

2019068073

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: Kings

From: (Public Agency): Caltrans District 6
855 M Street, Suite 200
Fresno, CA 93721
(Address)

Project Title: Stratford Kings River Bridge Replacement Geotech Drilling

Project Applicant: California Department of Transportation

Project Location - Specific:
State Route 41 In Kings County at Kings River Bridge 0.7 mlie south of Stratford (post mile 32.26).

Project Location - City: Stratford Project Location - County: Kings

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
The project would conduct a geotechnical investigation to evaluate subsurface conditions for the replacement of Kings River Bridge (No. 45-0007). Two borings would be drilled at a depth of 150 feet. Borings would utilize the mud rotary punch core drilling method which uses a self-contained drilling fluid.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Transportation

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California Department of Transportation

- 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: Information Collection Class 6
[] Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reasons why project is exempt:
Proposed work will not have a signlfcant effect on the environment

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Juergen Vespermann Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 559-445-6369

- 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? [X] Yes [] No

Signature: [Signature] (FOR JV.) Date: 6/14/19 Title: Sr. Environmental Planner
[X] 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 OPR:
Governor's Office of Planning & Research

JUN 14 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION/CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

6-KIN-41	32.26	06-0V110	616000208
Dist.-Co.-Rte. (or Local Agency)	P.M./P.M.	E.A/Project No.	Federal-Aid Project No. (Local Project)/Project No.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: (Briefly describe project including need, purpose, location, limits, right-of-way requirements, and activities involved in this box. Use Continuation Sheet, if necessary.)

The project would conduct a geotechnical investigation to evaluate surface conditions for the replacement of Kings River Bridge (No.45-0007). Subsurface investigation would consist of two geotechnical borings a depth of 150 feet. Work would be conducted on the shoulder of State Route 41. Borings would utilize the mud rotary punch core drilling method which uses a self-contained drilling fluid system. Drilling fluid will consist primarily of water and bentonite. Drilling fluid would be stored in drums and disposed of at an approved site.

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

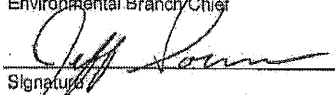
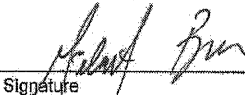
Based on an examination of this proposal, supporting information, and the above statements, the project is:

- Exempt by Statute. (PRC 21080[b]; 14 CCR 15260 et seq.)
 Categorically Exempt, Class 6. (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].)]

<u>JEFF SORENSEN</u> Print Name: Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief	<u>Gilberto Baca</u> Print Name: Project Manager
 <u>6/14/19</u> Signature Date	 <u>6/14/19</u> 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:

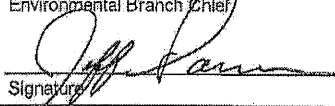
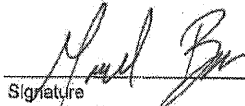
- does not individually or cumulatively have a significant impact on the environment as defined by NEPA, and is excluded from the requirements to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and
- has considered unusual circumstances pursuant to 23 CFR 771.117(b).

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) (24)
 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.

<u>JEFF SORENSEN</u> Print Name: Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief	<u>Gilberto Baca</u> Print Name: Project Manager/DLA Engineer
 <u>6/14/19</u> Signature Date	 <u>6/14/19</u> Signature Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion: _____ Date of ECR or equivalent: _____

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION/CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

Continuation Sheet

6-KIN-41	32.26	06-0V110	
		616000208	
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Continued from page 1:

SSP 7-1.02K(6)(j)(ii) Lead Compliance Plan- A Lead Compliance Plan is recommended to mitigate shallow soil contamination reported near Boring 1.

SSP 13-1 General Water pollution Control- Must abide by the BMPs at a minimum, and address all potential water quality impacts that may occur during drilling operations.

SSP 14-7.03-Discovery of Unanticipated Paleontological Resources.

Biology Best Management Practices:

- 1) All personnel on site for longer than 30 minutes shall receive a worker environmental awareness training (WEAT) from a qualified biologist and shall sign a form stating that they have attended the training, understanding the material and the consequences of noncompliance with permit measures, requirements, and all best management practices.
- 2) Work shall not be done within a half-mile of an actively nesting Swainson's hawk without clearance from the project biologist; if work is planned during nesting season (February 1 to September 30), pre-construction surveys for Swainson's hawk, raptors, and migratory birds will be required. If nesting Swainson's hawks are found within a half-mile of work, work will not begin until the nest(s) have been assessed by the project biologist, and written approval to begin work has been by the project biologist.
- 3) If work is planned during the nesting season and no Swainson's hawk are nesting within a half-mile of work, but other nesting migratory birds or raptors are found within a buffer of up to 500 feet from project area, the project may require a biological monitor or environmentally sensitive area (ESA) buffer, depending on the extent of work and species affected.
- 4) The project biologist shall be given a minimum of 14 days' notice of the start of work to schedule and conduct the necessary pre-construction surveys and arrange for a biological monitor if necessary.
- 5) Surveys for migratory birds and raptors will be conducted by a qualified biologist, at least one full day prior to construction, and no more than 30 days prior to the beginning of ground disturbance.
- 6) General wildlife surveys shall be conducted by a qualified biologist at least one full day, and no more than 30 days prior to the beginning of ground disturbance or construction activities.
- 7) Work activities, personnel, and equipment shall remain on-pavement for the duration of construction.
- 8) If any special status species are observed during construction, all activity within 150 feet shall cease immediately. Work may resume after the project biologist has been consulted and the RE has given written permission to resume work.
- 9) All vehicle operators will check under vehicles and equipment prior to operation.
- 10) All food related trash items and waste products shall be disposed of off-site.
- 11) If any wildlife is encountered during construction, said wildlife shall be allowed to freely leave the area unharmed.
- 12) All measures and requirements from any permits issued to this project, including but not limited to a Section 1602 Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement; Section 404 Nationwide Permit, or Section 401 Water Quality Certification, shall be complied with in full. Measures and requirements of permits may be more restrictive than the best management practices in this document, particularly regarding Swainson's hawk and other special status species, and to water quality best management practices.

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