

State Water Resources Control Board

WATER QUALITY ORDER WQ 2026-XXXX-DWQ WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS

Effective Date: Upon Deputy Director's Signature
Expiration Date: Five Years from Effective Date

Project: State Route (SR-) 18 Capital Preventive Maintenance (CAPM),
Culvert Repair, Guardrail Upgrade (Project)
Project Type: Roads and Highways
Program Type: Fill/Excavation

Identifiers:
WDID No: SB25051IN
Reg. Meas. ID: 463140

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I. Summary

This waste discharge requirements (WDR) is issued at the request of the California Department of Transportation, District 8 (hereinafter Permittee) for the Project. The initial application was received on October 30, 2025. A complete application, as verified by Water Board staff, was submitted on March 17, 2026.

II. Findings

- A. In the event of any violation or threatened violation of the conditions of this WDR, the violation or threatened violation shall be subject to any remedies, penalties, process, or sanctions provided for under state and federal law, including the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act.
- B. In response to a suspected violation of any condition of this WDR, the Water Board may require the holder of this WDR to furnish, under penalty of perjury, any technical or monitoring reports the Water Boards deem appropriate, provided that the burden, including costs, of the reports shall bear a reasonable relationship to the need for the reports and the benefits to be obtained from the reports.
- C. This WDR does not provide coverage under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities (Order WQ 2022-0057-DWQ; NPDES No. CAS000002) (Construction General Permit).
- D. This WDR does not authorize any act which results in the take of a threatened, endangered or candidate species, which is now prohibited, or becomes prohibited in the future, under either the California Endangered Species Act (Fish & G. Code, §§ 2050-2097) or the federal Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. sections 1531-1544). If a "take" will result from any act authorized under this WDR held by the Permittee, the Permittee must obtain authorization for the take prior to any construction or operation of the portion of the Project that may result in a take. The Permittee is responsible for meeting all requirements of the applicable endangered species act for the Project authorized under this WDR.
- E. The Water Board has considered the factors in Water Code section 13241 in establishing the requirements in this WDR.
- F. This WDR includes monitoring and reporting requirements pursuant to Water Code sections 13267. The burden of preparing these reports, including costs, are reasonable to the need and benefits of obtaining the reports. The reports confirm that the best management practices (BMPs) required under this WDR are sufficient to protect beneficial uses and water quality objectives. The reports related to accidental discharges also ensure that corrective actions, if any, that are necessary to minimize the impact or clean up such discharges can be taken as soon as possible. The anticipated costs are minimal as the reporting obligations require only visual monitoring and notification reporting.

III. Project Purpose and Description

Project Purpose: The purpose of the Project is to improve and protect a portion of SR-18 by restoring drainage facilities and updating the road to current standards.

Project Description: The Project involves repair of SR-18 culvert systems, including installation or replacement of rock slope protection and cured-in-place pipeliner at certain culverts. The Project also comprises rehabilitation of the road surface, upgrading guardrail systems, rumble strips installation, signage replacement, and shoulder widening.

In addition, the Project includes rehabilitation of the Cushenberry Creek bridge crossing (at postmile 66.9) to address sediment buildup and meet updated hydraulic clearance standards. Project activities at the bridge include removal of the existing rock slope protection; concrete lining of the channel bed and banks; and installation of rock slope protection downstream to reduce flow velocity and minimize erosion. A concrete pad will also be installed with a paved maintenance path (from the northeast creek bank) to improve long-term access.

Project Location:

County: San Bernardino

Nearest City: City of Big Bear

Start: Latitude: 34.2895° and Longitude: -116.8055°

End: Latitude: 34.3724° and Longitude: -116.8595°

Highway: SR-18, postmiles 56.2 to 66.9

Maps showing the Project location are found in Attachment A of this WDR.

