

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: (Public Agency): City of Hanford
317 N. Douty Street
Hanford, CA 93230

County Clerk
County of: Kings
1400 W. Lacey Blvd.
Hanford, CA 93230

(Address)

Project Title: Lacey Blvd and 9th Avenue Signalization and Intersection Improvement Project

Project Applicant: City of Hanford

Project Location - Specific:

Intersection of Lacey Blvd. and 9th Avenue

Project Location - City: Hanford Project Location - County: Kings

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project includes installation of signal light poles, a power supply, curb, gutter, and ADA accessible curb returns at the Lacey Blvd. and 9th Avenue intersection. A full Project Description is included as an attachment to this document.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Hanford

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: City of Hanford

Exempt Status: (check one):

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Class 1 Section 15301(c) and (f)
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project anticipates the improvement of an existing intersection by developing signals and pedestrian infrastructure. The project does not propose additional lanes and will not result in an increase in road capacity. The intent of the project is to provide safer intersection and pedestrian controls at the existing right-of-way (ROW). The project site is already improved with an intersection in a developed urbanized area of the City of Hanford, and does not contain suitable habitat for significant biological resources. No cultural or scenic resources were identified on the site. The project site does not contain a listed hazardous material/waste facility. Construction will be conducted within existing ROW and on previously disturbed land. The anticipated construction efforts of the project are not expected to exceed SJVAPCD criteria pollutant thresholds and will comply with SJVAPCD rules and regulations for construction activities including fugitive dust emission control measures. See further justification of the use of these exemptions on the attached sheets.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Lisa Dock Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 559 585 2555

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature: [Signature] Date: 7/28/23 Title: City Engineer

• Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project includes installation at Lacey Blvd and 9th Ave, which includes installing signal light poles, a power supply, curb, gutter and ADA accessible curb returns. See Figure 1 below.

Components of the project include:

1. Construction of four ADA ramps and curb returns at the intersection of Lacey Blvd and 9th Avenue.
2. Installation of ADA ramps and landing (curb returns and steel conduits per civil plans)
3. Civil engineering plans will install traffic signal conduits in roadway and construct curb at curb returns
4. Installation signal poles and equipment; with pole footings as deep at 14 ft.
5. On site staging areas on the shoulder of the intersection as shown in Figure 2
6. Localized Traffic Control
7. Acquisition of new road right of way (ROW)
8. Removal of a tree on the northeast corner of the intersection is required.
9. There is one mobile home unit currently located within the existing public ROW on the northeast corner of 9th Ave. The unit will be relocated out of the ROW and onto the same parcel so the full buildout of the signalized intersection can be completed.
10. The project will require the relocation of two Southern California Edison power poles within the ROW of the existing intersection. The construction will require coordination with all utility services including Southern California Edison, Southern California Gas, Comcast, and AT&T.

Excavation of up to 14 feet in depth will be required to support installations of utility poles and ADA curb ramps as well as underground utilities.

There would be minimal ground disturbance and a tree removal in a location that will become right of way for the intersection signal installation and ADA curbs. The acquisition of new right of way will be limited to portions of parcels to accommodate the signal improvement. All equipment would be staged at the City's existing facility and all work would occur during daylight hours. Staging of equipment during construction activities would be restricted to existing roadway shoulders; no undisturbed land would be used or impacted. The project would not require soil disposal or the use of borrow sites.

EXEMPTIONS:

- Class 1 15301 ©: *Existing Facilities* consists of existing highways and streets, sidewalks, gutters, bicycle and pedestrian trails, and similar facilities (this includes road grading for the purpose of public safety, and other alterations such as the addition of bicycle facilities, including but not limited to bicycle parking, bicycle-share facilities and bicycle lanes, transit improvements such as bus lanes, pedestrian crossings, street trees, and other similar alterations that do not create additional automobile lanes).
- Class 1 15301 (f): *Existing Facilities* consist of additions of safety or health protection devised for use during construction of or in conjunction with existing structures, facilities, or mechanical equipment, or topographical features including navigational devices.

REASONS WHY PROJECT IS EXEMPT

Biological Resources

The project site is located at the intersection of Lacey Boulevard and 9th Avenue, which is in a highly urbanized and developed part of east Hanford. There is no suitable or critical habitat within or adjacent to the project area. Construction will be conducted within an existing, disturbed and developed area of the intersection. The project area does not contain habitat to support special status species.

