



Sespe Creek Overflow Railroad Bridge Repair Contract Award IFB No. SPBL-2025-01

June 6, 2025

Presentation to the Ventura
County Transportation Commission





Background



So.Cal. Region - Santa Paula Branch Line Railroad



Legend

- California Rail Network
- County Line
- Santa Paula Branch Line ROW



SPBL Background

- **1995:** VCTC purchased SPBL and Ventura Branch Line from Southern Pacific
- **2001:** VCTC executed 20-year operating lease with Fillmore & Western Railway (FWRY) for the operational ROW only (15' of centerline)
- **2001 – 2021:** FWRY operated railroad, including tourist excursion trains and movie production
- **December 2021:** Commission approved new Railroad Lease and Operations Agreement between VCTC and **Sierra Northern Railway**
- Since January 2022, Sierra Northern operates and maintains the Branch Line and provides freight, transload, rail car storage, and television/film service
- Tourist & excursion service provided through sister company Mendocino Railway



Sespe Creek Overflow Railroad Bridge

- One of 37 bridge structures on SPBL
- Located at Mile Post 423.44
- West of Fillmore and adjacent to Old Telegraph Road Bridge
- Constructed in 1969
- Total Length: 450 feet
- Vertical Clearance: 14 feet
- 15 Spans x 29 feet 10 inches each



423.44 Looking East



2023 Storm Damage

- Series of atmospheric river storms Dec. 2022 and Jan. 2023
- Jan. 10, 2023: Flood and debris flows washed out 3 spans (~90 feet) at western end of bridge
- Bridge closed to rail traffic
- Need for reconstruction to restore rail service and reconnect rail line
- State Emergency Declaration: 1/4/2023
- Federal Disaster Declaration: 1/14/2024 (DR-4683)





2024 Storm Damage

- Series of storms in Feb. 2024 caused additional damage
- 50' horizontal x 30' deep lost earth and rock behind west abutment
- Old Telegraph Road sustained damage
- State Emergency Declaration: 2/4/2024
- Federal Disaster Declaration: 4/13/2024 (DR-4769)





