

1.1 INTRODUCTION AND REGULATORY GUIDANCE

This document is an Initial Study (IS) with supporting environmental studies, which provides justification for a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the Safe Routes to School – Bridge Over Laguna Creek project (project).

The IS/MND is a public document to be used by the City of Elk Grove (City), acting as the CEQA lead agency, to determine whether the project may have a significant effect on the environment pursuant to CEQA. If the lead agency finds substantial evidence that any aspect of the project, either individually or cumulatively, may have a significant effect on the environment that cannot be mitigated, regardless of whether the overall effect of the project is adverse or beneficial, the lead agency is required to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), use a previously prepared EIR and supplement that EIR, or prepare a subsequent EIR to analyze the project at hand.

If the agency finds no substantial evidence that the project or any of its aspects may cause a significant impact on the environment with mitigation, a MND shall be prepared with a written statement describing the reasons why the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment, and therefore, why it does not require the preparation of an EIR (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15371).

According to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15070, an ND shall be prepared for a project subject to CEQA when either:

- 1) *The IS shows there is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the proposed project may have a significant effect on the environment, or*
- 2) *The initial study identifies potentially significant effects, but:*
 - a) *Revisions in the project plans or proposals made by, or agreed to by the applicant before the proposed MND and initial study are released for public review would avoid the effects or mitigate the effects to a point where clearly no significant effects would occur, and*
 - b) *There is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the proposed project as revised may have a significant effect on the environment.*

This IS/MND has been prepared in accordance with the CEQA, Public Resources Code Section 21000 *et seq.*, and the State CEQA Guidelines Title 14 California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15000 *et seq.*

1.2 LEAD AGENCY

The lead agency is the public agency with primary responsibility over a proposed project. Where two or more public agencies will be involved with a project, CEQA Guidelines Section 15051 provides criteria for identifying the lead agency. In accordance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15051(b)(1), "The lead agency will normally be the agency with general governmental powers." The City of Elk Grove Public Works Department has initiated preliminary design of the project and it requires approval from the Elk Grove City Council. Therefore, based on the criteria described above, the lead agency for the proposed project is the City.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.3 PURPOSE AND DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION

The purpose of this IS/MND is to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Safe Routes to School – Bridge over Laguna Creek Project. Mitigation measures have also been established that reduce or eliminate any identified significant and/or potentially significant impacts. This document is divided into the following sections:

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This section provides an introduction and describes the purpose and organization of this document.

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This section provides a project background, a detailed description of the proposed project, the process used for notifying and involving the public during project planning, and describes coordination with relevant agencies and organizations.

3.0 INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

This section describes the environmental setting for each of the environmental subject areas, evaluates a range of impacts classified as "no impact", "less than significant", "less than significant with mitigation incorporated", or "potentially significant" in response to the environmental checklist, and provides mitigation measures, where appropriate, to mitigate potentially significant impacts to a less than significant level; and provides an environmental determination of the project.

4.0 SUMMARY OF MITIGATION MEASURES

This section provides a summary of mitigation measures for the proposed project.

5.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

This section identified staff and consultants responsible for preparation of this document.

6.0 REFERENCES

This section identifies resources used in the preparation of this document.