

**Floodplain Statement of Findings for the  
Site 300 Entrance/Exit Corral Hollow Road Widening Project  
Adjacent to the  
Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory Experimental Test Site**

**AGENCY:** U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), Livermore Field Office

**ACTION:** Floodplain Statement of Findings

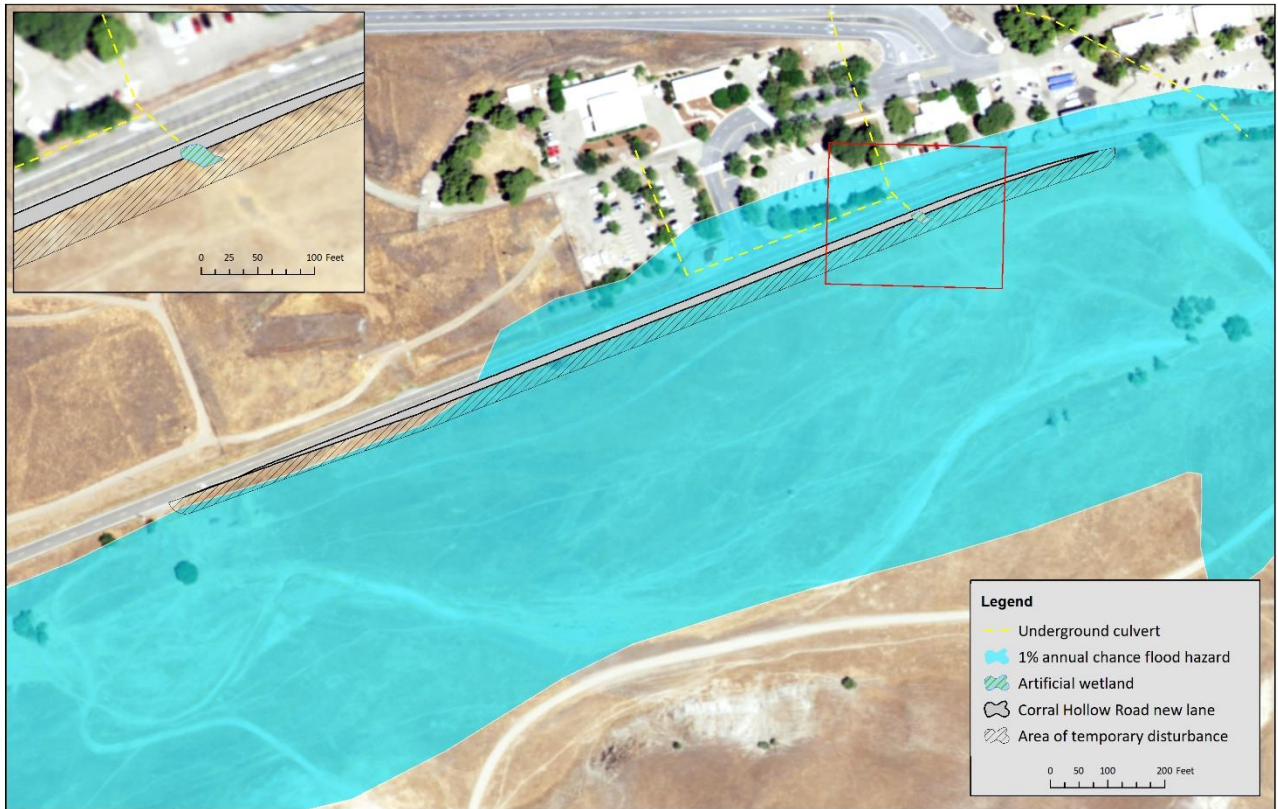
**DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION:** Lawrence Livermore National Security, LLC (LLNS) is proposing to modify and upgrade a San Joaquin County Road (Corral Hollow Road) at the entrance to the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) Experimental Test Site (Site 300). LLNS operates LLNL under contract with the DOE/NNSA. The purpose of the proposed project is to implement traffic safety improvements at the Site 300 entrance area. The project is needed to provide safer access for employees and visitors into and out of Site 300. The proposed project would widen Corral Hollow Road by 12 feet along the south side of the road to accommodate installation of a left-hand turn lane on eastbound Corral Hollow Road, along with associated rumble strips and striping. The proposed project would also include slurry seal for the existing roadway, installation of speed limit signs and solar powered radar signs on both eastbound and westbound Corral Hollow Road, and right-hand turn pocket delineators on westbound Corral Hollow Road. This project would encroach on the 100-year Corral Hollow Creek floodplain. In addition, a small artificial wetland occurs within the footprint of the project site. The project location and the Corral Hollow Creek floodplain are shown in Figure 1.

