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SECRETARY FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

State Water Resources Control Board

Public Notice of Application for Water Quality Certification for Federal Highway Administration Cima Road Project

State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Quality
Water Quality Certification Program
Date Posted: June 24, 2022

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 (June 24, 2022) and ends at 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the comment period (July 14, 2022).** To submit comments, or if you have questions, please contact the State Water Board staff person listed below.

State Water Resources Control Board Contact:

Stephen Barlow, Environmental Scientist
Wetland Permitting and Enforcement Unit, Division of Water Quality
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
Telephone: 916-327-8546
Email: Stephen.Barlow@waterboards.ca.gov

Note: No regulatory decision on the application is implied or intended in this public notice.

Project Name: Cima Road Project

(Reg. Meas. ID: 447273 and SWRCB ID: SB22018IN)

Background: On March 23, 2022, Federal Highway Administration submitted an application for Clean Water Act Section 401 water quality certification for the Cima Road Project (Project).

Project Description: The primary goal of the proposed Project is to improve road conditions along four main access routes in the Mojave National Preserve for the benefit and safety of visitors. As part of the road improvements, drainage improvements are needed to stabilize and protect the roads at stream crossings to reduce erosion and the potential for road failure during major storm events. Waters of the United States within the Project area would be temporarily and permanently impacted during construction. Project activities associated with the temporary impacts would occur at twenty-two (22) separate sites along four roads. The length of the proposed Project is approximately 22 miles and includes: Cima Road, the northern portion of Cima Road at approximately 35.43912, -115.67219, the southern portion of Cima Road at 35.24655, -115.50840; Cedar Canyon Road, 35.15668, -115.33072; Lanfair Road, 35.06023, -115.16801; and Kelbaker Road, 35.04727, -115.66780.

The Project application reports impacts to waters of the United States, as shown in Table 1. Temporarily impacted areas would be restored to pre-project condition once the Project is complete. Permanent impacts will be mitigated at a proposed ratio of 3:1.

The National Park Service has led the federal environmental review process with Federal Highway Administration as a cooperating agency. The Project is considered exempt under a categorical exemption number 15301(c) for existing facilities.

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

| Aquatic Resource type | Stream Channel |
|--|-----------------------|
| Acres of temporary impact | 0.437 |
| Linear feet of temporary impact | 935 |
| Acres of permanent physical loss of area | 0.777 |
| Linear feet of permanent physical loss of area | 1,331 |

A Certification or Denial will be prepared by the State Water Board for the Cima Road Project in response to this application.

Applicant: Federal Highway Administration

Applicant Contact: Curtis Scott _____

Telephone: (720) 963-3558

Email: Curtis.Scott@dot.gov

Date of Application Submittal: March 23, 2022

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 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 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.