

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

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

From: (Public Agency): Ventura County Transportation Commission
751 E. Daily Dr., Ste 420
Camarillo, CA 93010

County Clerk
 County of: Ventura
800 S. Victoria Ave.
Ventura, CA 93009

Sespe Creek Bridge Emergency Repair

Project Title: Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC)

Project Applicant: _____

Project Location - Specific:

Santa Paula Branch Line Rail bridge northeast of Old Telegraph Road: Lat/Lon: 34.406052 / -118.931301

Project Location - City: Filmore Project Location - County: Ventura

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Ventura County Transportation Commission's (VCTC) Santa Paula Branch Line (SPBL) Rail Bridge (Mile Post 423.44) over Sespe Creek Overflow was damaged by the catastrophic storms during the winter of 2022-2023. The bridge is located in unincorporated Ventura County west of the City of Filmore, Ventura County. The bridge was constructed in 1969 with 15 spans spaced 29.83-feet apart for a total bridge length of 450-feet.

On January 10, 2023, following a series of large storms that produced extreme sediment and debris laden flows, three span bents were washed out on the western end of the bridge. The rail and attached rail ties were left suspended between the abutment and the 4th bent, leaving this line out of service.

The Governor of the State of California declared a State of Emergency on January 4, 2023 related to the severe winter storms and subsequent flooding and damage (CDA 23-001). On January 14, 2023, the President of the United States issued a disaster declaration for the California Severe Winter Storms, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides (DR-4683-CA). VCTC has requested Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funding to compensate for the structure repair. All work to be performed in compliance with Metrolink engineering standards, as applicable.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC)

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC)

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: _____
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: 15269 (a). Authority Cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.

Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Reasons why project is exempt:

The State has identified a list of projects that are exempt from CEQA by law (Article 18 of the State CEQA Guidelines). Statutory Exemption 15269 (a) states: CEQA does not apply to the following emergency projects: (a) Projects to maintain, repair, restore, demolish, or replace property or facilities damaged or destroyed as a result of a disaster in a disaster-stricken area in which a state of emergency has been proclaimed by the Governor pursuant to the California Emergency Services Act, commencing with Section 8550 of the Government Code. This includes projects that will remove, destroy, or significantly alter an historical resource when that resource represents an imminent threat. The Governor of the State of California declared a State of Emergency on January 4, 2023 related to the severe winter storms and subsequent flooding and damage (CDA 23-001). On January 14, 2023, the President of the United States issued a disaster declaration for the California Severe Winter Storms, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides (DR-4683-CA). The bridge repairs described above are statutorily excluded (STATEX) from NEPA and the preparation of environmental impact statements and environmental assessments by section 316 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act), as amended, 42 U.S.C. 5159.

Actions falling within the bounds of these statutory exclusions are exempt from NEPA, including all NEPA review and documentation. These actions must, however, still comply with all applicable environmental laws and Executive Orders.

Lead Agency
 Contact Person: Amanda Fagan Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 805-642-1591

If filed by applicant:

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

Signature: Amanda Fagan Date: 8/23/2023 Title: Director of Planning & Sustainability

▪ Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____