

**Notice of Exemption**

**Appendix E**

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

From: (Public Agency) Caltrans, Dist. 10  
1976 E. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd..  
Stockton CA 95337

Project Title: Mariposa Creek Field Maintenance; 5C500

Project Applicant: California Department of Transportation

Project Location - Specific:  
MER-059-10.38; Mariposa Creek Bridge

Project Location - City: Merced Project Location - County: MER

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes a routine field maintenance project that will remove sediment and other debris underneath the Mariposa Creek Bridge in Merced County. The project also proposes sediment removal from all four bays to improve waterflow underneath Mariposa Creek Bridge to reduce head pressure against the bridge, and mitigate debris build up and flooding. A short access road will be cut in on the Southeast corner of the bridge to get equipment in and out to perform sediment removal, the road will be backfilled, and the slope will be reestablished after work is complete. No construction activities, staging, parking of equipment, storage or dumping of any materials, outside of

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));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: S. 15301 Existing Facilities
- Statutory Exemption. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason why project is exempt:

Project will not affect any sensitive species or their habitat, any cultural or scenic resources or any other environmentally sensitive resources.

Lead Agency  
Contact Person: KARIMEH JUMA Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 209-942-6045

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: Karimeh Juma Date: 08/03/2020 Title: Associate Environmental Planner  
 Signed by Lead Agency  Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code. Date Received for filing at OPR \_\_\_\_\_  
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Cc

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

**Aug 03 2020**

Revised 2011

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**



**CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION  
DETERMINATION FORM (rev. 05/2020)**

**Project Information**

**DIST-CO-RTE:** 10-MER-059

**PM/PM:** 10.38

**EA:** 10-5C500

**Federal-Aid Project Number:**

**Project Description**

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes a routine field maintenance project that will remove sediment and other debris underneath the Mariposa Creek Bridge in Merced County. The project also proposes sediment removal from all four bays to improve waterflow underneath Mariposa Creek Bridge to reduce head pressure against the bridge, and mitigate debris build up and flooding. No construction activities, staging, parking of equipment, storage or dumping of any materials, outside of Caltrans Right-of-Way will be allowed. The purpose of this project is to provide preventative maintenance at Mariposa Creek Bridge to deter future rehabilitations or replacement activities. The need for this project is to ensure the bridge remains safe for the traveling public.

**Caltrans CEQA Determination** (Check one)

- Not Applicable** – Caltrans is not the CEQA Lead Agency
- Not Applicable** – Caltrans has prepared an IS or EIR under CEQA

Based on an examination of this proposal and supporting information, 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.)
  - No exceptions apply that would bar the use of a categorical exemption (PRC 21084 and 14 CCR 15300.2). See the [SER Chapter 34](#) for exceptions.
- Covered by the 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].)

**Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief**

DOMINIC VITALI

7/31/2020

Print Name

Signature

Date

**Project Manager**

DAVID JENSEN

8-3-20

Print Name

Signature

Date



CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

Caltrans NEPA Determination (Check one)

Caltrans 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). See SER Chapter 30 for unusual circumstances. As such, the project is categorically excluded from the requirements to prepare an EA or EIS under NEPA and is included under the following:

[ ] 23 USC 326: Caltrans has been assigned, and hereby certifies that it has carried out the responsibility to make this determination pursuant to 23 USC 326 and the Memorandum of Understanding dated April 18, 2019, executed between FHWA and Caltrans. Caltrans has determined that the project is a Categorical Exclusion under:

- [ ] 23 CFR 771.117(c): activity (c)(Enter activity number)
[ ] 23 CFR 771.117(d): activity (d)(Enter activity number)
[ ] Activity Enter activity number listed in Appendix A of the MOU between FHWA and Caltrans

[ ] 23 USC 327: Based on an examination of this proposal and supporting information, Caltrans 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.

Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief

Print Name Signature Date

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Print Name Signature Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion: N/A
Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: SEE CONTINUATION



## CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

### Continuation sheet:

#### General:

- 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 Environmental Office if project changes occur or sensitive resources discovered.

#### Biology:

- If construction will occur during migratory bird season (February 1–September 30), a preconstruction bird survey will be required. If an active bird nest is observed, a 100-foot buffer will be established around the nest until the young have fledged. Caltrans Standard Special Provision (SSP) 14-6.03A will be added to the construction contract to request a 300-foot buffer be established around any active hawk nest that is observed. If an active Swainson's hawk nest is observed, a 600-foot buffer will need to be established.

#### Cultural:

- If cultural resources are discovered at the job site, do not disturb the resources and immediately:  
Stop all work within a 60-foot radius of the discovery  
Protect the discovery area  
Notify the Engineer  
The Department investigates. Do not move cultural materials or take them from the job site. Retain a qualified archeologist to assess the significance of the find. Do not resume work within the discovery area until authorized.
- 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 should be 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) which will then notify the Most Likely Descendent (MLD). At that 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.