



**CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
DETERMINATION FORM (rev. 06/2022)**

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable):

DIST-CO-RTE: 05-SCr-001

PM/PM: 3.7

EA: 05-1S920

Federal-Aid Project Number: 052000117

Project Description: Caltrans with Emergency authorization, proposes in SCr. Co., route 001 at PM 3.7 to replace a failing culvert. A sinkhole with culvert joint dislocation, the imminent threat of roadway loss is inevitable. A jacking process will be conducted within the ROW to install new culvert, with a 20' by 20' by 3' RSP pad installed on outlet side and removal of roughly 24 trees, (22 oak, 2 willow). The need is to maintain existing drainage of the highway.

Caltrans CEQA Determination (Check one)

☐ **Not Applicable** – Caltrans is not the CEQA Lead Agency

☐ **Not Applicable** – Caltrans has prepared an IS or EIR under CEQA

Based on an examination of this proposal and supporting information, the project is:

☒ **Exempt by Statute.** (PRC 21080[b]; 14 CCR 15260 et seq.)

☐ **Categorically Exempt. Class 1.** (PRC 21084; 14 CCR 15300 et seq.)

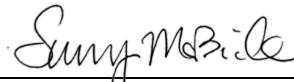
☐ No exceptions apply that would bar the use of a categorical exemption (PRC 21084 and 14 CCR 15300.2). See the [SER Chapter 34](#) for exceptions.

☐ **Covered by the Common Sense Exemption.** This project does not fall within an exempt class, but it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity may have a significant effect on the environment (14 CCR 15061[b][3].)

Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief

Sunny McBride

Print Name


Signature

8/12/2025

Date

Project Manager

Victor Devens

Print Name


Signature

8/18/25

Date



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Caltrans NEPA Determination (Check one)

☐ **Not Applicable**

Caltrans has determined that this project has no significant impacts on the environment as defined by NEPA, and that there are no unusual circumstances as described in 23 CFR 771.117(b). See [SER Chapter 30](#) for unusual circumstances. As such, the project is categorically excluded from the requirements to prepare an EA or EIS under NEPA and is included under the following:

☒ **23 USC 326:** Caltrans has been assigned, and hereby certifies that it has carried out the responsibility to make this determination pursuant to 23 USC 326 and the Memorandum of Understanding dated April 18, 2022, executed between FHWA and Caltrans. Caltrans has determined that the project is a Categorical Exclusion under:

☒ **23 CFR 771.117(c): activity (c)(9)(i)**

☐ **23 CFR 771.117(d): activity (d)(Enter activity number)**

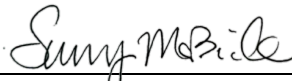
☐ **Activity Enter activity number listed in Appendix A of the MOU between FHWA and Caltrans**

☐ **23 USC 327:** Based on an examination of this proposal and supporting information, Caltrans has determined that the project is a Categorical Exclusion under 23 USC 327. The environmental review, consultation, and any other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by Caltrans pursuant to 23 USC 327 and the Memorandum of Understanding dated May 27, 2022, and executed by FHWA and Caltrans.

Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief

Sunny McBride

Print Name


Signature

8/12/2025

Date

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Victor Devens

Print Name


Signature

8/18/25

Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): NA

Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: NA

Briefly list environmental commitments on continuation sheet if needed (i.e., not necessary if included on an attached ECR). Reference additional information, as appropriate (e.g., additional studies and design conditions)



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Continuation sheet:

Measures and Minimizations

Biological:

US Army Corps of Engineers Regional General Permit

All work shall be in compliance with the General and Special Conditions cited in the US Army Corps of Engineers Regional General Permit (see attached).

