



State Water Resources Control Board

**Public Notice of Water Quality Certification Application
for California Department of Transportation
State Route 91 Improvement Project between State Route 57 and State Route 55
(OCTA M2 "Project I", EA 0K982 & 0K983), Segments 2 & 3**

State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Quality
Water Quality Certification Program
Date Posted: June 5, 2024

Affected County: Orange

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 full date of issuance of this notice (June 5, 2024) and ends at 5:00 p.m. on the last day of the comment period (June 26, 2024).** To submit comments, or if you have questions, please contact the State Water Board staff person listed below.

State Water Resources Control Board Contact:

Tiana Huling, Environmental Scientist
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Note: No regulatory decision on the application is implied or intended in this public notice.

E. JOAQUIN ESQUIVEL, CHAIR | ERIC OPPENHEIMER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Project Name: State Route 91 Improvement Project between State Route 57 and State Route 55 (OCTA M2 Project I, EA 0K982 & 0K983), Segments 2 & 3

(Reg. Meas. ID: 457182 and SWRCB ID: SB24055IN)

Background: On May 9, 2024, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), District 12, submitted an application for Clean Water Act section 401 water quality certification for the State Route (SR-) 91 Improvement Project between SR-57 and SR-55 (Project).

Project Description: The purpose of the Project is to improve vehicle capacity and reduce traffic congestion on SR-91 from west of State College Boulevard to east of Lakeview Avenue between Post Mile (PM) 4.7 and PM R11.4, SR-57 from PM 15.5 to PM 16.2, and SR-55 from PM 17.4 to PM R17.9. The proposed improvements would include SR-91 freeway mainline widening, primarily in the eastbound direction, and modifications to various interchanges, connectors, ramps, and intersections. The Project additionally would widen the existing Santa Ana River Bridge by approximately 11 feet on the downstream side.

The Project application reports impacts to waters of the state, including waters of the U.S., as shown in Table 1. Temporarily impacted areas would be restored to pre-project condition once the Project is complete.

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

Aquatic Resource type	Stream Channel	Wetlands
Acres of temporary impact	9.723	1.264
Linear feet of temporary impact	648	235
Acres of permanent impact	0.018	0.003
Linear feet of permanent impact	61	11

Caltrans, District 12, is the lead agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). An Initial Study Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared for the Project and is available at the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research [CEQAnet Web Portal](https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/2018111042/2) (<https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/2018111042/2>).

A Certification or Denial will be prepared by the State Water Board for the State Route 91 Improvement Project between SR-57 and SR-55 (OCTA M2 “Project I”, EA0K982 & 0K983), Segments 2 & 3 in response to this application.

Applicant: California Department of Transportation, District 12

Applicant Contact: Brian Santos

Telephone: (657) 328-6624

Email: brian.santos@dot.ca.gov

Date of Application Submittal: May 9, 2024

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 U.S. 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 Submit button after entering a valid email address under the Subscribe to the 401 Water Quality Certification and Wetland Program Email List banner on the 401 Water Quality Certification and Wetlands Program webpage at:

https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/cwa401/

By enrolling in this list, you will receive notices for all current Certification 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 email notification service, 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.