Disconnected Rail Line

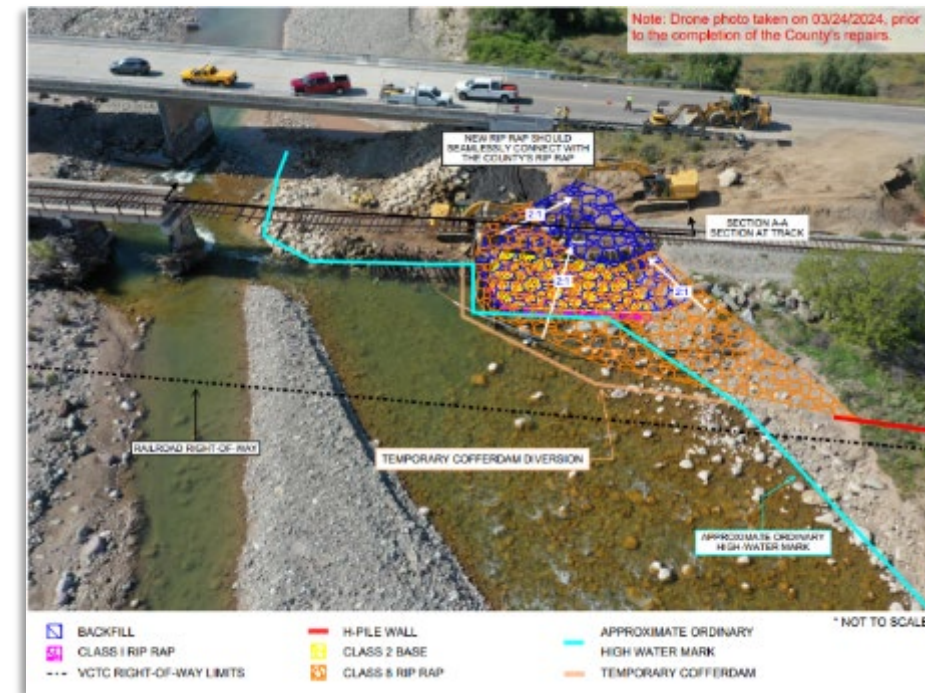
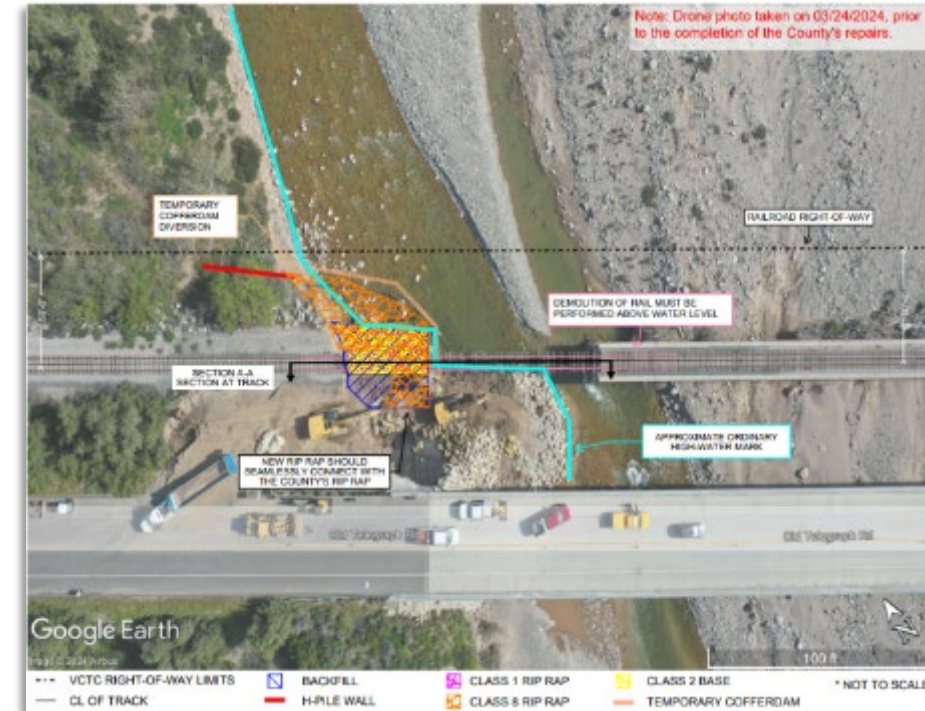
- Rail line out of service at the Sespe Creek Overflow railroad bridge
- Eastern 1/3 of branch line disconnected from main line
- Assets on disconnected portion of line
 - City of Fillmore & Piru community
 - Fillmore Rail Yard and Turntable
 - Movie tunnel
 - Traditional home of tv & film production and tourist & excursion service
 - Parallel Systems autonomous battery-electric rail system test site
 - Planned future transload and maintenance facility for Sierra Northern Railway
 - Freight rail customers
 - Rail Car Storage area





Emergency Repairs: Bank Stabilization

- Protective measures to prevent further erosion of embankment and railroad tracks during rainy season
- Stabilize embankment in preparation for bridge reconstruction and to prevent further loss of property
- USACE issued RGP-63 permit on 8/28/2024
- VCTC released IFB for construction services in August 2024
- Contract awarded to Summer Construction in September 2024
- Work completed October 2024





