

Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH #: _____

Project Title: Sacramento – Placerville Transportation Corridor Joint Powers Authority Natural Trail Project

Lead Agency: Sacramento – Placerville Transportation Corridor Joint Powers Authority (SPTC - JPA)

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Project Location: Folsom Sacramento
City County

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

The approximately 30-acre project site is located within the SPTC from milepost 116.4, within the Folsom City limits at Iron Point Road and Placerville Road in Sacramento County, southeast to milepost 119.4 at the Sacramento County Line, within portions of Sections 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, and 23, Township 9 North, Range 8 East, of the Clarksville and Folsom SE, California USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangles, 38° 37' 46.843" North, 121° 5' 37.973" West (Figure 3.3 1) (Project Site).

The Natural Trail is designed to accommodate mountain bikers, pedestrians, and equestrian users. The Natural Trail is not anticipated to be American's with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible; however, slopes would generally be as gradual as possible within the constraints of existing topography to cater to the widest range of abilities.

The proposed Natural Trail alignment would generally follow the existing informal trail, except in several locations where the actual alignment would be designed to avoid resources. In general, the proposed alignment has been identified to minimize track crossings and reduce wetland and habitat impacts.

Continued on Additional Information Sheet.

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

Potential impacts have been identified related to Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, Hydrology and Water Quality, and Noise. Proposed mitigation measures would reduce the level of all project-related impacts.

See the attached Additional Information Sheet proposed mitigation measures.

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

No known areas of controversy exist.

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife is both a trustee and responsible agency for the project.

The State Water Resources Control Board is a responsible agency for the project.

Project Description Continued:

The Natural Trail would be constructed as an unpaved trail surfaced with compacted earth or decomposed granite, uniformly graded and free of obstructions, and would generally range from three to four feet in width with two to three feet clearance of woody vegetation on either side for visibility and to avoid tripping hazards. A separation width of 10 feet from the center of the railroad track to the nearest edge of the trail has been identified as a target setback. Interpretive and wayfinding signage would be constructed as appropriate along key points of the alignment.

In areas with severe topographic slopes or spatial constraints, as may be applicable to target areas where wetland or native tree impact avoidance is desired, trail width may be reduced to two feet. Some form of slope or cut bank stabilization measures, including, but not limited to retaining walls may be required to avoid impacts and/or remain within the right-of-way. Within broad, flat areas with few wetlands or trees, trail width may be increased to six feet, if desired, to better accommodate two-way traffic.

Trail development would require approximately 21 trail crossings over aquatic features throughout the alignment. Five culverts are being added to address drainage across the trail where there are no wetlands. Wherever possible, crossings across aquatic features would be designed as free-span structures with footings located outside of the jurisdictional boundaries of the aquatic feature, or would be replacements for existing culverts. Potential wetland crossings range in width from under two feet to about 30 feet. Small drainages could be crossed via culverts or puncheons (rail-less bridges constructed of pressure treated timber). Larger drainages would require multi-plate, con-span structures, or full bridges.

Development of the proposed Natural Trail would also require a single rail crossing. This rail crossing would eventually be developed as a road crossing when development of the Folsom South of 50 Specific Plan Area is completed. The crossing would be adequately posted with warning signs for both trail users and railroad operators. The Natural Trail would also intersect three additional proposed future roads when development of the Folsom South of 50 Specific Plan Area is completed. Signage for both trail users and motorists will be posted to ensure safety and may include one or more of the following components:

- Striping;
- Signage; and/or
- High-Intensity Activated Cross Walk (HAWK) Signal.

Project construction is planned to commence during spring/summer 2016, and would involve a combination of hand and mechanical labor for construction of the main trail alignment, combined with rail-mounted equipment for any areas requiring more intensive construction practices anticipated to be limited to proposed crossings at aquatic features and areas where bridges are proposed.

Construction staging would occur within the SPTC or in adjacent public road right-of-ways.

It is a priority to ensure that the Natural Trail within the SPTC is used properly. To ensure proper use, the SPTC – JPA will:

- Work with volunteers and public safety agencies to establish patrols for the purpose of educating natural trail users on proper shared trail etiquette, environmental stewardship, and safe trail use.
- Install bollards and gated fences at access points to keep motorized vehicles out; removable bollards and restricted-access gates will allow access for maintenance and emergency vehicles.

Potentially Significant Effects and Proposed Mitigation Measures:

Air Quality

The following Mitigation Measures (MM) have been identified to reduce potential impacts air quality relevant to the Proposed Project:

- MM AQ – 1:** Prior to commencement of ground-disturbing activities, the SPTC – JPA will implement on-site inspections by a qualified geotechnical specialist to determine if naturally occurring asbestos is present within the proposed construction footprint required for development of the Proposed Project. If naturally occurring asbestos (NOA) is present, SPTC – JPA will assume responsibility for and/or require contractors to implement all feasible mitigating measures identified to reduce the health risks related to potential exposure to NOA.

