
Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

April 17, 2015

NOTICE OF INTENT

**TO USE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT / FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
IN LIEU OF A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Coast Water Board), acting as lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), will use an Environmental Assessment / Finding of No Significant Impact (EA/FONSI), prepared by the United States Air Force (Air Force), in lieu of preparing its own Mitigated Negative Declaration for:

**13th Street Bridge Replacement at the Santa Ynez River Crossing Project
Vandenberg Air Force Base, California**

The proposed action includes the following elements: construction of a new bridge and approach roads on 13th Street over the Santa Ynez River on Vandenberg Air Force Base; demolition and removal of the existing bridge and approach roads; and installation of a fiber optic communication cable 25 feet under the Santa Ynez River bed approximately 1,100 feet west of the existing bridge. The new bridge would be constructed between 50 and 80 feet west of the existing bridge and would span 650 feet of the river channel supported by two piers, compared to the existing bridge which is 500 feet long and supported by eight piers. Construction of the new bridge and demolition of the existing bridge is anticipated to begin in late spring or early summer 2015 and last approximately twelve to twenty months. Demolition and removal of the existing approach roads are estimated to begin in April 2016 and last between five and six months. The installation of the fiber optic cable under the Santa Ynez River is estimated to begin in April 2015 and last approximately four months. Existing bridge piers, abutments, and scour protection will be removed and areas enhanced to restore streambed, wetland, and riparian environments.

Under CEQA, state agencies are encouraged to use a FONSI prepared pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) rather than preparing a new CEQA document, when the FONSI, prepared before a Negative Declaration or Environmental Impact Report (EIR), would otherwise be completed for the project and complies with CEQA Guidelines.

Under CEQA, Section 15225(a) further states that "where the federal agency circulated the EIS [Environmental Impact Statement] or Finding of No Significant Impact for public review as broadly as state or local law may require and gave notice meeting the standards in Section 15072(a) or 15087(a), the lead agency under CEQA may use the federal document in the place of an EIR or negative declaration without recirculating the federal document for public review. One review and comment period is enough. Prior to using the federal document in this situation, the lead agency shall give notice that it will use the federal document in the place of

an EIR or negative declaration and that it believes that the federal document meets the requirement of CEQA.”

The Air Force prepared an EA for the 13th Street Bridge Replacement at the Santa Ynez River Crossing Project to address impacts to the environmental resources due to implementation of the proposed action. The Air Force also issued a FONSI for the project. The Air Force distributed the Final Draft EA/FONSI for a 30-day public review period from March 29, 2015 to April 28, 2015 to Federal, State, and local agencies, and concerned public. The Air Force submitted 15 copies of the Final Draft EA/FONSI to the State Clearinghouse to be distributed to State agencies. A newspaper release was provided to the Lompoc Record and the Santa Maria Times, and copies of the EA/FONSI were placed at the Lompoc, Santa Barbara, Santa Maria, and University of California Santa Barbara public libraries. Comments on the Draft EA and FONSI received by the Air Force will be incorporated in the Final EA and FONSI. This meets the requirements of a 30-day of public review period for an environmental document under CEQA.

This Notice is provided by the Central Coast Water Board, the lead agency under CEQA, for the proposed action. The Central Coast Water Board would adopt a EA/FONSI for the proposed action in lieu of a Mitigated Negative Declaration. The EA/FONSI includes a description of the proposed action, evaluates the potential for adverse environmental impact, and describes compensatory mitigation for project-related impacts to environmental resources. The EA/FONSI concludes that the proposed action, with incorporation of required environmental protection and compensatory mitigation measures, would not have a significant impact to the environment.

Digital versions of the Draft EA/FONSI are available at the Central Coast Water Board website, http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralcoast/water_issues/programs/401wqcert/index.shtml. Please direct any questions to Jon Rohrbough at Jon.Rohrbough@waterboards.ca.gov, or by mail to:

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