



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

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): SJ 99 Roadside Improvements

DIST-CO-RTE:10-SJ-99

PM/PM: 28.2/31.7

EA:10-1H510

Federal-Aid Project Number: 1017000203

Project Description

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is proposing a Roadside Safety Improvement Project located along State Route (SR) 99 in the City of Lodi, in San Joaquin County from post mile 28.2 to postmile 31.7. The purpose of the project is to improve maintenance workers safety by providing a safer working environment and reducing the frequency and duration of maintenance activities. Continued onto 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 1(c).** (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

C. Scott Guidi	<i>C. Scott Guidi</i>	7/21/21
Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager

Udaya Y. Shankar	<i>Udaya Shankar</i>	07/21/21
Print Name	Signature	Date



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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)(26)
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

C. Scott Guidi
Print Name Signature Date 7/21/21

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Udaya Y. Shankar
Print Name Signature Date 07/21/21

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion: N/A
Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 6/30/2021

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:

The project is needed to improve workers safety by providing effective means to minimize or eliminate the risk of worker exposure to traffic. The project proposes to construct maintenance vehicle pullouts, textured concrete contrasting surfaces at ramp gore areas, slope paving under the bridge structures, upgrade the existing metal beam guardrail to current standards, and install vegetation control treatment under the existing metal beam guardrail. Additionally, the existing fencing will be removed and replaced with wrought iron fencing, which would require a Temporary Construction Easement. The project was programmed under the 2020 State Highway Operation and Protection Program for funding from the 201.235 program in the 2022/23 fiscal year. The following table provides a detailed description of the work planned at each location:

No.	Location	Description of Work
1&2	Harney Lane OC Br No. 29 0105	Slope paving on both sides and haul away excess soil. Provide future utility boxes on both sides of the slope paving (total of 4).
3	NB Off-Ramp to E. Cherokee Ln Exit 264A	Construct MVP 50' before the guardrail.
4	NB Off-Ramp to E. Cherokee Ln Exit 264A	Install weed control matt for approximately 900' of guardrail on the outside shoulder starting from the beginning of the guardrail up to the structure.
5&6	South Lodi OC Br No. 29 01395	Slope paving on both sides and haul away excess soil. Provide future utility boxes on both sides of the slope paving (total of 4).
7&8	East Lodi UP Br No. 29 0148	Slope paving on both sides and haul away excess soil. Provide future utility boxes on both sides of the slope paving (total of 4).
9	NB Off-Ramp E. Victor Rd Exit 266	Add minor concrete (textured paving) to the gore areas.
10,11, & 12	SB On-Ramp E. Victor Rd Exit 266	Add minor concrete (textured paving) to the gore areas.
13 & 14	North Lodi OC Br No. 29 0160	Slope paving on both sides and haul away excess soil. Provide future utility boxes on both sides of the slope paving (total of 4).
15	On NB Route 99 south of E. Kettleman Ln Structure	Replace 600' of guardrail and install weed control matt on the outside shoulder starting



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	(Route 99/12 Sep Br No. 29 0140R)	from the beginning of the guardrail up to the structure.
16	On NB Route 99 south of E. Kettleman Ln Structure (Route 99/12 Sep Br No. 29 0140R)	Replace 120' of guardrail and install weed control matt on the inside shoulder starting from the beginning of the guardrail up to the structure.
17	On SB Route 99 north of E. Kettleman Ln Structure (Route 99/12 Sep Br No. 29 0140L)	Replace 600' of guardrail and install weed control matt on the outside shoulder starting from the beginning of the guardrail up to the structure.
18	On SB Route 99 north of E. Kettleman Ln Structure (Route 99/12 Sep Br No. 29 0140L)	Replace 120' of guardrail and install weed control matt on the inside shoulder starting from the beginning of the guardrail up to the structure.
19	On SB Route 99 just north of Lodi Ave OC (Br No. 29 0159) at the right of way line fence.	Construct MVP just south of E Thurman Rd.
20	On SB Route 99 just south of East Pine Street OC (Br No. 29 0149) at the right of way line fence.	Replace approximately 800' of chain link fence with Wrought Iron security fence with an access gate.

