

Soar Environmental Consulting Inc.

Serving all of California with locations in
Fresno – Sacramento - Bakersfield

Statement of Qualifications

Since 2014, Soar Environmental Consulting, Inc. has served our partners to meet and maintain environmental requirements and policies from plan conception through completion. With hundreds of years of cumulative experience, our tenets are simple; based on military expertise and expounded upon through professional knowledge and practical application, we passionately believe in the importance of safe



work, showing up early, identifying and resolving issues, governing the regulations, and producing superior work. In addition, we will focus on the environment so that you can focus on delivering professional services for your constituents.



Our Team comprises diverse professionals headquartered in Fresno with locations in Sacramento and Bakersfield and with remote staff around the state; therefore, we understand the endemic issues surrounding environmental resources within the local areas and have firsthand experience with local and regional transportation and large infrastructure projects.

Our Soar Environmental team includes biologists, ecologists, archaeologists, geologists, environmental

engineers, and other specialists to complete environmental studies and compliance requirements. We have experience

conducting major CEQA/NEPA Initial Studies and reviews for the California High-Speed Rail Authority. We have completed several Caltrans projects concerning hazard waste environmental



assessments, biological monitoring, and environmental health safety compliance. We've performed Phase I and II Environmental Assessments, Biological and Cultural Resources Assessments, HazWaste technical reports, stormwater, and spill prevention plans, analysis, and laboratory testing for regional developers. The breadth of our experiences includes NEPA Environmental Assessments HUD requires for funding projects on tribal lands, including the Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians.

Soar Environmental's past performances include the following environmental programs:

- **Environmental Technical Reporting**
 - Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessments
 - Biological Assessments and Evaluation
 - Phase I and II Cultural Resources Assessments
 - Water, Air Quality, and Noise Assessments and Permitting
 - Wetland Delineations and Permitting (Section 404 Permits)
 - Land Use Consistency and Compatibility Analyses
 - CDFW §1600 Streambed Alteration Agreements
- **Services for CEQA, NEPA, and ESA permitting and**



local planning issues

- Environmental Constraints Analyses/Screening Reports
- CEQA Initial Study Technical Reporting and Documentation
- NEPA Evaluations and Documentation
- Notices of Intent, Preparations, Availability, Completion, and Determinations
- Coordination of Scoping Meetings and Public Hearings
- Preparation of Findings of Fact and Statement of Overriding Considerations
- Development of Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plans
- Hydroelectric project permitting
- NPDES and WDR Permitting for

Construction Projects and Wastewater Treatment Plants

- Clean Water Act (401 Water Quality Certifications)

○ **Endangered Species Act (ESA) Permitting**

- ESA §§ 7 and 10 Consultation
- CDFW §2081 Permits

○ **Biological Surveys**

- Habitat Evaluations -Swainson's hawk, California Tiger Salamander, giant garter snake, blunt-nosed leopard lizard, Western pond turtle, Yellow-legged frog, Western Pond Turtle, etc.
- California Red-Legged Frog (CRLF) Surveys
- Vernal Pool Surveys (include Fairy Shrimp and plants
- Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle (VELB) Surveys
- Preconstruction nesting and raptor surveys (Western burrowing owls & Swainson's hawk)
- Coastal California bird nesting habitat assessments and surveys: Rare Plant Surveys and identification.



○ **Environmental Documentation and Environmental Compliance**

- SWPPP/SPCC
- BMP Inspections/QSE Monitoring and Sampling
- Phase I and Phase II Environmental Site Assessments
- Land Use Consistency and Compatibility Analyses
- EIR/EIS Reviews and Section Write-Ups



○ **Environmental Compliance Monitoring**

- Implementation of required mitigation measures
- Habitat restoration and monitoring for upland, wetland, and vernal pool species
- Preconstruction surveys/ monitoring during construction activities

Soar Environmental Consulting Projects: Infrastructure, HazWaste, Cultural, Biological, & CEQA Initial Study

Project: Caltrans District 10, Biological/Delineation Surveys, Broadband Middle Mile Project, Merced County, CA

Situation: Soar Environmental joined our partners on the Caltrans Broadband Middle Mile Network (BMMN) project in District 10, Merced County, to perform necessary biological clearances for installing conduit and fiber to the right-of-way construction connect to a last-mile broadband infrastructure connecting homes and businesses with local networks. In conjunction with the State Department of Technology and Transportation, this initiative provides open access to state-owned high-capacity fiber lines that carry large amounts of data at higher speeds over longer distances between local networks. The State Highway system right-of-way will be used to lay conduit and fiber.



