



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

Project Information

Project Name: Somes Bar CAPM Subsurface Investigation Phase 1

DIST-CO-RTE: 02-SIS-96

PM/PM: R1.3

EA: 02-4H080

Federal-Aid Project Number: 0218000075

Project Description

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), using state and federal funding, is planning to perform a subsurface investigation of five (5) borings on SR 96 at PM R1.3 in Siskiyou County within Caltrans Right of Way to collect subsurface data necessary in the preparation of the future foundation recommendations as well as to provide information for future construction procedures. The subsurface data will be used to generate a new "Log-of-Test Boring" (LOTB). Borings will not extend deeper than 200 feet below the ground surface. The proposed borings may shift locations depending on identification of underground utilities and structures.

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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

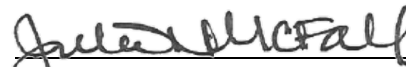
Based on an examination of this proposal and supporting information, the project is:

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

2/27/24

Date

Project Manager

Alyson Sinclair

Print Name


Signature

2/29/2024

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)(24)

23 CFR 771.117(d): activity (d)()

Activity 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

Julie McFall
Print Name
Signature
Date 2/27/24

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Alyson Sinclair
Print Name
Signature
Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion: 01/04/2023
Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 02/07/2023

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).

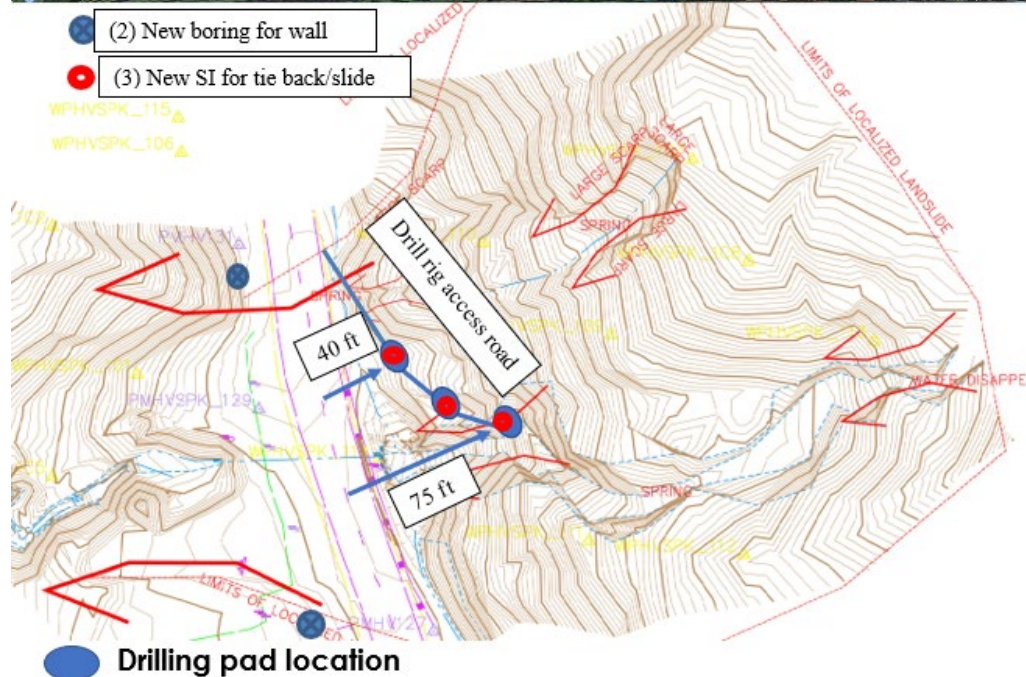
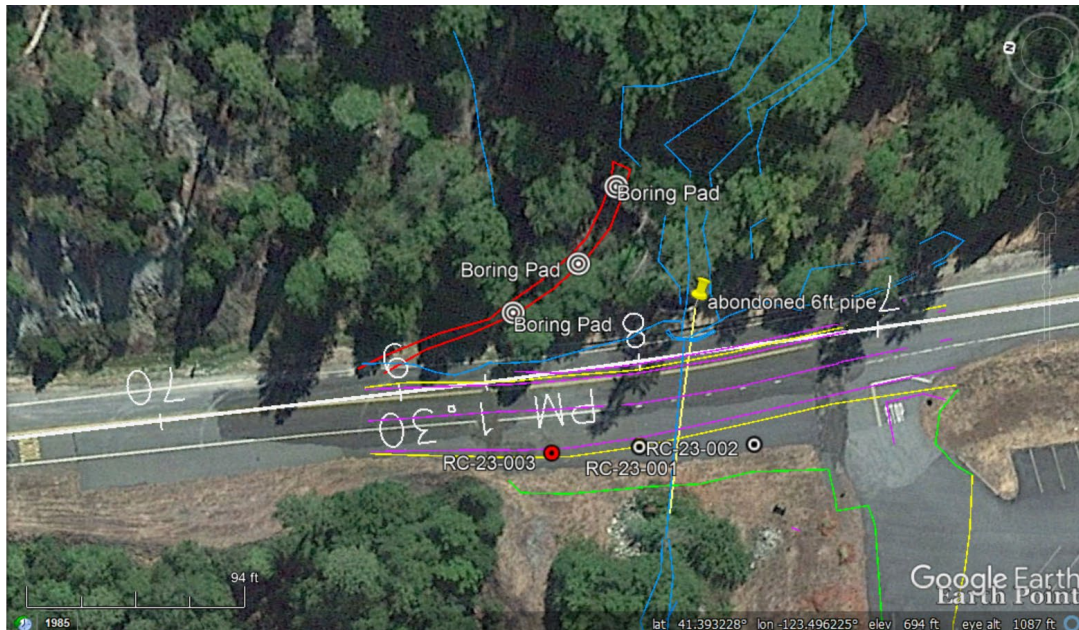


