



State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife

2026 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE CASH RECEIPT

DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/26) Previously DFG 753.5a

RECEIPT NUMBER:
40-09242026-266

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (If applicable)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY

SAN LUIS OBISPO CITY

LEAD AGENCY EMAIL

wbanker@slocity.org

DATE

09/24/2026

COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING

COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

DOCUMENT NUMBER

PROJECT TITLE

ALMOND AND CENTER SLIDE REPAIR - 2001071-20

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME

CITY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO

PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL

wbanker@slocity.org

PHONE NUMBER

(805) 295-1609

PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS

919 PALM STREET

CITY

SAN LUIS OBISPO

STATE

CA

ZIP CODE

93401

PROJECT APPLICANT (Check appropriate box)

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

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

☐ Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	\$4,227.50	\$	
☐ Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND)	\$3,043.75	\$	
☐ Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW	\$1,437.25	\$	

☒ Exempt from fee☒ Notice of Exemption (attach)☐ CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)☐ Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)

☐ Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only)	\$850.00	\$	
☒ County documentary handling fee		\$	\$90.00
☐ Other		\$	

PAYMENT METHOD:

☐ Cash ☒ Credit ☐ Check ☐ Other

TOTAL RECEIVED \$ \$90.00

SIGNATURE

x

AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE

Michelle Maltby, Deputy County Clerk-Recorder

Filed in County Clerk's Office

Elaina Cano

San Luis Obispo - County Clerk-Recorder

40-09242026-266

09/24/2026

FISH

Pages: 6

Fee: \$ 90.00

By MMaltby, Deputy



Notice of Exemption

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

☒ County Clerk
County of San Luis Obispo
1144 Monterey Street, Suite A
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

From: City of San Luis Obispo
Public Works and Utilities Department
919 Palm Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-3249

☐ Filing Not Required

Project Title: Almond and Center Slide Repair – 2001071-20

Project Location - City of San Luis Obispo, 288 Almond Street

Project Location - City: San Luis Obispo

Project Location - County: San Luis Obispo

Description of Project:

Emergency repair of a landslide near the intersection of Almond and Center Streets. This will involve the construction of a concrete wall to protect the adjacent roadway, waterline and overhead utilities. Emergency declared on 7/17/2026. See attached e-mail declaration and memo describing the urgency and need. The proposed emergency project includes best management practices and measures that will both mitigate the existing hazard and protect water quality (refer to attached).

Name of Public Agency Approving the Project: City of San Luis Obispo, sscott@slocity.org

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out the Project: City of San Luis Obispo Public Works and Utilities Department, Public Works Branch, 919 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo, California 93401

Agency Contact: Wyatt Banker-Hix, 919 Palm Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401, wbanker@slocity.org; (805) 295-1609

Exempt Status (check one):

- ☐ Ministerial (Section 21080(b)(1); 15268;
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- ☒ Emergency Project Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c)
- ☐ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number:
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project is exempt pursuant to California Code of Regulations Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Article 18, Section 15269 - Emergency Projects, which states that the following emergency projects are exempt from the requirements of CEQA:

b) Emergency repairs to publicly or privately owned service facilities necessary to maintain service essential to the public health, safety or welfare. Emergency repairs include those that require a reasonable amount of planning to address an anticipated emergency.

This project was recognized as having a high chance of failure in the short term, which would damage essential public services, including Almond Street, a buried water line and overhead utility pole. If these facilities were damaged, the public would have limited access to their properties, and limited ability to use power or water, and disruption of services.

(c) Specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency. This does not include long-term projects undertaken for the purpose of preventing or mitigating a situation that has a low probability of occurrence in the short-term, but this exclusion does not apply (i) if the anticipated period of time to conduct an environmental review of such a long-term project would create a risk to public health, safety or welfare, or (ii) if activities (such as fire or catastrophic risk mitigation or modifications to improve facility integrity) are proposed for existing facilities in response to an emergency at a similar existing facility.

This slope has already failed, but due to the weak and saturated soils present in the slope, is anticipated to fail again. This will further damage the roadway and threaten the buried water line and overhead power pole. Construction of this project will prevent expected failure, which is anticipated to occur during the winter season and forecasted storms, rainfall, and soil saturation. Further failure will introduce more sediment into the creek and require a more extensive repair, or multiple temporary repairs, all of which would further impact the water quality of Old Garden Creek more significantly than the project as described above.

Measures to protect habitat and water quality within Old Garden Creek, as established by the regulatory agencies with the receipt of permits, will be incorporated into the project. This will include the following summarized measures to ensure minimized impacts to the environment, creek, and water quality and the provide for the restoration of affected areas:

Implementation of Geotechnical Design Features. A registered geotechnical engineer will be on site inspecting work and performing other special inspections such as rebar placement and concrete mixes. The geotechnical engineer will observe grading, backfilling and final wall alignment.

Noise-Reducing Best Management Practices. For the entire duration of the construction phase of the project, the following practices will be adhered to: use of noise control devices such as mufflers, limited use of pneumatic tools and a complaints process through the Public Works Branch.

