

# Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk

County of: Kings

1400 W. Lacey Blvd.

Hanford CA 93230

From: (Public Agency): City of Hanford

317 N. Douty Street

Hanford, CA 93230

(Address)

Project Title: East Lacey Blvd Improvements Project

Project Applicant: City of Hanford

Project Location - Specific:

See attached sheet and map.

Project Location - City: Hanford

Project Location - County: Kings

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

See attached sheet.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Hanford

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: City of Hanford

Exempt Status: (check one):

Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);

Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));

Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));

Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Class 1 § 15301(c) and (f); Class 2 § 1532 (c); Class 4 § 15304 (a)

Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons why project is exempt:

See attached sheet.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Lisa Dock

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (559) 5485-2555

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.

2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project?  Yes  No

Signature: Lisa Dock

Date: 1/4/24

Title: City Engineer

Signed by Lead Agency

Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.  
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND UNDERSTANDING**

The project location is on East Lacey Boulevard from 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue to approximately 150 feet (ft) east of Sierra Drive, in the City of Hanford. This project has received a State grant funding through the Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Improvements (CMAQ) funding. A separate project at the intersection of 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue and East Lacey Boulevard has received funding through a Federal Congestion Mitigated Air Quality (CMAQ) grant. The current allocated grant funding is for the Preliminary Engineering (PE) phase of the projects.

The project goal is to provide safe accessible routes for pedestrians on East Lacey Boulevard between 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue and State Route (SR) 43 and to construct the existing roadway to accommodate the pedestrian facilities in the ultimate locations. This includes installing curb and gutter, sidewalks, ADA accessibility, driveways, and reconstruction of pavement. No new traffic lanes or an increase in roadway capacity is proposed for this project.

### Phase 1:

1. East Lacey Boulevard from the west right of way (ROW) of SJVRR/UPRR to approximately 150 feet east of Sierra Drive.
  - a. The project will include the offsite construction of storm drainage system, ranging from 3 ft to 24 ft deep, typically 8 feet deep, and a basin with max depth of 24 ft from existing grade;
  - b. Street reconstruction of East Lacey Boulevard within SJVRR/UPRR ROW, including reconstructing the existing railroad crossing to ultimate width;
  - c. Street reconstruction of existing East Lacey Boulevard to a depth of 4ft from existing grade in areas for the length of the project including removal of ~4,900 LF of existing asphalt. The existing ROW of 80 ft will accommodate the full buildout of the road;
  - d. Construction of new pavement section consisting of HMA Asphalt, Aggregate Base, and compaction of native soil to a max depth of 4 ft;
  - e. Construction and completion of new curb, gutter and sidewalk on both sides of street along full length of project. ~4,900 LF each side;
  - f. Construction of driveways for each existing parcel along project limits;
  - g. Construction of four ADA ramps at each intersection;
  - h. Abandoning a sewer lift station and installing ~1,300LF sewer main with trench depth of 21ft maximum;
  - i. Coordination with the construction contractor for the separately funded traffic signal at the intersection of East Lacey and 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Civil plans will install traffic signal conduits in roadway and construct curb at curb returns;
  - j. Installation of traffic signal steel conduits in roadway;
  - k. There is one drainage structure within the railroad ROW that will need permitting through SJVRR/UPRR. [one storm drain crossing RR tracks; 3

SDMH's in RR R/W; ~ 1,000 LF SD corridor in RR ROW];

- l. Approvals and permitting for the construction of the jack and bore of storm drain pipeline under SJVRR/UPRR crossing at 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue with maximum depth 14 ft;
- m. Design of the north leg of 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue from East Lacey Boulevard, and of the SJVRR crossing, for future construction;
- n. Removal and Re-installation of 2,000 LF 12 ft water lines at a depth of 4ft from proposed grade, 5-6 ft from existing grade, from 8 ¾ Ave to County Lane;
- o. Relocation of existing fire hydrants;
- p. Resetting water meters, backflows, and other appurtenances in conflict with proposed improvements;
- q. Relocation of existing power poles and overhead electrical/telephone lines;
- r. Removal of trees in conflict of proposed improvements;
- s. Existing Gas Vaults to be relocated;
- t. Existing utility manholes (sewer manholes, water valves, gas valves) to be raised/lowered to grade;
- u. Existing Fence and mailboxes to be relocated;
- v. Removal/installation of traffic striping and traffic signs;
- w. Removal of existing curb, gutter, and sidewalk
- x. Possible removal of existing trailer homes out of existing right of way. An alternate layout is provided to allow additional time to remove the trailer homes;
- y. Staging area;
- z. Traffic Control.

