

NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Fresno County Regional Active Transportation Plan

December 2017

PREPARED FOR:

Fresno Council of Governments
2035 Tulare Street #201
Fresno, CA 93721

PREPARED BY:



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Initial Study/ Negative Declaration
**Fresno County Regional
Active Transportation Plan**

Prepared for:

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December 2017



Project Reference No. 033 - 1701

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Chapter 1

INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Summary

This document is the Initial Study / Negative Declaration (IS/ND) on the potential environmental effects of the adoption of the Fresno County Regional Active Transportation Plan (ATP or Project). The ATP is a comprehensive document outlining the future of walking and bicycling in Fresno County. The proposed Project is more fully described in Chapter Two – Project Description.

Fresno Council of Governments (FCOG or Fresno COG) will act as the Lead Agency for this project pursuant to the *California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)* and the *CEQA Guidelines*.

1.2 Document Format

This IS/ND contains four chapters, and appendices. Section 1, Introduction, provides an overview of the project and the CEQA environmental documentation process. Chapter 2, Project Description, provides a detailed description of project objectives and components. Chapter 3, Initial Study Checklist, presents the CEQA checklist and environmental analysis for all impact areas, mandatory findings of significance, and feasible mitigation measures. If the proposed project does not have the potential to significantly impact a given issue area, the relevant section provides a brief discussion of the reasons why no impacts are expected. If the project could have a potentially significant impact on a resource, the issue area discussion provides a description of potential impacts, and appropriate mitigation measures and/or permit requirements that would reduce those impacts to a less than significant level. Chapter 4, List of Preparers, provides a list of key personnel involved in the preparation of the IS/ND.

Environmental impacts are separated into the following categories:

Potentially Significant Impact. This category is applicable if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant, and no feasible mitigation measures can be identified to reduce impacts to a less than significant level. If there are one or more “Potentially Significant Impact” entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.

Less Than Significant After Mitigation Incorporated. This category applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures would reduce an effect from a “Potentially Significant Impact” to a “Less Than Significant Impact.” The lead agency must describe the mitigation

measure(s), and briefly explain how they would reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from earlier analyses may be cross-referenced).

Less Than Significant Impact. This category is identified when the project would result in impacts below the threshold of significance, and no mitigation measures are required.

No Impact. This category applies when a project would not create an impact in the specific environmental issue area. “No Impact” answers do not require a detailed explanation if they are adequately supported by the information sources cited by the lead agency, which show that the impact does not apply to the specific project (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A “No Impact” answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis.)

Regardless of the type of CEQA document that must be prepared, the basic purpose of the CEQA process as set forth in the CEQA Guidelines Section 15002(a) is to:

- (1) Inform governmental decision makers and the public about the potential, significant environmental effects of proposed activities.
- (2) Identify ways that environmental damage can be avoided or significantly reduced.
- (3) Prevent significant, avoidable damage to the environment by requiring changes in projects through the use of alternatives or mitigation measures when the governmental agency finds the changes to be feasible.
- (4) Disclose to the public the reasons why a governmental agency approved the project in the manner the agency chose if significant environmental effects are involved.

According to Section 15070(b), a Negative Declaration is appropriate if it is determined that:

- (1) Revisions in the project plans or proposals made by or agreed to by the applicant before a proposed negative declaration 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
- (2) There is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the project as revised may have a significant effect on the environment.

The Initial Study contained in Section Three of this document contains the analysis to support the determination that the environmental impacts of the proposed Project are less than significant and therefore a Negative Declaration will be adopted.

Chapter 2

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Project Description

2.1 Project Background

The Fresno Council of Governments (FCOG or Fresno COG) has developed an Active Transportation Plan (ATP or Plan) with the intent of providing a comprehensive document outlining the future of walking and bicycling in Fresno County. The ATP is included in this document as Appendix A.

The purpose of the ATP is to equip Fresno COG's member agencies (County of Fresno and the fifteen incorporated cities of Clovis, Coalinga, Firebaugh, Fowler, Fresno, Huron, Kerman, Kingsburg, Mendota, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, San Joaquin, Sanger, and Selma) with the tools to better compete for funding sources that support ATPs and related projects. The cities of Clovis, Fresno, Selma and Coalinga have recently prepared or will soon complete their own ATPs; conclusions from those plans are incorporated into this regional ATP. Fresno COG's 12 other member agencies can rely on the regional ATP to satisfy the requirements established by the California Transportation Commission for ATPs.

Fresno COG created the ATP in coordination with its member agencies, the general public, and stakeholder groups such as local bicycling groups, walking advocates, educational institutions, and disadvantaged communities. Fresno COG encouraged public participation through open-house format workshops in the summer of 2017, as well as an interactive online map survey. The public was also invited to comment on the draft ATP projects during a public review and comment period.

As discussed in greater detail in Section 2.6 (Program vs Project Level CEQA Analysis), specific development is not being proposed under this ATP, and adoption of this CEQA document would not authorize any development. Fresno COG's ATP is a programmatic document that proposes goals and policies pertaining to the future of walking and bicycling in Fresno County. It is intended as a guidance document with the ultimate vision of a connected network of trails, walkways, and bikeways that provides safe, convenient, and enjoyable connections to key destinations and recreational opportunities around the County.

2.2 Goals, Policies & Vision

The ATP is guided by the following vision: A complete, safe, and comfortable network of trails, sidewalks, and bikeways that serves all residents of Fresno County and its cities. Specifically, this plan has been developed to accomplish the following goals:

- Create a network of safe and attractive trails, sidewalks, and bikeways that connect Fresno County residents to key destinations, especially local schools, parks and transit.
- Create a network of regional bikeways that allows bicyclists to safely ride between cities and other regional destinations.
- Increase walking and bicycling trips in the region by creating user-friendly facilities.
- Increase safety by creating bicycle facilities and improving crosswalks and sidewalks for pedestrians.

Through implementation of the ATP, Fresno COG seeks to achieve the following goals:

- Increase the share of residents who use walking and bicycling to get to work, school, shopping and other activities.
- Reduce the number of collisions within the County involving pedestrians and bicyclists.
- Close gaps within the bicycle and pedestrian networks.

Many local, regional, state, and federal plans and other documents were reviewed in development of the ATP. These plans and documents contain goals and policies as well as specific requirements related to active transportation in Fresno County.

Local Jurisdictions

Each jurisdiction has its own policies and requirements related to bicycling and walking. The documents containing these policies and requirements generally include:

- Existing bicycle and pedestrian plans
- General plan
- Standard drawings
- Municipal code
- Specific plans and other plans

Specific local plans and documents are discussed in the ATP chapter for each jurisdiction.

Regional Plans

The following regional plans were also important in the development of the ATP:

- Fresno Council of Governments Regional Transportation Plan and Sustainable Communities Strategy
- Fresno County Transportation Authority Measure C
- Fresno Council of Governments Transportation Needs Assessment
- Golden State Corridor Design Plans
- Caltrans Bicycle Guide for District 6

State and Federal Plans and Policies

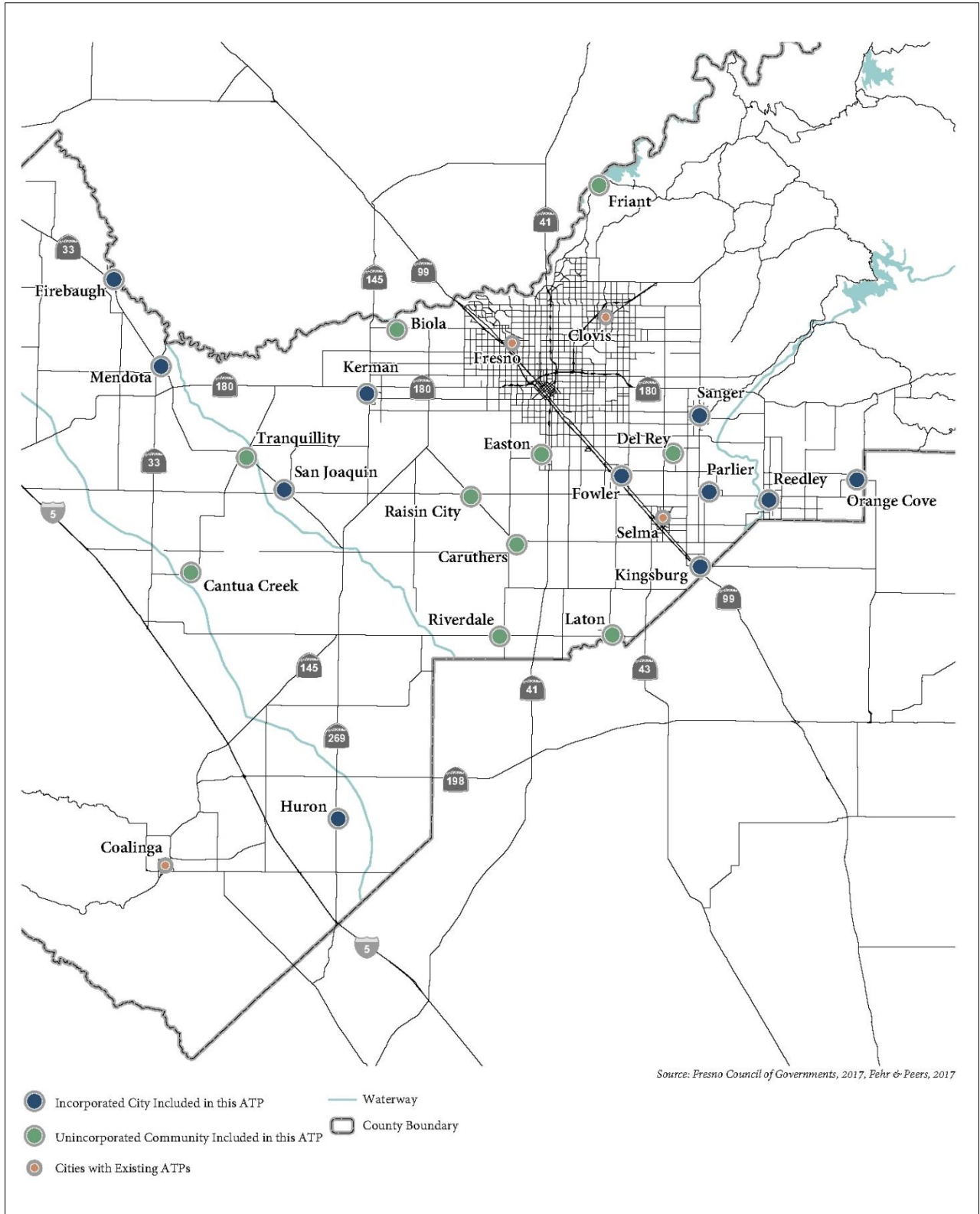
Several state and federal plans and other documents contain goals, policies, and requirements relevant to the ATP. These plans and documents are listed below and summarized in Appendix C of the ATP (Appendix A):

