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Transportation Department

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

December 24, 2024

PROJECT TITLE: Ramon Road Overhead Bridge Emergency Project
Work Order# ZD50057F Task Code #3058

PROJECT SPONSOR: County of Riverside Transportation Department

PROJECT LOCATION: Aqua Caliente/Thousand Palms Community near Rancho Mirage

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The County of Riverside Transportation Department proposes to perform emergency repairs on Ramon Road Overhead Bridge, which is over railroad tracks. The project area is near the City of Rancho Mirage, approximately 0.15 mile West of the I-10 freeway and 0.2 mile East of Bob Hope Drive, in the Community of Aqua Caliente/Thousand Palms in the County of Riverside. Significant signs of erosion and cavities were observed at the easterly Abutment 4 from the bridge approach deck. Further investigation revealed that these cavities were caused by a failure in the abutment backwall drainage system. This failure allowed rainwater runoff from the bridge deck to seep through the backwall drainage system and exit through the abutment stem weep holes, resulting in the undermining of the abutment footings and severe erosion along the slopes.

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

1. Stabilize the undermined foundations:

Stabilize the bridge foundations by placing slurry underneath the undermined footings and along the eroded slopes. Placing the slurry will require temporary bulkheads to be installed to contain the slurry along the slopes.

2. Reinstall the abutment backwall geo-composite drainage systems:

The abutments on both sides will be excavated to a depth and width sufficient to install the new geo-composite drainage systems along the abutment backwalls. After the drainage system installation, the excavated area will be backfilled with structural compacted soil backfill, and the new road pavement surface will be placed.

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ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS:

The maintenance of an existing roadway bridge will be conducted by the County of Riverside Transportation Department, who is a permittee as defined by the Coachella Valley Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP). The project is subject to compliance within the CVMSHCP. In accordance with Section 7 of the CVMSHCP, necessary operation and maintenance along existing roadways are considered covered activities within or outside of the Conservation Areas. Additionally, the project is considered to be under operation and maintenance, therefore, it is a covered activity under the CVMSHCP. This project will comply with the construction guidelines following general Best Management Practices (BMPs).

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.

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 Ramon Road Overhead 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 excessive rains. 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.

