



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

Project Information

Project Name: Peddler Hill Pavement Anchor

DIST-CO-RTE:10-AMA-88

PM/PM: R54.7-R65.99

EA:10-0K130

Federal-Aid Project Number:

Project Description

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to rehabilitate pavement on State Route 88 in Amador County from postmiles R54.7 to R65.99. Additionally, this pavement anchor project proposes to address improvements to multiple Caltrans facilities within the project limits. Project work includes the rehabilitation of asphalt pavement and improvements such as cold-planing and overlaying, centerline and shoulder rumble strip installation, and replacements of culverts, road signs, and snow poles.

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 2 (c).** (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

C. Scott Guidi	<i>C. Scott Guidi</i>	3/16/2022
_____	_____	_____
Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager

Navraj Jammu	<i>Navraj Jammu</i>	3/16/2022
_____	_____	_____
Print Name	Signature	Date



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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)(22)
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

C. Scott Guidi
Print Name Signature Date 3/16/2022

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Navraj Jammu
Print Name Signature Date 3/16/2022

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): N/A
Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 3/16/22



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Continuation sheet:

The purpose of this project is to help protect and preserve the pavement underlying structure, rehabilitate deteriorated asphalt pavement, and bring existing roadway facilities and deteriorated culverts to current standards.

The need of the project is to extend the service life of the existing pavement, reduce future maintenance costs, ensure proper drainage and protection of the highway, and address outdated roadway facilities.

Additional right of way and temporary construction easements are not required. All project work will remain within Caltrans' right of way. Project work would include work off the paved road, trenching, grading, drainage work, work in a channel, tree removal, vegetation removal, and night work may be required.

Environmental Provisions:

General

The project is Categorical Exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and Categorical Excluded under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) unless: (1) The scope of the project changes to include additional activities or areas; or (2) There is unforeseen discovery of sensitive or cultural resources. Environmental reevaluation will be required if any one of 1 and 2 occurs.

Air

The project is exempt from all project-level conformity requirement per 40 CFR 93.126 under the project type "Pavement resurfacing/rehabilitation". The Transportation Air Quality Conformity Checklist was completed on January 11, 2021. The following Caltrans Standard Specifications will require the contractor to comply with the air pollution control rules, ordinances, regulations, and statutes:

- AQ 1-** Caltrans Standard Specifications Section 14-9.02, Air Pollution Control
- AQ 2-** Caltrans Standard Specifications Section 10-5, Dust Control

Biology

The proposed project will include various construction activities that could cause temporary impacts to biological resources in and around the project area. The project has the potential to affect plants that may be used for nectar or as host plants for monarch butterflies on at least a temporary basis and may affect habitat potentially utilized by monarch butterflies. Additionally, the project contains habitat which could support nesting migratory birds or nesting raptors, tree-roosting bats, North American porcupines, or bumblebee hives. With the implementation of the below avoidance and minimization measures, no special-status wildlife or habitats will be affected therefore the proposed project will have no effect.



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BIO 1- Pre-Construction Surveys – Special Status Plants

- No more than 24 hours prior to any ground disturbance in a given location, preconstruction surveys will be conducted by a California Department of Fish and Wildlife-approved biologist for sensitive plant species using California Department of Fish and Wildlife-approved survey protocols.
- If sensitive plant species are detected within areas that will be disturbed by construction activities, then no work will take place at these locations until Caltrans has consulted with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.
- New sightings of sensitive plant species shall be reported to the California Natural Diversity Database. A copy of the reporting form and a topographic map clearly marked with the location of where the sensitive plant species were observed should also be provided to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

BIO 2: Limit Vegetation Removal

- Clearing of herbaceous vegetation and/or trimming of woody vegetation may be required at some locations for culvert replacement activities. Vegetation removal shall be limited to the absolute minimum amount required for construction.

BIO 3: Restore/Revegetate Temporarily Affected Areas Onsite

- Disturbed areas within the construction limits will be graded to minimize surface erosion and siltation into receiving waters. Disturbed areas will be re-contoured to as close to pre-project condition as possible and will be stabilized as soon as feasible as (and no later than October 15th of each construction season) to avoid erosion during subsequent storms and runoff. Permanent erosion control seeding will be performed at all disturbed sites by hydroseeding over the course of construction as each site is completed, with all sites seeded by the completion of construction activities.

BIO 4: Equipment Staging in Weed Free Areas

- Staging and storage of equipment should only be done in weed free areas. Infestations of noxious and/or highly invasive weeds will be identified during pre-construction surveys to determine if hand, mechanical, or chemical eradication treatments are feasible, or if it is feasible to designate these areas as excluded from contractor's use.