## Phase 2:

1. East Lacey Boulevard from 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue to the west ROW of SJVRR/UPRR.
  - a. The project will include the offsite construction of storm drainage system and basin max depth 21 ft.
  - b. Street reconstruction of East Lacey Boulevard within SJVRR/UPRR ROW;
  - c. Street reconstruction of existing East Lacey Boulevard to a depth of 4ft from existing grade in areas of ~3,000 LF of existing asphalt. 80 ft ROW full buildout of existing road;
  - d. Construction of new pavement section consisting of HMA Asphalt, Aggregate Base, and compaction of native soil in widened areas to a max depth of 4 ft;
  - e. Construction of new curb, gutter, and sidewalk on both sides of street along full length of project. ~3,000 LF each side.
  - f. Construction of driveways for each existing parcel along project limits.
  - g. Construction of four ADA ramps at each intersection.
  - h. There is one drainage structure within the railroad ROW that will need permitting through SJVRR/UPRR. [one storm drain crossing RR tracks; 3 SDMH's in RR ROW; ~ 1000 LF SD corridor in RR ROW]

- i. Approvals and permitting for the construction of the jack and bore of storm drain pipeline under SJVRR/UPRR crossing at 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue with maximum depth 14 ft.
- j. Relocation of existing fire hydrants
- k. Resetting water meters, backflows, and other appurtenances in conflict with proposed improvements
- l. Relocation of existing power poles and overhead electrical/telephone lines
- m. Removal of trees in conflict of proposed improvements
- n. Existing Gas Vaults to be relocated
- o. Existing utility manholes (sewer manholes, water valves, gas valves) to be raised/lowered to grade
- p. Existing Fence and mail boxes to be relocated
- q. Removal/installation of traffic striping and traffic signs
- r. Removal of existing curb, gutter, and sidewalk
- s. Staging area
- t. Traffic Control

## REASONS WHY PROJECT IS

### EXEMPT

#### *Biological Resources*

The project site is located along the existing Lacey Boulevard ROW, which is in a highly urbanized and developed part of east Hanford. There is no suitable or critical habitat within or adjacent to the project area. Construction will be conducted within an existing, disturbed and developed area of the roadway. The two sump basins are on previously disturbed land that was used for crop cultivation and is routinely disked. The project area does not contain habitat to support special status species.

The project does not include box culvert replacement/repair or bridge work. Construction is scheduled to begin in January 2025, which is outside the nesting bird season (February 15-September 15) and would therefore not impact nesting birds. Additionally, as required by the City's General Plan, a pre-construction clearance survey of the project site will be completed no more than 30 days prior to the start of construction to ensure no biological resources are affected. Per the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) and National Hydrography Dataset (NHD), there are no wetlands or other water features within or adjacent to the project. Lacey Blvd crosses a canal west of the railroad, but the project will be completed on the road shoulder and will not impact the canal. The majority of the project site is in an urban, completely built-up area of the City, with multiple businesses and residents and daily vehicular traffic.

#### *Tribal/Cultural Resources*

The project site is located within an urban, completely built-up, area of the City of Hanford. Previous ground disturbance on and around the project site did not indicate the presence of tribal/cultural resources. The project will comply with the policies of the City of Hanford General Plan for cultural resource conservation, specifically Policy 049 states that construction will be halted at a development site, should a cultural resource be encountered unexpectedly during construction. The project is expected to be in compliance with the General Plan and in the unlikely event that a cultural resource

is unearthed during ground disturbing activities, the project will comply with the policies of the Hanford General Plan for addressing discovered cultural resources and would not result in a significant impact.

#### *Hazardous Waste Sites*

CEQA Guidelines, Appendix G, Section IX.d Hazards and Hazardous Materials indicates that a significant impact would occur if a project were located on a site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result would create a significant hazard to the public or the environment. Government Code Section 65962.5 is commonly referred to as the "Cortese List" and will include, but not be limited to hazardous waste facilities, hazardous waste disposal sites, and underground storage tanks.

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) provides the Envirostor system for tracking cleanup, permitting, enforcement and investigation efforts as hazardous waste facilities and site with known contamination or sites where there may be reasons to investigate. A review of the Envirostor system indicates that the project site is not located on a permitted hazardous material site or reported cleanup site. There are no listed sites within the Envirostor database within a half-mile radius of the Project site (California Department of Toxic Substances Control, 2023).

The State Water Resources Control Board, GeoTracker database tracks sites that impact, or have the potential to impact water quality in California with emphasis on groundwater. GeoTracker contains records for sites that require cleanup, such as a leaking underground storage tank (LUST) site, Department of Defense site, and cleanup program sites (State Water Resources Control Board, 2023).

The GeoTracker database shows that there is one LUST cleanup sites within a half-mile radius of the project site. However, further review of the LUST cleanup sites indicates that the case has been completed and closed.

Therefore, based on available resources, the project site is not located on a hazardous material/waste site as identified in the Envirostor database, and does not contain a component that can result in the release of a hazardous substance as shown in the Geotracker system. Therefore, the project is not located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and would not create a significant hazard to the public or environment.