Biological Resources

The following Mitigation Measures (MM) have been identified to reduce potential impacts to biological resources relevant to the Proposed Project:

- MM BIO – 1:** To ensure that fully protected species are not injured or disturbed by construction in the vicinity of nesting habitat, the applicant shall implement the following measures:

If construction is proposed during the raptor breeding season (March 1 through September 1), a pre-construction raptor nest survey shall be conducted within 30 days prior to the beginning of construction activities by a qualified biologist. The results of the survey should be submitted to California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). If no active nests are found, no further mitigation is required. If active nests are found, a quarter-mile (1320 feet) initial temporary nest disturbance buffer area shall be established. If project related activities within the temporary nest disturbance buffer are determined to be necessary during the nesting season (March 1 through September 1), then an on-site biologist/monitor experienced with raptor behavior shall be retained by the project proponent, consult with CDFW to determine the best course of action necessary to avoid nest abandonment or take of individuals. Work may be allowed to proceed within the temporary nest disturbance buffer if raptors are not exhibiting agitated behavior as determined by the on-site biologist/monitor.

- MM BIO – 2:** A qualified biologist shall conduct a minimum of two protocol level preconstruction surveys during the recommended survey periods immediately prior to the anticipated commencement of construction activities, in accordance with the *Recommended Timing and Methodology for Swainson's Hawk Nesting Surveys in California's Central Valley* (Swainson's Hawk Technical Advisory Committee 2000). The qualified biologist shall conduct surveys for nesting Swainson's hawk in the project alignment and within 0.25 miles of construction activities where legally permitted. If no active Swainson's hawk nests are identified on or within 0.25 miles of construction activities within the recommended survey periods, a letter report summarizing the survey results will be submitted to the applicant and the CDFW within 30 days following the final survey, and no further mitigation for nesting habitat is recommended.

If active Swainson's hawk nests are found within 0.25 miles of the project alignment, the biologist will contact the applicant and the CDFW within one day following the pre-construction survey to report the findings. Construction activities include heavy equipment operation associated with construction or other project-related activities that could cause nest abandonment or forced fledging within 0.25 miles of an active nest site. Should an active nest be present within 0.25 miles of construction areas, then the CDFW will be consulted to establish an appropriate noise buffer, develop take avoidance

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measures, and implement a monitoring and reporting program prior to any construction activities occurring within 0.25 miles of the nest. The monitoring program will include an onsite biologist to monitor all grading activities and work associated with crossing installation that occur within the established buffer zone to ensure that disruption of the nest or forced fledging does not occur.

- MM BIO – 3:** Migratory birds protected under 50 CFR 10 of the MBTA and/or Section 3503 of the California Fish and Game Code, including grasshopper sparrow and white-tailed kite have the potential to nest within the trees within the riparian woodland and within the annual grassland. Foraging habitat is not protected for these species as well as for tricolored blackbird. Vegetation clearing operations, including pruning or removal of trees and shrubs for trail clearing, should be completed between September 1 to February 14, if feasible. If vegetation removal begins during the nesting season (February 15 to August 31), a qualified biologist shall conduct a pre-construction survey for active nests within 500 feet of the project alignment. The pre-construction survey will be conducted within 14 days prior to commencement of any vegetation removal. If the pre-construction surveys show that there is no evidence of active nests, then no additional measures are recommended. If construction does not commence within 14 days of the preconstruction survey, or halts for more than 14 days, an additional pre-construction survey would be recommended.

If any active nests are located within the vicinity of the project site, an appropriate buffer zone will be established around the nests. The biologist will delimit an appropriate buffer zone with construction tape or pin flags and maintain the buffer zone until the end of the breeding season or the young have successfully fledged. Buffer zones are typically 100 feet for migratory bird nests. If active nests are found on site, a qualified biologist will monitor nests weekly during construction to evaluate potential nesting disturbance by construction activities. Guidance from the CDFW would be recommended if establishing the typical buffer zone is impractical.

- MM BIO – 4:** The non-native annual grassland within the Project Site provides habitat for potentially occurring non-listed special-status plants including: Brandegees clarkia (blooms May through July), Ahart's dwarf rush (blooms March through May), dwarf downingia (blooms March through May), Jepson's woolly sunflower (blooms April through June), and Tuolumne button-celery (blooms June through August). A qualified botanist shall conduct two botanical surveys of the Project Site some time between March and May and again in June, within the blooming period for potentially occurring special status plants. A letter report shall be submitted to the applicant within 30 days following the bloom survey to document the results. If no special-status plants are observed, then no additional measures are recommended.