Regional Water Quality Control Board BMPs

Among other requirements listed in the Technically Conditioned 401 Certification of Regional General Permit 5, the following will be implemented:

1. Pursuant to section VI.C.6, implement effective best management practices to control erosion and runoff from areas associated with the emergency project, including access road construction and maintenance.
2. Pursuant to section VI.E.1, all areas of temporary impacts must be restored to pre- project conditions.
3. Pursuant to VI.F.1. if surface water is present, continuous visual monitoring shall be conducted during active construction to detect accidental discharge of construction related pollutants.
4. Pursuant to VI.C.5 water diversion activities must not result in the degradation of beneficial uses or exceedances of water quality objectives of any of the receiving waters. Any temporary dam or other constructed obstruction must only be built from materials which will cause little or no siltation. Normal flows must be restored to the affected water immediately upon completion of work at that location.
5. Pursuant to section VI. D, Caltrans shall fully mitigate for the removal of riparian vegetation and trees, including the removal of three coast live oaks. To comply, Caltrans must submit a mitigation plan for Central Coast Water Board staff review and approval within forty-five (45) days of completion of construction to ensure the riparian area's value and functions of the site are equal or exceed pre-project riparian area's value and functions by the end of the mitigation monitoring period. The plan shall identify the mitigation type (habitat establishment, rehabilitation, enhancement, etc.), location, acreage and tree replacement ratio, design, monitoring, reporting, and implementation schedule. Caltrans' responsibility to complete the required



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mitigation as set forth in this condition shall not be considered fulfilled until all final mitigation performance standards for each impact area have been achieved. Caltrans shall implement the mitigation plan prior to termination of coverage.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Avoidance and Minimization Measures

1. Prior to the start of construction, a Service-approved biologist will conduct a preconstruction survey for federally listed species within the project site.
2. Initial ground disturbing activities will be conducted during dry weather conditions to minimize the potential for encountering amphibians. The dry season is generally defined as July 1 to November 1.
3. Work will be conducted during daylight hours when amphibians are least likely to be moving above ground.
4. Work should be postponed if chance of rain is greater than 70% based on the NOAA National Weather Service forecast or within 48 hours following a rain event greater than 0.1 inch. If work must occur during these conditions, a qualified biologist will conduct a clearance sweep of work areas prior to the start of work.
5. If an unpredicted rainfall event commences while construction activities are in progress, the applicant will suspend all work activities. Equipment may be moved to a designated staging area until work is allowed to resume. The designated area will be a hard surface devoid of small mammal burrows.
6. Trenches will be covered or have adequate means of escape (earthen ramps not more than 2:1 slope, wooden boards, etc.).
7. No equipment will be left on-site overnight outside of the designated areas, defined as those areas that are enclosed with silt fence or some other barrier designed to reasonably prevent wildlife from entering.
8. Work locations, access routes, and staging areas will be reviewed and clearly delineated by the project biologist with staking or flagging prior to mobilization.



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9. All equipment will be staged at the maximum distance possible from riparian habitat or water body.
10. Refueling or maintenance of vehicles or equipment will not occur within 100 feet of any riparian habitat or water body.
11. Vehicles and equipment will be checked daily for leaks, and all vehicular fluid spills will be contained and cleaned up immediately.
12. All construction-related vegetative debris (e.g., larger brush, tree limbs, tree trunks) will be hauled inside the designated area daily. Stockpiles of vegetative debris and tree mulch will be kept in a contained area inside the designated area, and intermittently hauled offsite for disposal.
13. All construction-related debris, particularly food-related debris, will be disposed of in the crew's vehicles and taken offsite, or in a closed receptacle that will not attract scavenger wildlife.
14. A Service-approved biological monitor will conduct daily pre-construction surveys within the construction zone prior to work beginning each day during preliminary grading and site preparation. Thereafter, site inspections will continue on a less frequent basis as determined by the biological monitor. The biological monitor will have the authority to halt construction if necessary to limit unanticipated adverse impacts to water quality, fish and wildlife, and habitats.
15. Small mammal burrows will be identified with stakes or pin flags so that they may be excavated prior to construction in that area. A 20-foot radius area will be fenced around each burrow or burrow complex to ensure that vehicles, equipment, and personnel avoid the area.
16. The approved biological monitor will present a Worker Environmental Awareness Program to the crew prior to the commencement of construction and to any new crew members prior to beginning work on the jobsite. The training will include this list of avoidance and minimization measures, and will describe the identification and natural history of listed species, regulatory context, and required measures to minimize or avoid incidental take of listed species.



