

# Notice of Exemption

## Appendix E

**To:** Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk

County of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**From:** (Public Agency): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(Address)

Project Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Location - Specific:

Project Location - City: \_\_\_\_\_ Project Location - County: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Exempt Status: **(check one):**

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: \_\_\_\_\_
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons why project is exempt:

Lead Agency

Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Area Code/Telephone/Extension: \_\_\_\_\_

**If filed by applicant:**

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project?    Yes    No

Signature: Dana L. Cota    Date: \_\_\_\_\_    Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed by Lead Agency    Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.  
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_

# **ATTACHMENT**

**Categorical Exemption Determination Form**



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

<b><u>Project Information</u></b>	
<b>Project Name:</b> Weigh Station Changeable Message Sign	
<b>DIST-CO-RTE:</b> 03-NEV-080	<b>PM/PM:</b> 19.7/19.7
<b>EA:</b> 03-1J870	<b>Federal-Aid Project Number:</b> N/A
<b><u>Project Description</u></b>	
<p>The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to replace a changeable message sign (CMS) east of the weigh station on westbound Interstate 80 (I-80) near postmile 19.7 in Nevada County. The purpose of this project is to restore the roadway to safe operating conditions. This emergency project is needed as the current CMS has failed.</p> <p>On December 21, 2020, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) reported lights burned out throughout the CMS, rendering it unreadable. As a result of the CMS's condition, CHP is not able to enforce its regulatory duties. Per inter-agency agreement with CHP, Caltrans is responsible for the signage at this facility.</p>	
<b><u>Continued on Page 3.</u></b>	

**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 11.** (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**

Mundeep Purewal	<i>Mundeep Purewal</i>	5/6/21
_____	_____	_____
Print Name	Signature	Date

**Project Manager**

Anthony Thurman	<i>Anthony Thurman</i>	5/10/2021
_____	_____	_____
Print Name	Signature	Date



CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

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)(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: 5/4/2021

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).



## CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

### Continuation sheet:

#### **Description, Continued from Page 1.**

A damage assessment concluded that the sign has degraded beyond repair. The proposed solution is to replace the failed CMS and its obsolete electrical components. The CMS must be replaced as soon as possible in order to minimize the threat to public safety with the disruption to CHP regulatory duties, as well as to avoid failure or threat of failure to the transportation system, which can result in the loss or impairment of life, health, and/or property.

Scope of work components include the following:

- Removal and disposal of existing CMS panel
- Furnish and install new CMS panel
- Furnish and install new controller
- Furnish and install new control panel
- Furnish and install new conduit
- CAT5 wiring
- Incidental work

#### **Staging**

If required, staging would occur within Caltrans right of way.

#### **Disposal/Borrow**

Based on the scope of the work and due to the nature of the project, a disposal/borrow site would not be required.

#### **Right-of-Way**

This project would be completed within State right of way.

#### **Consultation and Agency Coordination**

Based on the scope of the work and due to the nature of the project, consultation and agency coordination are not required for this project.

#### **Permits**

Based on the scope of work, regulatory permits are not required.