



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

Project Information

DIST-CO-RTE: 03-BUT-191

PM/PM: 8.4 to 10.06

EA: 03-0J870 **EFIS:** 0320000035 **Federal-Aid Project Number:** N/A

Project Description

This project is located in Butte county on Route 191 from post mile limits 8.4 to 10.1. The scope of work includes cut back existing slopes and widen shoulders to create a catchment area for rockfall debris to bring the roadway up to current design standards. Alternative 1 includes minor realigning, correcting super-elevation, and flattening the existing cut slopes, which are as steep as 0.8:1 (H:V) or flatter. The flattened slope would reduce erosion and rockfall. New 3- to 8-foot wide unpaved ditches would be installed behind new 8-foot wide shoulders in both directions with a 12-foot wide shoulder bypass at airport road. The new slopes 2:1 or flatter would be stabilized using Hydraulic Biotic Growth Medium (HBGM) and Fiber Reinforced Matrix (FRM) (NSSP) and TRM. Slopes steeper than 2:1 would not be covered with erosion control material as slope revegetation or protection is likely to be unsuccessful for slopes steeper than 2:1. To minimize right of way acquisition and/or utility conflicts caused by the addition of the shoulders and ditch, the centerline of the roadway would be kept as close as possible to the existing alignment.

Alternative 1 would expand the entire roadway prism to meet current highway design standards for roadway cross section for two lane conventional highways. The proposed scope includes:

Minor realignment to improve curve radii, profile, superelevation rates, and superelevation transition rates

Improve stopping sight distance

Roadway and rock excavation

Widen shoulders using Hot Mixed Asphalt (HMA) and Class 2 aggregate base

Grind, levelling, and overlay

Expand 8-foot wide standard shoulders in both directions plus 12-foot shoulder bypass at Airport Road

Install a new 3- to 8-foot wide unpaved ditch

Extend/upgrade drainage systems, Rock Slope Protection (RSP) at inlet/outlet

Upgrade Guardrail to MGS

Landscape, stabilize embankment and install BMP's



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Place rumble strip on both edges of traveled way

Signing & striping

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

Douglas Bortz
Print Name
Signature
Date
11/30/2020

Project Manager

Cameron Knudson
Print Name
Signature
Date
11/30/2020



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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:

[X] 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)

[X] Activity 1 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

Douglas Bortz Signature Date 11/30/2020

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Cameron Knudson Signature Date 11/30/2020

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion: 11/23/20
Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 11/25/20

Briefly list environmental commitments on continuation sheet if needed (i.e., not necessary if included on an attached ECR). Reference additional information, as appropriate (e.g., additional studies and design conditions).



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Continuation sheet:

No permits required

Due to recent fire activity in the area a proper vegetation survey will be done in the spring of 2021 to insure the most accurate information. If work occurs outside of the bird nesting window of February 1 through September 30 then a qualified biologist must conduct a nesting bird survey.

One archaeological site was identified within the project limits and will be protected from any potential effects through the establishment of an Environmentally Sensitive Area fencing.