

2019068103

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
703 B Street
Marysville, CA 95901
(Address)

Project Title: Champlin Slough Bridge Replace Bridge

Project Applicant: California Department of Transportation

Project Location - Specific:
This project is located on SR 99 PM 9.0/9.3 in Tehama County

Project Location - City: Corning Project Location - County: Tehama

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
This project proposes to remediate ongoing scour issues so that the structure meets current design standards and allows for the safe passage of vehicles, pedestrians and goods along the route 99 corridor. Champlin Slough has scour critical issues that affects the structural integrity of the bridge and public safety.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Transportation - District 3

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: Class 6, Section 15306
[] Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reasons why project is exempt:
Class 6 consists of basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. These may be strictly for information gathering purposes, or as part of a study leading to an action which a public agency has not yet approved, adopted, or funded.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Danielle Ruiz Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 530-741-5537

- 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] Date: 6/24/19 Title: 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.

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

JUN 25 2019

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

JUN 25 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION/CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

02-TEH-99	9.0/9.3	02-1H510/0216000148
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 California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to conduct a geotechnical subsurface investigation for the Champlin Slough Bridge Replacement in Tehama County on SR 99 to determine the types of foundation material at the site. This subsurface data collection will be necessary for the preparation of future foundation recommendations and to provide information for design and future construction procedures. Proposed drilling will be performed on the roadway at or near the proposed abutment location with a maximum depth not likely to exceed 120-150 feet (this will depend on design loads and strength of the subsurface materials) and will take approximately two to four weeks to complete with Caltrans Maintenance or a contractor providing the required lane closure. The regular work schedule is Monday through Thursday, 10-hour days, but may work Friday if necessary. Night work may be required depending on Traffic Management's time restrictions. (Continued on next page)

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].)]

Mundeep Purewal

Print Name: Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief

Mdp Purewal
Signature

6/20/19
Date

Michael Webb

Print Name: Project Manager

Michael Webb
Signature

6/21/19
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 _7_ 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.

Mundeep Purewal

Print Name: Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief

Mdp Purewal
Signature

6/20/19
Date

Michael Webb

Print Name: Project Manager/DLA Engineer

Michael Webb
Signature

6/21/19
Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion: 6/20/19

Date of ECR or equivalent: 6/20/19

Briefly list environmental commitments on continuation sheet. Reference additional information, as appropriate (e.g., CE checklist, additional studies and design conditions).

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION/CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM
Continuation Sheet

02-TEH-99	9.0/9.3	02-1H510/0216000148	
Dist.-Co.-Rte. (or Local Agency)	P.M./P.M.	E.A/Project No.	Federal-Aid Project No. (Local Project)/Project No.

Continued from page 1:

Truck mounted, trailer mounted, or terrain drill rigs equipped with a Standard Penetration Test (SPT) hammer will be utilized for the drilling operation. Water tenders (water trucks), a crew cab with trailer, and one or two geotechnical professional vehicles are also required to support the drilling operation. The SPT is an in-situ dynamic penetration test designed to provide information on geotechnical engineering properties of the soil. The test uses a thick-walled sample tube, with an outside diameter of two inches and an inside diameter of 1.4 inches, and a length of approximately 25.6 inches. This tube is driven into the ground at the desired sampling interval in the borehole by blows from a slide hammer with a weight of 140 lbs., free falling 30 inches. The tube is driven 18 inches into the ground or until refusal is achieved with the hammer. The borings will be done utilizing an 8.5-inch diameter hollow-stem auger until a depth that groundwater is contacted. Once auguring is completed, 5.25-inch diameter casing will be installed and then the drilling apparatus will be changed over to the 4.5-inch diameter mud rotary with a self-casing wireline drilling method to a proposed depth not to exceed 120-150 feet. Required sealing operations will be performed as well.

