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COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE

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NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

December 24, 2024

PROJECT TITLE: Live Oak Canyon Road Bridge Emergency Project
Work Order# ZD50058F Task Code #3058

PROJECT SPONSOR: County of Riverside Transportation Department

PROJECT LOCATION: San Timoteo Canyon Community

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The County of Riverside Transportation Department proposes to perform emergency repairs on Live Oak Canyon Road Bridge. The project area is just south of the City of Redlands and the San Bernardino and Riverside County Lines, approximately 0.1 mile East of San Timoteo Road and 2.57 miles South of Highway 10 in the Community of San Timoteo Canyon in the County of Riverside. A recent bridge inspection found severe damage at the timber wall protecting the embankment slope at the Abutment 1 wall. Water damage has caused the loss of sections on several vertically supporting piles and many horizontal planks running between the piles. The deteriorated wood planks allowed the soil behind the timber walls to seep through the damaged timber planks.

At the North end of the bridge, significant slope erosion was observed at Abutment 6. This slope failure at the abutment embankment undermined the abutment diaphragm wall and exposed the steel piles supporting the abutment wall.

The County of Riverside Transportation Department proposes to perform emergency repairs to fix the issues. The proposed emergency repairs include the following:

- Installation of new horizontal planks and timber pile vertical supports at the existing timber retaining wall in front of abutment 1**

Replacing the damaged lumber planks with new planks. For the damaged vertical timber piles, new timber piles will be added next to the existing piles. The new piles will be connected to the existing pile with through bolts.

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2. **Restore of the eroded embankment slope in front of abutment 6 at the east end of the bridge**

The project will remove loose and organic soil from the top of the damaged slope. New structural soil backfill will be added, compacted, and graded to restore the original slope. All work will be performed in this area outside of the streambed.

ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

Live Oak Canyon Road is an important thoroughfare from San Timoteo Canyon and provides important access for the community to the I-10 freeway. Further erosion and/or water damage could cause the loss of sections on several vertically supported piles and horizontal planks. This could create failure of the bridge. Temporary construction easements may be required.

The emergency repair is subject to compliance with the Western Riverside Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (WRMSHCP). In accordance with Section 7, Covered Activities, necessary operation, and maintenance activities conducted for safety purposes are covered activities within and outside of Criteria Areas. The emergency repair is considered to be a natural disaster damage/restoration of emergency access activity listed under operation and maintenance; therefore, it is a covered activity under the WRMSHCP. The emergency repair will comply with the construction guidelines provided in Section 7.5.3 as well as the Best Management Practices (BMPs) outlined in Appendix C.

If tree and/or vegetation removal takes place during the migratory bird breeding season (February 1 – September 1), a preconstruction nesting survey will be conducted pursuant to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Within 30 days prior to the beginning of ground disturbance, a pre-construction presence/absence survey for the Burrowing Owl shall be conducted by a qualified County biologist, as required by the WRMSHCP. This can be performed simultaneously with the nesting survey if it is required.

The County of Riverside Transportation Department has found that the above-described project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), based on the following:

Section 15269 (b)(c)(d), Statutory Exemption for Emergency Projects – Emergency repair of Live Oak Canyon Road Bridge is planned for the safety of the traveling public. CEQA Guidelines Section 15269 allows for emergency repairs (b) to a public facility necessary to maintain service essential to the public health, safety or welfare, (c) specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency, and (d) projects undertaken to maintain, repair, or restore an existing bridge damaged by flood. The proposed activities qualify to be statutorily exempt from CEQA under Section 15269 (b)(c) and (d) because the activity consists of repairing an existing bridge to provide service essential to public health and safety, and to prevent or mitigate an emergency.

CEQA Guidelines 15301 (c), Existing Facilities, allows for the repair and maintenance of existing public facilities that involve negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. The proposed activities qualify to be exempt from CEQA under Section 15301 (c) because the activities consist of repair and maintenance of existing facilities that do not create additional traffic lanes and involve negligible or no expansion of use of the existing roadways and associated facilities.

