

Technical memorandum

October 16, 2026

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Copy to	Chet Jamgochian, Sonoma County Public Infrastructure	Email	Brian.Bacciarini@ghd.com
From	Brian Bacciarini, GHD	Project no.	12650706
Project name	Bohemian Highway Bridge Retrofit		
Subject	Revised Section 4(f) Determinations Memorandum		

1. Introduction

The Bohemian Highway Bridge Retrofit Project (Bridge No. 20C0018; County Project No. C11009; Federal Project No. STPLZ-5920(135)) is located in the unincorporated community of Monte Rio in Sonoma County, California. The existing bridge was constructed in 1934 and carries Bohemian Highway over the Russian River approximately 0.10 mile south of State Route 116. The approximately 770-foot-long bridge serves as a transportation connection between Bohemian Highway and SR 116 and spans over public recreational resources managed by the Monte Rio Recreation and Park District (MRRPD) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).

Under a previously evaluated project, the County of Sonoma, in cooperation with Caltrans, proposed to replace the existing Bohemian Highway Bridge with a new bridge that would address long-term infrastructure, mobility, safety, community, and public use needs. Beginning in 2016, the County of Sonoma and Caltrans advanced the replacement project through Project Approval / Environmental Document (PA/ED), including preparation of geotechnical investigations, hydraulic studies, surveying, type selection analyses, and environmental documentation. Environmental clearance for the replacement project included an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). As part of the NEPA documentation, a Programmatic Section 4(f) Evaluation was completed that analyzed the project's effects on nearby park, recreation, and other protected resources.

The prior replacement project was subsequently discontinued in 2023 after additional engineering evaluations and site constraints demonstrated that the proposed replacement structure would not be eligible for funding under the Caltrans Seismic Retrofit Program. Following termination of the replacement effort, the Caltrans Office of Earthquake Engineering conducted a re-evaluation of the existing structure and prior technical studies and recommended a reduced-scope seismic retrofit strategy consistent with the objectives of the Seismic Retrofit Program. Based on this revised approach, Caltrans authorized funding for preliminary engineering and right of way activities associated with the retrofit project.

The revised project would seismically retrofit the existing bridge and would substantially reduce the construction footprint, duration, and potential effects on adjacent park and recreation resources compared to the previously approved replacement project.

This memorandum re-evaluates Section 4(f) resources analyzed for the previously approved bridge replacement project and documents the appropriate Section 4(f) determination for the revised bridge retrofit project. The memorandum also evaluates newly proposed staging and access areas and documents the basis for the revised Section 4(f) determinations associated with the current retrofit project. Resources are evaluated to determine whether the project would result in a de minimis use, qualify for the temporary occupancy exception, or result in no use under Section 4(f).

2. Project Description

2.1 Previously Evaluated Project

The previously evaluated project involved replacing the existing Bohemian Highway Bridge over the Russian River. The preferred alternative consisted of construction of a new steel-tied arch bridge just west of the existing bridge, followed by demolition of the old bridge. The proposed new bridge was to clear-span the low-flow channel of the Russian River, eliminating existing piers from the main flow channel of the river.

The project was expected to be completed over three construction seasons. The project area included several public recreational resources, including the Monte Rio Fishing Access, MRRPD beaches (Big Rocky, Sandy, Dutch Bill Creek), Koret Park, Riverfront Meadow, and the MRRPD River Boulevard and Main Street Site. The project also considered the adjacent Rio Theater, a potentially historic property.

The project was anticipated to require the permanent acquisition of approximately 0.06 acres of right of way within the Monte Rio Fishing Access paved parking area (on CDFW lands, APN 094-100-035) for the new northern bridge approach, and an additional 0.04 acres for permanent right of way adjacent to the northern bridge approach. In the beach and river areas, permanent right of way impacts were anticipated to include approximately 0.01 acre for replacement bridge columns on the beach and 0.27 acres for the new bridge structure and associated right of way over the beach.

The Section 4(f) resources impacted by these permanent right of way needs included the Monte Rio Fishing Access (primarily the CDFW parcel), MRRPD Big Rocky and Sandy Beaches (APNs 094-110-002 and 094-110-001), and Dutch Bill Creek Beach (APN 095-160-001). There were no permanent right of way impacts anticipated for the MRRPD-owned portion of the Monte Rio Fishing Access parking area (APN 094-100-046), Koret Park, Riverfront Meadow, or the MRRPD River Boulevard and Main Street Site. Temporary use of parks and parking areas for construction staging and access were also determined to be required. All anticipated permanent right of way acquisitions were coordinated with the officials having jurisdiction (CDFW and MRRPD), and the project included measures to minimize harm and provide a net benefit to the affected Section 4(f) resources.

2.2 Revised Project Description

The revised project would seismically retrofit the existing bridge to meet current seismic safety standards and reduce the risk of collapse during a major earthquake. Proposed improvements include:

- Construct new reinforced concrete support structures behind both bridge abutments to provide additional stability and help prevent failure of the bridge during a seismic event.
- Strengthen existing steel connections within the bridge superstructure using new steel plates, bolts, and rods.
- Install new steel ties between bridge spans to help keep bridge components connected and functioning together during an earthquake.
- Install new steel ties connecting the bridge to the new support structures behind each abutment.
- Extend the bridge seats at both abutments to provide additional support and reduce the potential for bridge unseating during seismic movement.

- Install cable restrainers between the bridge superstructure and support piers to help prevent excessive movement during an earthquake.
- Restore roadway pavement and embankment areas disturbed by construction activities.

The revised project would have a much shorter construction duration, approximately four to six months rather than the approximately three years needed for previously evaluated bridge replacement. Potential staging areas have been identified on parcels 095-170-020 (MRRPD River Boulevard and Main Street), which was previously described as a 4(f) site, and on parcel 094-124-004, which is located along Church Street and is not considered a Section 4(f) resource (see Figure 1, Area of Potential Effects Map).

