



**U.S. Department of Housing and Urban
Development**

San Francisco Regional Office - Region IX
600 Harrison Street
San Francisco, California 94107-1387
www.hud.gov
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**Environmental Assessment
for HUD-funded Proposals**

Recommended format per 24 CFR 58.36, revised March 2005

Project Identification: **Lower Sycamore Creek Channel Widening and Punta
Gorda Street Bridge Replacement Project**

Preparer: **Kathleen Kennedy, Associate Planner
City of Santa Barbara**

Responsible Entity: **City of Santa Barbara**

Month/Year: **August 2012**

Environmental Assessment

Responsible Entity: City of Santa Barbara

[24 CFR 58.2(a)(7)]

Certifying Officer: Paul Casey, Community Development Director/ Assistant City Administrator

[24 CFR 58.2(a)(2)]

Project Name: Lower Sycamore Creek Channel Widening and Punta Gorda Street Bridge Replacement Project

Project Location: The project involves Lower Sycamore Creek and the Punta Gorda Street Bridge. The project begins north of the U.S. Highway 101 Sycamore Creek Bridge and extends upstream to a point approximately 75 feet beyond the Punta Gorda Street Bridge.

Estimated total project cost: \$2,662,525.00

Grant Recipient: Public Works Department, City of Santa Barbara

[24 CFR 58.2(a)(5)]

Recipient Address: 630 Garden Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Project Representative: John Ilasin, Project Engineer; Jessica W. Grant, Project Planner, Public Works Department

Telephone Number: (805) 564-5383; (805) 564-5338

Conditions for Approval: [24 CFR 58.40(d), 40 CFR 1505.2(c)]

AQ-1 During construction, use water trucks or sprinkler systems to keep all areas of vehicle movement damp enough to prevent dust from leaving the site. At a minimum, this should include wetting down such areas in the late morning and after work is completed for the day. Increased watering frequency should be required whenever the wind speed exceeds 15 mph. Reclaimed water should be used whenever possible. However, reclaimed water should not be used in or around crops for human consumption.

AQ-2 Minimize amount of disturbed area and reduce on site vehicle speeds to 15 miles per hour or less.

AQ-3 If importation, exportation and stockpiling of fill material is involved, soil stockpiled for more than two days shall be covered, kept moist, or treated with soil binders to prevent dust generation. Trucks transporting fill material to and from the site shall be tarped from the point of origin.

AQ-4 Gravel pads shall be installed at all access points to prevent tracking of mud onto public roads.

AQ-5 After clearing, grading, earth moving or excavation is completed, treat the disturbed area by watering, or revegetating, or by spreading soil binders until the area is paved or otherwise developed so that dust generation will not occur.

AQ-6 The contractor or builder shall designate a person or persons to monitor the dust control program and to order increased watering, as necessary, to prevent transport of dust offsite. Their duties shall include holiday and weekend periods when work may not be in progress. The name and telephone number of such persons shall be provided to the Air Pollution Control District prior to land use clearance for map recordation and land use clearance for finish grading of the structure.

AQ-7 All portable diesel-powered construction equipment shall be registered with the state's portable equipment registration program OR shall obtain an APCD permit.

AQ-8 Fleet owners of mobile construction equipment are subject to the California Air Resource Board (CARB) Regulation for In-use Off-road Diesel Vehicles (Title 13 California Code of Regulations, Chapter 9, § 2449), the purpose of which is to reduce diesel particulate matter (PM) and criteria pollutant emissions from in-use (existing) off-road diesel-fueled vehicles. For more information, please refer to the CARB website at: www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/ordiesel/ordiesel.htm.

AQ-9 All commercial diesel vehicles are subject to Title 13, § 2485 of the California Code of Regulations, limiting engine idling time. Idling of heavy-duty diesel construction equipment and trucks during loading and unloading shall be limited to five minutes; electric auxiliary power units should be used whenever possible.

AQ-10 Diesel construction equipment meeting the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Tier 1 emission standards for off-road heavy-duty diesel engines shall be used. Equipment meeting CARB Tier 2 or higher emission standards should be used to the maximum extent feasible.

AQ-11 Diesel powered equipment should be replaced by electric equipment whenever feasible.

AQ-12 If feasible, diesel construction equipment shall be equipped with selective catalytic reduction systems, diesel oxidation catalysts and diesel particulate filters as certified and/or verified by EPA or California.

AQ-13 Catalytic converters shall be installed on gasoline-powered equipment, if feasible.

AQ-14 All construction equipment shall be maintained in tune per the manufacturer's specifications.

AQ-15 The engine size of construction equipment shall be the minimum practical size.

AQ-16 The number of construction equipment operating simultaneously shall be minimized through efficient management practices to ensure that the smallest practical number is operating at any one time.

AQ-17 Construction worker trips should be minimized by requiring carpooling and by providing for lunch onsite.

BIO-1 Project Environmental Coordinator Required. Submit to the Planning Division a contract with a qualified independent consultant to act as the Project Environmental Coordinator (PEC). Both PEC and the contract are subject to approval by the City's Environmental Analyst. The PEC shall be responsible for assuring full compliance with the provisions of the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) and Conditions of Approval to the City. The contract shall include the following, at a minimum:

- a. The frequency and/or schedule of the monitoring of the mitigation measures.

- b. A method for monitoring the mitigation measures.
- c. A list of reporting procedures, including the responsible party, and frequency.
- d. A list of other monitors to be hired, if applicable, and their qualifications.
- e. Submittal of biweekly reports during all construction activity regarding MMRP and condition compliance by the PEC to the Community Development Department/Case Planner.
- f. Submittal of a Final Mitigation Monitoring Report.
- g. The PEC shall have authority over all other monitors/specialists, the contractor, and all construction personnel for those actions that relate to the items listed in the MMRP and conditions of approval, including the authority to stop work, if necessary, to achieve compliance with mitigation measures.

BIO-2 Construction Mitigation Measures. The applicant shall adhere to the following construction mitigation measures, unless modified during permitting and consultation activities with California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), or the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). These measures should be printed on the final project plans.

1. A qualified biologist shall conduct environmental training for all construction personnel prior to their commencing work on the project. This includes all new crews as they arrive to work at the site. The training shall include: a description of the tidewater goby, steelhead, and other sensitive environmental resources; the habitats where these species are found; protocols to follow when any individuals of sensitive species are found; measures that are part of the project to protect these resources; boundaries of the project; and penalties for violations of the Endangered Species Act and permit conditions.
2. The construction contractor shall prepare and implement a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for each phase of the project. Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce erosion, minimize the discharge of sediment, and eliminate the discharge of non-storm water pollutants to the creek shall be included in the SWPPP. All BMPs shall be maintained by the construction contractor in good working order throughout the project duration.
3. A qualified biologist shall monitor: 1) construction activities in stream habitat, and 2) performance of sediment control/detention devices to identify or reconcile conditions that could adversely affect steelhead, tidewater gobies, or their habitat. The biological monitor shall be present during all construction activities that have the potential to adversely affect environmental resources.
4. Trash and debris from the construction site will be collected daily and disposed in covered dumpsters within the staging area.
5. If sensitive wildlife species are identified within the work area, such as southwestern pond turtle, all construction shall stop and the individual shall be given time to move out of the area. Alternatively, the biological monitor, with the appropriate regulatory authority, may move individuals out of harm's way to the closest similar habitat that can be avoided by project activities. If feasible, blocking nets can be set to prevent return of the species to the work area.
6. Work in the creek shall be scheduled for July 1 to November 1 for minimal flow in the creek and to avoid peak breeding season for tidewater goby (late April through June).
7. Removal of vegetation shall be avoided during the nesting season (February 15 to September 15) where feasible. A qualified biologist shall conduct a nesting bird survey prior to removal of any trees or vegetation scheduled to occur from February 15 to September 15. If

any nesting is found, the trees/vegetation shall not be removed until after the young have fledged and the biologist should establish a protective buffer around the nest as needed.

8. Work outside the creek channel can occur before July 1 as long as measures to prevent sediment, trash, and debris from entering the creek are implemented.

9. Materials used to isolate the dewatered area shall be clean and inert materials that will not cause turbidity or release toxic materials to the water. They shall be installed with minimal disturbance of the creek bed and after the area has been cleared of tidewater gobies and any other sensitive aquatic species.

10. All pumped water with visible turbidity (relative to undisturbed water in the creek) shall be settled and/or filtered prior to discharge into the creek downstream of the work area. Energy dissipation shall be used at the discharge of the diversion and the dewatering return to prevent channel bed scour.

11. All pump intakes shall be screened with 1/8-inch mesh that is securely fastened. In addition, screening of the same mesh size shall be placed around the intake at a distance where water velocity caused by the pump is below the level that could suck fish against the screen.

