



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
Notice of Exemption

PLN-1123
06/06/2018

Project Title and No.: Cecchetti Temporary Bridge Project (310014/ED25-0147)

Project Location (Specific address [use APN or description when no situs available]):

The project site is located with the County Right of Way at of Cecchetti Road Mile-Post (MP) 0.218, San Luis Obispo County.

Project Applicant/Phone No./Email:

San Luis Obispo County Public Works
(805) 781-5252 / pwd@co.slo.ca.us

Applicant Address (Street, City, State, Zip):

976 Osos St., Room 206, San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project

The proposed project involves the temporary installation of a single-lane bridge over Arroyo Grande Creek to restore vehicular access along Cecchetti Road. The temporary structure will span the washed-out section of Cecchetti Road and will remain entirely within the existing roadway footprint. Bridge components—including decking, abutments, and railings—will be modular and designed for temporary use. The bridge will ultimately be removed upon completion of final design for a permanent bridge project, currently forecasted to be completed by 2027. Additionally, because the temporary bridge will not be capable of withstanding high flows in the creek, it may need to be removed in the winter. Therefore, this project description consists of the initial installation of the temporary bridge, any seasonal removal each winter, re-installation and final removal. Each mobilization effort must avoid impacts to the streambed, banks, and riparian area.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: County of San Luis Obispo

Exempt Status: (Check One)

- Ministerial {Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268}
Declared Emergency {Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a)}
Emergency Project {Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c)}
[X] Categorical Exemption. {Sec. 15302(c); Class: 2}
Statutory Exemption {Sec. ___}
General Rule Exemption. {Sec. 15061(b)(3)} (also complete GRE form PLN-1124)
Not a Project

Reasons why project is exempt: This action is classified as a Categorical Exemption under the definitions laid out in Article 19, Section 15302(c) (Replacement or Reconstruction) in which the replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity are exempt. During review of the project, no exceptions as described in section 15300.2 of the CEQA Guidelines, were determined to be applicable to the project.

Lead Agency Contact Person (Name, Number, E-mail)

Kate Shea, (805)781-4469, kbshea@co.slo.us



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

PLN-1123
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Notice of Exemption

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: Kate Shea Date: 7/29/2025

Name: Kate Shea Title: Environmental Programs Division Manager

On 08/05/2025 the project was Approved by:

- Board of Supervisors
- Subdivision Review Board
- Other _____
- Planning Commission
- Planning Dept Hearing Officer

Project Overview and Exemption Justification

For

Cecchetti Temporary Bridge Project

San Luis Obispo, California

Project No. 310014 / ED25-0147

Prepared by:

County of San Luis Obispo

Department of Public Works

976 Osos St. Room #206

San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

July 29, 2025

Project Overview and Exemption Justification

Introduction

The County of San Luis Obispo Department of Public Works (County) is proposing to install a temporary bridge across Arroyo Grande Creek to maintain continuous access along Cecchetti Road, which runs in a generally north–south direction. The temporary bridge will be installed within the County’s existing right-of-way at approximately 35.1486, -120.5338.

Project Setting

The Arroyo Grande Creek watershed encompasses approximately 153 square miles, with about 86 square miles located downstream of Lopez Dam. From Lopez Dam, Arroyo Grande Creek flows roughly 15 miles to its outlet at the Pacific Ocean in the community of Oceano, California. Two primary tributaries join Arroyo Grande Creek downstream of the dam: Tar Spring Creek, which enters near river mile (RM) 7.0 upstream of the City of Arroyo Grande, and Los Berros Creek, which enters near RM 3.5, downstream of Highway 101.

The site was previously equipped with a culverted crossing; however, heavy rainfall in January and March of 2023 caused Arroyo Grande Creek to overtop and damage the crossing. When water levels receded in fall of 2023, County staff observed significant settling of the roadway, raising public safety concerns. Further inspection revealed that the culverted crossing had been completely undermined. As a result, Cecchetti Road was closed to through traffic, and the remaining portions of the damaged structure were removed. The road has remained closed since that time.

Project Description

The proposed project involves the temporary installation of a single-lane bridge over Arroyo Grande Creek to restore vehicular access along Cecchetti Road. The temporary structure will span the washed-out section of Cecchetti Road and will remain entirely within the existing roadway footprint. Bridge components—including decking, abutments, and railings—will be modular and designed for temporary use. The bridge will ultimately be removed upon completion of final design for a permanent bridge project, currently forecasted to be completed by 2027. Additionally, because the temporary bridge will not be capable of withstanding high flows in the creek, it may need to be removed in the winter. Therefore, this project description consists of the initial installation of the temporary bridge, any seasonal removal each winter, re-installation and final removal. Each mobilization effort must avoid impacts to the streambed, banks, and riparian area.

No work is proposed below the ordinary high-water mark, and no in-channel activities within the bed or banks of Arroyo Grande Creek are anticipated. Additionally, no grading or excavation will occur within the streambed, banks, or riparian area. All construction activities will be confined to

previously disturbed areas, limited to the existing Cecchetti Road alignment. The project will avoid impacts to the riparian corridor, and no tree removal is proposed. If needed, minor vegetation trimming may be conducted to clear overhanging limbs or herbaceous material encroaching into the roadway or County right-of-way. Any such trimming is anticipated to be completed outside the nesting bird season, however in the event any mobilization needs to occur within nesting bird season, a nesting bird survey will be conducted to ensure no nesting birds are affected.