IV. Project Impact and Receiving Waters Information

The Project is located within the jurisdictions of the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board and the Colorado River Basin Regional Water Quality Control Board (collectively Regional Water Boards). Receiving waters and groundwater potentially impacted by this Project are protected in accordance with the applicable water quality control plans (Basin Plans). The plan for each region and other plans and policies may be accessed at the [State Water Resources Control Board's Plans and Policies Web page](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/plans_policies/) (http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/plans_policies/). The Basin Plan includes water quality standards, which consist of existing and potential beneficial uses of waters of the state, water quality objectives to protect those uses, and the state and federal antidegradation policies.

Project impact and receiving waters information is in Attachment B. Table 1 of Attachment B lists the receiving waters and beneficial uses of waters of the state impacted by the Project. Tables 2 and 3 of Attachment B provide individual impact locations and quantities.

V. Description of Direct Impacts to Waters of the State

The Project will result in direct temporary and permanent impacts to waters of the state. Temporary impacts consist of replacement of existing facilities, grading to prepare for construction, staging equipment, and general site disturbance. Permanent impacts include placement of fill, such as rock slope protection and concrete.

Total Project fill/excavation quantities for all impacts are summarized in Tables 1 and 2. Permanent impacts are categorized as those resulting in a physical loss in area.

Table 1: Total Project Fill/Excavation Quantity for Temporary Impacts¹

Aquatic Resources Type	Acres
Stream Channel	0.730

Table 2: Total Project Fill/Excavation Quantity for Permanent Physical Loss of Area Impacts

Aquatic Resources Type	Acres
Stream Channel	0.719

VI. Description of Indirect Impacts to Waters of the State

The Water Board recognizes the potential for indirect impacts to waters of the state associated with the Project including siltation of receiving water during construction, introduction of pollutants (e.g., metals, trash, petroleum products, dry and wet concrete waste, sanitary waste, and chemicals) to receiving waters during construction, introduction of invasive plant species to disturbed soils, and an increase of impervious surfaces which may result in a reduction in water quality for receiving waters.

The conditions set forth in section VIII will avoid and minimize the indirect impacts to waters of the state.

VII. Avoidance and Minimization

Avoidance and minimization measures were identified in the Project's Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND). The following mitigation measures will be implemented to avoid and/or minimize direct and indirect impacts to waters of the state:

¹ Includes only temporary direct impacts to waters of the state and does not include area of temporary disturbance which could result in a discharge to waters of the state. Temporary impacts, by definition, are restored to pre-project conditions and therefore do not include a physical loss of area or degradation of ecological condition.

- BIO-1: Bio-General-1: Equipment Staging, Storing & Borrow Sites
- BIO-2: BIO-7: Approved Biologist
- BIO-3: BIO-GENERAL-8: Biological Monitor
- BIO-4: BIO-General-9: Environmentally Sensitive Area
- BIO-7: BIO-13: Water Quality, Aquatic Features, and Vegetation Protection Measures
- BIO-8: BIO-General-PSM-17: Sensitive Vegetation Communities Restoration Plan
- BIO-9: BIO-General-PSM-19: Environmentally Sensitive Areas and Ground Disturbance
- BIO-10: BIO-General-21: Fuel and Oil Dispensing Activities
- BIO-13: BIO-PSM-8: Worker Environmental Awareness Training
- BIO-14: BIO-General-PSM-17: Sensitive Vegetation Communities Restoration Plan
- BIO-15: BIO-PSM-19: Environmentally Sensitive Areas and Ground Disturbance, and
- BIO-28: Compensatory Mitigation

The Project qualifies as tier level 3 and is the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative (State Wetland Definition and Procedures for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Material to Waters of the State, section IV.A.1.h).

VIII. Conditions

The Water Board has independently reviewed the record of the Project to analyze impacts to water quality and designated beneficial uses within the watersheds of the Project. This Permittee must adhere to the conditions:

A. Impacts to Waters of the State

Impacts to waters of the state shall not exceed quantities shown in Tables 1 and 2.

B. Reporting and Notification Requirements

The following section details the reporting and notification types and timing of submittals. Requirements for the content of these reporting and notification types are detailed in Attachment C, including specifications for photo and map documentation during the Project. Written reports and notifications must be submitted using the Reporting and Notification Cover Sheet located in Attachment C, which must be signed by the Permittee or an authorized representative.

