



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

**Project Information**

**Project Name (if applicable):** Acid Flats Bridge Replacement: Geotech Drilling

**DIST-CO-RTE:** 03-NEV-080

**PM/PM:** 27.6-28.5

**EA:** 03-3H580

**Federal-Aid Project Number:** 0318000016

**Project Description**

The Office of Geotechnical Design North (OGDN) plans to conduct a geotechnical investigation to evaluate subsurface conditions at the proposed Acid Flats Bridge replacement and associated retaining walls. The subsurface information obtained will be used to develop soil and rock parameters for structure foundation designs, and identify conditions related to construction. See Continuation Sheet on Page 3.

**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 4.** (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**

Cara Lambirth

*Cara Lambirth*

7/13/23

Print Name

Signature

Date

**Project Manager**

Mohan V. Bonala

*Bhagavan*

07/13/2023

Print Name

Signature

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)(7)

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

Cara Lambirth Cara Lambirth 7/13/23
Print Name Signature Date

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Mohan V. Bonala Bhagavan. 07/13/2023
Print Name Signature Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): 06/13/2023

Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: Enter date

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:**

The subsurface investigation will consist of a total of eleven (11) geotechnical boreholes. The proposed boreholes will be located within State Right of Way (ROW). The number of working days to complete the exploration is estimated to be twenty-seven (27) days. For additional details per location, see Site Investigation Plan Maps 1 thru 3, Supplemental Environmental Request Forms - Geotechnical Investigation Information, and associated figures for each general location. The project is located along Interstate 80 (I-80), adjacent to the Truckee River just east of the town of Floriston from postmile (PM) 27.6 and 28.5, approximate coordinates 39.403308°, -120.024342° (WGS84/NAD83 datum), in the Bocca USGS 7.5" quadrangle. This location is in the Sierra Nevada Mountains approximately 12.5 miles northeast of the Truckee, California.

### **Right of Way**

One (1) ROE was requested and obtained.

### **Consultation/Coordination**

No consultation/coordination with other agencies is required for Geotech Studies.

### **Biology**

Geotech borings for location B7 and B8 will be performed through the bridge deck to avoid unnecessary impacts to the Truckee River and its bank. These drill locations will be completely dewatered before drilling commences.

This project is not expected to result in direct or indirect impacts to Federal or State listed biological resources. A site visit was conducted, and no suitable habitat existed within the ESL that could support special status species. There will be no effect to any State or Federally listed species.

Silt fence and plastic sheeting will be used around the drill rig to contain drilling activities to the immediate area and to prevent any accidental spill of drilling liquid or backfill into the Truckee River.

Vegetation trimming will be limited to the minimum amount necessary to access the drill sites. No vegetation will be removed.

### **Permits for Geotech borings B7 and B8**

A Nation-Wide Permit 6 pre-construction notification will be submitted to the US Army Corps of Engineers to satisfy Caltrans' Clean Water Act obligations. The permanent effects of this geotechnical study are limited to a total of 0.1744 square feet or area or less and a maximum fill of 0.6464 cubic yards of permanent fill.

A Lake and Streambed Alteration agreement will be submitted to California Department of Fish and Wildlife to satisfy Caltrans 1600 obligations. The permanent effects of the geotechnical study are limited to a total of 0.1744 square feet or area or less and a maximum fill of 0.6464 cubic yards of permanent fill.

- Army Corps of Engineers: Nationwide 6
- Lahontan Waterboard: 401
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife: 1600
- No Mitigation is proposed
- No permits needed for B1, B2, B3, B4, B5, B6, B9, B10, and B11.

### **Cultural**

The proposed project does not have the potential to affect any archaeological sites or other cultural resources based on investigation of the project areas and the scope of work being performed and can be



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treated as a screened project pursuant to Stipulation VII and Attachment 2 under the following class of undertaking per the Section 106 PA:

**Class 29.** Preliminary engineering tests, such as seismic, geologic, or hazardous materials testing that involve buildings or structures or require trenching or ground boring.

### **Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Noise**

**Air Quality:** This project is exempt from all air quality conformity analysis requirements per Table 2 of 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) §93.126, subsection “Safety-Widening narrow pavement or reconstructing bridges (no additional travel lanes)” and no further air quality analysis is required.

**Long-Term Greenhouse Gas Emissions:** Long-term operational GHG emissions are not predicted to increase from the project. Therefore, impact regarding GHG is not expected and no further analysis is required.

**Short-Term Effects (Construction Emissions):** During construction, short-term degradation of air quality may occur due to the release of particulate emissions (airborne dust) generated by excavation, grading, hauling, and other construction-related activities.

**Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Construction Emissions:** The proposed project would result in generation of short-term construction-related GHG emissions.

**Noise:** Based on the scope of work, this project is considered a Type III project. Traffic noise impact is not predicted to occur from the proposed project; therefore, noise abatement is not considered.

### **Hazardous Waste**

OEES has not identified any significant hazardous waste/material issues associated with the proposed geotechnical investigation.

### **Water Quality**

No impacts to water quality are anticipated, pending the appropriate selection and implementation of field BMPs in accordance with the guidelines and the proper handling of material waste that may be generated during the course of proposed operations.