



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

Project Information

Project Name: MEN 20 Culverts

DIST-CO-RTE: 01-MEN-20

PM/PM: 13.14/14.65

EA:01-0M580

Federal-Aid Project Number: N/A

Project Description

The scope of this project includes rehabilitating or replacing 5 drainage systems located on State Route 20 from Post Mile (PM) 13.14 to 14.65 in Mendocino County. Culverts would be replaced as close to the existing alignment (horizontal/vertical) as possible. All of the culverts are anticipated to be constructed using the cut and cover method. There will be minimal vegetation removal. All work would take place within 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].)

Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief

Cassie Nichols

Cassie Nichols

09/27/2023

Print Name

Signature

Date

Project Manager

Heidi Quintrell for Nanette Nickerson

Heidi Quintrell

09/28/2023

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: 9/27/2023

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:

Biological, Cultural, Hazardous Waste, Visual and Water Quality Reviews have been completed. No regulatory permits are required for this project.

The following measures would be incorporated into the project to protect Biological Resources:

- *Species Protection for Northern Spotted Owls* from postmiles 14.24 to 14.65.
 1. No proposed activity generating sound levels 20 or more decibels above ambient sound levels or with maximum sound levels above 90 decibels (excluding backup alarms) may occur between February 1 and July 31.
 2. No human activities shall occur within visual line-of-sight of 40 m (131 feet) or less from any known nest locations within action area.
- *Species Protection for Migratory Birds (entire project limits)*
 3. Construct outside the nesting season (February 1-August 31, or:
 4. Pre-construction survey by an approved contractor supplied Biologist to identify bird nesting locations, if any.

Minor hazardous waste issues on the project will be addressed with Caltrans Standard Special Provisions and include:

- Aerially Deposited Lead (ADL) which is commonly found in all highway shoulders, may be in concentrations that require a special handling of excess materials. Based on the minimal ground disturbance with this project SPP 7-1.02K(g)(j)(iii) UNREGULATED EARTH MATERIAL CONTAINING LEAD will be required.
- A Lead Compliance Plan as a contract item will be required for soil disturbance and removal.