BIO 5: Weed Free Erosion Control and Revegetation Treatments

- To further minimize the risk of introducing additional non-native species into the area, only locally adapted plant species appropriate for the project area will be used in any erosion control or revegetation seed mix or stock. No dry-farmed straw will be used, and certified weed-free straw shall be required where erosion control straw is to be used. In addition, any hydroseed mulch used for any revegetation activities must also be certified weed-free.

BIO 6: Construction Site Best Management Practices:

- During construction operations, stockpiling of construction materials, portable equipment, vehicles, and supplies will be restricted to the designated construction staging areas and all operations will be confined to the minimal area necessary.



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- Project-related vehicle traffic will be restricted to established roads and construction areas. Access roads will be constructed to the minimum amount necessary. Project vehicles will observe a 20-mile-per-hour speed limit while in the action area. Dust control measures will be implemented if necessary.
- Plastic mono-filament netting (erosion control matting) or similar material will not be used at the project site. Acceptable substitutes include coconut coir matting or tackified hydro-seeding compounds.
- Use of rodenticides and herbicides, including fumigation, the use of poison bait, or other means of poisoning nuisance animals in project areas shall be restricted.
- All food-related trash items such as wrappers, cans, bottles, and food scraps should be disposed of in securely closed containers and removed at least once a week from a construction or project site.
- No firearms shall be allowed on the project site.
- No pets, such as dogs or cats, should be permitted on the project site.

BIO 7: Roosting Bat Avoidance – Pre-Construction Surveys

- A qualified biologist will be present during all construction-related activities that may affect tree-roosting bats or their habitats. Prior to any tree removal activities, a focused survey for tree-roosting bats shall be conducted by a qualified biologist within 15 days prior to the beginning of project-related activities. If a lapse in project related work of 15 days or longer occurs, another survey and, if required, consultation with California Department of Fish and Wildlife will be required before the work can be reinitiated. Pre-construction surveys for tree-roosting bats shall be specified under Caltrans 2018 Standard Specification and/or Standard Special Provision 14-6.03A (Species Protection).

BIO 8: Roosting Bat Avoidance – Avoid Active Roosts

- If active day roosts or maternity roosts are found, a protective no-work buffer of 50 feet will be established and Caltrans shall consult with California Department of Fish and Wildlife to comply with provisions of the Fish and Game Code of California. Protective buffers for tree-roosting bats shall be specified under Caltrans 2018 Standard Specification and/or Standard Special Provision 14-6.03A (Species Protection). No work will commence within the buffer until authorization is received from the Resident Engineer. If construction or other project related activities which may potentially cause roost destruction or roost abandonment, monitoring of the nest site by a qualified biologist will be required to ensure that protective radii are maintained.

BIO 9: Nesting Bird Avoidance – Limited Operation Period

- Performing ground disturbance, vegetation removal, or other construction activities within nesting bird habitat during the non-nesting season (between October 1st and January 31st) will not require pre-construction surveys or nesting bird avoidance measures.



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BIO 10: Nesting Bird Avoidance – Pre-Construction Surveys During Nesting Season

- If ground-disturbance, vegetation removal, or other construction activities are scheduled during the nesting season of protected raptors and migratory birds (February 1st to September 30th), a focused survey for active nests of such birds shall be conducted by a qualified biologist within 15 days prior to the beginning to project-related activities. If a lapse in project related work of 15 days or longer occurs, another survey and, if required, consultation with United States Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife will be required before the work can be reinitiated. Pre-construction surveys for nesting migratory birds and raptors shall be specified under Caltrans 2018 Standard Specification and/or Standard Special Provision 14-6.03A (Species Protection) and/or 14-6.03(B) (Bird Protection).

BIO 11: Nesting Bird Avoidance – Avoid Active Nests

- If active nests are found, a protective no-work buffer will be established (Table 7) and Caltrans shall consult with United States Fish and Wildlife Service regarding appropriate action to comply with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 and with California Department of Fish and Wildlife to comply with provisions of the Fish and Game Code of California.
- If nesting migratory birds or nesting raptors are detected by the Designated Biologist during the pre-construction survey, the appropriate no-work buffer will need be established around the nest. No work will commence within the buffer until authorization is received from the Resident Engineer.
- Appropriate no-work protective buffer distances shall be implemented for raptors and other migratory birds.
- Stop all work within a radius of 300 feet for raptors and 100 feet for other migratory birds nest.
- Protective buffer radii for nesting migratory birds and raptors shall be specified under
- Caltrans 2018 Standard Specification and/or Standard Special Provision 14-6.03A (Species Protection) and/or 14-6.03(B) (Bird Protection).
- If construction or other project related activities which may potentially cause nest destruction, nest abandonment or forced fledging of migratory birds are necessary, monitoring of the nest site by a qualified biologist will be required to ensure that protective radii are maintained.