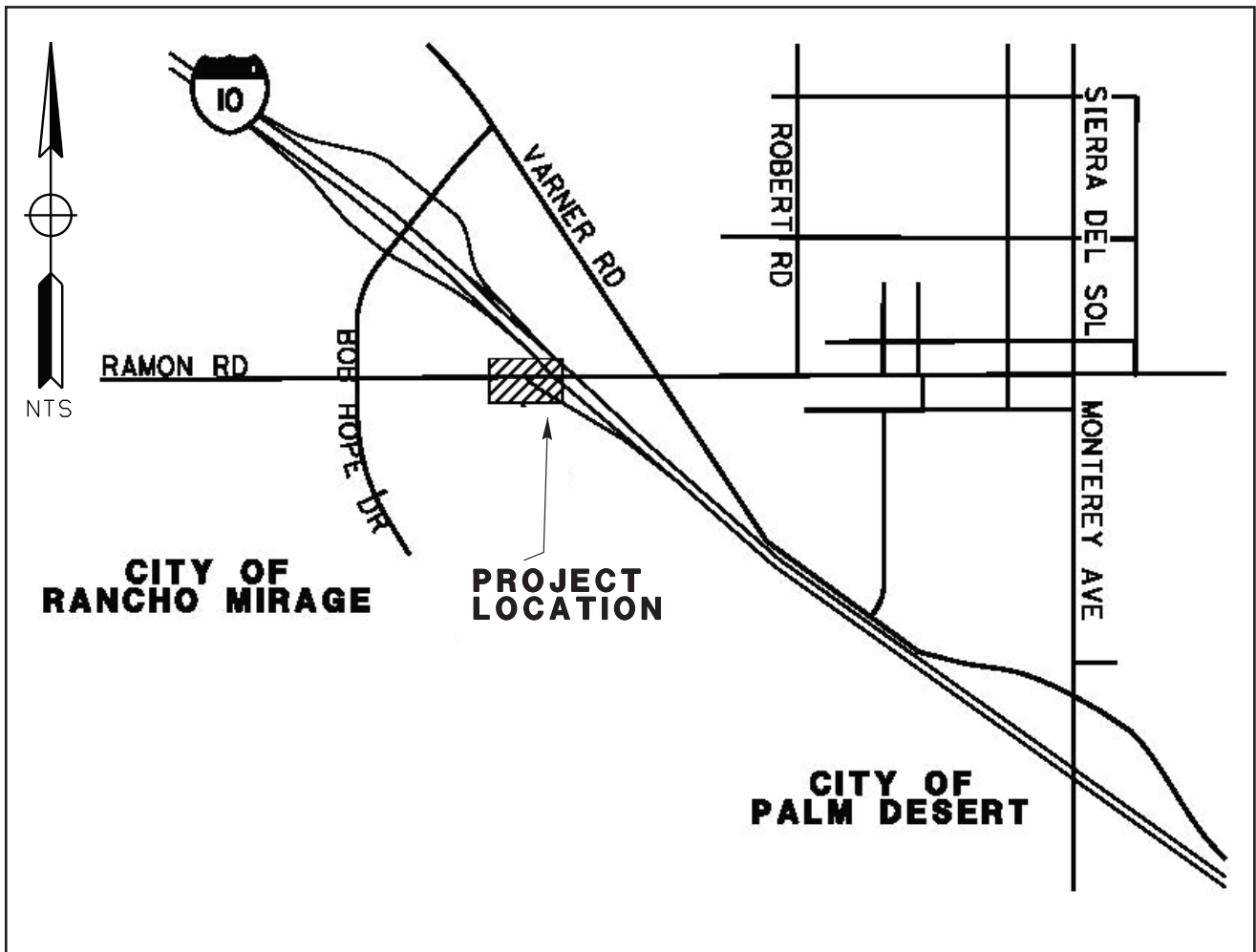
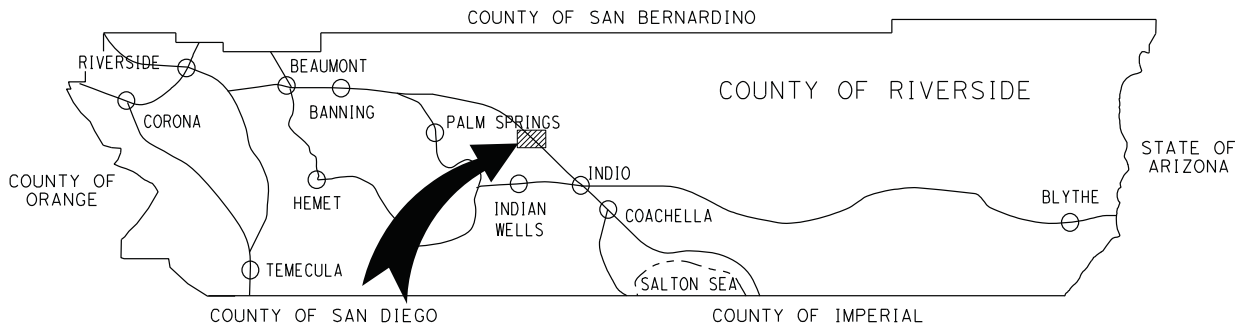
By: Don Copeland, Senior Transportation Planner

Signed: 

Jan Bulinski, Environmental Project Manager

COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

EMERGENCY BRIDGE REPAIR WORK RAMON ROAD COMMUNITY OF THOUSAND PALMS PROJECT No. D5-0057



VICINITY MAP

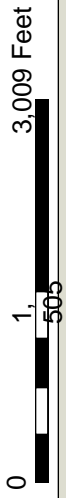
Map My County Map
 Ramon Road Overheard Emergency Project



Legend
 County Centerline Names
 World Street Map

Notes

IMPORTANT Maps and data are to be used for reference purposes only. Map features are approximate, and are not necessarily accurate to surveying or engineering standards. The County of Riverside makes no warranty or guarantee as to the content (the source is often third party), accuracy, timeliness, or completeness of any of the data provided, and assumes no legal responsibility for the information contained on this map. Any use of this product with respect to accuracy and precision shall be the sole responsibility of the user.



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