



Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

California Environmental Quality Act Notice of Exemption for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality

To: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Valley Region, Redding Office
364 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 205
Redding, CA 96002

Date: 21 May 2025

Project Title:

Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) Valley Subdivision
Mile Posts 238.79 and 238.94 Bridge Replacement
Project (Project)

Project Location - Specific:

Nearest City: Cottonwood, CA
Section 15, Township 29 North, Range 04 West, MDB&M.
Latitude: 40.3673° and Longitude: -122.2989° and
Latitude: 40.3657° and Longitude: -122.3011°

Project Location - County:

Tehama County

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

UPRR proposes replacing the existing bridge structures at Mile Post (MP) 238.79 and MP 238.94 on the Valley Subdivision. At MP 238.79, the proposed activity will replace the existing six-span, 91-foot-long, timber stringer trestle ballast deck bridge with a three-span, 90-foot long, prestressed concrete box girder bridge spanning an intermittent stream (Water-2). The proposed activity at MP 238.94 will replace an existing nine-span, 136-foot-long, timber stringer trestle ballast deck bridge with a five-span, 150-foot long, prestressed concrete box girder bridge spanning a second intermittent stream (Water-1). The Project limits consist of the existing and proposed rail bridges, temporary workspaces, and access routes (8.60 acres in total). Construction activities will occur within an existing UPRR right-of-way (ROW) extending 100 feet to both sides of the mainline track alignment (200 feet total ROW width). The proposed access routes and staging areas are partially located on private property adjacent to the ROW. Water-1 and Water-2 flow to Cottonwood Creek, a tributary to the Sacramento

River. Three wetlands (Wetland-1 through Wetland-3) and one intermittent ditch feature (Ditch-1) are also present within the Project limits.

Name of Public Agencies Approving Project:

Federal Agencies: The project requires authorization under U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Clean Water Act Section 404, Nationwide Permit 14, Linear Transportation Projects.

State Agency approval for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification: California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, Redding Office. WDID No. 5A52CR00248.

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:

Steve Cheney
Union Pacific Railroad
1400 Douglas Street, Stop 0910
Omaha, NE 68179

Exempt Status:

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region has determined that the Project is categorically exempt from review under CEQA pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Article 19, section 15302, Replacement or Reconstruction. Class 2 consists of replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced.

Reasons why Project is Exempt:

This project is Categorical Exempt under CEQA section 15302 because the project involves replacement of an existing structure with a new structure that will be located in the same footprint and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced.

Federal Lead Agency Contact Person:

Shannon Morgan
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District
(916) 326-9130

State Lead Agency Contact Person:

Lynn Coster, Senior Environmental Scientist
Chief Storm Water and Water Quality Certification Unit
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
Redding Branch Office
(530) 224-2437

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Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, Redding

cc: Steve Cheney, Union Pacific Railroad, Omaha, NE
Shannon Morgan, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District
Jennifer McBride, Arcadis U.S., Inc., Highlands Ranch, CO