

Notice of Section 401 Application Reception

File Number: 332025-07

Project Name: CA ERFO FS SNBER 2023-3(1) Santa Ana Road

Received: 2/04/2025

Date Posted: 2/28/2025

End of 21 Day Public Comment Period: 3/21/2025

Project City: San Bernardino National Forest

Project County: San Bernardino

Applicant Organization: Federal Highway Administration – Central Federal Lands

Applicant Name: Michael Daigler

Waterboard Staff: TBA

Brief Description of Project:

Project Description: The project is proposed by Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) – Central Federal Lands Highway Division (CFLHD), in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) - San Bernardino National Forest (SBNF), in order to reopen access to forest roads which were impacted by the Tropical Storm Hilary event in August 2023. Four bridges and portions of Santa Ana Road (also known as Forest Route 1N45 and Seven Oaks Road) were destroyed in the event and are impassable to vehicular traffic. The proposed project would repair and improve two bridges, improve and reroute traffic to Front Line Road (a roadway at a higher elevation) to reduce the risk of future flooding, and remove debris from two bridges which will be abandoned.

Project Activities: At Bridges 1 and 3 (bridges are named 1-4 from east to west), any remaining bridge debris from the previous bridges would be removed, new 200-foot span bridges would be installed on new spill-through abutments, and riprap to protect the abutments would be placed. The bridge abutments and Santa Ana Road would see changes to the alignment, profile, and superelevation to accommodate the larger bridges and to improve drainage. At Bridge 1, a 215-foot guidebank will be built in order to protect residential forest cabins from increased flooding. The guidebank and bridge abutments would be placed entirely outside of the delineated ordinary high water mark (OHWM) and their construction would not result in permanent impacts to waters of the US. At both Bridges 1 and 3, permanent impacts to the Santa Ana River would be limited to the bridge pier impacts of approximately 0.0008 acre (0.0004 acre of impact at each bridge) and riprap installation of approximately 0.047 acre (0.021 acre at Bridge 1 and 0.026 acre at Bridge 3). Temporary impacts would include equipment access for the removal of bridge debris and construction of Bridges 1 and 3, totaling approximately 1.32 acres of temporary construction access impacts to the Santa Ana River (0.70 acre at Bridge 1 and 0.62 acre at Bridge 3). At both Bridges 1 and 3, the temporary low water crossing fords installed by the Forest Service would be removed by CFL, removing a total of approximately 7,761.47 square feet (0.18 acre) of pre-existing impact from the stream and returning the area to natural contours.