



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

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): State Route 99 Bridge Repairs

DIST-CO-RTE: 10-MER-99

PM/PM: 5.2/R35.6

EA: 10-1P750

Federal-Aid Project Number: N/A

Project Description

The California Department of Transportation proposes a bridge maintenance project for twenty-one (21) bridges along State Route 99 in Merced County – see Continuation sheet. The scope of work will consist of removing and replacing unsound concrete and pavement on the bridge decks, approach slabs, and/or shoulders, methacrylate treatment, replacing joint seals, repairing deck spalls, replacing or installing signs, and/or railing repairs. All work will be performed within Caltrans Right of Way. The purpose of this project is to provide preventative maintenance to deteriorating sections of these bridges. The project is needed to preserve the structural integrity and to minimize future rehabilitation needs.

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

Elizabeth Hummel

08/08/2023

Print Name

Signature

Date

Project Manager

Edujie Imoisili

Edujie Imoisili Imoisili

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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, 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

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: 08/08/2023

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:

Loc.	CO/RTE/PM	Bridge No.	Bridge Name	Scope of Work
1	MER/99/5.22	39-0242L	DEADMAN CREEK	Treat all reinforced concrete approach slabs with methacrylate.
2	MER/99/6.89	39-0233	LE GRAND ROAD OVERCROSSING (OC)	Treat the deck surface and approach slabs with methacrylate.
3	MER/99/9.86	39-0244R	DUCK SLOUGH OVERFLOW	Treat the bridge deck and approach slabs with methacrylate.
4	MER/99/11.59	39-0228	MISSION AVENUE OC	Treat the bridge deck with methacrylate.
5	MER/99/13.09	39-0143	CHILDS AVENUE OC	Replace joint seals in conjunction with polyester concrete overlay, Slab overlay to be done conjunction with polyester concrete for conform tapers and Deck-Place Overlay.
6	MER/99/13.86	39-0140R	ROUTE 99/140 SEPARATION	Replace the pourable joint seal at Abutment 1.
7	MER/99/14.10	39-0241	EAST MERCED OVERHEAD (OH)	Treat the deck surface and approach slabs with methacrylate.
8	MER/99/14.22	39-0139	15th STREET UNDERCROSSING (UC)	Treat the bridge deck and approach slabs with methacrylate.
9	MER/99/14.42	39-0142R	G STREET UC	Slab overlay to be done conjunction with polyester concrete for conform tapers, place a polyester concrete overlay on the reinforced concrete deck; construct approach slabs at both approaches to this structure to correct roadway settlement and reduce impact loading and remove unsound concrete; clean rebar and patch spall on the bridge deck near Abutment 1 in Lane 1.
10	MER/99/15.15	39-0135L	O STREET UC	Patch the potholes in Lane 2 of the Asphalt Concrete (AC) approach roadway adjacent to Abutment 2. Repave the AC shoulders adjacent to both abutments, Replace the joint seals at both abutments. Coordinate work with methacrylate deck treatment and approach slab placement. Joint temperature and widths are approximate, Replace the cracked concrete approach roadway



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				segments adjacent to Abutment 2 and install structural approach slabs to include the full width of the shoulders and treat the bridge deck with methacrylate.
11	MER/99/15.42	39-0137L	R STREET UC	Repave the deteriorating AC approach roadway shoulders adjacent to both abutments. Rebuild the joint header at Abutment 2 and replace the pourable joint seals at both abutments. Joint widths and temperature are approximate. Coordinate work in conjunction with the methacrylate deck treatment and approach slab placement, Treat the bridge deck with methacrylate and replace the north approach concrete roadway with structural approach slabs to include the full width of the shoulders.
12	MER/99/17.30	39-0010L	BLACK RASCAL CANAL	Replace the Type "A" pourable joint seals at both abutments. Joint gap = 1.5 inches at 50 degrees Fahrenheit.
13	MER/99/17.30	39-0010R	BLACK RASCAL CANAL	Replace joint seals in conjunction with polyester concrete overlay, Slab overlay to be done conjunction with polyester concrete for conform tapers, place a polyester concrete overlay on the deck surface and remove unsound concrete and patch spalled areas in the right barrier rail.
14	MER/99/18.51	39-0084	FRANKLIN ROAD OC	Repair/repave the raveling portions of both AC approach roadways, replace the joints seals at both abutments and replace the missing Metal Beam Guard Rail spacer block near Abutment 6.
15	MER/99/18.59	39-0116L	ASHE DRAIN	Repair the spalled area in the right edge of the slab at the second bridge rail connection adjacent to Abutment 6.
16	MER/99/19.49	39-0018L	WEBBER CANAL	Remove the bridge identification sign at the left side of Abutment 4 that incorrectly states the bridge as 39-0018R and install a new bridge identification sign that states the