To obtain quality soil samples at the depths needed, advancement of the test borings will require the use of the mud rotary self-casing drilling system. This drilling system requires the use of drilling fluid to maintain the borehole stability, bring drill cuttings to the surface, as well as lubricate and cool the drill bit. Drilling fluid will consist of either water, water mixed with bentonite clay-based powder, liquid polymer, or water mixed bentonite clay-based powder and liquid polymer. The drilling fluid is contained and recirculated through a closed system utilizing a drill rod and a mud tank. The mud tank will be positioned on the ground surface or platform and serves as a settlement tank for the soil cuttings, which are periodically removed and placed in 55-gallon steel drums. Once the desired boring depth has been reached, the borehole will be flushed with clear water to displace the drilling fluid back into the mud tank.

As needed, soil/rock samples will be submitted to the laboratory to classify and/or determine strength parameters. In addition, a soil sample from the drillings or a sample of water collected from the creek will be tested for corrosivity. The information included in this subsurface investigation plan will apply to the operation for Caltrans Drilling Services, or consultant contract crews. The subsurface data will be used to generate a "Log of Test Boring" (LOTB). The LOTB is a contractual document that provides the subsurface information for the project site. The LOTB sheets are signed by a State of California Registered Civil Engineer or Registered Geologist and are included in the Caltrans Contract Plans.

DISPOSAL/BORROW

Used drilling fluid and water will be pumped from the mud tank into 55-gallon steel drums for disposal. Upon the completion of each boring, the borehole will be sealed in accordance with permit requirements of the Local Enforcement Agency. The 55-gallon steel drums will be removed from the job site and transferred to an appropriate staging area, usually a nearby Caltrans Maintenance yard before they are properly disposed of. In the event of an unexpected fluid spill, the driller will immediately stop the drilling, contain the escaping fluids and mitigate any further potential fluid loss. Absorbent pads will be used to soak up the fluids.

STAGING

Equipment storage for the subsurface investigation operation is typically located at the local Caltrans Maintenance yard. Upon the end of each day, the drill steel remains in the ground and the equipment will be transported off site at the end of each workday.

RIGHT-OF-WAY

All work will be performed within Caltrans Right-of-Way.

CONSULTATION/COORDINATION

No consultation/coordination with other agencies is required.

PERMITS

No permits are required.

Governor's Office of Planning & Research
JUN 25 2019
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Dist/Co/Rte/PM: 02/TEH/99/9.0-9.3 Fed. Aid No. (Local Project): EA/Project No.: 02-1H510/0216000148

SECTION A: TYPE OF CE: Use the information in this section to determine the applicable CE and corresponding activity for this project.

1. Project is a CE under CE Assignment 23 USC 326. Yes No

If "yes", check applicable activity in one of the three tables below (activity must be listed in 23 CFR 771.117 (c) or (d) list or included in activities listed in Appendix A of the CE Assignment MOU to be eligible for 23 USC 326).

Activity Listed in 23 CFR 771.117(c)

1 <input type="checkbox"/>	Activities that do not involve or lead directly to construction, such as planning and research activities; grants for training; engineering to define the elements of a proposed action or alternatives so that social, economic, and environmental effects can be assessed; and Federal-aid system revisions that establish classes of highways on the Federal-aid highway system.
2 <input type="checkbox"/>	Approval of utility installations along or across a transportation facility.
3 <input type="checkbox"/>	Construction of bicycle and pedestrian lanes, paths, and facilities.
4 <input type="checkbox"/>	Activities included in the State's <i>highway safety plan</i> under <u>23 U.S.C 402</u> .
5 <input type="checkbox"/>	Transfer of Federal lands pursuant to 23 U.S.C. 107(d) and/or 23 U.S.C. 317 when the land transfer is in support of an action that is not otherwise subject to FHWA review under NEPA.
6 <input type="checkbox"/>	The installation of noise barriers or alterations to existing publicly owned buildings to provide for noise reduction.
7 <input type="checkbox"/>	Landscaping.
8 <input type="checkbox"/>	Installation of fencing, signs, pavement markings, small passenger shelters, traffic signals, and railroad warning devices where no substantial land acquisition or traffic disruption will occur.
9 ¹ <input type="checkbox"/>	The following actions for transportation facilities damaged by an incident resulting in an emergency declared by the Governor of the State and concurred in by the Secretary, or a disaster or emergency declared by the President pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Act (42 U.S.C 5121): ²
<input type="checkbox"/>	(i) Emergency repairs under 23 U.S.C 125;
<input type="checkbox"/>	(ii) The repair, reconstruction, restoration, retrofitting, or replacement of any road, highway, bridge, tunnel, or transit facility (such as a ferry dock or bus transfer station), including ancillary transportation facilities (such as pedestrian/bicycle paths and bike lanes), that is in operation or under construction when damaged and the action: (A) Occurs within the existing right-of-way and in a manner that substantially conforms to the preexisting design, function, and location as the original (which may include upgrades to meet existing codes and standards as well as upgrades warranted to address conditions that have changed since the original construction); and (B) Is commenced within a 2-year period beginning on the date of the declaration.
10 <input type="checkbox"/>	Acquisition of scenic easements.
11 <input type="checkbox"/>	Determination of payback under 23 U.S.C 156 for property previously acquired with Federal-aid participation.
12 <input type="checkbox"/>	Improvements to existing rest areas and truck weigh stations.
13 <input type="checkbox"/>	Ridesharing activities.
14 <input type="checkbox"/>	Bus and rail car rehabilitation.
15 <input type="checkbox"/>	Alterations to facilities or vehicles in order to make them accessible for elderly and handicapped persons.
16 <input type="checkbox"/>	Program administration, technical assistance activities, and operating assistance to transit authorities to continue existing service or increase service to meet routine changes in demand.
17 <input type="checkbox"/>	The purchase of vehicles by the applicant where the use of these vehicles can be accommodated by existing facilities or by new facilities that themselves are within a CE.
18 <input type="checkbox"/>	Track and railbed maintenance and improvements when carried out within the existing right-of-way.
19 <input type="checkbox"/>	Purchase and installation of operating or maintenance equipment to be located within the transit facility and with no significant impacts off the site.

¹ On the CE form, distinguish between c9i or c9ii

² Include copy of the emergency declaration in the file

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Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Dist/Co/Rte/PM: 02/TEH/99/9.0-9.3		Fed. Aid No. (Local Project):		EA/Project No.: 02-1H510/0216000148	
20	<input type="checkbox"/>	Promulgation of rules, regulations, and directives.			
21	<input type="checkbox"/>	Deployment of electronics, photonics, communications, or information processing used singly or in combination, or as components of a fully integrated system, to improve the efficiency or safety of a surface transportation system or to enhance security or passenger convenience. Examples include, but are not limited to, traffic control and detector devices, lane management systems, electronic payment equipment, automatic vehicle locaters, automated passenger counters, computer-aided dispatching systems, radio communications systems, dynamic message signs, and security equipment including surveillance and detection cameras on roadways and in transit facilities and on buses.			
22 ³	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Projects, as defined in 23 U.S.C. 101, that would take place entirely within the existing operational right-of-way. Existing operational right-of-way means all real property interests acquired for the construction, operation, or mitigation of a project. This area includes the features associated with the physical footprint of the project including but not limited to the roadway, bridges, interchanges, culverts, drainage, clear zone, traffic control signage, landscaping, and any rest areas with direct access to a controlled access highway. This also includes fixed guideways, mitigation areas, areas maintained or used for safety and security of a transportation facility, parking facilities with direct access to an existing transportation facility, transportation power substations, transportation venting structures, and transportation maintenance facilities.</p> <p>Note: As a clarifying example, if title 23 (or certain title 49) funds were authorized for the acquisition of the real property, then that property was acquired for an eligible purpose, which was construction, operation, or mitigation, and thus is part of the operational right-of-way. Real property interests acquired with title 23 funds, or otherwise conveyed for title 23 purposes, are eligible for this categorical exclusion as long as the interests are devoted exclusively to the purposes of that facility and the facility is preserved free of all other public or private alternative uses, unless such non-highway alternative uses are permitted by Federal law (including regulations) or the FHWA (23 CFR 710.403(b)).</p>			
23 ⁴	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Federally-funded projects: Enter project cost \$ _____ and Federal funds \$ _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (i) That receive less than \$5,500,515.05 of Federal funds; or</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> (ii) With a total estimated cost of not more than \$33,003,090.30 and Federal funds comprising less than 15 percent of the total estimated project cost.</p>			
24	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Localized geotechnical and other investigation to provide information for preliminary design and for environmental analysis and permitting purposes, such as drilling test bores for soil sampling; archeological investigations for archeology resources assessment or similar survey; and wetland surveys.			
25	<input type="checkbox"/>	Environmental restoration and pollution abatement actions to minimize or mitigate the impacts of any existing transportation facility (including retrofitting and construction of stormwater treatment systems to meet Federal and State requirements under sections 401 and 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1341; 1342) carried out to address water pollution or environmental degradation.			
26	<input type="checkbox"/>	Modernization of a highway by resurfacing, restoration, rehabilitation, reconstruction, adding shoulders, or adding auxiliary lanes (including parking, weaving, turning, and climbing lanes), if the action meets the constraints in paragraph (e) of this section [771.117(e)]. Note: In order to use this CE, certain constraints must be met. Complete Section A, Item 2 below.			
27	<input type="checkbox"/>	Highway safety or traffic operations improvement projects, including the installation of ramp metering control devices and lighting, if the project meets the constraints in paragraph (e) of this section [771.117(e)]. Note: In order to use this CE, certain constraints must be met. Complete Section A, Item 2 below.			
28	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bridge rehabilitation, reconstruction, or replacement or the construction of grade separation to replace existing at-grade railroad crossings, if the actions meet the constraints in paragraph (e) of this section [771.117(e)]. Note: In order to use this CE, certain constraints must be met. Complete Section A, Item 2 below.			
29	<input type="checkbox"/>	Purchase, construction, replacement, or rehabilitation of ferry vessels (including improvements to ferry vessel safety, navigation, and security systems) that would not require a change in the function of the ferry terminals and can be accommodated by existing facilities or by new facilities that themselves are within a CE.			
30	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rehabilitation or reconstruction of existing ferry facilities that occupy substantially the same geographic footprint, do not result in a change in their functional use, and do not result in a substantial increase in the existing facility's capacity. Example actions include work on pedestrian and vehicle transfer structures and associated utilities, buildings, and terminals.			
Activity Listed in Examples in 23 CFR 771.117(d)					
1		Reserved.			
2		Reserved.			
3		Reserved.			
4	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation corridor fringe parking facilities.			
5	<input type="checkbox"/>	Construction of new truck weigh stations or rest areas.			

³ On the CE form, identify in the project description that all work is within operation right-of-way.

⁴ On the CE form, distinguish between c23i or c23ii.

