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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
MEGHAN HERTEL, Director

To:
Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation
CEQA Submit

From:
Department of Fish and Wildlife South Coast Region
3883 Ruffin Rd
San Diego, CA 92123
Contact: Angela Castanon
Email: Angela.Castanon@wildlife.ca.gov
Phone: (626) 513-6308

Lead Agency
Ventura County Transportation Commission
751 E. Daily Dr. Suite 420
Camarillo, CA 93010
Contact: Amanda Fagan
Email: afagan@goventura.org
Phone: (805) 642-1591

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Project Title: Ventura County Transportation Commission – Sespe Creek Railroad Bridge Reconstruction Project (California Endangered Species Act Incidental Take Permit No. 2081-2025-078-05 (ITP)).

Project Location (Ventura): The Sespe Creek Railroad Bridge Reconstruction Project (Project) is located over Sespe Creek, adjacent to 905 Old Telegraph Road within unincorporated Ventura County. The Project is located at approximately 34.406289, -118.931907.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has issued an ITP (No. 2081-2025-078-05), pursuant to Section 2081(b) of the Fish and Game Code to the Ventura County Transportation Commission. The Project's end date was amended from September 30, 2026 to November 13, 2026 to allow for Project completion.

The Project includes repair of the railroad bridge over Sespe Creek through the out-of-kind replacement of two bridge spans and two bents (piers). Project activities include removal of damaged/washed away bridge elements; creek diversion and dewatering; construction of diversion dams; installation of new bridge spans, an associated abutment with wingwalls, bents, piles, and

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associated pile caps, rock slope protection, and a temporary access ramp; slope stabilization; use of temporary work areas within the creek; removal of damaged bridge elements/materials; site restoration and erosion control; and other activities.

The Project will result in impacts to 1.59 acres of southern California steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) habitat including temporary impacts to 1.54 acres; the Project will permanently remove 0.05 acres of southern California steelhead habitat. The Project is expected to result in incidental take of southern California steelhead, which is/are designated as an endangered species under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). The ITP referenced above as issued by CDFW authorizes incidental take of species listed under CESA that may occur as a result of Project implementation.

Public Agency Approving Project: CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Person or Public Agency Carrying Out Project:
Amanda Fagan
Ventura County Transportation Commission
Director of Planning and Sustainability
(805) 642-1591
afagan@goventura.org
751 E. Daily Dr.
Suite 420
Camarillo, CA 93010

Exempt Status: On August 23, 2023, the Ventura County Transportation Commission, the Lead Agency, determined that the Project is statutorily exempt pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15269. The Lead Agency determined that the Project meets certain qualifying criteria for the exemption. Pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.1(a), the Lead Agency is responsible for determining whether 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 a Responsible Agency, is bound by the Lead Agency's determination that the Project is exempt from CEQA.

CDFW Contact Person: Angela Castanon, Environmental Scientist, (562) 619-0433, Angela.Castanon@wildlife.ca.gov

Signature: DocuSigned by: Kevin Thomas A2A0A9C574C3445... *Date:* 10/29/2026

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NOTICE OF EXEMPTION
2081-2025-078-05
October 29, 2026

Kevin Thomas, Deputy Director of Regional Operations