



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

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): Mendocino Bridges Repair Project

DIST-CO-RTE: 01-MEN-VAR

PM/PM: VAR

EA: 01-0L160

Federal-Aid Project Number: N/A

Project Description:

Caltrans District 1 Maintenance proposes a bridge deck repair project to avoid deterioration of six bridges within Mendocino County. Project locations are located within Table-1 of the Continuation page.

The work consists of polyester concrete overlays and methacrylate deck seals to mitigate for: numerous concrete patches, cracks in the reinforced concrete deck, provide cover for exposed rebar, and replace worn joint seals. Deteriorated AC will be cold planed to a depth of 0.33-0.25 feet and replaced with Hot Mix Asphalt (Dense Graded) at structure approaches and departures. In addition to deck work, one of the six locations (location 3 – Garcia River Bridge) propose to replace structural steel beams under the bridge that were bent during debris strike from high flows during the 2021-2022 winter rain events.

Other work includes installing construction area signs and placing traffic striping. Staging is anticipated to utilize paved shoulders and developed gravel turnouts. All work will be within the existing State right of way. Project maintains original line and grade and original purpose of the facility. No work will alter existing drainage patterns or result in increased runoff. No drainage impacts to properties outside State right of way are anticipated. No modifications will be required to existing storm water runoff conveyance facilities. This project is State funded only.

Specific equipment related to bridge deck work will vary by contractor but may include the following: preheat thermoplastic trucks, primer application trucks, supply flatbed trucks, thermoplastic application machine, pilot trucks, light plants with generators, portable changeable message sign (PCMS) boards, pavement. Work and equipment related to the work under the Garcia River bridge (location 3) would be completed using hand tools by workers accessing the underside of the bridge from the river channel. Tools include portable ladders, wrenches, hand painting supplies and a hand-operated hoist (come-along). No equipment would be used within the river channel. Access would be from the north end of the bridge by foot.

Work is expected to occur in the Summer of 2023 and conclude by December 2023.

A summary of environmental commitments and Technical Studies are shown within Table-2 of the continuation sheet that support the determination of no impacts to less significant impacts from the project.



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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 15301. (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

Darrell Cardiff (Print Name), Darrell Cardiff (Signature), 9/30/22 (Date)

Project Manager

Chris Ghidinelli (Print Name), Chris Ghidinelli (Signature), 10/06/2022 (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, 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

Signature lines for Senior Environmental Planner and Project Manager/PLA Engineer, with 'Not Applicable' written across them.

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): N/A
Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 09/30/2022

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:

Table -1 – Project locations

Location #	County Route Post mile	Bridge No.	Bridge Name	Coordinates	Township, Range, Section & Quad Map
1	MEN-001-3.81	10-0124	Collins Landing Sidehill Viaduct	38° 47' 49" N, - 123° 34' 10" W	T11N R15W S17 Gualala
2	MEN-001-11.28	10-0111	Schooner's Gulch	38° 52' 05" N, - 123° 39' 11" W	T12N R16, S29,32 Saunders Reef
3	MEN-001-18.5	10-0113	Garcia River	38° 56' 41" N, - 123° 42' 03" W	T13N, R17W, S36 Point Arena
4	MEN-101- 59.90	10-0180	Long Valley Creek	- 123°26'0.273"W 39°33'46.29"N	T20N R14W S29 Longvale
5	MEN-101- 63.47	10-0098	Long Valley Creek	39° 36' 31" N, - 123° 27' 27" W	T20N, R14W S6 Longvale
6	MEN-001- 92.83	10-0304	Dunn Creek Bridge	39° 47' 55" N, - 123° 49' 13" W	T23N, R18W S35 Hales Grove

Table-2 – Technical Studies

Technical Studies Completed	Date Completed
Biological No Effects Memo	07/22/2022
Cultural Studies Screening Memo	08/04/2022
Visual Impact Review	06/29/2022
Hazardous Waste: Initial Site Assessment	05/02/2022
Water Quality Checklist	04/18/2022
Greenhouse Gas, Noise and Air Quality reviews	05/05/2022



