Date:

2/04/2020

Applicant:

BNSF Railway Company
740 E. Carnegie Dr.
San Bernardino, CA 92408
Contact: Mr. Walter Smith
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Applicant's Representative:

Jacobs Engineering Group
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Yucca Valley, CA 92286
Contact: Mr. Kurt Sanderson
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Project Name:

BNSF Needles Third Main Track Project - Division A, WDID No. 7B363046001

Receiving Water:

Sacramento Wash, Piute Wash and Colorado River

Location:

The Project Site is located between BNSF Mileposts 581.17 and 609.4 with the proposed project area extending from the elevation of 590 feet near Needles, CA, to 2,600 feet above mean sea level near Goffs, CA, and is situated within the Mojave Desert subregion of the Desert Province.

City or area: Needles to Goff, San Bernardino County, California

Longitude/ Latitude: N 34.942889°, W -114.824593°

Project Description:

The purpose of the proposed activity is to extend the existing crossings to accommodate a third track along the two existing tracks, in order to support increased rail traffic through BNSF's existing rail corridor.

BNSF plans to build a third track along approximately 29 miles of the BNSF rail corridor from west of Needles to Goffs, CA. Project activities will include construction of a third rail line within BNSF right-of-way and adjacent to the existing rail line, within the stream's Ordinary High Water Mark for 18 structures. In areas with existing bridges and culverts, new bridges and culverts will be built prior to rail line placement. Project plans are for the extension of 7 H-pile and cement bridges, 9 metal and/or cement culverts and 2 cement and steel arches, which will result in both temporary and permanent impacts to non-wetland waters. In each case, the structures will be an extension in the existing channels to allow for rail line extension. The use of heavy equipment will be used to transport materials and move fill material within the work area and will use existing access roads. New bridge construction will be on H-pile foundations.

Permanent impacts to non-wetland waters will consist of fill material comprised primarily of concrete and metal pipe culverts, rock rip rap, and native material. All permanent impacts are within disturbed desert dry wash habitat consisting almost entirely of bare ground comprised of sandy-gravelly soils, with little to no vegetation. All temporarily-impacted areas of waters will be restored to pre-project conditions to the extent feasible, including but not limited to restoring existing contours and re-vegetating temporarily cleared areas. No other direct or indirect adverse environmental effects are anticipated to result from the proposed project.

Action:

Pending

Water Board Contact:

Kai Dunn, Senior Water Resources Control Engineer

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