- California State Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan
- California Green Building Code
- California Assembly Bill 32
- California Senate Bill 375
- California Assembly Bill 1358
- California Assembly Bill 743
- US DOT Policy Statement on Bicycle and Pedestrian Accommodation Regulations and Recommendations
- US Americans with Disabilities Act

2.3 Project Location

The various components/improvements recommended by the ATP are located throughout Fresno County. These recommendations cover incorporated cities, unincorporated communities, and County islands. As described earlier, the cities of Clovis, Fresno, Selma and Coalinga have prepared and approved their own ATPs or will soon do so. These plans are incorporated into this regional ATP. Figure 1 is a map showing the location of incorporated cities and unincorporated communities covered by this ATP and cities that have their own ATPs.

Figure 1
ATP Regional Location



2.4 Setting and Existing Facilities

Environmental Setting

Fresno County is located near the center of the San Joaquin Valley, stretching approximately 100 miles (east to west) from the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada Mountains to the Coast Range Foothills. The County is bordered by the counties of San Benito, Merced, Madera, Mono, Inyo, Tulare, Kings, and Monterey.

There are 15 incorporated cities in Fresno County and several unincorporated communities within an area of approximately 6,000 square miles. As of 2016, the County's population was 979,915¹. Approximately 60% of the County's population resides in the cities of Fresno and Clovis. Outside of the cities, communities, and mountainous areas, most of the land in the County is flat and is used for agricultural production.

Existing Bicycle / Pedestrian Conditions

The existing bicycle and pedestrian facilities provide access to destinations throughout the County and serve as recreational assets themselves. These existing networks include shared-use paths, bike lanes and routes, sidewalks and crosswalk improvements. Table 1 shows current bicycle and pedestrian facilities by type (excluding the jurisdictions that have individual ATPs).

¹ <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/fresnocountycalifornia/PST045216> (Sept 2017)

**Table 1
Existing Facilities (In Miles)**

Jurisdiction	Class I Paths	Class II Lanes	Class III Routes	Sidewalks
Unincorporated Fresno County	5.0	138.2	-	76.1
Firebaugh	1.7	-	-	33.0
Fowler	-	7.0	1.0	42.9
Huron	-	0.5	-	18.0
Kerman	0.6	12.1	4.9	82.0
Kingsburg	2.5	7.0	-	74.2
Mendota	-	1.2	-	45.4
Orange Cove	1.2	2.3	-	34.5
Parlier	1.0	10.0	-	53.9
Reedley	3.5	11.8	1.7	126.0
San Joaquin	0.5	2.3	-	13.8
Sanger	2.2	18.5	2.8	128.4
Total:	18.2	211.0	10.4	728.4

Source: Fresno COG 2017, Fehr & Peers, 2017.

The ATP provides a summary of existing bicycle and pedestrian trips within the County. According to the ATP, the mode share of pedestrians for the journey to work in the County is approximately 0.9%, and for bicycles is approximately 1.9%.

2.5 Project Description

The proposed project under CEQA is the adoption of the Fresno County Regional Active Transportation Plan. The ATP itself contains various programs, policies, and recommendations pertaining to the development of pedestrian and bicycle facilities. The ATP provides a full

description of conceptual and proposed improvements throughout the County (See Appendix A), which are summarized herein.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Networks

The proposed pedestrian and bicycle networks are designed to fulfill the vision for walking and bicycling around the County. The networks include shared-use paths, bike lanes and routes, sidewalks, and crosswalk improvements. The proposed networks are designed to build upon existing bikeways and sidewalks, to connect to cities and neighborhoods, to provide access to key destinations, and to serve as recreational assets. Details of each jurisdiction's networks are presented in Chapters 6 to 17 of the ATP (Appendix A) and are summarized in Table 2.

The networks were developed with the following primary considerations:

- Connectivity to key destinations, especially schools, parks, and transit
- Collision history
- Previous plans
- Connections to adjacent jurisdictions' networks
- Public comment

Table 2 summarizes the proposed network recommendations of the ATP.

**Table 2
Proposed Facilities (In Miles)**

Jurisdiction	Class I Bike Paths	Class II Bike Lanes	Class III Bike Routes	Class IV Separated Bikeway	Sidewalks
Unincorporated Fresno County	191.1	1352.6	8.7	4.3	58.5
Firebaugh	5.7	21.1	6.5	-	3.5
Fowler	-	21.6	3.6	-	7.1
Huron	2.9	10.6	1.6	1.6	1.9
Kerman	8.6	28.5	17.0	-	1.0
Kingsburg	-	21.8	-	-	0.3
Mendota	5.1	23.2	1.5	-	1.6
Orange Cove	3.2	26.7	0.3	-	1.9
Parlier	1.3	11.6	3.6	-	1.4
Reedley	7.0	33.1	7.5	5.5	4.3
San Joaquin	3.3	3.1	1.5	-	2.0
Sanger	20.3	35.7	7.1	-	5.9
Total:	248.4	1589.6	58.8	11.4	89.3

Source: Fresno COG 2017, Fehr & Peers, 2017.

Crossing and Intersection Improvements

Several crossing improvement projects are also proposed in Chapters 6 to 17 of the ATP to improve pedestrian comfort and safety. The decision to install a marked crosswalk or other crosswalk enhancement should take into account good engineering judgement, engineering study, and/or other necessary considerations as appropriate for each individual case. Some of these considerations include:

- Pedestrian travel demand, typically 20 pedestrians/hour or more

- Service of a facility or use that generates higher pedestrian travel or serves a vulnerable population (e.g., children, elderly, persons with disabilities). This may include schools, hospitals, senior centers, recreation/community centers, libraries, parks, or trails. Service of such facilities can justify pedestrian improvements to areas of less demand than 20 pedestrians/hour
- Sight distance requirements, using appropriate stopping sight distance guidance from AASHTO's *A Policy on Geometric Design for Highways and Streets* or Caltrans' *Highway Design Manual*
- Delay to pedestrian movements
- Distance to nearest crossing
- Meeting California Manual for the Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) pedestrian signal warrant

High Volume Regional Connecting Roads

The region is connected by many roads that serve large volumes of traffic, often at high speeds. Where these roads pass through cities, speeds are generally slower, but traffic volumes are frequently still high, and the roads must serve pedestrians, bicyclists, and local vehicle traffic as well as traffic moving between communities. Careful design is required to ensure that these roads serve all users, are safe for all users, and do not serve as a barrier to bicyclists and pedestrians. The ATP contains policies and strategies to allow for components of the ATP to occur on high volume roads.

Bicycle Parking

Current bicycle parking and recommended additions to bicycle parking are presented for each jurisdiction in Chapters 6 to 17.

Wayfinding

Wayfinding signage can be used on both bicycle and pedestrian facilities to direct users to connecting facilities and key destinations. Good wayfinding signs can also encourage pedestrians and bicyclists to visit local businesses. These signs provide the most value at trail junctions and at intersections of key bicycling and walking routes. Chapter 9B of the 2014 California MUTCD provides guidance on sign design and installation. These standard signs may also be augmented by signs depicting distances in miles to encourage walking and bicycling. Chapter 4 of the ATP includes specific wayfinding recommendations.

Supporting Programs

Chapter 4 of the ATP also recommends several programs intended to maximize the success of the ATP, including educational programs, safety resources, and maintenance programs.