12. The biological monitor shall inspect pump intake screens daily when in use to ensure that screens are intact and functioning properly. Any deficient screens shall be repaired or replaced immediately by the contractor.

13. A biological monitor shall be present throughout the dewatering and water diversion operation with the authority to halt work if injury or mortality of listed fish species is observed. Prior to implementation of the plan, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service shall be notified.

14. Small pits shall be excavated in the creek bed as needed to collect seepage into the dewatered area so it can be pumped out. These pits, and any other ponded water within the dewatered area, shall be inspected by the biological monitor at least daily (at the beginning of construction activities) for the presence of native fish. Any found will be captured and relocated by a qualified biologist.

15. The contractor shall inspect and maintain the dewatering system 7 days a week while in operation.

16. The qualified biologist shall inspect the dewatered area daily to ensure that the diversion remains intact and that no tidewater gobies or other fish have entered the work area. Erosion control measures shall also be inspected.

17. An initial survey for the tidewater goby shall be completed within one week prior to the start of construction activities in the creek. If tidewater gobies are found, isolate the area to be dewatered using fish block nets (1/8-inch mesh) inflowing water or silt fence in stagnant water.

18. All steelhead, tidewater gobies, and other special status species shall be captured and relocated to suitable downstream habitat. The number of steelhead and tidewater gobies observed, number relocated, and date and time of capture and relocation shall be recorded. Seine, dip net, throw net, minnow trap, and hand can be used to capture the species. Fish captured shall be held in clean buckets with creek water in the shade for the minimum time needed to clear the work area.

19. Concrete shall not be poured in the channel or in the channel area that could be exposed to runoff if rain is forecast to occur within 15 days after the pour.

20. Sediment collected in erosion control or sediment detention devices shall be disposed of offsite and will not be allowed to reenter the creek channel.

21. Stockpiled materials, such as excavated soils, shall be stored at least 30 feet from the top of bank if being stored for more than two days and contained with BMPs (e.g., straw bales, Visqueen, gravel bags, and fiber rolls) to prevent wind or water erosion and runoff to the creek.
22. All concrete pours shall be contained so that wet concrete does not come in contact with surface or groundwater. The contractor shall have spill contingency materials on site and personnel trained in their use when concrete is poured. This includes pumps and equipment to measure pH in the water to 0.1 unit as well as water containment (e.g., baker tank or truck) equipment to immediately remove contaminated water during concrete pours.
23. Any water within the work area that has or may have come in contact with wet concrete or grout shall be tested for pH. If the pH is greater than 8.5 or more than 0.5 unit above that of the adjacent creek water, pump the water out and treat prior to disposal where it cannot affect surface or groundwater.
24. Concrete trucks shall only be allowed to wash out into a Baker tank in the staging area. The washout material shall be disposed of offsite.
25. Equipment used within the dewatered creek channel shall be inspected daily for leaks by the monitor. If any are found, a drip pan shall be placed under the leak and it shall be repaired immediately by the contractor.
26. If the dewatered creek bed is too soft for equipment/personnel to work in without disturbing sediments to a depth of more than a few inches, the contractor shall use creosote free, clean timber mats (or other inert platform) typically used in wetland construction BMPs.
27. Refueling of construction equipment shall be in an area at least 50 feet from the top of bank that is bermed and has an impermeable surface unless there is a secondary containment method implemented.
28. Spill containment and cleanup materials (e.g., shovels, absorbent pads, plastic bags) shall be on site, and construction personnel shall be trained in their use.
29. All equipment maintenance and cleaning shall be offsite or within a staging area over an impermeable surface. All residues of such activities shall be disposed of offsite.
30. All fuel, lubricants, paints, and other construction liquids shall be stored in sealed containers within a bermed containment area at least 100 feet from the creek unless there is a secondary containment method implemented.
31. All debris and other construction materials shall be cleared from Sycamore Creek prior to reintroduction of stream flows to the channel following removal of the diversion dams.
32. Remove and bag all *Delairea odorata* (cape ivy) prior to general clearing and dispose offsite to prevent its spread (can grow from a piece 1 inch [2.5 centimeters] long).
33. Remove and bag all seed heads from *Ricinus communis* (castor bean) and *Ageratina adenophora* (sticky eupatorium) prior to general clearing and dispose offsite.
34. A low-flow channel 2 to 3 feet wide and 6 to 12 inches deep (with more at 12 inches than shallower) shall be installed at the end of project construction activities. This channel shall connect to the existing upstream and downstream low-flow channel.
35. Surveys for *Nasturtium gambelii* (Gambel's watercress), *Arenaria paludicola* (Marsh Sandwort), Least Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) shall be conducted prior to construction activities.
 - a. The City shall have a US Fish and Wildlife Service approved biologist conduct comprehensive surveys within the proposed project site for *Nasturtium gambelii*,

Arenaria paludicola, and Least Bell's Vireo prior to project implementation to ensure that previously unknown populations would not be affected.

b. If any *Nasturtium gambelii* or *Arenaria paludicola* is found, no project activities that could injure or destroy the plants would take place until additional consultation with US Fish and Wildlife Service can be conducted.

BIO-3 Revegetation:

1. Final restoration and revegetation plans shall be submitted for review and approval of the City of Santa Barbara Creeks Division prior to final design review approval of the project.

2. Revegetation with native riparian plants shall occur in available space along and at the top of the banks to facilitate soil stabilization and restoration of the riparian corridor along Sycamore Creek consistent with the revegetation plans submitted October 24, 2011 or as modified in the future by the Architecture Board of Review or other state and federal agencies (CDFG, ACOE, USFWS, or NMFS). Consistent with the project's proposed restoration plan, all oak and sycamore trees with a diameter at breast height (dbh) of 6 inches (15 centimeters) or more shall be replaced at a minimum ratio of 10:1 surviving after five years while trees smaller than that shall be replaced at a ratio of 5:1. Willows shall be replaced at a minimum ratio of 10:1 or to produce a canopy at least as large as that removed after five years. Oak and sycamore trees will be planted at or within approximately two feet (0.6 meter) of the bank top, depending on location of adjacent structures (including roads). Vines (e.g., blackberry) and herbaceous species will be planted between and below the trees for soil stabilization. Willows will be planted from the top of the riprap to the oaks and sycamores. These will be limbed as they grow to allow flood water passage.

3. The planted area shall be monitored and maintained by the City in concert with a restoration specialist for a period of 5 years. Minimum success criteria should reflect those performance standards outlined in the submitted revegetation plans dated October 24, 2011 or as modified in the future by the Architecture Board of Review or other state and federal agencies (CDFG, ACOE, USFWS, or NMFS).

BIO-4 Maintenance:

1. Maintenance of the creek by the City within the first five years following construction shall be limited to monitoring, watering, weed control, replacement of plants that fail to establish, erosion repair, and pruning of willows at the edge of the channel to minimize dense growth that can impede high flows and increase the potential for flooding.

2. If the County Flood Control District has to remove accumulated sediment from the channel at any time in the future, a low-flow channel shall be installed as part of that project. This channel shall connect to the existing upstream and downstream low-flow channel.

3. The following measures shall apply to any regular channel maintenance for flood control purposes conducted by the City or Santa Barbara County Flood Control District in the project area following construction of the project:

a. Native vegetation clearance should be minimized to the extent feasible for the life of the project.

b. Native plantings in the Riprap Edge Zone or Upper Bank Zone shall not be removed by the City or County Flood Control District as part of regular channel maintenance for flood flow purposes.

c. Willow plantings in the Riprap Zone shall not be removed by the City or County Flood Control District as part of regular channel maintenance for flood flow purposes. If

trimming is needed, willow plantings should be trimmed to encourage upward (canopy) growth and discourage low branches that could reduce stream flow.

d. Any vegetation clearing during maintenance activities shall be conducted such that no visible turbidity enters the adjacent undisturbed channel.

e. Maintenance activities within the channel bottom should be planned for July 1 to November 1 to avoid the peak breeding season of the tidewater goby and the wet season to the extent feasible. Maintenance of the channel or banks should be scheduled outside of the nesting season for birds (February 15 to September 15) to the extent feasible. If work needs to be conducted within the bird nesting season, a qualified biologist shall conduct a survey to determine if any birds are breeding, and if so, will establish a protective buffer around the nest. Work outside the creek channel can occur before July 1 as long as measures to prevent sediment, trash, and debris from entering the creek are implemented.

f. Any herbicide use shall be limited to Aquamaster™ or any herbicides recommended by the California Department of Fish and Game for use in stream habitats.

g. Measures to prevent the spread of non-native invasive species (plant and wildlife) shall be implemented to the extent feasible such as making sure that all equipment working in the creek is clean and free of invasive species. This includes boots and hand tools used in the creek. Procedures for preventing introduction of non-native invasive species include:

i. Inspect all equipment, trucks, and engines to ensure they are clean of weed seeds.

ii. Ensure that all equipment and personal gear are free of New Zealand mudsnails. Cleaning methods can be found at:

1. <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/invasives/mudsnail>,
2. <http://seagrant.oregonstate.edu/sgpubs/onlinepubs.html> and
3. http://www.anstaskforce.gov/Documents/NZMS_MgmtControl_Final.pdf

BIO-5 Other Agency Approvals: Prior to issuance of building or public works permit, all necessary permits and consultations with the Army Corps of Engineers, California Department of Fish and Game, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, National Marine Fisheries Service, and United States Fish and Wildlife Service shall be complete.

