

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

118B



**FROM:** TLMA - Transportation Department

**SUBMITTAL DATE:**  
August 7, 2006

**SUBJECT:** Van Buren Boulevard Bridge Replacement Project - on the Santa Ana River, adjacent to the City of Riverside - Second Supervisorial District.

**RECOMMENDED MOTION:** ADOPTION of a Mitigated Negative Declaration for Environmental Assessment No.40429, APPROVAL of the proposed Van Buren Boulevard Bridge Replacement Project and ADOPTION of the Mitigation and Monitoring Program.

**BACKGROUND:** The Transportation Department, in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Caltrans propose to replace two parallel bridges that cross the Santa Ana River along Van Buren Boulevard. The project is necessary to provide bridges that will meet Caltrans' seismic design standards. The new bridges will also be more resistant to storm damage such as that which occurred during the 04/05 storm season. The new bridges will be wide enough to carry 3 lanes of traffic in each direction; however, they will be striped for 2 lanes in each direction until Van Buren Boulevard is widened north and south of the bridges under a future and separate project. Bridge length remains the same. The project also includes improvements to the bridge approaches on Van Buren Boulevard northly to Clay Street and southerly approximately 1200 feet. Construction of the two new bridges will be staged to maintain the current four lanes of traffic. One new bridge will be constructed between the two existing bridges, traffic will be shifted to the new bridge and the second new bridge will be constructed.

The project is funded by federal seismic retrofit funds, with a local match provided by the State of California and the remainder from Local Sources, including the TUMF Program. Because of the federal funding, the proposed project is subject to review under both the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The Lead Agency for CEQA compliance is the County of Riverside and the Lead Agency for NEPA compliance is FHWA, with coordination through Caltrans.

(continued on page 2)

Departmental Concurrence

REVIEWED BY EXECUTIVE OFFICE

DATE 8/7/06 TML

George A. Johnson  
Director of Transportation

- Dep't Recomm.:  Consent  Policy
- Per Exec. Ofc.:  Consent  Policy

Prev. Agn. Ref.:

District: 2

Agenda Number:

3 . 28

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

RE: Adoption of Mitigated Negative Declaration for Environmental Assessment 40429

Page 2 of 2

Because of the project's location on the Santa Ana River it was subject to lengthy environmental review and includes extensive avoidance, minimization and mitigation measures listed in the attached Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program. Measures include restriction on when and how riparian vegetation can be removed and replaced, barrier fencing, biological monitoring, best management practices to avoid water quality degradation and impacts to the Santa Ana sucker, streetlight shielding of the riverbed, solid bridge railing construction to reduce traffic noise effects on adjacent habitats in the riverbed, and development of aesthetic treatments for the noise barriers.

The Van Buren Bridge replacement project was one of the first public works projects allowed as a Covered Activity under the Western Riverside County Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (MSHCP) to be found consistent by the Wildlife Agencies. Biological measures listed above are required by the MSHCP.

Construction cost is estimated at \$24.5 million. Construction of the project is expected to begin in late 2007.



**NOTICE OF DETERMINATION**  
**COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT**

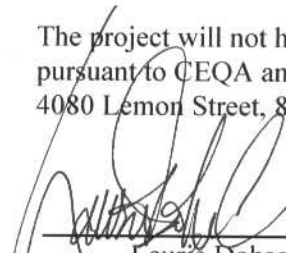
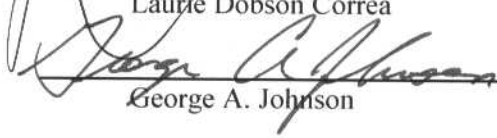
EA No. 40429

SCH# 2005121124

**PROJECT NAME:** Van Buren Boulevard Bridge Replacement Project  
**DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION:** Replace two parallel bridges that cross the Santa Ana River with new structures that meet the State Department of Transportation (Caltrans) seismic design criteria. The project also includes improvements to the northbound and southbound approaching roadways.

