

Memorandum

*Making Conservation
California Way of Life.*

To: DISTRICT Environmental Branch Chiefs

Date: September 20, 2021

From: KELLY J. HOBBS, Chief *Kelly J Hobbs*
Office of Environmental Compliance and Outreach
Division of Local Assistance

Subject: Floodplain Encroachment Location Hydraulic Study (LHS) Memo – No Significant Encroachment

There have been an increasing number of Local Assistance projects eligible for federal-aid funding that are low risk or have no impact to the regulatory floodway or base floodplain. These projects are typically NEPA CE projects and may include: installation or replacement of pavement, striping, signs, cameras, traffic signals, roundabouts, curb, gutter, bicycle facilities, pedestrian facilities, in-kind maintenance activities and other related projects. If the federal aid project falls under one of these project types, and clearly meets the definitions below, Caltrans has determined that no additional analysis pursuant to 23 CFR 650 Subpart A is necessary, and this memo will suffice for floodplain encroachment documentation under Subpart A to file.

- The Project includes an encroachment as defined under 23 CFR 650.105(e) using the process described under 650.111(a).
- The Project either: (i) will not have a longitudinal encroachment (parallel to the direction of flow); or (ii) if including a longitudinal encroachment, does not have practicable alternatives to such encroachment (consistent with policy at 23 CFR 650.103(b) and requirement at 650.111(b);
- The Project does not support base flood-plain development as defined under in 23 CFR 650.105(r).
- The Project will not have a significant encroachment as defined in 23 CFR 650.105(q).
- The Project will not have significant impacts to natural and beneficial floodplain values as defined under 23 CFR 650.105(i); and
- The Project will not require mitigation measures necessary to minimize impacts or restore and preserve (as defined in 23 CFR 650.105 (n) and (l)) natural and beneficial floodplain values.

District Planners should work closely with Local Agency staff when determining the commensurate level of floodplain encroachment documentation required for these project types. If the statements above cannot be clearly answered without further analysis, the standard Caltrans local assistance floodplain encroachment process must be followed.