CR-1 Unanticipated Archaeological Resources Contractor Notification. Standard discovery measures shall be implemented per the City master Environmental Assessment throughout grading and construction: Prior to the start of any vegetation or paving removal, demolition, trenching or grading, contractors and construction personnel shall be alerted to the possibility of uncovering unanticipated subsurface archaeological features or artifacts. If such archaeological resources are encountered or suspected, work shall be halted immediately, the City Environmental Analyst shall be notified and the Owner shall retain an archaeologist from the most current City Qualified Archaeologists List. The latter shall be employed to assess the nature, extent and significance of any discoveries and to develop appropriate management recommendations for archaeological resource treatment, which may include, but are not limited to, redirection of grading and/or excavation activities, consultation and/or monitoring with a Barbareño Chumash representative from the most current City qualified Barbareño Chumash Site Monitors List, etc. If the discovery consists of possible human remains, the Santa Barbara County Coroner shall be contacted immediately. If the Coroner determines that the remains are

Native American, the Coroner shall contact the California Native American Heritage Commission. A Barbareño Chumash representative from the most current City Qualified Barbareño Chumash Site Monitors List shall be retained to monitor all further subsurface disturbance in the area of the find. Work in the area may only proceed after the Environmental Analyst grants authorization. If the discovery consists of possible prehistoric or Native American artifacts or materials, a Barbareño Chumash representative from the most current City Qualified Barbareño Chumash Site Monitors List shall be retained to monitor all further subsurface disturbance in the area of the find. Work in the area may only proceed after the Environmental Analyst grants authorization. A final report on the results of the archaeological monitoring shall be submitted by the City-approved archaeologist to the Environmental Analyst within 180 days of completion of the monitoring and prior to any certificate of occupancy for the project.

N-1 Acoustical Insulation Material. Acoustical insulation material shall be attached to the construction fence and shall extend from the top of the fence (8 feet high) to the ground. Also, a movable acoustical curtain shall be used to shield the residential areas from construction noise. The curtain shall be designed to completely block the line of sight from the adjacent residences during construction of the bridge foundation support piles. Noise levels shall be closely monitored for compliance within the allowable limits.

N-2 Neighborhood Notification Prior to Construction. At least twenty (20) days prior to commencement of construction, the contractor shall provide written notice to all property owners, businesses, and residents within 300 feet of the project area. The notice shall contain a description of the project, the construction schedule, including days and hours of construction, the name and phone number of the Project Environmental Coordinator (PEC) and Contractor(s), site rules and Conditions of Approval pertaining to construction activities, and any additional information that will assist Building Inspectors, Police Officers and the public in addressing problems that may arise during construction.

N-3 Construction Contact Sign. Immediately after Building permit issuance, signage shall be posted at the points of entry to the site that list the contractor(s) and Project Environmental Coordinator's (PEC) name, contractor(s) and PEC's telephone number(s), construction work hours, site rules, and construction-related conditions, to assist Building Inspectors and Police Officers in the enforcement of the conditions of approval. The font size shall be a minimum of 0.5 inches in height. Said sign shall not exceed six feet in height from the ground if it is free-standing or placed on a fence. It shall not exceed 24 square feet if in a multi-family or commercial zone or six square feet if in a single family zone.

N-4 Construction Hours. Construction (including preparation for construction work) shall only be permitted Monday through Friday between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. and Saturdays between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., excluding the following holidays:

New Year's Day	January 1st*
Martin Luther King's Birthday	3rd Monday in January
Presidents' Day	3rd Monday in February
Memorial Day	Last Monday in May
Independence Day	July 4th*
Labor Day	1st Monday in September
Thanksgiving Day	4th Thursday in November
Following Thanksgiving Day	Friday following Thanksgiving Day
Christmas Day	December 25th*

*When a holiday falls on a Saturday or Sunday, the preceding Friday or following Monday, respectively, shall be observed as a legal holiday.

When, based on required construction type or other appropriate reasons, it is necessary to do work outside the allowed construction hours, contractor shall contact the Chief of Building and Safety to request a waiver from the above construction hours, using the procedure outlined in Santa Barbara Municipal Code §9.16.015 Construction Work at Night. Contractor shall notify all residents within 300 feet of the parcel of intent to carry out said construction a minimum of 48 hours prior to said construction. Said notification shall include what the work includes, the reason for the work, the duration of the proposed work and a contact number.

PS-1 The final building plans shall include a source reduction/recycling plan that at a minimum includes the applicant's proposed measures to recycle construction waste as described in the project description letter submitted August 2011 or other measures achieving the same or greater level of source reduction and recycling.

T-1 Haul Routes Require Separate Permit. Apply for a Public Works permit to establish the haul route(s) for all construction-related trucks with a gross vehicle weight rating of three tons or more entering or exiting the site. The Haul Routes shall be approved by the Public Works Transportation Manager.

T-2 Construction-Related Truck Trips. Construction-related truck trips for trucks with a gross vehicle weight rating of three tons or more shall not be scheduled during peak hours (7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.) in order to help reduce truck traffic on adjacent streets and roadways.

T-3 Construction Storage/Staging. Construction vehicle/ equipment/ materials storage and staging in the public road right-of-way shall be limited to the extent feasible and shall be subject to review and approval by the Public Works Transportation Manager.

US Fish and Wildlife Service Requirements:

The Service believes that the following reasonable and prudent measures are necessary and appropriate to minimize take of tidewater gobies:

1. The Corps and City must monitor activities to ensure that the level of incidental take of tidewater goby that occurs during project implementation is commensurate with the analysis contained in this biological opinion.
2. Specific activity restrictions must be implemented to avoid or minimize the effects of project activities on the tidewater goby.

The Service's evaluation of the effects of the proposed action includes consideration of the measures to minimize the adverse effects of the proposed action on the tidewater goby that were developed by the City and repeated in the Description of the Proposed Action portion of this biological opinion. Any subsequent changes in these measures proposed by the Corps or the City may constitute a modification of the proposed action and may warrant reinitiation of formal consultation, as specified at 50 CFR 402.16. These reasonable and prudent measures are intended to supplement the protective measures that were proposed by the Corps and the City as part of the proposed action.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

To be exempt from the prohibitions of section 9 of the Act, the Corps must ensure that the City complies with the following terms and conditions, which implement the reasonable and prudent measures. These terms and conditions are non-discretionary.

1. The following terms and conditions implement reasonable and prudent measure 1:

1.1 The Service-approved biologist will conduct a training session for all project personnel prior to any project activities. At a minimum, the training will include a description of the tidewater goby and its habitat; the general provisions of the Act; the necessity for adhering to the provisions of the Act; the penalties associated with violating the provisions of the Act; the specific measures that are being implemented to conserve the tidewater goby while this project is being conducted; and the boundaries within which the project may be accomplished. The program will also cover the restrictions and guidelines that must be followed by all construction personnel to reduce or avoid effects on these species during project implementation. The project foreman will be responsible for ensuring that crew members adhere to the guidelines and restrictions. Multiple education programs will be conducted as needed to inform new personnel brought on the job.

1.2 The City must develop and implement a monitoring plan to determine the level of incidental take of tidewater goby associated with the project activities in the action area. The monitoring plan must include a standardized mechanism for City employees, contractors, permittees, and volunteers to report any observations of dead or injured listed animals to the appropriate Corps and Service offices. The City or Corps must collect information obtained through the monitoring to include in the annual report to the Service that is required by this incidental take statement and described in the "Reporting Requirements" section below.

1.3 If five tidewater gobies are found dead or injured, the Corps or City must contact our office immediately so we can review the project activities to determine if additional protective measures are needed. Furthermore, if more than 50 tidewater goby are captured and relocated, the Corps or City must contact our office immediately so we can review the project activities to determine if additional protective measures are needed.