1. Project Reporting

- a. **Monthly Reporting:** The Permittee must submit a Monthly Report to the Water Board on or before the 15th of each month during construction.

Monthly reporting shall continue until the Water Board issues a Notice of Completion of Discharges or Notice of Project Complete Letter to the Permittee.

- b. **Annual Reporting:** The Permittee shall submit an Annual Report each year on the anniversary of this WDR Effective Date. Annual reporting shall continue until the Water Board issues a Notice of Project Complete Letter to the Permittee.

2. Project Status Notifications

- a. **Commencement of Construction:** The Permittee shall submit a Commencement of Construction Report at least 7 days prior to start of initial ground disturbance activities and, if applicable, corresponding Waste Discharge Identification Number (WDID#) issued under the Construction General Permit.
- b. **Request for Notice of Project Complete Letter:** The Permittee shall submit a Request for Notice of Project Complete Letter when construction and/or any post-construction monitoring is complete, and no further Project activities will occur. This request shall be submitted to Water Board staff within 30 days following completion of all Project activities. Upon approval of the request, Water Board staff shall issue a Notice of Project Complete Letter to the Permittee which will end the post discharge monitoring period and associated annual fees. Completion of post-construction monitoring shall be determined by Water Board staff and shall be contingent on successful attainment of restoration and mitigation performance criteria.

3. Conditional Notifications and Reports:

The following notifications and reports are required as appropriate.

a. Accidental Discharges of Hazardous Materials²:

Following an accidental discharge of a reportable quantity of a hazardous material, sewage, or an unknown material, the following applies (Wat. Code, § 13271):

- i. As soon as (A) Permittee has knowledge of the discharge or noncompliance, (B) notification is possible, and (C) notification can be

² "Hazardous material" means any material that, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics, poses a significant present or potential hazard to human health and safety or to the environment if released into the workplace or the environment. "Hazardous materials" include, but are not limited to, hazardous substances, hazardous waste, and any material that a handler or the administering agency has a reasonable basis for believing that it would be injurious to the health and safety of persons or harmful to the environment if released into the workplace or the environment. (Health & Saf. Code, § 25501.)

provided without substantially impeding cleanup or other emergency measures then:

- a. First call – 911 (to notify local response agency)
- b. Then call – Office of Emergency Services (OES) State Warning Center at: (800) 852-7550 or (916) 845-8911
- c. Lastly, follow the required OES procedures as set forth in the [Office of Emergency Services' Accidental Discharge Notification Web Page](https://www.caloes.ca.gov/office-of-the-director/operations/response-operations/fire-rescue/hazardous-materials/spill-release-reporting/) (https://www.caloes.ca.gov/office-of-the-director/operations/response-operations/fire-rescue/hazardous-materials/spill-release-reporting/)
- ii. Following notification to OES, the Permittee shall notify the Water Board, as soon as practicable (ideally within 24 hours). Notification may be delivered via written notice, email, or other verifiable means.
- iii. Within 5 business days of notification to the Water Board, the Permittee must submit an Accidental Discharge of Hazardous Material Report.

b. Violation of Water Quality Standards

- i. The Permittee shall notify the Water Board of any event causing a violation of water quality standards. Notification may be delivered via written notice, email, or other verifiable means.
- ii. This notification must be followed within 3 business days by submission of a Violation of Water Quality Standards Report.

c. Modifications to Project

Project modifications may require an amendment of this WDR. The Permittee shall give advance notice to Water Board staff if Project implementation as described in the application materials is altered in any way or by the imposition of subsequent permit conditions by any local, state, or federal regulatory authority by submitting Modifications to Project Report. The Permittee shall inform Water Board staff of any Project modifications that will interfere with the Permittee's compliance with this WDR. Notification may be made in accordance with conditions in the Deviation section of this WDR.

d. Transfer of Property Ownership

This WDR is not transferable in its entirety or in part to any person or organization except after notice to the Water Board in accordance with the following terms:

- i. The Permittee must notify the Water Board of any change in ownership or interest in ownership of the Project area by submitting a Transfer of Property Ownership Report. The Permittee and purchaser must sign and date the notification and provide such notification to the Water Board at least 10 days prior to the transfer of ownership. The

purchaser must also submit a written request to the Water Board to be named as the permittee in a revised permit.

