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

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): San Joaquin I-5 Emergency Culvert Replacement

DIST-CO-RTE: 10-SJ-5   **PM/PM:** 25.58

EA: 10-1P290   **Federal-Aid Project Number:** N/A

Project Description

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes an emergency project to replace the existing storm drain line at post mile 25.58 on the shoulder of northbound Interstate (I) 5, in San Joaquin County. The existing High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE) pipe was damaged in an uncontrolled fire. The existing Flared End Section (FES) detached, creating a void in the shoulder embankment. The scope of work includes removing the existing 12-inch HDPE pipe, FES, and other remnants of the fire damaged storm drain. A new 18-inch Reinforced Concrete Pipe (RCP) will be installed with an 18-inch concrete FES, Rock Slope Protection will be replenished, and the embankment will be regraded and recompacted. All work will occur within Caltrans Right of Way. The purpose of this project is to restore function to the storm drain and stabilize the shoulder embankment. The project is needed to prevent failure of the embankment that supports the travel way lanes and ensure the safety of the traveling public.

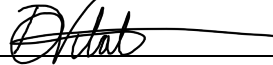**Caltrans CEQA Determination** (Check one)

☐ **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** Enter class. (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)_	12/16/2021
Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager

Tanya Sanguinetti	_(signature)_	12/17/2021
Print Name	Signature	Date

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

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Print Name	Signature	Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): N/A
Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: N/A

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).

Continuation sheet:

Cultural –
- If cultural resources are discovered at the job site, do not disturb the resources and immediately:
  1. Stop all work within a 60-foot radius of the discovery
  2. Protect the discovery area
  3. Notify the Engineer
  The Department investigates. Do not move cultural materials or take them from the job site. Retain a qualified archeologist 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 should be 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) which will then notify the Most Likely Descendent (MLD). At that 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.

Biology –
- If construction occurs during the migratory bird nesting season (February 1 – September 30), a preconstruction bird survey will be required within 14 days before the start of any construction activities. Contact the Environmental office 1 month prior to the start of construction to schedule the survey. Include Caltrans Standard Special Provision (SSP) 14-6.03A in the contract. If an active nest is discovered, a 100-foot protective buffer will need to be established around it. If an active hawk nest is observed, a 300-foot protective buffer will be required. If an active Swainson's hawk nest is observed, a 600-foot buffer will be required.

No permits required.