

2019068013

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
County Clerk
County of:

From: (Public Agency): Caltrans
1656 Union Street
Eureka, CA 95501
(Address)

Project Title: Collier Tunnel Electrical Upgrade

Project Applicant: California Department of Transportation

Project Location - Specific:

On U.S. Route 199, from 0.1 mile to 0.5 mile north of Collier Safety Roadside Rest Area

Project Location - City: Northeast of Gasquet, CA Project Location - County: Del Norte

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
Caltrans proposes to upgrade the lighting system at the Randolph Collier Tunnel on US Route 199 between post miles (PM) 33.5 and 33.9 in Del Norte County. The purpose of the project is to address deficiencies in the existing lighting system to provide the traveling public with a safe and reliable system.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Transportation

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Same as Above

Exempt Status: (check one):

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
[X] Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Class 1c (PRC 21084; 14 CCR 15301)
Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reasons why project is exempt:

This project does not create significant impacts to the environment. The proposed work on the existing tunnel involves no expansion of existing use.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Amanda Lee Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 707-441-4571

If filed by applicant:

- 1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature: Amanda Lee Date: 6-5-19 Title: Environmental Planner

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at: Governor's Office of Planning & Research

JUN 05 2019
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION/CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

01-DN-199 District-County-Route	33.5/33.9 P.M./P.M.	01-0F430 E.A/Project No.	011600005 Federal-Aid Project Number.
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Briefly describe project including need, purpose, location, limits, and right-of-way requirements.

The proposed project would upgrade the lighting system at the Randolph Collier Tunnel on State Route 199 between post miles (PM) 33.5 and 33.9 in Del Norte County. The purpose of the project is to address deficiencies in the existing lighting system. The project is needed because the tunnel's existing lighting system is deficient, with various non-operational parts and equipment. The deficiencies of the existing system include the short service life of the High-Pressure Sodium (HPS) lights. The proposed project would provide the travelling public with safe and reliable system by upgrading to high efficient light emitting diode (LED) lighting to replace the existing failing HPS lighting system. It would also increase the reliability of the lighting system due to upgrades to the electrical conduit system by installing new raceways and conductors. Work would include converting from HPS to LED lighting and upgrading the power control system. Temporary lighting would be installed during construction. All work would occur within the State right of way. Biological, cultural, visual, water quality, hazardous materials, air and noise reviews have been completed.

See next page for additional project information.

CALTRANS CEQA DETERMINATION (Check one)

- Not Applicable – Caltrans is not the CEQA Lead Agency Not Applicable – Caltrans has prepared an Initial Study or Environmental Impact Report under CEQA

Based on an examination of this proposal, supporting information, and the above statements, the project is:

- Exempt by Statute. (PRC 21080[b]; 14 CCR 15260 et seq.)
 Categorically Exempt Class 1 . (PRC 21084; 14 CCR 15300 et seq.)


Based on an examination of this proposal and supporting information, the following statements are true and exceptions do not apply:


- If this project falls within exempt class 3, 4, 5, 6 or 11, it does not impact an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law.
- There will not be a significant cumulative effect by this project and successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time.
- There is not a reasonable possibility that the project will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.
- This project does not damage a scenic resource within an officially designated state scenic highway.
- This project is not located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Govt. Code § 65962.5 ("Cortese List").
- This project does not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

- Common Sense Exemption.** [This project does not fall within an exempt class, but it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity may have a significant effect on the environment (14 CCR 15061[b][3].)]

Jason Meyer
Senior Environmental Planner

David Melendrez
Project Manager

 5-24-19
Signature Date

 5/28/19
Signature Date

NEPA COMPLIANCE

In accordance with 23 CFR 771.117, and based on an examination of this proposal and supporting information, the State has determined that this project:

- does not individually or cumulatively have a significant impact on the environment as defined by NEPA, and is excluded from the requirements to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and
- has considered unusual circumstances pursuant to 23 CFR 771.117(b).

CALTRANS NEPA DETERMINATION (Check one)


- 23 USC 326:** The State has determined that this project has no significant impacts on the environment as defined by NEPA, and that there are no unusual circumstances as described in 23 CFR 771.117(b). As such, the project is categorically excluded from the requirements to prepare an EA or EIS under the National Environmental Policy Act. The State has been assigned, and hereby certifies that it has carried out the responsibility to make this determination pursuant to Chapter 3 of Title 23, United States Code, Section 326 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated May 31, 2016, executed between the FHWA and the State. The State has determined that the project is a Categorical Exclusion under:

- 23 CFR 771.117(c): activity (c) (22)
 23 CFR 771.117(d): activity (d) ()
 Activity ___ listed in Appendix A of the MOU between FHWA and the State

- 23 USC 327:** Based on an examination of this proposal and supporting information, the State has determined that the project is a Categorical Exclusion under 23 USC 327. The environmental review, consultation, and any other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by Caltrans pursuant to 23 USC 327 and the Memorandum of Understanding dated December 23, 2016 and executed by FHWA and Caltrans.

Jason Meyer
Senior Environmental Planner

David Melendrez
Project Manager

 5-24-19
Signature Date

 5/28/19
Signature Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion: 5/24/2019

Date of ECR or equivalent: 5/24/2019

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION/CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM
Continuation Sheet

01-DN-199 District-County-Route	33.5/33.9 P.M./P.M.	01-0F430 E.A/Project No.	0116000005 Federal-Aid Project Number.
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Continued from page 1:

The following measures have been included as part of the project:

- Preconstruction surveys for nesting birds would be conducted by qualified biologists prior to initiation of construction.
- To avoid impacts to Howell's montia and Chance sideband snails, construction staging and storage of materials would not occur outside of the proposed pullout, or on vegetated surfaces and wet or damp areas of the pullout. Before construction begins, a biologist would meet with construction personnel to give a description of the species and explain avoidance measures.
- Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESA) would be designated on construction layout sheets, the biologist would demarcate the ESA on the ground prior to construction, and the ESA would be avoided.
- In the unlikely event another special-status species is discovered; appropriate buffer zones would be established and Caltrans would coordinate with USFWS and/or CDFW as needed.
- Hazardous lead concentrations identified in the project area would be remediated as part of a different project. The cleanup of hazardous materials would be completed prior to the initiation of this project.
- A lead compliance plan will be prepared prior to construction of this project.
- NSSP 14-11.15 (Disposal of electrical equipment requiring special handling) would be prepared to address electrical waste generated from this project.

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

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