



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

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b><u>Project Information</u></b>   |  |
| <b>Project Name (if applicable):</b> Murray Field Aviation Safety Project |  |
| <b>DIST-CO-RTE:</b> 01-HUM-101  | <b>PM/PM:</b> 81.2/81.2                |
| <b>EA:</b> 01-0000000320  | <b>Federal-Aid Project Number:</b> N/A |
| <b><u>Project Description</u></b>   |  |
| Please see continuation sheet for project description and details.        |  |

**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 15301** (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**

|                 |                        |            |
|-----------------|------------------------|------------|
| Darrell Cardiff | <i>Darrell Cardiff</i> | 04/08/2022 |
| Print Name      | Signature              | Date       |

**Project Manager**

|                  |                         |            |
|------------------|-------------------------|------------|
| Chris Ghidinelli | <i>Chris Ghidinelli</i> | 04/08/2022 |
| Print Name       | Signature               | Date       |



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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

Signature lines for Senior Environmental Planner and Project Manager/Design Engineer, with a large 'Not Applicable' watermark across the center.

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

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:

**Murray Field Aviation Safety Project  
EA: 01-000000320  
California Department of Transportation**

#### **Project Description**

The purpose of this project is to conduct vegetation management adjacent to Murray Field to meet safety requirements of sight visibility in proximity to the runway. The vegetation is located within Caltrans Right-of-Way in the Arcata South 7.5 Quad between Postmile 81.1 to 81.2 of highway 101 in Eureka, CA. The two specific locations are 40.8077 N, -124.1171 W and 40.8079 N -124.1167 W.

These two specific locations were identified by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Flight Check Aircraft as penetrations into the protected surfaces around the Murray Field approach in accordance with Federal Aviation Regulation (FAR) Part 77 surfaces and Terminal Instrument Procedures (TERPS) surfaces. At the locations, two clumps of wax myrtle on the Highway 101 embankment were identified. These myrtles directly pose a hazard to instrument takeoff/landing at this airport and is a reason the approach is no longer approved at night.

Removal of the two wax myrtles will bring the penetration back into FAA compliance standards. Proposed work will consist of trimming and removal of the two wax myrtle clumps. The trimming and removal of work will last approximately one to two days and require a shoulder closure. Due to the location and type of work, either Caltrans maintenance crew or a California Conservation Crew (CCC), or a contractor overseen by Caltrans maintenance would conduct the trimming using a chain saw, a chipper, and a chipper truck. Then a stump grinder will be used to remove the stumps. The chipper and chipper truck will remain on pavement during the work activities and the chain saw will be used to remove branches by hand.

A revegetation plan has been prepared that will replace the wax myrtles with native vegetation which will allow for lateral spreading and a lower elevation that prevents encroachment into FAA airspace.

All work will be within the existing State right of way. Project maintains original line and grade and original purpose of the facility. This project is State funded only.

#### **Environmental Commitments**

##### **Migratory Birds**

1. For construction occurring between February 1 and August 31 a qualified biologist shall perform a pre-construction nest/bird survey no more than 5 days prior to construction.
2. If nesting birds are present in, or within 100 feet of the construction, do not start construction until nesting activities are complete, and the birds have left the nests.



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3. For construction between September 1 and January 31 no migratory bird measures are required.

Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area (Includes designated critical habitat, Essential Fish Habitat and coastal freshwater wetlands)

1. Prior to vegetation cutting or any other construction activity, high visibility construction fencing will be placed between the vegetation construction area and the adjacent ditch to prevent encroachment on the ditch and wetland vegetation adjacent to the ditch.
2. Other than for the installation and removal of the high visibility fencing, no construction personnel or equipment will enter the area delineated by the construction area barrier fencing.

### Environmental Analysis

The project is a maintenance activity that will not have any impacts to air quality, hazardous waste, noise, community, or aesthetics.

### Biological Resources

A Biological Resources Evaluation Memo was completed by Caltrans on January 10, 2022. The Bio memo concluded the project will have no take of any species federally or state listed, candidate or proposed for listing. Critical habitat is present for Tidewater Goby and specific avoidance measures for those locations are included in this project. Other sensitive biological resources present on or adjacent to the project include ESHA (California Coastal Commission designation) and nesting bird habitat. Appropriate avoidance measures are included in this project to avoid all impacts to sensitive biological resources. See Environmental Commitments for avoidance measures.

### Cultural Resources

A screening memo was completed by Caltrans on December 29, 2021. Based on the scope of the construction activities, these undertakings have no potential to affect historic properties or cultural resources.

### Other Environmental Resources

All work will be conducted within Caltrans's right of way. Implementation of Standard BMPs and standard measures will ensure there are no impacts to environmental resources. The project will not have any significant impacts to visual resources. Finally, the project qualifies for a categorical exemption under CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 – Existing facilities and will not have any exceptions or significant impacts removing the project from the exemption.

### Permits

- Coastal Development Permit/Waiver – California Coastal Commission (Arcata Office)









# MFASP\_CEQA for signature

Final Audit Report

2022-04-08

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
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