



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

**Project Information**

**Project Name (if applicable):** THE GARCES CIRCLE SR 204 ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

**DIST-CO-RTE:** 06-KER-204

**PM/PM:** 4.74/5.00

**EA:** 06-1E700

**Federal-Aid Project Number:** 0622000088

**Project Description**

The project will enhance the safety and aesthetics at the northbound and southbound Golden State Avenue frontage underpasses located at SR 204 in Bakersfield. Improvements will include installing decorative fencing with gates, murals, cobblestone paving (rock blanket), and adding sidewalk and curb ramps outside of Garces Circle. The existing safety lighting under SR 204 consists of one pendant lighting fixtures at each side of the bridge. Up to three additional pendant fixtures over the sidewalks at each side of the bridge will be added for safety. The purpose of this project is to enhance the safety of all users and beautify the underpasses located adjacent to the Garces Memorial Circle. The project is needed to prevent future trash accumulation in these areas and promote pedestrian, bicyclist, and motorist safety.

**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

*G. William "Trais" Norris, III*

2/24/2022

Print Name

Signature

Date



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Project Manager

Shavonne Conley (Print Name), Shavonne Conley (Signature), 2/24/2022 (Date)

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



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**Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable):** N/A

**Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent:** See continuation sheet  
Avoidance/Minimization Measures (2/9/22)

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:

#### Avoidance/Minimization Measures (2/9/22)

##### Hazardous Waste:

- A lead compliance plan (LCP) developed by a Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) is required for ground disturbing activities (soil preparation for planting), as stated in Caltrans' Standard Special Provision (SSP) 7-1.02K(6)(j)(iii) Earth Material Containing Lead.

##### Paleontology:

- If unanticipated fossil discovery occurs during construction, Specification 14-7.03 of the Caltrans 2018 Standard Specifications identifies the procedures required to protect the resource.

##### Biology:

- If construction occurs into the avian nesting season (Feb 1 – Sep 31) a pre-construction survey will be required for migratory birds. Surveys for migratory birds must be completed prior to construction by a qualified biologist no more than 30 days prior to construction.
- If work runs into the nesting season and nesting birds are identified within the project area, the project may require a biological monitor or the use of an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) buffer depending on the scope of the project and degree of disturbance on species. Buffers are as follows: Nesting Raptors (including Swainson's Hawk) 500 feet; all other protected nesting birds 100 feet.
- Biological SSP 14 – 6.03B Species Protection for migratory and non-game birds, including Swainson's hawk, will be required. Biological SSP 14 – 1.02 Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) may be required.

##### Air Quality:

- Caltrans Standard Specifications, Section 14-9.02 "Air Pollution Control" and Section 10-5 "Dust Control" are required.
- If the project disturbs over 5 acres or removes 2500 cubic yards of soil for at least three days of the project, a Dust Control Plan (DCP) approved by the San Joaquin Air Pollution Control District will be required.

##### Noise:

- Caltrans Standard Specifications Section 14-8.02 "Noise Control" is required to regulate Construction noise.

##### Water:

- Based on the project disturbing less than one acre of soil, a Water Pollution Control Program needs to be prepared by the contractor in accordance with Caltrans Standard Specification Section 13.1-Water Pollution.