2. The following terms and conditions implement reasonable and prudent measure 2[1]:

2.1 The capture, handling, and monitoring of the tidewater goby must be conducted only by Service-approved biologists. The City must provide their qualifications of individuals that would be conducting these activities to the Service at least 15 days prior to project activities within the vicinity of the species' habitat. No project activities will begin in areas that could support tidewater goby until the Corps or City has received approval from the Service that the biologist(s) are qualified to conduct the work.

2.2 Rosie Thompson, Johanna Kisner, Carl Page, Brady Daniels, Julie Love, Cristina Slaughter, Tom Keegan, Manna Warburton, and Kristen Mobraaten are authorized to independently survey for, capture, and move tidewater gobies from work areas.

2.3 Prior to the onset of any project-related activities, the approved biologists must identify appropriate areas to receive captured tidewater goby from the project areas.

These areas must be in proximity to the capture site, contain suitable habitat, and not be affected by project activities to the best of the approved biologists' knowledge.

2.4 If tidewater gobies are found and these individuals are likely to be killed or injured by work activities, the Service-approved biologists must be allowed sufficient time to move them from the site before work activities resume. The Service-approved biologist must relocate tidewater gobies the shortest distance possible to one of the pre-determined areas discussed in term and condition 2.3.

2.5 The limits of the project activities must be clearly marked to prevent construction equipment from entering areas beyond the footprint needed to complete the project. Colored flagging would be appropriate to delineate the project boundaries.

2.6 Vehicles and all project activities must remain within the defined activity area and use only designated access points and staging areas.

2.7 The work area must be kept clean to avoid attracting predators. All food and trash must be disposed of in closed containers and removed from the project site.

2.8 The Corps and the City must implement best management practices to avoid impacts to water quality in Sycamore Creek, which include fueling and maintaining heavy equipment outside of the beach areas and checking equipment for leaks and spills prior to implementing beach grooming activities.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Pursuant to 50 CFR 402.14(i)(3), the Corps or the City must submit an annual report of implemented projects to the Service's Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office (2493 Portola Road, Suite B; Ventura, California 93003). The report must include: (1) a table documenting the number of tidewater goby observed, killed, injured, or handled during the subject project implementation; (2) a summary of how the terms and conditions of this biological opinion and the protective measures proposed by the Corps and the City worked; and (3) any suggestions of how these measures could be revised to improve conservation of this species while facilitating compliance with the Act. This information will assist the Service in evaluating future actions for the conservation of the listed species involved. Reports must be submitted to the Service's Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office 2 months following the completion of the subject project.

DISPOSITION OF DEAD OR INJURED SPECIMENS

As part of this incidental take statement and pursuant to 50 CFR 402.14(i)(1)(v), upon locating a dead or injured tidewater goby, initial notification within three working days of its finding must be made by telephone and in writing to the Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office (805-644-1766). The report must include the date, time, location of the carcass, a photograph, cause of death or injury, if known, and any other pertinent information.

Care must be taken in handling injured animals to ensure effective treatment and care, and in handling dead specimens to preserve biological material in the best possible state. Should there be any injured tidewater goby, the Service should be contacted regarding the final disposition of the animals. The remains of any tidewater goby must be placed with the Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office, contact: Chris Dellith or Mark A. Elvin of our staff at (805) 644-1766, extensions 227 and 258, respectively. In the case of take or suspected take of listed species not exempted in this biological opinion, the Ventura Fish and Wildlife Office must be notified within 24 hours.

FINDING: [58.40(g)]

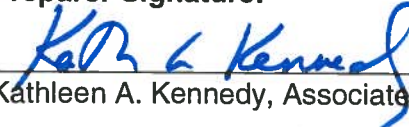
Finding of No Significant Impact

(The project will not result in a significant impact on the quality of the human environment)

Finding of Significant Impact

(The project may significantly affect the quality of the human environment)

Preparer Signature:

 _____ **Date:** 8/13/12
Kathleen A. Kennedy, Associate Planner, City of Santa Barbara

RE Approving Official Signature:

 _____ **Date:** 8-13-12
Paul Casey, Community Development Director/Assistant City Administer, City of Santa Barbara

Statement of Purpose and Need for the Proposal: [40 CFR 1508.9(b)] The purpose of the proposed project is to widen the creek channel to increase the flow capacity of the creek to match the current flow rate under the U.S. Highway 101 Sycamore Creek Bridge. Flooding has occurred on properties adjacent to the creek. This project would decrease the probability of flooding in the project vicinity.

Description of the Proposal: [24 CFR 58.32, 40 CFR 1508.25]

The proposed project includes channel improvements beginning north of the U.S. Highway 101 Sycamore Creek Bridge and extending upstream to a point approximately 75 feet upstream of the Punta Gorda Street Bridge. The project also includes a creek restoration plan and the replacement of the Punta Gorda Street Bridge.

Channel Improvements: Currently, the distance between the top of banks for this portion of Lower Sycamore Creek varies between 25 and 50 feet. The width of the channel bottom varies between 9 and 12 feet. The proposed project includes widening the creek to approximately 60 feet between the top of banks, which would match the existing public right-of-way width of 60 feet. Widening of the creek would involve removing all materials (e.g., cement, pipe, wire) within the creek area and grading the creek so that the bottom of the channel would be 28 feet wide (20-foot-wide earthen channel bottom, plus 4 feet of riprap on each side buried by soil). All new earthen banks would have a bank face of approximately nine feet in height. A six-foot high black chain link fence is proposed along the length of the top of bank on both sides of the creek.

The creek would also include a low-flow, earthen channel 2- to 3-feet wide and about 6- to 12-inches deep for tidewater goby migration.

At the southernmost part of the project, the transition from the creek channel to the culvert under the U.S. Highway 101 Sycamore Creek Bridge could be improved with the removal of portions of the existing endwalls and the chain-link mesh retaining structures connected to the culverts that run parallel to the bridge and the construction of new vertical endwalls and warped wingwalls on both sides of the creek.

The flood capacity of the creek would increase from between 900 and 1,600 cubic feet per second (cfs), to approximately 2,000 cfs, which would match the flow rate of the open middle bay under the U.S. Highway 101 Sycamore Creek Bridge.

The project would require diversion and dewatering of the creek before and during construction activities. The creek diversion and dewatering system would be installed that diverts the creek flow from upstream of construction activities into a pipe/culvert and conveys the runoff through the project site to a point downstream of construction activities. The diversion dam would be constructed within the natural channel using sandbags and/or straw hay bales and plastic sheeting. The pipe(s)/culvert(s) would be of appropriate size and material to convey anticipated creek flows. A biological monitor would be present throughout the diversion and dewatering operation.

The total amount of material to be excavated from the creek banks and creek bottom is estimated to be approximately 3,600 cubic yards (CY). Creek excavation would occur as the work progresses so that all 3,600 CY of material would not be stockpiled at one time. Expected debris includes stacked burlap bags filled with concrete, large rocks, mortared riprap, slabs of concrete, grouted stone, formed walls, pipe and wire revetment, and other bank material found throughout the length of the project. There are no known contaminated soils in the project area.

The excavated materials would be recycled to the maximum extent feasible. The green waste would be recycled as compost and mulch. The City would examine the suitability of the excavated material for local beach sand replenishment. Soil could also be distributed to other construction sites requiring fill. Most materials would be transported within a radius of approximately 10 to 25 miles from the project site. Some material would be transported to the Tajiguas Landfill, located 25 miles west of the project site.

Channel excavation would last from 30 to 40 days. It is expected that 96 to 128 CY of material would be removed each day. This would result in approximately 6 to 8 truck trips per day and approximately 250 total truck trips to transport the excavated material.

Creek Restoration Plan: The existing vegetation along Sycamore Creek is a mix of non-native species, landscape and ornamental vegetation, and native riparian species. The creek widening would result in the removal of most of the existing vegetation in the project area. The creek restoration plan involves the planting of native species on the newly constructed creek banks for the length of the project. The plan consists of four planting zones on each side of the creek (Water's Edge, Riprap, Riprap Edge, and Upper Bank Zones).

During construction, the creek restoration specialist would use judgment to adjust planting locations in the field to make good use of micro-site conditions that would favor one species over another. The planting maintenance period would be five years. After the planting maintenance period, the City would coordinate with County Flood Control District on creek maintenance, since the District currently provides yearly maintenance on this portion of Sycamore Creek.

Punta Gorda Street Bridge Replacement: The channel widening necessitates removal and replacement of the Punta Gorda Street Bridge. The existing bridge is a concrete box culvert with a 21-foot wide span, 7.5 foot rise and concrete channel bottom. The new precast concrete bridge would have a 50-foot wide span, nine-foot rise and earthen bottom. The new bridge would be larger and centered more closely within the right-of-way than the existing bridge and would have a six foot wide sidewalk on each side. Also, the Green Mobile Home Park driveway entrance on Punta Gorda Street, located within the public right-of-way and adjacent to the existing bridge would be removed.

