



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

Project Information

DIST-CO-RTE: 03-SIE-089

PM/PM: 0.550-5.110

EA: 03-0J860

Federal-Aid Project Number: 0320000034

Project Description

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to repair/replace wildlife fencing, place rock slope protection to stabilize failing embankments, and a repair a damaged wildlife undercrossing located on State Route 89 in Sierra County from Post Miles 0.550 to 5.110. The purpose of the project is to permanently restore the wildlife undercrossing and fencing to establish functionality and prevent future failure. Heavy snowfall in winter and spring of 2019 and the eventual melting of the snow in May caused erosion around the wildlife undercrossing and fencing. Repairs are needed to address the damage and create a permanent drainage channel to prevent future erosion/ corrosion issues, which could potentially lead to roadway failure.

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

Kelly McNally

Kelly McNally

12/29/2020

Print Name

Signature

Date

Project Manager

Daniel Cuellar Vite

Daniel Cuellar

12/29/2020

Print Name

Signature

Date



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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:

- [X] 23 CFR 771.117(c): activity (c)(22)
[] 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

Kelly McNally Kelly McNally 12/29/2020
Print Name Signature Date

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Daniel Cuellar Vite Daniel Cuellar 12/29/2020
Print Name Signature Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion: Pending
Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: August 20, 2020

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:

Permits:

- No permits required for this project.

Right of Way:

- All work will occur within Caltrans' right of way.

Cultural Resources:

- No archaeological sites or other cultural resources are located in the project area, and the scope of work being performed has no potential to affect any historic properties. The project can be treated as a screened undertaking pursuant to Stipulation VII and Attachment 2 under the following classes of the PA:
 - Class 10 - Repair of the highway and its facilities.
 - Class 18 – Restoration or rehabilitation of deteriorated or damaged structures, facilities, or mechanical equipment to meet current standards of public health and safety.

Biologist:

- There would be **no effect** to any Federally listed species or Designated Critical Habitat. The project would not result in an impact or lead to "take" of any state listed plant and animal species. No federally or state listed endangered species occur in the project area, however, 17 CNPS ranked rare plants were identified to have suitable habitat nearby. A botanical survey was conducted and no CNPS ranked plant species were identified within the proposed project area. Caltrans does not expect to impact these plants.

Hazardous Material:

- OEES has not identified any significant hazardous waste/material issues associated for this project as proposed. No SSPs, NSSPs or other restrictions are required by OEES. It should also be noted that the proposed project is not considered a "cortese" listed site nor does it impact one.

Traffic Noise, Air Quality, Energy and Greenhouse Gas (GHG):

- Noise - This project is considered a Type III project. Traffic noise impact is not predicted to occur from the proposed project; therefore, noise abatement is not considered.
- Air Quality – This project is exempt from all project-level conformity requirements (40 CFR 93.126).
- GHG - Long-term operational GHG emissions are not predicted to increase from the project. Therefore, impact with regard to GHG is not expected and no further analysis is required.

Water Quality

- Water Quality Study not required due to exemption based on Water Quality Assessment Checklist.