



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

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): Fort Tejon 2R Rehab BMMN

DIST-CO-RTE: 06-KER-005

PM/PM: R0.0/4.4

EA: 06-0X331

Federal-Aid Project Number: 0622000159

Project Description

Install Broadband Middle-Mile Network infrastructure on I-5 from the Los Angeles/Kern County line (PM R0.0) to Grapevine Creek (PM 4.4). The purpose of the project is to install the infrastructure as needed to provide an opportunity for service to this rural area in the future. All work is within the existing right-of-way.

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. b)** (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 | <i>G William "Trais" Norris, III</i> | 10/10/2022 |
| Print Name | Signature | Date |

Project Manager

| | | |
|------------------|----------------------------|------------|
| Michael Dennison | <i>Michael W. Dennison</i> | 10/11/2022 |
| Print Name | Signature | Date |



CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

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)(2) Utility installations
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

G William "Trais" Norris, III
Print Name Signature Date 10/10/2022

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Michael Dennison
Print Name Signature Date 10/11/2022

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): 10/10/22
Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 1/24/22

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).



Environmental Commitments Record (ECR)

DIST-CO-RTE: 06 - KER - 005 **PM/PM:** R0.000/4.400 **EA/Project ID:** 06-0X331 / 0622000159

Project Description: Fort Tejon 2R Rehab BMMN

Date (Last modification): 1/24/2022

Environmental Planner: Jeff Sorensen

Phone: 559-383-5566

Construction Liaison:

Phone:

Resident Engineer:

Phone:

PERMITS

| Permit | Agency | Application Submitted | Permit Received | Permit Expiration | Permit Requirements Completed by | Permit Requirements Completed on | Comments |
|--------------------------|--|-----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------|
| 1600 | California Department of Fish & Wildlife | | | | | | |
| 401 | RWQCB | | | | | | |
| 404 | USACOE | | | | | | |
| No Consultation Required | n/a | | | | | | |
| NOI/NOT (Stormwater) | State Water Quality Board | | | | | | |
| NOI/NOT (Stormwater) | State Water Quality Board | | | | | | |

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS

PS&E/BEFORE RTL

| 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 |
|-----------------|--|--------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|----------|-------------------|-------------------|---------|---|
| Hazardous Waste | SSP and soil management specifications for ADL | SSP | SSP | | include specific soil specification based on TO results. | | | | | |

Signature

Date

Environmental Commitments Record for Fort Tejon 2R Rehab

| 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 |
|----------|----------------------------|--------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|----------|-------------------|-------------------|---------|---|
|----------|----------------------------|--------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|----------|-------------------|-------------------|---------|---|

PRE-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 | Measure 1: Botanical surveys would be conducted by a qualified biologist during the blooming season before construction is scheduled to begin. If a California Native Plant Society-listed plant is found in the project area and cannot be avoided, 4 inches of topsoil from the area where the plant is found would be collected and stored until construction is complete. At that time, the topsoil would be restored to the temporarily disturbed area to preserve the seed bank of the species. | Env Doc | SSP | Bio | | | _____ Signature | _____ Date | | |
|---------|---|---------|-----|-----|--|--|--------------------|---------------|--|--|

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---|---------|-----|--------------|---|--|--------------------|---------------|---|--|
| Biology | Measure 11: Before any ground disturbance, a qualified biologist would conduct pre-activity surveys for burrowing owls. Preconstruction surveys would be conducted within 30 days before the beginning of ground disturbance. The surveys would identify any potential burrowing owl burrows or other evidence of burrowing owl occupancy. Implementation of avoidance and minimization measures would be triggered by positive burrowing owl burrow presence on the site where project activities would occur. The development of avoidance and minimization approaches would be informed by monitoring the burrowing owls by a qualified biologist. The biologist would determine the appropriate level of effort for monitoring and if exclusion zones would need to be implemented. | Env Doc | SSP | RE, ECL, Bio | RE to comply with SSPs and notify Bio or ECL at least 30 days prior to start of construction to coordinate the surveys. | | _____ Signature | _____ Date | RE to coordinate monitoring with Bio and ECL. | |
|---------|---|---------|-----|--------------|---|--|--------------------|---------------|---|--|