New curb, gutter and sidewalks would be constructed on either side of the bridge. Two overhead utility poles would be relocated by Southern California Edison and one communication pole would be relocated by Verizon. The existing sewer, water and gas lines would also be relocated.

Duration of Construction: Project construction would last approximately four months and would be scheduled between July 1 and November 1, 2013, to coincide with minimal flow in the creek. An initial survey for the tidewater goby would be completed within one week prior to the start of construction activities. If work outside the creek channel occurs before July 1, 2013, measures to prevent sediment, trash, and debris from entering the creek would be implemented. Punta Gorda Street would only be closed during Phase 2 of the project. The project construction may be prolonged due to inclement weather conditions, mechanical failure, funding constraints, or environmental reasons.

Staging and Stockpiling Areas: Most staging would occur on the Green Mobile Home Park access driveway currently located within the public right-of-way. As stated previously, this access driveway would be removed as part of the project. Temporary construction easements would likely be needed from 1205 Punta Gorda Street (APN 017-293-018), 1133 Punta Gorda Street (APN 017-291-010), the Green Mobile Home Park (017-334-001) and the former Deluxe Mobile Home Park (APN 017-332-003) for temporary fence relocations and additional staging areas, as shown on the project plans. These easements would not require the relocation of any residents. Staging would also be located along the creek banks.

At the main staging areas, the contractor would install temporary trailers with sanitary facilities. Some excavated materials would be stockpiled at the staging areas, but the majority would be transported offsite as discussed previously.

Equipment for Construction: Construction equipment would include bulldozers, graders, concrete and concrete pump trucks, dump trucks, cranes, off-highway trucks, water trucks, etc. Most equipment would be used for eight hours each day. The equipment would be stored at the staging areas described above.

Construction Crew: Approximately 10 to 15 construction crewmembers would be required to construct the proposed project. It is estimated that approximately 10 to 15 passenger vehicles would be used by the construction crews for commuting to the project site.

Haul Routes: The haul route for hauling materials and equipment to and from the project site would primarily be Highway 101 and nearby on/off ramps. The Milpas Street on/off ramp is near the project area and provides the most direct route to the proposed staging and stockpiling sites. The Salinas Street on/off ramp may also be used. Access and haul routes from the stockpiling sites to the construction site would use streets that are nearest to the creek, and take the most direct route.

Maintenance: The City would maintain the channel and bank restoration areas for five years to ensure establishment of planted vegetation. Maintenance activities include monitoring, watering, weed control, replacement of plants that fail to establish, erosion repair, and pruning of willows at the edge of the channel to minimize dense growth that can impede high flows and increase the potential for flooding.

After the five year maintenance period by the City, the Santa Barbara County Flood Control District would maintain the channel for flood control purposes. Flood control maintenance could consist of manual cutting and herbicide treatment of vegetation in compliance with their permits for such activities. There would be no change to the maintenance procedures or frequency in the project area due to the proposed channel and bridge improvements.

CEQA Review: The majority of the project is located north of the Caltrans right-of-way line and outside the Coastal Zone; however, the southerly portion of the project (approximately 720 square feet) is located in the Caltrans right-of-way and the Coastal Zone.

The improvements located north of the Caltrans right-of-way line received the required discretionary City approval from the Architectural Board of Review on May 14, 2012. The Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (April 16, 2012) prepared for the project concludes that potentially significant impacts would be avoided or reduced to less than significant levels with the implementation of required mitigation measures. The Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration is attached.

The improvements that are located within the Caltrans right-of-way were evaluated under the Coastal Development Permit (CDP) for the existing Highway 101 Operational Improvements Project. A determination was made that the minor improvements in this area (new endwalls and wingwalls) are in substantial conformance with the existing CDP, and an Addendum to the Certified Environmental Impact Report was prepared to address the minor changes. The Addendum concludes that project impacts would be less than significant with the implementation of required mitigation measures. The Substantial Conformance Determination and Addendum to the Certified Environmental Impact Report are attached.

Existing Conditions and Trends: [24 CFR 58.40(a)]

Sycamore Creek is one of the four major creek systems in the City. It runs a 2.7-mile course through the City between the Stanwood Drive/Sycamore Canyon Road intersection and the ocean at East Beach.

The section of Sycamore Creek located downstream from Punta Gorda Street is bordered on the east by the Green Mobile Home Park and on the west by the former Deluxe Mobile Home Park, which is currently vacant, with the exception of a dilapidated structure that encroaches into the City right-of-way and will be removed. This reach of the creek is highly degraded and the west bank of the creek is largely vertical and held in place by a retaining wall and pipe and wire revetments. This section of creek supports some native arroyo willow and non-native vegetation. The section of Sycamore Creek located upstream from the Punta Gorda Street Bridge is bordered by single-family residences. On the eastern side, within the City right-of-way, is a five foot wide earthen pedestrian path that would remain. This section of creek supports arroyo willows and plantings of native shrubs and trees (oaks and sycamores), as well as a variety of non-native and native plants. This section of creek is shaded throughout the day. Federally listed species known to be in the project vicinity are the endangered tidewater goby and Southern California steelhead. Sycamore creek is also designated by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) as critical habitat for the Southern California steelhead. Other special status aquatic to semi-aquatic species (two-striped garter snake, southwestern pond turtle, and California red-legged frog) have a low potential to be present. However, pond turtles have been observed in the project vicinity and are more likely than the other two species to be present. The Cooper's hawk, a California Department of Fish and Game special status bird species, may forage and nest in the vicinity of the project area.

The total project area (0.66 acres) is located in the 100-year floodplain and a portion of the project site (0.44 acres) is in the floodway. The project site is located outside the Tsunami run-up zone. The majority of the project area is located within City right-of-way. A small portion of the project (approx. 720 square feet) is located within Caltrans right-of-way.

The project area is zoned R-3 (between Highway 101 and Punta Gorda Street) and R-4 (north of the Punta Gorda Street Bridge), with the majority of the uses in the area being either single-family residences or mobile homes. The General Plan Land Use designation for the parcel is Open Space/Stream.

Caltrans recently widened Highway 101 from Milpas Street to Hot Springs Road from four to six lanes. The U.S. Highway 101 Bridge over Sycamore Creek was also widened and now has three bays. Only the middle bay, which has a flow capacity of approximately 2,000 cubic feet per second (cfs), is currently open. The bridge will eventually have a capacity of 3,000 cfs when its two additional bays are open. However, Caltrans will not open the bays until all the channel improvements south of the freeway are widened and applicable bridges have been replaced, which may not occur for another 10 to 12 years.

The trend in the past is that flooding has occurred on properties adjacent to the creek, and the creek habitat has become degraded. In the absence of the project, the flow capacity of the creek would remain low resulting in a higher probability of flooding in the vicinity, and the spread of non-native invasive plant species would continue.

Statutory Checklist

[24CFR §58.5]

Record the determinations made regarding each listed statute, executive order or regulation. Provide appropriate source documentation. [Note reviews or consultations completed as well as any applicable permits or approvals obtained or required. Note dates of contact or page references]. Provide compliance or consistency documentation. Attach additional material as appropriate. Note conditions, attenuation or mitigation measures required.

Factors	Determination and Compliance Documentation
<p>Historic Preservation [36 CFR 800]</p>	<p>Compliance steps are not invoked. No historic buildings, structures, or trees are located on the project site. A letter requesting State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) concurrence on these findings was sent on September 8, 2011. No response was received. A Phase I Archaeological Resources Report prepared by Byron Bass dated July 2009 concluded that there is a very low potential for significant in situ archaeological resources to occur in the area of potential effect (APE) and no site testing, mitigation measures or other actions are recommended or required. California Native American Tribal entities were contacted on August 16, 2011. No responses were received.</p>
<p>Floodplain Management [24 CFR 55, Executive Order 11988]</p>	<p>The total project area (0.66 acres) is located in the 100-year floodplain and a portion of the project site (0.44 acres) is in the floodway. The creek bottom areas to be widened are considered wetlands. The project does not include the placement of any new housing units or other structures (other than the replacement bridge) within the 100-year floodplain. While the project would decrease flood probability, the delineated location of the 100-year floodplain would not change.</p> <p>The property is located in Special Flood Hazard Area Zone AE identified on Flood Insurance Rate Map Panel Number 06083C1391F, dated September 30, 2005.</p> <p>The eight step procedure for making determinations on floodplain management and wetlands protection was conducted pursuant to 24 CFR 55.20. Public notices were published in the Daily Sound newspaper and sent to interested agencies, groups, and persons on August 19, 2011, November 22, 2011, and May 8, 2012 to satisfy the requirements outlined in 24 CFR 55.20(b) and (g).</p> <p>It has been concluded that there is no practicable alternative to</p>

