



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

**Project Information**

**DIST-CO-RTE:** 03-SIE-49

**PM/PM:** 46.3/46.3

**EA:** 03-1J590

**Federal-Aid Project Number:** N/A

**Project Description**

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) issued a Director's Order to repair a sinkhole on State Route 49 near PM 46.30 in Sierra County. Field investigation by Caltrans maintenance crew concluded that a culvert underneath the roadway had failed due to accumulated sediment partially blocking the outlet, creating a 9-foot or larger void beneath the roadway. The scope of work is as follows: replacing failed culvert, clearing and grubbing near outlet, regrading downstream ditch line, traffic control, and incidental work. The impacts of this sinkhole necessitate immediate repairs. This problem must be arrested prior to next winter season in order to avoid the failure of travel way. This project is needed to avoid failure or threat of failure to the transportation system, which can result in the loss or impairment of life, health, property. All work occurred within Caltrans right-of-way. No disposal that required a borrow site. No consultation or coordination required. No permits required.

**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**

Rajpreet Bihala	<i>Rajpreet Bihala</i>	4/22/2021
Print Name	Signature	Date

**Project Manager**

Anthony Thurman	<i>Anthony Thurman</i>	4/22/2021
Print Name	Signature	Date



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**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 (Enter activity number)**
- 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**

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:** N/A