



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

Project Information

Project Name: Paso Robles 46 CAPM

DIST-CO-RTE: 05-SLO-46

PM/PM: 29.8/32.2

EA: 05-1K460

Federal-Aid Project Number: 0518000210

Project Description

The purpose of this project is to preserve and extend the service life of the existing pavement, to replace sign panels for better visibility, install count stations to better monitor traffic, and improve ADA access at intersections.

This project is needed because the pavement condition within the project limits is exhibiting deterioration. If left untreated, deterioration will continue and result in increasingly higher maintenance costs in the future. Traffic operations has identified the replacements of 33 overhead sign panels that are in poor condition and need to be upgraded to current standards. The District Electrical Department recommends the installation of new traffic census stations. Additionally, curb ramps in the project limits that do not meet current ADA accessibility standards will be replaced.

The proposed Paso Robles 46 CAPM project would rehabilitate approximately 8.9 lane miles of existing pavement along State Route (SR) 46 in San Luis Obispo County. The project limits begin 300 feet west of postmile (PM) 29.8 (includes the intersection of SR-101 southbound ramp node with SR-46) and end at PM 32.2. The project includes: preservation of 8.9 lane miles of pavement by applying 0.15-foot overlay of rubberized hot mix asphalt (RHMA) with cold-planing of some segments, replacing shoulder backing, upgrading 2,400 linear feet of guardrails, installing traffic census stations, replacing ramp loops, replacing 33 sign panels, and upgrading ADA features at the intersection of Golden Hills Road and Buena Vista intersections. The ADA ramp reconstruction and new sidewalk at Golden Hill Road intersection will require push button modifications, relocation of signal poles and utility relocation. Drainage improvements include installation of a new pavement underdrain west of Airport Road, high side super-gutter modifications along the westbound lane east of the bridge at PM 30.0, and replacement of dikes along the project corridor.

All work will be conducted within existing Caltrans right of way. All work will take place on the pavement and shoulder where previous soil disturbance has taken place.

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.)



**CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
DETERMINATION FORM**

- 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

Jason Wilkinson		7/27/21
_____ Jason Wilkinson	_____ Signature	_____ Date

Project Manager

Luis Duazo		7/27/21
_____ Luis Duazo	_____ Signature	_____ 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)(26)

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

Signature and Date for Jason Wilkinson

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Signature and Date for Luis Duazo

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

Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: July 27, 2021



CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

Continuation sheet:

The following measures would reduce the effects of the project.

BIOLOGY

The proposed project will not have any impacts on wetlands or other waters of the United States or state. The project includes jurisdictional waters; however, no work is proposed in these jurisdictional areas and no impacts are anticipated to jurisdictional waters. No permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, or the Regional Water Quality Control Board will be required.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures

1. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District biologist or their designee will conduct a pre-construction survey prior to starting work to identify any occurrences of nesting birds.
2. The current project does not propose any tree removal or trimming. If it is determined that the project will require tree removal or trimming, work will be scheduled between September 1 and January 30, as feasible, outside of the typical nesting bird season, to avoid potential impacts to nesting birds. If tree and shrub removal must be scheduled to occur during the nesting season, a pre-construction survey for nesting birds will be conducted within 48 hours prior to the start of construction. If any active nests are detected during pre-construction surveys or during construction, the Resident Engineer will be notified, and work will stop in the vicinity of the nest in accordance with the project specifications. A Caltrans biologist or their designee will establish a buffer zone around active nests using high visibility construction fencing, or stakes, flagging, etc. and the buffer will remain until it is determined that young have fledged (i.e., left the nest and are no longer reliant on parental care or nest site).