



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

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): Tuolumne SR-49 Culvert Replacements

DIST-CO-RTE: 10-TUO-49

PM/PM: 22.33, 22.66

EA: 10-1M970

Federal-Aid Project Number: N/A

Project Description

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes a culvert replacement project at post miles (PM) 22.33 and 22.66 on State Route (SR) 49, Tuolumne County. Location 1 (PM 22.33) includes an existing two-culvert system. The scope of work at Location 1 includes installing an 18" metal Flared End Section (FES) at the outlet of the first existing culvert. For the second existing culvert at Location 1, the scope of work includes replacing the existing concrete headwall at the inlet, replacing the existing 30" Corrugated Steel Pipe (CSP) with a 36" Reinforced Concrete Pipe (RCP) and rubberized gasket joint, installing a 36" down drain and FES at the outlet, and replenishing Rock Slope Protection at the outlet. At Location 2 (PM 22.66) the scope of work includes replacing the existing 24" CSP with a new 24" CSP, replacing the existing metal FESs at the inlet and outlet, and grading the outlet ditch. All work will occur with Caltrans existing Right of Way. The purpose of this project is to replace the damaged and failing culverts. The project is needed to extend the service life of SR-49 and maintain motorist safety across these drainages.

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

Elizabeth Hummel	<i>Elizabeth Hummel</i>	01/12/2023
Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager

Jason Miller	<i>Jason Miller</i>	1/12/2023
Print Name	Signature	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, 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

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Print Name Signature Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): N/A

Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 01/12/2023

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:

General

- Environmental reevaluation will be required if the scope of the project changes to include additional areas or activities, or if previously unknown cultural or other sensitive resources are discovered. Contact Environmental Office if project changes occur or sensitive resources discovered.
- Contact the Environmental Office to attend the pre-construction meeting.

Cultural

- If cultural resources are discovered at the job site, do not disturb the resources and immediately:
 1. Stop all work within a 60-foot radius of the discovery
 2. Protect the discovery area
 3. Notify the EngineerThe Department investigates. Do not move cultural materials or take them from the job site. Retain a qualified archeologist to assess the significance of the find. Do not resume work within the discovery area until authorized.
- If human remains are discovered, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that further disturbances and activities shall cease in any area or nearby area suspected to overlie remains, and the County Coroner should be contacted. Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98, if the remains are thought to be Native American, the coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) which will then notify the Most Likely Descendent (MLD). At that time, the landowner will work with the MLD on the respectful treatment and disposition of the remains. Further provisions of PRC 5097.98 are to be followed as applicable.

Hazardous Waste

- Caltrans Standard Special Provision 7-1.02K(6)(j)(iii) pertaining to earth material containing lead, shall be included in the contract.

Biology

- If construction will occur during bird nesting season (February 1 through September 30), contact the Environmental Office at least one month prior to the start of construction to schedule a pre-construction bird survey. The pre-con bird survey must be completed within 14 days prior to the start of any construction related activities. Caltrans Standard Special Provision (SSP) 14-6.03A regarding protective radii shall be included in the construction contract. If active migratory bird nests are observed during the pre-construction bird survey, a 100-foot protective buffer shall be established around the nest. For hawks, a 300-foot



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buffer shall be established. No personnel, equipment, or construction related activities will be allowed within the protective buffer limits until the young have fledged the nest and until authorized by the Caltrans District 10 Environmental Office.

No permits required.