



**CEQA EXEMPTION  
DETERMINATION FORM (rev. 06/2022)**

<b><u>Project Information</u></b>	
<b>Project Name (if applicable):</b> Arcata Ditch	
<b>DIST-CO-RTE:</b> 01-HUM-101	<b>PM/PM:</b> 85/86.5
<b>EA:</b> 01-0M320	<b>Federal-Aid Project Number:</b>
<b><u>Project Description</u></b>	
<p>The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) issued an Emergency Director's Order to address the recent and on-going flooding of an existing storm drain system within the 101/255 Interchange in the City of Arcata. Flooding has resulted in the backup of storm water onto local city streets, impacting city infrastructure and private residences. This project will clean out accumulated soil, vegetation and debris within the drainage system, restoring it to as-built conditions before the rain season. Upland portions of the drainage system behind residential properties between 4th and 5th streets will be concrete lined in-order to facilitate drainage into the main ditch. No tree removal is required. The purpose of this project is to restore storm drain system to as-built conditions and function. This project is needed to prevent continued flooding of surface streets and neighborhoods in the City of Arcata. The project is state funded only. All work will occur within the Caltrans right of way.</p>	

**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**

Dominic Vitali		9/16/2022
Print Name	Signature	Date

**Project Manager**

Trevor Goff		09/23/2022
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)(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 May 27, 2022, and executed by FHWA and Caltrans.

**Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief**

Print Name	Signature	Date
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**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:** 8/26/2022

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 Considerations:**

Biological, cultural, visual, and hazardous waste and materials reviews been completed by qualified specialists. There are no significant environmental impacts associated with this project. No environmental permits are required for this project. The project was concurred with the City of Arcata and their Local Coastal Program.



## Environmental Commitments Record (ECR)

**DIST-CO-RTE:** 01-HUM-101      **PM/PM:** 85/86.5

**EA/Project ID.:** 01-0M320 / 0122000137

**Project Description:** Arcata Ditch

**Date (Last modification):** 08/26/2022

**Environmental Planner:** Morgan Kipf

**Phone No.:** (707) 492-0167

**Construction Liaison:** James McIntosh

**Phone No.:** (707) 496-4347

**Resident Engineer:** Brian Winter

**Phone No.:** (707) 834-1151

### PERMITS

Permit	Agency	Application Submitted	Permit Received	Permit Expiration	Permit Requirement Completed by:	Permit Requirement Completed on:	Comments
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### ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS

#### CONSTRUCTION

Category	Task and Brief Description	Source	Included in PS&E package	Responsible Branch/Staff	Action to Comply	Due Date	Task Completed by	Task Completed on	Remarks	Mitigation for significant impacts under CEQA?
Biology	A preconstruction bird survey shall be completed by qualified Caltrans staff within 5 days of the construction start date.	Env Doc		RE	If nesting birds are present a work exclusion zone will be established by the Caltrans ECL until the birds have fledged.	9/15/2022				No
Biology	A biological monitor may be present at the discretion of the ECL or Environmental senior. Fish have been identified in areas where standing water is present and all attempts to remove fish prior to debris removal shall be taken. No special status species are anticipated to be present.	Env Doc		RE	Fish and Wildlife surveys shall occur during the day and if work restrictions are identified they will be relayed to the ECL and RE before night work follows.	9/15/2022				No
Biology	NZMS handling protocol	Env Doc		RE	Contractor and all on-site personnel must adhere review the NZMS prior to construction and adhere to all terms therein. Upon completion of the project CDFW must be contacted as they may wish to inspect the pressure washing of equipment and they may also wish to inspect the equipment after the 48 hour minimum drying time just before it leaves the project site. CDFW has also requested we inform the contractor that the equipment shall not be used in any other aquatic application for at least 7 days after the 48 hour drying period.	9/15/2022				No

Environmental Commitment Record for Arcata Ditch

Category	Task and Brief Description	Source	Included in PS&E package	Responsible Branch/Staff	Action to Comply	Due Date	Task Completed by	Task Completed on	Remarks	Mitigation for significant impacts under CEQA?
Biology	Debris placement	Env Doc		RE	All material shall be deposited within the clover leave area according to the NZMS protocol. Special care shall be taken to ensure no material is deposited onto the traveled way where it may come in contact with vehicles. All material shall be enclosed in straw wattles or similar material to prevent surface runoff during unexpected rain events.	9/15/2022				No

**POST-CONSTRUCTION**

Category	Task and Brief Description	Source	Included in PS&E package	Responsible Branch/Staff	Action to Comply	Due Date	Task Completed by	Task Completed on	Remarks	Mitigation for significant impacts under CEQA?
Landscape	Hydroseeding	Env Doc	Select a response	RE	Ditch material shall be disced or tilled into ground within the designated clover leaf area and then hydroseeded to assist with erosion control and decomposition.					No
Landscape	Equipment exclusion after project completion	Env Doc	Select a response	Maintenance	After project completion and 48 hour dry times, no equipment shall return to the project site and come in contact with the debris material or the grass areas where NZMS may be present.					No

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Final Audit Report

2022-09-23

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