The project does not include box culvert replacement/repair or bridge work. Although a tree will be removed on the northeast corner of the intersection, construction is scheduled to begin in January of 2025, which is outside the nesting bird season (February 15-September 15) and would therefore not impact nesting birds. Additionally, as required by the City's General Plan, a pre-construction clearance survey of the project site will be completed no more than 30 days prior to the start of construction to ensure no biological resources are affected. Per the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) and National Hydrography Dataset (NHD), there are no wetlands or other water features within or adjacent to the project. The project site is in an urban, completely built-up area of the City.

Tribal/Cultural Resources

The project site is located within an urban, completely built-up area of the City of Hanford. Previous ground disturbance on and around the project site did not indicate the presence of tribal/cultural resources. The project will comply with the policies of the City of Hanford General Plan for cultural resource conservation, specifically Policy 049 states that construction will be halted at a development site, should a cultural resource be encountered unexpectedly during construction. The project is expected to be in compliance with the General Plan and in the unlikely event that a cultural resource is unearthed during ground disturbing activities, the project will comply with the policies of the Hanford General Plan for addressing discovered cultural resources and would not result in a significant impact.

Hazardous Waste Sites

CEQA Guidelines, Appendix G, Section IX.d Hazards and Hazardous Materials indicates that a significant impact would occur if a project is located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result would create a significant hazard to the public or the environment. Government Code Section 65962.5 is commonly referred to as the "Cortese List" and will include, but not be limited to hazardous waste facilities, hazardous waste disposal sites, and underground storage tanks.

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) provides the Envirostor system for tracking cleanup, permitting, enforcement and investigation efforts as hazardous waste facilities and site with known contamination or sites where there may be reasons to investigate. A review of the Envirostor system indicates that the project site is not located on a permitted hazardous material site or reported cleanup site. There are no listed sites within the Envirostor database within a half-mile radius of the Project site (California Department of Toxic Substances Control, 2023).

The State Water Resources Control Board, GeoTracker database tracks sites that impact, or have the potential to impact water quality in California with emphasis on groundwater. GeoTracker contains records for sites that require cleanup, such as a leaking underground storage tank (LUST) site, Department of Defense site, and cleanup program sites (State Water Resources Control Board, 2023). The GeoTracker database shows that there is one LUST cleanup sites within a half-mile radius of the project site. However, further review of the LUST cleanup sites indicates that the case has been completed and closed.

Therefore, based on available resources, the project site is not located on a hazardous material/waste site as identified in the Envirostor database, and does not contain a component that can result in the release of a hazardous substance as shown in the Geotracker system. Therefore, the project is not located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and would not create a significant hazard to the public or environment.

Air Quality

Development of the project is anticipated improve intersection operations by providing signalization and pedestrian improvements. Based on the anticipated activity levels, the development of the Project would not exceed construction emissions thresholds. Additionally, all construction activities are required to be in compliance with San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) rules and regulations including fugitive dust control measures. These measure include the regular watering of uncovered ground to reduce dust emissions. With the project's compliance with SJVAPCD rules and regulations, the project will have a less than significant impact. The proposed Project would provide intersection improvements to the intersection and will not create any additional operational emissions. Therefore, the Project would not exceed established operational threshold emissions.

Scenic Resources

Per the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Scenic Highways Systems Map (California Department of Transportation, 2018), there are no listed or eligible scenic highways within the City of Hanford.

Transportation

The project intends to improve an existing intersection within the City of Hanford by signaling the intersection and developing ADA accessibility and additional pedestrian improvements. The project will result in increased vehicular and pedestrian safety. No new lanes are proposed with this project that could increase the capacity of the road. There are no detours or temporary road closures will not be necessary for this project. There will be traffic control and safety measures implemented during the construction of the project but will not permanently impact traffic.

CONCLUSION

Therefore, the project anticipates the improvement of an existing intersection by developing signals and pedestrian infrastructure. The project does not propose additional lanes and will not result in an increase in road capacity. The intent of the project is to provide safer intersection and pedestrian controls at the existing right-of-way (ROW). The project site is already improved with an intersection in a developed urbanized area of the City of Hanford, and does not contain suitable habitat for significant biological resources. No cultural or scenic resources were identified on the site. The project site does not contain a listed hazardous material/waste facility. Construction will be conducted within existing ROW and on previously disturbed land. The anticipated construction efforts of the project are not expected to exceed SJVAPCD criteria pollutant thresholds and will comply with SJVAPCD rules and regulations for construction activities including fugitive dust emission control measures. Therefore, the project will not result in a significant environmental impact.

