



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

<u>Project Information</u>	
Project Name (if applicable): Piercy Changeable Message Sign	
DIST-CO-RTE: 01-MEN-101	PM/PM: R103.4
EA: 01-0K590	Federal-Aid Project Number: N/A
<u>Project Description</u>	
A new changeable message sign (CMS) would be installed facing southbound traffic on the southbound shoulder of US Highway 101 at Piercy in Mendocino County (post mile R103.4). (See continuation)	

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(f). (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		9/27/21
Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager

Kirsten Thuresson		9/28/21
Print Name	Signature	Date



CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

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 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

N/A

Print Name

Signature

Date

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

N/A

Print Name

Signature

Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): N/A

Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 09/14/2021

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:

The project would install a concrete pad, electrical cabinet, a changeable message sign, and a 35-foot pole with a camera. The sign display would be 25 feet wide by 7 feet tall and sit on a 5-foot diameter pile buried 22 feet below ground. The camera pole would also have a 2.5-foot diameter pile installed 8 feet below ground. The electrical elements would be buried in a trench 2.5 feet deep. The trench would be approximately 200 feet long. The project would take approximately 30 working days.

The purpose of the project is to communicate with the traveling public regarding upcoming roadway conditions so that they can make informed driving decisions. The project is needed because this section of US 101 is remote and road conditions can change suddenly. The segment of highway between Leggett and Confusion Hill experienced 135 collisions over a 5-year period. A changeable message sign would fulfill the project purpose by informing road users of closures or other safety concerns.

Environmental Commitments

- Water quality best management practices would be used.
- 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.
- Open trenches would be covered, or escape ramps would be installed to prevent wildlife from becoming trapped overnight.