During construction, the bridge would be closed to traffic. Traffic would be detoured via Moscow Road, the existing Moscow Road crossing of the Russian River located approximately 2.3 miles southwest of the Bohemian Highway crossing, and State Route 116. Construction of the support structure behind the southern abutment would require a temporary closure of the intersection of River Boulevard, Bohemian Highway, and Main Street. Traffic would be detoured via Bohemian Avenue, Bohemian Highway, Fir Road, and Main Street. Work at the southern abutment is anticipated to take approximately 1 to 2 months.

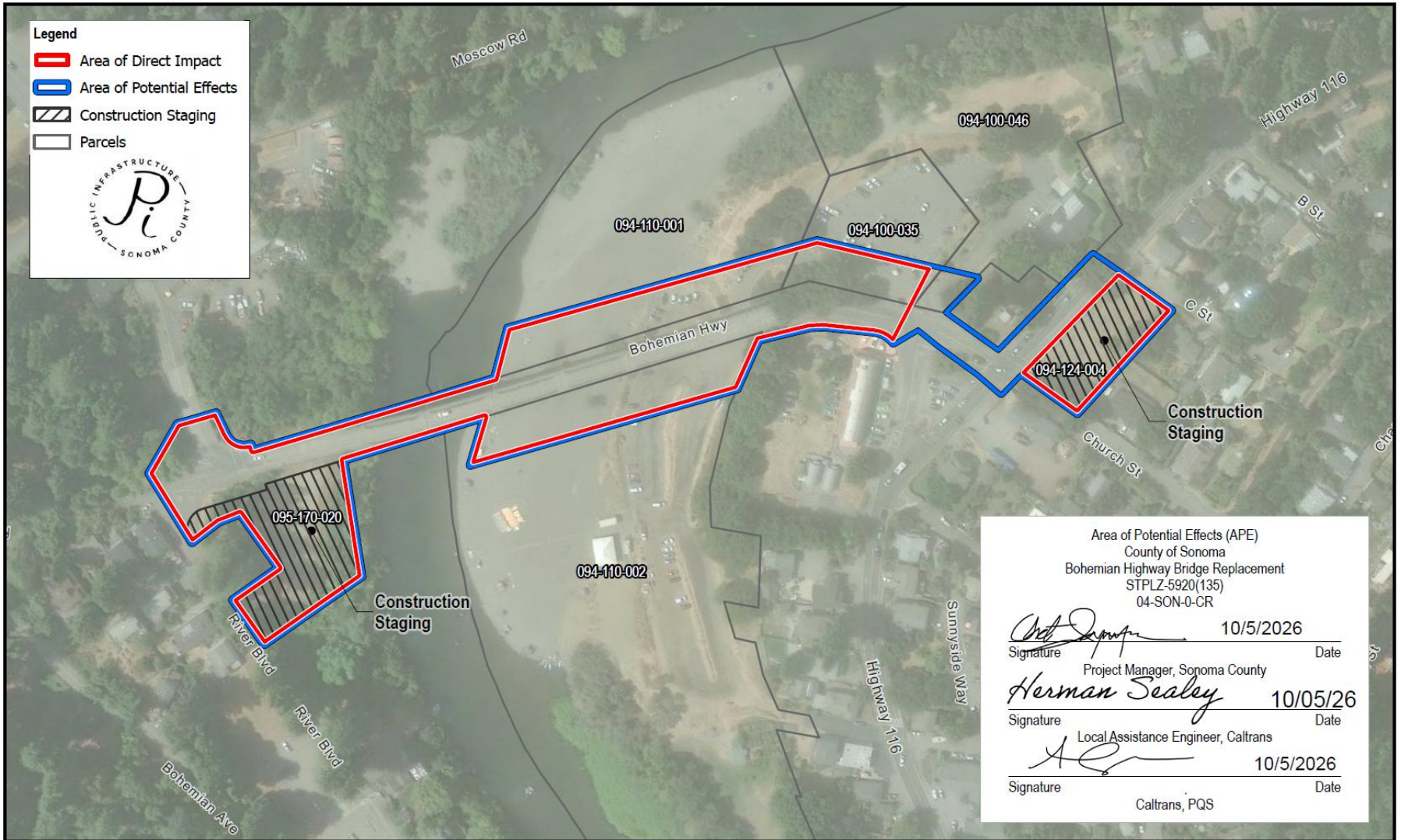
Temporary construction easements would be required to accommodate construction access, staging, and work activities (see Figure 1, Area of Potential Effects Map). No permanent right of way acquisitions are anticipated for the revised project.

3. Description of Section 4(f) Resources

Resources subject to Section 4(f) consideration include publicly owned lands consisting of public park/recreational areas; public wildlife and waterfowl refuges of national, state or local significance; or historic sites of national, state, or local significance, whether publicly or privately owned. Under Section 4(f), a significant historic site is defined as on, or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

The proposed project is adjacent to Section 4(f) resources including the MRRPD beaches and associated properties, including the Monte Rio Fishing Access. The Monte Rio Fishing Access supports a boat ramp, stairs, restrooms and a paved parking area. The improvements comprising the Monte Rio Fishing access are located on two parcels, one owned by the MRRPD (APN094-100-046) and one owned by CDFW (APN 094-100-035). The Monte Rio Fishing Access paved parking area is predominately within the CDFW parcel, with a small portion (0.09 acres) of the paved parking area on the MRRPD parcel. CDFW has an Operating Agreement with MRRPD to manage (including operation and maintenance activities) the paved parking lot as part of the recreation area that occupies both CDFW and MRRPD parcels. The Rio Theater, which appears eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Properties (GPA Consulting, 2021) is also briefly addressed here, however, there is no 4(f) use of the theater and it will be addressed further as a part of the Section 106 consultation process between Caltrans and the State Historic Preservation Office as described below.

