



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT  
**Notice of Exemption**

To:  Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Contra Costa County  
Department of Conservation and  
Development  
30 Muir Road  
Martinez, CA 94553

County Clerk, County of Contra Costa

**Project Title:** Bethel Island Road Sinkhole and Culvert Repair, Project # WO6253, CP#24-25

**Project Applicant:** Contra Costa County Public Works Dept., 255 Glacier Drive, Martinez CA 94553,  
(925) 313-2000, Contact: Sandeep Kajla, (925) 313-2022,  
[sandeep.kajla@pw.cccounty.us](mailto:sandeep.kajla@pw.cccounty.us)

**Project Location:** On Bethel Island Road approximately 0.6 miles north of the intersection with Gateway Road, where Bethel Island Road crosses an irrigation ditch in unincorporated Bethel Island; APN's: 028-030-004, 028-040-014, and 029-040-012

**Lead Agency:** Department of Conservation and Development, 30 Muir Road, Martinez, CA 94553

**Contact Person:** Syd Sotoodeh (925) 655-2877 [syd.sotoodeh@dcd.cccounty.us](mailto:syd.sotoodeh@dcd.cccounty.us)

**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:**

The purpose of this project is to replace a failing culvert beneath Bethel Island Road with a new culvert and to repair the roadway. The existing culvert is 48-inch diameter corrugated metal pipe (CMP) culvert that will be replaced with a 54-inch diameter reinforced concrete pipe and two concrete flared ends. The culvert conveys water flows from an artificial drainage ditch. Full replacement would generally include excavation to the pipe depth, removal of the existing culvert, installation of the new culvert, trench backfill, placement of rock slope protection, placement of aggregate base and hot mix asphalt, and roadway striping. The ditch in the immediate vicinity of the culvert replacement will be dewatered prior to construction. Excavations up to approximately 13 feet beneath the roadway are anticipated for the culvert replacement. All heavy machinery will be operated from the existing roadway. All equipment will be operated from the top of the ditch embankment.

At least one lane will remain open at all times and emergency vehicles will have access at all times. Real Estate transactions, including right-of-way acquisition, may be necessary. Utility relocation, temporary traffic control, and vegetation trimming and removal may be necessary. No night or weekend work is anticipated. Construction is anticipated to begin in summer of 2026 and take approximately 20 working days to complete.

**Name of Public Agency Approving Project:** Contra Costa County

**Exempt Status:**

- Ministerial Project (Sec. 21080[b][1]; 15268)  Categorical Exemption 15301(c)  
 Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080[b][3]; 15269(a))  General Rule of Applicability (Sec. 15061[b][3])  
 Emergency Project (Sec. 21080[b][4]; 15269[b][c])  Other Statutory Exemption (Sec. )

**Reasons why project is exempt:** The activity/project consists of the replacement of an existing culvert and the repair/reconstruction of the existing roadway and road shoulder with negligible expansion of use pursuant to Article 19, Section 15301(c) of the CEQA Guidelines.

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project?  Yes  No

Signature: *Syd Sotoodeh* Title: Senior Planner Date: June 10, 2025  
**Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development**

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

**AFFIDAVIT OF FILING AND POSTING**

I declare that on \_\_\_\_\_ I received and posted this notice as required by California Public Resources Code Section 21152(c). Said notice will remain posted for 30 days from the filing date.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

**Applicant**

Public Works Department  
255 Glacier Drive  
Martinez, CA 94553  
Attn: Sandeep Kaila *Sec*  
Environmental Services Division  
Phone: (925) 313-2022

**Department of Fish and Wildlife Fees Due**

- De Minimis Finding - \$0
- County Clerk - \$50
- Conservation and Development - \$25

Total Due: \_\_\_\_\_

Receipt #: \_\_\_\_\_