	<p>the possibility of the project being located within the Special Flood Hazard Zone AE because the purpose of the proposed project is to increase the flow capacity of this portion of Lower Sycamore Creek. It has been determined that the program must occur within the intended target area, would not negatively impact the floodplain, and would be mitigated to prevent any substantial impacts on environmental resources and human health.</p>
<p>Wetlands Protection [Executive Order 11990]</p>	<p>The project site includes 0.04 acres of wetland habitat as described in the Biological Resources Assessment Report prepared by SAIC (June 2010) and Biological Memorandum prepared by Cardno Entrix (August 2011) included in the Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (attached). Mitigation measures are required to ensure that no permanent net loss of wetlands would occur as a result of the project.</p> <p>The eight step procedure for making determinations on floodplain management and wetlands protection was conducted pursuant to <i>24 CFR 55.20</i>. Public notices were published in the Daily Sound newspaper and sent to interested agencies, groups, and persons on August 19, 2011, November 22, 2011, and May 8, 2012 to satisfy the requirements outlined in <i>24 CFR 55.20(b)</i> and (g).</p> <p>It has been determined that the proposed project must occur within the intended target area. There would be no permanent net loss of wetlands and the creek restoration plan would include the planting of wetland vegetation along the water's edge. The project would include temporary construction impacts on wetlands as the entire creek would be graded for the project. These impacts would be mitigated through replacement plantings and best management practices that are included as required conditions of approval.</p>
<p>Coastal Zone Management Act [Sections 307(c),(d)]</p>	<p>The City of Santa Barbara has an approved Local Coastal Program and Coastal Plan certified by the California Coastal Commission. A small portion of the proposed project is located within the Coastal Zone. The proposed work within the coastal zone has been determined to be in substantial conformance with the existing Highway 101 Operational Improvements Project Coastal Development Permit and is consistent with all City Coastal Policies. The Substantial Conformance Determination is attached.</p>
<p>Sole Source Aquifers [40 CFR 149]</p>	<p>Compliance steps are not invoked. The project is not located within an area designated as being supported by a sole source aquifer, as shown on the map of "Designated Sole Source Aquifers in EPA Region IX". These findings are based on a review conducted on November 18, 2011 of the EPA website located at: http://www.epa.gov/region09/water/groundwater/ssa.html</p>
<p>Endangered Species Act [50 CFR 402]</p>	<p>The project may potentially affect Federally-listed endangered species (tidewater goby and Southern California steelhead) and their habitat as well as Gambel's watercress and marsh sandwort. Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service, required under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, occurred on February 28, 2012. USFWS issued a biological opinion stating that the</p>

	<p>proposed project is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of tidewater goby, and that proposed mitigation measures would avoid adverse effects to the Gambel's watercress and marsh sandwort. NMFS issued a letter stating that they concur with the Army Corps of Engineers' determination that the project would not likely adversely affect Southern California steelhead or its critical habitat. A Streambed Alteration Agreement has been obtained from the California Department of Fish and Game. Required mitigation measures including biological surveys, biological monitoring, fish rescue, and restoration activities. Impacts would be temporary and a result of construction activities. The projects impacts on endangered species would be less than significant after mitigation.</p>
<p>Wild and Scenic Rivers Act [Sections 7 (b), (c)]</p>	<p>Compliance steps are not invoked. The project site will not affect and is not located within one mile of a listed Wild and Scenic River. These findings are based on a review of the Nation Wild and Scenic Rivers System website on November 22, 2011: http://www.rivers.gov/wildriverslist.html.</p>
<p>Air Quality [Clean Air Act, Sections 176 (c) and (d), and 40 CFR 6, 51, 93]</p>	<p>Compliance steps are not invoked. According to the website maintained by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) (web address http://www.arb.ca.gov/desig/adm/adm.htm), the County of Santa Barbara, including the project area, is in attainment with Federal Standards for ozone (O3) and particulate matter (PM10 & PM2.5). The project conforms to the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (SBCAPCD) 2010 Clean Air Plan (adopted by the EPA as the State Implementation Plan) because the project is consistent with the City's General Plan that was used to estimate ultimate emissions for the area. Although the SBAPCD does not have a threshold for temporary construction emissions, mitigation measures are recommended to reduce equipment emissions and dust during construction.</p>
<p>Farmland Protection Policy Act [7 CFR 658]</p>	<p>Compliance steps are not invoked. The project site does not include farmland, as defined by the Farmland Protection Act, which states: "Farmland does not include land already in or committed to urban development or water storage. Farmland "already in" urban development or water storage includes all such land with a density of 30 structures per 40 acre" (7 CFR658.2(a))</p>
<p>Environmental Justice [Executive Order 12898]</p>	<p>Compliance steps not invoked. The project site is suitable for the proposed use and the project would not result in an adverse human health or environmental effect on minority or low-income populations. The proposed project would be beneficial to the surrounding neighborhood because it would reduce the probability of flooding in the project vicinity.</p>

HUD Environmental Standards Determination and Compliance Documentation

<p>Noise Abatement and Control [24 CFR 51 B]</p>	<p>Compliance steps are not invoked. The project does not involve development of noise sensitive uses. The project would involve temporary noise as a result of construction. However, the project does not involve pile driving as the bridge construction would include the use of cast-in-drilled-hole piles</p>
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	instead of displacement piles. Although construction noise would be short term, several noise-related mitigation measures have been required during construction to reduce any disruption to residences neighboring the project.
Toxic/Hazardous/Radioactive Materials, Contamination, Chemicals or Gases [24 CFR 58.5(i)(2)]	Compliance steps are not invoked. The project does not involve new development for habitation. If any subsurface hazardous materials are uncovered during site excavation, standard State and local procedures and requirements would apply regarding worker safety and material disposal. The site is not on any list of known or suspected sites contaminated with toxic chemicals or radioactive materials.
Siting of HUD-Assisted Projects near Hazardous Operations [24 CFR 51 C]	Compliance steps are not invoked. A review of the State Water Resources Control Board Geotracker Database at http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/ did not reveal any active remediation activities or hazardous facilities on or near the site that would pose an explosive or flammable hazard to the site.
Airport Clear Zones and Accident Potential Zones [24 CFR 51 D]	Compliance steps are not invoked. The project is over six miles from the nearest airport (Santa Barbara Airport) and is not within the existing or proposed Runway Protection Zone identified in the City of Santa Barbara Airport Department Aviation Facilities Plan (March 2003).

Environmental Assessment Checklist

[Environmental Review Guide HUD CPD 782, 24 CFR 58.40; Ref. 40 CFR 1508.8 & 1508.27]

Evaluate the significance of the effects of the proposal on the character, features and resources of the project area. Enter relevant base data and verifiable source documentation to support the finding. Then enter the appropriate impact code from the following list to make a determination of impact. **Impact Codes:** (1) - No impact anticipated; (2) - Potentially beneficial; (3) - Potentially adverse; (4) - Requires mitigation; (5) - Requires project modification. Note names, dates of contact, telephone numbers and page references. Attach additional material as appropriate. Note conditions or mitigation measures required.

Land Development	Code	Source or Documentation
Conformance with Comprehensive Plans and Zoning	1	<p>According to the City's General Plan Map, the Land Use designation for the parcel is Open Space/Creek. The proposed restored creek is consistent with the General Plan Land Use designation.</p> <p>According to the City's Zoning Map, the project area is zoned R-3 (between Highway 101 and Punta Gorda Street) and R-4 (north of the Punta Gorda Bridge), with the majority of the uses in the area being either single-family residences or mobile homes. A small portion of the project site is zoned SD-3 (Coastal Overlay). Creeks and bridges are allowed uses and would not conflict with any requirements of these zones.</p> <p>The proposed work within the coastal zone was determined to be in substantial conformance with the existing Highway 101 Operational Improvements Project Coastal Development Permit, which was approved by the Planning Commission and found consistent with the City's Local Coastal Plan.</p>
Compatibility and Urban Impact	2	The proposed project has been approved by the Architectural Board of Review. The proposed project would improve the flow capacity of the creek and reduce the

		probability of flooding in the project vicinity, replace a bridge and restore creek habitat. Therefore, the proposed project would be beneficial to and compatible with the surrounding area.
Slope	1	The project site is gently sloping from north to south.
Erosion	1	The City's Master Environmental Assessment identifies the project site as being located in areas of both slight and moderate erosion potential. The slope stability analysis in the Geotechnical Report prepared by Fugro West, Inc., July 2010, concludes that the proposed design of the creek would result in a stable slope condition. Best Management Practices (BMPs) are required to reduce erosion during construction.
Soil Suitability	1	<p>The City's Master Environmental Assessment identifies the project site as being in an area of high liquefaction potential. According to the Geotechnical Report, prepared by Fugro West, Inc., July 2010, there is the potential for some liquefaction to occur at the Punta Gorda Street Bridge location below a depth of 28 feet. However, it was determined that the potential for the soil layers to liquefy and result in ground deformation, settlement or impacts to deep foundations is considered unlikely.</p> <p>Although the potential for liquefaction is unlikely, the potential for settlement of soils caused by liquefaction of soils in the area of the new bridge was addressed in the Geotechnical Report. The project would follow the recommendations of the report in regard to bridge foundation design.</p> <p>The City's Master Environmental Assessment identifies the project site as being located in an area that has a very low potential for landslides. According to the Geotechnical Report, the proposed design for the channel would result in stable slope conditions in the project area.</p> <p>The City's Master Environmental Assessment identifies the project site as having soils with low shrink-swell potential.</p>
Hazards and Nuisances including Site Safety	1	The proposed project would reduce the probability of flooding in the project area.
Energy Consumption	1	The proposed project would not have an impact on long-term energy consumption.

