

2019070727

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

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

From: (Public Agency): California Dept. of Transportation
100 South Main St., Suite 100, Main Station 16A
Los Angeles, CA 90012

County Clerk
County of: Ventura

(Address)

Project Title: Geotechnical Testing for SR-33 Bridge Widening Project

Project Applicant: California Department of Transportation

Project Location - Specific:

State Route 33. Post Miles 15.82 & 16.13

Project Location - City: Project Location - County: Ventura

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The purpose of this project is site exploration of soil conditions at 3 boring locations along State Route 33.

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: 6
Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reasons why project is exempt:

This operation improves the operation of existing public transportation facility and is within the State's Right-of-Way.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Chris Laurel Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 213-897-3616

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: Chris Laurel Date: 7-8-19 Title: Environmental Planner

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

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: JUL 11 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION/CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

07-VEN-33	15.82, 16.13	29650_001	EFIS: 0713000099
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.)

Caltrans proposes to conduct geotechnical drilling investigations for a bridge widening project (EA 29650) at two bridges on SR-33 crossing North Fork Matilija Creek (PM 15.82 and 16.13). The scope of work includes three exploratory borings that are approximately 8-inches in diameter and 40-50 feet in depth. The drill rig will be situated on SR-33 and will drill through the bridge decks. All proposed borings will be done outside the creek.

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].)]

Susan Tse Koo
 Print Name: Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief

Joseph G. Koo
 Print Name: Project Manager

[Signature]
 Signature

07/08/2019
 Date

[Signature]
 Signature

7/8/19
 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 ___ 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.

Susan Tse Koo
 Print Name: Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief

Joseph G. Koo
 Print Name: Project Manager/DLA Engineer

[Signature]
 Signature

07/08/2019
 Date

[Signature]
 Signature

7/8/19
 Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion: 7/8/19

Date of ECR or equivalent

Secretary's Office of Planning & Research

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

07-VEN-33	15.82, 16.13	29650_001	EFIS: 0713000099
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:

Biology:

- If the scope of work or impact area changes, the District Biologist shall be immediately notified before construction can begin or continue.
- The District Biologist must be invited to the pre-construction meeting with one week prior notice.
- A biological monitor will be present at initiation of work to judge whether noise impacts will affect adjacent habitat and nests.
- If any species of concern are observed during any phase of construction, the RE will need to contact the Environmental Planner (District Biologist), Patrick Thompson, at 213-897-0707 and work shall immediately cease. Work shall not resume until clearance is given by the Environmental Planner and coordination with the appropriate resource agencies has occurred.
- If vegetation removal is needed, or loud machinery is to be used, it is recommended that all vegetation removal and loud noise-making machinery use occur outside of bird nesting season which is from February 1st to September 1st. Should work occur during this period, the District Biologist shall be notified two weeks prior to the start of construction to determine if nesting birds are present. In the event that nesting birds are observed, the Resident Engineer (RE) should pause work until a qualified biologist has determined that fledglings have left the nest. If this is not possible, the RE should coordinate with the District Biologist to minimize the risk of violating the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). Most likely, the District Biologist will recommend a buffer of 150 ft. for songbirds and a buffer of 500 ft. for raptors during all phases of construction. Nesting birds are protected under the MBTA and cannot be impacted by construction activities, including noise and dust pollution. If vegetation is to be removed, this is a change in scope, and the Division of Environmental Planning must be notified. No work shall commence until the vegetation to be removed has been surveyed for nesting birds and cleared by the District Biologist.
- Litter and pollution laws shall be adhered to by all personnel working within the project limits.
- This project must employ all appropriate Stormwater and Erosion Control Best Management Practices, and these must be incorporated into the project specifications. Prior to the start of construction, all drain inlets and outlets must be protected to prevent construction materials and/or debris from entering drainages.
- Use existing pull outs and parking lots for staging and storing, and avoid the removal of existing native vegetation.

Cultural Resources:

- If previously unidentified cultural materials are unearthed during construction, work shall be halted in that area until a qualified archaeologist can assess the significance of the find.

Hazardous Waste:

- All groundwater that is encountered, drilling fluids, and cuttings must be containerized and tested to profile the waste for disposal. Contaminated materials must be disposed at an appropriate disposal facility.
- An asbestos survey is required to identify and quantify ACM in concrete on the bridge and in other areas of the bridge. The asbestos survey must be performed by a certified Asbestos Consultant licensed in California. Prior to drilling in the concrete bridge deck, notification of work must be provided to the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (VCAPCD) along with the Asbestos Survey Report at least 10 days in advance of drilling. An asbestos survey must be requested during the PS&E phase. If ACM is detected, the drilling must meet the requirements of the VCAPCD and performed in an enclosure.