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				bridge number as 39-0018L and remove delaminated concrete and patch spalled areas in the culvert headwalls at the bridge rail connections.
17	MER/99/22.76-ATW	39-0127	APPLEGATE ROAD OC	Modify the vertical clearance sign over the southbound lanes to indicate "14 FT 11 IN."
18	MER/99/R31.00	39-0015L	MERCED RIVER	Remove delaminated concrete and repair the affected area in the left departure rail and treat the approach and departure slabs with methacrylate.
19	MER/99/R34.05	39-0148L	EL CAPITAN WAY UC	Install vertical clearance signs for the route under the structure in accordance with the MUTCD that indicates the following: "14 FT 11 IN."
20	MER/99/R34.05	39-0148R	EL CAPITAN WAY UC	Install vertical clearance signs for the route under the structure in accordance with the MUTCD that indicates the following: "14 FT 11 IN" and remove delaminated concrete and patch the affected area in the concrete approach roadway at Abutment 1.
21	MER/99/R35.56	39-0149	BRADBURY ROAD OC	Repave deteriorating portions of the AC approach roadway adjacent to Abutment 1.

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 the Environmental Office if project changes occur or sensitive resources discovered.
- Contact the Environmental Office to attend the pre-construction meeting.

Cultural:

- If cultural materials are discovered at the job site, do not disturb the resources and immediately:
 1. Stop all work within a 60foot radius of discovery
 2. Protect the discovery area
 3. Notify the Engineer



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4. The Department Investigates. Do not move cultural materials or take them from the job site. Retain a qualified archaeologist 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 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) who will then notify the Most Likely Descendent (MLD). At the same 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:

- A lead compliance plan prepared by a Certified Industrial Hygienist is required and grinding must be sampled and disposed of in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations. The Caltrans Standard Special Provision (SSP) 7-1.02K(6)(j)(iii) shall be included in the construction contract.
- Caltrans Non-Standard Special Provision (nSSP) 14-11.16, pertaining to Asbestos Containing Building Materials (ACBM) in bridges, shall be included in the contract. All bridges with concrete disturbance or joint seal removal will require testing for ACBM prior to the start of construction related activities.
- Asbestos Containing Materials (ACM) are known to occur in bridge bearing pad, shims, mastic material, and/or concrete. The National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) notification shall be completed by the contractor prior to the start of construction activities. Caltrans non-Standard Special Provision nSSP 14-9.02 shall be included in the construction contract.
- At Locations 1, 3, 5 through 13, 15, 16, and 18 through 21: The residue from grinding or cold planing contains lead from paint and thermoplastic striping or markings. The average lead concentrations are less than 1,000 mg/kg total lead and 5 mg/L soluble lead. Management of this material exposes workers to health hazards that must be addressed in your lead compliance plan. Caltrans Standard Special Provision (SSP) 36-4 shall be added to the contract.
- At Locations 2, 4, 14, and 17: The project would require removal of traffic striping and pavement markings, which may contain hazardous concentrations of lead. The Caltrans Standard Special Provision 14-11.12 shall be included in the construction contract and the Contractor shall manage the removed stripe and pavement marking as a hazardous waste.



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Biology:

- For Locations 12, 13, 15, and 18: Include Caltrans Standard Special Provision 14-6.03A in the construction contract. If work occurs during the migratory bird nesting season (February 1 – September 30), preconstruction surveys must be conducted by a qualified Caltrans biologist within 14 days prior to the start of any construction activities. If active nests are observed, buffers will need to be established around each nest until the young have fledged, per California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) guidelines. A 100-foot buffer will be established around active nests. For hawks, a 300-foot buffer will be established. For Swainson's hawks, a 600-foot buffer will be established. If construction activities do not commence within 14 days of the cleared survey, or if construction activities stop for more than 14 days, a subsequent bird survey may be required before construction commences or recommences. No construction activities shall commence without clearance from the Caltrans District 10 Environmental Office.