



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

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): Eureka Slough Bridges Replacement Project
Geoarchaeological Investigation

DIST-CO-RTE: 01-HUM-101

PM/PM: 79.4/80.0

EA: 01-0F200

Federal-Aid Project Number: 0115000088

Project Description

The proposed project is a geoarchaeological investigation for the Eureka Slough Bridges Replacement project. The purpose of the investigation is to gather data to inform the level of future studies needed for the bridge replacement project. The existing bridges are located approximately at post mile 79.78 on U.S. Highway 101 in Humboldt County. Core samples would be taken from 18 of 26 proposed locations adjacent to northbound U.S. 101 from post mile 79.4 to post mile 80.0 and southbound U.S. 101 from post mile 79.5 to post mile 80.0. A professional drilling crew would collect core samples of subsurface deposits using either a hollow-stem auger or a hydraulic push-tube device from areas accessible by a coring rig. Coring would be conducted at least 20 feet away from the fog line, 15 feet away from road shoulder, and 10 feet away from any known underground utility or structure. Each core would be pushed to a depth of nine meters or more below surface and would be stored in 1.2 to 1.5-meter-long and 4.7 centimeter in diameter or larger hard plastic liners for transport to a lab where they would be opened, examined, described, and subsampled. A Humboldt County drilling permit would be obtained for the coring work. All work would take place within Caltrans right of way. Biological, cultural, and traffic handling analysis have been completed.

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 6.** (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].)



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Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief

<u>Jason Meyer</u>	<u>Jason Meyer</u>	<u>1/6/2021</u>
Jason Meyer	Signature	Date

Project Manager

<u>Jeff Pimentel</u>	<u>Jeff Pimentel</u>	<u>1/7/21</u>
Jeff Pimentel	Signature	Date



CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

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)(24)

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

Activity 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 and date for Jason Meyer

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Signature and date for Jeff Pimentel

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion: 12/8/2020
Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 12/10/2020

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:

The following measures have been included as part of the data collection and resource evaluation activities:

- Best Management Practices would be utilized for water quality and invasive species control.
- For traffic control, one lane of closure would be allowed in each direction of travel between 8pm and 6am only. Closures would follow Caltrans Standard Plan T10 and bikes would continue to use the existing shoulder.