

**Notice of Exemption**

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**TO:** Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation  
State Clearinghouse  
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

**FROM:** Central Valley Flood Protection Board  
3310 El Camino Avenue, Suite 170  
Sacramento, CA 95821  
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**State Clearinghouse Number:** 2026010399

**Project Title:** Minor Alteration No. WA2026027 – The Washington Road /Eastside Bypass Bridge Retrofit Project

**Project Applicant/Lead Agency/Person Carrying Out Project:** Merced County Department of Public Works, Alvaro Buenrostro, Supervising Engineer, 715 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Merced, CA 95340; [Alvaro.Buenrostro@countyofmerced.com](mailto:Alvaro.Buenrostro@countyofmerced.com); (209)385-7601

**Project Location:** The bridge is located along Washington Road, approximately 4 miles west of the intersection with California State Route 59, in Merced County (37.1133844, -120.56336789).

**Project Description:** To reinforce failing Piers 9 through 17 using cast-in-place post-tensioned superbents supported on cast-in-place concrete columns founded on larger cast-in-drilled hole concrete piles drilled adjacent to the existing columns. The superbents would be constructed below and adjacent to the existing superstructure on Piers 9 through 17 and the superstructure would be raised to its as-built elevation. Additionally, the existing bridge deck would be treated with methacrylate. There will be excavation in the flood control channel for installation of new supports at Piers 9 through 17 followed by removal of existing piers. There would be no modifications to levees, bridge abutments, or the other pier bents.

**Lead/Public Agency Approving Project:** Central Valley Flood Protection Board (Board)

**Exempt Status:**

- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption: Sec. 15301, 15302
- Statutory Exemption: \_\_\_\_\_

**Reasons Why Project is Exempt:**

Board staff has determined that the project is exempt from CEQA under the Class 1, Existing Facilities categorical exemption (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15301), because the activity 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. No expansion of existing or former use will occur. Board staff has determined that the project is also exempt from CEQA under the Class 2, Replacement or Reconstruction categorical exemption (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, 15302), because the activity consists of replacement and reconstruction of an existing structure in the same site and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the replaced structure. Further, none of the exceptions to the exemption in California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 15300.2 apply.

<i>Chris Lief</i>		4/2/2026
Signature	Chris Lief, Executive Officer	Date

Signed by Public Agency       Signed by Responsible Agency

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.  
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.