

Dennis Acuna, P. E., T. E. Director of Transportation

## **COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE** *TRANSPORTATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY*

## **Transportation Department** NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Hector D. Davila, P.E. Deputy for Transportation/Capital Projects

Russell Williams Deputy for Transportation/Planning and Development

August 29, 2024

**PROJECT TITLE:** Elm Street Protective Concrete Slab Project Work Order#C50087, Task Code #Z1530

**PROJECT SPONSOR:** County of Riverside Transportation Department

**PROJECT LOCATION:** Community of Cabazon

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The County of Riverside Transportation Department is proposing to construct a protective reinforced concrete slab over the Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) located beneath Elm Street between approximately 1,500 feet north of Adele Avenue to approximately 1,900 feet north of Adele Avenue. Elm Street is classified as a collector in the County of Riverside's General Plan. Elm Street is a two lane road and currently ranges from 24-25 feet wide. The proposed project will consist of constructing a reinforced concrete slab over the CRA owned and operated by the Metropolitan Water District (MWD). The slab will be 2 feet thick supported by spread footings and will provide protection for the CRA below.

The proposed project will also include:

- Construction of widened asphalt concrete approach sections
- Construction of concrete drainage swale
- Reconstruction of asphalt concrete pavement and driveway
- Relocation of fence
  - Shoulder backing and grading
  - Utility adjustments
  - Striping of roadway, including pavement markers and reflectors
  - Salvage/removal and installation of new signs

## **ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:**

Temporary construction easements may be required for the proposed improvements.

A drainage easement over the CRA is needed for this project. The project improvements will not be within the existing footprint of the roadway and will modify the existing roadway profile.

This project is subject to compliance with the County WRMSHCP. In accordance with Section 7 of the Western Riverside County MSHCP, necessary operation and maintenance along existing roadways are considered a covered activity outside of cell criteria areas. This project is considered

to be an operation and maintenance activity; therefore, it is a covered activity under the Western Riverside County MSHCP.

If tree and/or vegetation removal takes place during the migratory bird breeding season (February 1st – August 31st), a preconstruction nesting survey will be conducted pursuant to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

The County of Riverside Transportation Department has found that the above-described project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), based on the following:

Section 15301 (c) – Existing Facilities – The project proposes to construct a protective reinforced concrete slab over the Colorado River Adequate (CRA) located beneath Elm Street. The project in its entirety is consistent with Section 15301(c) because it does not create additional traffic lanes and involves no expansion of use of the existing roadway and associated facilities.

By: David Castro, Associate Transportation Planner

Signed: Jan Bulinski Jan Bulinski, Environmental Project Manager

