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State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
South Coast Region
3883 Ruffin Rd
San Diego, CA 92123
(858) 467-4201
www.wildlife.ca.gov

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director

To:
Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
CEQA Submit

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Project Title: VEN126 Hopper Creek Bridge Postmile 26.48 (BR-520036) Debris Removal (Notification of Lake or Streambed Alteration, No. EPIMS-VEN-58510-R5)

Project Location (Ventura County): The Ven126 Hopper Creek Bridge Postmile 26.48 (BR 52-0036) Debris Removal project (Project) is located within Hopper Creek where it intersects State Route 126 (SR-126) at postmile (PM) 26.48 in the city of Piru in Ventura County, California; (34.400858, -118.826735).

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has executed Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement EPIMS Notification No. EPIMS-VEN-58510-R5 pursuant to Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans).

Caltrans will remove vegetation and sediment from the Hopper Creek channel within the area immediately surrounding the intersection of SR-126 and Hopper Creek. Deposited sediment will be removed from a section of the stream beginning 200 feet upstream of the bridge and ending 300 feet downstream of the bridge. Caltrans will access the stream channel at two locations located within previously disturbed areas on the south side of the bridge. Caltrans will remove an estimated 17,333 yards^3 of material from the stream channel, resulting in up to an 11-foot reduction of the current stream bed elevation. Caltrans will conduct work only when the channel is completely dry.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project:
Paul Caron
California Department of Transportation
Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisory)
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EPIMS-VEN-58510-R5
September 30, 2025

Exempt Status:

☐ Statutory Exemption.

☒ Categorical Exemption. Type – Class 1; California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15301

Reasons why project is exempt: On May 12, 2025, Caltrans, the Lead Agency, determined that the Project is Categorically Exempt pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15301, Existing Facilities, Class 1 consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing. Under Public Resources Code section 21080.1(a), the lead agency is responsible for determining if the project is exempt from CEQA and that determination shall be final and conclusive on all persons, including responsible agencies. As a result, CDFW, acting as Responsible Agency, is bound by Caltrans's determination that the Project is exempt.

CDFW Contact Person: Mackenzie Rich (Senior Environmental Scientist, Specialist), (805) 623-2291, Mackenzie.Rich@wildlife.ca.gov.

Signature: DocuSigned by: Heather A. Pert DF423498814B441... *Date:* 9/30/2025

Heather A. Pert
Environmental Program Manager

Date received for filing at LCI: