

2019078014

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

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

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

County Clerk
County of:

(Address)

Project Title: HUM-299 Widen Shoulders

Project Applicant: California Department of Transportation

Project Location - Specific:

Between post miles 38.9 -39.5 on State Route 299

Project Location - City: Willow Creek Project Location - County: Humboldt

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project proposes to widen the westbound shoulder to 8 feet and the eastbound shoulder to 4 feet. The purpose of the project is to reduce the frequency and severity of collisions, and to improve safety for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists. Cut-slope grading and lengthening of existing culverts are needed to accommodate the widening. Work includes installation of ADA compliant sidewalks and curb ramps, and paving of a bus pullout.

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));
Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Class 1, PRC 21084; 14 CCR 15300 et seq
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 highway involves negligible 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: [Signature] Date: 7/3/2019 Title: Associate Environmental Planner

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

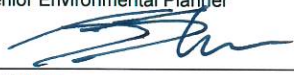
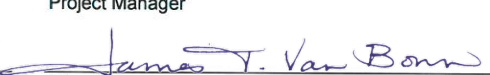


Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code. Date Received for filing at OPR:
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

JULY 03 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION/CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

01-HUM-299 District-County-Route	38.9/39.5 P.M./P.M.	01-0F680/011600044 E.A/Project No.	N/A Federal-Aid Project Number.
PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Briefly describe project including need, purpose, location, limits, and right-of-way requirements.			
<p>The proposed project would widen the shoulders on State Route 299 between post miles (PM) 38.9 to 39.50 in Humboldt County. The purpose of the project is to reduce the frequency and severity of collisions, improve safety for pedestrians, bicyclists and motorists, provide a multi-modal facility and establish a better bicycle and pedestrian linkage between downtown Willow Creek and the residential, commercial, and bus stop areas to the east. The project is needed because the existing shoulder widths do not meet current standards and have resulted in collision rates that exceed the historical average. Work would include widening the westbound shoulder to 8 feet and widening the eastbound shoulder to 4 feet by shifting the centerline alignment to the west. The slope along the eastbound shoulder would be cut and graded at 1H:1V. To accommodate the proposed widening, the reinforced concrete box culvert (RCB) at Victor Creek (PM 39.08) and the RCB culvert at Bloody Nose Creek (PM 39.19) would be lengthened.</p> <p align="center">See next page for additional project information.</p>			
CALTRANS CEQA DETERMINATION (Check one)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable – Caltrans is not the CEQA Lead Agency		<input type="checkbox"/> 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:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Exempt by Statute. (PRC 21080[b]; 14 CCR 15260 et seq.)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 			
<input type="checkbox"/> 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  Signature		James Van Bonn Project Manager  Signature	
Date	6-5-19	Date	5-Jun-2019
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:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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:			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 23 CFR 771.117(c): activity (c)(3) <input type="checkbox"/> 23 CFR 771.117(d): activity (d)() <input type="checkbox"/> Activity ___ listed in Appendix A of the MOU between FHWA and the State			
<input type="checkbox"/> 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  Signature		James Van Bonn Project Manager  Signature	
Date	6-5-19	Date	5-Jun-2019
Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion: 6/4/2019		Date of ECR or equivalent: 6/4/2019	

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION/CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

Continuation Sheet

01-HUM-299 District-County-Route	38.9/39.5 P.M./P.M.	01-0F680/011600044 E.A/Project No.	N/A Federal-Aid Project Number.
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Sidewalks with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant curb ramps would be installed from Walnut Way to Roth Road. The existing curb ramp at PM 39.06 to would be upgraded to ADA standards. Drainage work would include construction of hot mix asphalt (HMA) overside drains, drainage inlets and pipes. The existing bus turn-out at PM 39.47 on the westbound shoulder would be paved. Between approximate post miles (PM) 38.90 to 39.37, SR 299 would be repaved and restriped and driveways and intersections would be modified to conform to the new alignment. Work would occur within the existing Caltrans right of way, and within temporary construction easements obtained at intersections with local streets and private driveways for proposed conforming work. Biological, cultural, community impact, visual, water quality, hazardous materials, air and noise reviews have been completed. A.L.

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

- Vegetation would be removed between September 1 to February 15, outside of the bird breeding season. If vegetation removal cannot be done in this window, then a survey by a qualified biologist will be required prior to the removal of any vegetation. If nesting birds are present, vegetation removal will not be permitted until a Caltrans biologist has given authorization to proceed.
- A Revegetation Plan would be developed and submitted with permit applications. All disturbed areas would be revegetated with native, non-invasive species or non-persistent hybrids that will serve to stabilize site conditions.
- All work within Waters of the U.S. and State would be limited to the dry season (June 15- October 15).
- A Lead Compliance Plan would be prepared prior to beginning work.
- Additional botanical surveys are scheduled in June and August of 2019. If any special-status plant species are found within the BSA, the plants would be delineated as ESAs on project layouts to indicate the off-limit boundaries to personnel and equipment. If it is not possible to avoid the plants, measures for minimizing or reducing impacts to rare or listed species would be developed in coordination with CDFW and/or USFWS. Measures could include collecting seed, salvaging topsoil and duff containing seed bank, or relocation of individual plants. Measures to reduce impacts to any rare plant discovered will be based on the potential impact to the species and the most appropriate measure to ensure the plants survival.