



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

**Project Information**

**Project Name:** Excelsior Median Barrier

**DIST-CO-RTE:** 06-FRE-41

**PM/PM:** R0.50/M5.90

**EA:** 06-1C650

**Federal-Aid Project Number:** 0621000099

**Project Description**

The project is located on State Route 41 in southern Fresno County between post miles R0.50 and M5.90. The project will place k-rail median barrier on the centerline of the two-lane segment between Excelsior Avenue and Elkhorn Avenue. The purpose and need for this project is to improve safety by reducing the number of collisions in the project area.

The pinned k-rail median barrier with crash cushions will be placed on the existing centerline providing 2-foot inside shoulders on each side of the barrier, 12-foot lanes, and 5-foot outside shoulders. Street lighting and left-turn channelization at the intersections of Harlan and Laguna will be constructed, requiring drainage systems to be extended. No right of way will be acquired.

**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 (c).** (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**

G William Trais Norris, III		2/4/2021
Print Name	Signature	Date

**Project Manager**

Chris Gardner		2/5/2021
Print Name	Signature	Date



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Caltrans NEPA Determination (Check one)

[X] 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)
[ ] 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

Print Name Signature Date

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Print Name Signature Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion: N/A
Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 2/4/2021

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 Highway Maintenance funded State Route 41 Median Barrier project was initiated in December 2020 as a result of cross-centerline collisions between post miles R0.50 and M5.90.

### ***Archaeology***

Native American monitoring will be performed during construction at a single location from post mile 4.55 and 4.70. Monitoring will be performed by representatives of the Santa Rosa Rancheria.

### ***Biology***

This project is within or near habitat for the following regulated species: San Joaquin kit fox, raptors, other species of Migratory Birds.

Protective buffers will be used for San Joaquin kit fox and Raptors.

For the protection of the San Joaquin kit fox, wildlife passageways or gap openings will be provided within the k-rail every 1,000 feet throughout the post miles.

Pre-construction migratory bird surveys will be performed two weeks prior to ground disturbance.

There are no jurisdictional wetlands within this median barrier project. There are five waterways that cross under State Route 41 but no impacts are anticipated. No permits or mitigation are required.

Pre-construction mandatory Worker Environmental Awareness Training will be provided by Caltrans biologist to construction staff.

### ***Hazardous Waste***

Aerially-deposited Lead-impacted soils are present throughout the project area. A Lead Compliance Plan developed by a Certified Industrial Hygienist is required. No excess soil is anticipated.