

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: August 4, 2016

TO: Bahar Heydari, Associate Environmental Planner
Caltrans District 12

FROM: Ingri Quon and Lisa Williams
LSA Associates, Inc.

SUBJECT: SR-241/SR-91 Express Lanes Connector Project – Errata for Natural Environment Study (December 2015)

This Errata documents changes to the approved Natural Environment Study (NES) based on comments from Caltrans Headquarters. These revisions do not change the findings of the approved NES. Added text is shown in underline and removed text is shown in strikethrough.

Comment No. 65. The Purpose is revised on page 1-3 of the NES to be consistent with the Environmental Document (ED) as follows:

- Implement the buildout of the ETC, as approved in 1994;
- Attain compatibility with the SR-91 mainline and SR-91 Express Lanes;
- ~~To~~ improve traffic flow by minimizing queue-jumping on northbound SR-241 at the westbound SR-91 general purpose lane connector and at the eastbound SR-91 general purpose lane connector; and
- ~~To help achieve the Regional Mobility Plan goals of reducing emissions from transportation sources by improving movement in congested areas along the SR-241 and SR-91; and~~
- ~~To~~ enhance the efficiency of the tolled system, thereby reducing congestion on the non-tolled system on the SR-91.

Comment No. 66. The following text is revised on page 4-4 of the NES:

4.1.1.4 Compensatory Mitigation

...Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 17 (filed with the Secretary of State on September 1, 1989) ~~requires~~ requests all State agencies to preserve and protect native oak woodlands to the maximum extent feasible or to provide for replacement plantings. ~~Per Caltrans policy,~~ Impacts to any oak trees (excluding California scrub oaks) with trunk sizes greater than 8 inches dbh, but less than 36 inches dbh, will be replaced at a minimum mitigation-to-impact ratio of 1:1, if feasible.

Comment No. 68. Table 5.1 on page 5-3 of the NES is revised to include CAGN:

Table 5.1: Preliminary Effects Determination for Federally Listed Species

Listed Species and Critical Habitat ¹	Federal Status	Rational	Effects Determination ^{2, 3}
Listed Species			
Munz's onion <i>Allium munzii</i>	Endangered	Limited habitat for this species is present. Surveys have been negative.	No effect
Thread-leaved brodiaea <i>Brodiaea filifolia</i>	Threatened	Marginally suitable habitat for this species is present. Surveys have been negative.	NLAA
San Fernando Valley spineflower <i>Chorizanthe parryi</i> var. <i>fernandina</i>	Candidate	Limited habitat for this species is present. Surveys have been negative.	No effect
Slender-horned spineflower <i>Dodecahema leptoceras</i>	Endangered	Suitable habitat is absent.	No effect
Santa Ana River woollystar <i>Eriastrum densifolium</i> ssp. <i>sanctorum</i>	Endangered	Suitable habitat is absent.	No effect
Gowen cypress <i>Hesperocyparis goveniana</i>	Endangered	Suitable habitat is absent.	No effect
Riverside fairy shrimp <i>Streptocephalus woottoni</i>	Endangered	Suitable habitat is absent.	No effect
San Diego fairy shrimp <i>Branchinecta sandiegensis</i>	Endangered	Suitable habitat is absent.	No effect
Delhi Sands flower-loving fly <i>Rhaphiomidas terminates abdominalis</i>	Endangered	Suitable habitat is absent.	No effect
Quino checkerspot butterfly <i>Euphydryas editha quino</i>	Endangered	Suitable habitat is absent.	No effect
Santa Ana sucker <i>Catostomus santaanae</i>	Threatened	Suitable habitat is absent.	No effect
Arroyo toad <i>Anaxyrus californicus</i>	Endangered	Suitable habitat is absent.	No effect
Western yellow-billed cuckoo <i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i>	Threatened	Suitable habitat is absent.	No effect
Least Bell's vireo <i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i>	Endangered	Suitable nesting habitat is absent.	NLAA
Southwestern willow flycatcher <i>Empidonax traillii extimus</i>	Endangered	Suitable nesting habitat is absent.	NLAA
Coastal California gnatcatcher <i>Poliophtila californica californica</i>	Threatened	Suitable nesting habitat is present. Breeding territory.	LAA
Critical Habitat			
Braunton's milk-vetch	Final Designated	One critical habitat polygon occurs south side of SR-91 just outside the BSA.	May affect

Coastal California gnatcatcher	Final Designated	Two critical habitat polygons occur in the BSA along the SR-91.	May affect
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¹ Includes species from the USFWS list of species that may occur in the Project Area (February 2, 2015).

² Expected effects determination with implementation of the NCCP/HCP Construction-Related Minimization Measures and other proposed mitigation measures for both NCCP/HCP Plan Areas and non-NCCP/HCP Plan Areas.

³ Effects Determinations: No effect; May affect; NLAA: Not likely to adversely affect; LAA: May affect, likely to adversely affect.

BSA = Biological Study Area

NCCP/HCP = Natural Community Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan

SR-91 = State Route 91

USFWS = United States Fish and Wildlife Service

Comment No. 83. The typo is corrected on page 1-4 of the NES:

To implement this later phase of the ETC, a Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS is being prepared to focus on the eastern portion of the original project and to address changes to environmental conditions and regulatory requirements.

Comment No. 84. The duplicated text is deleted on page 4-4 of the NES:

- **ETC Final EIR and Final EIS Measure B-3:** *Prior to grading and site preparation, all trees subject to removal shall be marked with a red "X" on the trunk. Trees to be preserved shall be marked with yellow flagging visible from all direction. ~~Trees to be preserved will be marked with yellow flagging visible from all directions.~~*

Comment No. 85. The bullet is added to the first paragraph on page 4-8 of the NES.

- *During clearing or construction, to the maximum extent practicable, no grading of CSS habitat...*

Comment No. 86. The text is corrected on page 4-42 as follows:

4.3.9.2 Project Impacts

...Because of the avoidance and minimization measures described ~~below~~^{above}, the Proposed Project is not expected to permanently impact any special-status bat species since bridge structures and roosting areas are not being directly impacted (e.g., remove a roosting sites).