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|--|---------|-----|--------------|---|--|--------------------|---------------|---|--|
| Biology | Measure 13: Before any ground disturbance, a qualified biologist would conduct pre-activity surveys for migratory birds and raptors. Preconstruction surveys would be conducted within 30 days before the beginning of ground disturbance. Implementation of avoidance and minimization measures would be triggered by active migratory bird nests on the site where project activities would occur. A qualified biologist would determine the appropriate level of effort for monitoring and if exclusion zones would need to be implemented. A 500-foot work exclusion zone is proposed for all migratory raptor species, and a 100-foot work exclusion zone is proposed for all other migratory bird species that do not have additional state or federal listing status. These buffers may be reduced if there is a biological or ecological reason to do so; however, a qualified | Env Doc | SSP | RE, ECL, Bio | RE to comply with SSPs and notify Bio or ECL at least 30 days prior to start of construction to coordinate the surveys. | | _____ Signature | _____ Date | RE to coordinate monitoring with Bio and ECL. | |
|---------|--|---------|-----|--------------|---|--|--------------------|---------------|---|--|

Environmental Commitments Record for Fort Tejon 2R Rehab

| 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 |
|----------|---|---------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|----------|--------------------|-------------------|--|---|
| | biological monitor would need to be present if any construction activities were to be performed within these exclusion zones | | | | | | | | | |
| Biology | Measure 14: 1. If bat roosts are discovered during preconstruction surveys and may adversely be impacted by the proposed work, a qualified biologist would be available to monitor the roost during construction activities and would determine if bat exclusion would need to be implemented. Bat exclusion would occur outside of the maternity season. | Env Doc | SSP | RE, ECL, Bio | RE to comply with SSPs and Bio and ECL to report to RE if any compliance issues are observed. | | _____ Signature | _____ Date | RE to coordinate monitoring with Bio and ECL. | |
| Biology | Measure 2: Before any ground disturbance, the contractor, all employees of the contractor, subcontractors, and subcontractors' employees would attend an employee education program conducted by an agency-approved biologist (if approval is required). The program would consist of a brief presentation on the biology, legislative protection, and measures to avoid impacts to protected species during project implementation. | Env Doc | SSP | RE, ECL, Bio | RE to comply with SSPs and notify Bio or ECL to coordinate the WEAT. | | _____ Signature | _____ Date | | |
| Biology | Measure 3: Protocol-level Crotch bumblebee surveys would be conducted before any ground disturbance and would adhere to the protocol that was used during the initial surveys unless additional protocol guidance is provided by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Overwintering queen surveys and spring surveys are expected to be completed to minimize the potential of directly impacting this species. If active nests or overwintering sites are discovered within the project footprint, they would be avoided by a minimum 50-foot radius. A biological monitor would be present during the proposed work if the work would occur near active nest locations or overwintering sites. | Env Doc | SSP | RE, ECL, Bio | RE to comply with SSPs and notify Bio or ECL at least 30 days prior to start of construction to coordinate the surveys. | | _____ Signature | _____ Date | Bio to complete flyout survey in the season prior to construction. Overwintering survey only needed if work will occur during the winter season. | |
| Biology | Measure 6: Before any ground disturbance, a qualified biologist would conduct pre-activity surveys for special-status species. Preconstruction surveys would be conducted within 30 days before the beginning of ground disturbance or construction activities. The surveys would identify any potential dens or other evidence of species occupancy. If any listed special-status species are detected within the project limits, and Caltrans biologists determine that there is potential for take, then the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and/or the California Department of Fish and Wildlife would be consulted, and a take authorization would be obtained. | Env Doc | SSP | RE, ECL, Bio | RE to comply with SSPs and notify Bio or ECL at least 30 days prior to start of construction to coordinate the surveys. | | _____ Signature | _____ Date | | |

