

**Notice of Availability**  
**Finding of No Significant Impact**  
**408-2024-0010**  
**Associated with the SR-91 Bridge Widening Project**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Los Angeles District has finalized a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for Section 408 project no. 408-SPL-2024-0010 associated with the Santa Maria River Bridge Replacement Project.

The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) implementing regulations allow for a Federal agency to adopt another agency's environmental assessment (40 C.F.R. § 1506.3(c)). USACE Engineer Circular (EC) 1165-2-220 describes policy and procedural guidance for processing requests to alter USACE Civil Work projects pursuant to 33 U.S.C. § 408. EC 1165-2-220 (Appendix D) strongly encourages USACE districts to adopt and/or incorporate by reference any NEPA documentation that may exist for the Federal project. USACE may adopt, in whole or in part, another Federal agency's draft or final EA. The Federal Highway Administration assigned to Caltrans its responsibilities under NEPA and other environmental laws for this project pursuant to 23 U.S.C. § 327. When adopting all or portions of another agency's EA, USACE is still responsible for developing a FONSI, as applicable, to document NEPA compliance for the Section 408 permission decision. This FONSI documents the USACE decision regarding the 408 permission request to alter the USACE Civil Works project.

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), through the Santa Barbara County Flood Control District (SBCFCD), proposes to alter Santa Maria River, a USACE federally authorized Civil Works project. The proposed alteration to the USACE project involves replacing an existing bridge over Santa Maria River with a new bridge, approximately 1,269-foot long and 54-foot 6-inches wide, in the city of Guadalupe, Santa Barbara County, California (Section 408 Activity). The Section 408 Activity is part of the construction of the Santa Maria River Bridge Replacement Project (Proposed Project).

In accordance with NEPA, Caltrans in May 2020 published an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Proposed Project and issued a FONSI on November 25, 2020. On December 14, 2023, Caltrans published a Re-validation. The USACE independently reviewed the 2020 EA and the 2023 Re-validation and determined the EA and Re-validation sufficiently identify and evaluate the environmental impacts related to the Section 408 Activity. Therefore, in accordance with 40 C.F.R. § 1506.3(c), USACE's NEPA regulations at 33 C.F.R. Part 230, and EC 1165-2-220, the USACE adopted Caltrans's EA.

Click each link for the Caltrans's EA, Re-validation, and the USACE's FONSI:

Caltrans's 2020 EA:

[https://www.spl.usace.army.mil/Portals/17/408%20Permits/Caltrans%20EA%202020\\_1%2020%2005-1H440%20FED%20CEQA%20NEPA%20Santa%20Maria%20River%20Bridge%20201125.pdf?ver=2q559f9EOus8pRyAnhw75g%3d%3d](https://www.spl.usace.army.mil/Portals/17/408%20Permits/Caltrans%20EA%202020_1%2020%2005-1H440%20FED%20CEQA%20NEPA%20Santa%20Maria%20River%20Bridge%20201125.pdf?ver=2q559f9EOus8pRyAnhw75g%3d%3d)

Caltrans's 2023 Re-validation:

[https://www.spl.usace.army.mil/Portals/17/408%20Permits/Caltrans%20EA%20Revalidation%202023\\_1%2005-1H440\\_NEPA%20Revalidation%20and%20ECR\\_20231214\\_Signed.pdf?ver=MNq-AL7sqsUwEE0DkJYv8w%3d%3d](https://www.spl.usace.army.mil/Portals/17/408%20Permits/Caltrans%20EA%20Revalidation%202023_1%2005-1H440_NEPA%20Revalidation%20and%20ECR_20231214_Signed.pdf?ver=MNq-AL7sqsUwEE0DkJYv8w%3d%3d)

USACE's 2024 FONSI:

<https://www.spl.usace.army.mil/Portals/17/408%20Permits/408-SPL-2024-0010%20FONSI%2020240529.pdf?ver=BADhIG2D9QX6ZNG8bkuaAQ%3d%3d&timestam p=1718660070530>

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