

MENDOCINO COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

----- *DRAFT until approved by Board of Supervisors on March 11, 2008* -----

TOMKI ROAD PROTOTYPE VENTED LOW WATER CROSSING /
SEDIMENT REDUCTION & HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

DATE: March 11, 2008

Project Description

This project proposes to replace the ford at the most southerly ford across Cave Creek with a vented low water crossing.

(A vented ford is a low-water stream crossing that has conduit(s), in this case an open-bottom arch conduit(s), under the crossing to accommodate low flows without overtopping the road; high water may periodically flow over the crossing. An unvented ford (no pipes) is a structure that crosses streams that are dry most of the year or where normal stream flow is less than six inches in depth; it can be placed to conform with the stream bed or can be raised as much as four feet above the stream bed. [R.A. Lohnes, et. al. Low water stream crossings: Design and Construction Recommendations. Ames, Iowa, Center for Transportation Research and Education, Iowa State University, 2001.])

The proposed structure, a pre-manufactured open-bottom arch culvert will improve instream conditions in the following manners; keep the traffic out of the stream bed thus reducing sediment impacts to in-stream habitat, allow anadromous fish passage of all life stages in both directions, and allow stream bed material to work its way downstream in a manner that helps to maintain normal stream geomorphologic conditions.

The proposed structure will be 20' wide, 4' high opening, and 60' long. The structure will be designed to pass a 10-year storm event without overtopping, (10% chance of occurrence) and further designed to pass the 100 year storm event (1% chance of occurrence) without structural damage.

This particular crossing, at MP 6.17, was selected because it is likely to be needed whether or not the road is realigned in the future. Construction will require closure of the road and a detour on other local roads during a 30-day construction period. For environmental reasons, the construction window will fall between July 15 and October 15.

Determination

In accordance with Mendocino County's procedures for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the County has conducted an Initial Study to determine whether the proposed project may have a significant adverse effect on the environment. On the basis of that study, it has been determined that:

Although the project, as proposed, could have had a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because mitigation measures required for the project will reduce potentially significant effects to a less than significant level; therefore, it is recommended that a **MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION** be adopted.

The attached Initial Study incorporates all relevant information regarding the potential environmental effects of the project and confirms the determination that an EIR is not required for the project.