Environmental Commitments Record for Fort Tejon 2R Rehab

| 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 |
|----------|----------------------------|--------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|----------|-------------------|-------------------|---------|---|
|----------|----------------------------|--------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|----------|-------------------|-------------------|---------|---|

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 | Measure 10: Excavations deeper than 2 feet would be covered with plywood or similar material at the end of each workday, or escape ramps would be put in place to prevent any entrapment. Each excavation would be inspected thoroughly before being filled. | Env Doc | SSP | RE, ECL, Bio | RE to comply with SSPs and Bio and ECL to report to RE if any compliance issues are observed. | | _____ Signature | _____ Date | | |
|---------|--|---------|-----|--------------|---|--|--------------------|---------------|--|--|

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|--|---------|-----|--------------|---|--|--------------------|---------------|--|--|
| Biology | Measure 12: Vehicles and other equipment that might provide shade or shelter for special-status species shall be inspected before use. | Env Doc | SSP | RE, ECL, Bio | RE to comply with SSPs and Bio and ECL to report to RE if any compliance issues are observed. | | _____ Signature | _____ Date | | |
|---------|--|---------|-----|--------------|---|--|--------------------|---------------|--|--|

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---|---------|-----|--------------|---|--|--------------------|---------------|--|--|
| Biology | Measure 4: All staging areas would be approved by the project biologist and would be clearly designated with stakes/flagging. Proof of environmental compliance, including all state and federal laws and regulations, would be provided to the engineer if staging/storage areas occur outside of the project area or on private property. | Env Doc | SSP | RE, ECL, Bio | RE to comply with SSPs and Bio and ECL to report to RE if any compliance issues are observed. | | _____ Signature | _____ Date | | |
|---------|---|---------|-----|--------------|---|--|--------------------|---------------|--|--|

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|--|---------|-----|--------------|---|--|--------------------|---------------|--|--|
| Biology | Measure 5: Project employees would be directed to exercise caution when commuting within the habitats of listed species. A daytime 20-mile-per-hour speed limit would be observed in all project areas, except on county roads and state and federal highways. Project employees would be provided with written guidance governing vehicle use, speed limits on unpaved roads, fire prevention, and other hazards. A nighttime 10-mile-per-hour speed limit would be observed in all project areas, except on county roads and state and federal highways. | Env Doc | SSP | RE, ECL, Bio | RE to comply with SSPs and Bio and ECL to report to RE if any compliance issues are observed. | | _____ Signature | _____ Date | | |
|---------|--|---------|-----|--------------|---|--|--------------------|---------------|--|--|

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---|---------|-----|--------------|---|--|--------------------|---------------|--|--|
| Biology | Measure 7: A litter control program would be implemented for this project, and trash would be removed daily from the project site. No pets or firearms (except for those carried by law enforcement officers and security personnel) would be allowed onsite. | Env Doc | SSP | RE, ECL, Bio | RE to comply with SSPs and Bio and ECL to report to RE if any compliance issues are observed. | | _____ Signature | _____ Date | | |
|---------|---|---------|-----|--------------|---|--|--------------------|---------------|--|--|

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|--|---------|-----|--------------|------------------------------------|--|--------------------|---------------|--|--|
| Biology | Measure 8: To minimize the adverse effects of lighting, the proposed action would confine lighting to areas within the | Env Doc | SSP | RE, ECL, Bio | RE to comply with SSPs and Bio and | | _____ Signature | _____ Date | | |
|---------|--|---------|-----|--------------|------------------------------------|--|--------------------|---------------|--|--|

Environmental Commitments Record for Fort Tejon 2R Rehab

| 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 |
|----------|--|---------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|----------|--------------------|-------------------|---------|---|
| | construction footprint. | | | | ECL to report to RE if any compliance issues are observed. | | _____ Signature | _____ Date | | |
| Biology | Measure 9: A qualified biologist(s) would be available on call during all construction periods in the event of sightings of listed species onsite or near the project footprint. | Env Doc | SSP | RE, ECL, Bio | RE to comply with SSPs and immediately notify Bio and ECL if a listed species is observed. | | _____ Signature | _____ Date | | |