



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

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): MEN-101 Culvert Replacement

DIST-CO-RTE: 01-MEN-101

PM/PM: 51.04/65.22

EA: 01-0K870

Federal-Aid Project Number: N/A

Project Description

Please see continuation sheet for project description and details.

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 15302.** (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

Darrell Cardiff		08/16/2021
_____	_____	_____
Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager

Nanette Nickerson		08/23/2021
_____	_____	_____
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)(Enter activity number)
[] 23 CFR 771.117(d): activity (d)(Enter activity number)
[] 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

Signature lines for Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief, Project Manager, and DQA Engineer. Includes fields for Print Name, Signature, and Date. A large 'Not Applicable' watermark is overlaid on the signature lines.

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): N/A
Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 8/12/2021

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:

**MEN-101 Culvert Replacements
EA: 01-0K870
California Department of Transportation (District 1)**

Project Description

Caltrans Maintenance proposes to replace or repair drainage systems identified by the Culvert Inspection Program as deteriorated and beyond their useful service life. Without such repair or replacement, the roadway could be subject to washout, requiring more extensive roadway reconstruction. In the drainage systems, five culverts are identified for replacement in-kind (no expansion).

Culverts will be replaced and repaired as close to the existing alignment (horizontal/vertical) as possible. Five of the existing culverts will be replaced, one repaired, and one abandoned in place. All work will be done from the roadway and there are ample shoulder and turnout areas available throughout the project limits for temporary material and equipment storage. The culverts are located on Route 101 in Mendocino County in various location from Postmile 51.04 to Postmile 65.22 in the Laytonville, Longvale, and Willits 7.5" USGS quads. Table 1 outlines the proposed work for each culvert included in the project scope. The project is State funded only.

Table 1. Culvert Locations and Proposed Work

DS#	County	Route	P.M.	Existing Dia. (Ft.)	Existing Pipe Type	Existing Pipe Removal Length	Proposed Construction
1	MEN	101	51.04	2.0	CSP	77	Replace existing culvert with 24" CSP and Flared End Section. Replace existing down drain with 24" CSP down drain. Replace Overside Drain
2	MEN	101	51.31	1.5	CSP	62	Replace existing culvert with 24" CSP. Replace existing down drain with 24" CSP down drain. Place G1 DI & AC apron.
3	MEN	101	51.91	2.0	CSP	68	Replace existing culvert with 24" CSP. Replace existing down drain with 24" CSP down drain. Place G1 DI & AC Apron. Place overside drain
4	MEN	101	60.02	1.5	CSP	82	Replace existing culvert with 24" CSP. Replace existing down drain with 24" CSP. Place GMP with metal grate. Place G1 DI.



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5	MEN	101	60.43	4.5	CSP	92	Place HDPE liner
6	MEN	101	64.48	2.0	CSP	104	Abandon existing culvert; Place 24" CSP. Place G1 DI & AC Apron/Dike. Place 24" CSP DD
7	MEN	101	65.22	1.5	CSP	85	Place 24" CSP. Tie Existing Inlet Structure

The project is expected to begin in the Summer of 2022 and estimated to occur over approximately 40 working days. Night work is not anticipated. If some activities are required during the night, the contractor would comply with Caltrans Standard Specifications and the Environmental Commitment Record. The project is expected to utilize a variety of equipment including excavators, backhoe, dump trucks, cement mixer or slurry truck, compactor, vibratory plate, asphalt pavement spreaders, rollers, loaders, pavement saws, and paint rigs.

Traffic

Traffic control will be maintained by the contractor in accordance with the Caltrans Traffic Management Plan (TMP) and the Standard Plans. The TMP includes requirements related to lane closures, flagging, notification, and coordination with other projects. The proposed project will include one-lane reversing closures where applicable and delays up to 15 to 20 minutes.

Environmental Commitments

- Protect Water Quality – the contractor will comply with all permits, applicable programs, and plans, and implement BMPs and sediment and erosion controls as necessary.
- Use SSP 7-1.02K(6)(j)(iii) for disturbance of earth materials containing aerially deposited lead
- Use 14-11.14 for handling and disposal of treated wood waste
- Avoid Listed Fish in Long Valley Creek at PM 60.43 by:
 - Working when there is no flowing water present in the culverts (e.g. summer).
 - Not allowing discharge or fall-back of excavation into Long Valley Creek.
 - No tree removal
- Protect Migratory Birds at all culvert locations by:
 - Constructing outside the nesting season (February 1 – August 31),
Or



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- Conducting pre-construction surveys by an approved contractor supplied biologist within one week prior to any removal of vegetation to identify bird nesting locations, if any. If nesting birds are present within 100-feet, the RE will contact the Caltrans Biologist who will coordinate with CDFW to implement avoidance measures

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Environmental Analysis

Aesthetic/Visual

A Visual Impact Assessment level questionnaire was completed on June 3, 2021. The project will result in minimal negative visual changes to the environment and impacts will be less-than-significant.