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Dist/Co/Rte/PM: 02/TEH/99/9.0-9.3		Fed. Aid No. (Local Project):		EA/Project No.: 02-1H510/0216000148	
6	<input type="checkbox"/>	Approvals for disposal of excess right-of-way or for joint or limited use of right-of-way, where the proposed use does not have significant adverse impacts.			
7	<input type="checkbox"/>	Approvals for changes in access control.			
8	<input type="checkbox"/>	Construction of new bus storage and maintenance facilities in areas used predominantly for industrial or transportation purposes where such construction is not inconsistent with existing zoning and located on or near a street with adequate capacity to handle anticipated bus and support vehicle traffic.			
9	<input type="checkbox"/>	Rehabilitation or reconstruction of existing rail and bus buildings and ancillary facilities where only minor amounts of additional land are required, and there is not a substantial increase in the number of users.			
10	<input type="checkbox"/>	Construction of bus transfer facilities (an open area consisting of passenger shelters, boarding areas, kiosks and related street improvements) when located in a commercial area or other high activity center in which there is adequate street capacity for projected bus traffic.			
11	<input type="checkbox"/>	Construction of rail storage and maintenance facilities in areas used predominantly for industrial or transportation purposes where such construction is not inconsistent with existing zoning, and where there is no significant noise impact on the surrounding community.			
12	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>Acquisition of land for hardship or protective purposes. Hardship and protective buying will be permitted only for a particular parcel or a limited number of parcels. These types of land acquisition qualify for a CE only where the acquisition will not limit the evaluation of alternatives, including shifts in alignment for planned construction projects, which may be required in the NEPA process. No project development on such land may proceed until the NEPA process has been completed.</p> <p>(i) Hardship acquisition is early acquisition of property by the applicant at the property owner's request to alleviate particular hardship to the owner, in contrast to others, because of an inability to sell his property. This is justified when the property owner can document on the basis of health, safety or financial reasons that remaining in the property poses an undue hardship compared to others.</p> <p>(ii) Protective acquisition is done to prevent imminent development of a parcel that may be needed for a proposed transportation corridor or site. Documentation must clearly demonstrate that development of the land would preclude future transportation use and that such development is imminent. Advance acquisition is not permitted for the sole purpose of reducing the cost of property for a proposed project.</p>			
13	<input type="checkbox"/>	Actions described in paragraphs (c)(26), (c)(27), and (c)(28) of this section that do not meet the constraints in paragraph (e) of this section.			
Activity Listed in Appendix A of the CE Assignment MOU for State Assumption of Responsibilities for Categorical Exclusions					
1	<input type="checkbox"/>	Construction, modification, or repair of storm water treatment devices (e.g., detention basins, bioswales, media filters, infiltration basins), protection measures such as slope stabilization and other erosion control measures throughout California.			
2	<input type="checkbox"/>	Replacement, modification, or repair of culverts or other drainage facilities.			
3	<input type="checkbox"/>	Projects undertaken to assure the creation, maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of habitat for fish, plants, or wildlife (e.g., revegetation of disturbed areas with native plant species; stream or river bank revegetation; construction of new, or maintenances of existing fish passage conveyances or structures; restoration or creation of wetlands).			
4	<input type="checkbox"/>	Routine repair of facilities due to storm damage, including permanent repair, to return the facility to operational condition that meets current standards of design and public health and safety without expanding capacity (e.g., slide repairs, construction or repair of retaining walls).			
5	<input type="checkbox"/>	Routine seismic retrofit of facilities to meet current seismic standards and public health and safety standards without expansion of capacity.			
6	<input type="checkbox"/>	Air space leases that are subject to Subpart D, Part 710, title 23, Code of Federal Regulations.			
7	<input type="checkbox"/>	Drilling of test bores/soil sampling to provide information for preliminary design and for environmental analyses and permitting purposes.			

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Dist/Co/Rte/PM: 02/TEH/99/9.0-9.3 Fed. Aid No. (Local Project): EA/Project No.: 02-1H510/0216000148

2. This section must be completed in order to use a CE under 23 CFR 771.117(c)(26), (c)(27), or (c)(28).

The action **DOES NOT** include any of the following constraints found in 23 CFR 771.117(e):

- A. • An acquisition of more than a minor amount of right-of-way or that would result in any residential or nonresidential displacements
- B. • A bridge permit from the U.S. Coast Guard; OR
 - An action that does not meet the terms and conditions of a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers nationwide or general permit under section 404 of the Clean Water Act (i.e., does the project require a Standard 404 permit [Individual Permit or Letter of Permission]?) AND/OR
 - A permit required under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899
- C. • A finding of "adverse effect" to historic properties under the National Historic Preservation Act; OR
 - The use of a resource protected under 23 U.S.C. 138 or 49 U.S.C. 303 (section 4(f)) except for actions resulting in *de minimis* impacts; OR
 - A finding of "may affect, likely to adversely affect" threatened or endangered species or critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act
- D. • Construction of temporary access or the closure of existing road, bridge, or ramps that would result in major traffic disruptions
- E. • Changes in access control
- F. • A floodplain encroachment other than functionally dependent uses (e.g., bridges, wetlands) or actions that facilitate open space use (e.g., recreational trails, bicycle and pedestrian paths); OR
 - Construction activities in, across, or adjacent to a river component designated or proposed for inclusion in the National System of Wild and Scenic Rivers

If the action includes any of the constraints listed above, it **MAY NOT** be processed under 23 CFR 771.117(c)(26), (c)(27), or (c)(28), however, the project may qualify for a CE under 23 CFR 771.117(d)(13).

