



**CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION  
DETERMINATION FORM (rev. 04/2022)**

<b><u>Project Information</u></b>	
<b>Project Name (if applicable):</b> Stanislaus I-5 Drainage Restoration	
<b>DIST-CO-RTE:</b> 10-STA-5	<b>PM/PM:</b> 14.73
<b>EA:</b> 10-1E230	<b>Federal-Aid Project Number:</b> N/A
<b><u>Project Description</u></b>	
<p>The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes restoring the drainage system located at a pullout on Interstate (I) 5 at post mile 14.73, in Stanislaus County. The scope of work includes upgrading the existing asphalt ditch with a Portland Cement Concrete (PCC) lined v-ditch, constructing a new PCC v-ditch at the toe of the existing berm, upgrading the berm to verify it is 2 feet higher than the lip of the PCC lined ditches, and grading the gravel pullout area to the lip of the PCC ditches. The existing 12 inch Corrugated Metal Pipe down drain will be replaced with a flume down drain to connect with the v-ditch drainage outlet and RSP will be replenished along the failing slope. All work will occur within Caltrans existing Right of Way. The purpose of this project to restore proper flow of water runoff away from the roadway. The project is needed to extend the service life of I-5 and ensure the safety of the public traveling on the roadway and pullout area.</p>	

**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**

Elizabeth Hummel (Acting)		05/27/2022
Print Name	Signature	Date

**Project Manager**

Jose A. Alicea II		05/27/2022
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, 2022, 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: 05/27/2022

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:

#### **General:**

- Environmental reevaluation will be required if the scope of the project changes to include additional areas or activities, or if previously unknown cultural or other sensitive resources are discovered. Contact the Environmental Office if project changes occur or sensitive resources discovered.
- Contact the Environmental Office to attend the pre-construction meeting.

#### **Cultural:**

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

#### **Hazardous Waste:**

- The Caltrans Standard Special Provision, 7-1.02K(6)(j)(iii), which pertains to Earth Material Containing Lead, shall be added to the construction contract. A lead compliance plan prepared by a Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) is required.

#### **Biology:**

- Caltrans Standard Special Provision (SSP) 14-6.03A shall be included in the contract. During the Month of May, prior to any construction activities, a qualified Caltrans biologist will conduct San Joaquin Kit Fox (SJKF) surveys within the project area. If construction does not begin within 30 days of the surveys completed in May, follow-up surveys will be conducted no more than 30 days prior to the start of construction.



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- If SJKF dens are identified prior to or during construction, protective buffers will be established. Natal and pupping dens require a 200-foot buffer. Known dens require a 100-foot buffer. Potential and Atypical dens require a 50-foot buffer. If a natal, known, potential, or atypical den is discovered, it's distance to the project limits will be determined. If that distance is less than the required buffer zone radius, flags will be placed at the site to delineate the area that must be avoided. The area delineated by the flags must be excluded by all construction personnel, equipment, and activities.
- All construction personnel are required to participate in a training program prior to the start of all construction related activities. The training will be provided by a qualified Caltrans biologist to inform construction personnel of the SJKF life history, how to identify the species or it's habitats, what to do if the species is encountered, and the State and Federal laws protecting the species. Contact the District 10 Environmental Office 30 days prior to the start of construction to schedule the training which will occur on the first day of construction.
- Before any holes or burrows are filled, they must be thoroughly inspected to ensure no animals are trapped. If at any time a trapped or injured SJKF is discovered, work must stop immediately until the animal leaves the construction site on its own.
- If a SJKF is inadvertently killed or injured on the construction site, contact the District10 Environmental Office immediately. A Caltrans biologist will need to report this to the California Department of Fish & Wildlife. Do not resume construction related activities until authorized.
- No rodenticides, herbicides, or pets are allowed on the construction site.
- Caltrans SSP 14-10.01 shall be included in the contract to ensure trash is removed from the construction daily.
- Caltrans SSP 10-1.03 shall be added to the contract to restrict all construction activities to daylight hours only. No work is permitted between sunset and sunrise.

No permits required.