The Section 4(f) properties described below were identified as part of the original evaluation. Since completion of that evaluation, there has been no change in the number or types of Section 4(f) properties identified within the project area. The locations of these properties are shown on Figure 2, Location of 4(f) Resources.



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Map Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic
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County of Sonoma
 Bohemian Highway Bridge Replacement
 STPLZ-5920(135)
 04-SON-0-CR

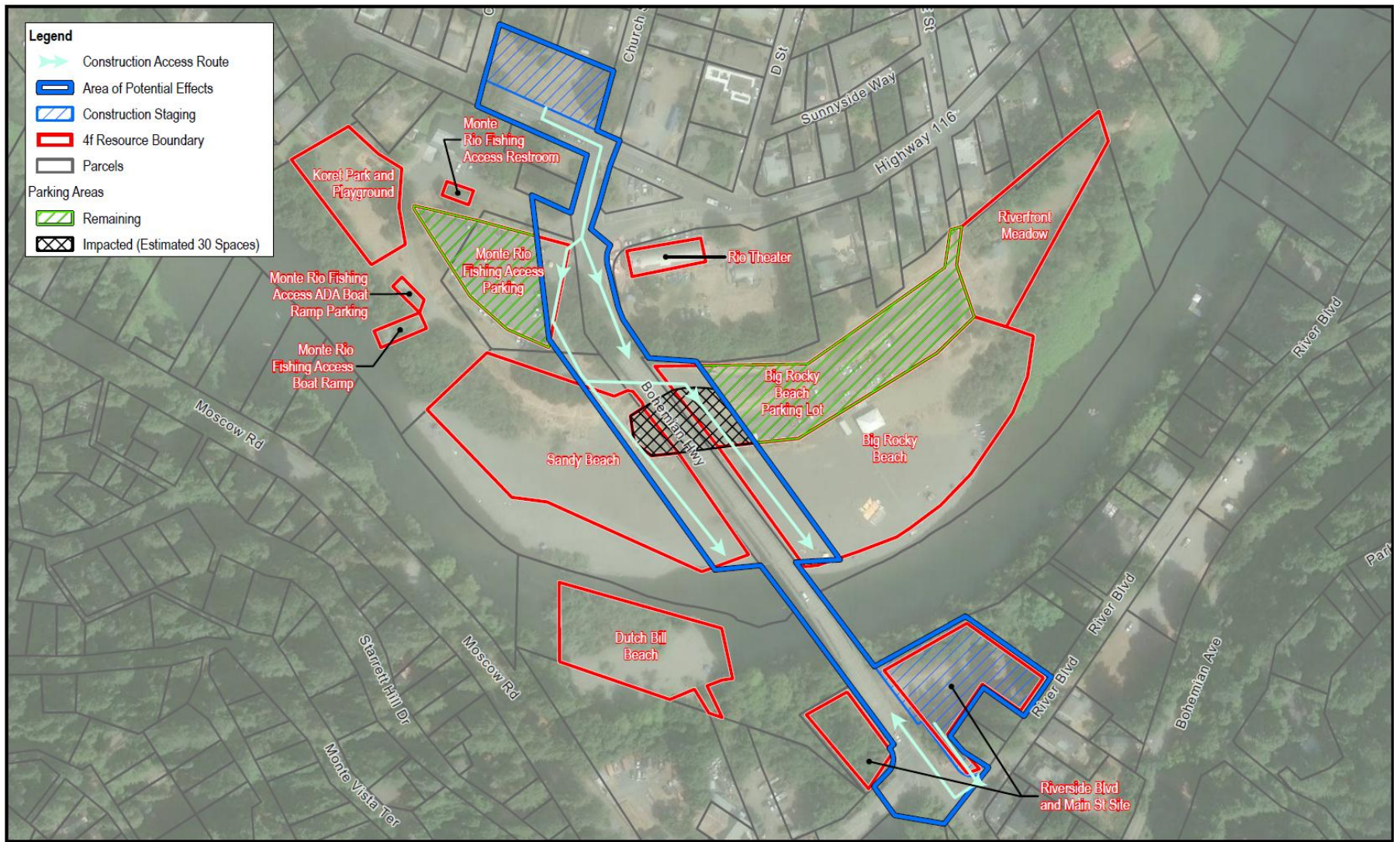
Project No. 12650706
 Revision No. -
 Date Oct 2026

Area of Potential Effects Map

FIGURE 1

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County of Sonoma
Bohemian Highway Bridge Replacement
STPLZ-5920(135)
04-SON-0-CR

Project No. 12650706
Revision No. -
Date Sep 2026

Location of 4(f) Resources

FIGURE 2

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World Imagery: Microsoft, Vantor. Created by: ethompson3

3.1 MRRPD and CDFW Resources

The MRRPD was created under California Public Resources Code, Article 2, Chapter 3, Division 5 as a county recreation district and reorganized in 1960 under the revised State of California Public Resources Code, Section 5780.11. The MRRPD was established with the mission of fostering and managing river-oriented recreation and operation of the beach areas (MRRPD, 2006).

The CDFW is a state agency under the California Natural Resources Agency. The Department of Fish and Wildlife manages and protects the state's wildlife, wildflowers, trees, mushrooms, algae (kelp) and native habitats (ecosystems). The department is responsible for regulatory enforcement and management of related recreational, commercial, scientific, and educational uses. The department also prevents illegal poaching.

Map, Size and Location of MRRPD and CDFW Properties - The MRRPD district boundaries encompass an area of approximately 3.5 square miles and extend along an approximately two mile stretch of the Russian River, with the existing Bohemian Highway Bridge bisecting many of the MRRPD properties. Recreational facilities of the MRRPD located at or adjacent to the Bohemian Highway Bridge include the Monte Rio Beaches, the Monte Rio Fishing Access (excluding the paved parking area on the parcel owned by CDFW), the Monte Rio Community Center, Koret Park; and the currently undeveloped parcels referred to as the River Boulevard and Main Street Sites, described in further detail below and shown on Figure 3B. Additional MRRPD facilities in the general project vicinity include Riverfront Meadow, Creekside (Skate) Park; Monte Rio Amphitheater; Dutch Bill Creek Trail, several community gardens; and tennis and basketball courts.

