



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

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): Mojave Pavement (Geotechnical drilling)

DIST-CO-RTE: 09-KER-14

PM/PM: 12.6/16.7

EA: 09-37520

Federal-Aid Project Number: 0918000036

Project Description

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is proposing to conduct geotechnical drillings in order to provide data for the roadway and bridge settlement issues on State Route 14 and traffic signal foundations. The project is located in Kern County on State Route 14. The operation will involve locating and drilling 4 boreholes to a max depth of 100 feet below the ground surface to collect subsurface information. The drilling will take approximately 10 days to complete. All drilling will occur within the paved roadway, paved shoulder or unpaved shoulder and no vegetation is impacted. During the drilling, one lane of the highway will be closed where one or more drill rigs, flatbed truck (holding water, drum barrels, other equipment), and two pickup trucks will be staged inside the lane closure. At the end of the workday these vehicles will be parked at a local maintenance yard. All drilling cuttings and waste will be stored off site.

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 15306.** (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

Cecilia Boudreau	<i>Cecilia Boudreau</i>	05/02/2022
Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager

Jeremy Miloš		05/02/2022
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, 2022, executed between FHWA and Caltrans. Caltrans has determined that the project is a Categorical Exclusion under:

- 23 CFR 771.117(c): activity (c)(24)
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

Cecilia Boudreau Cecilia Boudreau 05/02/2022
Print Name Signature Date

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Jeremy Miloš Jeremy Miloš 05/02/2022
Print Name Signature Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): N/A
Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 4/28/2022

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:

Environmental Commitments (for Geotechnical work only):

- Pre-drilling nesting bird and rare plant surveys will be conducted at least 48 hours prior to any work being done. If nesting birds or rare plants are found within the project area, the District Biologist will determine if work may be delayed or if a no work buffer will be placed around the nest and/or rare plant.
 - Provide Caltrans District 9 environmental unit with as much notice as possible prior to start of geotechnical activities. Surveys must be completed prior to start of drilling.









Mojave Pavement: NEPA/CEQA CE (geotech) - signature needed

Final Audit Report

2022-05-02

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"Mojave Pavement: NEPA/CEQA CE (geotech) - signature needed" History

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