

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
 P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
 Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk
 County of: _____

From: (Public Agency): _____

 (Address)

Project Title: _____

Project Applicant: _____

Project Location - Specific:

Project Location - City: _____ Project Location - County: _____

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: _____

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: _____

Exempt Status: (check one):

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: _____
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

Lead Agency
 Contact Person: _____ Area Code/Telephone/Extension: _____

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature: *Gail St John* Date: _____ Title: _____

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
 Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____



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

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): But 99 Clean California Beautification and Safety

DIST-CO-RTE: 03-BUT-99

PM/PM: 30.23-R31.77

EA: 03-2J810

Federal-Aid Project Number: 0322000102

Project Description

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to make improvements on State Route (SR) 99 in the City of Chico in response to the Clean California State Beautification Program of 2021 authorized under Assembly Bill 149. The improvements would occur at two locations on SR 99 between post miles (PM) 30.23 and R31.77. (See Continuation Sheet)

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

Gail St. John	<i>Gail St John</i>	12/7/2021
Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager

Cameron Knudson	<i>Cameron Knudson</i>	12/07/2021
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: NA – See attached

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 two interchanges in Chico, both of which are high-traffic interchanges that lead to the core downtown area, are devoid of visual enhancements that create a sense of community.

The purpose of the proposed project is to advance equity in underserved communities, improve the appearance of the two interchanges, draw attention to Chico's unique identity, and address safety concerns at those interchanges.

The proposed Clean CA project includes the following improvements:

Location 1 – SR 99 and Skyway Interchange

- Install freestanding transportation art within the ramp loops that consists of a steel frame structure of arching poles connected by a thin metal mesh decorated with metal "birds" that represent the Pacific Flyway
- Attach perforated metal panels depicting migrating birds to the existing bridge fence, which can create designs that are visible when viewed from a distance (optional)
- Install non-irrigated, drought-resistant trees and shrubs that can survive a three-year plant establishment period in the ramp loops
- Construct new slope paving with decorative precast or cast-in-place concrete panels
- Install LED lighting (possibly colored) above the paved slopes

Location 2 – SR 99 and East 20th Street Interchange

- Install dark-colored pumice boulders and a series of triangular laser-cut corten steel panels within the ramp loop to create the impression of a meandering stream bed. The laser-cut corten steel panels would have cutout shapes representing fish swimming upstream and water flowing in a cascade.
- Install LED lighting to backlight the corten steel panels at night, allowing the design features to be visible without causing too much glare for roadway users
- Construct new slope paving with decorative precast or cast-in-place concrete panels

All work will occur within existing Caltrans right-of-way.

Environmental Commitments:

Cultural Resources: None - Screened Undertaking memo (C. Buitenhuis 11/30/21)

Biology: None - Qualifies for Programmatic No Effect memo (K. Russo 11/30/21)

Hazardous Materials: ISA – Potential for aeriably deposited lead (R. Chadha 11/24/21)

The proposed project is not within or impacting any site on the Cortese List.

Include the following SSPs and costs in the construction contract and BEES:

- SSP 7-1.02K(6)(j)(iii)_unregulated earth material containing lead
- \$2,000 for Lead Compliance Plan (Item 070030)

2J810 Clean CA #5 But 99 CE

Final Audit Report

2021-12-07

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