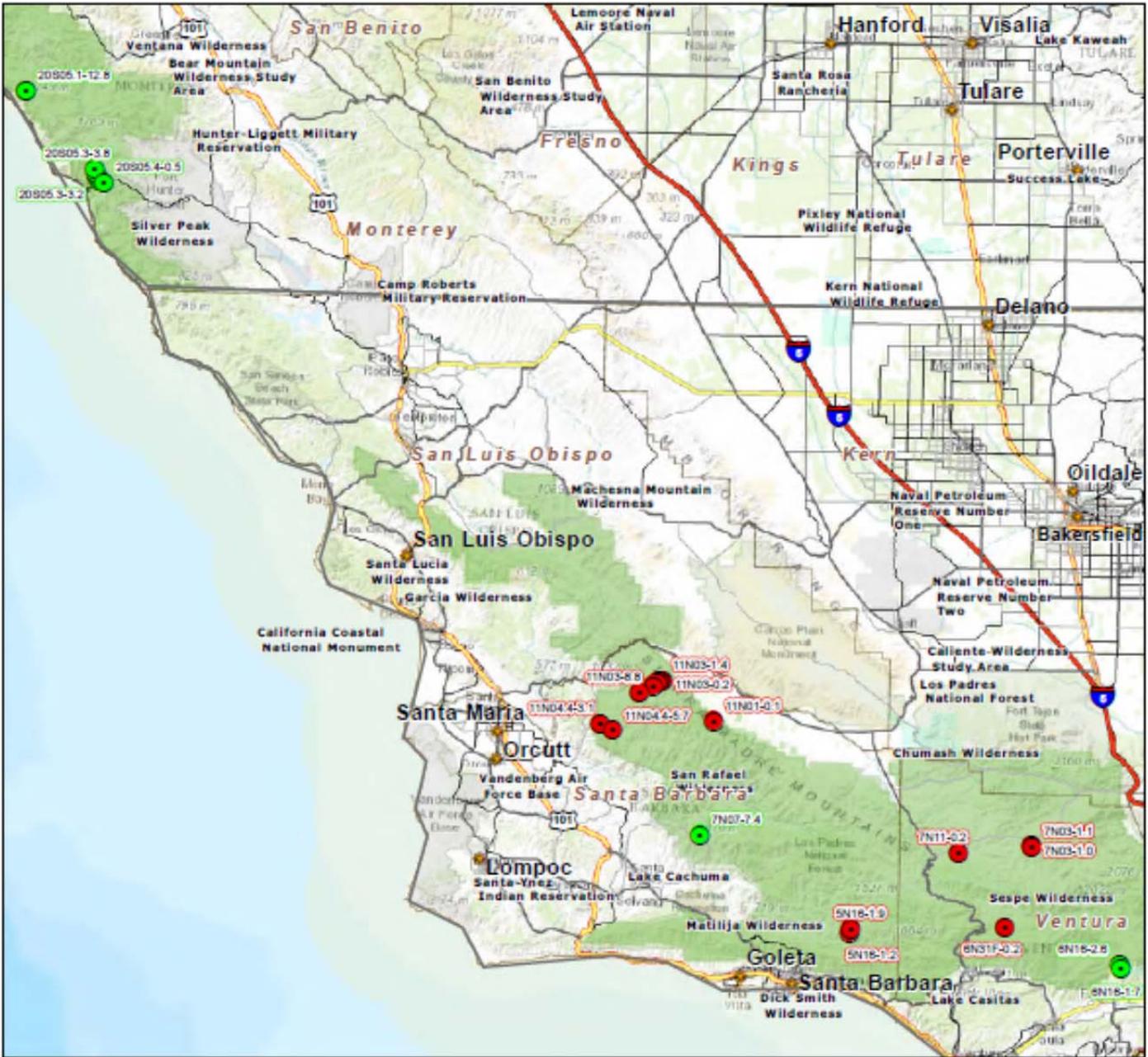
(Figure numbers refer to site descriptions – available upon request – in the project application. Because some sites originally included in the project have been eliminated, Figure numbers are not sequential.)

Table 1 (Continued)

11N03-2.2	Miranda Pines	-120.4875780085200	35.2449869607180	Miranda Pine Mtn, CA	S16, T11N, R30W	Santa Barbara	25
11N03-3.7	Miranda Pines	-120.5730637601500	35.1784158736230	Miranda Pine Mtn, CA	S20, T11N, R30W	Santa Barbara	26
11N04.4-3.1	Colson Cnyn Rd	-120.1857993190580	34.9386368277002	Tepusquet Canyon, CA	S18, T10N, R31W	Santa Barbara	28

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 <p>Federal Highway Administration Central Federal Lands Highway Division</p>	<p>LEGEND:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ERFO Sites (20S05) ● ERFO Sites (5N,6N,7N,11N) USGS 24k Topo Map Boundaries ● Population 30,000 - 300,000 USA Counties (below 1:3m) USA States (below 1:3m) Forest Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Defense Bureau of Land Management Fish and Wildlife Service National Park Service Bureau of Indian Affairs Bureau of Reclamation Other Agencies (NASA, DOE, DOT, DOP, TVA...) 	<p>1 inch = 79,200 feet</p> <p>0 39,500 79,000 Feet</p> <p>0 3.75 7.5 15 Miles</p>	<p>Figure 1: Project Location Map</p> <p>Date: April 2014</p>
	<p><small>Background images: USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle topographic maps Copyright © 2011 National Geographic Society, Inc.</small></p>			

Map 1: Los Padres National Forest Road Repair Project Locations