



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

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): SR-74 Curve Advisory Roadside Sign Installation

DIST-CO-RTE: 12-ORA-74

PM/PM: 11.5/16.6

EA: 0U880/1224000046

Federal-Aid Project Number: N/A

Project Description

The project proposes to install roadside curve advisory signs along both sides of SR-74 (Ortega Highway) between postmiles 11.5 to 16.6. The need for this project stems from the Traffic Accident Surveillance and Analysis System (TASAS) finding of an unusually high number of accidents related to excessive speed through horizontal curves on both sides of the project segment. There are currently inadequate advance curve warning signs to instruct drivers to slow down on the sharp curves. The purpose of this project is to ensure compliance with the California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) by providing advance curve warning signs and advisory speeds that will improve safety along the corridor. The total estimated disturbed soil area (DSA) for the project is less than 1 acre. The project involves only state funding. No additional Right of Way is required, all work will occur within Caltrans Right of Way.

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 1d.** (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

Smita Deshpande	<i>Smita Deshpande</i>	5/8/24
Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager

Saied Mehranfard	<i>Saied Mehranfard</i>	05/08/2024
Print Name	Signature	Date



CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

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

N/A

Print Name

Signature

Date

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

N/A

Print Name

Signature

Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): Enter date
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).



CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

Continuation sheet:

There are no significant environmental consequences anticipated with the proposed project. In addition to the measures given in the Caltrans Standard Specifications, measures related to cultural resources, greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), hazardous waste, water quality, and biological resources and any subsequent requirements will be implemented as project features to the proposed project.

Biological Resources

BIO-1: Species Protection Specification 14-6.03 - Caltrans biologists will provide Arroyo toad awareness training to project personnel including laborers, tradesmen, material suppliers, equipment maintenance personnel, supervisors, foremen, office personnel, food vendors, and other people who stay on the site longer than 60 minutes. If an arroyo toad is observed in the project area during construction, the Engineer will immediately cease operations and contact the on-call biologist and Caltrans biology.

Cultural Resources

The cultural resources review was performed by Victoria Stosel, Associate Environmental Planner PQS Principal Investigator Prehistoric Archaeology, and included a review of the Environmental Study Request, location map, field check, CCRD and aerial photography. Based on this review, the undertaking, as currently proposed, has no potential to affect historical resources.

As a result, this undertaking is exempt from further review, no additional archaeological or built environment studies are required at this time and the Section 106 compliance process, CEQA cultural resources component, and PRC 5024 compliance are complete. This memorandum documents compliance with the agreed-upon historic preservation procedures. Please note that this assessment could change and additional studies may be required if the project changes and ensure the following measures found in the Caltrans 2022 Standard Specifications in the Plans, Specifications, and Estimates apply to this project and are to be included in the Environmental Commitments Record (ECR) in the Resident Engineer's (RE) File:

CR-1: If buried cultural resources are encountered during Project Activities, it is Caltrans policy that work stop within 60 feet of the area until a qualified archaeologist can evaluate the nature and significance of the find.

CR-2: In the event that human remains are found, the county coroner shall be notified and ALL construction activities within 60 feet of the discovery shall stop. Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98, if the remains are thought to be Native American, the coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) who will then notify the Most Likely Descendent (MLD). The person who discovered the remains will contact the District 12 Division of Environmental Analysis; Alben Phung,



CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

Senior Environmental Scientist: (949)279-8715 and Cheryl Sinopoli, DNAC: (949)483-1018. Further provisions of PRC 5097.98 are to be followed as applicable.

Climate Change Assessment

The Environmental Division has evaluated this non-capacity increasing project for GHG emissions and other climate change impacts. It has determined that the project would not cause a significant impact on GHG emissions because it does not increase roadway capacity and has the following reduction strategies considered:

GHG-1: Fuel efficient measures for equipment and traffic management should be used where feasible in addition to reducing the frequency of vehicle idle times to the greatest extent possible.

Greenhouse gas emissions were estimated using the 2021 Caltrans Construction Emissions Tool v1.0.2. for a project duration of 45 working days:

GHG	CO	NOx	CO2	CH4	TOG	ROG	HFC
Total Emissions (tons)	0.011	0.016	7	0	0	0	0

Hazardous Waste

HAZ-1: Since the project involves excavation under the paved or non-paved surface during wooden post installation and wooden poles removal, ADL investigation is required. ADL report or ADL data summary will be provided to Design Branch based on investigation request provided to Environmental Engineering. Environmental Engineering will provide SSP for ADL containing soil to the Design Branch.

HAZ-2: The proposed project includes removal of existing wood posts for signposts which contain chemical preservatives. The wood posts are considered treated wood waste (TWW). For the management and disposal of TWW, the contract must follow the DTSC regulation. Specification for the management of TWW will be provided to the Design Branch.

Air Quality

This project is exempt according to the Table 2 of Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Title 40 Section 93.126. Project submittal to the Transportation Conformity Working Group (TCWG) for Interagency Consultation is not required. Air quality analysis is not needed.

Noise



CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

The proposed project does not involve addition of a lane; thus, according to GHWA 23CFR771, this project does not qualify as a Type I project. The traffic noise study and abatement evaluation are not needed.

Technical Studies Completed:

Cultural Resources SU Memo (CT, DEA, Stosel, 5/7/2024)
Hazardous Waste Memo (CT, DEA, Caraig, 3/1/2024)
Natural Environment Study (CT, DEA, Ramirez, 4/17/2024)
Water Quality Memo (CT, DEA, Salas, 3/7/2024)