

Notice of Exemption

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

From: (Public Agency) Caltrans, Dist. 06
855 M Street
Fresno CA 93721

Project Title: MASH Approved Terminal EA: 06-0Y900

Project Applicant: California Department of Transportation

Project Location:
State Route 180, 58, 99, 223, and 198 at various locations in Fresno, Tulare and Kern County.

Project Location - City: Various Cities Project Location - County: Fresno, Tulare, Kern

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project would replace a total of eighteen X-Lite guardrail end treatments (X-Lite Terminals) with approved terminals to comply with the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Manual for Assessing Safety Hardware (MASH). Specifically, replacement of X-Lite Terminals includes the following: One in-line X-Lite Terminal is connected to an existing Midwest Guardrail System (MGS). The X-Lite Terminal will be removed and replaced with a MASH approved terminal. There are fourteen in-line X-Lite Terminals, each connected to an existing Metal Beam Guard Rail (MBGR). These X-Lite Terminals and MBGRs will be removed and upgraded to MGS or transitioned 25-ft to 31-inch height and a MASH approved terminal will be placed. The transition may require additional grading. There are three flared X-Lite Terminal Systems, each connected to a MBGR. These X-Lite Terminals and MBGRs will be removed and upgraded to MGS or transitioned over 25-ft to 31-inch height and a MASH approved terminal will be placed. The transition will likely require additional grading and lengthening of line rail. To implement the project, traffic control is required.

The purpose is to comply with AASHTO MASH standards for guardrail end treatment. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) suspended X-Lite guardrail end treatments (in-line and flared) on August 24, 2018. Caltrans suspended the use of X-Lite guardrail end treatment out of an abundance of caution and has removed the X-Lite guardrail end treatment from its Authorized Material List (AML) of highway safety features. Due to field performance of X-Lite Terminal, its replacement with AASHTO MASH approved terminal will have an immediate public benefit.

Name of Public Agency California Department of Transportation

Approving Project: California Department of Transportation

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project:

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: 15301, Class 1 (c) existing highways
Statutory Exemption. State code number:

Reason why project is exempt:

This project is exempt because it falls under section 15301, existing facilities class 1 (c), and involves no expansion of existing use. The project involves the minor alteration of existing facilities to upgrade guardrail end treatments to current acceptable standards. Furthermore, the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Jeff Sorensen Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 559-445-6447

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: [Handwritten Signature] Date: 7/11/19 Title: Senior Environmental Planner

[X] Signed by Lead Agency [] Signed by Applicant

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

JULY 11 2019