Action: Our Biological Team was contracted to survey the 66-mile corridor from Highway 99 down the Highway 152 corridor to Interstate 5. Biologists surveyed for sensitive biological resources and potential state and federal permit triggers. In addition, communicated and assessed the effect of the broadband project on biological resources that cannot be avoided through design and minimization measures. As the Consultant, we performed field studies, including biological surveys, surveys for special-status species, botanical inventories, GIS habitat mapping, and avoidance mapping. In addition, we identified sensitive biological resource "hot spots" that could trigger state and federal permits. Reports undertaken were: Natural Environment Study Minimal Impacts, No Effect Determination Biological Memo, Section 10 application for the Army Corp of Engineers due to the project traversing the San Joaquin River, an Avoidance Area Report, and an Aquatic Resources Delineation.

Results: Field studies, GIS mapping, Section 10 application, and report writing were successfully performed and professionally delivered to our partners throughout the three-month performance window.

Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Patrol, SWPPP/SPCC Plans, San Diego, California.

Project: The Department of Homeland Security announced new border enforcement measures to improve border security, limit irregular migration, and create additional safe and orderly processes for people fleeing humanitarian crises to lawfully come to the United States in preparation for Title 42 being lifted. Our partner tasked Soar Environmental with the immediate need for environmental permits to move the dirt to construct a new massive processing base for migrants coming over our border in San Diego.



Action: Our Team immediately went into action to develop and secure the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan and the Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures plan to comply with local, state, and regional agencies before moving dirt. Our Team continues to provide weekly Best Management Plan inspections, water testing, and analysis for necessary Qualifying Storm Events.

Results: In one week over the holidays, our Team wrote the SWPPP and SPCC plans, submitted the documents to the appropriate agencies, gained approval, and allowed our partner to move dirt and promptly begin construction. That is what we call 'soaring' to our partner's needs!



Project: California High-Speed Rail Authority, Construction Package 1-Project Construction Management, Fresno/Madera Counties, CA

Situation: Soar Environmental served as the PCM Environmental Oversight Management team for Construction Package 1 of the California High-Speed Rail in Fresno and Madera counties. Continuing activities for the Authority include environmental permitting management prior to construction, environmental management during construction, site environmental surveys and investigations, and agency and utility coordination. Soar Environmental served as the SWPPP Compliance Coordinator and the utility liaison for Construction Package 1.

Services: Project and Construction Management Oversight; Environmental and 3rd Party Management During Construction Phases I & II; Environmental Site Assessment Management; Tribal Consultations; Hazardous Soil Analysis and Management; Financial Forecasting; Utility Coordination Sustainability Oversight; Permit Development and Management; Biological Surveying and Monitoring; Process Development and Implementation



Project: C.A. Highspeed Rail
Authority - Del Monte Site Phase II
Environmental Site Assessment,
Fresno, California

Situation: One challenging parcel acquired by the Authority is the former Del Monte Food Processing plant in downtown Fresno, California. During the Phase I ESA, it was discovered that the site had a

history of leaking underground fuel oil storage tanks. The tanks, built in the The 1930s had been leaking for 50 years. As a result, Soar Environmental staff provided a Phase II ESA for the Del Monte site.

Action: Soar Environmental staff evaluated a Phase I ESA previously prepared on the Del Monte site by another firm, identifying recognized environmental conditions due to the leaking

underground storage tanks (UST). In addition, we conducted a Phase II ESA. The Phase II ESAs screened for contaminants of concern using data collected from the soil borings. We used a drilling rig to assess subsurface soil conditions to collect soil samples from depth, then submitted them to a California Certified analytical laboratory for chemical analysis. Finally, we provided a Phase II



ESA Report that included a summary of field activities performed, analytical results from the laboratory, and recommendations for additional steps.

Results: Soar Environmental completed the Phase II ESA and, through diligent research, determined that all five USTs had been successfully removed with no future Recognized Environmental Conditions. As a result, the Initial Study was able to proceed. Soar Environmental determined that the project had a less than significant impact on hazards and hazardous waste.

Project: California Trout Cultural Resources Assessment and Environmental Review – By-Day Creek Ecological Preserve, Mono County, CA

Situation: In conjunction with California Trout and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Soar Environmental works to provide wildlife habitat restoration and planning. The 460-acre By-Day Creek Ecological Reserve is located in northern Mono County at approximately 7800 feet near the community of Bridgeport in the beautiful Sierra Nevada. The Reserve is undergoing a program to protect and enhance the habitat of the genetically pure Walker Basin Lahontan cutthroat trout, a federal and state-listed threatened species. A Forest Management Plan will thin native vegetation along the creek beds to improve forest health, reduce wildfire threat, conduct biodiversity monitoring, and improve watershed health and availability



Actions:

Soar Environmental is tasked to provide a full Cultural Resources Assessment, Tribal Consultations, and environmental compliance reviews to existing laws and regulations. Additionally, we use best management practices to provide California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliant services for reviews of contract activities and other permitting as needed.

We are contacting several indigenous peoples in Mono County to apprise them of this work. These tribes include the Bishop Paiute Tribe, Bridgeport Paiute Indian Colony, Mono Lake Kutzadika Tribe, Walker River Reservation, and the Big Pine Paiute Tribe of Owens Valley.