Implementation

Implementation of the planned bikeway and pedestrian network is anticipated to occur in multiple ways:

- Active transportation projects pursued to implement the plan.
- In conjunction with adjacent land development projects as each jurisdiction requires new development to construct roadway and sidewalk frontage improvements in accordance with jurisdiction standards and the planned facilities identified in the plan.
- In conjunction with maintenance and capacity enhancement projects, such as slurry seals, pavement reconstruction, roadway widening, or sidewalk rehabilitation projects.

Implementation will require years to decades and much funding to complete. Improvements associated with work on adjacent roadways or development of adjacent land uses will provide opportunities for implementation relatively easily or at lower cost than if implemented separately. In these cases, lower priority improvements may be implemented before higher-priority improvements, depending on the location of these land development and roadway projects.

Completion of projects in the ATP will be reported by planning staff to the city councils and Board of Supervisors. Fresno COG will update this plan periodically, approximately every five years, to reflect changing conditions and needs and progress toward completion.

Prioritization

The elements of these networks were prioritized based on several criteria:

- Proximity to key destinations, including schools, parks, bus stops, and activity centers
- Collision locations
- Disadvantaged community indicators
- Public comment
- Judgement of local jurisdiction staff

Lists of projects with priorities are provided in the ATP Appendix D, Project Priorities and Cost Estimates.

Costs

The estimated costs to implement each type of facility are summarized in Table 3. Summarized costs for each jurisdiction are provided in Chapters 6 to 17 of the ATP. On-street bike routes and bike lanes are the least expensive to construct per mile, while separated bikeways, sidewalks, and bike paths are most expensive to construct. If land must be acquired to implement any of these facilities, costs will increase. However, many of these facilities may be implemented during development of adjacent land uses or in conjunction with other projects. Therefore, some of these costs will not be directly borne by the jurisdictions.

Cost estimates are based on local unit cost estimates. These estimates were developed based on relevant project experience in the area. Assumptions for each bikeway type and details of these estimates are described in Appendix D of the ATP. Note that these are high-level cost estimates, and more detailed study and design of individual project will be required to refine them.

**Table 3
Project Cost Estimates**

Facility Type	Cost Per Mile	High Priority	Other	Total
Sidewalk	\$343,000	\$10,284,000	\$20,645,000	\$30,929,000
Class I Bike Path	\$750,000	\$5,320,000	\$169,988,000	\$175,308,000
Class II Bike Lane	\$175,000	\$23,548,000	\$255,331,000	\$278,879,000
Class III Bike Route	\$8,000	\$143,000	\$298,000	\$441,000
Class IV Protected Bikeway	\$200,000	\$326,000	\$1,956,000	\$2,282,000
Intersection improvements		\$3,165,000	\$3,005,000	\$6,170,000
Overcrossings			\$3,200,000	\$3,200,000
Total		\$42,786,000	\$454,423,000	\$497,209,000

Source: Fehr & Peers, 2017

Funding

Federal, state, regional, county, and local organizations provide funding for pedestrian and bicycle projects and programs. The most recent federal surface transportation funding program, Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act (FAST), was signed into law in December 2015.FAST

funding is distributed to federal and state surface transportation funds. Most of these resources are available through Caltrans and Fresno COG.

Senate Bill 1, The Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017, was signed in April 2017. It will increase funding for the Active Transportation Program by \$100 million statewide and encourages complete streets improvements in a majority of its funding allocations for local roadways.

Measure C, administered by the Fresno County Transportation Authority, is another important source of funding. The measure is a half-cent sales tax aimed at improving the overall quality of Fresno County's transportation system. This Local Transportation Program can be used on pedestrian and bicycle facilities and trails. Funding is allocated to cities and the county based on population. Measure C funding will also be used to construct the Golden State Corridor bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

Detailed descriptions of the grant funding sources are presented in the ATP Appendix E, Funding Sources. The most applicable funding sources for the improvements proposed by this Plan are the Active Transportation Program, Highway Safety Improvement Program, and Measure C. This appendix includes details about current programs that are used to fund existing scheduled projects and an assessment of upcoming programs as of July 2017. These may change as state and local programs adapt to the new SB 1 funding.

2.6 Program vs Project Level CEQA Analysis

As discussed previously, the Project (under CEQA), is the adoption of the proposed ATP. The ATP is a program/policy-level document, which means it does not provide project-specific construction details that would allow for project-level CEQA analysis. Furthermore, specific development is not being proposed under this ATP and adoption of this CEQA document would not authorize any development. Information such as precise project locations, project timing, funding mechanisms, material types, types of equipment and ultimately construction drawings will be required in order for future "project-level" CEQA analysis to occur. Therefore, this CEQA document has been prepared at a "program-level." Under CEQA, a programmatic document is prepared on a series of actions that can be characterized as one large project and/or for a project that will be implemented over a long period of time. This CEQA document, prepared at a program level, is therefore adequate for adoption of the ATP by Fresno COG.

As Lead Agency, Fresno COG is responsible for adoption of this CEQA document. In addition, if a Responsible Agency (see list of responsible agencies on page 3-2) decides to approve the ATP, it should file a Notice of Determination with the County Clerk. (CEQA Guidelines Section 15096)

Implementation of the physical components of the ATP will occur over years to decades as funding and/or approval occur. Many of the individual projects contained in the ATP will be subject to various CEQA Exemptions, while others may likely be analyzed using a Mitigated Negative Declaration, or additional National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation depending on funding source. The level of documentation will be decided by the implementing agency. Table 4 below provides typical examples of the type of CEQA documentation that may be required for certain types of projects.

**Table 4
Typical Environmental Requirements**

Project Type	CEQA Exemption	Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration	NEPA / other technical studies
Signage, bicycle parking, minor striping, sidewalk improvements, some lighting	X		
Class III Bike Routes	X		
Class II Bike Lanes	X	X	X
Class I Bikeways (trails, paseos, paths); bicycle/pedestrian bridges		X	X

CEQA Exemptions

A typical exemption for bicycle/pedestrian projects is:

- Section 15301 (c) – Existing highways and streets, sidewalks, gutters, bicycle and pedestrian trails, and similar facilities.

Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declarations

An Initial Study and Negative – or Mitigated Negative Declaration may be required when a project *may* have a significant impact on the environment. Examples include projects that involve

construction in a potentially biological / culturally sensitive area, have potential impacts to existing traffic, have negative aesthetic impacts, or other reasons. Although it is not anticipated that future projects would require full-scale environmental impact reports (EIR), if significant and unavoidable impacts were to occur as a result of a project, an EIR may be required.

NEPA and other technical studies

When a project will be constructed using federal aid transportation funds, it may trigger NEPA requirements. Federal aid transportation funding in particular requires coordination through Caltrans, which can result in the preparation of a Preliminary Environmental Screening (PES) Form, and Environmental Assessment (EA), and/or the preparation of other technical studies (biological, cultural, traffic, etc.).

2.7 Other Required Approvals

The proposed project would include, but not be limited to, the following regulatory requirements:

- The adoption of this Negative Declaration by Fresno COG.
- Adoption by the Responsible Agencies (CEQA Guidelines Section 15096).
- Compliance with other federal, state and local requirements.
- The ATP is also intended to improve access to funding through the State's Active Transportation Program and the regional Measure C program. Fresno COG's ATP complies with the 2017 Active Transportation Program Guidelines.

Chapter 3

IMPACT ANALYSIS

Initial Study Checklist

3.1 Environmental Checklist Form

Project title:

Adoption of the Fresno County Regional Active Transportation Plan

Lead agency name and address:

Fresno Council of Governments
2035 Tulare Street, #201
Fresno, CA 93721

Contact person and phone number:

Peggy Arnest, Senior Regional Planner
parnest@fresnocog.org
Fresno Council of Governments
(559) 724-9218

Project location:

The various component/improvements recommended by the ATP are located throughout Fresno County. Figure 1 shows the approximate boundaries of the ATP. The ATP (Appendix A) provides location maps of potential project components.

Project sponsor's name/address:

Fresno Council of Governments
2035 Tulare Street, #201
Fresno, CA 93721

General plan designation:

Various – located throughout the County

Zoning:

Various – located throughout the County

Description of project:

The proposed project is the adoption of the Fresno County Regional Active Transportation Plan. The ATP itself contains various programs, policies, and recommendations pertaining to the development of pedestrian and bicycle facilities.

The ATP proposes expansion of and improvements to the County's existing shared-use paths, bike lanes and routes, sidewalks, pedestrian and bicycle bridges, and crosswalks. The proposed networks are designed to build upon existing shared-use paths; to connect regional routes and paths; to provide access to key destinations; and to serve as recreational assets. See Section Two – Project Description.

Surrounding land uses/setting:

Various – located throughout the County

Other public agencies whose approval or consultation is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, participation agreements):

- Fresno Council of Governments (Lead Agency - CEQA adoption)
- California State Clearinghouse
- Responsible Agencies:
 - County of Fresno
 - City of Fresno
 - City of Clovis
 - City of Coalinga
 - City of Firebaugh
 - City of Fowler
 - City of Huron
 - City of Kerman
 - City of Kingsburg
 - City of Mendota
 - City of Orange Cove
 - City of Parlier
 - City of Reedley
 - City of San Joaquin
 - City of Sanger
 - City of Selma

3.2 Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a “Potentially Significant Impact” as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture Resources
and Forest Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Geology /Soils |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greenhouse Gas
Emissions | <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous
Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology / Water
Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use / Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Population / Housing | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffic | <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Cultural
Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities / Service
Systems |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of
Significance | | |

3.3 Determination

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- I find that the proposed project MAY have a “potentially significant impact” or

“potentially significant unless mitigated” impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.