All equipment used will remain within the roadway corridor, outside of the creek channel. The project will not expand the capacity of the roadway or alter its existing function. Initial installation is anticipated to occur in fall 2025 and will take approximately two weeks to complete.

Environmental monitors will be present during all mobilization efforts. To protect water quality and minimize environmental impacts, the project will implement standard best management practices to prevent sediment from entering the creek. Equipment staging and storage areas will be located outside of environmentally sensitive areas and set back at least 100 feet from any waterway. A spill prevention and response plan will be implemented to address the potential for fuel leaks or other hazardous material releases.

Exemption Justification

The proposed project meets the criteria to qualify for a Categorical Exemption under the CEQA under the Class 2 exemption (replacement or reconstruction).

The Class 2 exemption applies to the replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure it replaces and will serve substantially the same purpose and capacity.

Based on Section 15300.2 of the State CEQA Guidelines, the project must not trigger any of the exceptions that could disqualify it from exemption. These exceptions include projects located in a particularly sensitive environment, projects with significant cumulative impacts, projects with significant impacts due to unusual circumstances, projects that may result in damage to scenic highways, projects located on sites included on any hazardous waste site list, and projects that may cause a substantial adverse change to the significance of a historical resource.

The proposed project has been evaluated to determine whether any of these exceptions apply, as detailed below.

Location

A formal archaeological survey and records search has not been conducted for the proposed bridge replacement project. However, no impacts to cultural or historical resources are anticipated, as the project is precluded from excavation, grading, or substantial ground disturbance activities. All construction activities will occur within the existing roadway footprint or previously disturbed areas, significantly reducing the potential to encounter culturally significant resources.

A formal biological assessment has not been conducted for this project. However, due to the limited scope of work and the temporary nature of the bridge installation, impacts to wildlife or botanical resources are not expected. No tree removal or habitat modification is proposed, and all equipment and materials will be staged and operated within the existing roadway corridor to the maximum extent feasible. If necessary, minor tree trimming may be conducted within the roadway right-of-way.

The project is not expected to result in impacts to water quality during construction or operation. No work will occur below the ordinary high-water mark, and no grading or excavation is proposed within the streambed, banks, or riparian area. Best management practices (BMPs), including erosion and sediment control measures, will be implemented to prevent runoff and protect water quality. The project does not involve ground disturbance and is not expected to create exposed or unstable areas susceptible to erosion.

Significant Cumulative Impact

Based on the analysis provided above, the project will not result in significant cumulative impacts associated with biological or cultural resources.

Significant Effect Due to Unusual Circumstances

As described above, the project will not result in significant impacts related to biological resources, cultural resources, or water quality during construction or operation.

Given the temporary nature of the construction activities, potential impacts related to construction noise, energy consumption, air pollution emissions, and greenhouse gas emissions would be less than significant. Due to the limited area of disturbance, no significant impacts are anticipated concerning geology, soils, or agriculture.

Based on the analysis provided above, the project would not result in significant environmental impacts due to unusual circumstances.

Impacts to Scenic Highways

There are no designated State Scenic Highways within proximity to the project area (California Department of Transportation [Caltrans], 2025). This project is not expected to have any potential to impact views from this scenic highway.

Hazardous Waste Site

A search using the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) EnviroStor and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) GeoTracker databases to identify hazardous waste sites near the project site confirmed that the nearest recorded hazardous waste site is located approximately 4.4 miles away from the project site (DTSC 2025, SWRCB 2025). Therefore, the project is not located on a site included in any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

Impacts to Historical Resources:

This project does not have the potential to uncover or disturb culturally significant artifacts or sites. Therefore, the project is not anticipated to result in impacts to historical resources.

As described above, the project meets the criteria for a Class 2 Categorical Exemption and does not trigger any of the exceptions listed in Section 15300.2 of the State CEQA Guidelines.



State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife
2025 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE
CASH RECEIPT
 DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/25) Previously DFG 753.5a

RECEIPT NUMBER: 40-08052025-165
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (If applicable)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL pwd@co.slo.ca.us	DATE 08/05/2025
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO		DOCUMENT NUMBER

PROJECT TITLE
 CECCHETTI TEMPORARY BRIDGE PROJECT (310014/ED25-0147)

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL PWD@CO.SLO.CA.US	PHONE NUMBER (805)781-5252
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS 976 OSOS STREET, ROOM 206	CITY SAN LUIS OBISPO	STATE CA
		ZIP CODE 93408

PROJECT APPLICANT (Check appropriate box)

Local Public Agency
 School District
 Other Special District
 State Agency
 Private Entity

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	\$4,123.50	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND)	\$2,968.75	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW	\$1,401.75	\$ _____

Exempt from fee

Notice of Exemption (attach)
 CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)
 Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)

<input type="checkbox"/> Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only)	\$850.00	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> County documentary handling fee		\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Other		\$ _____

PAYMENT METHOD:

Cash
 Credit
 Check
 Other

TOTAL RECEIVED \$ 0.00

SIGNATURE X	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE Michelle Maltby, Deputy County Clerk-Recorder
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Filed in County Clerk's Office
 Elaina Cano
 San Luis Obispo - County Clerk-Recorder
40-08052025-165
 08/05/2025
 FISH
 Pages: 8
 Fee: \$ 0.00

By MMaltby, Deputy