3. Project is a CE for a highway project under NEPA Assignment 23 USC 327. Yes No

(Use only if project does not qualify under CE Assignment 23 USC 326 [activities not included in three previous lists above].)

4. Independent Utility and Logical Termini

The project complies with NEPA requirements related to connected actions and segmentation (i.e. the project must have independent utility, connect logical termini when applicable, be usable and be a reasonable expenditure even if no additional transportation improvements in the area are made and not restrict further consideration of alternatives for other reasonably foreseeable transportation improvements). (FHWA Final Rule, "Background," *Federal Register* Vol. 79, No. 8, January 13, 2014.)

5. Categorical Exclusions Defined (23 CFR 771.117[a]).

FHWA regulation 23 CFR 771.117(a) defines categorical exclusions as actions which:

- do not induce significant impacts to planned growth or land use for the area;
- do not require the relocation of significant numbers of people;
- do not have a significant impact on any natural, cultural, recreational, historic or other resources;
- do not involve significant air, noise, or water quality impacts;
- do not have significant impacts on travel patterns; or
- do not otherwise, either individually or cumulatively, have any significant environmental impacts.

Checking this box certifies that project meets the above definition for a Categorical Exclusion.

6. Exceptions to Categorical Exclusions/Unusual Circumstances (23 CFR 771.117[b]).

FHWA regulation 23 CFR 771.117(b) provides that any action which normally would be classified as a CE but could involve *unusual circumstances* requires the Department to conduct appropriate environmental studies to determine if the CE classification is proper. Unusual circumstances include actions that involve:

- Significant environmental impacts;
- Substantial controversy on environmental grounds;
- Significant impact on properties protected by section 4(f) of the DOT Act or section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act; or
- Inconsistencies with any Federal, State, or local law, requirement or administrative determination relating to the environmental aspects of the action.

All of the above unusual circumstances have been considered in conjunction with this project. (Please select one.)

Checking this box certifies that none of the above conditions apply and that the project qualifies for a Categorical Exclusion.

Checking this box certifies that unusual circumstances are involved. However, the appropriate studies/analysis have been completed, and it has been determined that the CE classification is still appropriate.

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

SECTION B: Compliance with FHWA NEPA policy to complete all other applicable environmental requirements⁵ prior to making the NEPA determination:

During the environmental review process for which this CE was prepared, all applicable environmental requirements were evaluated. Outcomes for the following requirements are identified below and fully documented in the project file. [NOTE: EVERY SECTION BELOW MUST BE COMPLETED, DO NOT SKIP ANY SECTIONS.]

FSTIP

The project description on the Categorical Exemption/Categorical Exclusion Form matches the project description in the FSTIP and RTP, and the appropriate page of the FSTIP is in the project file.

Air Quality

Air Quality Conformity Findings Checklist has been completed and project meets all applicable AQ requirements.

For 23 USC 326 projects which require an air quality conformity determination (this will apply to certain projects under 23 CFR 771.117(c)(22), (c)(23), (c)(26), (c)(27), and (c)(28)), list the date of the Caltrans conformity determination: 06/13/19

For 23 USC 327 projects, list date of FHWA concurrence on conformity determination: _____

Cultural Resources

Section 106 compliance is complete. Screened Undertaking

Select appropriate finding: No Historic Properties Affected No Adverse Effect with Standard Conditions

No Adverse Effect without Standard Conditions Adverse Effect/MOA Phasing/Project PA

Noise

23 CFR 772

Is this a Type 1 project? Yes No (skip this section.)

Future noise levels with project either approach or exceed NAC or result in a substantial increase.

