



**CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
DETERMINATION FORM (rev. 04/2021)**

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): Carlotta Micro-Surface

DIST-CO-RTE: 01-HUM-36

PM/PM: 6.0/13.48

EA: 01-0M680

Federal-Aid Project Number: N/A

Project Description

Maintenance is developing a project on Route 36 in Humboldt County near Carlotta from 0.2 mile west of Wilder Road to 0.1 mile west of Dump Road. The work will consist of placing microsurfacing over the existing AC pavement then repair and replace damaged or removed marking and striping. Other work includes installing construction area signs. Staging is anticipated to utilize paved shoulders and developed gravel turnouts. With the exception of construction area signs, no soil or vegetation disturbance will occur outside the pavement limits. All work will be within the existing State 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.** (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].)

Environmental Branch Chief

Cassie Nichols

Cassie Nichols

07/19/2023

Print Name

Signature

Date

Project Manager

Chris Ghidinelli

Chris Ghidinelli

07/20/2023

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, 2019, 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 December 23, 2016 and executed by FHWA and Caltrans.

Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief

N/A

Print Name

Signature

Date

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

N/A

Print Name

Signature

Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable) Enter date
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:

Technical Studies Completed	Date Completed
Biological No Effects Memo	February 21, 2023
Cultural Studies Screening Memo	July 6, 2023
Visual Impact Review	April 19, 2023
Initial Site Assessment	February 28, 2023
Water Quality Checklist	April 19, 2023

No regulatory permits required.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures (Northern Spotted Owl):

No proposed activity generating sound levels 20 or more decibels above ambient sound levels or with maximum sound levels (ambient sound level plus activity-generated sound level) above 90 decibels (excluding vehicle back-up alarms) may occur within suitable spotted owl nesting/roosting habitat during the majority of the nesting season (i.e., 1 February to 09 July). These above-ambient sound level restrictions will be lifted after 31 July; after which the Service considers the above- ambient sound levels as having “no effect” on nesting spotted owls and dependent young.

No human activities shall occur within a visual line-of-sight of 40 m (131 feet) or less from any known nest locations within the action area.

No proposed activity generating sound levels 20 or more decibels above ambient sound levels or with maximum sound levels (ambient sound levels plus activity-generated sound levels) above 90 decibels (excluding vehicle back-up alarms) may occur within suitable marbled murrelet nesting habitat during the majority of the murrelet nesting season (i.e., 24 March to 05 August).

Avoidance and Minimization Measures (Marbled Murrelet):

Between August 06 (date when most marbled murrelets have fledged in coastal northern California) and September 15 (end of marbled murrelet nesting season) of any year, project activities, with adjacent suitable nesting habitat, that will generate sound levels ≥ 10 dB above ambient sound levels will observe a daily work window beginning 2 hours post-sunrise and ending 2 hours pre-sunset. However, prep work that does not generate sound levels above ambient sound levels, including street sweeping and manual removal of pavement markers, can occur during all hours. The need for this



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daily work window depends on the distance between suitable nesting habitat and the above-ambient sound generating activity following the Service's guidelines. For example, if above-ambient sound levels generated by proposed activities will become attenuated back down to ambient sound levels prior to reaching suitable nesting habitat, the daily work window would not be necessary.

No human activities shall occur within visual line-of-sight of 40 m (131 feet) or less from a nest.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures (Hazardous Waste):

The ISA has determined that the project may have minor hazardous waste issues to address.

Aerially Deposited Lead (ADL), which is commonly found in all highway shoulders, may be at a level that requires special handling of excess material. However, based on the anticipated work and minimal disturbance of soil associated with this project, this issue shall be addressed with SSP 7-1.02K(6)(j)(iii) UNREGULATED EARTH MATERIALS CONTAINING LEAD.

The use of SSP 36-4 CONTAINING LEAD FROM PAINT AND THERMOPLASTIC will be required for residue from grinding activities that may contain lead from paint or thermoplastic.

The use of SSP 84-9.03B REMOVE TRAFFIC STRIPES AND PAVEMENT MARKINGS CONTAINING LEAD will be required for pavement delineation removal if this method is preferred.

A Lead Compliance Plan as a contract item will be required for soil and, thermoplastic and paint disturbance/removal.

A Lead Compliance Plan as a contract item will be required for soil and delineation disturbance/removal.