

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
County Clerk
County of: Merced

From: (Public Agency) Caltrans, Dist. 10
1976 E. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Stockton CA 95205

Project Title: 1P610: Merced Gateway & Mural Project

Project Applicant: California Department of Transportation

Project Location - Specific:

There are 14 project locations: 8 locations occur on bridge walls under crossing State Route (SR) 99, 2 locations on SR-59, 2 locations on SR-140, & 2 locations on SR-99 (see CE for details).

Project Location - City: Merced Project Location - County: MER

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes installing welcome signs, monuments, and murals at various locations along State Routes (SR) 59, 99, and 140 in Merced County. See the CE for locations details. Murals will be painted on eight walls that cross under SR-99. Four welcome signs will be installed with new posts along SR-59 and SR-140 and two new monuments will be installed along SR-99. All work will occur within existing Caltrans Right of Way. The purpose of this beautification project is to generate appreciation for Merced’s culture and aesthetic, and encourage economic vitality. The project is needed is to restore a sense of pride, belonging, and unity in the communities of north and south Merced.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Transportation

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California Department of Transportation

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: Existing Facilities section 15301
- Statutory Exemption. State code number: _____

Reason why project is exempt:

The project will not affect any sensitive species or their habitats, cultural resources, scenic resources, or any other environmentally sensitive resources.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Elizabeth Hummel Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 209-948-3825

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: Elizabeth Hummel Date: 05/09/2022 Title: Associate Environmental Planner

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 _____