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17. The work area will be surrounded by a solid temporary exclusion fence (such as silt fence) that will be buried into the ground and extend at least three feet above the ground and buried to a depth of at least six (6) inches to exclude amphibians and other listed/sensitive species from entering the work area. The location of the fencing will be determined by a Service-approved biologist. The fencing will be installed during the dry conditions prior to rain events that may stimulate movement of amphibians. The fence will be inspected daily to assure that it is functioning properly to exclude amphibians from the work area. Ingress/egress will be temporarily sealed off overnight using a section of fence that is anchored to the ground (e.g., fire hose filled with sand or sandbags can be used to anchor the bottom of the fence or the bottom must be buried).
18. All boreholes will be completely backfilled by the end of each workday and not be left open overnight.
19. Prior to the start of construction, a Service-approved biologist will conduct a preconstruction survey for these species within the project site. If any larvae of listed amphibian species are found to be remaining within any bodies of water, the pond will not be impacted until the biologist can determine their development status. If the tadpole(s) are lacking any limb development and it is suspected that they may overwinter without metamorphosing, the Service will be consulted for further instructions on how to proceed. On-site ponds will not be impacted until the Service-approved biologist ensures there is no evidence of larvae.
20. Rodent burrows will be avoided to the extent possible. If burrows cannot be avoided, burrow excavation may be performed using hand tools or via gentle excavation using construction equipment, under the direct supervision of a Service-approved biologist, until it is certain that the burrows are unoccupied.

In lieu of burrow excavation, steel plates or plywood may also be utilized to protect small mammal burrows from ground disturbance. Plates and plywood will be removed nightly when a significant rain event is forecasted within 48 hours and will be removed if work is scheduled to cease for consecutive days. Any individuals encountered will be allowed to vacate the area on their own accord or relocated out of harm's way in accordance with Measure 20, below.

21. The Service-approved biologist will search all potential hiding spots for these amphibians. If any life stage is found and these individuals are likely to be killed



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or injured by work activities, the Service-approved biologist will be allowed sufficient time to move them from the site before work begins.

22. Any amphibians (or other wildlife) will be allowed to vacate the worksite on its own accord under the observation of a Service-approved biologist. If these amphibians (or other wildlife) do not relocate on their own, or if they are in harm's way, they will be relocated out of harm's way to nearby suitable habitat, similar to that in which it was found, and outside the project area. Both amphibians will not be relocated, except by a Service-approved biologist. The Declining Amphibian Task Force Fieldwork Code of Practice will be implemented for all amphibian relocation activities.
23. The Service-approved biologist will relocate any amphibian found within the project footprint to an active rodent burrow system located no more than 300 feet outside of the project area unless otherwise approved by California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Service. The individual will be handled with clean and moistened hands. During relocation they will be placed in a clean, covered plastic container with a non-cellulose moistened sponge. Relocations will take place immediately; individuals will not be stored for lengthy periods or in heated areas. The relocation container will be kept out of direct sunlight.

The relocated amphibians will be monitored until it enters a burrow and is concealed underground. Relocation areas will be identified by the Service-approved biologist based upon best suitable habitat available. The Service-approved biologist will document both locations by photographs and GPS positions. The amphibians will be photographed and measured (snout-vent) for identification purposes prior to relocation. All documentation will be provided to the Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife within 24 hours of relocation.

After the emergency has abated (i.e., the emergency repair work has been completed), Caltrans should assess whether any adverse effects to federally listed species or critical habitat occurred as a result of the activities, and whether any mitigation for take of listed species or loss of their habitat is needed to compensate for the take or loss of habitat. As soon as possible, Caltrans should submit to us a letter describing the actions taken and an assessment of the effects on any of the federally listed species identified within Caltrans ENF. We will either issue our concurrence if you have determined that no adverse effects occurred, if we agree, or we will initiate formal consultation on the actions that resulted in adverse effects.



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Visual

1. Preserve as much existing vegetation as possible. Prescriptive clearing and grubbing and grading techniques which save the most existing vegetation possible should be employed.
2. Revegetate all disturbed areas with native plant species appropriate to each specific work location if appropriate and feasible based on a permanent erosion control recommendation by District 5 Landscape Architecture.
3. Following construction, re-grade and re-contour all new construction access roads, staging areas, and other temporary uses as necessary to match the surrounding pre-project topography.
4. Replacement planting shall include aesthetic considerations as well as the inherent biological goals. Revegetation shall include native trees and plants as determined by the Caltrans Biologist and Caltrans District 5 Landscape Architecture.
5. If guardrail posts are installed, they should be stained or darkened to be visually compatible with the setting. The color shall be determined and approved by District 5 Landscape Architecture.

