

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: _____

From: (Public Agency): Caltrans, District 03
703 B Street
Marysville, CA 95901

(Address)

Project Title: Neal Road Advance Warning System

Project Applicant: California Department of Transportation, District 03

Project Location - Specific:

State Route 99 at postmile 25.35

Project Location - City: Durham

Project Location - County: Butte

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to install a permanent queue warning system with extinguishable message signs to replace a temporary queue warning system currently in place since a November 2018 fire event. The project would be located on both the right shoulder and median gore on State Route (SR) 99 in Butte County at Post Mile 25.35, north of the Hamlin Slough Bridge and south of the intersection of SR 99 and Neal Road. The purpose of the project is to improve safety on this stretch of roadway. The project is needed as a series of rear-end collisions has occurred in addition to two recent fatalities. As more collisions will likely occur, installation of the queue warning system could avoid failure or threat of failure to the transportation system and prevent or mitigate the loss or impairment of life, health, property, and essential public services.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Transportation, District 03

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California Department of Transportation, District 03

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: 15303; New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

This project meets the 15303 criteria of consisting of, "...installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures..."

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Dana L. Cota Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 821-8332

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: Dana L. Cota Date: 1/5/2021 Title: Associate Env. Planner

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

ATTACHMENT

Categorical Exemption Determination Form



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

Project Information

DIST-CO-RTE: 03 – BUT – 099

PM/PM: 25.35/25.35

EA: 03-1J470

Federal-Aid Project Number: N/A

Project Description

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to install a permanent queue warning system with extinguishable message signs to replace a temporary queue warning system currently in place since a November 2018 fire event. The project would be located on both the right shoulder and median gore on State Route (SR) 99 in Butte County at Post Mile 25.35, north of the Hamlin Slough Bridge and south of the intersection of SR 99 and Neal Road. The purpose of the project is to improve safety on this stretch of roadway. The project is needed as a series of rear-end collisions has occurred in addition to two recent fatalities. As more collisions will likely occur, installation of the queue warning system could avoid failure or threat of failure to the transportation system and prevent or mitigate the loss or impairment of life, health, property, and essential public services.

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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 3.** (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

Mundeep Purewal	<i>Mundeep Purewal</i>	12/29/20
Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager

Anthony Thurman	<i>Anthony Thurman</i>	12/30/2020
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)(N/A)

23 CFR 771.117(d): activity (d)(NA/)

Activity N/A 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

N/A

Print Name

Signature

Date

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

N/A

Print Name

Signature

Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion: N/A

Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 12/28/2020

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).



CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

Continuation sheet:

Project Description, continued

The proposed scope of work includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Queue warning system
- Midwest guardrail system
- Alternative in-line terminal system
- Maintenance vehicle pullouts (including hot mix asphalt pavement and aggregate base)
- Portable changeable message sign
- Traffic control
- Construction Zone Enhanced Enforcement Program
- Incidental work

Staging

Staging would occur within Caltrans right of way.

Disposal/Borrow

Based on the proposed scope of work and due to the nature of the project, a disposal/borrow site would not be required.

Right-of-Way

This project would be completed within State right of way.

Consultation and Agency Coordination

Based on the proposed scope of work and due to the nature of the project, consultation and agency coordination would not be required for this project.

Permits

Based on the proposed scope of work, the nature of the project, and the project location, regulatory permits would not be required.