
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

California Environmental Quality Act Notice of Exemption for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification

To: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Valley Region, Redding Office
364 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 205
Redding, CA 96002

Date: 22 September 2026

Project Title:

UPRR Valley Subdivision MP 239.83 Bridge Repair
Project (Project)

Project Location - Specific:

Nearest City: Cottonwood
Section 11, Township 29 North, Range 04 West, MDB&M.
Latitude: 40.37666° and Longitude: -122.28630°

Project Location - County:

Tehama County

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The proposed project will repair pier #6 of the existing bridge at Milepost 239.83 on the Valley Subdivision. An excavator equipped with a vibratory sheet driver will install steel sheet-pile forms a minimum of 6 inches from the perimeter of the existing 8-foot-by-22-foot pier to a minimum depth of 10 feet below the scour line, containing a 9-foot-by-23-foot area. If any standing water remains in depressions adjacent to the pier, a pump will dewater the area contained by the sheet pile, and the contained area will be excavated to create a void. Controlled low-strength material (CLSM) will be pumped into the scour hole in 3-foot-deep layers and allowed to cure before the next layer is poured. CLSM poured between the existing pier and the sheet-pile form will result in 0.0007 acre of new fill. When poured to a depth of 10 feet below the scour line, a volume of approximately 11.5 cubic yards of CLSM will be required.

Additionally, two existing abandoned piers and associated sheet-pile cofferdams from a previous bridge, each approximately 12-feet by 24-feet, will be removed from the Cottonwood Creek channel. The structures will be cut 3 feet below the ground line. One of the two abandoned pier structures is below the ordinary high water mark of Cottonwood Creek, and its removal will result in 0.018 acre and 32 cubic yards of

temporary impacts. With the staging and work area for the Project, the combined total of temporary impacts will be 0.097 acre.

Following construction activities, debris will be removed, temporary work and staging areas will be restored to pre-project contours as necessary, and best management practices will be removed.

Name of Public Agencies Approving Project:

Federal Agencies: The project requires authorization under U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Clean Water Act Section 404, Nationwide Permit 3.

State Agency approval for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification: California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, Redding Office. WDID No. 5A52CR00258.

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:

Stephen Cheney
Union Pacific Railroad Company
1400 Douglas Street, Stop 0910
Omaha, NE 68179

Exempt Status:

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region has determined that the Project is exempt from review under CEQA pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, Article 19, 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 existing or former use.

Reasons why Project is Exempt:

This project is categorically exempt under CEQA section 15301 because the project involves maintenance activities to repair an existing private structure involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use.

Federal Lead Agency Contact Person:

Samuel Bohannon
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District
(775) 799-8232

22 September 2026

State Lead Agency Contact Person:

Lynn Coster, Senior Environmental Scientist
Chief Storm Water and Water Quality Certification Unit
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board
Redding Branch Office
(530) 224-2437

Lynn Coster  Digitally signed by Lynn Coster
Date: 2026.09.22 12:41:27 -07'00'

Lynn Coster
Senior Environmental Scientist
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

cc via
email: U.S. EPA, Region 9, San Francisco
Water Quality Certification Program, SWRCB, Sacramento
Samuel Bohannon, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District
Michael Clary, Jacobs, Sacramento