- ii. Until such time as this WDR has been modified to name the purchaser as the permittee, the Permittee shall continue to be responsible for all requirements set forth in this WDR.

e. Transfer of Long-Term BMP Maintenance

If maintenance responsibility for post-construction BMPs is legally transferred, the Permittee must submit to the Water Board a copy of such documentation and must provide the transferee with a copy of a long-term BMP maintenance plan that complies with manufacturer or design specifications. The Permittee must provide such notification to the Water Board with a Transfer of Long-Term BMP Maintenance Report at least 10 days prior to the transfer of BMP maintenance responsibility.

C. Water Quality Monitoring

1. General

If surface water is present, continuous visual monitoring shall be conducted during active construction to detect accidental discharge of construction related pollutants (e.g., oil and grease, turbidity plume, uncured concrete).

2. In-Water Work or Diversions

No in-water work or water diversions are proposed; all Project activities are proposed to occur when channels are dry. Therefore, no such work or diversions are authorized by this WDR.

3. Accidental Discharges/Noncompliance

Upon occurrence of an accidental discharge, the Permittee shall determine whether the discharge includes hazardous materials or will cause or contribute to an exceedance of water quality objectives, and if so, notify the Water Board in accordance with the Conditional Notifications and Reports section VIII.B.3. Water Board staff may require additional water quality monitoring based on the discharge constituents and/or related water quality objectives and beneficial uses.

4. Post-Construction

The Permittee shall visually inspect the Project site between October 30 and April 15 following each rain event that results in 0.5 inch or more of rainfall in 48 hours for a minimum of two years to ensure excessive erosion, stream instability, or water quality pollution is not occurring in or downstream of the Project site. At least one post construction inspection must occur. If erosion control measures have failed or water quality pollution is occurring, contact the Water Board staff member overseeing the Project within 3 business days. The Water Board may require the submission of a Violation of Water Quality Standards Report. Additional permits may be required to carry out any necessary site remediation.

D. Standard Conditions

1. This action is subject to modification or revocation upon administrative or judicial review, including review and amendment pursuant to Water Code section 13330, and California Code of Regulations, title 23, chapter 28, article 6 commencing with section 3867.
2. This WDR is not intended and shall not be construed to apply to any activity involving a hydroelectric facility and requiring a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license or an amendment to a FERC license, unless the pertinent certification application was filed pursuant to subsection 3855(b) of chapter 28, title 23 of the California Code of Regulations, and that application specifically identified that a FERC license or amendment to a FERC license for a hydroelectric facility was being sought.

E. Fees

1. This WDR is conditioned upon total payment of any fee required under title 23 of the California Code of Regulations.

The total fee amount required by the California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 3833(b)(3) and 2200(a)(3), Category A – Fill & Excavation, is \$54,439 (application and discharge), which was received on April 23, 2026.

2. **Annual Fees:** This WDR is subject to annual billing based on the fee schedule in effect at the time of billing. Annual billing will continue until the Project, including monitoring, is complete and the Water Board receives an acceptable request for a Notice of Project Complete Letter (see Attachment C). Invoices are usually sent out at the end of each calendar year.³

To stop annual billing, the Permittee must request a Notice of Project Complete Letter from the Water Board. Water Board staff will verify if the conditions of the WDR are met and may conduct a site visit to confirm compliance.

For more information on fees, visit the State Water Board's [Water Quality Fees website](#),⁴ under Water Quality Certification (WQC) Program Fees.

F. General Compliance

1. Permitted actions must not cause a violation of any applicable water quality standards, including impairment of designated beneficial uses for receiving waters as adopted in the Basin Plans by any applicable Regional Water

³ Annual invoices for fill and excavation projects are issued for projects active for any amount of time in the current fiscal year (July 1 – June 30). Annual invoices for dredging projects are based on the quantity of dredged material in the previous fiscal year.