Equipment Idling Restrictions. Throughout construction, the contractor shall implement equipment idling restrictions to minimize impacts to sensitive receptors. These idling restrictions shall be enforced by the Public Works Branch.

Biological Resources Measures:

Worker Environmental Awareness Program. Prior to initiation of construction activities (including staging and mobilization), all personnel associated with Project construction shall attend Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) training, conducted by a qualified biologist.

Best Management Practices to Protect Water Quality. All vehicles and equipment shall be in good working condition and checked daily for leaks. Work during times of precipitation shall be avoided to the maximum extent possible. The City or their contractor(s) or representative(s) shall utilize Best Management Practices (BMPs), including (but not limited to): berms, burlap-wrapped fiber rolls, jute netting, sand/gravel bags, and straw bale barriers to stabilize work areas and prevent any sediment or pollutants from entering the creek.

Preconstruction Survey for Special-Status Plant Species. A preconstruction survey for special-status plant species shall be conducted by a qualified botanist within the Project Site prior to any site disturbance. If any special-status plant species are observed within the Project Site, the location(s) of individual plants or group(s) of plants shall be clearly flagged by the qualified botanist and avoided during Project construction.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures for Pacific Lamprey. No project activities shall occur in flowing or standing water within Old Garden Creek, with the exception of the installation and removal of the temporary creek diversion. Capture and relocation surveys for Pacific lamprey shall be conducted by qualified biologists prior to the commencement of diversion construction, as well as during dewatering of the work areas.

Steelhead Capture and Relocation: No Project activities shall occur in flowing or standing water in Old Garden Creek, with the exception of the installation and removal of the temporary creek diversion. Project activities within the Old Garden Creek channel are proposed to occur between June 1 and October 30, outside of the steelhead migration season. Block nets shall remain in place until the diversion is functional, at which time the downstream and upstream block nets shall be removed. Non-native fishes and invertebrates shall be removed from the creek by qualified biologists.

A qualified biological monitor shall be on-site full-time during all Project activities that involve creek dewatering and/or the installation or removal of surface water diversions. Once the work area is completely blocked from the creek and dewatered, and if work conditions and/or prolonged Project activities are conducted outside of the active Old Garden Creek channel, the monitor shall be on site for no less than two days per week.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures for California Red-legged Frog. A qualified biologist shall survey the Project Site no more than 48 hours before the onset of work activities. If the biologist finds any life stage of the California red-legged frog and these individuals are likely to be killed or injured by work activities, the biologist shall be allowed sufficient time to relocate them from the Project Site before work begins. To ensure that diseases are not conveyed between sites, the qualified biologist, shall follow the fieldwork code of practice developed by the Declining Amphibian Populations Task Force at all times.

Preconstruction Survey for Special-Status Birds and Other Nesting Birds. A preconstruction nesting bird survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist no more than 14 days prior to initiation of Project activities.

All Project personnel shall be notified as to the existence of the buffer zones and to avoid entering buffer zones during the nesting season. No Project activities shall occur within the buffer until the avian biologist has confirmed that breeding/nesting is complete, and the young have fledged the nest. Encroachment into the buffer shall occur only at the discretion of the qualified biologist.

On-site Biological Monitoring. A qualified biologist shall be on-site during all vegetation removal, initial ground disturbing activities, and/or during any construction activities that may impact sensitive biological resources, such as dewatering and diversion installation or removal. The biologist shall have the authority to temporarily halt or redirect work to avoid impacts to special-status species or other protected biological resources. Once the diversion has been installed and vegetation removal and initial ground-disturbing activities have been completed, the biological monitor shall be on-site for no less than two days per week, for a minimum two-hour period per day.

Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan. A Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) will be prepared and implemented. The HMMP shall be prepared by a qualified biologist/restoration ecologist. The HMMP shall include details on the restoration of portions of Old Garden Creek that will be disturbed by the Project, including jurisdictional features, sensitive natural communities, and associated riparian and stream habitats.

Compensatory actions shall occur on-site and/or off-site using regionally collected native plant material at a minimum ratio of 1:1 (habitat created to habitat impacted) as directed by a qualified biologist. Note the resource agencies may require a higher mitigation ratio and, if so, their requirements would prevail. The City is committed to addressing all temporary and permanent impacts in full upon project completion. Final mitigation ratios required by the regulatory agencies during the emergency permitting process may differ but shall be confirmed upon the project completion.

At a minimum, the HMMP shall include the following:

- A description of the jurisdictional waters, sensitive plant communities, riparian and stream habitat, and/or sensitive plant species disturbed by the project, and how the mitigation method (e.g., restoration, invasive species removal, enhancement) will achieve the necessary mitigation goal/s;
- a plant palette and methods of salvaging, propagating, seeding, and/or planting the site to be restored;
- a schedule for restoration activities including weed abatement, propagating and planting, soil preparation, erosion control, qualitative and quantitative monitoring, and reporting;
- identification measurable performance standards for each objective to evaluate the success of the compensatory mitigation;
- maintenance and monitoring necessary to confirm the mitigation area meets the success criteria; and
- Identification of contingency and adaptive management measures to address unforeseen changes in site conditions or other components of the mitigation project.