1. The project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
2. A Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures were made a condition of the approval of this project.
4. A Mitigation Monitoring plan was adopted.

The project will not have a significant effect on the environment and a Negative Declaration has been adopted pursuant to CEQA and may be examined, along with administrative record, at the Transportation Department, 4080 Lemon Street, 8<sup>th</sup> fl, Riverside, California 92501.

 _____ Laurie Dobson Correa	Title	Principal Planner	Date	7-27-06
 _____ George A. Johnson	Title	Director of Transportation	Date	8/3/06

**HEARING BODY OR OFFICER**

XX Board of Supervisors  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Planning Commission

**ACTION ON PROJECT**

\_\_\_\_\_ Approval  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Disapproval  
 Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Verifying: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**For County Clerk Use**

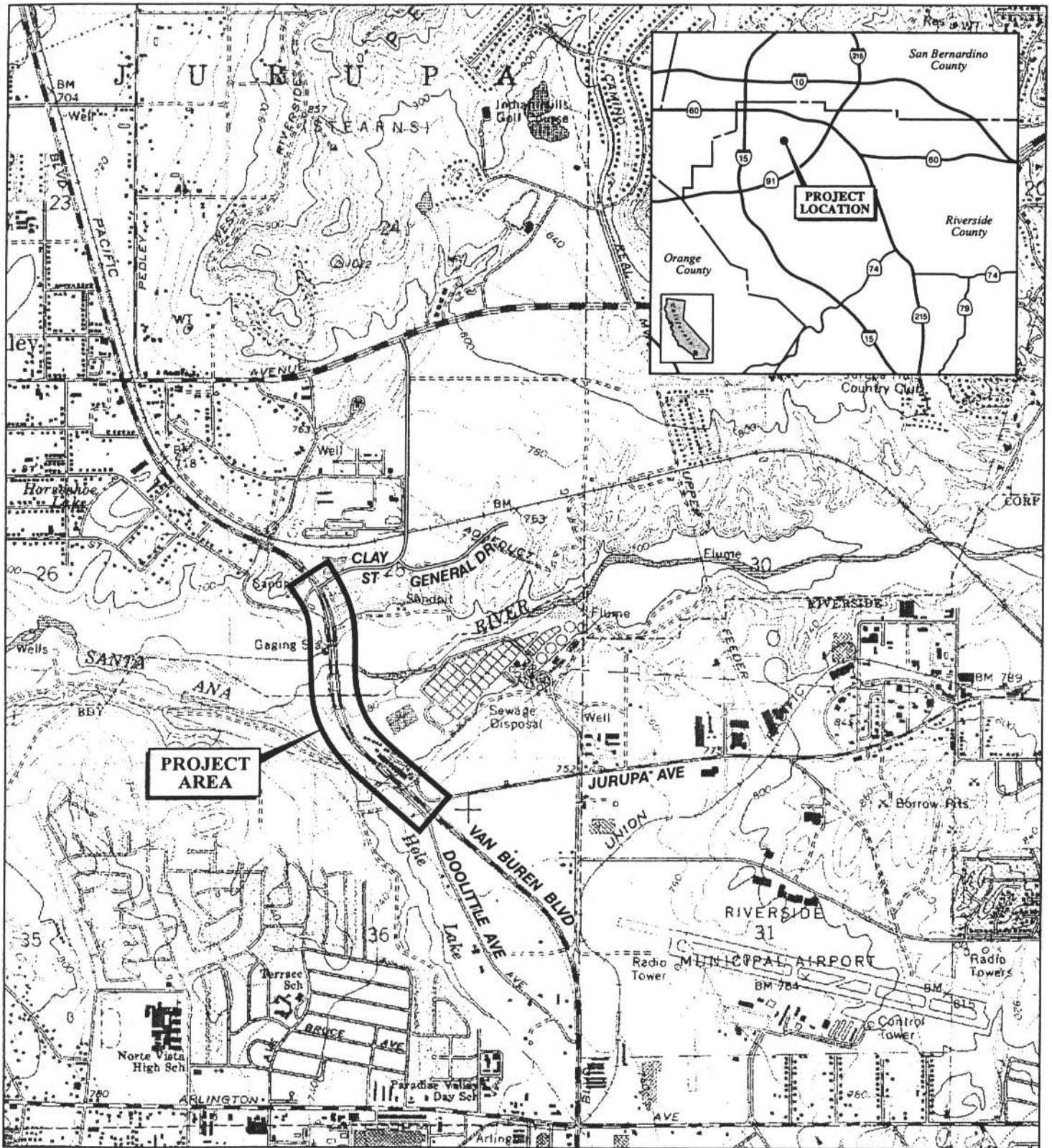


FIGURE 1-1

Van Buren Boulevard Bridge Replacement  
Location Map

SOURCE: USGS 7.5' QUAD, RIVERSIDE WEST, CA.

I:\DEC137\Location.cdr (10/20/04)

## Van Buren Boulevard Bridge Replacement- Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Environmental Topic	Number and Mitigation Measure	Timing/Phase	Responsibility for Implementation/ Oversight for Implementation	Action Taken to Comply with Task	Date
<p>Aesthetics</p> <p>Short-term visual effects will be observed from the bike trail and from the residential community.</p>	<p>VIS-1 Landscape Plan. A landscape plan shall be developed in cooperation with the City of Riverside and incorporated into the final design of the proposed project. This plan would provide replacement landscaping to effectively buffer sensitive permanent viewers from the visual changes of the proposed project and would identify all opportunities to use areas within the project limits for revegetation.</p> <p>The plan will include the revegetation of graded areas with native plant species, consistent with adjacent natural vegetation. The plan will include performance criteria (e.g., plant coverage/density, plant types, etc.) that must be met to ensure that revegetation of affected areas is consistent with the existing natural landscape.</p>	<p>Design phase</p>	<p>RCTD – Environmental/ RCTD – Project Management</p>		
	<p>VIS-2 Architectural Detail and Aesthetic Treatments. In coordination with the City of Riverside, special architectural detail and aesthetic treatments (such as railings) will be considered in final bridge design to reduce the visual change of the new structures within the project area.</p>	<p>Design phase</p>	<p>RCTD – Project Design/RCTD – Project Management</p>		



Environmental Topic	Number and Mitigation Measure	Timing/Phase	Responsibility for Implementation/Oversight for Implementation	Action Taken to Comply with Task	Date
<p><b>Biology</b></p> <p><b>Wetlands</b>  The action will result in the permanent fill of 0.013 hectare (0.031 acre), and 1.331 hectares (3.29 acres) of temporary impacts to Corps Jurisdictional Waters of the U.S. Impacts within CDFG jurisdiction include 0.2 hectare (0.5 acre) of permanent impacts and 2.2 hectares (5.5 acres) of temporary impacts. The Corps usually requires a 1:1 replacement ratio for impacts to jurisdictional nonwetland waters and a 3:1 ratio for impacts to jurisdictional wetland waters. Requirements of the CDFG and the RWQCB usually coincide with those of the Corps.</p>	<p><b>Wetlands</b>  Due to impacts to wetland/jurisdictional waters and riparian/streambed, the project will require a Section 404 permit from the Corps, a 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement from the CDFG, and a Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the RWQCB.</p>	<p>Design Phase</p>			
	<p><b>WET-4</b> Ensuring that demolition of the existing structure and pile driving for the new structure will be conducted during fall or winter (nonbreeding season, July 1 through February 28/29) to avoid potential noise effects during breeding season of least Bell's vireo to the greatest extent possible.</p>	<p>Construction Phase</p>	<p>RCTD – Project Management/  RCTD – Environmental</p>		
	<p><b>WET-5</b> Removal of riparian vegetation prior to construction and between July 1 through February 28/29 (thereby avoiding the breeding season).</p>	<p>Construction Phase</p>	<p>Project Contractor/  RCTD – Environmental</p>		
	<p><b>WET-6</b> Use of BMPs to minimize turbidity and therefore minimize potential effects on the Santa Ana sucker.</p>	<p>Construction Phase</p>	<p>Project Contractor</p>		

