

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: Mundeep Purewal 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: _____



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

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): Soda Creek Landslide

DIST-CO-RTE: 01-MEN-253

PM/PM: 1.70/2.50

EA: 01-0J631

Federal-Aid Project Number: 0120000030

Project Description

The Office of Geotechnical Design West (OGDW) proposes a geotechnical investigation to support the design and construction of a proposed new Soda Creek Wall and associated site improvements located between PM 1.7 and 2.5 of Highway 253 in Mendocino County, California, near Boonville. To characterize and evaluate the subsurface conditions, Caltrans proposes to excavate three shallow test pits and drill five mud-rotary borings. Test pits are anticipated to be approximately three feet wide by 10 feet long and will be excavated to a depth of up to seven feet using a backhoe. The average depth for the 4.75-inch-diameter vertical borings is estimated to be approximately 70 feet below ground surface (bgs).

Continued on Page 3

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 6.** (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>	7/7/21
Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager

Steven Blair	<i>Steven Blair</i>	7/7/2021
Print Name	Signature for Steven Blair	Date



CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

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)(24)
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

Mundeep Purewal
Signature: Mundeep Purewal
Date: 7/7/21

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Steven Blair
Signature: [Signature] for Steven Blair
Date: 7/7/2021

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion: 7/7/2021
Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 7/7/2021

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

Project Description, continued

The project proposes to stabilize a failing slope via an approximately 400-foot-long, soldier pile ground anchor retaining wall. Additional work includes roadway reconstruction, drainage improvements, stabilization of a through-cut with RSP buttressing, and construction of a debris wall.

Staging

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

Disposal/Borrow

Based on the proposed 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. No right of way acquisition would be required.

Consultation and Agency Coordination

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