



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

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): Kern County Replacement Lighting

DIST-CO-RTE: 09-KER-58, KER-14, KER-178 **PM/PM:** KER-58-94.2, KER-58-143.12, KER-14-21.3, KER-178-93.36

EA: 09-39760 **Federal-Aid Project Number:** N/A

Project Description

The purpose of this project is to replace existing lighting standards that have either been knocked down or are beyond maintainability. Four locations have been identified as needing replacement. (See continuation 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

Stephen Pfeiler	<i>Stephen Pfeiler</i>	11/16/2023
Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager

John Fox	<i>John Fox</i>	11/16/23
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: 10/31/2023



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Continuation sheet:

The first three site locations involve incidents where vehicles collided with lighting structures, resulting in damage to their foundations.

• Site 1:

- On/Off Ramp to Tehachapi Blvd/Summit on Route 58 Westbound; KER-58-PM94.2
 - The lighting standard, a component of the off-ramp signal on the southwest corner, was toppled, leading to foundation impairment. The current foundation will be abandoned, and a new foundation measuring 2'6" in diameter and 6' in depth will be excavated and poured. Additionally, a new 2'x2'x2' pull box will be installed approximately 5' from the new foundation, replacing an existing pull box. Trenching, approximately 3' deep, will be undertaken to lay conduit between the new foundation and the recently installed pull box.
- Route 58 Westbound Off Ramp to Tehachapi Blvd/Summit; KER-58-PM94.2
 - The current foundation will be abandoned, and a fresh foundation with dimensions of 2'6" in diameter and 6' in depth will be excavated and constructed. A new pull box measuring 2'x2'x2' will be positioned, replacing an existing pull box situated around 5' from the new foundation. To connect the new foundation and the recently installed pull box, a trench, approximately 3' in depth, will be dug for the placement of conduit.

Site 2:

Route 58 Westbound Off Ramp to Boron Ave; KER-58-PM142.9

- The lighting standard, which illuminates the off-ramp on the north side, was knocked down, causing damage to its foundation. The current foundation will be discarded, and a new foundation measuring 2'6" in diameter and 6' in depth will be excavated and constructed. Additionally, a new 2'x2'x2' pull box will be positioned, replacing an existing pull box located approximately 5' from the new foundation. Trenching, approximately 3' deep, will be carried out to install conduit between the new foundation and the newly installed pull box.

Route 58 Westbound Off Ramp to Boron Ave; KER-58-PM142.9

- The current foundation will be left abandoned, and a new foundation, measuring 2'6" in diameter and 6' in depth, will be excavated and constructed. A fresh 2'x2'x2' pull box will be installed in proximity to the new foundation, approximately 5' away from the existing pull box. To establish connectivity, a trench, approximately 3' deep, will be excavated



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to facilitate the placement of conduit between the new foundation and the recently installed pull box.

Site 3:

Route 14 Southbound On Ramp from California City Blvd; KER-14-PM21.3

- The lighting standard, responsible for illuminating the on-ramp on the southwest corner, was knocked down, resulting in damage to its foundation. The current foundation will be disregarded, and a new foundation with dimensions of 2'6" in diameter and 6' in depth will be excavated and constructed. A new 2'x2'x2' pull box will be positioned, replacing an existing pull box located approximately 5' from the new foundation. To establish connectivity, a trench, approximately 3' deep, will be excavated to facilitate the placement of conduit between the new foundation and the newly installed pull box.

Route 14 Southbound On Ramp from California City Blvd; KER-14-PM21.3

- The current foundation will be abandoned and a new foundation, measuring 2'6" in diameter and 6' in depth, will be excavated and constructed. A fresh 2'x2'x2' pull box will be installed, replacing an existing pull box situated approximately 5' from the new foundation. Trenching, approximately 3' deep, will be conducted to facilitate the placement of conduit between the new foundation and the newly installed pull box.

Site 4:

Northbound Off Ramp on 395 at 178; KER-178-PM93.36

Three lighting standards will be removed, along with the abandonment of their foundations. Subsequently, three new foundations, each with a diameter of 2'6" and a depth of 6', will be installed. Eighteen existing 2'x2'x2' pull boxes will be abandoned and replaced. Approximately 2800 feet of trenching, reaching a depth of around 3 feet, will be carried out to place conduit between pull boxes and lights, connecting them to the existing utility drop.



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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).

AIR/NOISE/HAZARDOUS WASTE/WATER/PALEONTOLOGY – Environmental Measures

- If roadside soils require disposal offsite, testing for aerially deposited lead contamination will be required prior to excavation. Confirm prior to RTL.

BIOLOGY – Environmental Measures

- Notify the Biologist at least 2 weeks prior to construction start.
- If additional staging or contractor use areas are required or identified, they must be approved by the Biologist prior to their use.
- Pre-construction rare plant surveys will be conducted by a staff Biologist during peak blooming period(s) (March-June), prior to the start of construction.
 - If any rare plants are observed within 10 feet of the PIA, they will be flagged for avoidance and the Biologist will consult with appropriate agencies for additional avoidance and minimization measures (AMMs).
- If construction occurs between February 1st and September 30th, pre-construction nesting bird surveys will be conducted by a staff Biologist within 72 hours of construction start.
 - Survey 250 feet from the PIA for songbirds, including ground-nesting birds, and 500 feet from the PIA for nesting raptors, and 1/2 mile for Swainson's hawk (SWHA).
 - If nesting birds are found within 250 feet (songbirds) or 500 feet (raptors, special-status species) of the PIA, biological monitoring may be required to ensure construction activities are not affecting nesting birds. A no work buffer may be implemented if the monitor determines that project activities are impacting nesting behaviors.
- Pre-construction Desert Tortoise and Mohave ground squirrel surveys will be conducted by a staff Biologist, prior to the start of construction.
 - If any active burrows are found, they will be flagged, and an appropriate no-work buffer will be implemented.



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- SSP's will be included for Desert Tortoise and Mohave ground squirrel so that full avoidance occurs if an individual enters the project area.