⁴ https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/fees/water_quality/

- Board or any applicable Water Board water quality control plan or policy. The source of any such discharge must be eliminated as soon as practicable.
2. The Project must conform to the engineering plans, specifications, and technical reports submitted with the application materials. Water Code section 13264 prohibits any discharge that is not specifically authorized in this WDR.
 3. The Permittee shall adhere to all requirements in the adopted IS/MND for the Project, including the Environmental Commitments Record (September 17, 2025), which is incorporated herein by reference and included in Attachment D, California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Findings of Fact.

G. Administrative

1. Signatory requirements for all document submittals required by this WDR are presented in Attachment E.
2. **Site Access:** The Permittee shall grant State and Regional Water Boards staff or an authorized representative (including an authorized contractor acting as a Water Board representative), upon presentation of credentials and other documents as may be required by law, permission to:
 - a. Enter upon the Project or compensatory mitigation site(s) premises where a regulated facility or activity is located or conducted, or where records are kept.
 - b. Have access to and copy any records that are kept and are relevant to the Project or the requirements of this WDR.
 - c. Inspect any facilities, equipment (including monitoring and control equipment), practices, or operations regulated or required under this WDR.
 - d. Sample or monitor for the purposes of assuring WDR compliance.
3. The Permittee shall be responsible for work conducted by its consultants, contractors, and any subcontractors. A copy of this WDR shall be provided to any consultants, contractors, and subcontractors working on this Project. Copies shall remain at the Project site for the duration of activities. All personnel performing work on the Project shall be familiar with the content of this WDR and its posted location at the Project site.

H. Construction Conditions

1. All materials and supplies necessary for implementing these construction conditions must be on-site and ready for use at the start of the construction activity and must remain in supply and ready for implementation throughout the construction process. All non-structural BMP materials (e.g., training documents, compliance tracking procedures) must be ready for use at the start of construction.
2. Construction material, debris, rubbish, spoils, soil, silt, sawdust, steel, welding slag, welding rods, waste material, waste containers, other organic or earthen

- material, or any other substances which could be detrimental to water quality or hazardous to aquatic life that is discharged as a result of Project related activities shall be prevented from entering waters of the state. Spoils from excavations shall not be stored in waters of the state.
3. Environmentally sensitive areas and environmentally restricted areas, including any avoided waters of the state, must be clearly identified in the field for exclusion prior to the start of construction. Such identification must be properly maintained until construction is completed and the soils are stabilized. Equipment, materials, or any other substances or activities that may impact waters of the state outside of the limits of Project disturbance are prohibited.
 4. The number of access routes, number and size of staging areas, and the total area of the activity must be limited to the minimum necessary to achieve the Project goal. Routes and work area boundaries must be clearly demarcated.
 5. Bridges, culverts, dip crossings, or other structures must be installed so that water and in-stream sediment flow are not impeded. Appropriate design criteria, practices and materials must be used in areas where access roads intersect waters of the state.
 6. Temporary materials placed in any water of the state must be removed as soon as construction is completed at that location, and all temporary roads must be removed or re-contoured and restored according to approved re-vegetation and restoration plans.
 7. A method of containment must be used below any temporary bridge and/or other stream crossing structure to prevent any debris or spills from falling into the waters of the state. Containment must be maintained and kept clean for the life of the temporary crossing structure.
 8. Unless authorized for restoration, material excavated to prepare a site for placement of the permitted fill material must be properly disposed of in an upland area. The disposal site must be located at a sufficient distance away from flowing or standing water such that the excavated material does not erode or move in any way into any water of the state.
 9. **Topsoil:** For any excavation, including utility line trenches, the top 6 to 12 inches of topsoil shall be removed and stockpiled separately during construction. Following installation, the topsoil shall be replaced and seeded with native vegetation.
 10. Any structure, including but not limited to, culverts and pipes, placed within a stream where fish (as defined in Fish and Game Code section 45) exist or may exist, must be designed, constructed, and maintained such that it does not constitute a barrier to upstream or downstream movement of aquatic life, or cause an avoidance reaction by fish due to impedance of their upstream or downstream movement. This includes, but is not limited to, maintaining the supply of water and maintaining flows at an appropriate depth, temperature, and velocity to facilitate upstream and downstream fish migration. If any structure results in a long-term reduction in fish movement, the Permittee

shall be responsible for restoration of conditions as necessary (as determined by the Water Board) to secure passage of fish across the structure.