I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Peggy Arnest, Senior Regional Planner

Date

Fresno Council of Governments

I. AESTHETICS

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Fresno County has a diverse visual landscape that gradually changes from east to west. Starting from the east are the Sierra Nevada Mountains which are rich in coniferous forests and provide scenic views of the varied topography. There are several large reservoirs scattered throughout the Sierra which provide recreational as well as scenic opportunities. The San Joaquin and Kings Rivers, which originate high in the Sierra Mountains, are the County’s two major rivers. Two scenic highways, Highway 168 and Highway 180, extend down from the Sierras and terminate in the Eastside Valley area. In addition, there are several scenic drives that wind their way through the Sierra and Sierra Foothill areas. The County’s built environment is located throughout the valley and much of it located along the Highway 99 corridor. Agricultural lands consisting of orchards, vineyards, ranches, and various row crops start on the fringe of these communities and extend to cover much of the valley floor. These large farms provide a sense of open space, emphasize the county’s rural and farming heritage, and allow motorists opportunities for unrestricted panoramic views. The Coastal Foothills, containing gentle rolling hills with scattered oak

trees, extend westward past Interstate 5. Due to the continuous unrestrictive views of adjacent coastal foothills, Interstate 5 (I-5) is an officially designated scenic highway.¹

RESPONSES

- a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?
- b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?
- c. Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?
- d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

No Impact. Construction and operation of project components contained in the ATP could potentially impact scenic resources and vistas; degrade the existing visual character of the area; and/or create a new source of light or glare. Although most of the project components are at ground level and would not impose a significant visual impact, there are components such as signage, trail lighting, bicycle racks, pedestrian bridges etc. that could potentially impact visual resources. Individual projects would be subject to site-specific environmental review, at which time the implementing agency would identify the potential impacts to aesthetic resources.

Fresno COG's ATP is a programmatic document that proposes goals and policies pertaining to the future of walking and bicycling in Fresno County. It is intended as a guidance document with the ultimate vision of a connected and complete network of trails, walkways and bikeways that provides safe convenient and enjoyable connections to key destinations around the County. Individual project details such as precise project locations, project timing, funding mechanisms, material types, types of equipment and ultimately construction drawings are currently not available. At such time that specific individual projects are implemented, the implementing agency will conduct site-specific CEQA analysis as necessary. Furthermore, implementation of the ATP would be required to comply with the goals and policies under the County's General Plan, County Community Plans, and other relevant regulatory documents.

Adoption of the ATP alone would not create any aesthetic impacts because specific development is not being proposed under this ATP and it would not authorize any development. Therefore, there is *no impact*.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

¹ Fresno County General Plan EIR, Page 4.16-1.

II. AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Fresno County is differentiated into five geographical regions including: the Coast Range; Westside Valley; Eastside Valley; Sierra foothills; and Sierra Mountains. Most of the high-quality farmland areas are located in the Eastside Valley. Land west of I-5 (the Coast Range foothills area) is generally used for cattle grazing and mineral extraction, although there is also a small amount of irrigated fruit and nut tree crops, row crops, and dry crop farming in that area. The Westside Valley is typically used for row and field crop production, with some fruit and nut tree crops. The Sierra Foothill area supports cattle grazing and citrus production at the lower elevations. Land in the Sierra Nevada area is not typically farmed; however, it is used for cattle grazing. Along the west side of the City of Fresno, Clovis, Sanger, and Reedley, and elsewhere in the Eastside Valley, farms generally grow tree fruits, almonds, and raisin grapes. On the west side of SR 99, farms mostly grow grapes, almonds, apples, and alfalfa. Near the Fresno Slough area of the Eastside Valley, row crops are predominant. Near I-5, as well as on the North and South Valley area, almonds, row crops, field crops, apples, and some grapes are grown.

Farming and agricultural related businesses comprise a significant component of the local economy. Several factors contribute to the success of agricultural operations in Fresno County, not the least of which are excellent soil and climatic growing conditions. Workforce and transportation availability are also key factors.²

RESPONSES

- a. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?
- b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?
- c. Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?
- d. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

² Fresno County General Plan EIR, Page 4.3-2.

- e. Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

No Impact. Construction and operation of project components contained in the ATP could potentially impact agricultural resources; conflict with Williamson Act parcels; and/or impact forest land resources. Although most of the project components would occur within existing right of way and outside of agricultural or forest land, it is conceivable that a new trail or path could be placed on or near such lands. Individual projects would be subject to site-specific environmental review, at which time the implementing agency would identify the potential impacts to agricultural and forest resources.

Fresno COG's ATP is a programmatic document that proposes goals and policies pertaining to the future of walking and bicycling in Fresno County. It is intended as a guidance document with the ultimate vision of a connected and complete network of trails, walkways and bikeways that provides safe convenient and enjoyable connections to key destinations around the County. Individual project details such as precise project locations, project timing, funding mechanisms, material types, types of equipment and ultimately construction drawings are currently not available. At such time that specific individual projects are implemented, the implementing agency will conduct site-specific CEQA analysis as necessary. Furthermore, implementation of the ATP would be required to comply with the goals and policies under the County's General Plan, County Community Plans, and other relevant regulatory documents.

Adoption of the ATP alone would not create any agricultural impacts because specific development is not being proposed under this ATP and it would not authorize any development. Therefore, there is *no impact*.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

III. AIR QUALITY

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Fresno County lies within the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin, which is managed by the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD or Air District). National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) have been established for the following criteria pollutants: carbon monoxide (CO), ozone (O₃), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), particulate matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}), and lead (Pb). The CAAQS also set standards for sulfates, hydrogen sulfide, and visibility.

Air quality plans or attainment plans are used to bring the applicable air basin into attainment with all state and federal ambient air quality standards designed to protect the health and safety of residents within that air basin. Areas are classified under the Federal Clean Air Act as either

“attainment”, “non-attainment”, or “extreme non-attainment” areas for each criteria pollutant based on whether the NAAQS have been achieved or not. Attainment relative to the State standards is determined by the California Air Resources Board (CARB). The San Joaquin Valley is designated as a State and Federal extreme non-attainment area for O₃, a State and Federal non-attainment area for PM_{2.5}, a State non-attainment area for PM₁₀, and Federal and State attainment area for CO, SO₂, NO₂, and Pb.

Standards and attainment status for listed pollutants in the Air District can be found in Table 1. Note that both state and federal standards are presented.

**Table 1
Standards and Attainment Status for Listed Pollutants in the Air District**

	Federal Standard	California Standard
Ozone	0.075 ppm (8-hr avg)	0.07 ppm (8-hr avg) 0.09 ppm (1-hr avg)
Carbon Monoxide	9.0 ppm (8-hr avg) 35.0 ppm (1-hr avg)	9.0 ppm (8-hr avg) 20.0 ppm (1-hr avg)
Nitrogen Dioxide	0.053 ppm (annual avg)	0.30 ppm (annual avg) 0.18 ppm (1-hr avg)
Sulfur Dioxide	0.03 ppm (annual avg) 0.14 ppm (24-hr avg) 0.5 ppm (3-hr avg)	0.04 ppm (24-hr avg) 0.25 ppm (1hr avg)
Lead	1.5 µg/m ³ (calendar quarter) 0.15 µg/m ³ (rolling 3-month avg)	1.5 µg/m ³ (30-day avg)
Particulate Matter (PM10)	150 µg/m ³ (24-hr avg)	20 µg/m ³ (annual avg) 50 µg/m ³ (24-hr avg)
Particulate Matter (PM2.5)	15 µg/m ³ (annual avg)	35 µg/m ³ (24-hr avg) 12 µg/m ³ (annual avg)

µg/m³ = micrograms per cubic meter

Additional State regulations include:

CARB Portable Equipment Registration Program – This program was designed to allow owners and operators of portable engines and other common construction or farming equipment to register their equipment under a statewide program so they may operate it statewide without the need to obtain a permit from the local air district.

U.S. EPA/CARB Off-Road Mobile Sources Emission Reduction Program – The California Clean Air Act (CCAA) requires CARB to achieve a maximum degree of emissions reductions from off-road mobile sources to attain State Ambient Air Quality Standards (SAAQS); off- road mobile sources include most construction equipment. Tier 1 standards for large compression-ignition engines used in off-road mobile sources went into effect in California in 1996. These standards, along with ongoing rulemaking, address

emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOX) and toxic particulate matter from diesel engines. CARB is currently developing a control measure to reduce diesel PM and NOX emissions from existing off-road diesel equipment throughout the state.

California Global Warming Solutions Act – Established in 2006, Assembly Bill 32 (AB 32) requires that California’s GHG emissions be reduced to 1990 levels by the year 2020. This will be implemented through a statewide cap on GHG emissions, which will be phased in beginning in 2012. AB 32 requires CARB to develop regulations and a mandatory reporting system to monitor global warming emissions levels.

RESPONSES

- a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?
- b. Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?
- c. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?
- d. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?
- e. Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?

