

## State Water Resources Control Board

### Public Notice of Application for Water Quality Certification for State Route 91 Improvement Project between State Route 57 and State Route 55 (OCTA M2 "Project I"), Segment 1

State Water Resources Control Board  
Division of Water Quality  
Water Quality Certification Program  
Date Posted: June 27, 2022

**Affected Counties: Orange County**

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 27, 2022) and ends at 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the comment period (July 17, 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:**

Sarmad Alkayssi, Environmental Scientist  
Wetland Permitting and Enforcement Unit 1, Division of Water Quality  
State Water Resources Control Board  
1001 I Street, Sacramento, CA 95814  
Telephone: 916-327-8553  
Email: [Sarmad.Alkayssi@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Sarmad.Alkayssi@waterboards.ca.gov)

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

**Project Name: State Route 91 Improvement Project between State Route 57 and State Route 55 (OCTA M2 "Project I"), Segment 1**

**Background:** On April 20, 2022, California Department of Transportation, District 12 (Caltrans) submitted an application for Clean Water Act Section 401 water quality certification for the State Route 91 Improvement Project between State Route 57 and State Route 55 (OCTA M2 "Project I"), Segment 1 (Project).

**Project Description:** The primary goal of the proposed Project is to improve traffic operations on State Route 91 (SR-91) between Acacia Street (west of SR-57) and just east of Lakeview Avenue (east of SR-55). Project improvements include constructing a new drop ramp (southbound SR-55 on-ramp) directly from Lakeview Avenue to the SR-55 connector and relocating the SR-91/SR-55 diverge lane east of Lakeview Avenue. Additionally, the Project would combine the Lakeview Avenue westbound loop and slip on-ramps as a single tight diamond on-ramp to SR-91. Lakeview Avenue between Santa Ana Canyon Road and Riverdale Avenue would also be reconstructed along with replacement of the Lakeview Avenue overcrossing structure near latitude and longitude: 33.851168, -117.8

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.

The California Department of Transportation, District 12, is lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Project is available to the public online at:

<https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/2018111042/2>

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

<b>Aquatic Resource type</b>	<b>Stream Channel</b>	<b>Stream Channel (non-wetlands)</b>
Acres of temporary impact	0.11	0
Linear feet of temporary impact	2,950	0
Acres of permanent physical loss of area	<0.01	0.01
Linear feet of permanent physical loss of area	75	291

**A Certification or Denial will be prepared by the State Water Board for the State Route 91 Improvement Project between State Route 57 and State Route 55 (OCTA M2 "Project I"), Segment 1 in response to this application.**

**Applicant: California Department of Transportation, District 12 (Caltrans)**  
**Applicant Contact: Brian Santos**  
**Telephone: (657) 328-6624**  
**Email: [brian.santos@dot.ca.gov](mailto:brian.santos@dot.ca.gov)**  
**Date of Application Submittal: April 20, 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](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.