

Notice of Section 401 Application Reception

File Number: 302024-07

Project Name: Austin Vault Sand Filter Retrofit

Received: 4/08/2024

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End of 21 Day Public Comment Period: 4/29/2024

Project City: Newport Beach

Project County: Orange

Applicant Organization: San Joaquin Hills Transportation Corridor Agency

Applicant Name: Stephanie Blanco

Waterboard Staff: TBA

Brief Description of Project:

Project Description: The Applicant is proposing to rehabilitate a 2,009 square-foot existing Austin Vault Sand Filter (AVSF), located adjacent to Bonita Creek at the intersection of Bison Ave and State Route 73 in the City of Newport Beach. The AVSF was constructed to treat “first flush” stormwater runoff from the adjoining Ford Road; the AVSF is not intended to treat dry weather flows. The primary function of the AVSF is to treat stormwater runoff by trapping or straining pollutants before runoff is collected in an underdrain system and conveyed to a discharge point at Bonita Creek.

Project Activities: The project involves several key characteristics, including the cleanout of the AVSF, which includes the removal and replacement of existing media such as sand, gravel, debris, and emergent vegetation. The depth of the excavation is approximately 12 inches (“). As part of the improvements, the filter fabric will also be replaced. Additionally, the existing 24” reinforced concrete pipe (RCP) that discharges into the AVSF will be cleaned. New permeable media consisting of one, 12” layer of sand and gravel and a second layer of 18” permeable material will be installed in the AVSF once the initial improvements clean out is completed. Refer to the attached Project Design Plans for construction-level detail. To address ponding within the constructed wetland area, proposed improvements to the RCP include limited vegetated removal around the current inlet and temporary deployment of gravel bags to reduce water within the work zone. Approximately 10 square feet of vegetation will be cleared around the existing concrete wing walls and bottom concrete slab. These structures will be removed due to corrosion and exposed damage that was identified during the preliminary site review. An 18” x 24” debris cage will also be constructed to prevent larger debris from entering the AVSF. The existing sewer manhole that adjoins the vegetation removal area will be protected in place.