If you have any questions or scope of work changes please reach out to Landscape Architecture Henry Barnes via phone at (805) 503-2879 or email at Henry.Barnes@dot.ca.gov



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SAN FRANCISCO DISTRICT, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
450 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102

July 23, 2025

Regulatory Division

SUBJECT: File Number SPN-2025-00248 Buena Vista Sinkhole Emergency Repair (EA-05-1S920)

Mr. Jeremy Sheffield
California Department of Transportation (District 5)
50 Higuera Street
San Luis Obispo, California 93401
Jeremy.Sheffield@dot.ca.gov

Dear Mr. Sheffield:

This letter is written in response to your submittal of July 18, 2025, Department of the Army authorization for the emergency repair and replacement of a damaged culvert and road work along State Route 1. The project is located at postmile marker (PM) PM 3.72, near the City of Watsonville, in Santa Cruz County, California (Lat: 36.929106, Long: -121.804834).

Based on a review of the information you submitted, your project qualifies for authorization under Department of the Army Regional General Permit (RGP) No. 5 for Repair and Protection Activities in Emergency Situations, pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, as amended (33 U.S.C. § 1344 *et seq.*). A copy is located on our website at:

https://www.spn.usace.army.mil/Portals/68/docs/regulatory/Emergency%20Permits/RGP05_2019.pdf. All work shall be completed in accordance with the attached plans and drawings titled "USACE File SPN-2025-00248, 97 Buena Vista Sinkhole Emergency Repair (EA-05-1S920), Watsonville, Santa Cruz County, California " dated July 22, 2025, and in one sheet. See Enclosure 1.

The project must be in compliance with the General and Special Conditions cited in the RGP for the authorization to remain valid. Non-compliance with any condition could result in the suspension, modification, or revocation of the authorization for your project, thereby requiring you to obtain a Nationwide or Individual Permit from the Corps. State Water Quality Certification (WQC) has been issued for work performed under the provisions of the RGP. In order for this authorization to remain valid, you must follow the limitations and conditions stated in the WQC attached to the RGP. This RGP authorization does not obviate the need to obtain other State or local approvals required by law.

Work must be initiated within seven days of receiving this letter. RGP5 authorization will remain valid until September 15, 2025, unless the RGP is suspended, modified, or revoked. All work must be completed by this date and the associated post-activity report

forwarded within 45 days of project completion (as required by RGP 5 General Condition 26). Upon completion of the project and all associated mitigation requirements, you shall sign and return the enclosed Certification of Compliance, Enclosure 2, verifying that you have complied with the terms and conditions of the permit.

In order to ensure compliance with this RGP authorization, the following special conditions shall be implemented:

1. To minimize the potential for project-related impacts to federally listed species, a biological monitor shall survey the work area. Work may not commence until after the survey is performed and no federally listed species are observed.
2. This authorization does not provide take authorization of federally listed species. If adverse effects to federally listed species occur, you shall contact the Corps as soon as possible to initiate formal consultation.
3. You shall comply with all terms and conditions set forth by the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board on July 21, 2025 (enclosure 3). You shall consider such conditions to be an integral part of the RGP authorization for your project.
4. Excavation equipment shall work from an upland site (e.g., from the top of the bank, the roadbed of the bridge, or culverted road crossing) to minimize adding fill into waters of the U.S.
5. Any change in the project design, materials, or construction methods, must be approved by the Corps in writing.
6. A post-construction report shall be submitted 45 days after the conclusion of construction activities. The report shall document construction activities and contain as-built drawings (if different from drawings submitted with application) and include before and after photos. The report shall also document any deviation from the estimated impacts to waters of the U. S. and shall include an accurate description of project impacts, including the amount of fill discharged into waters of the U. S. (both temporary and permanent).

You may refer any questions on this matter to Michael Orellana by telephone at (415) 503-6769 or by e-mail at michael.s.orellana@usace.army.mil. All correspondence should be addressed to the Regulatory Division, North Branch, referencing the file number at the head of this letter.

