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U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Corps proffers permit to Caltrans for Willits highway bypass

SAN FRANCISCO – After substantial public involvement, including two public notices and a public information meeting, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers San Francisco District proffered today a Department of the Army individual permit to the California Department of Transportation authorizing construction of a highway bypass project near Willits, Calif. The permit allows Caltrans to proceed with its plans to reroute a segment of U.S. Highway 101 around the city.

The next action is for Caltrans to indicate acceptance of the proffered permit by signing it and returning it to the Corps for the district engineer's signature. Once the district engineer signs, the permit is considered issued.

Project Description

The project is a four-lane freeway segment of U.S. 101 that would bypass the City of Willits with several bridges spanning creeks and local roads, a viaduct spanning the floodway, and interchanges on either end of the bypass. Project construction would result in the discharge of fill material into approximately 82 acres of waters of the United States, including wetlands.

To compensate for the direct loss and/or impacts to 82 acres of waters and wetlands of the United States resulting from bypass construction, the applicant proposes a mitigation and monitoring plan (MMP) that would off-set impacts through a combination of restoration, establishment and enhancement actions. The bypass project would be constructed in two phases; thus, mitigation for project impacts would occur concurrently with the phased-project construction.

For more information, please contact Brandon Beach, San Francisco District Public Affairs chief, at 415-503-6804/6958.

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