



EQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
DETERMINATION FORM (rev. 04/2021)

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): Northbound Wheeler Ridge Ramps

DIST-CO-RTE: 06-KER-5

PM/PM: 13.5/13.8

EA: 06-1C330

Federal-Aid Project Number: NA

Project Description

The project is in Kern County on Interstate 5, near the Wheeler Ridge Overcrossing and Wheeler Ridge Road. The project proposes to cold-plane existing pavement 0.25 feet from edge of traveled way to edge of traveled way and to replace with 0.25 feet of hot mix asphalt (HMA, Type A) on the northbound Interstate 5 off-ramp to westbound Wheeler Ridge Road and on the northbound Interstate 5 on-ramp from Wheeler Ridge Road. All work to occur within the Caltrans' right of way. There will be nightwork.

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 1c.** (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

G. William "Trais" Norris III

G. William "Trais" Norris, AIA

Print Name

Signature

Date

Project Manager

Rene Sanchez

Rene Sanchez

6/22/21

Print Name

Signature

Date



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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)
[] 23 CFR 771.117(d): activity (d)
[] Activity 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

Print Name Signature Date

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Print Name Signature Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): NA
Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 6/11/2021

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).



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Continuation sheet:

Biology: General wildlife surveys will be conducted by a qualified biologist no more than thirty (30) days prior to the beginning of ground disturbance or construction activities.

After pre-construction surveys, if sensitive biological resources are observed, Caltrans may require environmental training for all personnel associated with the project.

If construction is to occur during the avian nesting season (Feb 1-Sept 30), preconstruction surveys for nesting migratory birds will be required. If work must occur within the nesting season and nesting birds are found within the project area, the project may require a biological monitor or ESA buffer depending on the extent of work and species affected. Surveys for migratory birds and raptors will be completed no more than (30) days prior to construction and these surveys will be completed by a qualified biologist.

No work should be done within a 500-foot buffer of any active raptor nests. If work must be done within 500 feet of an active raptor nest, the project may require a biological monitor or depending on the extent of work and species affected.

If any special status species are observed during construction activity within 150 feet shall cease immediately. Work may resume after the project biologist has been consulted and the resident engineer has given written permission to resume work.

All vehicle operators will check under vehicles and equipment prior to operation.

All food related trash items waste products shall be disposed of off-site.

If any wildlife is encountered during construction, said wildlife shall be allowed to freely leave the area unharmed.

Cultural resources: All known sites and build environment resources are at safe distances from the project area limits. No archaeological sites or built environment resources will be impacted by this project.

Hazardous waste: The project area is located within the Tejon Oil field; however, no active or historic wells are located on or near the project area. The database search did not identify any known or suspected hazardous waste sites that would impact the project.

A lead compliance plan (LCP) developed by a Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) is required. The estimated cost of the LCP is \$3,000. Include Standard Special Provision (SSP) 7-1.02K(6)(j)(iii) Earth Material Containing Lead in the bid package.

Include SSP 36-4 for work involving residue from grindings that contain lead from paint and thermoplastic. Roadway materials containing lead must be addressed in the contractors LCP.



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Noise: This project is not likely to generate long term traffic noise impacts. However, short term construction noise will need to be controlled according to Caltrans Standard Specs section 14-8.

Water quality: If the project disturbs one acre or more of soil, the following requirements would be required:

A Notification of Intent (NOI) is to be submitted to the appropriate Regional Water Quality Control Board at least 30 days prior to the start of construction.

A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) is to be prepared and implemented during construction to the satisfaction of the Resident Engineer.

A Notice of Termination (NOT) shall be submitted to the Regional Board upon completion of construction and site stabilization. A project will be considered complete when the criteria for final stabilization in the Construction General Permit are met.

If the project disturbs less than one acre of soil, a Water Pollution Control Plan (WPCP) is required to be prepared by the contractor per the Caltrans 2018 Standard Specification Section 13-1 – Water Pollution.

By incorporating proper and accepted engineering practices and BMPs, the proposed project will not have significant impacts to water quality during construction or its operation.