Environmental Topic	Number and Mitigation Measure	Timing/Phase	Responsibility for Implementation/ Oversight for Implementation	Action Taken to Comply with Task	Date
Wildlife Temporary impacts to wildlife will occur during project construction, including noise disruption and effects on wildlife movement.	WET-7 Maintain current water quality standards and flows during construction to minimize potential effects on the Santa Ana sucker. Wildlife	Construction Phase	Project Contractor		
	WIL-1 Ensuring that removal of riparian vegetation is confined to approved limits by erecting barrier fencing (or other appropriate means of demarcating construction limits) at project limits in the immediate area of riparian habitat. In addition, notes will be placed on project construction plans informing contractors that certain designated areas are environmentally sensitive and that construction activity is excluded from those areas.	Construction Phase	Project Contractor/ RCTD – Environmental		
	WIL-2 In order to minimize the number of riparian trees impacted during construction and to expedite revegetation of the site, where entire trees do not need to be removed, those trees should be cut back, instead of removing completely, enabling them to resprout from stumps.	Construction Phase	Project Contractor/ RCTD – Environmental		
	WIL-3 Riparian habitat will be replaced during the first planting season (fall/winter) following completion of construction. All areas of temporary disturbance shall be replanted with appropriate native plants to restore the	Construction Phase	RCTD – Environmental		

Environmental Topic	Number and Mitigation Measure	Timing/Phase	Responsibility for Implementation/Oversight for Implementation	Action Taken to Comply with Task	Date
	Number and Mitigation Measure site to the existing vegetative conditions.				
	WIL-4 A biological monitor will be present to ensure that disturbance outside the footprint is avoided and seasonal restrictions are observed.	Construction Phase	RCTD – Environmental		
	WIL-5 Long-term noise attenuation will be realized by construction of the parapets on the proposed bridge and will provide a long-term improvement in habitat over an area of 4.3 hectares (10.6 acres).	Construction Phase	RCTD – Project Design/RCTD Project Management		
	<i>Least Bell's Vireo</i> WIL-6 Removal of riparian vegetation prior to construction and between July 1 and February 28/29 (thereby avoiding the breeding season) unless monitoring indicates no active nests.	Construction Phase	Project Contractor/RCTD – Environmental		
	WIL-7 Please refer to WET-4.				
	<i>Santa Ana Sucker</i> WIL-8 Use of Best Management Practices (BMPs) to minimize turbidity and, therefore, to minimize potential effects on the Santa Ana sucker.	Construction Phase	Project Contractor/RCTD – Environmental		
	WIL-9 Maintain current water quality standards and flows during construction to minimize potential effects on the Santa Ana sucker.	Construction Phase	Project Contractor/RCTD – Environmental		
	Vegetation				
	VEG-1 Please refer to WIL-2.				
	VEG-2 Please refer to WIL-3.				
	VEG-3 Please refer to WIL-1.				
	VEG-4 On-site preservation/enhancement/	Construction Phase	RCTD Construction Oversight/		

Environmental Topic	Number and Mitigation Measure	Timing/Phase	Responsibility for Implementation/ Oversight for Implementation	Action Taken to Comply with Task	Date
	<p>restoration. A biological monitor shall be present to verify that vegetation removal is conducted in accordance with all applicable requirements. Restoration of vegetation in areas of temporary impact will also be required.</p>		RCTD – Environmental		
	<p>VEG-5 Bare soil will be landscaped with Caltrans' recommended seed mix from locally adapted species to preclude the invasion of noxious weeds. The use of site-specific materials, which are adapted to local conditions, increases the likelihood that revegetation will be successful and maintains the genetic integrity of the local ecosystem. Arrangements will be made well in advance of planting (nine months, if possible) to ensure that plant materials are located and available for the scheduled planting time. Sufficient time should be allocated for a professional seed company to visit the project site during the appropriate season and collect the native plant seed. If local propagules are not available or cannot be collected in sufficient quantities, materials collected or grown from other sources within Southern California shall be substituted. For widespread native herbaceous species that are more likely to be genetically homogeneous, site specificity is a less important consideration, and seed from commercial sources may be used.</p>	Construction Phase	Project Contractor/ RCTD – Environmental		
	VEG-6 Seed purity shall be certified by	Construction	Project Contractor/		

