



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

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): Kern Sign Replacement

DIST-CO-RTE: 09-KER-14&58

PM/PM: VAR

EA: 09-39780

Federal-Aid Project Number:

Project Description

The purpose of this project is to replace faded, wind and sun damaged, and outdated guide and warning signs with new signs that meet current safety and retro reflectivity standards. This project will aid in the continuance to upgrade highway signs for the enhanced safety of the traveling public and to make sure that those signs meet current retro reflectivity standards. Existing signs at 35 different locations along State Route 14 and 58 will be removed and replaced with new sign panels and sign posts. An additional seven new signs will be installed with turnable metal posts to be used for temporary freeway closures and detours. New turnable metal posts will be set in 48” deep holes encased in concrete; the 35 existing poles being replaced will use existing holes.

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

Cecilia Boudreau

Cecilia Boudreau

12/7/2023

Print Name

Signature

Date

Project Manager

Matthew Goike

matthew goike

12/7/23

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)(8)

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

Print Name

Signature

Date

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Matthew Goike

Print Name

Signature

Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable):
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:

Biology:

- All sign installation will be contained to previously disturbed areas where soils are compacted and free of vegetation.
- If regulated species or burrows are observed within buffer distances, stop work, and contact Resident Engineer. RE will contact Caltrans Biology unit for direction.
- If regulated species are observed during construction a no-work buffer may be implemented at the direction of the Caltrans Biology unit. Any no-work buffer will be lifted as determined by the Caltrans Biology unit.
- All nests, burrows, and Joshua tree individuals if found within the buffer distance will be flagged for avoidance.
- Staging of materials and equipment may only occur in previously unvegetated and disturbed areas with compacted soils. Staging area locations must be approved by Caltrans Environmental staff prior to use.

Hazardous Waste:

- SSP 14-11.4 for Treated Wood Waste: The TWW will require special handling and disposal procedures as well as an EPA Generator ID # for tracking. Contractor will request this number from the Caltrans Resident Engineer at the start of construction.