If any of the non-listed special-status plants occur within the project site, they shall be avoided to the extent feasible. If the plants cannot be avoided, a mitigation plan shall be prepared in consultation with the CDFW. At minimum, the mitigation plan will include locations where the plants will be transplanted in suitable habitat adjacent to the project site, success criteria, and monitoring activities. The CDFW must approve the mitigation plan prior to transplantation and commencement of construction activities.

- MM BIO – 5:** A qualified biologist shall conduct a preconstruction survey for California red-legged frog (CRF) within 14 days prior to the start of construction inputting trail crossings or work associated with riparian areas. If construction does not commence within 14 days of the pre-construction survey or halts for more than 14 days, a new survey will be required. If no CRF are found, no additional measures are required. If CRF are found, consultation with USFWS would be required. Construction will be delayed until the USFWS authorizes the work.

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- MM BIO – 6:** Within 14 days prior to the start of ground disturbance, a qualified biologist shall conduct a pre construction survey for Western pond turtles. Ground disturbance includes any grading any work associated with constructing trail crossings. If construction does not commence within 14 days of the pre-construction survey or halts for more than 14 days, a new survey will be required. If no Western pond turtles are found, no additional measures are required. If Western pond turtles are found, consultation with the CDFW is recommended to determine avoidance measures. These measures may include having a qualified biologist onsite during construction activities and work associated crossing installation for the purpose of relocating any species found within the construction footprint to suitable habitat away from the construction zone, but within the vicinity of the project site.
- MM BIO – 7:** A qualified biologist shall conduct burrowing owl surveys during the peak breeding season (April 15 and July 15), in accordance with the *2012 California Department of Fish and Game Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation* (2012 Staff Report) (CDFG 2012). The survey area includes an approximately 500-foot (150-meter) buffer around the project alignment, where access is permitted. The report will be submitted to the CDFW, as indicated in the 2012 Staff Report. If the surveys are negative, then no additional measures are recommended.
- If active burrows are observed within 500 feet of the project alignment, an impact assessment will be prepared and submitted to the CDFW, in accordance with the 2012 Staff Report. If it is determined that project activities may result in impacts to nesting, occupied, and satellite burrows and/or burrowing owl habitat, the applicant will consult with the CDFW and develop a detailed Avoidance and Minimization Plan to mitigate such that the habitat acreage, number of burrows, and burrowing owls impacted are replaced. The mitigation plan will be based on the requirements set forth in Appendix A of the 2012 Staff Report.
- MM BIO – 8:** A qualified biologist shall conduct pre-construction surveys for special-status bat species within 14 days prior to the start of ground disturbance and tree or shrub removal for trail widening. If no bats are observed, then no additional measures are recommended. If construction does not commence within 14 days of the pre-construction survey or halts for more than 14 days a new survey will be required. If bats are found, consultation with the CDFW is recommended to determine avoidance measures. Recommended avoidance measures include establishing a buffer around the roost tree until it is no longer occupied. If the bat is roosting in a tree anticipated for removal, then that tree will not be removed until a biologist has determined that the tree is no longer occupied by the bat.
- MM BIO – 9:** A qualified biologist shall conduct a pre-construction survey for the western spadefoot toad within 14 days prior to the start of construction. If construction does not commence within 14 days of the pre-construction survey or halts for more than 14 days, a new survey will be required. If no toads are found, no additional measures are required. If toads are found, consultation with CDFW would be required. Construction will be delayed until the CDFW authorizes the work.
- MM BIO – 10:** A qualified biologist shall conduct a preconstruction survey for the American badger within 14 days prior to the start of construction. If construction does not commence within 14 days of the pre-construction survey or halts for more than 14 days, a new survey will be required. If no badgers are found, no additional measures are required. If badgers are found, consultation with CDFW would be required. Construction will be delayed until the CDFW authorizes the work. If no badgers are found, no additional measures are required. If badgers are found, consultation with CDFW would be required. Construction will be delayed until the CDFW authorizes the work.

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MM BIO – 11: Placement of permanent or temporary fill in waters of the U.S. is regulated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) under Section 404 of the Federal Clean Water Act. The SPTC – JPA shall coordinate with the Corps in order to obtain the applicable permits for activities resulting in temporary and/or permanent impacts to waters of the U.S. The project shall comply with the Corps “no-net-loss” policy and the conditions of a Nationwide or Individual Permit authorization by the Corps.

Any discharge into waters of the U.S. is also subject to regulation by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) pursuant to Clean Water Act Section 401. The SPTC – JPA shall also coordinate with the RWQCB in order to obtain a Water Quality Certification.

MM BIO – 12: Pursuant to Fish and Game Code §1602, the SPTC – JPA shall notify the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) prior to any activity which may result in impacts to the streamzone. The SPTC – JPA will coordinate with CDFW in order to obtain a 1600 Streambed Alteration Agreement, if applicable, for impacts to the bed, bank or channel of onsite drainages and/or any riparian areas.