11. **Dust Abatement:** Dust abatement chemicals added to water can be hazardous to wildlife and, if allowed to enter streams, are detrimental to water quality. Therefore, dust abatement activities shall be conducted so that sediment or dust abatement chemicals are not discharged into waters of the state. Dust abatement products or additives that are known to be detrimental to water quality or wildlife shall not be used, unless specific management needs are documented, and product-specific application plans are approved by Water Board staff.
12. **Use of Mechanized Equipment:** Activities permitted under this WDR shall be conducted in a manner that minimizes ground disturbance, soil compaction, rutting and other mechanical impacts. Equipment shall be operated and maintained in a manner that reduces the risk of spills or the accidental exposure of fuels or hazardous materials to water bodies or wetlands. Appropriate Project specific BMPs shall be specified by the Permittee and shall be approved by Water Board staff prior to Project discharges.
13. **Piles:** Piles placed in the stream channel to support a linear transportation structure over a creek channel must be aligned parallel with the direction of flow to prevent erosive eddies.
14. **Culvert Construction or Maintenance**
 - a. Cured in Place Pipe is prohibited where it could cause detrimental physiological responses to human, plant, animal, or aquatic life, or cause discharges to waters of the state that do not comply with water quality objectives or goals.
 - b. Replacement of culverts acting as grade control structures is prohibited. A vertical gap between the outlet of the culvert and the immediate downstream invert of the stream channel indicates that the culvert likely functions as a grade control structure.
 - c. Projects proposing to replace culverts must repair any existing scour or headcutting actively discharging sediment, caused by prior culvert design.
 - d. The replaced or maintained culvert shall be in alignment with the stream channel upstream and downstream of the culvert.
 - e. Any replacement culvert or culvert that is to be left in place by a repair or maintenance Project must be placed at a gradient and orientation that will not result in erosional scour at the outlet.
 - f. Replacement of a culvert with a similarly sized culvert is allowable only where there is no visual indication that the existing culvert is undersized. Visual indications of undersized culverts include but are not limited to: sediment aggradation upstream of the culvert; evidence of flow over the top of the culvert (e.g., erosional rills in dirt road surfaces or erosion of shoulders adjacent to paved road surfaces), erosion of the fill cell between

the culvert and the road surface, scour pools at the culvert outlet, or erosion of creek banks immediately downstream of the culvert.

- g. Culverts with solid bottoms (e.g., cylindrical culverts or box culverts) may be replaced with arch culverts or free-span bridges, if the existing culvert is not acting as a grade control structure.
- h. The culvert must not be located in a meander bend of the stream channel.
- i. Replacement culverts must be sized to convey a 100-year flow event with debris, without pressurizing flow passing through the culvert. The 100-year flow event should be modeled under climate change projections, if available.

