
Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

California Environmental Quality Act Notice of Exemption for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification

To: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street, Room 121
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Central Valley Region, Redding Office
364 Knollcrest Drive, Suite 205
Redding, CA 96002

Date: 9 April 2025

Project Title:

Modoc National Wildlife Refuge Sharkey Bridge
Replacement Project (Project)

Project Location - Specific:

Latitude: 41.4476° and Longitude: -120.5412°

Project Location - County:

Modoc County

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The proposed Project will demolish and remove the existing Sharkey Bridge and water control structure (WCS) and replace them with a new, updated bridge and WCS, downstream and adjacent to the existing structure. From ordinary high water mark (OHWM) to OHWM, the replacement Sharkey Bridge and WCS are approximately 60 feet long; the width from the upstream edge of the WCS and the downstream edge of the bridge is approximately 22.5 feet. Construction will include installation of the following: concrete weir walls and wingwalls, concrete abutments and piers, concrete bridge foundations and footings, riprap scour protection upstream and downstream of the replacement structure, and various fill materials behind the structure and within the realigned roadway approaches. The existing structure will be removed after the replacement structure is installed. Typical construction equipment will be used to complete the Project, including, but not limited to, the following: backhoe, front end loader, concrete pump truck, pavers, dump trucks, jackhammer, excavator, dozer, grader, possibly impact or vibratory pile drivers, other construction vehicles, and power tools. The structure installation and removal will include temporary and permanent excavation, grading, and fill below the OHWM of the river and temporary impacts within adjacent wetlands. No permanent wetland fill will be necessary at the Project site.

Name of Public Agencies Approving Project:

Federal Agencies: The project requires authorization under U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Clean Water Act Section 404, SPK-2023-00828.

State Agency approval for Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification: California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, Redding Office. WDID No. 5A25CR00067.

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:

Stacy Freitas
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
5364 County Road 115
Alturas, CA 96101

Exempt Status:

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region has determined that the Project is categorically exempt from review under CEQA pursuant to California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15061. Specifically, the issuance of this Order and the activities described herein meet the exemption criteria under California Code of Regulations, Title 14, section 15302 (Replacement or Reconstruction). Class 2 consists of replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced.

Reasons why Project is Exempt:

This project is categorically exempt under CEQA section 15302 because the project involves the replacement of an existing structure with a new structure that will be located in the same footprint and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced.

Federal Lead Agency Contact Person:

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State Lead Agency Contact Person:

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