The San Francisco District is committed to improving service to our customers. The Regulatory staff seeks to achieve the goals of the Regulatory Program in an efficient and cooperative manner while preserving and protecting our nation's aquatic resources. If you would like to provide comments on our Regulatory Program, please complete the Customer Service Survey Form available on our website:

www.spn.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory.aspx

Sincerely,

Katerina Galacatos, Ph.D.
South Branch Chief, Regulatory Division

Enclosures

Copies Furnished electronically:

California Department of Transportation District 5, San Luis Obispo, CA (Attn: Paul Holmes, paul.holmes@dot.ca.gov and Sunny McBride, Sunny.McBride@dot.ca.gov)

Central Coast RWQCB, San Luis Obispo, CA (Attn: Alia Ajina, Alia.Ajina@waterboards.ca.gov)

USFWS, Ventura, CA (Attn: Mark Elvin, mark_elvin@fws.gov and FW8VenturaSection7@fws.gov)

USACE File SPN 2025-00248, Buena Vista Sinkhole
Emergency Repair (EA-05-1S920)
Watsonville,
Santa Cruz County
July 22, 2025
1 sheet
Enclosure 1



DIST	COUNTY	ROUTE	POST MILES TOTAL PROJECT	SHEET NO.	TOT SHEET
05	SCR	001	3.72		

REGISTERED CIVIL ENGINEER DATE

PLANS APPROVAL DATE

THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA BY ITS OFFICERS OR AGENTS SHALL NOT BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ACCURACY OR COMPLETENESS OF SCANNED COPIES OF THIS PLAN SHEET.

REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL ENGINEER

NOV

EXP

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

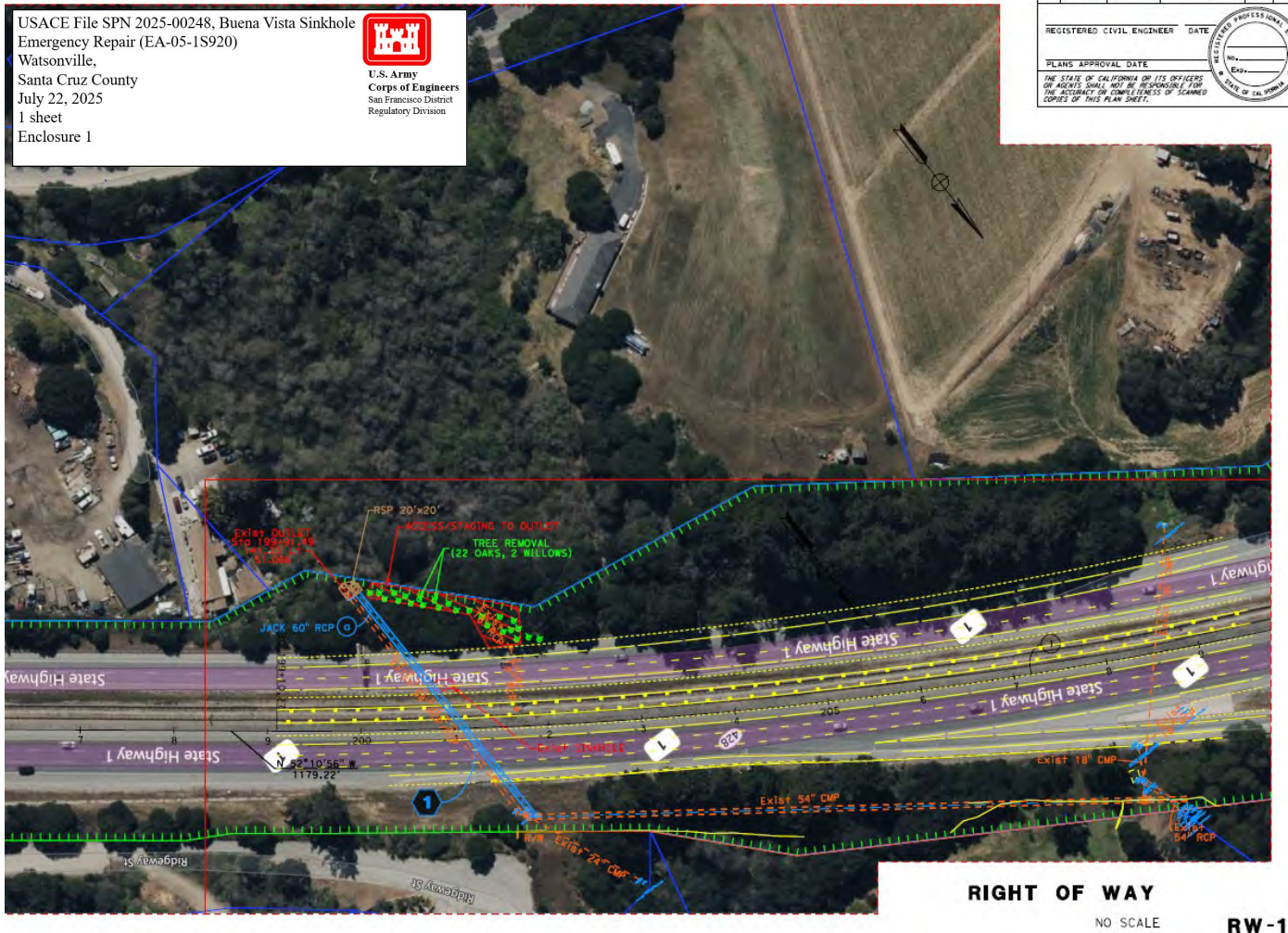


FIGURE 7- BUENA VISTA SINKHOLE SITE LAYOUT AND ACCESS POINTS

Enclosure 2

Permittee: California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), Mr. Jeremy Sheffield

File Number: SPN-2025-00248 Buena Vista Sinkhole Emergency Repair (EA-05-1S920)

**Certification of Compliance
for
Regional General Permit 5**

"I hereby certify that the work authorized by the above referenced File Number and all required mitigation have been completed in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Regional General Permit authorization."

(Permittee)

(Date)

Email to: CESPN-RG-Submittal@usace.army.mil

Attn: Michael Orellana
Senior Project Manager
U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers
San Francisco District
Regulatory Division, CESPN-RG
450 Golden Gate Ave., 4th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94102-3404

From: Ajina, Alia@Waterboards
To: [Orellana, Michael S CIV USARMY CESPN \(USA\)](mailto:Orellana, Michael S CIV USARMY CESPN (USA))
Cc: Hammer, Phillip@Waterboards; Holmes, Paul W@DOT; Sheffield, Jeremy@DOT; [WB-DWO-SB-401Application; Ventura Section 7, FW8](#); Taylor, Karen@Wildlife
Subject: [Non-DoD Source] RE: RGP5 Emergency Authorization Notification for SPN-2025-00248 (Buena Vista Sinkhole Emergency Repair (EA-05-1S920))
Date: Monday, July 21, 2025 11:25:32 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Hello Michael,

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the above-referenced Emergency RGP 5 Notification.

Among other requirements listed in the Technically Conditioned 401 Certification of Regional General Permit 5, the applicant is required to do the following:

1. Provide the Central Coast Water Board with a fee of \$4,212.
2. Fill in and submit within 45 days the Notice of Completion form (Attachment E) to the Central Coast Water Board and the State Water Board.

Central Coast Water Board staff has reviewed the proposed emergency action and finds the project has the potential to negatively impact water quality and beneficial uses due to the planned removal of riparian vegetation including 22 oak trees and 2 willow trees. We therefore request that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers add the following conditions to its permit:

1. Pursuant to section VI. D, Caltrans shall fully mitigate for the removal of riparian vegetation and trees, including the removal of 22 oak trees and 2 willow trees. To comply, Caltrans must submit a mitigation plan for Central Coast Water Board staff review and approval within forty-five (45) days of completion of construction to ensure the riparian area's value and functions of the site are equal or exceed pre-project riparian area's value and functions by the end of the mitigation monitoring period. The plan shall identify the mitigation type (habitat establishment, rehabilitation, enhancement, etc.), location, acreage and tree replacement ratio, design, monitoring, reporting, and implementation schedule. Caltrans' responsibility to complete the required mitigation as set forth in this condition shall not be considered fulfilled until all final mitigation performance standards for each impact area have been achieved. Caltrans shall implement the mitigation plan prior to termination of coverage.
2. Caltrans shall photo-document the project site before, during and after construction of the Project. All photos shall be included in the Notice of Completion.
3. All work shall be as described in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers email from Michael Orellana to Central Coast Water Board staff on July 18, 2025.