Cultural Resources

The following Mitigation Measures (MM) have been identified to reduce potential impacts to cultural resources relevant to the Proposed Project:

MM CR – 1: The proposed trail and trail construction shall avoid the archaeologically sensitive areas at Locus A (White Rock Station Site) of the Sacramento and Placerville Railroad (P-34-00455/P-9-4794).

MM CR – 2: Construction of the proposed trail crossing of White Rock Road shall avoid any excavation that would disturb, damage, or destroy the concrete pavement of the old Lincoln Highway that may underlie the existing asphalt.

MM CR – 3: An archaeologist who meets the Secretary of the Interior’s Professional Qualifications Standards shall monitor trail construction at the railroad’s Locus A and any trail construction-related excavation into White Rock Road. The qualified archaeologist shall have the authority to stop work if necessary to protect the integrity of the site.

MM CR – 4: Should buried archaeological deposits or artifacts be inadvertently exposed during the course of any construction activity, work shall cease in the immediate area and the Sacramento County Department of Environmental Review shall be immediately contacted for inadvertent discovery of resources associated with trail construction between mileposts 117.9 and 119.4 and that the City of Folsom Planning Division be immediately contacted for inadvertent discovery of resources associated with trail construction between mileposts 116 and 117.9. A qualified archaeologist will be retained to document the find, assess its significance, and recommend further treatment. Work on the Project Site shall not resume until the archaeologist has had a reasonable time to conduct an examination and implement mitigation measures deemed appropriate and necessary by the agency with local jurisdiction in consultation with the qualified archaeologist to reduce impacts to a less than significant level.

MM CR – 5: If evidence of a paleontological site is uncovered during grading or other construction activities, work shall be halted within 100 feet of the find and the Sacramento County Department of Environmental Review shall be contacted for inadvertent discovery of resources associated with trail construction between mileposts 117.9 and 119.4 and that the City of Folsom Planning Division be contacted for inadvertent discovery of resources associated with trail construction between mileposts 116 and 117.9. A qualified paleontologist shall be retained to conduct an on-site evaluation and provide

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recommendations for removal and/or preservation. Work on the Project Site shall not resume until the paleontologist has had a reasonable time to conduct an examination and implement mitigation measures deemed appropriate and necessary by the agency with local jurisdiction in consultation with the qualified paleontologist to reduce impacts to a less than significant level.

- MM CR – 6:** In the event that any human remains or any associated funerary objects are encountered during construction, all work will cease within the vicinity of the discovery and the Sacramento County Department of Environmental Review shall be immediately contacted for inadvertent discovery of resources associated with trail construction between mileposts 117.9 and 119.4 and that the City of Folsom Planning Division be immediately contacted for inadvertent discovery of resources associated with trail construction between mileposts 116 and 117.9. In accordance with CEQA (Section 1064.5) and the California Health and Safety Code (Section 7050.5), the Sacramento County coroner should be contacted immediately. If the human remains are determined to be Native American, the coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission, who will notify and appoint a Most Likely Descendent (MLD). The MLD will work with a qualified archaeologist to decide the proper treatment of the human remains and any associated funerary objects. Construction activities in the immediate vicinity will not resume until a notice-to-proceed is issued.

Geology and Soils

The following Mitigation Measures (MM) have been identified to reduce potential impacts to geology and soils relevant to the Proposed Project:

- MM GEO – 1:** The SPTC – JPA shall apply for and comply with all construction-related storm water permitting, monitoring and reporting requirements defined by the RWQCB under NPDES, as applicable to project development at the time of construction of proposed improvements/facilities.
- MM GEO – 2:** Annually, prior to October 15 (the onset of the rainy season), the SPTC – JPA shall inspect and repair cut slopes and off-trail use areas within the corridor. Repairs should be targeted at eliminating any areas subject to erosion, as well as improper drainage and areas likely to form gullies during the rainy season

Hydrology and Water Quality

The following Mitigation Measures have been identified to reduce potential impacts to hydrology and water quality relevant to the Proposed Project:

Compliance with **Mitigation Measure GEO – 1, Mitigation Measure GEO – 2, and Mitigation Measure BIO – 11** would reduce potential impact to a less than significant level.

Noise

The following Mitigation Measures (MM) have been identified to reduce potential impacts to noise relevant to the Proposed Project:

- MM Noise – 1:** Construction activities occurring within the jurisdiction of the City of Folsom shall be limited to: Monday through Friday 7:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. and 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. on Saturday and Sunday. Construction activities within the jurisdiction of Sacramento County shall be limited to: 6:00 A. M. and 8:00 P.M. Monday through Friday and between 7:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M. on Saturday and Sunday. Any exceptions to these hours shall be evaluated on a case by case basis and require approval by the appropriate jurisdictional authority.

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