Sespe Creek Overflow Railroad Bridge Emergency Repairs: Bank Stabilization

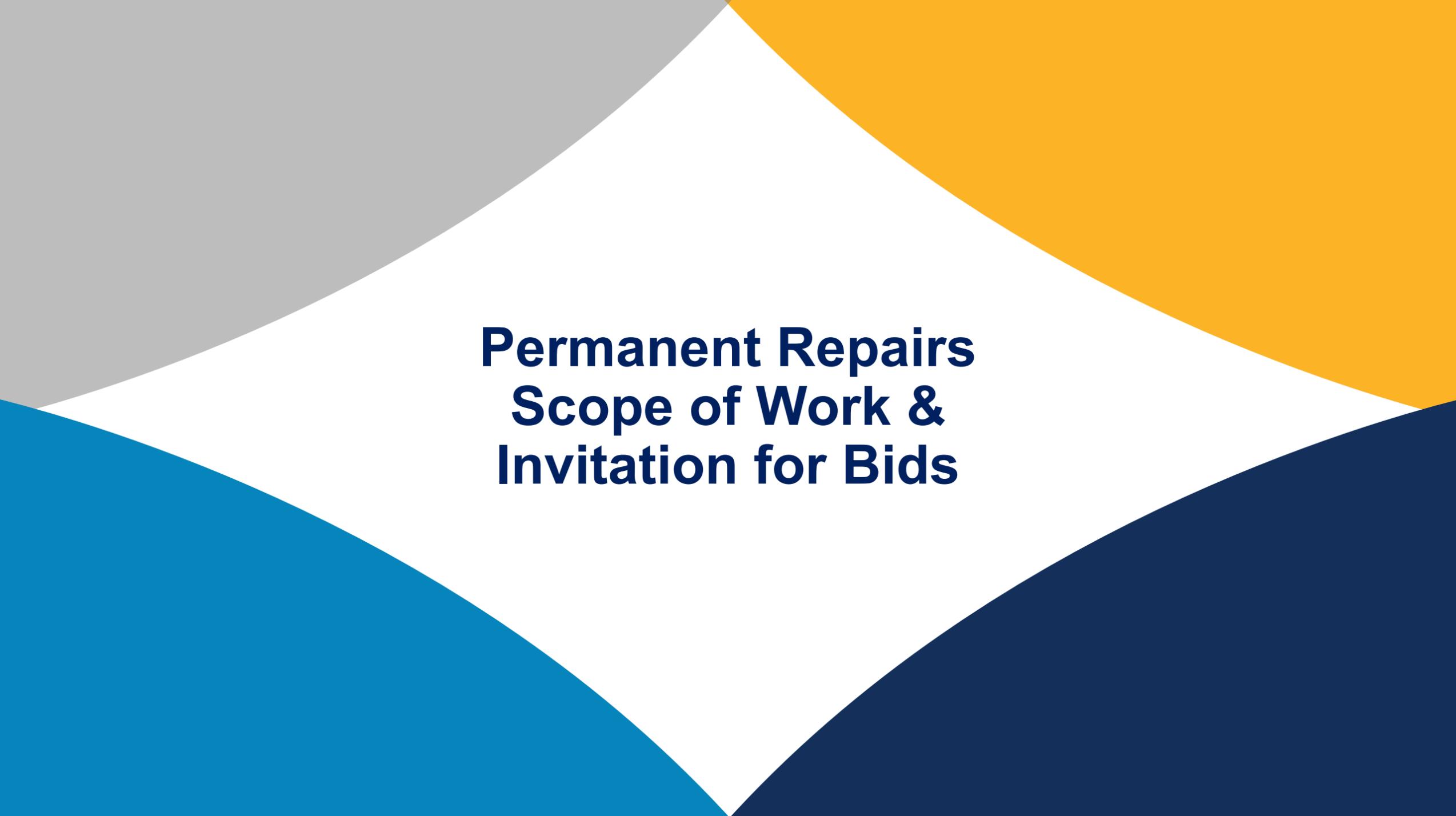


Before: Post-Storm – 02/07/2024



After: Completion of Bank Stabilization – 10/24/2024