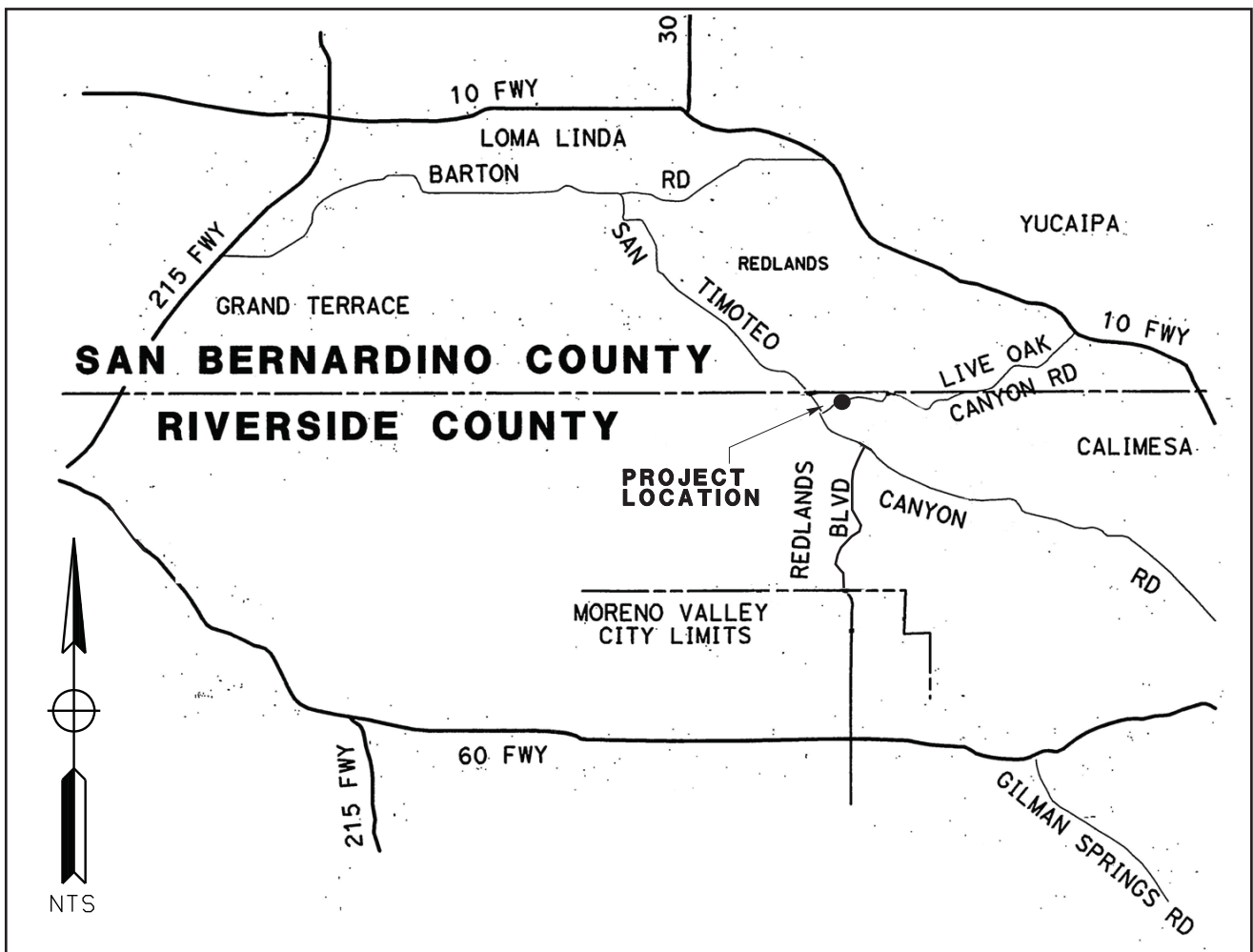
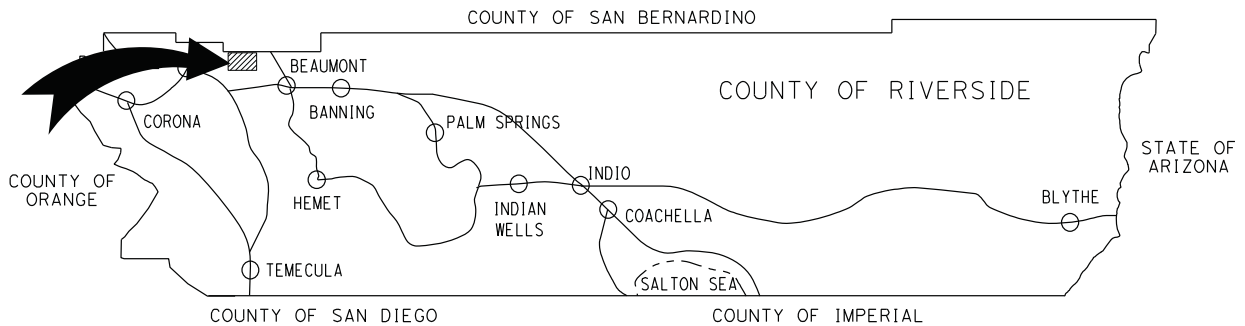
By: Don Copeland, Senior Transportation Planner