MRRPD and CDFW Existing and Planned Facilities (Description, Location and Function) - MRRPD beaches and facilities are used by seasonal and permanent residents as well as tourists. Summer events such as the Fourth of July fireworks, water curtain, boat parade, and Big Rocky Games (beach and water games); Memorial Day and Fire Department BBQs; car shows; festivals, and other events bring large crowds to the beach area and MRRPD facilities.

MRRPD and CDFW facilities in the immediate project vicinity include:

- **MRRPD Beaches (Big Rocky, Sandy and Dutch Bill Creek Beaches)** – Monte Rio Beach is the largest public beach on the lower Russian River. On the north side of the river, Big Rocky Beach (APN 094-110-002) is located east of the Bridge and Sandy Beach (APN 094-110-001) is located west of the Bridge. Big Rocky Beach supports a summertime food concession and boat rental. Big Rocky Beach is on the same parcel together with the Riverfront Meadow (an area used for daytime events, including weddings and festivals); an unimproved parking lot that lies just north of Big Rocky Beach (in between the beach and Riverfront Meadow); and public restrooms with an accessibility ramp located between the Big Rocky Beach parking area and Riverfront Meadow. Dutch Bill Creek Beach (APN 095-160-001) is located on the south side of the Russian River.

The MRRPD beaches comprise the largest public beach along the lower Russian River and are ADA accessible. There are traditional Fourth of July events, including “Big Rocky Games” (children’s games), BBQ, lighted boat parade and fireworks.

- **CDFW and MRRPD Monte Rio Fishing Access** – The Monte Rio Fishing Access consists of a boat ramp, an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) access and a paved parking spot adjacent to the boat ramp, an access road, and two sets of stairs on MRRPD lands (APN 094-100-046) together with a paved parking area located primarily on State of California (Department of Fish and Wildlife [CDFW]) lands (APN 094-100-035). With the exception of the paved parking area on CDFW state lands, all of the Monte Rio Fishing Access amenities are on the same large (4.6 acre) MRRPD owned parcel (APN 094-100-046) together with the Monte Rio Community Center, Koret Park and Playground, and Public Restrooms described further below.

The Monte Rio Fishing Access was constructed with Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) funds in the 1950s and improved several times, including improvements to the boat ramp in the 1970s with Land and Water Conservation Fund Act (LWCFA) funds. The exact boundary of the improvements is unknown, although it appears improvements were limited to the “concrete boat launching ramp” itself

(Caltrans 2021). Section 6(f) of the Department of Transportation Act prohibits the conversion of properties acquired or developed with LWCF funds to a non-recreational purpose without prior approval from the Department of the Interior's (DOI) National Park Service. However, the proposed project does not include any permanent or temporary uses of the concrete boat ramp and no coordination with DOI is anticipated for this project.

The MRRPD has operated and maintained the Monte Rio Fishing Access facilities through an agreement with the State throughout most of the facilities' existence. In 2005, the State of California, through CDFW, and MRRPD signed a fifteen (15) year "Operating Agreement for Monte Rio Fishing Access." This agreement expired in 2020. CDFW and MRRPD are currently in coordination on a new agreement.

- **MRRPD Koret Park and Playground** - Koret Park is just west of the Monte Rio Community Center and includes a play structure, grills, and picnic tables. An outdoor public restroom is located between the Monte Rio Fishing Access paved parking area and Koret Park. The Community Center and its parking area, Koret Park and Playground, Monte Rio Fishing Access, and the outdoor restrooms are all on the same parcel (094-100-046) (with the exception of the portion of the Monte Rio Fishing Access paved parking area on State/CDFW lands (094-100-035).
- **MRRPD Riverfront Meadow** – Riverfront Meadow is located at the east end of Big Rocky Beach. This area is suitable for daytime events, and can be rented for weddings and festivals. It is within the same parcel as Big Rocky Beach (APN 094-110-002). An accessibility ramp is available from the unpaved parking lot between Big Rocky Beach and Riverfront Meadow up to the public restrooms that are located on the edge of the Riverfront Meadow. A community garden is located adjacent to the restrooms.
- **MRRPD River Boulevard and Main Street Site** – The River Boulevard and Main Street Site is comprised of three parcels on the south end of the bridge, two on the east side (APNs 095-170-020 and 095-170-021) and one on the west (APN 095-160-007). The site is publicly accessible from River Boulevard by pedestrians and there are foot trails leading to the river and Dutch Bill Creek. There is a gated driveway entrance that is open for vehicle access and parking during large MRRPD events. MRRPD has conceptual plans to develop this site as a future camping area, with campsites accessible by boat, bikes, vehicles and on-foot via a connection with a future continuation of the Dutch Bill Creek Trail. Additional amenities proposed include day use picnic areas and park shelter.

Access and Usage - Access to the MRRPD facilities is by private vehicle, public bus, walking, boating, swimming, and bikes. Parking is provided at multiple locations, including the Monte Rio Fishing Access paved parking area, in front of the Community Center, and in the large unimproved parking area adjacent to Big Rocky Beach. The River Boulevard/Main Street site is used for overflow parking during large events

Vehicle and pedestrian access to the MRRPD beaches on the north side of the river is provided through the Monte Rio Fishing Access paved parking area and access road, directly to the west of the northern bridge approach. The Monte Rio Fishing Access, access road crosses under the existing bridge and leads to the unpaved parking lot adjacent to Big Rocky Beach east of the existing bridge. There are also pedestrian trails leading from the Monte Rio Fishing Access paved parking area directly to Sandy Beach. There is a smaller parking area that serves the MRRPD Community Center, located immediately in front of the MRRPD Community Center, and separated from the larger Monte Rio Fishing Access paved parking lot by public restrooms and landscaping.

