
State Water Resources Control Board

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR WATER QUALITY ORDER NO. [XXXX-XXXX-DWQ] WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS AND CLEAN WATER ACT SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Quality
Water Quality Certification Program

The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) has received an application from the California Department of Transportation, District 4 to add express lanes to Interstate 80 (I-80) in Solano County. This project will result in temporary and permanent impacts to both waters of the United States and non-federal waters of the state. The State Water Board is considering issuing a Clean Water Act 401 Water Quality Certification pursuant to federal law (Title 33, United States Code, Section 1341; Clean Water Act Section 401) for impacts to waters of the United States and Waste Discharge Requirements for impacts to non-federal waters of the state pursuant to the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Wat. Code, § 13000 et seq.).

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. Since the Project impacts both waters of the United States and non-federal waters of the state, two separate public notices will be posted. This document serves as public notice for Project impacts to Waters of the United States. A second public notice will provide for public comment on the draft permit requirements once these are approved in draft by the State Water Board.

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.

Applicant: California Department of Transportation, District 4

Applicant Contact: Osama El Hamshary

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Project Name: I-80 Express Lanes Project

(RM 417228, SB 17041IN)

Date of Application: 11/02/2017

On November 2, 2017, the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) received an application requesting Federal Clean Water Act section 401 water quality certification and Waste Discharge Requirements for activities related to the I-80 Express Lanes Project (Project), from the California Department of Transportation, District 4 (Applicant). The application indicates proposed activities and impacts within the jurisdiction of more than one Regional Water Quality Control Board, the Central Valley and San Francisco Bay Regions; therefore, the State Water Board has jurisdiction over the Project. The application was deemed complete on January 31, 2018.

The purpose of the Project is to optimize the capacity of the Interstate 80 (I-80) corridor to reduce delays and meet current and anticipated future traffic demands.

The Project will provide High-Occupancy Vehicle (HOV)/High-Occupancy Toll lanes (express lanes) on I-80 from west of Red Top Road to east of Interstate 505 (I-505).

The project consists of two segments: the West Segment and the East Segment. In the West Segment, the project will convert the existing eastbound and westbound HOV lanes to express lanes, and reconfigure the existing combined Travis Boulevard diagonal and loop off-ramps into two separate off-ramps exiting eastbound I-80 (an eastbound diagonal ramp and a westbound loop ramp).

In the East Segment, the project will construct new eastbound and westbound express lanes in the center median, sliver-widen eastbound I-80 between Air Base Parkway and Manuel Campos Parkway to accommodate a California Highway Patrol (CHP) observation area in the median, remove median vegetation, widen the bridge decks at Ulatis Creek and Horse Creek, widen the undercrossing structures at Davis Street and Mason Street, and construct retaining walls and sound walls.

Project activities for both segments include:

- Grading, paving, striping, and widening of existing roadways
- Adding, relocating, and/or altering median barriers
- Installing static and dynamic overhead signs, electronic tolling equipment, median lighting, toll collection subsystems, electrical and communication conduits, and traffic control devices
- Altering and/or constructing CHP observation areas in the center median
- Protecting existing utilities in place
- Installing new drainage systems, modifying existing drainage systems, and constructing new storm water quality treatment facilities

- Installing biofiltration swales and underground oversized culverts to provide additional storm water storage and flow control measures

Projected permanent and temporary impacts to Waters of the U.S. and waters of the state are summarized in Tables 1, 2, and 3 below.

Table 1: Proposed Project Fill/Excavation Quantity¹ for Waters of the U.S.									
Aquatic Resource Type	Temporary Impact²			Permanent Impact					
				Physical Loss of Area			Degradation of Ecological Condition Only		
	Acres	CY	LF	Acres	CY	LF	Acres	CY	LF
Riparian Zone				0.05		202			
Stream Channel ³	0.04		86	0.001		110	0.029		37

Table 2: Proposed Project Fill/Excavation Quantity¹ for Non-Federal Waters of the State									
Aquatic Resource Type	Temporary Impact²			Permanent Impact					
				Physical Loss of Area			Degradation of Ecological Condition Only		
	Acres	CY	LF	Acres	CY	LF	Acres	CY	LF
Stream Channel ³	0.36		7,723	0.31		5,514			

Table 3: Proposed Total Project Fill/Excavation Quantity¹									
Aquatic Resource Type	Temporary Impact²			Permanent Impact					
				Physical Loss of Area			Degradation of Ecological Condition Only		
	Acres	CY	LF	Acres	CY	LF	Acres	CY	LF
Riparian Zone				0.05		202			
Stream Channel ³	0.40		7,809	0.311		5,624	0.029		37

All temporary impacts to waters will be restored to pre-project conditions. Compensatory mitigation for permanent impacts to waters will be required before impacts to waters may occur.

Status of CEQA and other Natural Resource Documents and Permits

On December 4, 2015, the California Department of Transportation, District 4 (Caltrans), as lead agency, adopted an initial study/mitigated negative declaration (IS/MND) (State Clearinghouse (SCH) No 2015072037) for the Project and filed a Notice of Determination (NOD) at the SCH on December 4, 2015.

¹ Cubic Yards (CY); Linear Feet (LF)

²Includes only temporary direct impacts to waters of the state and does not include upland areas of temporary disturbance which could result in a discharge to waters of the state.

³ Stream Channel impacts include Riparian Zone impacts due to the nature of the ephemeral dry washes.

Caltrans has notified the South Pacific Division of the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) as required under USACE Nationwide Permit 14.

Staff will consider all comments submitted in writing and received at this office by mail during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter and ends at 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the comment period. If you have any questions, please contact Brendan Reed at (916) 341-5462 or Brendan.Reed@waterboards.ca.gov. Following this comment period, State Water Board staff will complete draft Waste Discharge Requirements for purposes of regulating the Project discharges to all waters of the state. A second comment period will be announced for public comment on the draft permit. This second comment period will be announced at a future date.

Date Posted: February 23, 2017

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 the public notice.

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 button under the "Quick Links" section of the 401 Program Webpage at:

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

Select "CWA401 Certification and Wetlands Program." By enrolling in this list, you will receive notices for all current 401 project 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 Lyris list, 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. The State Water Board will not disclose your name or e-mail information to any outside parties, and will not use this information for any other purpose.