



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

**Project Information**

**Project Name (if applicable):** MPA SR 49 Safety Improvement

**DIST-CO-RTE:** 10/MPA/49

**PM/PM:** 40.8-42.1

**EA:** 10-1L980

**Federal-Aid Project Number:** 1020000090

**Project Description**

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to install Class I flexible post delineators and roadside signs from postmile 40.8 to 42.1 in Mariposa County. The project will include work off the paved roadway; ground disturbance; and vegetation removal. All work will take place within existing State right-of-way. The purpose of the project is to reduce the number and severity of run-off road collisions. The project is needed because the roadway is on a winding segment with no or very narrow paved shoulder.

**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(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 Commonsense 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**

Jaycee Azevedo

Print Name

Signature

04/11/2022

Date

**Project Manager**

Saurabh Jayant

Print Name

Signature

04/12/2022

Date



CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

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

Print Name Signature Date

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Print Name Signature Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): Enter date
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).



## CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

### Continuation sheet:

#### Environmental Provisions

##### General

The project is Categorical Exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act 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 either of these conditions are met.

The project does not have federal funding or other federal nexus; therefore, the National Environmental Policy Act does not apply. If federal funding or another federal nexus are added to the project, please alert the Environmental Manager or Environmental Planner.

##### Air

This project is not expected to cause any operational effects on air pollutants. During construction, the project will generate air pollutants.

- Caltrans Standard Specification Section 14-9.02 and Section 10-5 require the contractor to comply with air pollution control rules, ordinances, regulations, and statutes that apply to work performed under the contract.

##### Biology

Following biological studies, it was determined that the project will have no effect on any federally or state listed plant species, California "rare" plant species, or plant species protected by the California Native Plant Protection Act, special-status habitats, or vegetation communities considered for environmental review. No permits or consultation are required.

- Caltrans Standard Specification Section 14-6.03B will be implemented for the general protection of migratory birds and/or raptors. Caltrans Standard Special Provisions Section 14-6.03A or 14-6.03B will be implemented to define protective buffer distances for certain bird species:

- If an active migratory bird nest is observed, a 100-foot protective buffer must be implemented and avoided around the nest until the young have fledged or a qualified biologist determines that construction may proceed.
- If an active raptor nest is observed, a 300-foot protective buffer must be implemented and avoided around the nest until the young have fledged or a qualified biologist determines that construction may proceed.
- Preconstruction surveys and/or biological monitoring for nesting migratory birds or raptors, or other sensitive species would be required if construction activities occur during the migratory bird nesting season (February 1 to September 30).

##### Cultural

The proposed project has no potential to affect historic properties or historical resources eligible for or listed in the National Register of Historic Places or the California Register of Historical Resources.



## CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

### Hazardous Waste

There is potential to encounter non-hazardous concentrations of aerially deposited lead; treated wood waste; and naturally occurring asbestos within the project limits. Some scope changes may require additional studies. Contact the District Hazardous Waste Technical Specialist if soil will be removed from the State right-of way or if work will impact structures or painted surfaces.

- Caltrans Standard Special Provision, 7-1.02K(6)(j)(iii) will be added to the construction project. A lead compliance plan prepared by a Certified Industrial Hygienist is required.
- Caltrans Standard Special Provision 14-11.14 will be added to the construction contract.
- Prior to construction activities, a project-specific survey for naturally occurring asbestos will be conducted.

### Noise

The proposed project will not likely introduce a potential for long term traffic noise impacts and is not considered a Type I project. During construction the project will comply with Caltrans Standard Specification Section 14-8. In addition, to minimize temporary noise impacts the following measures will be implemented:

- Do not exceed 86 dBA  $L_{max}$  at 50 feet from the job site activities from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m.
- 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.

### Visual

State Route 49 is an eligible State Scenic Highway. The existing visual character and quality within the project limits are anticipated to remain intact and the project would not adversely affect any designated scenic resources as defined by CEQA statute or guidelines or as defined by Caltrans policy.

- The project development team should consider the use of Natina, a weathered stain, on any exposed metal guardrail and posts to help minimize visual contrast from the natural surroundings.
- Disturbed soil areas will need permanent erosion control.

### Water

The project will not result in long-term, direct impacts to surface and groundwater. The project has the potential to impact water quality standards and/or waste discharge requirements temporarily during construction and operation on nearby surface water that discharges into water bodies and/or infiltrates into the groundwater.

- A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan will be prepared for the project.
- Appropriate best management practices should be selected and implemented in the Design and Construction phases of the project. The contractor is required to comply with Caltrans Standard Specifications Section 13-1.