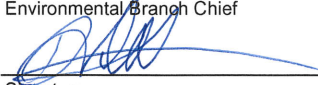



CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION/CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

10-MER-99	R30.32	1L190/102000008	
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.)			
<p>The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes drainage repair on the Winton Parkway on-ramp which connects to southbound State Route (SR) 99 at post mile R30.32 in Merced County. A fire occurred near the on-ramp which damaged the existing High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE) culvert pipe. The scope of work includes abandoning the existing, damaged pipe with slurry concrete fill. A new 18-inch, Corrugated Metal Pipe (CMP) will be installed to connect the existing drainage inlet to a water basin south of the on-ramp. The purpose of this project is to immediately repair the damaged drainage facility. The project is needed to extend the service lives of the on-ramp and water basin and ensure motorist safety over this drainage.</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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exempt by Statute. (PRC 21080[b]; 14 CCR 15260 et seq.)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Categorically Exempt Class . (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].)]			
Dominic Vitali Print Name: Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief  Signature		Ali Juma Print Name: Project Manager  Signature	
8/19/19 Date		8-19-2019 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:			
<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 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> 23 CFR 771.117(c): activity (c)() <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.			
Print Name: Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief Signature		Print Name: Project Manager/DLA Engineer Signature	
Date		Date	
Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion: N/A		Date of ECR or equivalent: See Continuation Sheet.	

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

10-MER-99 Dist.-Co.-Rte. (or Local Agency)	R30.32 P.M./P.M.	1L190/1020000008 E.A/Project No.	Federal-Aid Project No. (Local Project)/Project No.
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Continued from page 1:

General:

- o Environmental reevaluation will be required if the scope of the project changes to include additional areas or activities, or if previously unknown cultural or other sensitive resources are discovered. Contact the Environmental Office if project changes occur or sensitive resources discovered.

Cultural:

- o If cultural materials are discovered at the job site, do not disturb the resources and immediately:
 1. Stop all work within a 60foot radius of discovery
 2. Protect the discovery area
 3. Notify the Engineer
 4. The Department Investigates. Do not move cultural materials or take them from the job site. Retain a qualified archaeologist to assess the significance of the find. Do not resume work within the discovery area until authorized.
- o If human remains are discovered, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that further disturbances and activities shall cease in any area or nearby area suspected to overlie remains, and the County coroner contacted. Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. If the remains are thought to be Native American, the coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) who will then notify the Most Likely Descendent (MLD). At the same time the landowner will work with the MLD on the respectful treatment and disposition of the remains. Further provisions of PRC 5097.98 are to be followed as applicable.

Biology:

- o To avoid attracting San Joaquin Kit Fox to the project area, no pets or firearms will be permitted at the construction site.
- o Caltrans SSP 14-10.01 shall be included in the contract to ensure trash is removed from the construction daily.
- o Implement Caltrans Standard Special Provision 14-6.03A pertaining to the bird protection radius. If work is to occur during the migratory bird nesting season (February 1 – September 30), preconstruction surveys must be conducted by a qualified biologist two weeks prior to construction activities. Contact Environmental Office to schedule a preconstruction survey. If active nests are observed, buffers will need to be established around the nests until the young have fledged, in coordination with California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). A 100-foot buffer shall be established around migratory bird's active nests. For hawks, a 300-foot buffer would need to be established.
- o Within 14 days prior to construction, a San Juaquin Kit Fox (SJKF) survey will be conducted by a Caltrans biologist. If active dens are observed, buffers will need to be established. Natal and pupping dens require a 200-foot buffer. Known dens require a 100-foot buffer. Potential and Atypical dens require a 50-foot buffer.

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

AUG 26 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

No permits required.