Results:

As this three-year project progresses, our Archaeology Team provides cultural resources assessments, field surveys, and monitoring during forest thinning activities. Our Team provides safe work, shows up early, identifies and resolves issues, governs the regulations, and produces superior work. Therefore, we will focus on assisting our partners to reach for the stars while keeping their feet on the ground.



Project: Stantec/Cardno Big Creek Dam 4 Aquatic Biological Surveys and Monitoring – Eastern Fresno County, CA



Situation: Due to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, or FERC, licensing along the Big Creek watershed in the Central California Sierra Nevada, Southern California Edison, Cardno Inc., and Soar Environmental assist with aquatic studies to protect listed species. The aquatic studies include water temperature, Western Pond Turtle populations, and Foothill Yellow-legged Frog locations during the breeding season.

Action: The Soar Environmental biology team conducts eDNA logging, water clarity study, and monitoring for these license conditions. Our Team assists with installing and maintaining loggers in the Horseshoe Bend Reach of the San Joaquin River upstream of Big Creek No. 4 Powerhouse of the San Joaquin River. In addition, we assist in assessing Western Pond Turtle population abundance and population structure based on trapping and marking turtles at study sites in several San Joaquin River locations. Additionally, Soar Environmental biologists are collecting eDNA samples for Foothill Yellow-legged Frog at six locations during the expected breeding season, typically during late spring/early summer after high flows have receded and water temperature is appropriate. Sample locations are along the San Joaquin River.



Results: Our teams continue to provide outstanding environmental services for these necessary aquatic studies. Some of these sites are in extremely remote locations. However, our biologists are up to the task and support our partners with their expertise, dedication, and drive.

Project: Caltrans D6, Aerially Deposited Lead Study, Highway 63, Tulare, California



Situation: Based on the historical use of leaded gasoline along a half-mile stretch of Mooney Boulevard (State Highway 63) in Tulare, CA, and Caltrans had not conducted Aerially Deposited Lead studies in the area, Soar Environmental was contracted to study soils within shallow soil (upper three feet) adjacent to the existing traveled road.

Action: The Soar Environmental geologist and environmental engineer inspected the site to observe the existing surface conditions and marking of sample sites. USA Underground was called to clear all boring sites. Thirteen sites were marked. As directed by the California Department of Toxic Substance Control, boring depths were outlined. A laboratory testing program of the soils was performed. The Soar Environmental Scientist reviewed and analyzed the lab data accumulated and prepared an in-depth ADL Investigation report with findings and recommendations.

Results: Five soil samples were above thresholds and required further testing. Finally, determinations were made for the project's proper use and disposal of contaminated soil.

Project: Caltrans D3, I-5 West End Viaduct HazWaste Inspections, Sacramento, California

Situation: The California Department of Transportation, District 3, sought to strengthen the I-5 West End Viaduct superstructure to increase permitted loads. Caltrans sought out professional and technical services for the project approval and environmental document phase of the project.



Action: Soar Environmental conducted hazardous waste initial site assessments and investigations involving interviews with past/present owners, operators, and occupants of the project site, reviewed historical and governmental documentation about the site, and visually inspected the project site and

adjoining properties. Soar also investigated a hazardous waste site involving soil, lead-based paint, and asbestos-containing material sampling.

Results: After the hazardous waste assessments, Soar Environmental submitted draft and final supplemental assessments, necessary technical reports, and lead and asbestos investigative reports. The submitted documentation allowed for the proper disposal of hazardous materials on the project site on time and within budget.

CEQA Initial Study, Rio Linda Boulevard, Sacramento, California

Project: A planned redevelopment of a convenience store and fueling station along Rio Linda Boulevard prompted the City of Sacramento to task the property owner to conduct a CEQA Initial Study to clear the property for remodeling and planned operation environmentally and to protect public safety. Our due diligence and meetings with the City Planning Department determined that several individual technical studies would be required. These studies included Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment, Biological Resources and Cultural Resources Assessments, Water Delineation Survey, Air Quality and Green House Gases study, Traffic Trip Generation Analysis, and a Health Risk Assessment due to neighboring homes.

Action: Soar Environmental kicked off the study with a meeting with the client and the City of Sacramento Planning Department. With a good partnership built with City Planners, we began by studying previous environmental documents. Fortunately, we found that the previous leaking tank and the potential for asbestos had been remediated and cleared by the City. Our Team finalized the project description with our client and determined that the project and site were consistent with the City's General Plan, specific plan, and zoning ordinances. As the project proceeds, our Team of biologists, archaeologists, QSD/QSP, and environmental planner are completing the CEQA checklist in conjunction with completing all necessary technical studies required. As studies are completed, the administrative draft is being started outlined.



Results: This project is currently in progress. At the date of this writing, the Biological, Cultural, Water Delineation, and the Phase 1 ESA have been completed and incorporated into the administrative draft document. Once all the studies are completed, and the administrative draft is sent to the City for comments, we are confident the process will be completed on time and within budget.

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