Environmental Provisions:

General

The project is Categorically Exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and Categorically Excluded under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) unless: (1) The scope of the project changes to include additional activities or areas; or (2) There is unforeseen discovery of sensitive or cultural resources. Environmental reevaluation will be required if 1 and/or 2 occurs.

Air

The project is exempt from all project-level conformity requirement per Table 2 of 40 CFR 93.126 under the project type "Pavement and Resurfacing". The Transportation Air Quality Conformity Checklist was completed February 19, 2021.

The project would have no adverse effect on air quality. The following Caltrans Standard Specifications will require the contractor to comply with the air pollution control rules, ordinances, and regulations and statues:

AQ 1- Caltrans Standard Specifications Section 14-9.02, Air Pollution Control



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AQ 2- Caltrans Standard Specifications Section 10-5, Dust Control

Biology

Due to the scope of the project, the proposed project will have “no effect” on any special status communities and special status plant and animal species. The only special-status species that has potential to occur within the project limit is the Swainson’s hawk. There are nearby agricultural fields and trees along the highway which the bird species can utilize for foraging and nesting habitat.

BIO 1- Caltrans Standard Specification Section 14-6.03 B, Bird Protection and/or Standard Special Provisions shall be implemented.

The above Caltrans Standard Specifications will be implemented to define protective buffers that shall be established for certain bird species as per below:

- A 50- to 100-foot buffer shall be established around any active migratory bird nests found during construction.
- If an active raptor is observed, a 300-foot ESA will be implemented around the nest until the young have fledged.
- If an active Swainson’s hawk nest is observed, a 600-foot ESA buffer will be implemented around the nest until the young have fledged. If it is necessary to encroach into the buffer zones, then monitoring and coordination with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife will be necessary.

Pre-construction surveys and/or biological monitoring for nesting migratory birds or raptors, or other sensitive species will be required if construction activities occur during the migratory bird nesting season (February 1 to September 15). Biological monitoring for Swainson’s hawk/raptors/burrowing owl may be needed during construction if birds are observed nesting and the appropriate buffer cannot be maintained.

Cultural

The project has a determination under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of “*no potential to affect historic properties or historical resources*”. The proposed project will not directly or indirectly affect any known archaeological resources. Therefore, the proposed project is exempt from further cultural review.

Executive Order 12898 (Environmental Justice)

No minority or low-income populations that would be adversely affected by the proposed project have been identified as determined above. Therefore, this project is not subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12898.

Floodplains

The project is not located within a 100-year base floodplain.



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Hazardous Waste

Aerially Deposited Lead (ADL) is known to occur in the unpaved areas adjacent to highways. There is a potential to encounter ADL impacted soil during project construction. A project specific ADL soil survey shall be conducted prior to construction activities.

Replacing road signs may require disposal of Treated Wood Waste. The following Caltrans Standard Specification will be implemented:

HW 1- Caltrans Standard Specification Section 14-11.14, Treated Wood Waste.

Noise

No adverse noise impacts from construction are anticipated because construction would be conducted in a rural setting and in accordance with Caltrans Standard Specifications Section 14-8. Furthermore, implementing the following measures would minimize the temporary noise impacts from construction:

NQ 1- Caltrans Standard Specification 14-8, Noise Control

NQ 2- Do not exceed 86 dBA L_{max} at 50 feet from the job site activities from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m.

NQ 3- Equip an internal combustion engine with manufacturer-recommended muffler. Do not operate an internal combustion engine on the job site without the appropriate muffler.

Section 4(f)

A Section 4(f) *No Use* memo was completed for the proposed project, and it was determined that the provisions of Section 4(f) do not apply.

Water

The proposed project will not result in long term direct impacts on surface water and groundwater. There is potential for temporary short-term impacts to water quality in construction. To avoid potential impacts, appropriate best management practices (BMP)s will be implemented, and Caltrans Standard Specification Section 13-1 *Water Pollution* will be included in the construction contract.

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

1. A Notification of Intent (NOI) is to be submitted to the appropriate Regional Water Quality Control Board at least 30 days prior to start of construction.
2. A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) is to be prepared and implemented during construction to the satisfaction of the Resident Engineer.



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3. A Notice of Termination (NOT) shall be submitted to the Regional Water Quality Control 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 Standard Specification Section 13-1 *Water Pollution*.