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Continuation sheet:

Geotechnical Investigations will be conducted in two phases, the second of which is detailed in this form. Project construction requires subsurface investigations to determine soil and site conditions by drilling vertical borings to collect soil samples for laboratory testing and analysis. The purpose of this subsurface investigation is to provide engineering soil properties and to evaluate the current site conditions for design of the culvert replacement.

Location/Investigation Map





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- Three (3) soil/rock borings will be drilled with installation of Slope Inclinerometers (SI) within the delineated red boring Id to 200 feet below ground surface (utilized for environmental clearance and ground movement).
- 10-foot-wide cut road as indicated for borehole investigation.
- Some smaller trees to be removed for the 10-foot-wide cut road upslope.
- Two (2) soil/rock borings will be drilled and destroyed delineated in blue to 200 feet below ground surface for environmental clearance and ground movement.
- Expected difficult drilling in gravels, cobbles, boulders, and fractured/fresh rock.
- Groundwater will likely be encountered, based on local geomorphology.
- Each soil boring to take 3 days working 10 hours shifts (including travel).
- Borings will be up to 8 inches in diameter by augers or 4 inches by Diamond Rock core sampling or a combination of both.
- Service contract for a temporary cut road to drilling pad locations

PURPOSE: The purpose of this Site Investigation is to collect subsurface data as necessary in the preparation of the future foundation recommendations as well as to provide information for future construction procedures. The subsurface data will be used to generate a new "Log-of-Test Boring" (LOTB).

NEED: The existing roadway is in a poor condition with localized areas of severe distress. Routine maintenance has not been sufficient to maintain an adequate road surface. Caltrans Office of Geotechnical Design North needs to perform the drilling as part of the subsurface investigation plan to gain information for preliminary design and environmental analysis.

PERMITS

The following permits are anticipated for this project:

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Clean Water Act Section 404, Non-reporting Nationwide Permit 6.
- Regional Water Quality Control Board CWA Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board.

CONSULTATION/COORDINATION

Caltrans has performed an environmental evaluation consisting of a review of resource records and databases, consultation, and coordination with applicable agencies and individuals.

UTILITIES

There is a fiberoptic cable that runs parallel to the shoulder throughout the project. The cable, and all other utilities in proximity to the locations of work, would be protected in place. All utilities in proximity to the locations of work would be protected in place; no utility conflicts are anticipated based on scope of project, however if any relocations will be needed, they will be coordinated within Caltrans Right of Way.



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RIGHT-OF-WAY

The proposed geotechnical work will not require acquisitions or TCEs due to work being confined to within Caltrans Right-of-Way (ROW).

STAGING/STOCKPILING

There are multiple pullout locations within Caltrans right of way that can be utilized as staging areas within the project limits. Equipment storage for the drilling operation is located at the local Caltrans Maintenance yard. The water tender and trailer are stored at the nearest Caltrans yard at the end of each workday. If required, the drilling rig might remain at the investigation location overnight. The crew cab and geologist/engineer's vehicles will usually be transported off site at the end of each workday. Staging of equipment and materials would take place within the limits of areas that have been previously graded and graveled to accommodate the traveling public.

DISPOSAL/BORROW SITES

No disposal site required for drilling. Cuttings are drummed and staged at the maintenance station or on the drilling trailers.