Another access road located at the east end of the Big Rocky Beach unpaved parking lot connects to E Street, and then SR 116. The E Street access road is closed to vehicles with a locked gate and generally available only for pedestrians. The gate is opened for vehicles exiting the unpaved parking lot during large public events, such as the Fourth of July fireworks at the beach. Access to Dutch Bill Creek Beach on the south side of the bridge is through an unimproved footpath next to Noel's Automotive on Main Street. This access has bollards at the entrance, which may be removed for emergency vehicles to reach the beach. In the past, anglers interested

in vehicular boat trailer access to the upstream side of the riffle have been provided with seasonal access through the bollards at the start of the access path to the beach.

During the 2021 summer season, there were approximately 1,696 boat rentals. This is slightly less than 2019, pre-Covid, when boat rentals were 1,758 (MRRPD, 2022). However, since many visitors use the beach without renting boats, and one boat rental may be for more than one person, it is estimated that beach use is higher than boat rental records show, especially during holiday weekends and for special community events and gatherings such as Fourth of July when there are large crowds.

Relationship to Similarly used Lands in the Vicinity - Similarly used lands in the area include public and private beaches along the Russian River between the towns of Forestville and Jenner, including numerous Sonoma County Regional Park beaches (Steelhead Beach, Forestville River Access, Sunset Beach River Park, and Guerneville River Park), the privately owned Johnson's Beach and many undeveloped beach areas that are accessed through public trail easements.

Unusual Characteristics of the Property that Enhance or Reduce its Value – Unlike other developed beaches in the vicinity, there is no charge to park at MRRPD beaches or use the beach and facilities. The MRRPD beach offers a unique public beach experience with boat rental, food concessions and developed restroom facilities not available at other public beaches in the area. The existing bridge's piers are located in the river channel, which create scour pools, a potential safety issue for swimmers that is not an issue for other nearby beaches. The existing bridge structure and piers currently separate Big Rocky and Sandy beaches.

3.2 Rio Theater

The Rio Theater located at 20396 Bohemian Highway, Monte Rio was evaluated for eligibility for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places in the Historical Resources Evaluation Report (HRER) for the Bohemian Highway Bridge over Russian River Replacement Project (GPA Consulting, 2021a). The HRER concludes that the Rio Theater is eligible at the local level of significance under Criterion C. A building is significant under this criterion if it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; represents the work of a master; possesses high artistic values; or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.

The HRER indicated the boundaries of the theater are the footprint of the building. (Note: the proposed project would not affect or use the footprint of the building). Contributing elements include its massing, setback and siting on the parcel, distinctive façade, barrel arch Quonset Hut form, all windows and exterior doors. Noncontributing elements include the new rear patio that extends from the rear elevation. The Rio Theater is not designated under any local landmark programs.

Based on the results of the draft HRER, the theater is expected to be considered a historic property under Section 106. However, the boundaries of the Rio Theater listing are limited to the footprint of the building (GPA 2021) and the proposed revised project work is limited to the edge of the northwest corner of the property, outside the limits of the building and the parcel. Therefore, there will be no 4(f) permanent or temporary occupancy of the property. Best management practices (BMPs) to mitigate construction noise impacts will be implemented (summarized below and detailed in Section 10). Therefore, there will not be any 4(f) constructive use of the theater.

4. Previously Identified Section 4(f) Resources

4.1 Summary of 2022 Programmatic Section 4(f) Evaluation

A Final Programmatic Section 4(f) Evaluation was completed in August 2022 for the Bohemian Highway Bridge over the Russian River Replacement Project. The evaluation considered recreational resources owned or managed by the MRRPD and CDFW, including Big Rocky Beach, Sandy Beach, Dutch Bill Creek Beach, the Monte Rio Fishing Access, Koret Park and Playground, Riverfront Meadow, and the MRRPD River Boulevard

and Main Street Site. With implementation of minimization measures, the evaluation concluded that project effects on the beach areas, fishing access, and MRRPD River Boulevard and Main Street Site would result in a net benefit through improved public access, recreational amenities, and removal of existing bridge piers from the river channel, while Koret Park and Playground, Riverfront Meadow, and the Rio Theater would experience no Section 4(f) use.

The identified minimization measures included maintaining access to recreational facilities, providing replacement parking, implementing public safety protections around work areas, maintaining river access through designated portage routes, minimizing construction noise, and restoring or enhancing disturbed recreational areas following construction. MRRPD and CDFW concurred that the replacement project met the criteria for a Programmatic Net Benefit Section 4(f) determination.

Table 1 summarizes the Section 4(f) resources evaluated for the previously approved bridge replacement project and the findings documented in the August 2022 Final Programmatic Section 4(f) Evaluation.

Table 1 Section 4(f) Resources and Prior Findings from the 2022 Programmatic Section 4(f) Evaluation

Resource	Ownership	Resource Type	Prior Finding
Big Rocky, Sandy and Dutch Bill Creek Beaches	MRRPD	Public Beaches - The MRRPD beaches comprise the largest public beach along the lower Russian River and are ADA accessible. There are traditional Fourth of July events, including "Big Rocky Games" (children's games), BBQ, lighted boat parade and fireworks	Net Benefit
Monte Rio Fishing Access	MRRPD and CDFW	Boat ramp, ADA access and paved parking area	Net Benefit
Koret Park and Playground	MRRPD	Public Park with play structure, grills, picnic tables	No Use
Riverfront Meadow	MRRPD	Daytime rentals for weddings and festivals, community garden	No Use
River Boulevard and Main Street Site	MRRPD	Pedestrian access to beaches, riverfront, future camping proposed by MRRPD	Net Benefit
Rio Theater	Private Entity	Theater uses	No Use

5. Summary of Revised Section 4(f) Findings

Table 2 summarizes the Section 4(f) findings for each resource evaluated in this memorandum. The table is intended to clarify the distinction between MRRPD and CDFW park and recreation resources proposed for de minimis findings, no-use determinations, or the temporary occupancy exception.

Table 2 Summary of Section 4(f) Resources and Proposed Determinations for the Revised Retrofit Project

Resource	Ownership/Jurisdiction	Project Interaction	Proposed Section 4(f) Finding
Big Rocky, Sandy, and Dutch Bill Creek Beaches	MRRPD	Temporary construction-related use with access maintained and avoidance / minimization measures implemented	De Minimis Impact Finding
Monte Rio Fishing Access	MRRPD and CDFW	Temporary contractor access / drive aisle only; no staging, storage, parking displacement, facility displacement, or permanent impacts anticipated	Temporary Occupancy Exception
Koret Park and Playground	MRRPD	No temporary or permanent use	No use
Riverfront Meadow	MRRPD	No temporary or permanent use	No use
River Boulevard and Main Street Site	MRRPD	Temporary staging / use of APN 095-170-020, with avoidance / minimization measures implemented	De Minimis Impact Finding
Rio Theater	Private Entity	No temporary or permanent use	No use

6. Evaluation of Staging Areas

Proposed staging areas would be located on parcel 095-170-020, which is adjacent to Bohemian Highway and River Boulevard and parcel 094-124-004, which is located off Highway 116 and Church Street.

MRRPD owns the parcel 095-170-020, which is currently undeveloped and is located at the southeastern edge of the existing bridge. This parcel was previously evaluated in the prior Programmatic Section 4(f) evaluation. The site is publicly accessible from River Boulevard by pedestrians and there are foot trails leading to the river and Dutch Bill Creek. There is a gated driveway entrance that is open for vehicle access and parking during large MRRPD events. MRRPD has conceptual plans to develop this site as a future camping area, with

campsites accessible by boat, bikes, vehicles and on-foot via a connection with a future continuation of the Dutch Bill Creek Trail. Additional amenities proposed include day use picnic areas and park shelter. This site is not currently a public park, but does provide informal river access and recreational value. It is not an historic property.

Parcel 094-124-004 is zoned Residential and is currently a vacant, undeveloped lot, and is not a 4(f) resource. It was not previously evaluated as a 4(f) resource and it falls under the jurisdiction of the County of Sonoma.

7. Section 4(f) Resources Resulting in De Minimis Determinations for Revised Project

7.1 MRRPD Beaches (Big Rocky, Sandy and Dutch Bill Creek Beaches)

The MRRPD beaches comprise the largest public beach complex along the lower Russian River and include Big Rocky Beach (APN 094-110-002) and Sandy Beach (APN 094-110-001) on the north side of the river, and Dutch Bill Creek Beach (APN 095-160-001) on the south side. Although Dutch Bill Creek Beach would not experience a Section 4(f) use or temporary occupancy, it is included in this analysis because it is considered part of same Section 4(f) property as Big Rocky and Sandy Beaches (MRRPD beaches) for consistency with the previous evaluation.

Big Rocky Beach encompasses approximately 6.62 acres, Sandy Beach approximately 2.90 acres, and Dutch Bill Creek Beach approximately 2.71 acres. The project would temporarily affect approximately 0.43 acre of Big Rocky Beach, representing approximately 6.5 percent of the beach. It would temporarily affect approximately 0.41 acre of Sandy Beach, representing approximately 14 percent of the beach. No permanent or temporary impacts would occur at Dutch Bill Creek Beach.

Big Rocky Beach includes a seasonal food concession and boat rental operation and is located on the same parcel as Riverfront Meadow, an unimproved parking area, and ADA-accessible public restrooms. The project would not affect the food concession, boat rental operation, nor public restrooms. The beaches support a variety of recreational uses and community events, including annual Fourth of July celebrations, children's games, a barbecue, lighted boat parade, and fireworks.

Big Rocky and Sandy Beaches would experience temporary, limited use during bridge retrofit construction. Although portions of these beaches would be temporarily used for construction access and staging, public access to the beach and river would be maintained throughout construction via the Monte Rio Fishing Access and existing beach access roads and driveways. Construction areas would be separated from public use areas with fencing, K-rail barriers, signage, or similar measures. Protective overhead coverings would be installed where public access routes pass beneath construction activities, and traffic control personnel would be provided where necessary.

Dutch Bill Creek Beach would not be used for construction access, staging, or other project activities and would not experience temporary occupancy, access restrictions, or permanent effects. Dutch Bill Creek Beach would not experience a Section 4(f) use.

The Big Rocky Beach unpaved parking lot is on MRRPD lands and supports an estimated 106 standard parking spaces primarily serving the Monte Rio beaches 4(f) property. Approximately 30 parking spaces are anticipated to be temporarily impacted in the Big Rocky Beach Parking Lot (Figure 1). To offset temporary parking reductions at Big Rocky Beach, Sonoma County has committed to increasing parking efficiency by delineating parking stalls within the existing unpaved parking area, subject to MRRPD review and approval. In addition, buffer areas surrounding construction, access, and staging areas would be designated as publicly prohibited areas and clearly marked to protect public safety.

Overall, the project would result in a minor, temporary use of Big Rocky and Sandy Beaches during construction, with no permanent impacts to parking or Section 4(f) resources. The project would not alter the recreational activities, features, or attributes that qualify the property for protection under Section 4(f). With implementation of the avoidance and minimization measures described above, the project would not adversely affect the protected resource. Therefore, Caltrans anticipates making a de minimis impact finding for the MRRPD beaches following public review and coordination.

7.2 MRRPD River Boulevard and Main Street Site

The MRRPD River Boulevard and Main Street Site consists of three parcels at the south end of the bridge, including two parcels east of River Boulevard [APN 095-170-020 (0.73 acre) and APN 095-170-021 (0.09 acre)], and one parcel west of River Boulevard, [APN 095-160-007 (0.31 acre)]. Together, the three parcels encompass approximately 1.13 acres. The site is publicly accessible by pedestrians from River Boulevard and contains paths providing access to the Russian River and Dutch Bill Creek. A gated driveway provides vehicle access and parking during large MRRPD events. MRRPD has identified the property as a potential future recreation site, with conceptual plans for campsites, day-use picnic areas, a park shelter, and a future connection to an extension of the Dutch Bill Creek Trail. The primary 4(f) value of this property is in its future use. However, at present there is informal use which is also considered in this analysis.