#### *Air Quality*

Development of the project is anticipated to improve pedestrian accessibility as well as traffic safety with the proposed improvements. Based on the anticipated activity levels, the development of the Project would not exceed construction emissions thresholds. Additionally, all construction activities are required to be in compliance with San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) rules and regulations including fugitive dust control measures. These measures include the regular watering of uncovered ground to reduce dust emissions. With the project's compliance with SJVAPCD rules and regulations, the project will have a less than significant impact. The proposed Project would provide intersection improvements to the intersection and will not create any additional operational emissions. Therefore, the Project would not exceed established operational threshold emissions.

#### *Scenic Resources*

Per the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Scenic Highways Systems Map (California Department of Transportation, 2018), there are no listed or eligible scenic highways within the City of Hanford.

### *Transportation*

The project intends to improve an existing roadway within the City of Hanford by signaling the intersection and developing ADA accessibility and additional pedestrian improvements. The project will result in increased vehicular and pedestrian safety. No new lanes are proposed with this project that could increase the capacity of the road. There are no detours or temporary road closures will not be necessary for this project. There will be traffic control and safety measures implemented during the construction of the project but will not permanently impact traffic.

### **CONCLUSION**

The project anticipates the improvements to the existing roadway to increase pedestrian accessibility and vehicular safety. The project will result in developing the road to its ultimate width as identified in the General Plan. The project would provide safer roadways and pedestrian controls along the existing right-of-way (ROW). The project site is already improved in a developed urbanized area of the City of Hanford and does not contain suitable habitat for significant biological resources. No cultural or scenic resources were identified on the site. The project site does not contain a listed hazardous material/waste facility. Construction will be conducted within existing ROW and easements and on previously disturbed land. The anticipated construction efforts of the project are not expected to exceed SJVAPCD criteria pollutant thresholds and will comply with SJVAPCD rules and regulations for construction activities including fugitive dust emission control measures. Therefore, the project will not result in a significant environmental impact.

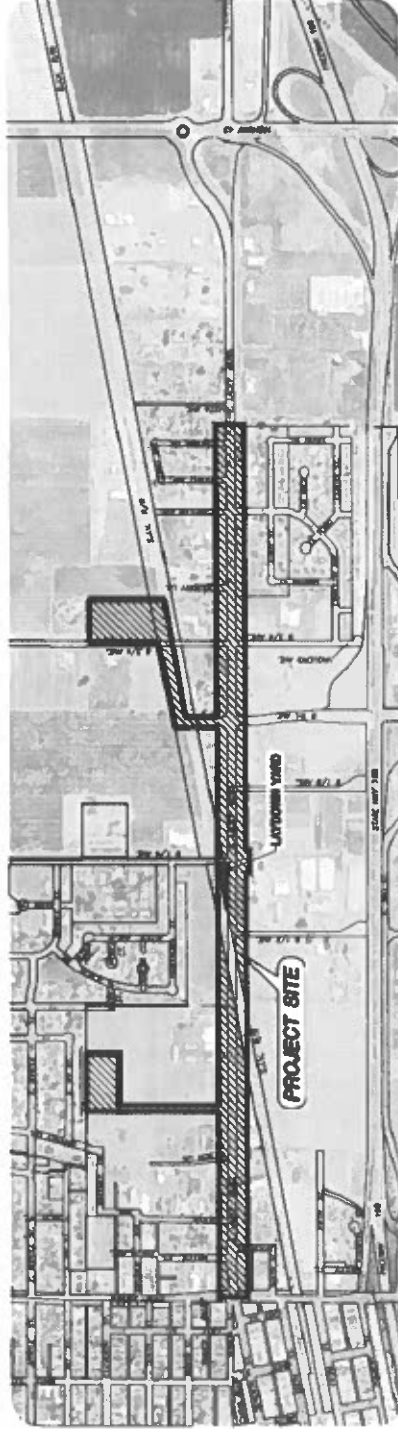
### **References**

California Department of Toxic Substances Control. (2023). *California Department of Toxic Substances Control, Envirostor*. Retrieved from California Department of Toxic Substances Control, Envirostor: <https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/map/?myaddress=Search>

California Department of Transportation. (2018). *California State Scenic Highway Systems Map*. Retrieved from Caltrans Scenic Highways: <https://caltrans.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=465dfd3d807c46cc8e8057116f1aaca>

State Water Resources Control Board. (2023). *State Water Resources Control Board, GeoTracker*. Retrieved from State Water Resources Control Board, GeoTracker: <https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/map/?CMD=runreport&myaddress=Search+GeoTracker#>

# EAST LACEY BLVD IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT LIMITS



AREA MAP

PROJECT LIMITS  
CITY OF HANFORD  
HANFORD, CALIFORNIA

DATE	11/11/11
BY	...
FOR	...

