



**NON-HIGHWAY PROJECTS UNDER THE 2021 PROGRAMMATIC AGREEMENT
CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
DETERMINATION FORM (rev. 05/2021)**

Project Information
Project Name (if applicable): Installation of Broadband Network
DIST-CO-RTE: 07-LA-91 **PM/PM:** 8.1/20.7
EA: 38380 **DEP CE Number:** 202201004
Project Description
 The project proposes to install broadband conduit and fiber as part of the Broadband Middle-Mile Network (BMMN) along SR-91.
See continuation page for more information.

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

Thoa Le		9/26/2022
Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager

Akm Tareque		9/26/2022
Print Name	Signature	Date



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Caltrans NEPA Determination

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:

- Categorical Exclusion (CE) under the 2021 Programmatic Agreement Between the FHWA and Caltrans for projects that do not meet the definition of “highway projects” under 23 CFR 773.103 and that qualify for a CE under 23 CFR 771.117

Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief

Thoa Le		9/26/2022
Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Akm Tareque		9/26/2022
Print Name	Signature	Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): Enter date
Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 9/26/2022



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Continuation sheet:

The following work will be carried out:

-Install four (4) two-inch conduits with one (1) fiber optic cable along the north and south sides of SR-91, typically within 10 feet from the right-of-way line unless installed on bridges.

-Install conduits by trenching within 10 feet from the right-of-way line.

-Install conduits by jack and directional boring under ramps and connectors. Strap conduits underneath bridge structures at freeway interchanges and at local street overcrossing and undercrossing structures.

-Install splice vaults as per accommodation policy for wired broadband facility installations within the access-controlled Caltrans highway right-of-way.

-Install one (1) network hub at the SR-91/I-710 Interchange within Caltrans Right of way.

-Conduit installations across freeway and local street interchanges would be more than 10 feet from the right-of-way line to direct conduit under ramps and across the edge of bridge deck or top of bridge abutment.

-There will be no utility relocations required on this project. The proposed fiber optic conduit will avoid impacts to existing utilities.

CULTURAL

If previously unidentified cultural materials are unearthed during construction, work must be halted in that area until a qualified archaeologist can assess the significance of the find.

RECREATION

During project construction, access for users of bike paths and trails along the Los Angeles River, San Gabriel Rivers and any other locations where these facilities cross Route 91 will be provided at all times, and project construction activities shall not disrupt the operation of these bike path and trail facilities.

AIR QUALITY

Senate Bill 1 Section 2030(e) directs Caltrans "To the extent deemed cost effective, and where feasible, in the context of both the project scope and the risk level for the asset due to global climate change to better adapt the asset to withstand the negative effects of climate change and make the asset more resilient to impacts such as fires, floods, and sea level rise." In response, Caltrans Division of Environmental Analysis, Office of



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Environmental Management, developed a GHG Reduction Measures Toolbox (<https://env.onramp.dot.ca.gov/downloads/env/managedfiles/caltrans-ghg-reduction-measures-jun-2021-a11y.pdf>) for use in project development.

It is recommended that the PDT review, evaluate, and consider project measures in Tables 1 and 3 of the Toolbox in the link above and that the project commit to include all feasible and relevant measures identified from the Tables. If any measures are proposed outside the Tables in the Toolbox, the PDT shall ensure that those measures are biddable, buildable, and can be successfully implemented. All identified reduction measures shall be carried forward in the ECR.

Based on the currently proposed scope, the project therefore appears to be exempt from all requirements of Rule 403.2. The AQB will evaluate the project in PS&E to determine the applicability of Rule 403.2.

In order to help address public health disparities in underserved communities, consistent with one of the action items of Caltrans' Strategic Plan Goal to "Advance Equity and Livability in All Communities," Caltrans now requires use of Tier 4 engines for offroad diesel-fueled vehicles. The AQB will coordinate with HQ for approval of non-standard special provisions (NSSPs) to mandate contractors to use Tier 4 engines during construction. The coordination and approval of NSSPs will be completed as part of a review of PS&E.

Construction of the proposed project shall comply with all applicable AQMD Rules. Objectionable odors should also be minimized by conducting certain construction activities in areas at least 500 feet from the sensitive receptors as feasible.