Noise - Contribution to Community Noise Levels	4	<p>The project site is in an area that is subject to average ambient noise levels of 60 dB(A) and greater, as shown on the City's Master Environmental Assessment noise contour map. The primary noise source in the area is vehicular traffic on Highway 101. There would be no long-term increase in exposure of people to the existing noise levels and no substantial noise generation is anticipated to occur as a result of the proposed project.</p> <p>The project would result in temporary construction noise due to grading and construction activities. However, the</p>
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		project does not involve pile driving as the bridge construction would include the use of cast-in-drilled-hole piles instead of displacement piles. Although construction noise would be short term, several noise related mitigation measures have been required during construction to reduce any disruption to residences neighboring the project.
Air Quality Effects of Ambient Air Quality on Project and Contribution to Community Pollution Levels	4	According to the website maintained by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) (http://www.arb.ca.gov/desig/adm/adm.htm), the County of Santa Barbara, including the project area, is in attainment with Federal Standards for ozone (O3) and particulate matter (PM10 & PM2.5). The project conforms to the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (SBCAPCD) 2010 Clean Air Plan (adopted by the EPA as the State Implementation Plan). This is because the project is consistent with the City General Plan that was used to estimate ultimate emissions for the area. Although the SBAPCD does not have a threshold for temporary construction emissions, mitigation measures would be implemented to reduce equipment emissions and dust during construction.
Environmental Design Visual Quality - Coherence, Diversity, Compatible Use and Scale	2	The proposed project would be compatible with the existing use. The creek restoration would enhance the visual quality of the creek. The project, including the bridge design, was approved by the City's Architectural Board of Review.

Socioeconomic	Code	Source or Documentation
Demographic Character Changes	1	The proposed project does not involve housing therefore; there would be no impact on the demographic character of the project area.
Displacement	1	Seven mobile homes/recreational vehicles have been located within the public right-of-way under a Revocable Encroachment Permit with the City. The encroachment permit has been terminated and all the structures within the right-of-way will be removed prior to the commencement of construction. Five of the housing units would be relocated to other areas of the park, resulting in a potential net loss of two housing units.
Employment and Income Patterns	1	The proposed project would have no impact on employment or income patterns.

Community Facilities and Services	Code	Source or Documentation
Educational Facilities	1	The proposed project would have no impact on educational facilities.
Commercial Facilities	1	The proposed project would have no impact on Commercial Facilities.
Health Care	1	The proposed project would have no impact on Health Care.
Social Services	1	The proposed project would have no impact on Social Services.

Solid Waste	4	There would be no long-term solid waste generation at the project site as a result of the project. However, there would be short-term solid waste generation due to demolition and construction activities. Mitigation measures are required to reduce the amount of materials delivered to the landfill by source reduction and recycling.
Waste Water	1	The proposed project includes the relocation of the sewer line under the proposed creek. The project would not result in an increase in sewage treatment.
Storm Water	2	The proposed project site would have a beneficial impact on storm water because there would be an increase in the flow capacity of the creek channel. Also, the project would reduce the amount of impervious surface in the project area from 7,920 square feet to 4,660 square feet due to the removal of an access driveway, thereby reducing the amount of surface runoff. The post-project peak flow rates would be less than the pre-project peak flow rates. Also, storm water filters would be installed to capture and treat the 1-inch storm runoff from the bridge. The project would not create or contribute water which would exceed the capacity of the existing stormwater drainage system or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff.
Water Supply	1	The proposed project would have no impact on water supply. The project includes relocating the existing water line and construction a new water line under the new bridge. There would be no increase in water demand. The temporary capping of the water line may affect the water pressure in the vicinity of the project. This would be a temporary impact during construction that would not be significant.
Public Safety - Police	1	The proposed project would have no impact on Public Safety - Police. According to the Plan Santa Barbara Final Environmental Impact Report, police service is operating at an adequate level.
- Fire	1	The proposed project would have no impact on Public Safety - Fire. The project includes the relocation of an existing fire hydrant. The Fire Department has reviewed the project and determined that fire access and the location of the fire hydrant is adequate.
- Emergency Medical	1	The proposed project would have no impact on Emergency Medical.
Open Space and Recreation - Open Space	2	The proposed project would have a beneficial impact on Open Space because the project would widen the channel, improve the flow capacity, and restore the creek bank.
- Recreation	1	The proposed project would have no impact on recreation. The project would not impact or interfere with other parks or public trails. The existing pedestrian path along the creek north of the Punta Gorda Bridge would remain.
- Cultural Facilities	1	The proposed project would have no impact on cultural facilities.
Transportation	3	The proposed project would have no long-term impact on

		transportation. The project includes the replacement of an existing bridge. The project would not result in a permanent increase in traffic. The project would have a short-term adverse impact due to short-term construction traffic. Staging, equipment, materials storage, and temporary construction worker parking would occur on the project site and on adjacent properties. Implementation of standard conditions of approval and recommended mitigation measures related to construction would further reduce the adverse impacts.
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Natural Features		Source or Documentation
Water Resources	1	The proposed project would not impact groundwater resources.
Surface Water	4	The proposed project could potentially impact water quality during construction if protective measures are not taken. Mitigation measures are required to ensure protection of water quality during construction (same as Biological Resources measures). The project would not result in any long term impacts to surface waters. Hydrologic analysis has been conducted for the proposed design and it has been found that the project would not result in substantial increase in erosion. While the project would decrease flow velocities in the creek, the velocities and shear stress in the channel will still be high enough to adequately move sediment in the channel bottom. The project will therefore, have a negligible change in the long term sediment carrying capacity of the creek in the project area (See attached Sediment Evaluation Report, Addendum, and Memorandum, Penfield & Smith, January 3, 2011)
Unique Natural Features and Agricultural Lands	1	The proposed project would not impact Unique Natural Features and Agricultural Lands.
Vegetation and Wildlife	4	<p>A Biological Resources Assessment Report prepared by SAIC (June 2010) and a follow up Biological Memorandum prepared by Cardno Entrix (August 2011) were prepared for the project (see attached Final Initial Study/ Mitigated Negative Declaration).</p> <p>Channel widening requires removal of most of the existing native and non-native vegetation during construction and would temporarily eliminate the shading of the creek. The project includes a Creek Restoration Plan following construction, which consists of four planting zones on each side of the creek (Water's Edge, Riprap, Riprap Edge, and Upper Bank Zones). New fast growing willows planted in the rip rap zone would, at the end of the five year maintenance period, provide a greater amount of average shading over the entire project area than currently exists, assuming these planted willows are not removed and are only pruned during maintenance activities following construction. Required mitigation measures have been included that prevent the removal of planted arroyo willow in the rip rap zone by the City or County Flood Control District as part of future maintenance until bank vegetation can be allowed to mature and provide shade to the creek.</p>

