

2019090217

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 Department of Transportation, District 7
100 S. Main St, MS-16A, Los Angeles, CA 90012

County Clerk
County of: Los Angeles

(Address)

Project Title: Roadside Safety Improvements

Project Applicant: California Department of Transportation, District 7

Project Location - Specific:

On Interstate 5 in Los Angeles County from post mile R39.4 to R44.4

Project Location - City: Sylmar Project Location - County: Los Angeles

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

This project will include minor paving at narrow areas, fire strip paving on side slopes, and extended gore areas in close proximity to mainline traffic; installation of maintenance access gates, maintenance vehicle pullouts, light duty vehicular access trails, replacement of electrical pull boxes, and vegetation control under metal beam guardrail (weed control mat [fiber]). It also includes relocation of irrigation elements away from mainline traffic; and installation of biofiltration trenches. The purpose of this project is to improve safety along Route 5 from post mile R39.4 to R44.4.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Transportation, District 7

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California Department of Transportation, District 7

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 under section 15301
Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project will not result in any significant environmental impacts.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Gabrielle Dashiell Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (213)897-1185

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: Date: 9/4/2019 Title: Environmental Planner

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 Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR:

Governor's Office of Planning & Research
SEP 09 2019
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION/CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

07-LA-05 PM: R39.4/R44.4 EA:31990 EFIS: CE #: 201907018
 0716000028
 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.)

This roadside safety/landscaping improvement project on Interstate 5 (I-5) from post mile (PM) R39.4 to R44.4 in the community of Sylmar in the City of Los Angeles will include: paving at narrow shoulder and gore areas, fire strip paving on side slopes, installation of maintenance access gates, maintenance vehicle pullouts, light duty vehicular access trails, replacement of electrical pull boxes, and vegetation control under metal beam guardrail (weed control mat [fiber]). This project also includes relocation of irrigation elements away from mainline traffic; and installation of biofiltration trenches. Work that occurs near drain inlets should incorporate construction and stormwater best management practices (BMP's) to minimize the potential of construction debris (concrete curing runoff/dust/dirt/asphalt) to enter drain inlets. All work will be completed within Caltrans right-of-way.

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].)]

Robert Wang

Print Name: Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief

Robert Wang August 28, 2019
 Signature Date

Simon Au

Print Name: Project Manager

Simon Au 9/3/19
 Signature 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) (7)
 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.

Robert Wang

Print Name: Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief

Robert Wang August 28, 2019
 Signature Date

Simon Au

Print Name: Project Manager/DLA Engineer

Simon Au 9/3/19
 Signature Date
 Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion: 8/27/2019

Date of ECR or equivalent: 8/27/2019

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION/CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM
Continuation Sheet

07-LA-05	PM: R39.4/R44.4	EA:31990 EFIS: 0716000028	CE #: 201907018
Dist.-Co.-Rte. (or Local Agency)	P.M./P.M.	E.A/Project No.	Federal-Aid Project No. (Local Project)/Project No.

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The following are environmental commitments as of 8/27/2019:

Biology:

- If the project scope should change for any reason, the division of environmental planning will be notified immediately to determine whether current environmental documentation is adequate.
- The Division of Environmental Planning will be provided the plans, project specifications and expenditures review package for review and comment prior to RTL.
- The project biologist must be invited to the pre-construction meeting, with one week prior notice.
- The project biologist, Michael Klima (213 897-2597 or michael.klima@dot.ca.gov), must be notified two weeks prior to construction so that pre-construction surveys may be conducted, and exclusionary devices and methods may be discussed, per the standard specification 14-6.03 Bird Protection.
- A buffer of 150 ft. for songbirds and 500 ft. for raptors must be maintained during all phases of construction.
- All pollution and litter laws and regulations will be followed by all personnel on site.
- If any species of concern are observed during construction activities, all work shall immediately cease, and the district biologist shall be immediately notified. Work shall not resume until clearance is given by the district biologist.
- Nesting birds may not be impacted by any construction activities including noise and dust pollution along with destruction of habitat.
- The Contractor will apply dust control measures to minimize the amount of dust in the air and make air quality in the area suitable for workers and neighborhood businesses.
- The district biologist, Michael Klima (213-897-2597 or michael.klima@dot.ca.gov) shall be notified two weeks prior to removal of vegetation to determine if birds are nesting. In the event that nesting birds are observed, nest removal shall not be conducted until it has been determined that fledglings have left the nest.
- Work shall cease when the chance of rain is more than 30% and is forecasted for the future 72 hours.

Stormwater:

- This project must employ all appropriate Stormwater and Erosion Control Best Management Practices (BMPs), and these must be incorporated into the project specifications.
- Prior to the start of construction, all drain inlets and outlets must be protected with BMPs to prevent construction materials and debris from entering drainages.

Cultural:

- If there are any changes to the proposed undertaking, an additional review by the cultural resources unit will be required.
- 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:

- A project specific site investigation (SI) will be required at the early stage of PS&E. The hazardous waste unit will initiate the SI upon receiving a PS&E hazardous material assessment request for an SI. It will take approximately 4 months to complete.
- If relocation and repair of irrigation facilities and installation of pull boxes will dispose of electrical equipment, it will require special handling. During PS&E, OEE will provide the necessary nonstandard special provision for disposal of electrical equipment.

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SEP 09 2019
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