



**MEETING DATE:** August 13, 2025

**FROM:** Ryan Bonk

**RE:** Gulling Street Bridge Project Update: Scour Countermeasure Funding, Permitting, and Installation

---

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

### **Funding and Permitting Status Update**

07/29/2025: The City received FEMA funding for the engineered scour countermeasure (riprap) installation on the Gulling Street Bridge. ***This scour countermeasure has been engineered and is approved as a viable scour countermeasure for the current condition of the bridge as evident by FEMA's approval and funding of this project.***

08/01/2025: Our engineering consultant submitted the RGP 8 verification (emergency repair and protection activities) to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) as part of the required permitting process for installation of the scour countermeasure.

08/04/2025: The City received a response from the USACE requesting additional information for the permitting. ***The request is attached to this staff report for reference.***

08/05/2025: Our Engineering consultant spoke with the USACE regarding the request in order to clarify the additional information being requested. The engineering consultant is preparing the additional information requested from the USACE.

We remain hopeful that the additional response provided will complete this portion of the permitting process so that installation of the riprap can occur by the end of August 2025.

### **Continuous Monitoring Update:**

Since installation of the continuous monitoring equipment in January of 2025, there have been **zero (0)** instances where the monitoring detected movement in the bridge outside of the thresholds set forth by the engineering team. This equipment continuously measures movement in the bridge at four (4) specific points using eight (8) different sensors every fifteen (15) minutes and detects movement to the hundredths of a degree.

In the event of an alarm situation, City and engineering staff would be immediately notified and the bridge would be inspected.

---

## **METHODOLOGY:**

For additional clarification on the purpose and benefits of riprap as an engineered scour countermeasure, see below:

**What is “riprap” and how does this help?**

Riprap is an engineered countermeasure for scour that includes the targeted placement of large and small rocks around the base of a bridge pier where it meets the water. These rocks play an important role in protecting the bridge.

When water flows around the base of a bridge, it can swirl and dig away at the bottom, which over time can weaken the structure. Riprap acts like armor. It breaks up the force of the water, helping prevent it from washing away the ground underneath the bridge pier. By slowing the water down and holding the soil in place, riprap helps protect the bridge pier from further erosion.

---

**ATTACHMENTS:****A. USACE REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SACRAMENTO DISTRICT  
1325 J STREET  
SACRAMENTO CA 95814-2922

August 4, 2025

Regulatory Division (SPK-2025-00440)

City of Portola  
Attn: Mr. Ryan Bonk  
35 Third Street  
Portola, California 96122-9416  
[citymanager@cityofportola.com](mailto:citymanager@cityofportola.com)

Dear Mr. Bonk:

We are responding to your August 2, 2025, pre-construction notification (PCN) for a Department of the Army (DA) verification under Regional General Permit (RGP) number 8, *Emergency Repair and Protection Activities*, for the Gulling Street Bridge Emergency Repair project. The proposed project site is located on the Middle Fork Feather River, Latitude 39.80907°, Longitude -120.46859°, within the City of Portola, Plumas County, California.

Following an initial review of your submittal, it appears DA authorization under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act is required for your work. However, we have determined that your PCN is incomplete. In order for your request to be considered complete, you must submit the following information identified in RGP 8, *Emergency Repair and Protection Activities*:

1. Provide an impacts map displaying the project boundary, permanent impacts, temporary impacts, and the ordinary high-water mark of the Middle Fork Feather River. The acreage of project boundary and impacts should be included in the map legend.
2. Provide a description of anticipated impacts from the proposed activities on federally listed, or proposed to be listed, threatened and/or endangered species, critical habitat and essential fish habitat (EFH). This information must include the following:
  - a. A description of the proposed action, including any measures intended to avoid, minimize, or offset effects of the action. Consistent with the nature and scope of the proposed action, the description shall provide sufficient detail to assess the effects of the action on listed species and critical habitat.
  - b. A map or description of all areas to be affected directly or indirectly by the federal action, and not merely the immediate area involved in the action.
  - c. Information obtained by or in the possession of the federal agency and any applicant on the listed species and designated critical habitat in the action area, including available information such as the presence, abundance, density, or periodic occurrence of listed species and the condition and location of the species' habitat, including any critical habitat.
  - d. A description of the effects of the action and an analysis of any cumulative effects.

e. Relevant reports including any environmental impact statement, environmental assessment, or biological assessment prepared.

f. Any other relevant available information on the proposed action and its effect on listed or proposed species or designated or proposed critical habitat in the project area.

3. Provide a description of any historic properties and/or other cultural resources which may be affected by the proposed work; include a vicinity map identifying cultural resource locations, if cultural resources are present. If this office determines that the project may affect cultural resources, you may be required to submit a cultural resources report prepared in accordance with the October 28, 2020, Guidelines for Compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, <https://www.spk.usace.army.mil/Portals/12/documents/regulatory/sec-106tribal/2020.10.29-Section%20106%20Submittal%20Guidelines.pdf>. If a Programmatic Agreement (PA) is in place, then this office will provide specific guidance regarding the terms and requirements of that agreement, which may include preparation and submission of a cultural resources inventory, documentation, or other measures to be specified by this office so as to comply with the terms of the PA.

To avoid future delays and requests for additional information, we recommend that you provide this additional information with the information required for a complete PCN as identified above.

If the information required for a complete PCN is not submitted within 30 days from the date of this letter, or you do not request additional time to submit the required information, your PCN will be considered withdrawn. Once the requested information is submitted, we will continue processing your PCN.

Thank you for your cooperation and patience. Please refer to identification number SPK-2025-00440 in any correspondence concerning this project. If you have any questions or would like to schedule a meeting to discuss this letter in more detail, please contact me at 310 Hemsted Drive, Suite 310, Redding, CA 96002, by email at [Hillary.H.Regkart@usace.army.mil](mailto:Hillary.H.Regkart@usace.army.mil), or telephone at (520) 451-1136.

Sincerely,



Hillary Regkart  
Senior Project Manager  
CA North Section

cc:

Justin Whitfield, ESA, [jwhitfield@esassoc.com](mailto:jwhitfield@esassoc.com)

Lynn Coster, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board,  
[lynn.coster@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:lynn.coster@waterboards.ca.gov)