



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

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): Calaveras SR-26 Culvert Replacements

DIST-CO-RTE: 10-CAL-26

PM/PM: 21.46/25.70

EA: 10-1L530

Federal-Aid Project Number: N/A

Project Description

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes replacing three (3) culverts along State Route (SR) 26 at Post Miles (PM) 21.46, 23.60, and 25.70 in Calaveras County. The scope of work at Location 1 (PM 21.46) includes replacing the existing 12-inch Corrugated Steel Pipe (CSP) with an 18-inch Reinforced Concrete Pipe (RCP). The scope of work at Location 2 (PM 23.60) includes replacing the existing 18-inch CSP with an 18-inch RCP. The scope of work at Location 3 (PM 25.70) includes replacing the existing 18-inch CSP with an 18-inch RCP. All work will occur within existing Caltrans Right of Way. The purpose of this project is to improve culvert functionality and capacity of flow. The project is needed to extend the service life of SR-26 and ensure motorist safety over these drainages.

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.** (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

Dominic Vitali


Signature

10/20/2021

Print Name

Date

Project Manager

Jose A. Alicea II


Signature

10/20/2021

Print Name

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)(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

Print Name	Signature	Date
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Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

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

Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 10/20/2021

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:

General:

- Environmental reevaluation will be required if the scope of the project changes to include additional areas or activities, or if previously unknown cultural or other sensitive resources are discovered. Contact the Environmental Office if project changes occur or sensitive resources discovered.
- Contact the Environmental Office to attend the pre-construction meeting.

Cultural:

- If cultural materials are discovered at the job site, do not disturb the resources and immediately:
 1. Stop all work within a 60foot radius of discovery
 2. Protect the discovery area
 3. Notify the Engineer
 4. The Department Investigates. Do not move cultural materials or take them from the job site. Retain a qualified archaeologist to assess the significance of the find. Do not resume work within the discovery area until authorized.
- If human remains are discovered, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that further disturbances and activities shall cease in any area or nearby area suspected to overlie remains, and the County coroner contacted. Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. If the remains are thought to be Native American, the coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) who will then notify the Most Likely Descendent (MLD). At the same time the landowner will work with the MLD on the respectful treatment and disposition of the remains. Further provisions of PRC 5097.98 are to be followed as applicable.
- Location 1 (PM 21.46) and Location 2 (PM 23.60) will require Archaeological Monitoring during all construction related activities. Caltrans Standard Special Provision (SSP) 14-2.03B shall be included in the construction contract.

Hazardous Waste:

- Caltrans Standard Special Provision (SSP) 7-1.02K(6)(j)(iii) regarding a Lead Compliance Plan shall be included in the construction contract.

Biology:

- If construction will occur during bird nesting season (February 1 through September 30), contact the Environmental Office at least one month prior to the start of construction to schedule a pre-construction bird survey. Caltrans Standard Special Provision (SSP) 14-6.03A regarding protective buffer radii shall be included in the construction contract. If an active migratory bird nest is observed, a 100-foot protective buffer will be established around the nest until



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the young have fledged. For hawks, a 300-foot buffer will be established. For Swainson's hawk, a 600-foot buffer will be established.

- At Location 2 (PM 23.60) there is a sensitive wetland habitat near the culvert inlet. This sensitive area will be flagged by a Caltrans qualified biologist prior to the start of any construction activities. No heavy equipment will be allowed within the flagged area. The contractor must contact the District 10 (D10) Environmental Office thirty (30) days prior to the start of construction to schedule the flag installation. No construction activities are permitted within the flagged area unless authorized by the Caltrans D10 Environmental Office. A Caltrans biologist must give approval of work prior to ground disturbance at Location 2 (CAL-26-23.60) and may monitor construction activities as deemed appropriate by the Caltrans Biologist. Include Caltrans SSP 14-6.03A in the construction contract.

No permits required.