Environmental Topic	Number and Mitigation Measure	Timing/Phase	Responsibility for Implementation/ Oversight for Implementation	Action Taken to Comply with Task	Date
	planting seed labeled under the California Food and Agricultural Code, or that has been tested within a year by a seed laboratory certified by the Association of Official Seed Analysts or by a seed technologist certified by the Society of Commercial Seed Technologists.	Phase	RCTD – Construction Inspection		
	VEG-7 Construction equipment will be cleaned of mud or other debris that may contain invasive plants and/or seeds and inspected to reduce the potential of spreading noxious weeds before mobilizing to arrive at the site and before leaving the site.	Construction Phase	Project Contractor/ RCTD – Construction Inspection		
	VEG-8 Trucks with loads carrying vegetation shall be covered, and vegetative materials removed from the site shall be disposed of in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.	Construction Phase	Project Contractor/ RCTD – Construction Inspection		
	VEG-9 The proposed project will reduce the edge effects of the project on adjoining natural habitat by directing night lighting away from the MSHCP Conservation Area. Shielding will be incorporated to ensure ambient lighting in the MSHCP Conservation Area is not increased.	Construction Phase	Project Contractor/ RCTD – Environmental		
	VEG-10 The mitigation and monitoring plan will specify using native plants from the Santa Ana River and will avoid using the non-native plants listed in Table 6-2 of the MSCHP. A detailed Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan will be provided to the USFWS for approval prior	Construction Phase	RCTD – Environmental/		

Environmental Topic	Number and Mitigation Measure to commencement of construction activities.	Timing/Phase	Responsibility for Implementation/ Oversight for Implementation	Action Taken to Comply with Task	Date
	<p>VEG-11 Barriers to minimize unauthorized public access into the MSHCP conservation areas include providing a pedestrian crossover as a part of the Van Buren Bridge replacement project. The Santa Ana River Trail provides authorized public access along the Santa Ana River, however the trail is not a part of the proposed project.</p>	Construction Phase	RCTD – Project Design/Project Contractor		
	<p>VEG-12 No manufactured slopes are designed as a part of the proposed project, thus none will extend into the MSHCP Conservation Area. However, the bridge will be supported by piers that will sit on subsurface footing structures. The footings will have a larger footprint than the piers. However, the footings will be several feet (e.g., about five feet) below the surface and only the piers will constitute permanent impacts; the excavation for, and construction of, the footings will be considered a temporary impacts providing that the footings are overlain with native soil material at an appropriate elevation.</p>	Construction Phase	RCTD – Project Design/Project Contractor		
Community Impacts					
No business or housing displacements would occur as a result of the proposed project.					
Farmlands/Agricultural Lands					
There would be no adverse impacts to farmlands.					
Geology and Soils					
No geologic, seismic, or geotechnical issues are anticipated to have a substantial impact with implementation of the proposed project.					
Hazards and Hazardous Materials					