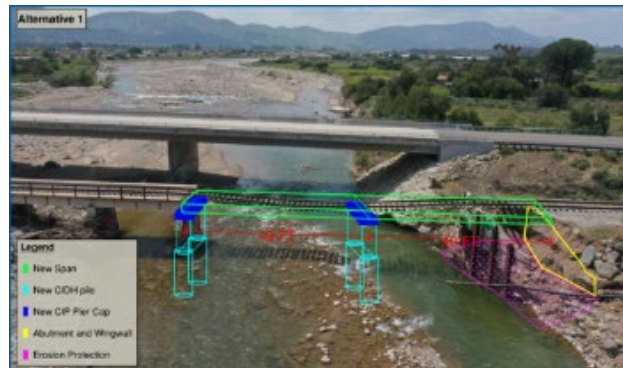
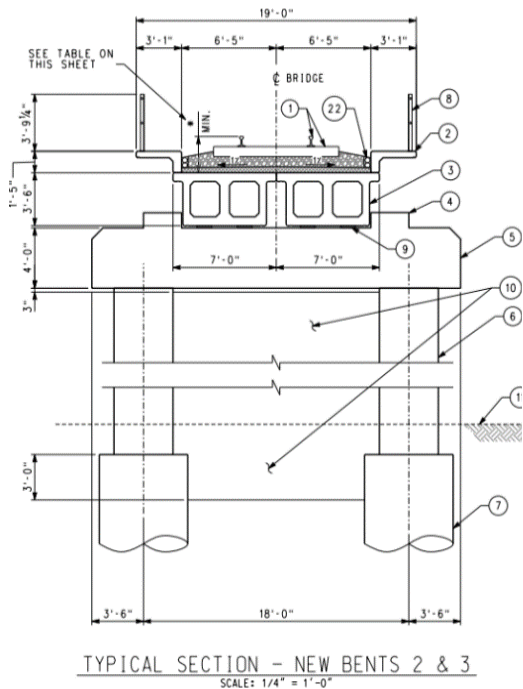
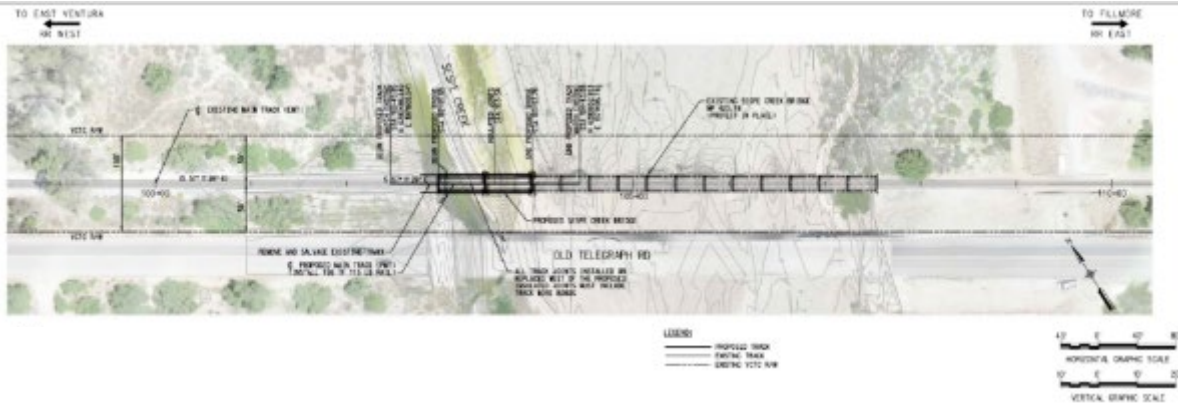
[Sespe Creek Overflow Bridge on Vimeo](#)



