



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

Project Information	
Project Name (if applicable): Devil's Corral Safety	
DIST-CO-RTE: 02-LAS-36	PM/PM: 14.5/16.8
EA: 02-1J750	Federal-Aid Project Number: 0220000124

Project Description - The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) will use State and Federal Funding to improve highway safety from postmile (PM) 14.5 to PM R16.8 by reconstructing the road prism to accommodate 8-foot shoulders, installing a rumble strip on the edge of traveled way and along the centerline, replace and extend culverts outside of the proposed road prism and adding metal beam guardrail.
Continued.

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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 2B Reconstruction.** (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

Carolyn Sullivan	<i>Carolyn Sullivan</i>	4/11/23
Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager

Robert Burnett	<i>Robert Burnett Jr</i>	4/11/23
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)(Enter activity number)
23 CFR 771.117(d): activity (d)(27 Safety)
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

Carolyn Sullivan
Print Name
Signature
Date
4/11/23

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Robert Burnett
Print Name
Signature
Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): 3/23/23
Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: TBD

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:

Project Description – (continued)

An existing snow chain-on/off area would be brought up to current standards by widening the paved shoulder out to 12 feet, installing overhead lights, and adding signs. Electrical service to the chain on area would be brought in from the existing overhead power line adjacent to the highway.

Additional tree removal will occur on the south side of the road to increase solar exposure on the roadway, which will reduce snow and ice build-up in the winter months.

Purpose and Need –

This project was initiated by a run-off-the-road monitoring program.

The purpose of this project is to reduce the frequency and severity of collisions within the project limits.

Right of Way -

The existing right-of-way is 100 feet from centerline on each side of the highway. Additional right of way and TCEs will be required from public and private land. It is assumed at this time that no additional right of way will be needed to construct the improvements. A portion of this project is within the State's Department of Transportation Easement (DOTE) from Lassen National Forest. A Timber Sale will be required for trees removed from within this area. A Special Use Permit will be required from the US Forest Service.

Disposal and Utilities -

A disposal site will not be included in the project, all earthwork will be balanced onsite. Overhead power lines running along the north side of the road will not need to be relocated. Overhead utility lines will be relocated between PM 15.00 and 16.8. Limited tree removal will take place and new poles will be set approximately 40-50 feet from their current location. However, A communication lines running along the north side of the highway will require relocation as well.

Permits –

Permits are anticipated from the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (401 Cert), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (1600 permit), and Army Corps of Engineers (Nationwide 404).

Coordination and Consultation –

Coordination and consultation are ongoing with local tribes and the USFS.