Environmental Topic	Number and Mitigation Measure	Timing/Phase	Responsibility for Implementation/ Oversight for Implementation	Action Taken to Comply with Task	Date
<p>Aerially deposited lead (ADL) contamination from vehicle emissions is a potential concern for projects adjacent to roads and highways. It may be encountered during excavation in unpaved areas next to traffic lanes or shoulders on roadways.</p> <p>Demolition of the existing bridge may present a potential for exposure to asbestos containing materials (ACM). A review of the as-built plans for the existing bridge cannot definitely rule out the presence of ACM (since ACM is not necessarily noted in plans), and some potential locations are inaccessible until exposed during construction activities.</p> <p>The Riverside County TLMA Maintenance Facility functions as a household hazardous waste drop-off location for the County. Hazardous material (55-gallon storage drums and an aboveground storage tank) was evident on this property. Use of this site for a construction staging area will need to be coordinated so there is no disruption to the hazardous materials stored on site.</p> <p>Pedley Landfill: The Pedley Landfill</p>	<p>Number and Mitigation Measure</p> <p>Based on the potential hazardous waste concerns at the project site, the following mitigation measures are proposed:</p>				

Environmental Topic area will not be affected by grading, excavation, or any other construction activity.	Number and Mitigation Measure	Timing/Phase	Responsibility for Implementation/ Oversight for Implementation	Action Taken to Comply with Task	Date

Environmental Topic	Number and Mitigation Measure	Timing/Phase	Responsibility for Implementation/ Oversight for Implementation	Action Taken to Comply with Task	Date
	<p>HW-1 At the beginning of the PS&amp;E phase, RCTD shall conduct soil sampling for ADL contamination in unpaved locations where excavation will occur during construction. Soil samples will be collected and analyzed at the beginning of the PS&amp;E phase. If lead contamination is detected, the results/conclusions will be included in the Standard Special Provisions (SSP) and the Resident Engineer's file. The SSP shall be incorporated into the PS&amp;E. The analytical results of the soil sampling will determine the appropriate handling of the soil and disposal of surplus materials.</p>	Construction Phase	RCTD – Project Design/Project Contractor		
	<p>HW-2 As required by South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Rule 1403, the bridge shall be thoroughly surveyed for the presence of asbestos prior to demolition. If it is determined that asbestos is present, Rule 1403 requires the asbestos to be removed by a certified contractor. Additional suspect ACM may be discovered during the demolition process. In this event, work will be stopped, and sampling for asbestos will commence. SSP 5-1.7 for "Removal of Asbestos and Hazardous Substances" shall be included in the PS&amp;E.</p>	Construction Phase	RCTD – Environmental/ South Coast Air Quality Management District/Project Contractor		
	<p>HW-3 During construction staging and access, avoid the hazardous material/waste storage areas at the Riverside County TLMA Maintenance Facility.</p>	Construction Phase	Project Contractor/ RCTD – Construction Inspection		

Environmental Topic	Number and Mitigation Measure	Timing/Phase	Responsibility for Implementation/ Oversight for Implementation	Action Taken to Comply with Task	Date
	<p>HW-4 As is the case for any project that proposes excavation, there is the potential for unknown hazardous contamination to be revealed during project construction. For any previously unknown hazardous waste/material encountered during construction, the procedures outlined in Caltrans' Construction Hazardous Waste Contingency Plan shall be followed.</p>	Construction Phase	Project Contractor/ RCTD – Construction Inspection		
<p>Historical Resources Since no historic properties were identified in the project area, no impacts to these resources will occur.</p>	<p>CUL-1 If cultural materials are encountered during construction, work in the area shall be halted until a qualified archaeologist can evaluate the nature and importance of the find.</p>	Construction Phase	RCTD – Construction Inspection/RCTD – Environmental		
Hydrology and Floodplain					
Hydrology					
There are no adverse impacts to river hydrology anticipated; therefore, no mitigation measures are required.					
Floodplain					
There are no floodplain impacts; therefore, no mitigation measures are required.					