**Permanent Repairs
Scope of Work &
Invitation for Bids**



Permanent Repairs: Scope of Work

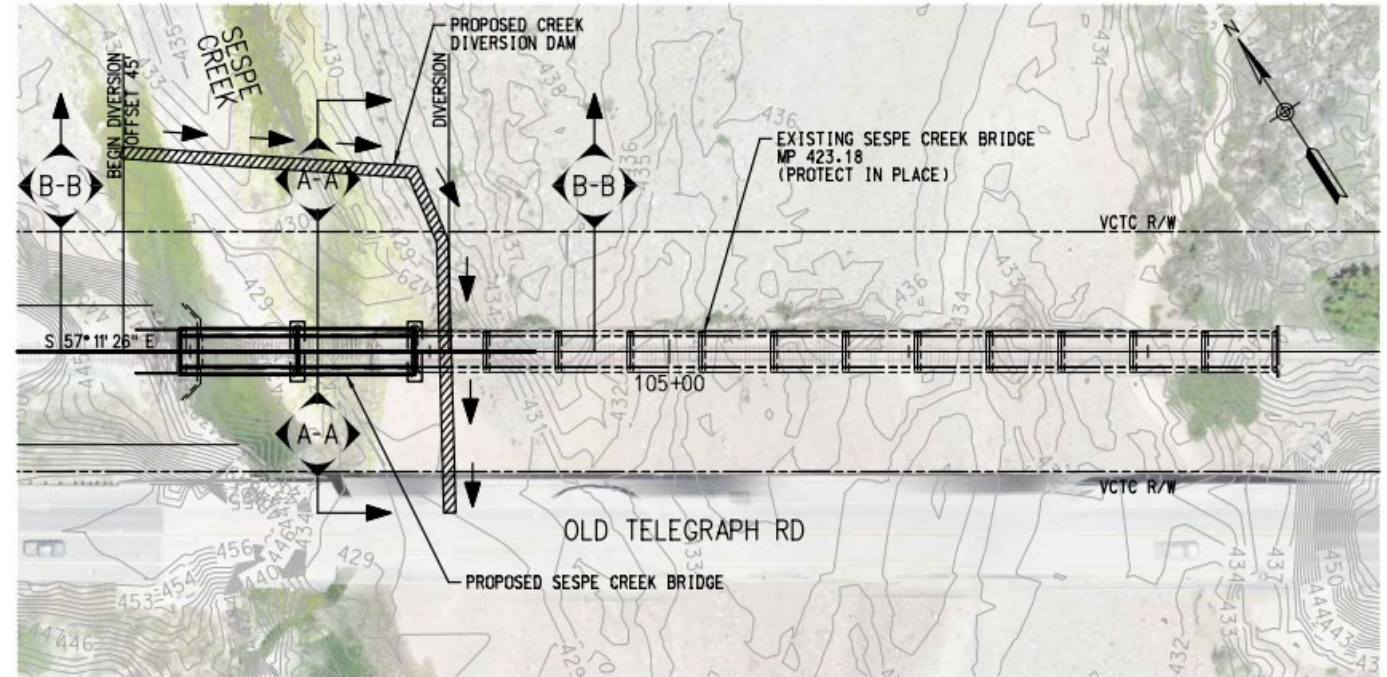


- Install bridge segment (superstructure, substructure, bridge deck) where the washout occurred
- Bridge deck ballasted with timber ties and jointed rail
- Design includes two new bents, pier caps, and two 49-foot spans with a new abutment
- Scope of Work Attachments:
 - Hydrology & Hydraulics
 - Geotechnical Report
 - Cultural Resources Study
 - Biological Resources Analysis
 - Survey
- Meets SCRRA Standards and Specifications



Permanent Repairs: Water Diversion Plan

- Contractor is responsible for meeting all BMP and regulatory requirements as contained within the Contract Documents
- Contractor is responsible for conceiving and implementing diversion plan based on requirements contained within the BMP list and Specifications in the contract documents





Independent Engineer's Cost Estimate

- Based on geotechnical and hydrological evaluation of post-disaster site conditions, results of design process, and market conditions, the construction cost was estimated at \$7.5M.



Budget & FEMA Public Assistance Status

- Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Santa Paula Branch Line Program Budget, Bridge Reconstruction Line Item, includes sufficient funding for the work anticipated to be completed within the current fiscal year
- Draft Fiscal Year 2025/2026 Program Budget includes funding for the remainder of the estimated project cost utilizing State Transit Account (STA) revenues
- VCTC will continue to work with FEMA and CalOES to pursue obligation and reimbursement of eligible project costs
- Funding for permanent repairs to the bridge are pending Environmental and Historic Preservation (EHP) review and obligation by FEMA as a Category C (“CAT C”) project (Project # 754588)



Environmental Review & Permitting

- CEQA Notice of Exemption (NOE) filed Aug. 24, 2023
 - 35-day Statute of Limitations expired Sept. 28, 2023 (DR-4683)
- Updated NOE re-filed on May 6, 2024 with updated Disaster Declaration Information (DR-4769)
 - 35-days Statute of Limitations expired June 10, 2024
- Updated Field Study and Biological Opinion to incorporate new damage
- Emergency Repairs to Embankment completed under USACE RGP-63 (Issued 8/28/2024)
- Stormwater Pollution Protection Rainfall Erosivity Waiver & BMPs
- No Watershed Protection District Permit required
- VCTC applied for 3 permits for bridge repair project in Feb./Mar. 2025
 - Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404 Permit
 - Section 401 Water Quality Certification – LA Water Board
 - Lake & Streambed Alteration – CDFW
- Based on guidance from our environmental team in consultation with regulatory agencies, VCTC will resubmit as emergency permits/notifications to proceed with Project while agency reviews continue
 - RGP-63 – Repair and Protection Activities in Emergency Situations – USACE
 - RGP 63 Section 401 Water Quality Authorization – LA Water Board
 - Emergency Notification - CDFW



Bids Results & Recommendation



Invitation for Bids

- Pre-marketing assistance from RailPros
- IFB posted to VCTC Contracts web page
- Email notifications sent to 22 bridge construction and related firms
 - Included 7 Target firms
- Pre-Bid Conference held at Fillmore City Hall with on-site Job Walk
 - 12 firms participated
- Posted 4 Response to Questions
- 3 Addenda

INVITATION FOR BIDS FOR SESPE CREEK OVERFLOW RAILROAD BRIDGE REPAIR

The Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) is requesting bids for the Sespe Creek

Overflow Railroad Bridge Repair Project, located at approximately Mile Post 423.44 on the Santa Paula Branch Line (SPBL) in unincorporated Ventura County, just

Please direct any questions via email to Amanda Fagan, Director of Planning & Sustainability, at afagan@goventura.org. Please refer to the IFB for instructions on

Pre-Bid Conference & Job Walk A pre-bid conference will be held on April 16, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. (PST) at Fillmore City Hall, 250 Central Ave, Fillmore, CA 93015
bid conference on April 16, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. PST. Location: Meet in the Parking Lot of Sheil's Park at the intersection of Old Telegraph Rd and C St. Address: 649

To RSVP to attend the Pre-Bid Conference and Job Walk, please email afagan@goventura.org in lieu of clicking on a registration link.