If yes, Abatement is reasonable and feasible Abatement is not reasonable or feasible

Waters, Wetlands

- **Section 404 of the Clean Water Act**

Impacts to Waters of the U.S.: Yes No; If yes, approval anticipated:

Nationwide Permit Individual Permit Regional General Permit Letter of Permission

- **Section 401 of the Clean Water Act**

Exemption Certification Not Applicable

- **Wetland Protection (Executive Order #11990)**

No Wetland Impact

Permanent Wetland Impact; Only Practicable Alternative Finding is included in a separate document in the project file

Biology

- **USFWS, Species List Date: 06/12/19 (must be < 180 days old)**

No Effect Section 7 (Federal Endangered Species Act)

Consultation with USFWS Findings (Effect determination):

Not Likely to Adversely Affect with USFWS Concurrence. Date: _____

Likely to Adversely Affect with Biological Opinion Date: _____

- **NOAA Fisheries, Species List Date: 06/12/19 (must be < 180 days old) N/A: Project outside of NOAA jurisdiction**

No Effect Section 7 (Federal Endangered Species Act)

Consultation with NOAA Fisheries Findings (Effect determination):

Not Likely to Adversely Affect with NOAA Fisheries Concurrence. Date: _____

Likely to Adversely Affect with Biological Opinion Date: _____

- **Essential Fish Habitat (Magnuson-Stevens Act) Findings (Effect determination):**

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act does not apply

No Adverse Effect Adverse Effect and consultation with NOAA Fisheries

⁵ Please consult the SER for a complete list of applicable laws, statutes, regulations, and executive orders that must be considered before completing the CE.

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Floodplains	
Floodplains (Executive Order #11988) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Floodplains <input type="checkbox"/> No Significant Encroachment <input type="checkbox"/> Significant Encroachment	
Section 4(f) Transportation Act (23 CFR 774)	
Section 4(f) regulation was considered as a part of the review for this project and a determination was made: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Section 4(f) does not apply <i>(Project file includes documentation that property is not a Section 4(f) property, that project does not use a Section 4(f) property, or that the project meets the criteria for the temporary occupancy exception.)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Section 4(f) applies <input type="checkbox"/> De Minimis <input type="checkbox"/> Programmatic: Type _____ (List one of the five appropriate categories as defined in 23 CFR 774.3) <input type="checkbox"/> Individual: <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Sufficiency Review complete <input type="checkbox"/> HQ Coordinator Review Complete	
Section 6(f) – Properties Acquired with Land and Water Conservation Fund grants	
Was the above property purchased with grant funds from the Land and Water Conservation Fund? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No, Section 6(f) does not apply. No additional documentation required. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Documentation of approval from National Park Service Director (through California State Parks) has been received for the conversion/and replacement of 6(f) property.	
Coastal Zone	
Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not in Coastal Zone <input type="checkbox"/> Qualifies for Exemptions <input type="checkbox"/> Qualifies for Waiver <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Permit Required <input type="checkbox"/> Consistent with Federal State and Local Coastal Plans <input type="checkbox"/> Federal Consistency	
Coast Guard – Bridge Over Navigable Waters of the U.S.	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/> 23 USC 144(c) USCG Bridge Permit Exception <input type="checkbox"/> 33 CFR 115.70 Advance Approval <input type="checkbox"/> USCG Bridge Permit	
Relocation and Right of Way	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relocations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Relocations <input type="checkbox"/> Project involves _____ (#) relocations and will follow the provisions of the Uniform Relocation Act. • Right of Way Acquisitions/Easements <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No right of way acquisitions or easements <input type="checkbox"/> Project involves _____ (#) acquisitions and _____ (#) easements. 	
Hazardous Waste and Materials	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are hazardous materials or contamination exceeding regulatory thresholds (as set by U.S. EPA, Cal EPA, County Environmental Health, etc.) present? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No • If yes, is the nature and extent of the hazardous materials or contamination fully known? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <p>If no, briefly discuss the plan for securing information:</p>	
SECTION C: Certification	
Based on the information obtained during environmental review process and included in this checklist, the project is determined to be a Categorical Exclusion pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and is in compliance with all other applicable environmental laws, regulations, and Executive Orders.	
Prepared by (print name):	Danielle Ruiz Governor's Office of Planning & Research
Title:	Environmental Planner JUN 25 2019
Signature:	STATE CLEARINGHOUSE Date: 6/20/19