



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

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): Secret Valley SRRA

DIST-CO-RTE: 02-LAS-395

PM/PM: 103.9, 115.1

EA: 02-4H740

Federal-Aid Project Number: 0219000016

Project Description

The Caltrans Office of Geotechnical Design (Geotech), using state funding only, is proposing to conduct geotechnical investigations at two sites for onsite wastewater disposal. One of the sites will be selected for the development of a safety roadside rest area (SRRA). One site is located in Termo on the southwest intersection of SR 395 and Termo-Grasshopper Road at/near PM 115.1. The other site is located near Ravendale on the west side of SR 395 at/near PM 103.9 in an unincorporated area of Lassen County, California. Continued on page 3.

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

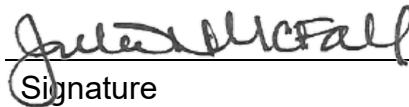
Based on an examination of this proposal and supporting information, the project is:

- Exempt by Statute.** (PRC 21080[b]; 14 CCR 15260 et seq.)
- Categorically Exempt. Class Class 6.** (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

Julie McFall

Print Name



Signature

9/12/22

Date

Project Manager

J. Scott Lewis

Print Name



Signature

9/13/2022

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

NA Print Name, NA Signature, NA Date

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

NA Print Name, NA Signature, NA Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): NA

Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 9/8/2022

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:

Continued from page 1.

Purpose: The purpose of the project is to conduct geotechnical investigations at two sites for onsite wastewater disposal; one of the sites will be selected for a Safety Roadside Rest Area (SRRA).

Need: The development of a new SRRA is needed due to the existing SRRA, located at PM 96.5, being in a remote location, old, difficult to maintain, difficult to keep clean, and having no power or running water.

Additional work

Geotech will perform infiltration testing to evaluate onsite wastewater feasibility. Four exploratory test pits per site will be excavated at strategic locations to determine wastewater feasibility. Exploration depths between 5 feet to 10 feet below existing grades, or to practical equipment refusal, will be adequate to characterize soil profile and shallow groundwater conditions, if any. An engineering geologist or professional engineer from Geotech will continuously observe the pits, log the subsurface conditions, collect representative soil samples, and transport all samples to laboratories for further examination and testing. Field testing is estimated to be completed within 1-2 weeks.

Additional drilling operations will be conducted by Caltrans Drilling Services or a contract drill crew. Drilling equipment will consist of a truck-mounted, trailer-mounted, or all terrain drill rig; a water tender/truck, and a crew cab with small trailer. To determine soil and groundwater conditions a maximum of 10 borings at each potential location will be drilled. Each boring will have up to an 8.5 inch diameter and a maximum depth of 70 feet. Soil and rock samples will be collected by the mud rotary self-casing drilling system for a Standard Penetration Test (SPT). Samples will be analyzed for particle size and geotechnical testing. Duration of the drilling is anticipated to last up to 2 weeks.

Right-of-Way

One Permit to Enter and/or Temporary Construction Easement will be needed for excavation and testing purposes at the area between the Caltrans sandhouse (PM 115.1) and the Caltrans ROW on SR 395.

Staging/Stockpiling

Staging will take place at the local Caltrans Maintenance yard in Termo. No grading and/or site preparation will occur.

Disposal/Borrow Sites

The project would not utilize borrowed material. Excess material will be backfilled, without compaction, once testing is complete.



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Biology

Rare plants are located within the project limits. A Caltrans biologist will need to be present during ground disturbing activities to aid in preventing impacts to rare plant species.

Cultural/Consultation

To identify potential cultural resources, Caltrans staff conducted a review of internal and external agency resource records and databases. Additionally, a field review of the project area was completed by cultural staff. No impacts to cultural resources are anticipated.

Permits

Regulatory permits are not required for geotechnical drilling work. A C-57 License is required from Lassen County, and will be obtained by the drilling contractor prior to drilling operations.

Utilities

All utilities in proximity to the locations of work would be protected in place; no utility conflicts are anticipated. All utility conversations will be coordinated with Caltrans Right of Way.