15. Toxic and Hazardous Materials

- a. Activities permitted under this WDR shall not discharge toxic substances in concentrations that produce detrimental physiological responses to human, plant, animal, or aquatic life.
- b. Discharge of unset cement, concrete, grout, damaged concrete spoils, or water that has contacted uncured concrete or cement, or related washout to surface waters, ground waters, or land is prohibited. If concrete washout is necessary at the site, washout containment shall be used to prevent any discharge. Wastewater may only be disposed of by delivery to a sanitary wastewater collection system/facility (with authorization from the facility's owner or operator) or a properly licensed disposal or reuse facility.
- c. Appropriate BMPs must be implemented throughout Project activities to prevent and control potential leaks/spills/drainage of potentially hazardous materials such as: non-petroleum hydraulic fluid; epoxies; paints and other protective coating materials; cement concrete or asphalt concrete; and washings and cuttings thereof.
- d. Activities permitted under this WDR shall not discharge waste classified as "hazardous" as defined in California Code of Regulations title 22, section 66261 and Water Code section 13173. Appropriate BMPs for hazardous substances shall be specified by the Permittee and shall be approved by Water Board staff prior to Project discharges. These BMPs shall include, at a minimum:
 - i. All personnel handling fuels and other hazardous materials shall be properly trained.
 - ii. Adequate spill prevention and cleanup equipment and materials shall be present on-site at all times during Project implementation.
 - iii. All mechanized equipment shall be maintained in good operating order and inspected on a regular basis.
 - iv. All on-site fuel trucks or fuel containers shall be stored in an area where risk of contamination of water bodies by leaks or spills is minimized.

- v. All equipment shall be fueled, maintained, and/or parked overnight in an upland area at least 100 feet from any delineated waters of the state.
- vi. Hazardous materials, including chemicals, fuels, and lubricating oils, shall not be stored within 100 feet of any delineated waters of the state, and shall be stored in appropriate containers with appropriate secondary containment.
- vii. Pumps or other stationary equipment operating within 100 feet of a waterbody or wetland shall utilize appropriate secondary containment systems to prevent spills.
- viii. Any spills or leaks of hazardous materials, chemicals, fuels, lubricants, or any other potential pollutants shall be promptly and completely treated using appropriate materials and equipment.
- ix. Spill containment supplies shall be on-site in all work areas in sufficient quantities to allow immediate remediation of fuel, oil, hydraulic fluid or similar leaks and spills.
- x. A staging area for equipment and vehicle fueling and storage shall be designated at least 100 feet away from waters of the state, in a location where fluids or accidental discharges cannot flow into waters of the state.

16. Invasive Species and Soil Borne Pathogens

- a. The Permittee is responsible for ensuring that all Project personnel follow proper weed control practices, and that appropriate weed prevention measures are included in Project plans.
- b. Any straw, hay or other unprocessed plant material used for any purpose must be certified or documented as being weed free.
- c. Soil borne pathogens are any nematodes, or any bacterial, protozoan, viral or fungal pathogens that can cause disease or death to native plants, agricultural crops, or ornamental plants (e.g., *Phytophthora ramorum*, the cause of sudden oak syndrome, and *Phytophthora lateralis*, the cause of Port Orford cedar root disease). Any equipment entering or leaving the Project area from an area of known soil borne pathogen infestation shall be thoroughly cleaned using methods appropriate for the known pathogen before entering or leaving the Project area. The fungus that causes Valley Fever, *Coccidioides spp.*, is not considered a soil borne pathogen in this WDR.

17. Stormwater

The Permittee shall apply for coverage and comply with the requirements in the Construction General Permit. Generally, coverage under the Construction General Permit is required for construction activity resulting in a land disturbance of one acre or more, or less than one acre but is part of a larger common plan of development or sale that results in a land disturbance of one

acre or more. Covered activities are described with additional detail in the Construction General Permit.

I. Temporary Impact Restoration

1. The Permittee submitted a draft Mitigation and Monitoring Plan on February 23, 2026, as part of a complete application that includes on-site restoration and rehabilitation information. The Permittee shall provide a final restoration plan for review and approval by Water Board staff. Impacts to waters of the state are not authorized and shall not occur until a final plan has been approved by Water Board staff. Upon approval (in writing) by Water Board staff, the Permittee shall implement the approved plan to restore all areas of temporary impacts to waters of the state and all Project site upland areas of temporary disturbance which could result in a discharge to waters of the state.
2. Total required Project restoration information for temporary impacts is summarized in Table 3.

Table 3: Required Project Restoration Quantity for Temporary Impacts

Aquatic Resource Type	Units	Quantity to be Restored
Stream Channel	Acres	0.730

J. Compensatory Mitigation for Permanent Impacts

Compensatory mitigation is for permanent physical loss and permanent ecological degradation of a water of the state, and may include mitigation for temporary impacts that result in temporal loss of function.

