

SECTION 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION PUBLIC NOTICE

The Central Coast Water Board is currently reviewing a Clean Water Act section 401 Water Quality Certification application for the project described below. We encourage public comments on the proposed project and will take comments into consideration when taking action on the application. You may submit written comments on this project to:

Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board

895 Aerovista Place, Suite 101

San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Attention: 401 Coordinator

OR

centralcoast@waterboards.ca.gov

Attention: 401 Coordinator

Project Applicant: Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) – Steve Cheney

Applicant's Agent: Althouse and Meade, Inc. – Zach Raposo

Project Name: UPRR Coast Subdivision MP 100.56 Bridge Replacement

Receiving Water: Elkhorn Slough

City/County: Watsonville / Monterey County

Public Notice: November 13, 2025 – December 4, 2025

Project Description:

The purpose of the proposed Project is for the replacement of an existing UPRR bridge over a secondary tidal channel in Elkhorn Slough. The existing 10-foot timber trestle bridge is undersized, restricts tidal connectivity, and provides limited drainage capacity.

The proposed project activities include:

- Creation of a temporary access corridor;
- Placement of crane mats in wetland areas to minimize compaction;
- Removal of existing bridge abutments;
- Installation of a temporary water diversion system;
- Ballast installation within the UPRR right of way for crane stability;
- Installation of two culverts and sandbag diversions; and
- Full removal of temporary materials and site restoration following construction.

Proposed mitigation includes:

- Permittee-responsible re-establishment of 0.03 acres / 470 linear feet of estuary habitat; and
- Permittee-responsible re-establishment of 0.04 acres / 175 linear feet of wetlands habitat.