



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

**Project Information**

**DIST-CO-RTE:** 12-ORA-5

**PM/PM:** R26.6

**EA:** 0S100

**Federal-Aid Project Number:** 1219000092

**Project Description**

The safety project proposes to modify traffic signals, install safety lighting, refresh pavement delineation, add signs and remove bushes to enhance visibility and improve safety at Northbound (NB) Interstate 5 (I-5) Culver/Trabuco Road on-ramp (PM R 26.6) in City of Irvine. The scope of work is summarized below:

- Remove existing signal mast arm and pole on the NB direction on Trabuco Road and install longer mast arm and pole for through and left turn lane;
- Remove existing Type 1A signal for left turn lane in the median of Trabuco Road;
- Add left turn signal head to the far-left lighting pole for the left turn lane in the NB direction of Trabuco Road and add right signal head for the right turn lane in the SB direction of Trabuco Road;
- Remove existing signal mast arm and pole on the SB direction on Trabuco Road and install longer mast arm and pole with two signal heads on the mast arm for through direction;
- Upgrade existing pedestrian push button and pedestrian signal head to APS and ped signal head LED countdown;
- Install two additional safety lights at the NB on-ramp;
- Add and refresh pavement delineation and signing;
- Remove blocking bushes at the ramp entrance to enhance visibility;
- Add two R-89 signs below signal heads at the NB on-ramp;
- Replace chevron signs to meet retro-reflectability standards

The project is eligible for both federal and state funding. The state funding will be from the 2020 State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP), under the Safety Improvement Program. The project is scheduled for construction in Fiscal Year (FY) 2021/2022.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this project is to minimize the number and severity of collisions by enhancing the overall visibility at this location. Visibility will be enhanced by modifying the existing traffic signals, providing additional safety lighting, adding new signs, removing bushes, and refreshing pavement delineation.

**Need:** NB I-5 on-ramp at Culver Drive/Trabuco Road is experiencing a higher concentration of collisions than average for similar facilities.



**CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION  
DETERMINATION FORM**

**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**

Smita Deshpande	<i>Smita Deshpande</i>	Feb 24, 2021
Print Name	Signature	Date

**Project Manager**

Janilee Jablonski	<i>Janilee Jablonski</i>	02/24/2021
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:

[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)(27)
[ ] 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

Smita Deshpande (Print Name), Smita Deshpande (Signature), Feb 24, 2021 (Date)

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Janilee Jablonski (Print Name), Janilee Jablonski (Signature), 02/24/2021 (Date)

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion: 12/28/20
Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 12/18/20

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:**

The limits of the proposed project are within the jurisdiction of the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and the receiving body is Central Irvine Channel. The project is also within the San Diego Creek and Newport Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). In addition, the Disturbed Soil Area (DSA) for the proposed project is anticipated to be less than 1.0 acre. No significant environmental consequences are anticipated with the proposed project. In addition to the measures relating to construction noise, air pollution, water pollution control, erosion control and hazardous waste. See the attached Environmental Commitment Record (ECR) for required measures.