

**California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Coast Region
895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101
San Luis Obispo, California 93401**

**Notice of Intent to Use Finding of No Significant Impact
In Lieu of a Negative Declaration for
The Honda Creek Culverts Repair and Corrosion Prevention Project
At Vandenberg Space Force Base**

In lieu of preparing its own Negative Declaration, the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region, acting as Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), intends to use the Environmental Assessment (EA)/Finding of No Significant Impacts (FONSI), prepared by the U.S. Air Force (USAF) 30th Space Wing, Installation Management Flight (30 CES/CEI), for a project that includes implementing repairs to Honda Canyon culverts under the Coast Road at Vandenberg Space Force Base (VSFB). The proposed project site is on the Coast Road approximately 3.8 miles south of Bear Creek Road.

The proposed project (Honda Creek Culverts Repair Project, a.k.a. “the Proposed Action”) will install 11-foot diameter high density polyurethane liners into the two approximately 390-foot-long corroded corrugated metal pipes under the Coast Road. The liners would be grouted in place inside the existing culverts and, if necessary, concrete repairs would be performed around the culvert entrance and outlets. VSFB plans to perform on-site riparian re-establishment and riparian enhancement at an upstream location on Honda Creek. The proposed project is required to prevent the potential collapse of the Coast Road.

Manual vegetation removal will be performed prior to the start of the bird nesting season on February 15, 2022. A temporary access road will be constructed to allow safe access for equipment and workers to the west (culvert outlet) side of the repair. The primary staging location for equipment and material will be on the Coast Road, but smaller staging and turn-around areas will be established along the temporary access road and at the culvert inlet and outlet. Prior to commencing culvert repair activities, a temporary stream diversion of Honda Creek will be installed to enable work in dry conditions. All silt, rock, gravel, and debris will be removed from the culverts and disposed at a municipal landfill or local borrow pit if the material is acceptable, or used for restoration of project areas to original conditions. Once the west liner is installed and grouted, the diversion of Honda Creek will be switched, and the east side culvert will be repaired. Temporarily disturbed areas will be restored with willow cuttings and hydroseeding. After willows are installed and access with heavy equipment is no longer needed, the access roads will be removed, and a native grass seed mix applied. Weed control will be performed during the initial establishment year. Once weed control is achieved, broadleaf plantings will be installed if there is insufficient natural recruitment to establish riparian understory species. Non-native tree (eucalyptus) control will be performed

within a 4.51-acre site approximately 0.95 mile upstream of the project area. Monitoring and reporting will take place over the next five years.

Under CEQA Section 15225(a), the lead CEQA agency (i.e., the state, in this case) is permitted to use a FONSI prepared pursuant to the federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) rather than preparing a new CEQA document for a project as long as the FONSI complies with CEQA Guidelines. In such cases, the FONSI is used in place of a Negative Declaration or Environmental Impact Report (EIR), which would otherwise be completed for the project. As the lead agency under CEQA, the state is not required to recirculate the FONSI for public review, but must provide notification that the FONSI satisfies the requirements of CEQA.

The VSFB 30 CES/CEI prepared an EA for the Honda Creek Culverts Repair Project to address impacts for environmental resources due to implementation of the proposed activities. The 30 CES/CEI distributed the Draft EA/FONSI for a 30-day public review period from March 28, 2021 through April 27, 2021 to federal, state, and local agencies, and the public. The 30 CES/CEI also submitted notice of completion to the State Clearing House with an electronic copy of the Final Draft EA/FONSI (SCH #2021030607). Copies of the Final Draft EA/FONSI were placed at public libraries in the cities of Santa Barbara, Santa Maria, and Lompoc, and at the VSFB Library. The Final Draft EA/FONSI was made available at <http://www.vandenberg.af.mil>. A newspaper release was provided to local newspapers including the Lompoc Record and Santa Maria Times. Comments on the Final Draft EA/FONSI received by the 30 CES/CEI were considered in the Final EA/FONSI dated June 28, 2021. This meets the requirements of a 30-day of public review period for an environmental document under CEQA.

This Notice is provided by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Region (the lead agency under CEQA) for the Honda Creek Culverts Repair Project. The state plans to adopt a FONSI for the Proposed Action. The EA and FONSI include a description of the Proposed Action and evaluate the potential for adverse environmental impacts. The EA and FONSI concludes the Proposed Action would have no significant impacts to the environment.

Should you have any questions, please contact Mark Cassady, by email at Mark.Cassady@waterboards.ca.gov or by mail to:

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