No Impact. The State Legislature and SB99 specified that one of the main goals of the Active Transportation Program is to:

“Advance the active transportation efforts of regional agencies to achieve greenhouse gas reduction goals as established pursuant to Senate Bill 375 (Chapter 728, Statutes of 2008) and Senate Bill 391 (Chapter 585, Statutes of 2009).”

By definition, Fresno COG’s ATP would potentially reduce vehicle trips and therefore have a beneficial impact by helping to reduce emissions of greenhouse gas, particulate matter, and other pollutants. In addition, adoption of the ATP would not affect population or employment growth and as a result would not result in growth that exceeds growth estimates of the County’s General Plan or local Community Plans, nor would it generate emissions beyond what have been accounted for in regional air quality plans.

Construction of some components of the ATP, however, has the potential to produce short-term emissions and odors through the use of construction equipment, movement of dirt, etc. Individual projects would be subject to site-specific environmental review, at which time the implementing agency would identify the potential air quality impacts. As previously discussed, Fresno COG's ATP is a programmatic document that proposes goals and policies pertaining to the future of walking and bicycling in the County. It is intended as a guidance document with the ultimate vision of a connected and complete network of trails, walkways and bikeways that provides safe convenient and enjoyable connections to key destinations around the County. Individual project details such as precise project locations, project timing, funding mechanisms, material types, types of equipment and ultimately construction drawings are currently not available. At such time that specific individual projects are implemented, the implementing agency will conduct site-specific CEQA analysis as necessary. Furthermore, implementation of the ATP would be required to comply with the goals and policies under the County's General Plan, County Community Plans, and other relevant regulatory documents.

Adoption of the ATP alone would not create any air quality impacts because specific development is not being proposed under this ATP and it would not authorize any development. In addition, one of the goals of the ATP is to reduce vehicle miles traveled. Therefore, there is *no impact*.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
e. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Fresno County supports a rich variety of habitat types as defined by the Wildlife Habitat Relationship (WHR) which include the following 28 habitats: annual/ruderal grassland, valley oak woodland, pasture, cropland, valley-foothill riparian, fresh emergent wetland, lacustrine, blue oak woodland, blue oakfoothill pine woodland, mixed chaparral, chamise-redshank chaparral, vernal pool, alkali scrub, orchardvineyard, montaine chaparral, montaine hardwood-conifer, montaine riparian, sierran mixed conifer, ponderosa pine, Jeffery pine, white fir, lodgepole pine, subalpine, conifer, alpine dwarf scrub, wet meadow, bitterbush, and juniper.

Special-Status Species

Over 164 special-status plant and wildlife species are known to occur in Fresno County. Special-status plants and wildlife have been designated as “rare,” “threatened,” “endangered,” or “species of concern,” under federal or state endangered species legislation, by state resource agencies, or by groups such as the California Native Plant Society (CNPS). The special-status species with potential to occur in Fresno County were determined by review of the California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB) and CNPS electronic inventory of vascular plants. In general, special-status species are associated with a specific

habitat such as vernal pools, chaparral, oak woodland, or riparian corridors, however some species can utilize common habitat such as cropland.³

RESPONSES

- a. Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?
- b. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?
- c. Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?
- d. Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?
- e. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?
- f. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

No Impact. The proposed adoption of the ATP would not result in direct physical changes, but future development of project components contained in the ATP could potentially affect protected biological species and/or habitats. Construction and operation of trails, paths, signage, etc. may occur in biologically sensitive areas. Individual projects would be subject to site-specific environmental review, at which time the implementing agency would identify the potential presence of endangered or listed species and mitigation measures that would reduce any impacts to a less than significant level.

As previously discussed, Fresno COG's ATP is a programmatic document that proposes goals and policies pertaining to the future of walking and bicycling in Fresno County. It is intended as a guidance document with the ultimate vision of a connected and complete network of trails, walkways and

³ Fresno County General Plan EIR, Page 4.9-1.

bikeways that provides safe convenient and enjoyable connections to key destinations around the County. Individual project details such as precise project locations, project timing, funding mechanisms, material types, types of equipment and ultimately construction drawings are currently not available. At such time that specific individual projects are implemented, the implementing agency will conduct site-specific CEQA analysis as necessary. Furthermore, implementation of the ATP would be required to comply with the goals and policies under the County's General Plan, County Community Plans, and other relevant regulatory documents.

Adoption of the ATP alone would not create any biological impacts because specific development is not being proposed under this ATP and it would not authorize any development. Therefore, there is *no impact*.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Cultural resources in Fresno County reflect the area’s history of settlement by Native Americans, Europeans, Mexicans and others, as well as periods of economic and social change such as those associated with the Gold Rush and development of agriculture and rail transportation. This region of the San Joaquin Valley, which extends from the forested Sierra Nevada to the Coastal Range, has supported an abundance of wildlife, riparian habitats and marshes. Records indicate that at least five Native American tribes resided in the area. The presence of archaeological and historic resources would generally be most likely along rivers and streams and in other areas with ground cover or other features which could have invited and sustained habitation. Fresno County’s rich history has produced a large stock of historically significant homes, public buildings, and landmarks including important ethnic historical sites. The physical environment of Fresno County has been greatly altered by human modification over the past 150 years, including archaeological resources which may have been buried or

displaced. The California Department of Parks and Recreation records indicate that at least five Native American tribes resided in the area.⁴

RESPONSES

- a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?
- b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?
- c. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?
- d. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

No Impact. The proposed adoption of the ATP would not result in direct physical changes, but future development of project components contained in the ATP could potentially affect protected cultural resources. Construction and operation of trails, paths, signage, etc. may occur in culturally sensitive areas. Individual projects would be subject to site-specific environmental review, at which time the implementing agency would identify the potential presence of cultural or historical resources.

As previously discussed, Fresno COG's ATP is a programmatic document that proposes goals and policies pertaining to the future of walking and bicycling in Fresno County. It is intended as a guidance document with the ultimate vision of a connected and complete network of trails, walkways and bikeways that provides safe convenient and enjoyable connections to key destinations around the County. Individual project details such as precise project locations, project timing, funding mechanisms, material types, types of equipment and ultimately construction drawings are currently not available. At such time that specific individual projects are implemented, the implementing agency will conduct site-specific CEQA analysis as necessary. Furthermore, implementation of the ATP would be required to comply with the goals and policies under the County's General Plan, County Community Plans, and other relevant regulatory documents.

Adoption of the ATP alone would not create any cultural or historical impacts because specific development is not being proposed under this ATP and it would not authorize any development. Therefore, there is *no impact*.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

⁴ Fresno County General Plan EIR, Pages 4.7-1 and 4.7-2.

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Would the project:

a. Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:

i. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.

ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?

iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

iv. Landslides?

b. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

c. Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?

d. Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the most recently

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

VI. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Would the project:

adopted Uniform Building Code creating substantial risks to life or property?

- e. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?

	Less than Significant		
Potentially Significant Impact	With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact

	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

There are a number of active and potentially active faults within and adjacent to Fresno County. Faults within Fresno County and major active and potentially active faults in the region are described below. Two of the active faults, which are located near Coalinga and Panoche in the West Valley, have been designated Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones (EFZ). Most of Fresno County, from approximately Interstate 5 (I-5) east, is located in Seismic Zone 3, as defined by the most recent California Uniform Building Code. Areas in the Coast Range and foothills and a small area along the Fresno County-Inyo County boundary are located in Seismic Zone 4. Groundshaking is the primary seismic hazard in Fresno County, because of the County's seismic setting and record of historical activity. Most of the already urbanized locations in the East and West Valleys and Sierra Nevada Foothills areas are subject to less intense seismic effects than locations in the Coast Range Foothills and Sierra Nevada Mountain areas.⁵

RESPONSES

- a-i. Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based

⁵ Fresno County General Plan EIR, Page 4.13-1.

on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.

- a-ii. Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong seismic ground shaking?
- a-iii. Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?
- a-iv. Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving landslides?
- b. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?
- c. Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?
- d. Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the most recently adopted Uniform Building Code creating substantial risks to life or property?
- e. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?

No Impact. The proposed adoption of the ATP would not result in direct physical changes, however future development of project components contained in the ATP (trails, bridges, small structures, etc.) would be subject to existing building codes, the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Zoning Act, and other state and federal regulations related to seismic and geological hazards. Implementation of General Plan policies, Community Plan Policies, and Best Management Practices (BMPs) would further minimize such potential impacts. Examples of BMPs include hydroseeding, erosion control blankets, installing silt fences, etc.

As previously discussed, Fresno COG's ATP is a programmatic document that proposes goals and policies pertaining to the future of walking and bicycling in Fresno County. It is intended as a guidance document with the ultimate vision of a connected and complete network of trails, walkways and bikeways that provides safe convenient and enjoyable connections to key destinations around the County. Individual project details such as precise project locations, project timing, funding mechanisms, material types, types of equipment and ultimately construction drawings are currently not available. At such time that specific individual projects are implemented, the implementing agency will conduct site-specific CEQA analysis as necessary. Furthermore, implementation of the ATP would be required to

comply with the goals and policies under the County's General Plan, County Community Plans, and other relevant regulatory documents.