Signed: Jan Bulinski

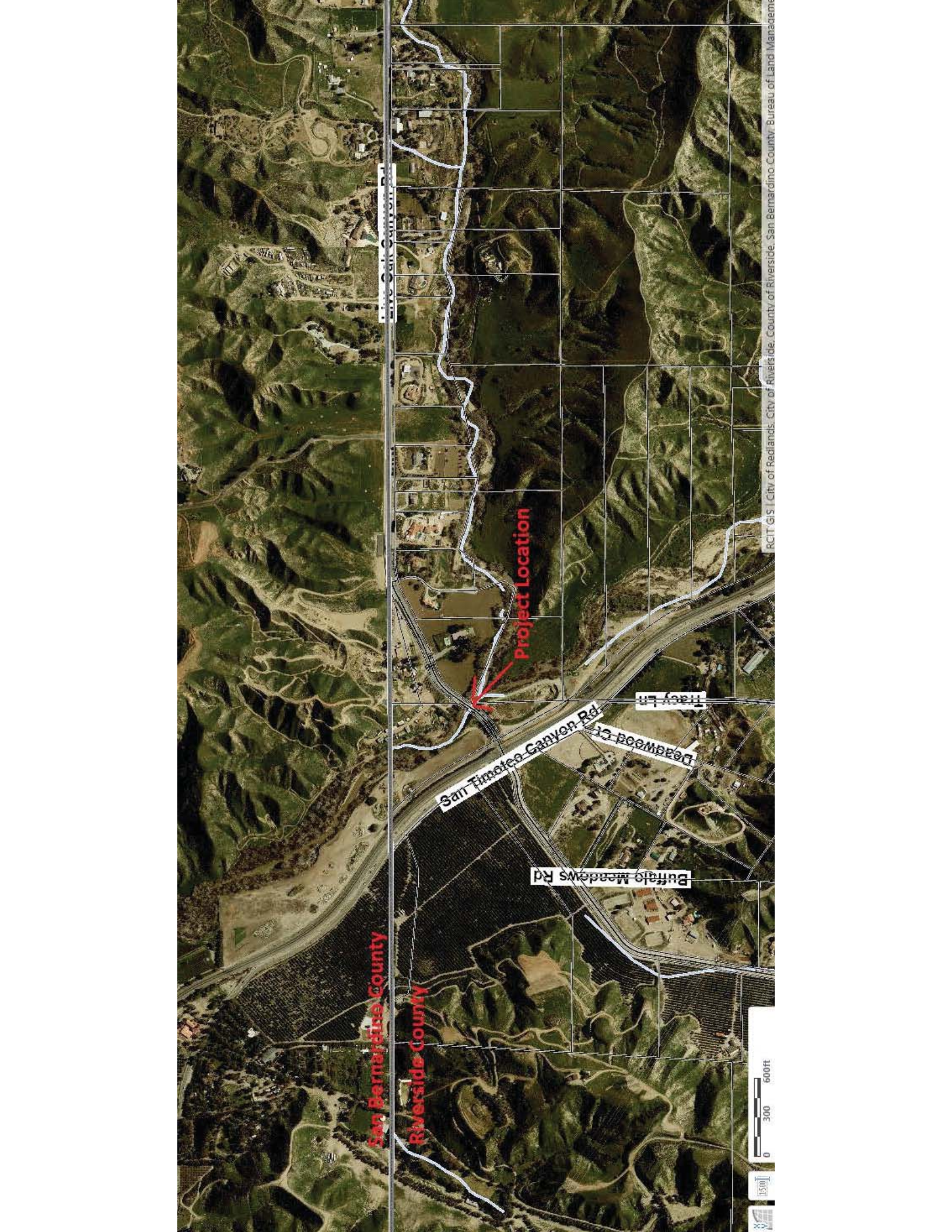
Jan Bulinski, Environmental Project Manager

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

EMERGENCY BRIDGE REPAIR WORK LIVE OAK CANYON ROAD 500 FT EAST OF SAN TIMOTEO CANYON ROAD PROJECT No. D5-0058



VICINITY MAP



San Bernardino County

Riverside County

Project Location

San Timoteo Canyon Rd

Buffalo Meadows Rd

Deadwood Ct

Tracy Ln

