



State Water Resources Control Board

Public Notice of Application for Water Quality Certification for California Department of Transportation State Route (SR)-18 Culverts Project # 08-1J310 (Project)

State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Quality
Water Quality Certification Program
Date Posted: September 18, 2023

Affected Counties: San Bernardino

The following information is provided in satisfaction of the public notice requirements of Section 3858, Title 23, of the California Code of Regulations, which govern the State's Water Quality Certification Program.

State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) staff are proposing to regulate this Project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. **Staff will consider all comments submitted in writing and received at this office during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this notice (September 18, 2023) and ends at 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the comment period (October 10, 2023).** To submit comments, or if you have questions, please contact the State Water Board staff person listed below.

State Water Resources Control Board Contact:

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State Water Resources Control Board
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Note: No regulatory decision on the application is implied or intended in this public notice.

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | EILEEN SOBECK, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Project Name: SR-18 Culverts Project # 08-1J310

(Reg. Meas. ID: 454263 and SWRCB ID: SB23068IN)

Background: On September 7, 2023, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) submitted an application for Clean Water Act Section 401 water quality certification for the State Route (SR)-18 Culverts Project #08-1J310 (Project).

Project Description: Caltrans proposes to rehabilitate (i.e., repair or replace) 26 culverts on SR-18, in San Bernardino County, from Arrowbear Drive to 1.3 miles west of Big Bear Lake Dam. The Project also includes the installation of a new wireless Changeable Message Sign (CMS) on SR-18 at PM 37.3 in the eastbound direction. Trenching on the shoulder of the roadway will measure 12-inches wide and 30-inches in depth. All culvert work and CMS installation are planned within the existing SR-18 right of way and easements. Staging and access for construction activities will be from the roadway.

The Project application reports impacts to waters of the state, including waters of the U.S., as shown in Table 1 and Table 2. Temporarily impacted areas would be restored to pre-project condition once the Project is complete. Permanent impacts will be mitigated as Permittee Responsible Mitigation. The mitigation ratio is yet to be determined.

Caltrans is the lead agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. The Project prepared an Initial Study Mitigated Negative Declaration and is filed under SCH# 2022040454.

Table 1: Total Project Fill/Excavation Impacts to Waters of the State

Aquatic Resource type	Stream Channel	Riparian Zone
Acres of temporary impact	0.262	0.012
Linear feet of temporary impact	1,266	56
Acres of permanent physical loss of area	0	0
Linear feet of permanent physical loss of area	0	0

Table 2: Total Project Dredge/Extraction Impacts to Waters of the State

Aquatic Resource type	Stream Channel	Riparian Zone
Acres of temporary impact	0	0
Linear feet of temporary impact	0	0
Acres of permanent physical loss of area	0.015	0.004
Linear feet of permanent physical loss of area	213	62

A Certification or Denial will be prepared by the State Water Board for the SR-18 Culverts Project # 08-1J310 in response to this application.

Applicant: California Department of Transportation
Applicant Contact: Adam Compton
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Date of Application Submittal: September 7, 2023

Pursuant to federal law (Title 33, United States Code, Section 1341; Clean Water Act Section 401), applicants for a federal license or permit for activities which may discharge to waters of the United States must seek Water Quality Certification from the state or Indian tribe with jurisdiction. Such Certification is based on a finding that the discharge will meet water quality standards and other applicable requirements. In California, Regional Water Quality Control Boards (Regional Water Boards) issue or deny Certification for discharges within their geographical jurisdiction. The State Water Board has this responsibility for projects affecting waters within multiple Regional Water Board jurisdictions.

KEEP INFORMED OF PROJECT MILESTONES

To be informed of milestones in the development of this proposed Water Quality Certification, any interested persons should enroll in the State Water Board's 401 Program e-mail notification service.

Click the [Subscribe directly to the 401 water quality Certification and Wetland Program Email List](#) button on the [401 Program Webpage](#) at:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/index.shtml

By enrolling in this list, you will receive notices for all current 401 applications, including the Project announced in this notice. You will need a valid e-mail address to use this service. If you do not have internet access or do not wish to participate in the email notification service, contact the staff person named in the notice to express your interest in receiving notices by other means. You can enroll or un-enroll at any time.