BIO 12: Bumblebee Hive Avoidance – Pre-Construction Surveys

- A qualified biologist will be present during all construction-related activities that may affect bumblebee hives. Prior to any ground-breaking activities, a focused survey for bumblebee hives shall be conducted by a qualified biologist within 7 days prior to the beginning to project-related activities. Pre-construction surveys for bumblebee hives shall be specified under Caltrans 2018 Standard Specification and/or Standard Special Provision 14-6.03A (Species Protection).

BIO 13: Bumblebee Hive Avoidance – Avoid Active Hives

- If active bumblebee hives found, a protective no-work buffer of 20 feet will be established and Caltrans shall consult with California Department of Fish and



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Wildlife to comply with provisions of the Fish and Game Code of California. Protective buffers for bumblebee hives shall be specified under Caltrans 2018 Standard Specification and/or Standard Special Provision 14-6.03A (Species Protection). No work will commence within the buffer until authorization is received from the Resident Engineer. If construction or other project related activities which may potentially cause hive destruction or hive abandonment, monitoring of the hive site by a qualified biologist will be required to ensure that protective radii are maintained.

BIO 14: North American Porcupine – Pre-Construction Surveys

- A qualified biologist will be present during all construction-related activities that may affect tree-roosting bats or their habitats. Prior to any tree removal activities, a focused survey for North American Porcupine dens shall be conducted by a qualified biologist within 15 days prior to the beginning of project-related activities. If a lapse in project related work of 15 days or longer occurs, another survey and, if required, consultation with California Department of Fish and Wildlife will be required before the work can be reinitiated. Preconstruction surveys for tree-roosting bats shall be specified under Caltrans 2018 Standard Specification and/or Standard Special Provision 14-6.03A (Species Protection).

Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas

The following measures will also be implemented in the project to reduce GHG emissions and potential climate change impacts from the project.

GHG 1- Maintain equipment in proper tune and working condition.

GHG 2- Right size equipment for the job.

GHG 3- Roadside signs will use reflective sign materials illuminated by headlights rather than electric lights.

GHG 4- Warm mix asphalt will be used, instead of hot mix asphalt, in order to reduce petroleum fumes during production, transportation, and construction.

Warm mix asphalt technology is warranted for this project due to the long hauling distance and to reduce GHG emissions.

NQ 4- Turn off idling equipment when not in use. Reduces vehicle emissions.

Cultural

The project has a determination under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of No Historic Properties Affected. The proposed project will not directly or indirectly affect any known archaeological resources. Therefore, the proposed project is exempt from further cultural review.

Executive order 12898 (Environmental Justice)

No minority or low-income populations that will be adversely affected by the proposed project have been identified. Therefore, this project is not subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12898.



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Floodplains

The project is not located within a 100-year base floodplain.

Hazardous Waste

The project will have no adverse hazardous waste impacts; however, during construction, the project should comply with Caltrans Standard Specifications regarding the handling of hazardous materials.

HW 1- The Caltrans Standard Special Provision pertaining to Earth Material Containing Lead, 7-1.02K(6)(j)(iii), shall be added to the construction contract. A lead compliance plan is required and all soil must remain on site.

HW 2- Replacing guardrail or signage may require disposal of Treated Wood Waste. The Caltrans Standard Special Provision, 14-11.14, shall be added to the construction contract.

HW 3- If the traffic striping or pavement markings are ground out separately, then the Caltrans Standard Special Provision 14-11.12 shall be added to the construction contract. The Contractor shall implement a lead compliance plan and manage the removed striping/pavement markings as a hazardous waste.

Noise

The project will have no adverse noise impacts; however, during construction, the project should comply with Caltrans Standard Specifications regarding construction noise.

NQ 1- Caltrans Standard Special Provision 14-8.02, Noise Control, which states construction noise resulting from work activities should not exceed 86 Dba at 50 feet from the job site from 9:00 pm to 6:00 am.

NQ 2- Equip an internal combustion engine with the manufacturer-recommended muffler. Do not operate an internal combustion engine on the job site without the appropriate muffler.

Water

The project will have no adverse effect on Water Quality. In order to eliminate or minimize any potential impacts to the environment, the following measures will be implemented:

-If the project disturbs one acre or more of soil:

- 1.A Notification of Intent (NOI) is to be submitted to the appropriate Regional Water Quality Control Board at least 30 days before the start of construction.
- 2.A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) is to be prepared and implemented during construction to the satisfaction of the Resident Engineer.
- 3.A Notice of Termination (NOT) shall be submitted to the Regional Board upon completion of construction and site stabilization. A project will be



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considered complete when the criteria for the final stabilization in the Construction General Permit are met.

-If the project disturbed less than one acre of soil:

WQ 1- Caltrans Standard Specifications Section 13-1, Water Pollution Control, will be added to the construction contract. The contractor must abide by best management practices and address all potential water quality impacts that may occur during construction.