For the purposes of this analysis, the entire 0.73-acre parcel associated with APN 095-170-020 is assumed to be available for construction staging throughout the approximately four- to six-month construction period. APNs 095-170-021 and 095-160-007 would not be occupied or otherwise affected. Use of the entire APN 095-170-020 parcel would represent approximately 64.6 percent of the 1.13-acre River Boulevard and Main Street Site, while the two unaffected parcels total approximately 0.40 acre, or 35.4 percent of the site. During construction, the staging area would preclude pedestrian access across APN 095-170-020 to the Russian River and Dutch Bill Creek, and the parcel would not be available for overflow parking during MRRPD events. The temporary use would not extend beyond the 0.73-acre parcel. Following construction, disturbed areas would be restored to pre-project conditions and pedestrian access and overflow parking use would resume.

The temporary use would restrict existing pedestrian access and eliminate the parcel's availability for overflow parking during construction; however, these effects would be limited to the approximately four- to six-month construction period and would not permanently alter the property's recreational function or potential for future recreational development. The remaining two parcels comprising the River Boulevard and Main Street Site would remain available, and access and overflow parking on APN 095-170-020 would be restored following construction. With implementation of project avoidance and minimization measures, the project would not adversely affect the activities, features, or attributes that qualify the property for protection under Section 4(f). Therefore, Caltrans anticipates making a de minimis impact finding for this resource following completion of public review and consultation.

8. Resources Evaluated Relative to the Requirements of Section 4(f): No-Use Determination

MRRPD Koret Park and Playground, MRRPD Riverfront Meadow, and the Rio Theater were previously evaluated for the prior bridge replacement project. Under the revised bridge retrofit project, these resources would not be used for construction, staging, access, or permanent improvements and would not experience a Section 4(f) use.

8.1 MRRPD Koret Park and Playground

Koret Park and Playground is located west of the Monte Rio Community Center and includes a playground, picnic tables, grills, and adjacent public restrooms. The park is located on the same MRRPD-owned parcel

(APN 094-100-046) as the Monte Rio Community Center, Monte Rio Fishing Access, and associated parking facilities.

The project would not require occupancy or use of Koret Park and Playground and would not affect park facilities, recreational activities, or public access during construction or operation. As a result, the project would not adversely affect the activities, features, or attributes that qualify the property for protection under Section 4(f). Therefore, the project would result in no use of this Section 4(f) property.

8.2 MRRPD Riverfront Meadow

Riverfront Meadow is located adjacent to Big Rocky Beach on the MRRPD-owned parcel (APN 094-110-002). The meadow is used for daytime recreational events and may be reserved for weddings, festivals, and other community gatherings. An ADA-accessible route connects the adjacent unpaved parking area to public restrooms located along the edge of the meadow, and a community garden is located adjacent to the restroom facilities.

The project would not require occupancy or use of Riverfront Meadow and would not affect the meadow, associated recreational activities, public access, event functions, or supporting facilities during construction or operation. As a result, the project would not adversely affect the activities, features, or attributes that qualify the property for protection under Section 4(f). Therefore, the project would result in no use of this Section 4(f) property.

8.3 Rio Theater

The Rio Theater was identified in the previous Section 4(f) evaluation as a historic property that appears eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The revised bridge retrofit project would not require temporary or permanent occupancy of the Rio Theater property and would not affect access to, or the activities, features, or attributes that contribute to its historic significance. The revised project would result in no use of this Section 4(f) property, and Caltrans anticipates making a no-use determination for the Rio Theater.

9. Section 4(f) Temporary Occupancy Exception

Pursuant to 23 CFR 774.13(d), temporary occupancy of a Section 4(f) property is not considered a use if five criteria are met. The Monte Rio Fishing Access facility was evaluated against these criteria and qualifies for the temporary occupancy exception, as described below.

9.1 Resource Description

The Monte Rio Fishing Access consists of a public boat ramp, ADA-accessible parking and access facilities, an access road, and stairways providing access to the Russian River. The facility is located primarily on MRRPD property (APN 094-100-046), with the associated paved parking area located primarily on CDFW property (APN 094-100-035). The Monte Rio Fishing Access shares the MRRPD parcel with the Monte Rio Community Center, Koret Park and Playground, and public restrooms. MRRPD has operated and maintained the fishing access facility under agreements with the State of California for much of the facility's existence. In 2005, CDFW and MRRPD executed a 15-year Operating Agreement for Monte Rio Fishing Access, which expired in 2020. CDFW and MRRPD are currently coordinating on a new agreement.

9.2 Proposed Temporary Occupancy

The Monte Rio Fishing Access facility would be used only as a temporary contractor access route during bridge retrofit construction. The contractor would use existing paved access roads and parking lot travel aisles. No staging, material storage, equipment parking, grading, vegetation removal, or permanent construction activities would occur on the property. No public parking spaces, recreational facilities, or access would be permanently

displaced. The project would not require any permanent improvements, property acquisition, or physical alterations to the fishing access property.

9.3 Temporary Occupancy Analysis

The proposed use of the Monte Rio Fishing Access facility would be temporary, minor in scope, and would not result in permanent physical impacts or interference with the property's recreational function. The property would remain in its pre-project condition following construction, and concurrence would be obtained from MRRPD and CDFW as the officials with jurisdiction.