Deadline for Questions & Requests for Clarifications or Approved Equals : Wednesday, April 30, 2025 no later than 4:00 p.m. PST

UPDATED! Bid Due Date and Time: Wednesday, May 21, 2025 no later than 12:00 p.m. PST

Bids will be opened at the closing date/time (Wednesday, May 21, 2025 at 12:00 p.m. PST). Bidders need not be present at bid opening.

****NEW**** Notice of Intent to Award – May 30, 2025

[Download the Invitation for Bids \(IFB\) with Contract Template and Exhibits](#)

[Attachment A – Geotechnical Report](#)

[Attachment B – Hydraulics Report](#)

[Attachments C – I](#)

[Bid Forms \(IB-7\)](#)

[Price File \(IB-7 B\)](#)

[List of Proposed Subcontractors and Suppliers \(IB-7 M\)](#)

[Bidders List \(IB-7 N\)](#)

[Pre-Bid Conference Presentation – April 16, 2025](#)

[Pre-Bid Conference Sign-In Sheet – April 16, 2025](#)

[Response to Questions Received as of April 15, 20F25](#)

[Response to Questions Received between April 16 and April 28, 2025](#)

[Sespe Project Engineering Drawings Addendum #1 – April 25, 2025](#)

[Response to Questions Received between April 28 and April 30, 2025](#)

[IFB Addendum #2 – April 30, 2025 \(Bid Form and Template Contract Updates\)](#)

[Updated Bid Forms \(IB-7\) per Addendum #2 – April 30, 2025](#)

[Updated IFB with Revision to Contract Template per Addendum #2 – April 30, 2025](#)

[Response to Questions Received between April 30 and May 13, 2025](#)

[Sierra Northern Railway Roadway Worker On-Track Safety Plan.](#)

[Addendum #3](#)

[UPDATED PRICE FILE \(IB-7B\) Per Addendum #3](#)



Bid Results

- Formula error addressed
- Six (6) bids received
- Bids opened on May 21 at 12pm
- Option to view in person at VCTC or virtually via MS Teams
- Range of bids from \$6.4M to \$7.8M
- All bids in line with independent engineer's cost estimate



Recommended Contractor Selection

- Reviewed for completeness and compliance with bid requirements
- Granite Construction lowest responsible and responsive bidder
- Adjusted bid: \$6,454,478.50
- Granite Construction has extensive list of local public works projects, submitted all required bid forms and assurances, and demonstrated a good-faith effort to include target firms in the solicitation processes and submitted bid



Timeline / Summary

DATE	ACTION
9-Apr-25	IFB Released
16-Apr-25	Pre-Bid Conference (Fillmore)
16-Apr-25	On-Site Job Walk
30-Apr-25	Questions & Requests for Clarification or Approved Equals
21-May-25	Bid Due Date (Extended from May 16, 2025)
6-Jun-25	Commission Consideration of Contract Award
10-Jun-25	Notice to Proceed Target Date
June/July 2025	Mobilization and Begin Construction
July-Sep 2025	On-Site Construction and In-Water Work Window
October 2025	Complete Construction and Demobilization

- **April 2025** – Released IFB for Construction Contractor
- **June 2025** – Commission to Consider Approval of Construction Contractor Selection & Contract, Issue NTP
- **Summer 2025** – Mobilization and Off-Site Construction Activities, On-Site Construction and Demobilization, Permitting and coordination of additional protective measures
- Complete in-water work by **September 15, 2025**
- Construction complete by **October 31, 2025**



Staff Recommendation

Authorize the Executive Director to finalize and execute an Agreement with the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, Granite Construction for Contractor Services, to repair the Sespe Creek Overflow railroad bridge in an amount not to exceed \$6,454,782.50, with a 10% contingency of \$645,487.25, for a total contract amount not to exceed of \$7,100,260.75



Questions?