

Notice of Exemption

2020100368

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency):
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Project Title: Union Pacific Railroad, Coast Subdivision, Mile Post 235.59 and 235.37 Bridge Replacement Project

Project Applicant: Union Pacific Railroad

Project Location - Specific: Latitude 35.359183° N, Longitude -120.636992° W, 5.6 miles SW of Santa Margarita and Latitude 35.355975° N, Longitude -120.63621° W, 5.7 miles SW of Santa Margarita

Project Location – City: Santa Margarita

Project Location - County: San Luis Obispo

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Project will involve the removal of two existing passenger and freight rail bridges and replacement with culverts used to direct flow from Santa Margarita Creek and an intermittent tributary underneath the track. The bridges were constructed in 1920 and 1931 and have outlived their current use.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Union Pacific Railroad

Exempt Status: (check one):

- Ministerial (Sec. 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: Class 2, CEQA guidelines §15302(b)
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reasons why the project is exempt:

The project constitutes “replacement or reconstruction of [existing railroad bridges] where the new structure[s] will be located in the same site as the structure[s] replaced, and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure[s] replaced” (Class 2, CEQA guidelines §15302[b]). The replacement structures will direct the flow below the tracks and prevent track overtopping.

Lead Agency Contact Person and Phone Number: Kathleen Hicks; 805-549-3458

If filed by applicant:

- Attach certified document of exemption finding.
- Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature   Digitally signed by Phillip Hammer
Date: 2020.10.20 17:47:12 -07'00'
Date 10/20/2020 Title Senior Environmental Scientist

- Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

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

Date Received for filing at OPR: Oct 21 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE