

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, Dist. 06
855 M Street, Suite 200
Fresno CA 93721

County Clerk
County of: _____

Project Title: Pixley-Earlimart Bridge Rail

Project Applicant: California Department of Transportation

Project Location - Specific:

The project is located on Highway 99, post miles 6.15, 12.6, 12.8, on the Avenue 48 overcrossing, Br. #46-0165, Davis Ave overcrossing, Br.# 46-0172, and Avenue 100 overcrossing, Br.#46-0173.

Project Location - City: _____ Project Location - County: Tulare

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The purpose of this project is to replace nonstandard bridge railings with standard bridge railings and install standard approach railings as needed on three bridges, Avenue 48 OC, Br. #46-0165, Davis Ave OC, Br.# 46-0172, and Avenue 100 OC, Br.#46-0173. Any bridge widening to accommodate the new barrier or increased shoulder width requirements will be incorporated into the project and will be developed in the APS (Advanced Planning Study).

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: Class 1. PRC 21084; 14 CCR 15300 et seq.
Statutory Exemption. State code number: _____

Reason why project is exempt:

The project is exempt because it involves replacing existing bridge railings on existing bridges.

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? YES NO

Signature: [Signature] Date: 7/15/19 Title: Senior 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 Co

Date Received for filing at OPR

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

JUL 15 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Revised 2011

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION/CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

06-TUL-09 6.15, 12.6, 12.8 06-0U270 0615000295
 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 purpose of this project is to replace nonstandard bridge railings with standard bridge railings and install standard approach railings as needed on three bridges, Avenue 48 OC, Br. #46-0165, Davis Ave OC, Br.# 46-0172, and Avenue 100 OC, Br.#46-0173. Any bridge widening to accommodate the new barrier or increased shoulder width requirements will be incorporated into the project and will be developed in the APS (Advanced Planning Study).

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 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:

- 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).)]

Jeff Sorenson

Print Name: Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief

Jeff Sorenson
 Signature

7/12/19
 Date

Gilberto Baca

Print Name: Project Manager

Gilberto Baca
 Signature

7/12/19
 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)(26)
 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.

Jeff Sorenson

Print Name: Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief

Jeff Sorenson
 Signature

7/12/19
 Date

Gilberto Baca

Print Name: Project Manager/DLA Engineer

Gilberto Baca
 Signature

7/12/19
 Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion: 7/11/19

Date of ECR or equivalent : 7/11/2019

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

2019078062

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION/CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM
Continuation Sheet

06-TUL-99	6.15, 12.6, 12.8	06-0U270	0615000295
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:

- Preconstruction surveys will be conducted for San Joaquin kit fox.
- If SJKF dens are found within the project Right of Way or SJKF are encountered coordination with USFWS may be required and could cause a delay in construction.
- If construction work occurs during migratory bird nesting season (Feb1-Sept 30) and active nests are identified within the project area the Caltrans biologist will be notified, an ESA fence buffer will be necessary, and a biological monitor may be necessary.
- Preconstruction environmental awareness training by a qualified biologist for San Joaquin kit fox and Swainson's Hawk will be required.
- Any additional vegetation removal outside of the already established highway shoulder areas are to occur only at the three bridge locations identified for this project.
- No staging or parking will be permitted off the paved road way, and should be restricted to established roads, construction areas or designated areas

Hazardous Waste:

SSP 14-11.13 - Use for removal or disturbance of paint containing lead, chrome, etc., on bridges.

SSP 7-1.02K(6)(j)(iii) - Requires a lead compliance plan for soil disturbance when lead concentrations are non-hazardous.

SSP 38-4 or 84-9.03C - Requires a lead compliance plan for removal when residue is definitely non-hazardous. Used for new yellow paints and all other colors of paint.

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