- **Criterion i – Temporary Duration:** Use of the facility would be limited to construction access during the bridge retrofit and would cease upon completion of construction. No permanent easements or changes in ownership would occur.
- **Criterion ii – Minor Scope:** The temporary occupancy would be limited to contractor travel through existing paved circulation areas. No recreational facilities would be displaced, and no modifications to the property would be required to accommodate construction access.
- **Criterion iii – No Adverse Physical Impacts:** The project would not result in grading, vegetation removal, or physical alterations to the property. Recreational functions of the Monte Rio Fishing Access would be maintained, and the temporary access use would not adversely affect the activities, features, or attributes of the resource.
- **Criterion iv – Restoration:** Because no physical disturbances or modifications are proposed on the parcels, restoration would not be necessary. Upon completion of construction, the property would remain in the same condition as prior to project implementation.
- **Criterion v – Official with Jurisdiction Agreement:** Caltrans will coordinate with MRRPD and CDFW, the officials with jurisdiction over the facility, and obtain documentation of concurrence regarding the temporary occupancy determination.

Therefore, Caltrans anticipates determining that the proposed temporary occupancy qualifies for the exception provided in 23 CFR 774.13(d) and does not constitute a use of a Section 4(f) property.

10. Measures to Minimize Harm to Section 4(f) Properties

Although the revised project consists of a seismic retrofit of the existing bridge rather than bridge replacement, several avoidance and minimization measures identified in the previous Programmatic Section 4(f) Evaluation remain relevant and are incorporated into the project to minimize temporary effects on Section 4(f) resources.

- **Temporary Parking during Construction**
To minimize temporary effects on recreational access, Sonoma County will coordinate with MRRPD regarding any temporary reductions in parking associated with construction activities. If parking reductions at Big Rocky Beach occur, the County will implement measures to maintain recreational access during construction, which may include delineating parking stalls within the existing unpaved parking area to improve parking efficiency and capacity. Proposed methods of delineating parking stalls may include concrete wheel stops, signage, concrete markers, fabric strips affixed to the ground, or other methods subject to review and approval by MRRPD. Any temporary parking restrictions will be communicated to the public in advance of construction activities.
- **Implementation of Safety Protection Measures for Recreational Beach and Water Users**
To minimize and avoid temporary effects on recreational beach and water users, public access will be restricted within active construction, access, and staging areas. These areas will be designated as "publicly prohibited areas" and will be delineated with fencing, barriers, signage, or other appropriate measures to limit access and protect public safety during construction activities. Where public access

routes cross or are adjacent to construction areas, additional safety measures, such as traffic control personnel, protective barriers, or temporary coverings, will be implemented as necessary.

- **Traffic Control during Construction**

During construction of the seismic retrofit, the Bohemian Highway Bridge would be closed to vehicular traffic and a signed detour route would be implemented. Sonoma County and its contractor will implement traffic control measures, detour signage, and advance public notification to facilitate safe travel through and around the project area. The County will coordinate with local emergency service providers, including fire protection districts, law enforcement, emergency medical responders, and other agencies as appropriate, regarding bridge closure schedules, detour routes, emergency access needs, and emergency evacuation considerations. Access to MRRPD and CDFW recreational facilities, including the Monte Rio Fishing Access and beach resources, will be maintained to the extent feasible during construction, and advance notice will be provided for temporary access restrictions or changes affecting recreational users.

- **Construction Noise Minimization Avoidance and Minimization**

Short-term construction activities would require motorized construction equipment that would result in potential noise impacts to MRRPD recreational beach and water users. Noise avoidance, minimization and mitigation measures include conformance to Section 14-8.02, "Noise Control," of the Caltrans Standard Specifications. Other minimization measures include:

- Use of a muffler for internal combustion engines
- Construction activities, excluding activities required to occur without interruption or activities that would pose a significant safety risk to workers or citizens, or in the event of an emergency, shall be limited to between the daytime hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. No work would be allowed on holidays. Weekend work may be allowed, on a limited basis, with prior approval from the Department of Transportation and Public Works, during the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Weekend work would be under extenuating circumstances (such as equipment breakdown or other unexpected events requiring immediate correction to prevent an unsafe or unrepairable situation). In the event of weekend work approval, the County or Contractor's staff who is dedicated to communicating with MRRPD, CDFW and the public would be proactive with communication, providing as much notice as possible.
- Portable/stationary equipment (e.g., generators, compressors) and equipment staging areas will be located at the furthest distance from the nearest residential dwelling, and, where feasible, from the beach areas.
- As directed by the County resident engineer, the contractor shall implement appropriate additional noise abatement measures including, but not limited to, the installation of temporary noise barriers, turning off idling equipment after no more than five minutes of inactivity, and rescheduling construction activity to avoid noise-sensitive days or times.
- As much as feasible, the contractor will avoid work on weekends and limit the loudest activities to before noon to avoid the busiest times for recreational users at the beach. Conversations with the public and with stakeholders will continue through construction, and practices will be examined and adjusted to limit impacts to beach users.

11. Coordination and Consultation

11.1 MRRPD Department Coordination

Caltrans and Sonoma County will coordinate with the MRRPD, the official with jurisdiction over the affected park and recreation resources, regarding the proposed de minimis impact findings and temporary occupancy exception. Documentation of MRRPD concurrence will be included in the final Section 4(f) memorandum.

11.2 CDFW Coordination

Caltrans and Sonoma County will coordinate with the CDFW regarding the proposed temporary occupancy exception for the Monte Rio Fishing Access. Documentation of CDFW concurrence will be included in the final Section 4(f) memorandum.

11.3 Public Involvement

The proposed de minimis impact findings for MRRPD park and recreation resources will be subject to public notice and an opportunity for public review and comment before the findings are finalized, consistent with 23 CFR 774.5(b)(2)(i). Comments received regarding the proposed Section 4(f) findings will be considered prior to finalizing the de minimis impact findings. Following completion of the public review and comment period, Caltrans will seek written concurrence from MRRPD, the official with jurisdiction over the affected park and recreation resources, that the project will not adversely affect the activities, features, or attributes that qualify the properties for protection under Section 4(f).