If the applicant does not implement the project in accordance with these conditions, the project has the potential to cause violations of water quality standards.

The Technically Conditioned 401 Water Quality Certification of RGP 5 (Certification) and Attachments can be found at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/generalorders.shtml

Thank you,

Alia



Alia Ajina (she/her)
Environmental Scientist

R3 CENTRAL COAST
R3 401 Unit – Regional Caltrans Liaison | Monterey County

Email: Alia.Ajina@Waterboards.ca.gov
Phone: (805) 542-4646

From: Orellana, Michael S CIV USARMY CESPN (USA) <Michael.S.Orellana@usace.army.mil>

Sent: Friday, July 18, 2025 2:13 PM

To: Ajina, Alia@Waterboards <Alia.Ajina@Waterboards.ca.gov>; Ventura Section 7, FW8 <fw8venturasection7@fws.gov>; WB-DWQ-SB-401Application <DWQ-SB-401Application@Waterboards.ca.gov>; Starostintzki-Malonek, Tal@Wildlife <Tal.Starostintzki-Malonek@Wildlife.ca.gov>

Cc: Hammer, Phillip@Waterboards <Phillip.Hammer@waterboards.ca.gov>; Holmes, Paul W@DOT <paul.holmes@dot.ca.gov>; Sheffield, Jeremy@DOT <Jeremy.Sheffield@dot.ca.gov>

Subject: RGP5 Emergency Authorization Notification for SPN-2025-00248 (Buena Vista Sinkhole Emergency Repair (EA-05-1S920))

Caution: External Email. Use caution when clicking links or opening attachments. When in doubt, contact DIT or use the Phish Alert Button.

Hello Agencies,

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has requested an emergency authorization under Regional General Permit 5 (RGP 5) to repair and replace a damaged culvert, and complete road work along State Route 1, in Santa Cruz County. As a result of deterioration over time the condition of an existing culvert has continued to decline. Based on the loss of hoop strength the culvert has begun to collapse and a sinkhole to develop above the culvert. Further damage could cut off vital access for residents and emergency vehicles in this area. Caltrans deems this project an emergency in need of immediate repair. The emergency project must be immediately repaired to provide protection to the slope and road integrity of SR 1. The project is located at postmile marker (PM) PM 3.72, near the City of Watsonville, in Santa Cruz County, California (Lat: 36.929106, Long: -121.804834). The purpose of the project is to immediately address failure of the deteriorated culvert, and road embankment to protect SR 1 and prevent potential road and shoulder failure that could disrupt an important state route for the public.

Project Description:

Caltrans crews would utilize the jacking method to install the new culvert at a shallower elevation. Additionally, crews would place approximately 44-cubic yards of rock slope protection (RSP) at the outlet. Additional work is proposed outside of the culvert that includes the removal of approximately 22 oaks and 2 willows. Crews would temporarily impact approximately 0.00918-acre of unnamed drainage channel. Caltrans would implement all appropriate erosion best management practices to minimize impacts to resources and listed species and all disturbed areas would be returned to pre-construction conditions. Additional details can be found in Enclosure 1.

All proposed construction equipment would work from the roadway and no equipment would access the drainage channel for work to be completed. Staging would occur from State Route 1 and Right of Way. Details of the project activities are provided in the enclosures 1.

ESA Species:

The following ESA protected species, may be present within the vicinity of the project locations:

USFWS:

California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*)

California red-legged frog (*Rana arora draytoni*) and critical habitat

Northwestern pond turtle (*Actinemys marmorata*)

Santa Cruz long-toed salamander (*Ambystoma macrodactylum croceum*)

Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*)

NMFS:

No listed species

If your agency has additional species information, comments - including any additional minimization measures - please provide them to me as soon as possible. If possible, by 12:00 noon on Monday, July 21, 2025.

A post activity report will be available within 45 days of the project completion as required by the Corps' RGP 5 permit.

Thank you for your help with this project authorization.

Michael S Orellana
Regulatory Project Manager- South Branch
San Francisco District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
450 Golden Gate Avenue, 4th Floor
San Francisco, California 94102-3404
Michael.S.Orellana@usace.army.mil
O:415-503-6769
C: 628-6291070 (available 9am to 2:30pm)