



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

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): Carlotta Shoulder Widening Geotech

DIST-CO-RTE: 01-HUM-036

PM/PM: 3.9/6.0

EA: 01-0J8900

Federal-Aid Project Number: N/A

Project Description

Caltrans proposes geotechnical field exploration for the Carlotta Shoulder Widening Project on State Route 36 between post miles 3.9 and 6.0 in Humboldt County, west of Carlotta. The project would provide geotechnical recommendations for a proposed bridge, a soldier pile wall, and earthwork associated with shoulder widening. Geotech work would include four 70-foot borings: two near the proposed bridge and two near the proposed wall. A stand-pipe piezometer would be installed in one of the borings and periodically monitored for a period of twelve months before being removed in accordance with Humboldt County Environmental Health agency requirements. Drilling would occur in the roadway and would require lane closures. In addition, a seismic refraction survey would occur on the eastbound shoulder near Fisher Road. Minor clearing and grubbing would be required for the seismic refraction survey.

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

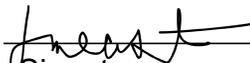
Based on an examination of this proposal and supporting information, the project is:

- 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

Julie East

Print Name


Signature

7/30/21

Date

Project Manager

Tariq Chechi

Print Name


Signature

7/30/21

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)

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

Julie East
Print Name
Signature
Date 7/30/21

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Tariq Chechi
Print Name
Signature
Date 7/30/21

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): 07/27/2021
Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 07/27/2021

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:

- Water quality best management practices.
- Equipment and vehicles would not enter the area of Ward Creek.
- During drilling operations where drill rod or casing are being tripped in and out of the hole, a catchment structure consisting of plastic sheeting and fiber rolls will be constructed under the rod layout area to contain drilling fluid dripping from the rods.
- Water in contact with setting concrete would be pumped into a tank truck and disposed at an approved disposal site or settling basin.
- To prevent attracting corvids (birds of the *Corvidae* family, which include jays, crows and ravens), no trash or foodstuffs would be left or stored on-site. All trash would be deposited in a secure container and disposed of at an approved garbage facility. Also, on-site workers would not attempt to attract or feed any wildlife.
- Any tree and shrub removal would occur between September 16th and February 14th. If trees or shrubs need to be removed outside of this work window, a qualified biologist would need to conduct a nesting bird survey. If nests are not found, vegetation must be removed within five days of the survey. If nests are found, the area would be marked as an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) and the appropriate species-specific buffers would be established.
- If any special status species are encountered during construction, they would be given a buffer and work would stop until the appropriate agency can be consulted.
- Maintenance and fueling of construction equipment and vehicles would occur at least fifty feet from the ordinary high-water mark (OHWM) of surface water or the edge of sensitive habitats (e.g., wetlands).