



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

Project Information

DIST-CO-RTE: 04-ALA-260

PM/PM: R1.1R/R1.9R

EA: 2W740/0421000266

Federal-Aid Project Number:

Project Description

The California Department of Transportation, District 4 (Caltrans), proposed to install fuel cell power systems and modify the existing circuit infrastructure. All work will occur within Caltrans' 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 1(f).** (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

Michael McGowan

6/23/2021

Print Name

Signature

Date

Project Manager

Byron Lim

6/23/2021

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 (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: CEQA Only

Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 06/23/2021

There is not a federal nexus that triggers the need for NEPA review for the proposed maintenance actions.



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Continuation sheet:

Project Description (continued):

The scope of work includes the following:

- Install permanent fuel cell power supply systems at the Posey and Webster Tubes which includes:
 1. Posey Tube Portal Building, install 200-kW fuel cell power supply systems
 2. Webster Tube Portal Building, install 200-kW fuel cell power supply systems
 3. Electrical Efficiency between 53% to 65%
 4. Equivalent Fuel Consumption between 5,811 BTU/kWh to 7,127 BTU/kWh
 5. CO₂ Emission range of 308 kg/MWh to 378 kg/MWh
 6. "White Smoke" exhaust requirement
 7. Sound, less than 70-dBA at 6-feet
 8. Matching of Thermal Load requirement
 9. Space requirement in residential area
- Short circuit protection and coordination study
- Commission electrical system
- Demolition and reconstruction of ramp at Webster yard ventilation building
- Contractor mobilization, traffic control, COZEEP, construction signage
- Closure will be one tube at a time during testing

Environmental Commitments:

CULTURAL RESOURCES

- If previously unidentified cultural resources are unearthed during construction, work shall be halted in that area until a qualified archaeologist can assess the significance of the discovery.

LANDSCAPE/VISUAL

- The color of the cells should be site specific for that location to compliment the surrounding infrastructures.
- Existing vegetation should be protected from damage to the maximum extent possible to maintain Classified Landscaped Freeway status. Classified Landscaped Freeway Status on route 260 in Alameda county is from post miles R.84 to R1.2. It is anticipated that there will be minor impacts to the existing planting and irrigation to complete the construction of the fuel cells at both project locations.
- Replacement of any impacted vegetation will be required, with a 1-year plant establishment period.
- Irrigation damaged and/or removed due to the construction of the project would require repair/replacement as part of the project. If automated irrigation is interrupted, manual truck watering may be required to maintain existing plants until the irrigation system is repaired and functioning. Any irrigation lines and equipment that are affected by the construction/ or staging operations shall be replaced.