	<p>Although not observed on the project site, mitigation measures to avoid adverse effects to <i>Nasturtium gambelii</i> (Gambel's watercress) and <i>Arenaria paludicola</i> (Marsh Sandwort) are required.</p> <p>Construction activities could directly affect tidewater gobies if any are present. The channel would need to be dewatered in the work area so equipment could be operated within the channel. This would require capture and relocation of all tidewater gobies present in the work area. The creation of a low-flow channel for tidewater gobies following grading in the creek is incorporated into the project. Other measures to minimize effects on the tidewater goby are also included as mitigation measures.</p> <p>It is anticipated that California steelhead would not be affected by construction activities for the proposed project because work would be completed during the dry season when steelhead would not be migrating through the project area. However, required mitigation measures related to project timing and best management measures are required to prevent construction related impacts to steelhead in the project reach and downstream of the project.</p> <p>Other sensitive species that may be present include the Southwestern pond turtle, Cooper's hawk, yellow warbler, yellow breasted chat and Least Bell's Vireo. Mitigation measures such as biological surveys, monitoring, and relocation would protect these species.</p> <p>While all of these species would potentially be somewhat impacted temporarily by the construction of the project, implementation of the required mitigation measures would reduce impacts to less than significant and there would be no long term impacts.</p>
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Other Factors	Source or Documentation
Flood Disaster Protection Act [Flood Insurance] [§58.6(a)]	1 The property is located in Special Flood Hazard Area Zone AE identified on Flood Insurance Rate Map Panel Number 06083C1391F, dated September 30, 2005. The project would not require flood insurance because it is a creek widening, bridge replacement and creek restoration project. The project would reduce the probability and frequency of flooding in the project vicinity.
Coastal Barrier Resources Act/ Coastal Barrier Improvement Act [§58.6(c)]	1 According to the US Fish and Wildlife Service website http://www.fws.gov/cep/cbrtable.html , there are no coastal barriers along the California coast.
Airport Runway Clear Zone or Clear Zone Disclosure [§58.6(d)]	1 The project site is not within the clear zone of the nearest airport.
Other Factors	1 No additional project impacts are anticipated.

Summary of Findings and Conclusions

The proposed project would not have any substantial impacts on the environment following implementation of the required mitigation measures.

ALTERNATIVES TO THE PROPOSED ACTION

Alternatives and Project Modifications Considered [24 CFR 58.40(e), Ref. 40 CFR 1508.9]

The alternatives considered included: 1) Funding the proposed program in other areas of the City of Santa Barbara; and 2) Redesign of the project to provide a narrower channel that could provide better shading of the creek in the future.

Alternative 1 was rejected because the purpose of the project is to increase the flow capacity of this section of Sycamore Creek to reduce flooding risk since this area has experienced flooding in the past. Although other creeks could potentially benefit from similar improvements, the alternate sites would not meet the objective of this project.

Alternative 2 was rejected because widening the channel to a width of 20-feet instead of 28-feet would not result in the desired flow capacity. Benefits include the creek being shaded sooner following construction and velocities being a little higher in this area. However, these are not substantial ecological benefits that would outweigh the flood risk reduction.

No Action Alternative [24 CFR 58.40(e)]

Benefits include the avoidance of temporary construction impacts and that the funding would potentially be available for other projects. Adverse impacts from the existing conditions would continue if the project is not implemented, including flooding risk to surrounding properties and creek habitat degradation.

Mitigation Measures Recommended [24 CFR 58.40(d), 40 CFR 1508.20]

See Conditions for Approval Section above.

Attachments

- A. Project Plans
- B. Substantial Conformance Determination for Coastal Development Permit (U.S. Highway 101 Operational Improvements (Milpas to Hot Springs) Project) and Addendum to Certified Environmental Impact Report for the U.S. Highway 101 Operational Improvements (Milpas to Hot Springs) Project (April 30, 2012)
- C. SHPO Correspondence
- D. Compliance Documentation for Executive Order 11988 and 24 CFR Part 55 (Floodplain Management) and Executive Order 11990 (Wetlands Protection)
- E. Department of the Army Nationwide Permit Verification dated August 1, 2012 including Biological Opinion from US Fish and Wildlife Service (June 6, 2012) and Concurrence letter from National Marine Fisheries Service (May 1, 2012)
- F. City of Santa Barbara, Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for Lower Sycamore Creek Channel Widening and Punta Gorda Street Bridge Replacement Project (April 16, 2012)

http://www.santabarbaraca.gov/Resident/Environmental_Documents/Sycamore_Creek_and_Punta_Gorda/

Additional Studies Performed (attached)

All studies, attachments, and plans are available in file at City of Santa Barbara Community Development Department.

List of Sources, Agencies and Persons Consulted [40 CFR 1508.9(b)]

Bass, Bryon. Phase I Archaeological Resources Report. Soledad Street ROW - Sycamore Creek Project (July 2009)

City of Santa Barbara, Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for Lower Sycamore Creek Channel Widening and Punta Gorda Street Bridge Replacement Project (April 16, 2012)

Sediment Evaluation Report, Penfield & Smith, July 30, 2010 (Addendum, January 3, 2011; Memorandum, August 3, 2011)

Biological Memorandum, Cardno Entrix (August 1, 2011)

Biological Resources Assessment Report, SAIC (June 2010)

Geotechnical Report, Fugro West, Inc., (July 2010)

Biological Opinion from US Fish and Wildlife Service (June 6, 2012)

Concurrence letter from National Marine Fisheries Service (May 1, 2012)

Federal Emergency Management Agency – Flood Insurance Rate Map, Community Panel 06083C1391F dated September 30, 2005.

Environmental Protection Agency. “Designated Sole Source Aquifers in EPA Region IX.” Available at www.epa.gov/region09/water/groundwater/ssa.html.

National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Available at www.rivers.gov/wilriverslist.html.

California Air Resources Board. Available at <http://www.arb.ca.gov/desig/adm/adm.htm>.

Farmland Protection Act. Available at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2011-title7-vol6/xml/CFR-2011-title7-vol6-part658.xml>

State Water Resources Control Board Geotracker.

Available at <http://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/>

City of Santa Barbara, Aviation Facilities Plan. March 2003.

City of Santa Barbara, General Plan & Land Use Map

City of Santa Barbara, Local Coastal Plan

City of Santa Barbara, Master Environmental Assessment

City of Santa Barbara, Santa Barbara Municipal Code & City Charter

City of Santa Barbara, Zoning Ordinance & Zoning Map

California Environmental Protection Agency Cortese List.

Available at <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/SiteCleanup/CorteseList/default.htm>

US Fish and Wildlife Service maps. Available at <http://www.fws.gov/cep/cbtable.html>



Figure 1. Aerial Photo of Site

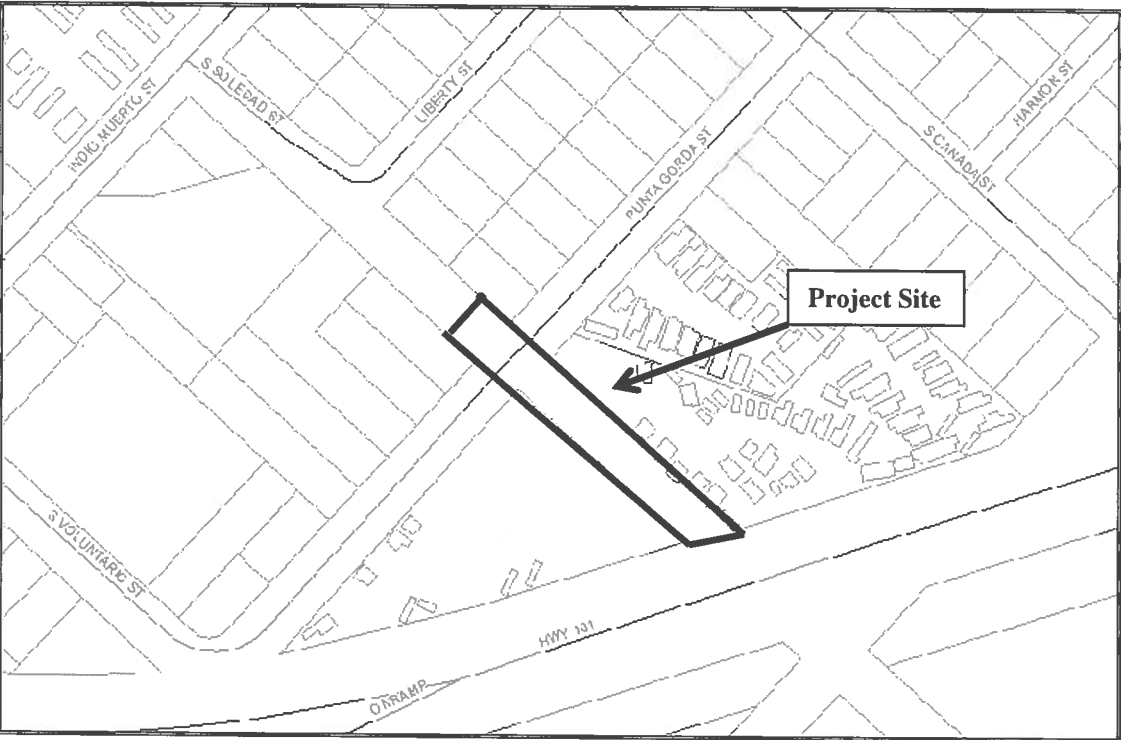


Figure 2. Project Location