



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

<u>Project Information</u>	
Project Name (if applicable): 58 Tehachapi Median Safety Devices	
DIST-CO-RTE: 09-KER-58	PM/PM: 90.7 to 111.1
EA: 09-38760	Federal-Aid Project Number:
<u>Project Description</u>	
The purpose of this project is to provide protection for errant vehicles within the median of State Route 58 in Kern County from post mile 90.7 to post mile 111.1. The median devices are used to deflect and absorb energy and reduce vehicle collisions with overcrossing columns situated within the center median. Current median safety devices within the project limits are legacy safety devices that are no longer in production and are being supplemented with other safety devices. The current safety devices need to be replaced to meet new MASH standards. (Project Description continued on Page 3)	

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 (C).** (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

Cecilia Boudreau	<i>Cecilia Boudreau</i>	11/15/2023
_____	_____	_____
Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager

Bradley Bowers	<i>Bradley Bowers</i>	11/15/2023
_____	_____	_____
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, 2022, executed between FHWA and Caltrans. Caltrans has determined that the project is a Categorical Exclusion under:

- 23 CFR 771.117(c): activity (c)(22)
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

Cecilia Boudreau Cecilia Boudreau 11/15/2023
Print Name Signature Date

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Bradley Bowers Bradley Bowers 11/15/2023
Print Name Signature Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): 11/08/2023

Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 11/08/2023

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:

This project is the first of two phases to remove and replace legacy safety devices in the median of SR 58. Existing guardrails and crash cushions will be replaced with MASH compliant guardrails and mechanical crash cushions. The project incorporates eight locations from the SR 202 overcrossing to the SR 14 overcrossing. Minor clearing and grubbing may be necessary to accommodate the new approved end treatments. It is expected that the new railing will be longer than current railing to meet the minimum 150' length of need for system safety. All project activities will be conducted within the existing state right-of-way.

Environmental Commitments

The Resident Engineer must contact the project Coordinator, Rebeka Riesen at (442) 359-8454, at least 2 weeks prior to the start of construction in order to coordinate archaeological and biological staff for pre-construction and/or construction monitoring. If the project coordinator cannot be reached, the RE must contact the Environmental Branch Chief at (760) 874-8330.

Cultural:

- A Native American Monitor will be required during all ground disturbing activities such as excavation and grubbing. A Caltrans Archaeologist will accompany a Native American Monitor at all locations.

Biology:

- Prior to any ground disturbing activity, pre-construction surveys will take place for rare plants within the Biological Study Area (BSA) during peal blooming periods (March-June). If any rare plants are observed within 10 feet of the direct impact area, they will be flagged to ensure avoidance.
- If work is to occur during the nesting bird season (February 1- September 30) pre-construction nesting bird surveys will be required to take place 72-hours before construction to avoids impacts to nesting birds. If nesting birds are found, a biological monitor may be required to ensure construction activities are not affecting nesting activities.
- SSP 14.6.03A species protection will be included in the contract bid package.
- Any additional staging areas idented beyond the currently proposed staging location at the pullout on the Eastbound shoulder of SR 58 at post mile 100.9, must be reviewed and approved by the project Biologist prior to their use.

Hazardous Waste:

- If roadside soils require disposal offsite, testing for aerially deposited lead (ADL) contamination will be required prior to excavation. Confirm prior to RTL.
- Lead Compliance Plan to be included in BEES for treated wood waste removal and disposal.

09-38760 CE

Final Audit Report

2023-11-15

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