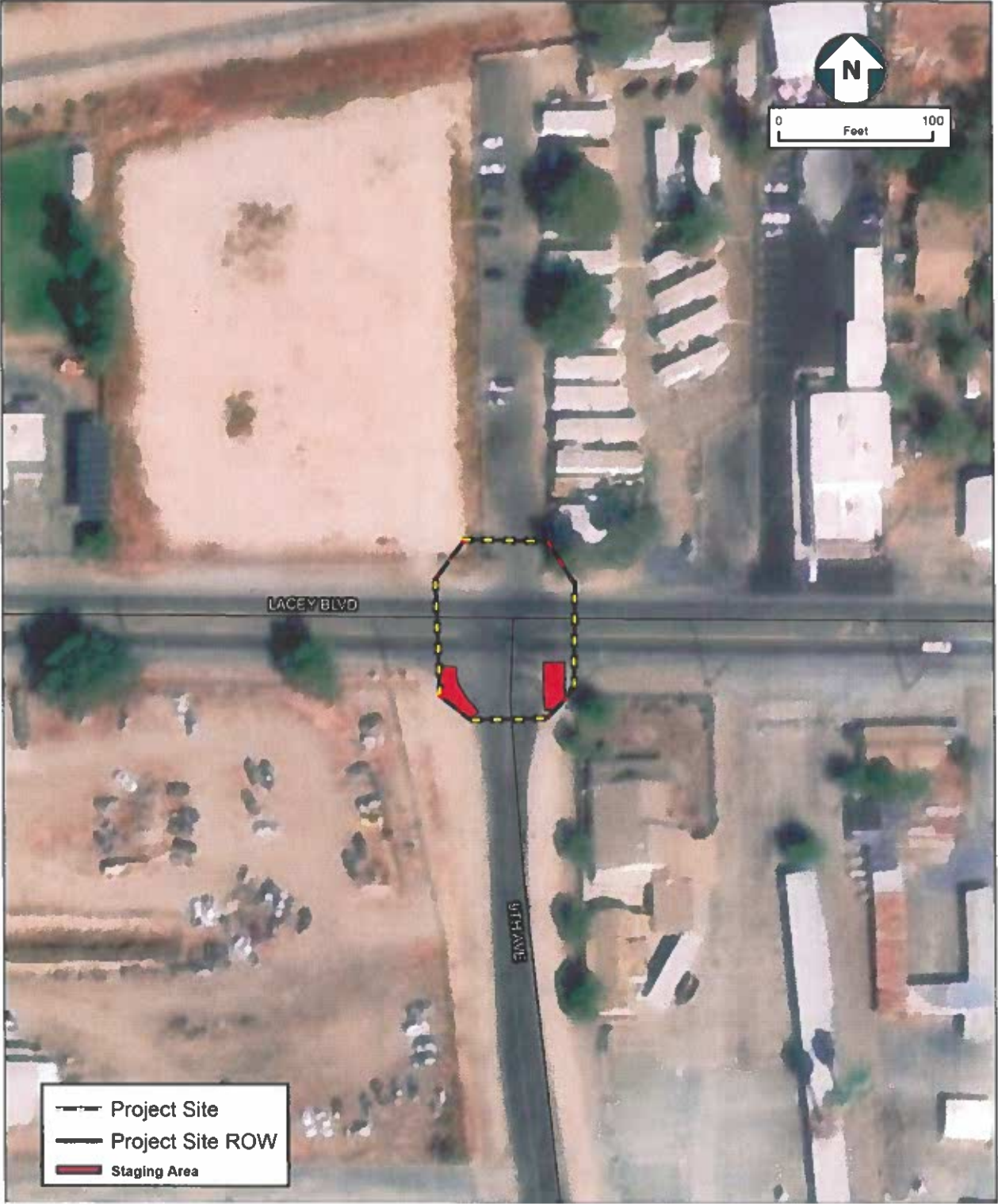


Figure 1- Project Location