**EXPLANATION FOR LOCATION WITHIN A FLOODPLAIN:** After consideration of the benefit of improved safety at the Site 300 entrance, alternative actions, and impacts to floodplain values that may result from this project, DOE/NNSA has determined that there is no practicable alternative to locating the project within the 100-year floodplain of Corral Hollow Creek. The location of the proposed action within the 100-year floodplain of Corral Hollow Creek is necessary to improve traffic safety at the Site 300 entrance.

**ALTERNATIVES:** In addition to the Proposed Action, the following three options were evaluated:

1. Widening the roadway to the north was rejected due to the proximity of the existing right-of-way to the Site 300 boundary.
2. Speed humps were rejected for this roadway due to the posted speed limit and average daily traffic (ADT), as San Joaquin County guidelines consider speed humps mainly for residential neighborhoods with lower speed limits.
3. A No Action alternative was also rejected due to the long-standing safety and traffic flow issues at the Site 300 entrance area.

**FLOODPLAIN PROTECTION STANDARDS:** This Floodplain Statement of Findings was prepared in accordance with Executive Order 11988, Floodplain Management, and DOE implementing regulations 10 Code of Federal Regulations 1022, Compliance with Floodplain and Wetland Environmental Review Requirements, and provides a summary of the Floodplain and Wetland Assessment for the Site 300 Entrance/Exit Corral Hollow Road Widening Project.



**Figure 1. Location of the Site 300 Entrance/Exit Corral Hollow Road Widening Project shown with the location of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) flood hazard zones and a small artificial wetland.**

**MEASURES TAKEN TO MINIMIZE HARM TO FLOODPLAIN VALUES:** Impacts to floodplain values would be avoided to the maximum extent practicable during this project. The project is not expected to result in impacts to wetland values.

The loss of floodplain volume that would result from this project would be minimal and is not expected to be significant.

Potential impacts to storm water quality would be avoided because the project would be conducted following a project specific Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) during the dry season and any exposed soil at the project site would be stabilized by hydroseeding.

The project would result in potential impacts to upland habitat for two species listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act, the California red-legged frog and the California tiger salamander. In addition, the project site is located within critical habitat for the California red-legged frog. LLNS and DOE/NNSA have consulted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife regarding these impacts. Impacts to these species will be minimized and mitigated through participation in the San Joaquin County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation and Open Space Plan (SJMSCP). LLNS has funded the protection of 1.7 acres of natural habitat for these species through participation in the SJMSCP as part of this project. The potential for direct impacts to listed

species during construction is minimal because of the degraded habitat value of the grasslands at the project site adjacent to Corral Hollow Road. Direct impacts to listed species and their habitat would be further minimized through avoidance measures including limiting construction to the dry season and restoring areas of temporary disturbance at the project site.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The notification of the availability of the Floodplain and Wetland Assessment for the Site 300 Entrance/Exit Corral Hollow Road Widening Project and request for comments was sent to appropriate government agencies, tribes, organizations, and persons known to be interested in or potentially affected by the proposed floodplain action via email and through notices posted in local newspapers. The Floodplain and Wetland Assessment was available for a 15-day public review and comment period on the DOE National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) website at <https://www.energy.gov/nepa/articles/floodplain-and-wetland-assessment-site-300-entranceexit-coral-hollow-road-widening>. No comments were received within the 15-day public review and comment period, therefore no changes to the Proposed Action or Floodplain and Wetland Assessment were necessary.

**FURTHER INFORMATION:** For further information or questions regarding this Floodplain Statement of Findings contact the Livermore Field Office via email at [PublicCommentsLLNL@nnsa.doe.gov](mailto:PublicCommentsLLNL@nnsa.doe.gov).