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Environmental Commitments

The following Environmental Commitments are summarized and included to avoid impacts to environmental resources:

- Migratory birds – all bridge locations
 - Conduct work outside of nesting season (Feb1-Aug 31) or
 - A Qualified biologist/Contractor supplied biologist will conduct preconstruction surveys 5-days prior to construction to identify locations within 100-feet of construction and coordinate and implement CDFW specific avoidance measures
- Protect Northern Spotted Owl from Post miles 90.6 to 94.7
 - February 1 through July 31: Do not perform work that generates noise levels above 90 dBA LMax or 20dBA above ambient noise levels
 - August 1 through January 31: Comply with section 14-8.
 - Do not work within 131 feet or less from a known site location
 - Measure the noise level at 50 feet from the source of the noise generating activity. Backup alarms are excluded from the noise requirements.
- Bats
 - A Qualified biologist/Contractor supplied biologist (QB/CSB) will conduct a pre-construction survey for regulated bat species, and provide a report to 5 days prior to work.
 - If bat exclusion is installed, a QB/CSB will oversee the installation and during the appropriate times of March 1-April 15 or Sep 16-Nov 15 two-hours after sunset when evening temperatures are not below 50 degrees Fahrenheit.
- California Red-Legged Frog (CRLF) – Implement the following measures at the Garcia River Bridge location to protect CRLF:
 - A qualified biologist will conduct Worker Environmental Awareness Training for the construction workers prior to the start of construction activities updating workers on biology and avoidance measures.
 - The qualified biologist will appoint a biological monitor responsible for overseeing that crew members comply with the guidelines. Awareness Training will be conducted for new personnel before they can participate in construction activities. The qualified biologist will notify the Resident Engineer who will address any work stoppage, and the Service will be contacted if a California red-legged frog at any life stage (i.e., adults, sub-adults, tadpoles, eggs) is encountered during project activities.
 - Within 24 hours prior to the onset of ground disturbance activities, the qualified biologist will survey the project area for all life stages of the California red-legged frog. Surveys must be conducted immediately prior to ground-disturbing activities to lower the probability of one or more adult or sub-adult frogs moving into or laying eggs within the project area after a survey has already been conducted.
 - If California red-legged frogs (including eggs and tadpoles) are encountered at any time during project activities, construction activities will



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- cease in the area and the Service will be notified to determine how to proceed.
- All food-related trash will be disposed of in closed containers and removed from the project area at least twice per week during the construction period. Food may attract frog predators such as raccoons to the action area.
 - All vegetation removal activities will be done with the use of hand tools only (including chainsaws).
 - The number of access routes, numbers and sizes of staging areas, and the total area of the activity will be limited to the minimum necessary to achieve the project goal. Routes and boundaries will be clearly demarcated.
- Protect/Avoid impacts to Contra Costa goldfields from Postmiles 18.7-20.9 Year-round by:
 - No disturbance of vegetation throughout project limits
 - Placing construction signs on un-vegetated highway shoulders and turnouts
 - Constructing in approved locations only
 - Protect Point Arena Mountain Beaver at Garcia River Bridge by:
 - Placing high visibility barrier fence from the south abutment following behind the guardrail to the south end of the turnouts on the south end of the bridge, both sides of the highway. Fencing should not extend into any vegetated shoulder area.
 - No vehicle, equipment, material storage or parking in the turnouts on the south end of the bridge.
 - No personnel will enter vegetated areas along both sides of the south end of the bridge and highway from the Garcia River to the terminus of the barrier fencing
 - Use SSP 7-1.02K(6)(j)(iii) for earth materials containing lead
 - Use SSP 84-9.03B for thermoplastic/ paint striping for pavement delineation removal
 - Use SSP 36-4 when removing thermoplastic by cold planning or grinding
 - Use SSP 14-11.13 if bridge maintenance activities require disturb existing paint on the bridge rails or accent paint
 - Due to work (i.e. rehabilitation) of existing bridge structures, provide a National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) notification to the Mendocino County Air Quality Management District.

Permits

- North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board - Report of Waste Discharge
- CA Coastal Commission - Coastal Development Permit Exemption/Waiver