Adoption of the ATP alone would not create any geological or seismic hazards because specific development is not being proposed under this ATP and it would not authorize any development. Therefore, there is *no impact*.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

VII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Would the project:

a. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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b. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Various gases in the earth’s atmosphere play an important role in moderating the earth’s surface temperature. Solar radiation enters earth’s atmosphere from space and a portion of the radiation is absorbed by the earth’s surface. The earth emits this radiation back toward space, but the properties of the radiation change from high-frequency solar radiation to lower-frequency infrared radiation. GHGs are transparent to solar radiation, but are effective in absorbing infrared radiation. Consequently, radiation that would otherwise escape back into space is retained, resulting in a warming of the earth’s atmosphere. This phenomenon is known as the greenhouse effect. Scientific research to date indicates that some of the observed climate change is a result of increased GHG emissions associated with human activity. Among the GHGs contributing to the greenhouse effect are water vapor, carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), ozone, Nitrous Oxide (NO_x), and chlorofluorocarbons. Human-caused emissions of these GHGs in excess of natural ambient concentrations are considered responsible for enhancing the greenhouse effect. GHG emissions contributing to global climate change are attributable, in large part, to human activities associated with the industrial/manufacturing, utility, transportation, residential, and agricultural sectors.

In California, the transportation sector is the largest emitter of GHGs, followed by electricity generation. Global climate change is, indeed, a global issue. GHGs are global pollutants, unlike criteria pollutants and TACs (which are pollutants of regional and/or local concern). Global climate change, if it occurs, could potentially affect water resources in California. Rising temperatures could be anticipated to result in sea-level rise (as polar ice caps melt) and possibly change the timing and amount of precipitation, which could alter water quality. According to some, climate change could result in more extreme weather patterns; both heavier precipitation that could lead to flooding, as well as more extended drought

periods. There is uncertainty regarding the timing, magnitude, and nature of the potential changes to water resources as a result of climate change; however, several trends are evident.

Snowpack and snowmelt may also be affected by climate change. Much of California's precipitation falls as snow in the Sierra Nevada and southern Cascades, and snowpack represents approximately 35 percent of the state's useable annual water supply. The snowmelt typically occurs from April through July; it provides natural water flow to streams and reservoirs after the annual rainy season has ended. As air temperatures increase due to climate change, the water stored in California's snowpack could be affected by increasing temperatures resulting in: (1) decreased snowfall, and (2) earlier snowmelt.

RESPONSES

- a. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?
- b. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

No Impact. The State Legislature and SB99 specified that one of the main goals of the Active Transportation Program is to:

"Advance the active transportation efforts of regional agencies to achieve greenhouse gas reduction goals as established pursuant to Senate Bill 375 (Chapter 728, Statutes of 2008) and Senate Bill 391 (Chapter 585, Statutes of 2009)."

By definition, Fresno COG's ATP would potentially reduce vehicle trips and therefore have a beneficial impact by helping to reduce emissions of greenhouse gas, particulate matter, and other pollutants. In addition, adoption of the ATP would not affect population or employment growth and as a result would not result in growth that exceeds growth estimates of the County's General Plan or local Community Plans, nor would it generate emissions beyond what have been accounted for in regional air quality plans.

Construction of some components of the ATP, however, has the potential to produce short-term emissions and odors through the use of construction equipment, movement of dirt, etc. Individual projects would be subject to site-specific environmental review, at which time the implementing agency would identify the potential GHG impacts.

As previously discussed, Fresno COG's ATP is a programmatic document that proposes goals and policies pertaining to the future of walking and bicycling in Fresno County. It is intended as a guidance document with the ultimate vision of a connected and complete network of trails, walkways and bikeways that provides safe convenient and enjoyable connections to key destinations around the

County. Individual project details such as precise project locations, project timing, funding mechanisms, material types, types of equipment and ultimately construction drawings are currently not available. At such time that specific individual projects are implemented, the implementing agency will conduct site-specific CEQA analysis as necessary. Furthermore, implementation of the ATP would be required to comply with the goals and policies under the County's General Plan, County Community Plans, and other relevant regulatory documents.

Adoption of the ATP alone would not create any greenhouse gas impacts because specific development is not being proposed under this ATP and it would not authorize any development. In addition, one of the goals of the ATP is to reduce greenhouse gases. Therefore, there is *no impact*.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

VIII. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				
g. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Hazardous materials refer generally to hazardous substances that exhibit corrosive, poisonous, flammable, and/or reactive properties and have the potential to harm human health and/or the environment. Accidental releases of hazardous materials can occur from a variety of causes including roadway accidents, fires, train derailments, shipping accidents and industrial accidents.

Various industrial and commercial facilities within the County use and store hazardous materials and generate hazardous waste. Underground storage tanks (USTs) are primarily used to contain gasoline and other petroleum products such as diesel and waste oil. A variety of other hazardous materials and wastes, such as solvents, are also stored in underground storage tanks. Facilities that use and store hazardous materials and wastes must comply with federal, State, and local laws governing hazardous materials/waste handling, storage, transportation, and disposal.⁶

⁶ Fresno County General Plan EIR, Page 4.14-1.

The various project components contained in the ATP are proposed to be located throughout the County and are likely to be near places such as schools, residential neighborhoods and commercial areas.

RESPONSES

- a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?
- b. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?
- c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?
- d. Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?
- e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?
- f. For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?
- g. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?
- h. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?

No Impact. The proposed adoption of the ATP would not result in direct physical changes, however future development of project components contained in the ATP (trails, bridges, small structures, etc.) could potentially involve the use and/or transport of hazardous materials that could be located near sensitive areas such as schools, residential or commercial areas. This could occur during the construction stage and may include items such as petroleum, natural gas, cleaners, solvents, paint, pesticides, etc. No on-going use or transport of hazardous materials is anticipated once construction is complete. Use and

transport of such materials would be subject to existing state and federal regulations related to hazards and hazardous materials. Implementation of General Plan policies, Community Plan policies and Best Management Practices (BMPs) would further minimize such potential impacts. Individual projects would be subject to site-specific environmental review, at which time the implementing agency would identify the potential hazard-related impacts.

As previously discussed, Fresno COG's ATP is a programmatic document that proposes goals and policies pertaining to the future of walking and bicycling in Fresno County. It is intended as a guidance document with the ultimate vision of a connected and complete network of trails, walkways and bikeways that provides safe convenient and enjoyable connections to key destinations around the County. Individual project details such as precise project locations, project timing, funding mechanisms, material types, types of equipment and ultimately construction drawings are currently not available. At such time that specific individual projects are implemented, the implementing agency will conduct site-specific CEQA analysis as necessary. Furthermore, implementation of the ATP would be required to comply with the goals and policies under the County's General Plan, County Community Plans, and other relevant regulatory documents.

Adoption of the ATP alone would not create any hazard-related impacts because specific development is not being proposed under this ATP and it would not authorize any development. Therefore, there is *no impact*.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

IX. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?				
f. Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g. Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
h. Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
j. Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Water resources in Fresno County include a number of rivers and streams, artificial waterways, and groundwater.

Surface Water Resources

The San Joaquin River originates in the Sierra Nevada and flows westerly forming the border between Fresno and Madeira Counties downstream from Mammoth Pool Reservoir. The North and Middle Forks originate in Madeira County near Devils Postpile National Monument. The South Fork begins at Martha Lake in northern Kings Canyon National Park within Fresno County. Average annual precipitation in

the upper reaches of the river falls mainly in the form of snow and is as high as 70 inches. By comparison, the arid San Joaquin Valley to the west, average annual rainfall is as low as six inches near Mendota. Friant Dam is the most significant of the several dams on the San Joaquin River. It was completed in 1942 by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) for the purposes of agricultural irrigation and is part of the Central Valley Project (CVP). There are several dams upstream of Friant owned and operated by Southern California Edison (SCE) and Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) for power generation. The combined storage capacity of the dams upstream of Friant is 609,530 acre-feet and the storage capacity of Millerton Lake (formed by Friant Dam) is 520,500 acre-feet.

The Kings River originates high in the Sierra Nevada Mountains near the Inyo County line. It has a large drainage basin including most of Kings Canyon National Park and most of the area between Shaver and Florence Lakes in the north to the Fresno/Tulare County border in the south. The average annual precipitation for the mountain region has not been consistently recorded but, it is probably greater than the 43 inches that falls in Grant Grove on the southern reaches of the Kings River watershed. Downstream average precipitation is approximately 7 to 10 inches per year. The major portions of the upper reaches feed into Pine Flat Lake, a 1,000,000 acre-feet reservoir constructed by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) in 1944 for flood control purposes. There are additional reservoirs upstream of Pine Flat that are owned and operated by PG&E for the purpose of hydroelectric power generation. These facilities have a combined storage capacity of about 252,000 acre-feet.

There are many creeks and lakes in the high Sierra Nevada within Fresno County, all of which eventually feed into either the Kings River or the San Joaquin River. In addition, several creeks drain the foothill areas and flow into developed areas in central Fresno County. Most of these streams (i.e., Redbank, Fancher, Dry and Dog Creeks) have been controlled by efforts of the Corps and the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District (FMFCD).

