
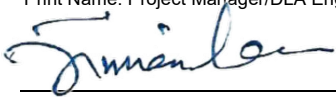


CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION/CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

07-LA-39, 71	17.81, R0.92	32620/0716000113	CE# 201809005
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 <i>Continuation Sheet</i> , if necessary.)			
<p>Caltrans District 7 is proposing a seismic retrofit and barrier replacement project on two bridge structures on separate routes within Los Angeles County; the San Gabriel River Bridge (Bridge Number 53-0113, Post Mile 17.81) on State Route (SR)-39 and the Ridgeway Street Undercrossing (UC) (Bridge Number 53- 2052, Post Mile R0.92) on SR-71. Painting work and modification of the structure approach slabs are also proposed for the San Gabriel Bridge. Environmental commitments are shown on the continuation pages.</p>			
CALTRANS CEQA DETERMINATION (Check one)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable – Caltrans is not the CEQA Lead Agency		<input checked="" 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 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].)]			
N/A		N/A	
Print Name: Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief		Print Name: Project Manager	
_____	_____	_____	_____
Signature	Date	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:			
<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 checked="" 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:			
<input type="checkbox"/> 23 CFR 771.117(c): activity (c)(___)			
<input type="checkbox"/> 23 CFR 771.117(d): activity (d)(___)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Activity 5 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.			
Karl Price		Jiwanjit Palaha	
Print Name: Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief		Print Name: Project Manager/DLA Engineer	
			
_____		_____	
Signature	Date	Signature	Date
Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion: 05/01/2020		Date of ECR or equivalent: 05/01/2020	

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

Continued from page 1:

Numerous technical studies have been prepared in support of this project. The project was found to have no impact on the following environmental factors: Aesthetics, Agricultural and Forest Resources, Land Use and Planning, Mineral Resources, Noise, Population, Public Services, Recreation, and Utilities. The following is a brief summary of potential impacts that have been identified:

Air Quality

An Air Quality Memorandum was prepared and determined the project is listed in Table 2 of 40 CFR 93.126 under the subtitle "safety", therefore the project is exempt from the requirements to determine conformity. The study also determined the project would not result in any changes to traffic volumes, vehicle mix, or any other factors causing an increase in mobile source air toxic emissions impacts.

Cultural Resources

An Historic Property Survey Report prepared for this project determined there are no known archaeological resources within or adjacent to the project areas through extensive literature search and Native American consultation. Additionally, the bridges themselves were evaluated for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places and were not found eligible for inclusion, in accordance with Section 106 PA Stipulation VIII.C.5 and as applicable PRC 5024 Memorandum of Understanding Stipulation VIII.C.5.

Hazardous Waste

A project-specific Hazardous Waste Technical Memorandum revealed elements of the proposed construction activities will involve the potential occurrence of Asbestos Containing Construction material (ACCM), Aerially Deposited Lead (ADL), Lead Based Paint, contaminated groundwater, and electrical waste.

A Site Investigation (SI) will be conducted to determine whether the bridge structure, deck and railing of the Ridgeway Street UC contains asbestos and whether the San Gabriel River Bridge contains lead-based paint. The SI will also determine if construction dewatering is required for groundwater and if the soil contains aerially deposited lead. The characterization of the groundwater and soil will determine the appropriate methods for handling, managing, and disposal of these materials. The streetlights anchored to the Ridgeway Street UC will be classified as electronic waste and properly disposed of according to Title 22.

Biological Resources

A Natural Environment Study was prepared for the project and to support the study, biologists conducted surveys at both project locations. An on-foot survey was conducted at the Ridgeway Street UC which determined there are few biological resources in the area because the bridge is in a highly urbanized environment. No further surveys were conducted and no mitigation measures were proposed for the Ridgeway Street UC. Due to the natural habitat surrounding the San Gabriel River Bridge, the following types of surveys were conducted: general biological assessment, protocol survey for Least Bell's vireo, protocol survey for Southwestern willow flycatcher, fish survey, and tree survey. The surveys revealed there is native riparian vegetation in the San Gabriel River that is used as habitat for foraging bird and bat species. Those species potentially occurring or found occurring in the project study area are described below:

Bird Species

Critical habitat exists for the southwestern willow flycatcher although the species was not detected during surveys. The project is not anticipated to directly affect southwestern willow flycatcher because there is no suitable breeding habitat in the project impact area (PIA). However, the project may indirectly affect this species if it is nesting in the biological study area (BSA) outside of the Project Impact Area (PIA). The project may also cause indirect effects by temporarily removing suitable foraging and migration habitat. No suitable breeding habitat exists in the PIA for the least Bell's vireo and the species was not detected during surveys. But similar to the southwestern willow flycatcher, the project may indirectly affect this species if nesting occurs within the BSA.

The yellow warbler and Southern California rufous-crowned sparrow were detected multiple times in the BSA. The project is not anticipated to directly affect these species because there is no suitable breeding habitat in the PIA. Yet the project may indirectly affect them if nesting occurs within the BSA but outside of the PIA.

Bat Species

The bridge is used for night roosting as indicated by ample guano under the bridge and urine staining on the soffit. Direct impacts to bat species are not anticipated, due to the lack of suitable day roosting habitat on the bridge, but the project may still affect tree roosting bats or bats that forage in the canyon by using artificial lighting for night work.

Crotch Bumble Bee

The Crotch bumble bee was not detected during any field surveys conducted during the species' flight periods, however foraging habitat (buckwheat scrub) for this species was observed in a small area to the south of the bridge and suitable colony nesting habitat was also found in the staging area to the southwest of the bridge. The project will directly affect a small part of the total available foraging habitat in the BSA and PIA by disturbing soil, and the project will indirectly affect this species through the temporary removal of suitable colony nesting and foraging habitat.

Riparian Habitat

Portions of the riparian vegetation, the sycamore woodland, and the black and red willow thickets are stands of special status natural communities by the San Gabriel River bridge. The riparian woodlands (California sycamore woodlands) and riparian scrub (black willow thicket) are classified as special status natural communities by CDFW. The project will remove 14 trees; these will be replaced to ensure the tree impacts are temporary.

Hydrology and Water Quality

A draft Stormwater Data Report was prepared for this project and found that the project would not substantially alter any existing drainage pattern at either bridge or add any impervious surface to the San Gabriel River. The soil disturbance at the San Gabriel River

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Continuation Sheet

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is extremely minimal (Total Disturbed Soil Area (DSA) is 0.1 acre) and will lead to a small permanent loss to all jurisdictional areas due to the construction of new piles, but the impact will be negligible.

Transportation

A Traffic Management Plan Data Sheet will be developed to implement practical measures and design strategies to minimize any traffic delays that may result from lane restrictions or closures in the construction work zone.

A list of measures that have been incorporated into the project to minimize any potential impacts to the environment are included in Appendix C of the Initial Study. Additionally, permits are required for this project from the Army Corps of Engineers (Nationwide Permit under Section 404), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (1602 Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement), and Regional Water Quality Control Board (Section 401 Water Quality Certification). Any measures proposed by a regulating agency as part of the permitting process will also be incorporated into the project and added to Appendix C.

Based on our evaluation, Caltrans has made the determination that, in the context of NEPA, the totality of the impacts do not rise to the level where the project would have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Therefore, a Categorical Exclusion has been prepared pursuant to NEPA.