



**CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
DETERMINATION FORM (rev. 11/2020)**

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): Ukiah Maintenance Station Expansion

DIST-CO-RTE: 01-MEN-101

PM/PM: 27.5

EA: 01-0J110

Federal-Aid Project Number: N/A

Project Description

See attached continuation sheet for detailed project description.

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

Darrell Cardiff		11/23/20
_____	_____	_____
Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager

Kristina Walker		24 Nov 2020
_____	_____	_____
Print Name	Signature	Date



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Caltrans NEPA Determination (Check one)

Not Applicable

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

Signature lines for Senior Environmental Planner and Project Manager, DQA Engineer, with 'Not Applicable' text overlaid.

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion: N/A
Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: Enter date

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:

**Ukiah Maintenance Station Expansion
EA 01-0J110
California Department of Transportation (District 1)**

Project Description

This project is needed to expand the size of the Ukiah Maintenance Station. The purpose of this project is to expand this facility to make room for the new guardrail crew and make the necessary upgrades to the facility.

Caltrans proposes to purchase two parcels located adjacent to the Ukiah Maintenance Facility. The parcel numbers are: APN 169-11-230; and 169-11-218. The adjoining parcels boarder the existing Caltrans Maintenance Facility on the east and south and will serve as expansion area. Existing facilities and structures consist of perimeter fencing, four residential rental units, outbuildings, a vacant commercial building and a vehicle repair shop.

Expansion of the existing Maintenance Facility in Ukiah is proposed through the purchase of two adjacent parcels. These parcels front on North State Street, Ukiah, Mendocino County. The parcel sizes are 0.17 acres and 1.57 acres, for a total of 1.74 acres addition to the maintenance facility. The Mendocino County General Plan's zone designation for the parcels is Limited Industrial.

Upon acquisition, short-term physical improvements include installation of a security perimeter fence at the easterly border of the parcels and installation of a security system; removal of up to 40% of the existing vegetation; paving an access road from the existing maintenance yard onto the newly acquired parcels and additional pavement for equipment and vehicle storage; demolition of up to four structures, approximately 3200 sq. ft. The existing area of impervious surface area 0.8 acres could increase to 1.25 acres.

Proposed longer range plans consist of constructing a newly designed ADA compliant building with ingress/egress via North State Street to be used by members of the public needing to interact with Caltrans personnel for filing encroachment permit applications. The building plans have not been designed and funding has not been secured for the construction.

Traffic

Future improvement of an internal road that connects the existing Maintenance Yard with the two parcels proposed to be acquired will facilitate internal circulation. The possible consolidation and realignment of driveways to conform with the signalized intersection at North State Street and Lake Mendocino Drive could improve circulation and reduce the potential for vehicular conflicts.



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Environmental Analysis

Hazardous Waste

A Site Investigation Report prepared April 23, 2019 by Geocon consultants concludes that the metals concentrations detected in the soil samples are less than the respective environmental screening levels (ESLs) for residential, commercial or industrial land use and for construction worker exposure. Therefore, the soils would not be classified as a California hazardous soil; the metals concentrations are less than the Total Threshold Limit Concentration (TTLIC) and are less than ten times their respective Soluble Threshold Limit Concentration (STLC).

Based on laboratory analysis results, additional groundwater evaluation or remediation would not be required during construction or property development. No special handling or measures are required of either the soils or the groundwater for this proposed project.

The evaluation of whether the existing structures have asbestos or lead containing paint will take place after acquisition. It is possible that those contaminants could be present. If the survey finds the presence of these contaminants, then Caltrans would provide specifications to the contractor for building demolition. The contract specifications would discuss required notifications, health and safety, management, handling and disposal of asbestos and lead paint. Mendocino County Air Quality Management District requires that notification be sent at least 10 days prior to proposed demolition.

Community Impacts

A Community Impact Assessment memo dated August 6, 2019 and updated 11/17/2020 concluded that the project would have negligible impact on the surrounding community, based upon consideration of:

- the existing zoning and land use designations are Limited Industrial and existing residential uses are non-conforming to the zone district;
- the absence of required relocation assistance in accordance with the California Government Code Chapter 16, Section 7266 et. Seq.;
- the minimal impact to County tax revenue by shifting from private to public ownership; and
- the low visual quality of the parcels proposed for purchase.

Visual Impact Assessment

A memo dated February 28, 2020, evaluates the visual resources in relation to future improvements including removal of vegetation and razing buildings. Views from the proposed acquisition parcels westerly toward the existing maintenance station yard are obscured by a dense screen of trees. If the majority of the trees along the perimeter of the parcels remain, there would be no visual impacts. If a higher percentage of trees are



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removed, such as 50%, visual impacts would be minimal. In addition to the visual buffer, the trees provide shade opportunity for parked cars. Trees also break up the heat sink of a large expanse of paved surfaces. As the project moves into designing the site plan, it is recommended to take into consideration the location(s) of vehicle access and to preserve as many trees as possible for visual relief and shade opportunities. Placement of wood mulch over areas with disturbed soil after demolition of buildings is recommended.

Noise

A memo dated 6/3/19 analyzing potential noise from this project states that the project would not cause an increase in noise impacts. No minimization measures are recommended for construction noise.

Air Quality

A memo dated 6/3/19 analyzing air quality for this project states that this project would not cause an increase in long-term operational emissions or short-term construction emissions. Therefore, no minimization measures are recommended.

Cultural Resources

A Historic Property Survey Report dated May 7, 2020, determined that there are no historical properties present and a determination of no effect.

Biological Resources

A memo dated 8/29/19 analyzing biological resources for this project states that after acquisition of the parcels and prior to construction, a full field biological review will be needed, including a survey for presences of bats and a seasonally appropriate bird survey for compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. At least 35% of the site is covered with impervious surfaces including multiple structures. Vegetation consists of multiple non-native invasive species and native interior live oak and black oak trees.

Any vegetation removal needs to occur during the non-nesting season, after August 31 and prior to March 15.

Water Quality

A memo dated 6/21/19 concluded that the project is exempt from the preparation of a Water Quality Assessment for the following reasons: the estimate for new impervious surface area is anticipated to be less than one acre and is therefore exempt from stormwater Post Construction Treatment Area (PCTA) requirements of the Caltrans NPDES; and disturbed soil area for the proposed project is anticipated to be less than one acre, and therefore will not require coverage under the Statewide Construction General Permit.



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Temporary construction site Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be implemented under a construction contractor prepared Water Pollution Control Plan (WPCP) to avoid and minimize impacts to water quality during construction.

The proposed project is not likely to require a 401 certification from the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board because no work is proposed within the Waters of the State.

Environmental Commitments

Standard best management practices will be employed to reduce airborne dust, stormwater, and erosion run off during construction activities.

Prior to the demolition of any structures, protocol level bat surveys will be conducted to determine if the structures are being utilized as roosts. If bats are found, a bat avoidance and mitigation plan may be required, depending on the species of the bat and type of roost identified.

Prior to vegetation and tree removal that will occur between March 1 and August 31, migratory bird surveys will be conducted no more than one week from the estimated time of vegetation/tree removal. If migratory bird nests are found, that area will be avoided until the fledglings have left the nest.

Prior to the demolition of any structures, conduct studies for the presence of asbestos and lead containing paint. Include appropriate measures in the contract specifications to provide required safe handling and disposal of contaminated materials.

Permits

An Encroachment Permit may be required by Mendocino County Public Works for any changes to the driveways.

At least 10 days prior to demolition of any structures, notification is required to be sent to the Mendocino County Air Quality Management District.