



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

**Project Information**

**Project Name (if applicable):** Chowchilla River Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Facility

**DIST-CO-RTE:** 10-MER-099

**PM/PM:** 0.6/0.6

**EA:** 10-1J510

**Federal-Aid Project Number:** 1020000191

**Project Description**

The project proposes to repair and upgrade the Chowchilla River Commercial Vehicle Enforcement, Weigh in Motion Station (WIM) facility.

**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(d).** (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**

Jaycee Azevedo

Print Name

*J. Azevedo*

Signature

05/09/2023

Date

**Project Manager**

Michael Cook

Print Name

*Michael Cook*

Signature

5/9/2023

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)(12)
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

Jaycee Azevedo
Signature: j. azevedo
Date: 05/09/2023

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Michael Cook
Signature: Michael Cook
Date: 5/9/2023

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:**

### **Purpose and Need:**

The purpose of the project is to repair and upgrade the existing Chowchilla Weigh in Motion Station (WIM) in Merced County, which is in need of rehabilitation due to age. The station is located on State Route 99 at postmiles 0.6/0.6.

### **Description of work:**

The repair and upgrade of the Chowchilla WIM Station in Merced County includes the demolition and installation of a metal roof, ceramic tile flooring, and an inspection booth. Safety features such as ballistic proof glass will be installed in the lobby area. The existing mechanic workstation booth will be enclosed in the truck bay and will include the installation of air conditioning. The work will include resurfacing existing driveways, parking paved areas and upgrading the WIM electrical system. A conference room will be built on the 2nd floor, bathrooms will be remodeled, locker rooms will be expanded as well as other minor repairs.

### **General:**

The project is Categorical Exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act and Categorical Excluded under the National Environmental Policy Act unless: (1) the scope of the project changes to include additional activities or areas; or (2) there is unforeseen discovery of sensitive or cultural resources. Environmental reevaluation will be required if either of these conditions are met.

### **Air:**

The proposed project is located within the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin. According to 40 CFR Section 93.126, the proposed project is exempt under Table 2 – “Reconstruction or renovation of transit buildings and structures (e.g., rail or bus buildings, storage and maintenance facilities, stations, terminals, and ancillary structures)”. Such projects may proceed toward implementation even in the absence of a conforming transportation plan and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). This project does not interfere with the implementation of any Traffic Control Measures (TCM’s). Please refer to the attached Air Conformity checklist. This project is not expected to cause any operational effects on air pollutants.



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### **Biology:**

Based on the scope and description of the proposed project, no state or federally-listed species; designated critical habitat; state or federally recognized sensitive habitats, or potential waters of the U.S. associated with this geographic region will be impacted or affected by the proposed project as long as the description of the proposed project as described in "Project Description" remains unchanged. Additionally, Army Corps of Engineer, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or Regional Water Quality Control Board permits will not be required for the proposed project.

### **Cultural:**

This project has no potential to affect historic properties and no potential to affect historical resources and is exempt from further review. The reviews under Section 106, CEQA cultural resources component and PRC 5024 compliance are complete.

### **Hazardous Waste:**

Based on the results of the PSI, soils within the project area have not been impacted by TPH, VOCs, SVOCs, and/or CAM metals. Based on these results, no special handling or management of soil is necessary; should different conditions be encountered during grading or ground disturbing activities, additional investigation will be required, and further recommendations will be issues based on the new results.

A lead compliance plan (LCP) developed by a Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) is required. Standard Special Provisions (SSPs) 7-1.02K(6)(j)(iii) – Earth Material Containing Lead which addresses the need for a LCP for soil disturbance and proper management of ADL impacted soils, shall be included in the bid package. The estimated cost to include the LCP is \$3,000.

### **Hydraulics:**

This project does not have a significant impact on the floodplain. The FIRM Community Panel Numbers 06077C0415F, 06077C0420F, 06077C0440F, and 06077C0445F dated October 16, 2009, (see attachment D) show that the project limits lie in Zone AE, with base flood depth of 9-10 ft, which is defined as special flood hazard areas subject to inundation by the 1% annual chance flood.

In compliance with Executive Order 11988 provided in the CFR Title 23, Part 650, Subpart A, the encroached floodplain will be preserved to the natural and beneficial floodplain values. It has been determined, by definition, no significant encroachment will result after construction activities. The proposed project does not constitute a longitudinal or significant encroachment on the base floodplain.



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### **Noise:**

Based on the project description, the project would not introduce any potential for long term traffic noise impacts under the requirements for a Type I or Type II traffic noise project under 23CFR772. Therefore, the project falls under the category of Type III noise projects. As discussed above, 23CFR772 requires that noise impacts be evaluated for all Type I and Type II projects. Type III projects do not require noise analysis, so no noise analysis has been conducted; however, during construction, the project would comply with Caltrans Standard Specification section 14-8 "Noise control" regarding construction noise.

### **Paleontology:**

The project area is underlain by geologic materials of high paleontological potential. Grading and excavation work in the project area would impact the resource; however, based on the current project description the project will not include excavation or grading and scientifically significant fossils would not be encountered; therefore, no Standard Special Provisions (SSPs) are required to be addressed for this project at this time.

### **Water:**

By incorporating proper and accepted engineering practices and BMPs, the proposed project will not have significant impacts on water quality during construction or its operation. Because of the proposed project, it is our opinion that no further investigation concerning water quality is needed to proceed with the project. If the scope of work changes, please request an additional investigation for this project.