Air Quality/Noise/Greenhouse Gas

An environmental document assessment for air quality, noise, and greenhouse gas (GHGs) impacts was conducted on February 25, 2021. According to the assessment, the project is a Type III project that will not cause an increase in operational or long-term impacts on air quality, noise, or GHGs, but will have construction related (short-term) impacts. Generation of short-term construction related noise, and the generation of short-term construction air emissions of fugitive dust and exhaust from construction equipment are to be controlled and reduced through the use of the 2018 standard specifications (e.g. Section 14-9). Additionally, the project will not generate operational GHG emissions, nor contribute to a cumulatively considerable impact, and would implement GHG reduction or avoidance measures (standard BMPs) where feasible to reduce construction GHG emissions. Therefore, project impacts are compliant with all applicable plans and will be less-than-significant.

Biological Resources

A Biological Resources Evaluation Memo (memo) was completed by Caltrans on April 26, 2021. The memo evaluated impacts to fish, plants, birds, and jurisdictional waters and determined the following:

- “no take” for listed plants identified in CNDDDB
- “no take” for listed northern spotted owl, western snowy plover and yellow-billed cuckoo since they are not present and suitable or critical habitat is not present
- “no take” of listed SONCC Coho, CC Chinook or NC steelhead and
- “no impact” to critical habitat or Essential Fish habitat

Jurisdictional Waters and Regulatory Agency Permits

The culvert at PM 60.43 transports a jurisdictional Class 4 tributary under the highway where it discharges onto the RSP embankment above Long Valley Creek (a jurisdictional water). Construction will occur during the summer when there is no water flow in the culverts. Replacement and repair of this culvert will not encroach into water on Long Valley Creek. Since there are state and federally listed fish present in Long Valley Creek and one culvert discharges within the bank of the creek a 1602 Notification



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is required from CDFW. If a 1602 permit is determined by CDFW to not be needed, they will inform Caltrans District 1 Environmental Planning (Jenifer Olsen, pers.com.).

Additionally, a 404 permit from the Corps of Engineers (NWP 3 with PCN) will be required for the installation of the HDPE culvert liner at PM 60.43. None of the other culverts are within federal jurisdictional waters.

Avoidance measures listed in the environmental commitments section will be implemented to ensure the project will have no take of any species federally or state listed, candidate, (or proposed for listing), critical or essential fish habitat, or jurisdictional waters. As a result, impacts are considered less-than-significant.

Cultural Resources

A screening memo was completed by Caltrans on May 20, 2021. Based on the scope of the construction activities, these undertakings have no potential to affect historic properties or cultural resources.

Hazardous Waste

An Initial Site Assessment completed on April 20, 2021 determined that the project may have minor hazardous waste issues related to aerially deposited lead and treated wood waste. These issues are routine construction issues that are managed in the construction contract through standard BMPs and the inclusion of any Special Standard Provisions (SSPs). As a result, the project will not have any impacts related to hazardous waste and will be less-than-significant. SSPs are listed in the Environmental Commitment Section of this Categorical Exemption (CE).

Water Quality

A Water Quality Assessment Memo (WQAR) was prepared to evaluate the environmental setting and regulatory framework of water quality for the project area. Temporary and permanent impacts to water quality could occur during the construction phase of the project. Soil disturbing work within and adjacent to drainage systems could result in the transport of sediment and other pollutants to adjacent waterways and riparian areas. Implementation of avoidance and minimization measures will avoid impacts to water quality and meet the needs of the Caltrans NPDES Permit, CGP, and North Coast Basin Plan. BMPs can be found in the Stormwater Quality Handbooks: Construction Site Best Management Practices (BMPs) Manual.

Other Environmental Resources

All work will be conducted within Caltrans's right of way. Implementation of Standard BMPs and standard measures will ensure there are no impacts to environmental resources. Finally, the project qualifies for a categorical exemption under CEQA Guidelines Section 15302 – Replacement or Reconstruction and will not have any exceptions or significant impacts removing the project from the exemption.

Permits



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- USACE – 404 Nationwide Permit 3
- NCRWQCB – 401 Water Quality Certification or Waste Discharge Report
- CDFW - 1602 Lakebed and Stream Alteration Permit