1. Final Compensatory Mitigation Plan:

The Permittee shall provide compensatory mitigation for impacts to waters of the state in accordance with the SR-18 CAPM, Culvert Repair, Guardrail Upgrade, and Sign Panel, State Route 18 PM 56.2/66.9 (Compensatory Mitigation Plan), dated February 23, 2026, and the email confirming credit availability, purchase timeline, and the approved mitigation ratio from March 17, 2026. The Compensatory Mitigation Plan and subsequent email correspondence are approved through issuance of this WDR and incorporated herein by reference. Any deviation from, or revision to, the Compensatory Mitigation Plan and email must be pre-approved by Water Board staff. The monitoring period shall continue until Water Board staff determines that performance standards have been met, which may require extension of the monitoring period.

2. Purchase of Mitigation Credits by Permittee for Compensatory Mitigation

- a. A copy of the fully executed agreement for the purchase of mitigation credits shall be provided to the Water Board within 180 days of the permit Effective Date.

- b. The Permittee shall retain responsibility for providing the compensatory mitigation until Water Board staff has received documentation of the credit purchase and the transfer agreement between the Permittee and the seller of credits.

3. Total Required Compensatory Mitigation

- a. The Permittee is required to provide compensatory mitigation for the authorized impact to 0.719 acre of stream channel by purchasing 3.170 acres of lakebed credits from the Mojave River Watershed Mitigation Bank. If those credits are no longer available upon permit issuance, equivalent credits from an alternative mitigation bank may be approved by Water Board staff if proposed by the Permittee prior to purchase.
- b. Total required Project compensatory mitigation information for permanent physical loss of area is summarized in Table 4.

Table 4: Total Required Project Compensatory Mitigation Quantity for Permanent Physical Loss of Area

Aquatic Resource Type	Mitigation Type	Units	Unit Type	Minimum Quantity to be Restored
Lakebed	Mitigation Bank Credits	Acres	Preservation	3.170

K. Deviations

- Minor modifications of Project locations or predicted impacts may be necessary as a result of unforeseen field conditions, necessary engineering re-design, construction concerns, or similar reasons. Some of these prospective Project modifications may have impacts on water quality. Some modifications of Project locations or predicted impacts may qualify as Deviations as set forth in Attachment F. For purposes of this WDR, a "Deviation" is a Project locational or impact modification that does not require an immediate amendment of the WDR, because the Water Board has determined that any potential water quality impacts that may result from the change are sufficiently addressed by the conditions and the CEQA Findings. This WDR will be amended to reflect all authorized Deviations and any resulting adjustments to the amount of water resource impacts and required compensatory mitigation amounts.
- A Project modification shall not be granted a Deviation if it would require changes to the WDR conditions or the CEQA environmental document such that the Project impacts are not addressed in the Project's environmental document or the conditions of this WDR. In this case a supplemental environmental review and different WDR may be required.

IX. Public Notice

[This section was intentionally left blank and will be completed following the last day of the comment period.]

X. CEQA

Caltrans, District 8, as lead agency, adopted an IS/MND for the Project on September 18, 2024, and filed a Notice of Determination (NOD) at the State Clearinghouse (No. 2024051063) on September 25, 2024. Pursuant to CEQA, the Water Board has made Findings of Facts (Findings) which support the issuance of this WDR and are included in Attachment D.

The Water Board will file a NOD at the State Clearinghouse within 5 business days of issuance of this WDR.

XI. Conclusion

I hereby issue the WDR for the SR-18 CAPM, Culvert Repair, Guardrail Upgrade (Project), WDID SB25051IN. Authorization is contingent on: (a) compliance with the conditions of this WDR and the attachments to this WDR; and (b) compliance with all applicable requirements of Statewide Water Quality Control Plans and Policies, and the Regional Water Boards' Water Quality Control Plans.

Date

Phillip Crader, Deputy Director
Division of Water Quality