



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

<b><u>Project Information</u></b>	
<b>Project Name:</b> MEN 271 Culverts	
<b>DIST-CO-RTE:</b> 01-MEN-271	<b>PM/PM:</b> 2.58/18.05
<b>EA:</b> 01-0M590	<b>Federal-Aid Project Number:</b> N/A
<b><u>Project Description</u></b>	
<p>The purpose of the project is to repair seven drainage systems identified by the Culvert Inspection Program as deteriorated and beyond their useful service life. Without such repair or replacement, the roadway could be subject to washout requiring more extensive roadway reconstruction. All work will occur within the State right-of-way, and within the currently developed transportation infrastructure. The project maintains the original line, grade and purpose of the transportation facility. The project would not alter existing drainage patterns or increase runoff. Existing stormwater conveyance facilities will be replaced in-kind on the same alignment with minor design upgrades to culverts and inlets to comply with current design standards.</p>	

**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**

Cassie Nichols	<i>Cassie Nichols</i>	08/30/2023
_____	_____	_____
Print Name	Signature	Date

**Project Manager**

Nanette Nickerson	<i>Nanette Nickerson</i>	08/31/2023
_____	_____	_____
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, 2022, 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 May 27, 2022, 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): N/A

Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 8/28/2023

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:

Culvert Locations:

Postmiles (PM)	Proposed Construction
2.58	Place headwall at inlet and upgrade diameter
4.84	Place headwall at inlet and upgrade diameter.
5.91	Place modified G1 drainage inlet (DI)
6.18	Place modified G1 DI
7.25	Replace in-kind adding a concrete junction box to connect to systems owned by others at outlet.
17.01	Tie into existing DI and upgrade diameter.
18.05	Place modified G1 DI and upgrade diameter.

Biological, Cultural, Water Quality, Visual and Hazardous Waste reviews have been completed.

A 401 Certification is required with the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board for the Culvert at PM 7.25. The 1600 Permit for the culvert at PM 7.25 was obtained 3/18/2021 (EPIMS 16053: Project 01-0J480). This permit is valid for 5-years.

Measures would be incorporated into the project to avoid impacts to Biological Resources:

- *Species protection for Northern Spotted Owls at postmiles 16.43 to 18.05*
  1. 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 February 1 to July 9. 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.
  2. 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.
- *Species Protection for Migratory Birds (entire project limits)*
  3. Construct outside the nesting season (February 1 – August 31), or:
  4. Pre-construction surveys shall be performed by an approved contractor supplied biologist to identify bird nesting locations, if any. If nesting birds are present within 100-feet implement specific avoidance measures approved by CDFW to prevent nest disturbance.

The following provisions would be required to address minor hazardous waste issues:

- SSP 7-1.02K(6)(j)(iii) UNREGULATED EARTH MATERIALS CONTAINING LEAD
- A Lead Compliance Plan as a contract item for soil disturbance/removal