



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

**Project Information**

**Project Name:** Felton Safety Improvements

**DIST-CO-RTE:** 05-SCR-9

**PM/PM:** 6.3/7.2

**EA:** 1M400

**Federal-Aid Project Number:** N/A

**Project Description**

This project proposes to construct 4 to 6 foot sidewalks, curbs, and gutters on the southbound side of SR 9 that will conform to existing sidewalks. Existing shoulders will be widened along the southbound side of SR 9, from between 4 and 13 feet, depending on right of way limitations. These improvements will provide a sidewalk and an adjacent Class III bike lane for improved bicycle and pedestrian mobility along the corridor from Graham Hill Road/Felton Empire Road to the San Lorenzo Valley Schools Complex. The southbound left turn pocket at San Lorenzo Way will be removed and the southbound right turn/through lane at Felton Empire Road will be reduced in length to accommodate new sidewalks in front of the existing gas station. Several existing retaining walls will be removed and rebuilt to allow for a minimum 4' shoulder, and an existing parking area near postmile (PM) 6.5 will be cold planed and paved. Existing dikes will be removed and replaced with curbs and gutters, and drainage inlets will be modified or replaced to connect to existing drainage facilities.

**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**

Lara Bertaina		11/16/2022
Print Name	Signature	Date

**Project Manager**

Douglas Hessing		11/16/2022
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)(13)
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

Lara Bertaina
Print Name Signature Date 11/16/2022

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Douglas Hessing
Print Name Signature Date 11/16/2022

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): 7/13/22
Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 7/13/22

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 following measures would help to reduce construction effects of this project:

#### Biology:

- Prior to the start of construction activities, a pre-construction survey will be conducted by a Caltrans biologist. The biologist shall be contacted no less than 14 days prior to the start of construction activities to schedule a pre-construction survey. The biologist will examine the BSA for Santa Cruz black salamander no more than 24 hours before project activities begin and during any initial vegetation, woody debris, or tree removal or any other initial ground-disturbing activities. If the species is observed at any time before or during project activities, work activities with the potential to harm the species will cease. The individual will be allowed to leave the area of its own volition, if possible, or it will be relocated by a qualified biologist.
- Prior to the start of construction activities, a nesting bird survey will be conducted by a Caltrans biologist to determine presence/absence of nesting birds within the project area, if construction activities are to take place during the typical nesting season (February 1-September 30).
- If an active nest of a migratory bird is discovered, all work will cease until a Caltrans biologist determines an appropriate buffer and monitoring strategy based on the habits and needs of the species.
- Prior to any ground disturbing activities, protective fencing will be installed around trees and other vegetation designated to be protected within the project limits. Protection limits will be noted.
- All staging and equipment and material storage areas will occur in existing pullouts or at currently paved locations.

#### Air Quality:

- To minimize dust emissions from the project, Section 14-9.02 (Air Pollution Control) of the 2018 Standard Specifications states that the contractor is responsible for complying with all local air-pollution-control rules, regulations, ordinances, and statutes that apply to work performed under the Contract, including those provided in Govt Code § 11017 (Pub Cont Code § 10231). By incorporating appropriate engineering design and storm water Best Management Practices during construction, minimal short-term air quality impacts are anticipated.

#### Noise:

Include the following general measures in the RE binder and implement as appropriate to further minimize temporary construction-noise impacts.

- Notify the public in advance of the construction schedule when construction noise and upcoming construction activities likely to produce an adverse noise environment are expected. This notice shall be given two weeks in advance. Notice should be published in local news media of the dates and duration of proposed construction activity. The District 5 Public Information Office posts notice of the proposed construction and potential community impacts after receiving notice from the Resident Engineer.
- Shield loud pieces of stationary construction equipment if complaints are received.
- Locate portable generators, air compressors, etc. away from sensitive noise receptors as feasible.
- Limit grouping major pieces of equipment operating in one area to the greatest extent feasible.
- Use newer equipment that is quieter and ensure that all equipment items have the manufacturers' recommended noise abatement measures, such as mufflers, engine covers, and engine vibration isolators intact and operational. Internal combustion



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engines used for any purpose on or related to the job shall be equipped with a muffler or baffle of a type recommended by the manufacturer.

- Consult District noise staff if complaints are received during the construction process.

### Visual:

- Preserve as much existing vegetation as possible. Prescriptive clearing and grubbing and grading techniques which save the most existing vegetation possible should be employed.
- Replacement planting shall include aesthetic considerations as well as the inherent biological goals. Revegetation shall include native trees and plants as determined by the Caltrans Biologist and Caltrans District 5 Landscape Architecture.
- Aesthetic treatment of sidewalk features such as curb extensions or bulb-outs and pedestrian refuge islands shall be determined and approved by District 5 Landscape Architecture.
- All metal roadside elements including but not limited to guardrail, transitions, end treatments, and cable safety railing should be stained or darkened to be visually compatible with the setting. The color shall be determined and approved by District 5 Landscape Architecture.
- All retaining walls shall be aesthetically treated to reduce the urbanizing effect and minimize potential graffiti. The aesthetic treatment shall be determined and approved by District 5 Landscape Architecture.
- Community involvement is anticipated in the development of the aesthetic treatments, to be further developed and approved by District 5 Landscape Architecture in conjunction with Design.
- Following construction, re-grade, and re-contour all new construction staging areas and other temporary uses as necessary to match the surrounding pre-project topography.

### Hazardous Waste:

- As a health and safety precaution for the non-regulatory ADL in soil, SSP 7-1.02K(6)(j)(iii) will be included in the specifications.
- If Treated Wood Waste (TWW) will be replaced as part of any sign or guardrail reconstruction, then include SSP 14-11.14) for proper management of the TWW.
- A bid item will need to be included for a Lead Compliance Plan.
- If yellow stripe or thermoplastic is going to be removed it will need to be managed differently depending on its age and how it will be removed. It will be appropriate to include SSP 84-9.03B that requires preparation of a lead compliance plan but does not require the stripe debris to be disposed of as a hazardous waste. If the stripe is going to be removed as part of a cold plane or grinding operation where the stripe is being removed with the asphalt concrete, then use SSP 36-4.