Cultural Resources:

Worker Environmental Awareness Program. A qualified archaeologist shall conduct a Worker Environmental Awareness Program training on archaeological sensitivity for all construction personnel prior to the commencement of the project. The training shall be developed by an archaeologist and include a description of the types of cultural materials that may be encountered, cultural sensitivity issues, regulatory issues, and the proper protocol for treatment of the materials in the event of a find.

Archaeological Monitoring. Construction-related ground disturbances shall be monitored by a qualified archaeologist. A Construction Monitoring Treatment Plan shall be approved by the City and implemented during construction, which will include archaeological monitoring, procedures should an unanticipated discovery occur, and coordination with Native American Tribes if suspected tribal resources are discovered. Any discoveries will be summarized in a project completion report.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Wyatt Banker-Hix **Area Code/Telephone/Ext.** (805) 295-1609

Signature:  Date: September 22, 2026

By: Shawn Scott, Assistant Director of Utilities

805-781-7176

sscott@slocity.org

September 16, 2026
Rincon Project No. 26-19522

Phillip Hammer, Region Program Manager
Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, California 93401
Via email: Phillip.Hammer@waterboards.ca.gov
rb3-401Application@waterboards.ca.gov
SB-401Application@waterboards.ca.gov

**Subject: Emergency Notification for the Almond/Center Street Emergency Slope Repair Project,
City of San Luis Obispo, California**

Dear Mr. Hammer:

Rincon Consultants (Rincon) is pleased to provide this emergency notification on the behalf of the City of San Luis Obispo (City) for the Almond/Center Street Emergency Slope Repair Project (project). The Old Garden Creek slope stabilization project near the intersection of Almond Street and Center Street needs to move forward promptly because existing conditions present a clear and imminent danger to prevent damage to life, health, property, and/or essential public services. Immediate action is necessary to prevent further slope failure and reduce risks to the roadway, sidewalk, underground utilities, Center Street box culvert, and surrounding residences. The southwesterly slope has experienced significant erosion. Sections of the concrete sack retaining wall have failed, undermining several upstream trees and the adjacent sidewalk, which has been closed for public safety. Recent geotechnical investigations determined that the soils are exceptionally soft and saturated, making additional bank erosion highly likely (Earth Systems 2026).

A future slide could mobilize the damaged wall and remaining trees, potentially blocking the Center Street box culvert. This same location experienced a catastrophic blockage in the early 1970s that resulted in the roadway being washed away. Additional slides have been predicted this year and could further damage the sidewalk, roadway, underground utilities, City waterline, and surrounding residences. The project should be completed before the 2026/2027 winter storm season due to the high potential for severe El Niño conditions and associated increased rainfall, creek flows, and storm-related erosion. Delaying construction would increase the likelihood of additional slope failure and significant infrastructure damage and/or property loss.

Three repair options were evaluated: a soldier pile wall, soil nail wall, and cast-in-place retaining wall with vegetated rock slope protection (VRSP) (Cannon 2026). The cast-in-place wall was selected because it is the most feasible option and can be installed before the upcoming winter storms. The other options present schedule and construction challenges due to specialized labor, materials, and low overhead power lines that restrict the use of large equipment and drilling rigs. The geotechnical report identified highly saturated, poor-quality soils at the wall footing location, which dictated the footing configuration, depth, and width in accordance with Caltrans cast-in-place wall standards. Following wall installation, the creek bank will be reconstructed with VRSP without extending beyond the existing toe of slope. Cannon (engineer) and Souza (contractor) will coordinate with Rincon and the City on VRSP configuration, soil jetting, revegetation/seeding, creek bypass piping, cofferdam placement, aquatic species clearing, dewatering, and sediment discharge measures.



In summary, the existing slope instability presents a clear and immediate danger demanding immediate action to prevent or mitigate loss of, or damage to, life, health, property, and/or essential public services. The project should proceed without delay to stabilize the slope before the 2026/2027 winter storm season and reduce the risk of catastrophic damage and loss associated with future storm events.

Please contact Charleen Rode at 805-947-4836 or crode@rinconconsultants.com or Colby J. Boggs at 805-250-8491 or cboggs@rinconconsultants.com if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Rincon Consultants

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "CR", followed by a horizontal line.

Charleen Rode
Project Manager/Senior Aquatic Biologist

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Colby J. Boggs", followed by a horizontal line.

Colby J. Boggs
Principal/Senior Ecologist

Attachments

- Attachment 1 Notice of Intent Form
- Attachment 2 Project Description
- Attachment 3 Representative Photos
- Attachment 4 Geotechnical Memorandum (Earth Systems 2026)
- Attachment 5 Alternatives Analysis Memorandum (Cannon 2026)
- Attachment 6 100% Design Plans
- Attachment 7 Supplemental Emergency Details