Groundwater Resources

Groundwater conditions vary considerably from eastern to western Fresno County. Aquifers east of the valley trough are generally semi-confined to unconfined, while aquifers west of the valley trough are generally semi-confined to confined. Most pumping occurs below a naturally occurring subterranean clay, although considerable pumping also occurs above the layer, depending upon location and water quality issues. This layer is several hundred feet below the ground surface, and pumping costs are high.⁷

⁷ Fresno County General Plan EIR, Page 4.8-1 thru 4.8-3.

RESPONSES

- a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?
- b. Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?
- c. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?
- d. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?
- e. Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?
- f. Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?
- g. Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?
- h. Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?
- i. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?
- j. Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?

No Impact. The proposed adoption of the ATP would not result in direct physical changes, however future development of project components contained in the ATP (trails, bridges, small structures, etc.) could potentially increase the impervious surface areas and utilize water supply during construction and for potential landscaping. Individual future projects would be required (depending on size and location) to comply with the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit and implementation of the construction Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) that require the incorporation of BMPs. In addition, construction water usage will be minimal and temporary; and any proposed landscaping will be installed pursuant to Fresno COG's guidance and regulations, the County General Plan, and/or local Community Plans, thereby minimizing water use. Individual projects would

be subject to site-specific environmental review, at which time the implementing agency would identify the potential hydrological impacts.

As previously discussed, Fresno COG's ATP is a programmatic document that proposes goals and policies pertaining to the future of walking and bicycling in Fresno County. It is intended as a guidance document with the ultimate vision of a connected and complete network of trails, walkways and bikeways that provides safe convenient and enjoyable connections to key destinations around the County. Individual project details such as precise project locations, project timing, funding mechanisms, material types, types of equipment and ultimately construction drawings are currently not available. At such time that specific individual projects are implemented, the implementing agency will conduct site-specific CEQA analysis as necessary. Furthermore, implementation of the ATP would be required to comply with the goals and policies under the County's General Plan, County Community Plans, and other relevant regulatory documents.

Adoption of the ATP alone would not create any hydrology-related impacts because specific development is not being proposed under this ATP and it would not authorize any development. Therefore, there is *no impact*.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

X. LAND USE AND PLANNING

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the General Plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Fresno County encompasses roughly 6,000 square miles, making it California’s sixth largest county by land size. Agriculture, with 2,911 square miles, and resource conservation (includes national forests and parks and timber reserves), with 2,691 square miles, are overwhelmingly the predominate land use in the county -- occupying over 90 percent of county land. The 15 incorporated cities occupy the next largest amount of land with 154 square miles. Closely behind the cities is unincorporated residential land with 152 square miles. The last three categories include commercial (seven square miles), industrial (11 square miles), and unclassified lands such as highways, streets, and rivers (11 square miles).⁸

RESPONSES

- a. Physically divide an established community?

⁸ Fresno County General Plan EIR, Page 4.2-1.

- b. Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the General Plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?
- c. Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?

No Impact. The proposed adoption of the ATP would not result in direct physical changes, however future development of project components contained in the ATP (trails, bridges, small structures, etc.) could occur at various places throughout the County. None of the proposed projects would physically divide an established community, nor would they conflict with any applicable land use plans or habitat conservation plans.

As previously discussed, Fresno COG's ATP is a programmatic document that proposes goals and policies pertaining to the future of walking and bicycling in Fresno County. It is intended as a guidance document with the ultimate vision of a connected and complete network of trails, walkways and bikeways that provides safe convenient and enjoyable connections to key destinations around the County. Individual project details such as precise project locations, project timing, funding mechanisms, material types, types of equipment and ultimately construction drawings are currently not available. At such time that specific individual projects are implemented, the implementing agency will conduct site-specific CEQA analysis as necessary. Furthermore, implementation of the ATP would be required to comply with the goals and policies under the County's General Plan, County Community Plans, and other relevant regulatory documents.

Adoption of the ATP alone would not create any land use impacts because specific development is not being proposed under this ATP and it would not authorize any development. In addition, all of the proposed development is consistent with approved land use documents. Therefore, there is *no impact*.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

XI. MINERAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Fresno County has been a leading producer of minerals because of the abundance and wide variety of mineral resources that are present in the County. Extracted resources include aggregate products (sand and gravel), fossil fuels (oil and coal), metals (chromite, copper, gold, mercury, and tungsten), and other minerals used in construction or industrial applications (asbestos, high-grade clay, diatomite, granite, gypsum, and limestone).

Oil production has long been a major industry in western Fresno County, particularly in the Coalinga area. Extensive oil recovery operations are located mostly to the north of the city of Coalinga. Oil companies such as Chevron USA, Union Oil Company, Shell Production, and Santa Fe Energy have substantial land holdings in the area. Natural gas and natural gas liquids occur in oil sands or with oil in an overlying gas cap or as dry gas in separate zones in oilfields and in separate gas fields.⁹

RESPONSES

- a. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?

⁹ Fresno County General Plan EIR, Page 4.11-1.

b. Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?

No Impact. The proposed adoption of the ATP would not result in direct physical changes, however future development of project components contained in the ATP (trails, bridges, small structures, etc.) could occur at various places throughout the County. However, it is unlikely that any of the projects listed in the ATP will impact mineral resources.

As previously discussed, Fresno COG's ATP is a programmatic document that proposes goals and policies pertaining to the future of walking and bicycling in Fresno County. It is intended as a guidance document with the ultimate vision of a connected and complete network of trails, walkways and bikeways that provides safe convenient and enjoyable connections to key destinations around the County. Individual project details such as precise project locations, project timing, funding mechanisms, material types, types of equipment and ultimately construction drawings are currently not available. At such time that specific individual projects are implemented, the implementing agency will conduct site-specific CEQA analysis as necessary. Furthermore, implementation of the ATP would be required to comply with the goals and policies under the County's General Plan, County Community Plans, and other relevant regulatory documents.

Adoption of the ATP alone would not create any mineral resource impacts because specific development is not being proposed under this ATP and it would not authorize any development. Therefore, there is *no impact*.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

XII. NOISE

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Noise is most often described as unwanted sound. Although sound can be easily measured, the perception of noise and the physical response to sound complicate the analysis of its impact on people. The County is impacted by a multitude of noise sources. Mobile sources of noise, especially cars and trucks, are the most common and significant sources of noise in most communities, and they are predominant sources of noise in the County. In addition, commercial, industrial, and institutional land uses throughout the County (i.e., schools, fire stations, utilities) generate stationary-source noise.

RESPONSES

- a. Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?
- b. Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?
- c. A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?

No Impact. The proposed adoption of the ATP would not result in direct physical changes, however future development of project components contained in the ATP (trails, bridges, small structures, etc.) could potentially increase noise due to construction (temporary impact) and possibly operation (due to increased use or establishment of a new trail). Noise from these sources is not expected to be substantial, particularly with regard to on-going use, because there is little noise generated from walking and bicycling. Individual projects would be subject to site-specific environmental review, at which time the implementing agency would identify the potential noise-related impacts.

As previously discussed, Fresno COG's ATP is a programmatic document that proposes goals and policies pertaining to the future of walking and bicycling in Fresno County. It is intended as a guidance document with the ultimate vision of a connected and complete network of trails, walkways and bikeways that provides safe convenient and enjoyable connections to key destinations around the County. Individual project details such as precise project locations, project timing, funding mechanisms, material types, types of equipment and ultimately construction drawings are currently not available. At such time that specific individual projects are implemented, the implementing agency will conduct site-specific CEQA analysis as necessary. Furthermore, implementation of the ATP would be required to

comply with the goals and policies under the County's General Plan, County Community Plans, and other relevant regulatory documents.

Adoption of the ATP alone would not create any noise-related impacts because specific development is not being proposed under this ATP and it would not authorize any development. Therefore, there is *no impact*.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

XIII. POPULATION AND HOUSING

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Fresno County’s population as of July 1, 2016 was estimated to be 979,915. There are approximately 328,000 housing units in the County.¹⁰

RESPONSES

- a. Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?
- b. Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?
- c. Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

¹⁰ <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/fresnocountycalifornia,CA/PST045216>. (Accessed Oct. 2017)

No Impact. Adoption of the ATP would not affect population or employment growth and as a result would not result in growth that exceeds growth estimates of the County's General Plan or local Community Plans, nor would it result in the displacement or relocation of people or housing.

As previously discussed, Fresno COG's ATP is a programmatic document that proposes goals and policies pertaining to the future of walking and bicycling in Fresno County. It is intended as a guidance document with the ultimate vision of a connected and complete network of trails, walkways and bikeways that provides safe convenient and enjoyable connections to key destinations around the County. Individual project details such as precise project locations, project timing, funding mechanisms, material types, types of equipment and ultimately construction drawings are currently not available. At such time that specific individual projects are implemented, the implementing agency will conduct site-specific CEQA analysis as necessary. Furthermore, implementation of the ATP would be required to comply with the goals and policies under the County's General Plan, County Community Plans, and other relevant regulatory documents.

Adoption of the ATP alone would not create any population or housing impacts because specific development is not being proposed under this ATP and it would not authorize any development. Therefore, there is *no impact*.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

XIV. PUBLIC SERVICES

Would the project:

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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- a. Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Fresno County provides full service sheriff and fire protection services. There are numerous schools, parks, libraries and other public facilities located throughout the County.

RESPONSES

- a. Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

Fire protection?

Police Protection?

