



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

<u>Project Information</u>	
Project Name (if applicable): Fort Tejon 2R Rehab	
DIST-CO-RTE: 06-KER-5	PM/PM: 0.00/4.40
EA: 06-0X330	Federal-Aid Project Number: 0618000055
<u>Project Description</u>	
Caltrans proposes to rehabilitate northbound I-5 in Kern Co. near Lebec from the Los Angeles Co. line to Grapevine Creek (PM R0.00/R4.40). The purpose of the project is to restore the pavement to improve ride quality for the traveling public. The project will also upgrade culverts and guardrail. Traffic monitoring stations and lighting will be installed. All improvements are within the existing right-of-way.	

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

G William "Trais" Norris, III	<i>G William "Trais" Norris, III</i>	1/25/2022
Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager

Paul N. Pineda	<i>Paul Pineda</i>	1/25/2022
Print Name	Signature	Date



CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

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

G William "Trais" Norris, III
Signature: G William "Trais" Norris, III
Date: 1/25/2022

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Paul N. Pineda
Signature: Paul Pineda
Date: 1/25/2022

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:

Biology:

1. Botanical surveys will be conducted by a qualified biologist during the blooming season before construction is scheduled to begin. If a California Native Plant Society-listed plant is found in the project area and cannot be avoided, 4 inches of topsoil from the area where the plant is found will be collected and stored until construction is complete. At that time, the topsoil would be restored to the temporarily disturbed area to preserve the seed bank of the species.
2. Protocol-level surveys for Crotch Bumblebee would be conducted before any ground disturbance and would adhere to the protocol that was used during the initial surveys unless additional protocol guidance is provided by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Overwintering queen surveys and spring surveys are expected to be completed to minimize the potential of directly impacting this species. If active nests or overwintering sites are discovered within the project footprint, they would be avoided by a minimum 50-foot radius. A biological monitor would be present during the proposed work if the work would occur near active nest locations or overwintering sites.
3. Pre-activity surveys will be conducted within 30 days before the beginning of ground disturbance. Worker environmental awareness training will be provided for all employees who enter the job site.
4. A daytime 20-mile-per-hour speed limit will be observed in all project areas, except on county roads and state and federal highways. A nighttime 10-mile-per-hour speed limit would be observed in all project areas, except on county roads and state and federal highways.
5. A litter control program would be implemented for this project, and trash would be removed daily from the project site. No pets or firearms (except for those carried by law enforcement officers and security personnel) would be allowed onsite.
6. Lighting will be confined to areas within the construction footprint.
7. Excavations deeper than 2 feet will be covered with plywood or similar material at the end of each workday, or escape ramps will be put in place to prevent any species entrapment. Each excavation would be inspected thoroughly before being filled.
8. Vehicles and other equipment that might provide shade or shelter for special status species will be inspected before use.
9. A 500-foot work exclusion zone for nesting migratory raptor species, and a 100-foot work exclusion zone for all other nesting migratory bird species, that do not have additional state or federal listing status, will be enforced. These buffers may be reduced if there is a biological or ecological reason to do so; however, a qualified biological monitor would need to be present if any construction activities were to be performed within these exclusion zones.
10. If bat roosts are discovered during preconstruction surveys and may adversely be impacted by the proposed work, a qualified biologist will be available to monitor the



CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

roost during construction activities and will determine if bat exclusion will need to be implemented. Bat exclusion will occur outside of the maternity season.

11. All staging areas will be approved by the project biologist and will be clearly designated with stakes/flagging. Proof of environmental compliance, including all state and federal laws and regulations, would be provided to the engineer if staging/storage areas occur outside of the project area or on private property.

Hazardous Waste:

1. A Preliminary Site Investigation (PSI) for Aerially Deposited Lead (ADL) will be conducted to determine proper management of excess soil.
2. A lead compliance plan (LCP) developed by a Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) is required.
3. Include SSP 14-11.12 for proper management of hazardous waste residue if yellow pavement striping will be removed separately. Residue from removal of yellow thermoplastic pavement marking and/or yellow painted traffic stripe may contain lead chromate.
4. Include SSP 36-4 and/or 84-9.03B for work involving residue from grinding and cold planing that contains lead from paint and thermoplastic and addresses the need for a lead compliance plan (LCP).
5. Include Standard Special Provision (SSP) 14-11.14 – Treated Wood Waste, if guardrails, signposts, or other sources of treated wood waste are to be removed during construction.

Water Quality:

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 considered complete when the criteria for final stabilization in the Construction General Permit are met.
4. If the project disturbs less than one acre of soil, a Water Pollution Control Plan (WPCP) is required to be prepared by the contractor following the Caltrans 2018 Standard Specification Section 13-1 – Water Pollution.

Noise:

1. The project shall comply with Caltrans Standard Specification section 14-8 “Noise control” pertaining to construction noise.

Air Quality:

1. Include Caltrans Standard Specifications, Section 14-9.02 “Air Pollution Control,” and Section 10-5 “Dust Control”.



**CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
DETERMINATION FORM**

2. A Dust Control Plan (DCP) approved by the San Joaquin Air Pollution Control District is needed if at least 2,500 cubic yards of material are moved in a day for at least three days of the project or 5 or more acres of land will be disturbed during construction.