



**CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
DETERMINATION FORM (rev. 11/2020)**

Project Information

Project Name: Cook's Valley CAPM

DIST-CO-RTE: 01-MEN-101

PM/PM: 91.32/106.80

EA: 01-0J990

Federal-Aid Project Number: 0119000129

Project Description

The proposed project is located on U.S. Highway 101 in Mendocino County from post mile 91.32 to 106.80. The project would rehabilitate pavement, upgrade guardrails and curbs, improve drainage at three locations, repair transportation management system elements, and pave various existing gravel turnouts to create additional shoulder for bicyclists. Areas of stormwater treatment would be incorporated into the project. All work would take place within existing State right of way. Biological, cultural, water quality, visual, noise, hazardous waste, air quality, greenhouse gas, and energy use impacts, and climate change analyses have been completed for the project.

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

Jason Meyer		01/25/2024
Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager

Kiran Gopana		01/25/2024
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, 2019, 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)()

Activity 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 December 23, 2016 and executed by FHWA and Caltrans.

Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief

Jason Meyer (Print Name), [Signature] (Signature), 01/25/2024 (Date)

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Kiran Gopana (Print Name), [Signature] (Signature), 01/25/2024 (Date)

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion: 12/7/2023
Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 12/7/2023

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:

Water quality BMPs would be utilized for water quality.

An approved stormwater plan would be developed prior to beginning construction activities.

Stormwater treatment areas would be created within the project limits to offset increases in impervious surface.

Measures for managing traffic stripes, pavement markings, thermoplastic, and paint containing lead, and treated wood waste would be included in the project contract.

Any environmentally sensitive areas identified within the project limits would be protected and delineated on the project plans.

To prevent spread of invasive species all equipment would be clean prior to entering job site and erosion control would be free of noxious weed seed and propagules.

To protect northern spotted owl and marbled murrelet, measures restricting noise, visual disturbance, and vegetation removal would be implemented.

Migratory and nongame birds would be protected by limiting vegetation to outside the bird breeding season (removal would occur between September 16 and January 31). If vegetation removal is required during breeding season, a nesting bird survey would be conducted.