



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

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): District Radar Speed Feedback Signs

DIST-CO-RTE: 09/VAR/VAR

PM/PM: VAR

EA: 09-39880

Federal-Aid Project Number: N/A

Project Description

The purpose of this project is to maintain and upkeep operations of Radar Speed Feedback Signs (RSFS) that are critical in traveler awareness of driving speed when traveling over the speed limit, particularly within or near residential areas with low-speed limits. The project is needed because the existing RSFS at various locations throughout Easter Kern, Inyo and Mono Counties have reached the end of their life cycle and must be replaced to maintain and upkeep operations. All work will be performed within the existing state right-of-way (Description continued 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. (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>	12/12/2023
Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager

Matthew Goike	<i>matthew goike</i>	12/12/23
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

Print Name Signature Date

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Print Name Signature Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): N/A
Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 12/08/2023

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:

The project will involve replacing 8 existing wooden posts and RSFS hardware at the following locations (2 posts and RSFS exist at location #4):

Location 1: KER/58/R90.262/WB Tehachapi RSFS

~~*Location 2: INY/395/33.9/NB Olancho RSFS~~

~~*Location 3: INY/395/37.92/SB Olancho RSFS~~

Location 4: MNO/6/4.63/BO Chalfant (NB and SB RSFS)

Location 5: MNO/395/51.19/NB Lee Vining

Location 6: MNO/395/51.85/SB Lee Vining

Location 7: MNO/395/76.26/NB Bridgeport

Location 8: MNO/395/76.85/SB Bridgeport

Location 9: MNO/395/94.52/NB Sonora

**Locations 2 & 3 have been taken out of this project. Strike-through reflects changes. Seven locations and 8 post/hardware remain.*

New 6"x6" pressurized wooden posts will be installed in the exact locations of the existing wooden posts. No new holes will be excavated. Each pole will take approximately one to two hours to replace. A Poll Puller machine will be used to remove the existing posts. The machine will clamp around the post above ground and slowly pull the post up and out of the ground. Then new wooden post will be installed into the same location as the old post using a combination of the Poll Puller and people. New RSFS hardware will then be attached to the posts.

All equipment, staging, and construction will be completed within Caltrans Right-of-Way. Location of work include pre-disturbed pull-out areas, the lane shoulder, or in the closed lane of the 2-lane expressway. Working areas with no paved shoulder or a 2-lane expressway will require traffic-controlled lane closure for work.

Proposed Environmental Commitments:

Biology:

With the implementation of the following avoidance and minimization measures, no impacts to biological resources are anticipated:

- All staging areas must be contained in previously disturbed, unvegetated areas with compacted soils
- All sign installation work must be contained to the previously disturbed, compacted soil and unvegetated areas where previous signs were located
- If sensitive-status species are found during construction, the contractor will stop work and contact the Resident Engineer. The RE will coordinate with the project Biologist to determine if a no-work buffer will need to be implemented.



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- Several Sensitive species including, but not limited to (Desert tortoise, Mohave ground squirrel, American badger, Burrowing owl, nesting birds and Joshua tree) have the potential to be present within or adjacent to the sign replacement locations. Two Weeks prior to work in any of the sign replacement locations, the RE must notify the Project Coordinator (Lauren Breitenbach) at (442) 287-7535 and/or the Senior Biologist (Katie Rodriguez) at (760) 920-3127 to determine the need for sensitive species pre-construction surveys and measures such as a no-work buffer that may need to be implemented to avoid impacts.
- If sensitive species burrows are found, they will be flagged and avoided. See SSP 14-6.03A for buffer distances for sensitive status (regulated species).

Air Quality:

- Standard dust control measures will be outlined in the project Water Pollution Control Plan (WPCP). Caltrans standard specifications for dust control and emissions requirements will be implemented. No further studies required.

Hazardous Waste:

- If roadside soils require disposal offsite, testing for aerially deposited lead contamination will be required prior to excavation. Confirm prior to RTL.
- Treated wood waste bid item, lead compliance bid item required. Informed PE and Environmental Coordinator.