

decontaminate its equipment with a high-pressure washer and properly dispose of the wastewater and debris prior to entering GGNRA lands.

## **2.5 NON-RELEVANT TOPICS**

As part of the environmental analysis conducted for the project, the following environmental issues were considered, but no adverse impacts were identified. Consequently, there is no further discussion regarding these issues in this document.

### **2.5.1 HUMAN ENVIRONMENT**

#### **Growth**

This project would not foster economic or population growth. The project does not include the construction of additional housing units, nor would it indirectly result in such construction.

The project does not involve any changes in the existing use of the Bridge or the land surrounding the Bridge. It will not affect the location, distribution, density or growth rate of the human population of the area. Therefore, the project will not have an affect on growth.

#### **Farmlands / Timberlands**

There are no farmlands or timberland in the project area. The project will not convert prime farmland, unique farmland or farmland of statewide importance to non-agricultural uses. It will not conflict with any existing Williamson Act contract nor will it conflict with a Timber Production Zone contract. Therefore, the project will not have an affect on farmlands or timberlands.

#### **Community Impacts**

##### **Community Character and Cohesion**

The project does not involve any changes in the existing use of the Bridge or the land surrounding the Bridge. The project will not affect lifestyles, neighborhood character or stability of surrounding communities, nor will it divide or disrupt an established community.

##### **Relocations**

The project does not involve any changes in the existing use of the Bridge or the land surrounding the Bridge; it will not affect existing housing, require

the acquisition of residential improvements, cause the displacement of people or create a demand for additional housing.

### **Environmental Justice**

The project does not involve any changes in the existing use of the Bridge or the land surrounding the Bridge; it will not affect minority, low-income, elderly, handicapped, transit-dependent or other specific interest groups.

The project will not affect employment, industry or commerce or require the displacement of business or farms; nor will it affect property values, the local tax base or community facilities. The project would not support large commercial or residential development.

### **Utilities / Emergency Services**

The project would not contribute any waste to existing wastewater and solid waste disposal facilities and would therefore not contribute to the need for new treatment facilities. The project would not exceed wastewater treatment requirements as it would not cause an increase of run-off, nor would it require new stormwater capacities. No water demand would be generated by the project. Therefore, the project will not have an affect on public utilities.

The project would have no operational affect on police, fire, emergency or other public services.

### **Traffic and Transportation/Pedestrian and Bicycle Facilities**

The project does not involve any changes in the existing use of the Bridge or the land surrounding the Bridge, it will not affect traffic and circulation, alter present patterns of movement of people and/or goods, create traffic, exceed LOS standards, require a detour for bike or pedestrian traffic or result in the alterations to waterborne, rail or air traffic.

## **2.5.2 PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT**

### **Hydrology and Floodplain**

No encroachment within the Bay or 100-year floodplain would result from the project. All project activities would occur on the Bridge or on temporary construction staging areas located outside of the 100-year floodplain.

The project would not deplete groundwater, as it would generate no demand for water supply. It would not substantially alter drainage patterns

or create substantial run-off which would result in flooding on- or off-site. The project would not cause inundation by seiche, tsunami or mudflow. Therefore, the project will not have an affect on hydrology or create floodplain hazards.

### **Water Quality and Stormwater Run-Off**

The project would not result in additional sources of pollutants commonly found in highway run-off, as no increase in traffic on the Bridge would occur. The project would have no affect on drainage patterns, or the rate and amount of surface run-off; it would not increase impervious surface area at the project site. The project would not affect the current discharge levels into the Bay or other bodies of water, nor would it violate any water quality standards.

### **Geology/Soils/Seismic/Topography**

The project does not involve any changes in the existing use of the Bridge or the land surrounding the Bridge; it would not expose people or structures to potential effects from the rupture of a known earthquake fault, strong seismic ground shaking, seismic related ground failure, liquefaction or landslides. The Seismic Retrofit Project is currently being implemented at the Bridge to increase earthquake safety, see Section 2.1, Land Use for more information about this project.

The project would not result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil; be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable; result in lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse; or be located on expansive soil. There are no unique geologic or physical features on the project site. Therefore, the project will not have an affect on geology, soils, topography or create seismic hazards.

### **Paleontology**

Nothing in the design of the project includes elements that would affect paleontological resources as none exist at the project site, and no earth disturbance activities will occur at the off-site construction staging areas where paleontological resources may occur. Therefore, the project will not have an affect on paleontological resources.

### **Hazardous Waste/Materials**

Nothing in the design of the project includes elements that would result in the violation of any standards pertaining to hazardous waste and there is no potential for the project to affect people or the environment due to hazardous waste as none is located on or proposed to be located on the project site. The proposed build alternatives for the project will either add

on to the Bridge outside handrail, replace the outside handrail or add a net system to the outside of the Bridge below the outside handrail. There will be no excavation or construction activities on the lands below or around the Bridge. The proposed staging areas are all located on lands that have been previously disturbed and are covered with either asphalt concrete or gravel. Excavation will not occur in the staging areas and the surfaces of the staging areas do not contain hazardous materials (District, 2008; see Appendix E).

Potential effects relating to hazardous materials associated with project construction are addressed in Section 2.6.7 Construction Impacts.

### **Air Quality**

Pursuant to Code of Federal Regulations 40 CFR 93.126, this project is exempt from the requirement of an air quality conformity determination. Nothing in the design of the project includes elements that would conflict with applicable air quality plans, violate air quality standards, result in net increase of any criteria pollutant which the project region is currently in non-attainment for, expose sensitive receptors to pollutant concentrations or create objectionable odors. The project would not result in changes in air movement, moisture, or temperature, or any climatic conditions.

Potential effects on air quality associated with project construction activities are discussed in Section 2.6, Construction Impacts.

### **Noise**

Nothing in the design of the project includes elements that would result in the exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of established standards or to the generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels. The project would not result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project.

During construction the project would not substantially affect existing noise levels on the Bridge. Construction noise impacts are discussed in Section 2.6, Construction Impacts.

### **Energy**

The project involves no planned use of natural resource beyond fuel and energy needed during construction activities, thus the project would not result in an increase of fuel or energy use in large amounts or in a wasteful manner, an increase in the rate of use of any natural resource or in the substantial depletion of any nonrenewable natural resource. Therefore, the project will not have an effect on energy resources.