



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

Project Information

DIST-CO-RTE: 05-SLO-101

PM/PM: 37.00/46.00

EA: 05-1N350

Federal-Aid Project Number: N/A

Project Description

Caltrans proposes to replace the failing Portland Concrete Cement (PCC) pavement slabs on Highway 101 in San Luis Obispo County in and near Atascadero from Route 58 to Traffic Way Undercrossing. The purpose of this project is to restore the pavement along Highway 101 from PM 37.00 to 46.00 that have experienced premature deterioration. The project is needed because the concrete pavement is experiencing rapid rate of degradation. Approximately 663 failing PCC slabs will be removed and replaced in the No. 1 lane except at Atascadero Creek Bridge where the project will replace the No. 1-3 lanes. Most of the work locations are less than 1,000 feet in length and will occur in the vicinity of existing overcrossings or undercrossings. Right-of-way acquisition and utility relocation are not anticipated. All work will occur within the state Right-of-Way.

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 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

Jason Wilkinson

Print Name

Signature

11/17/20

Date

Project Manager

Paul Valadao

Print Name

Signature

11/17/2020

Date



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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)(22)
23 CFR 771.117(d): activity (d)()
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

Jason Wilkinson (Print Name), Jason Wilkinson (Signature), 3/2/2021 (Date)

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Paul Valadao (Print Name), [Signature] (Signature), 3/2/2021 (Date)

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion: 3/2/2021
Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 2/17/2021



Continuation sheet:

The project will include the following avoidance and minimization measures:

Biological:

1. If tree removal or tree trimming is required during bird nesting season (February 15- September 1), before any trees are removed, a qualified biologist will conduct a focused nest survey for active migratory bird and raptor nests in the trees to be removed or trimmed. If an active bird nest is found in a tree proposed to be removed or trimmed, Caltrans will coordinate with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to determine an appropriate buffer based on the habits and needs of the species. The nest area would be avoided until the nest is vacated and the juveniles have fledged and are no longer dependent on the nesting area.
2. Environmentally sensitive areas (ESA) shall be established for native vegetation that occurs directly adjacent to the project work areas including the paved highway and road shoulder.
3. Contractor staging areas, equipment and material storage will be located in paved or previously cleared areas, or level areas where grading and vegetation clearing are not required. Before construction takes place, all work staging areas that are not located in existing pullouts or on previously disturbed ground surfaces must be selected and evaluated for any potential environmental impacts.