Environmental Topic	Number and Mitigation Measure	Timing/Phase	Responsibility for Implementation/Oversight for Implementation	Action Taken to Comply with Task	Date
<p><b>Water Quality</b></p> <p>The potential disruption or rerouting of the effluent from the Riverside Regional Water Quality Control Plant will cause temporary minor impacts to existing riparian plant communities. Temporary impacts to riparian habitats would be short-term and will be mitigated through postconstruction restoration for the bridge. Temporary impacts may also include increased sedimentation resulting from the placement of temporary bridge columns in the Santa Ana River.</p>	<p>Construction of the new bridge structures will require a Section 404 permit and Section 401 water quality certification under the federal Clean Water Act. It is anticipated that one or more of the following nationwide permits under Section 404 will be required: 33 (dewatering), 7 (outfall construction), and 13 (bank and temporary detour road stabilization). Preconstruction notification and other permit conditions will also be followed. Mitigation measures for construction will be included as part of the permit notification process and will include specific conditions governing construction in the active channel, maintenance of flow for aquatic life, and installation of sediment barriers or traps around the construction zones.</p>	<p>Prior to construction</p>	<p>RCTD – Environmental; RCTD – Project Design</p>		
<p><b>Land Use and Planning</b></p> <p>The proposed project is located within the Inner Turning Zone and Traffic Pattern Zone (as defined by the Caltrans Airport Land Use Planning Handbook) of the Riverside Municipal Airport and is subject to Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Regulation, Part 77, "Objects Affecting Navigable Airspace" and Public Resources Code (PRC), Section 21659. "Hazards Near Airports Prohibited." Construction</p>	<p>LU-1 Prior to construction, the County will coordinate with the Riverside Municipal Airport, Riverside County Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC), the Department's Division of Aeronautics, and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to ensure that the proposed project will not penetrate the approach imaginary surfaces of the Riverside Municipal Airport flight path during construction or operation. To ensure compliance with Federal Aviation Regulation, Part 77, "Objects Affecting Navigable Airspace,"</p>	<p>Design Phase</p>	<p>RCTD – Project Design/ RCTD – Project Management</p>		

Environmental Topic	Number and Mitigation Measure	Timing/Phase	Responsibility for Implementation/ Oversight for Implementation	Action Taken to Comply with Task	Date
<p>equipment, including pile drivers, cranes, and booms, may extend up to 100 feet above the height of the proposed bridge deck.</p>	<p>FAA Form 7460-1 (Notice of Proposed Construction or Alteration) will be submitted to the FAA. FAA Form 7460-2 (Notice of Actual Construction or Alteration) will be submitted to the FAA at least 48 hours prior to the start of project construction.</p>				
<p><b>Mineral Resources</b></p>					
<p>There will be no loss of any known mineral resources or loss of locally important mineral resources since these resources do not exist within the project area.</p>					
<p><b>Noise</b></p>					
<p>Construction-related short-term noise levels would be potentially higher than existing ambient noise levels in the project area, but would no longer occur once construction of the project is complete. Noise associated with construction, however, would remain in place for six to eight hours a day.</p> <p>Although project construction will take about two years, higher noise levels will be limited to the duration of project demolition and installation of piles for the bridge columns.</p> <p>After construction, the closest sensitive receptors will not experience noise levels that exceed the NAC. Therefore, no mitigation needs to be considered for long-term operational noise impacts.</p>	<p>NO-1 Construction, repair, or demolition activities shall be limited to between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. from Monday to Friday, and between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays.</p>	<p>Construction Phase</p>	<p>Project Contractor/ RCTD – Construction Inspection</p>		

Environmental Topic	Number and Mitigation Measure	Timing/Phase	Responsibility for Implementation/ Oversight for Implementation	Action Taken to Comply with Task	Date
Transportation					
There are no adverse transportation impacts anticipated; therefore, no mitigation measures are required.					
Utilities/Emergency Services					
The Van Buren Boulevard bridge will remain in service and open to traffic during the duration of construction. No substantial traffic delays or impairment of travel across the bridge, including bicycle and pedestrian traffic, will occur as a result of this project. Because the bridge will remain open to traffic, emergency services and other services such as school bus routing will not be interrupted, and any students who walk to school via Van Buren Boulevard bridge can continue to utilize the bridge during construction.					