Schools?

Parks?

Other public facilities?

No Impact. Adoption of the ATP would not affect population or employment growth and as a result would not result in growth that would require the assemblage of additional fire or police resources, or the expansion of any schools or other public facilities. The proposed adoption of the ATP would not result in direct physical changes, however future development of project components contained in the ATP (trails, bridges, small structures, etc.) could potentially increase the need for security for pedestrians and bicyclists utilizing these facilities. Individual projects would be subject to site-specific environmental review, at which time the implementing agency would identify the potential public service related impacts.

As previously discussed, Fresno COG's ATP is a programmatic document that proposes goals and policies pertaining to the future of walking and bicycling in Fresno County. It is intended as a guidance document with the ultimate vision of a connected and complete network of trails, walkways and bikeways that provides safe convenient and enjoyable connections to key destinations around the County. Individual project details such as precise project locations, project timing, funding mechanisms, material types, types of equipment and ultimately construction drawings are currently not available. At such time that specific individual projects are implemented, the implementing agency will conduct site-specific CEQA analysis as necessary. Furthermore, implementation of the ATP would be required to comply with the goals and policies under the County's General Plan, County Community Plans, and other relevant regulatory documents.

Adoption of the ATP alone would not create any public service impacts because specific development is not being proposed under this ATP and it would not authorize any development. Therefore, there is *no impact*.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

XV. RECREATION

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Fresno County has a variety of regional parks and landscaped areas. Regional recreational facilities include 13 parks, four fishing access areas and a boat-launch / parking facility at Shaver Lake. These areas are used for picnicking, fishing, hiking, jogging, bird watching, nature study, non-organized sports, barbecues, softball, soccer, volleyball, overnight camping, passive recreation and more.¹¹

RESPONSES

- a. Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?
- b. Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

No Impact. Adoption of the ATP would not affect population or employment growth and as a result would not result in growth that would require expansion of existing recreational facilities. More so, the

¹¹ <http://www.co.fresno.ca.us/DepartmentPage.aspx?id=51904>. (Accessed Oct. 2017)

ATP is intended to increase the pedestrian and bicycle recreational opportunities for the residents of the County and thus will have a beneficial impact on recreational facilities and opportunities.

As previously discussed, Fresno COG's ATP is a programmatic document that proposes goals and policies pertaining to the future of walking and bicycling in Fresno County. It is intended as a guidance document with the ultimate vision of a connected and complete network of trails, walkways and bikeways that provides safe convenient and enjoyable connections to key destinations around the County. Individual project details such as precise project locations, project timing, funding mechanisms, material types, types of equipment and ultimately construction drawings are currently not available. At such time that specific individual projects are implemented, the implementing agency will conduct site-specific CEQA analysis as necessary. Furthermore, implementation of the ATP would be required to comply with the goals and policies under the County's General Plan, County Community Plans, and other relevant regulatory documents.

Adoption of the ATP alone would not create any recreational impacts because specific development is not being proposed under this ATP and it would not authorize any development. Therefore, there is *no impact*.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

XVI. TRANSPORTATION/ TRAFFIC

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Would the project:

- | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <p>a. Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <p>b. Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <p>c. Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that result in substantial safety risks?</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <p>d. Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <p>e. Result in inadequate emergency access?</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

XVI. TRANSPORTATION/ TRAFFIC

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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Would the project:

- f. Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The existing transportation system and services in Fresno County includes airports, highways, local roadways, transit systems, railroads, and bicycle paths. Two major functions of roadways are to provide mobility for through-traffic and provide direct access to adjacent properties. Roadways also provide bicycle and pedestrian access and allow for the circulation of non-vehicular traffic.

RESPONSES

- a. Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?
- b. Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?
- c. Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that result in substantial safety risks?
- d. Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

No Impact. The proposed adoption of the ATP would not result in direct physical changes, however future development of project components contained in the ATP (trails, bridges, small structures, etc.) could potentially impact existing roadways and intersections. For instance, if new crosswalks or bicycle

lanes are proposed, these projects could require additional analysis to determine their impacts to (and safety from) roadway and vehicular activity. Additionally, construction activities will require various vehicular trips to and from the various project sites. However, these will be minimal and temporary. In the event that partial or full road closure is necessary during project construction, the contractor will be required to adhere to any and all regulations from the local jurisdiction, Caltrans and/or other regulatory agency. Individual projects would be subject to site-specific environmental review, at which time the implementing agency would identify the potential transportation-related impacts.

As previously discussed, Fresno COG's ATP is a programmatic document that proposes goals and policies pertaining to the future of walking and bicycling in Fresno County. It is intended as a guidance document with the ultimate vision of a connected and complete network of trails, walkways and bikeways that provides safe convenient and enjoyable connections to key destinations around the County. Individual project details such as precise project locations, project timing, funding mechanisms, material types, types of equipment and ultimately construction drawings are currently not available. At such time that specific individual projects are implemented, the implementing agency will conduct site-specific CEQA analysis as necessary. Furthermore, implementation of the ATP would be required to comply with the goals and policies under the County's General Plan, County Community Plans, and other relevant regulatory documents.

Adoption of the ATP alone would not create any transportation-related impacts because specific development is not being proposed under this ATP and it would not authorize any development. Therefore, there is *no impact*.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

XVII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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a. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:

i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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RESPONSES

a). Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape

that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:

- i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or
- ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

No Impact. The proposed adoption of the ATP would not result in direct physical changes, however future development of project components contained in the ATP (trails, bridges, small structures, etc.) could potentially impact Tribal Cultural Resources. Individual projects would be subject to site-specific environmental review, at which time the implementing agency would identify the potential Tribal Cultural Resource impacts and would need to comply with AB 52, as necessary.

As previously discussed, Fresno COG's ATP is a programmatic document that proposes goals and policies pertaining to the future of walking and bicycling in Fresno County. It is intended as a guidance document with the ultimate vision of a connected and complete network of trails, walkways and bikeways that provides safe convenient and enjoyable connections to key destinations around the County. Individual project details such as precise project locations, project timing, funding mechanisms, material types, types of equipment and ultimately construction drawings are currently not available. At such time that specific individual projects are implemented, the implementing agency will conduct site-specific CEQA analysis as necessary. Furthermore, implementation of the ATP would be required to comply with the goals and policies under the County's General Plan, County Community Plans, and other relevant regulatory documents.

Adoption of the ATP alone would not create any Tribal Cultural Resource impacts because specific development is not being proposed under this ATP and it would not authorize any development. Therefore, there is *no impact*.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

XVIII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b. Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c. Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e. Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f. Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

XVIII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Would the project:

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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- g. Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Many unincorporated communities have elected to form special districts to provide services to rural clients. Cities and special districts own and operate numerous water, wastewater, and stormwater systems throughout Fresno County.

RESPONSES

- a. Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?
- b. Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?
- c. Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?
- d. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?
- e. Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project’s projected demand in addition to the provider’s existing commitments?
- f. Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project’s solid waste disposal needs?
- g. Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

No Impact. The proposed adoption of the ATP would not result in direct physical changes, however future development of project components contained in the ATP (trails, bridges, small structures, etc.)

could potentially utilize water supply during construction and for potential landscaping. Once the various project components are in operation, no wastewater generation is expected and solid waste generation will be limited mostly to construction activity. Individual projects would be subject to site-specific environmental review, at which time the implementing agency would identify the potential utility-related impacts.

As previously discussed, Fresno COG's ATP is a programmatic document that proposes goals and policies pertaining to the future of walking and bicycling in Fresno County. It is intended as a guidance document with the ultimate vision of a connected and complete network of trails, walkways and bikeways that provides safe convenient and enjoyable connections to key destinations around the County. Individual project details such as precise project locations, project timing, funding mechanisms, material types, types of equipment and ultimately construction drawings are currently not available. At such time that specific individual projects are implemented, the implementing agency will conduct site-specific CEQA analysis as necessary. Furthermore, implementation of the ATP would be required to comply with the goals and policies under the County's General Plan, County Community Plans, and other relevant regulatory documents.

Adoption of the ATP alone would not create any utility-related impacts because specific development is not being proposed under this ATP and it would not authorize any development. Therefore, there is *no impact*.

Mitigation Measures: None are required.

XIX. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Would the project:

Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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a. Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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b. Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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c. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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RESPONSES

- a. Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?
- b. Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?
- c. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

No Impact. Fresno COG’s ATP is a programmatic document that proposes goals and policies pertaining to the future of walking and bicycling in Fresno County. It is intended as a guidance document with the ultimate vision of a connected and complete network of trails, walkways and bikeways that provides safe convenient and enjoyable connections to key destinations around the County. Individual project details such as precise project locations, project timing, funding mechanisms, material types, types of equipment and ultimately construction drawings are currently not available. At such time that specific individual projects are implemented, the implementing agency will conduct site-specific CEQA analysis as necessary. Furthermore, implementation of the ATP would be required to comply with the goals and policies under the County’s General Plan, County Community Plans, and other relevant regulatory documents.

Adoption of the ATP alone would not create any impacts because specific development is not being proposed under this ATP and it would not authorize any development. Therefore, there is *no impact*.

Chapter 4

List of Preparers

LIST OF PREPARERS AND CONSULTATIONS

List of Preparers

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Appendices

Appendix A

Active Transportation Plan