HAZARDOUS WASTE

The General Contractor shall develop a task-specific Lead Compliance Plan and Excavation Transportation Plan for special handling and management of ADL contaminated soil as stipulated in standard special provisions (SSPs), Standard Specifications, 8 CCR, Section 1532.1, "Lead", and Cal-OSHA Construction Safety Order. Refer to attached SSP 14-11.08 Regulated Material Containing Aerially Deposited Lead.

The Contractor is required to adhere to the requirement stipulated in SSP and prepare a project specific Lead Compliance Plan (LCP) with lead awareness training in conformance with 8 CCR, Section 1532.1, "Lead", Cal-OSHA Construction Safety Order and Caltrans Standard Specifications prior to commencement of work. The LCP shall be prepared/signed/stamped by a Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH). Refer to attached SSP 14-11.09 Minimal Disturbance of Regulated Material Containing Aerially Deposited Lead.



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All soil disturbed must remain in the immediate area of disturbance and not be transported elsewhere, except for location 17004 Alburto Avenue, Artesia, CA 9070. Health and safety precautions and dust control for hazardous waste must be implemented.

Location 17004 Alburto Avenue, Artesia, CA 90701: Based on the available information and close distance from project site, groundwater depth, and excavation depth of 48", this recognized environmental condition (REC) may have adversely affected the project site. An NSSP is likely needed to ensure proper handling and disposal. Coordination with HW is ongoing.

BIOLOGY

Depending on the types/locations of culverts where conduits will be installed under, permits/approvals might be needed. Therefore, please provide information about these locations so Biologist can determine permit need.

The Project Biologist must be notified two weeks prior to construction so that preconstruction surveys may be conducted, and exclusionary devices and methods may be discussed, per the following standard specification

The Project Biologist must be invited to the pre-construction meeting, with one-week prior notice.

The use of invasive species, per the California Department of Agriculture list will not be allowed on this project, and the use of native species, such as deergrass (*Muhlenbergia rigens*) will be maximized, to reduce environmental impacts and increase environmental benefits of the project.

When vegetation removal is needed, it is recommended that all vegetation removal occur outside of bird nesting season (Bird nesting season is February 1st through September 1st). Regardless if vegetation removal is required or not, the District Biologist shall be notified two weeks prior to the start of construction to determine if nesting birds are present. In the event that nesting birds are observed, the Resident Engineer (RE) shall pause work until a qualified biologist has determined that fledglings have left the nest. If this is not possible, the RE shall coordinate with the District Biologist to minimize the risk of violating the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). If nesting bird(s) are discovered, then the District Biologist will recommend a buffer of 150 ft. for songbirds and a buffer of 500 ft. for raptors during all phases of construction. Nesting birds are protected under the MBTA and cannot be impacted by construction activities, including but not limited to noise, dust pollution, and habitat disturbance.

No work should commence until the vegetation to be removed has been surveyed for



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nesting birds and cleared by the District Biologist.

If any species of concern are observed during construction activities, all work shall immediately cease, and the District Biologist shall be immediately notified. Work shall not resume until clearance is given by the District Biologist.

This project must employ all appropriate Storm-water and Erosion Control Best Management Practices (BMPs) during construction, and these must be incorporated into the project specifications. Prior to the start of construction all drain inlets must be protected with BMPs to prevent construction materials and debris from entering drainages. Therefore, this project has very little potential to create water quality impacts. Temporary construction BMPs that may be required include: wind erosion control, sediment tracking control, street sweeping and vacuuming, stabilized construction roadway, spill prevention control, solid waste management, hazardous waste management, sanitary/septic waste management, material delivery and storage, material use, vehicle and equipment cleaning, vehicle and equipment fueling, and vehicle maintenance.

All pollution and litter laws and regulations will be followed by the Contractor and all personnel on site.

No asphalt grindings shall be used within 100 feet of any water course. Water course, for this purpose, is defined as any feature, either natural or man-made, which conveys water during any time of the year.

If the project scope should change for any reason, the Division of Environmental Planning will be notified to determine whether current environmental documentation is adequate.