

## **ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES TO BE UNDERTAKEN FOR MEADOW WAY BRIDGE'S REPLACEMENT**

Since the project is federally funded, National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) requires a series of environmental studies, including those concerning plants, animals, wetlands, water quality, air quality, noise, visual resources and cultural resources. California Environmental Quality Act CEQA (studies) will further develop and present these studies to satisfy the state requirements. Caltrans has determined the NEPA document to be developed will reflect Categorical Exclusion (CE) with required technical studies. For CEQA, the document will be Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND).

We anticipate that any significant impacts identified can be fully mitigated to a less than significant level and therefore an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not anticipated to be required.

The sensitive and threatened species, as well as non-sensitive environmental issues, are as follows

1. Northern Spotted Owl (NSO) is a federally and state-listed Threatened Species. It has a high level protection protocol.
2. Central California Coast Steelhead is very well protected. The window of work in the creek is now known to be limited to after June 30<sup>th</sup> and before October 15<sup>th</sup> each year.
3. Coho salmon is protected even though it has been established that it has been extirpated from these waters.
4. The Migratory Birds Act requires studies.
5. There are no protected bats associated with the site.
6. There are no red-legged or Foothill Yellow-Legged Frogs associated with the site
7. There are no threatened or otherwise protected plants associated with the site.

Item 2 above has a profound effect on our construction window, effectively making Meadow a 2-season project. Normally we count on the permissible season to start April 15<sup>th</sup>, giving us 6 months to build the bridge out of the water. We now know we have 3 ½ months each season only.