



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

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): Hot Mix Asphalt Overlay

DIST-CO-RTE: 10-MER-99

PM/PM: R12.0/R35.8

EA: 10-1S630

Federal-Aid Project Number: N/A

Project Description

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to replace the deteriorated ramp pavement with Hot Mix Asphalt Type A at various locations on State Route 99 in Merced County. Existing white/yellow striping and pavement markings will be removed with the pavement during the cold planning process. All work will be within Caltrans Right of Way. The purpose of the project is to address the failed ramp pavement. The need of this project is to extend the service life of the ramps.

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

Elizabeth Hummel		07/03/2024
Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager

Jose A. Alicea II for Edujie Imoisili

Edujie I. Imoisili		07/03/2024
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)()
[] 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

Print Name Signature Date

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Print Name Signature Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): N/A
Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 6/12/2024

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:

Location	County-Route	LOCATION DESCRIPTION	PM
1	MER-99	Southbound (SB) MISSION AVENUE OFF-RAMP	R12.012
2	MER-99	SB MLK Jr WAY/Route 59 SB OFF-RAMP	14.786
3	MER-99	Northbound (NB) MLK Jr WAY/Route 59 NB ON-RAMP	14.826
4	MER-99	SB 16TH St ON-RAMP	16.983
5	MER-99	SB 16th St OFF-RAMP	17.172
6	MER-99	SB WINTON Pkwy ON-RAMP	R30.202
7	MER-99	NB WINTON Pkwy OFF-RAMP	R30.209
8	MER-99	SB WINTON Pkwy OFF-RAMP	R30.562
9	MER-99	NB WINTON Pkwy ON-RAMP	R30.609
10	MER-99	SB COLLIER Rd ON-RAMP	R31.743
11	MER-99	NB SHANKS Rd OFF-RAMP	R34.227
12	MER-99	SB SHANKS Rd ON-RAMP	R34.287
13	MER-99	NB SHANKS Rd ON-RAMP	R34.625
14	MER-99	NB BRADBURY Rd ON-RAMP	R35.739
15	MER-99	SB BRADBURY Rd OFF-RAMP	R35.780



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General:

- Environmental reevaluation will be required if the scope of the project changes to include additional areas or activities, or if previously unknown cultural or other sensitive resources are discovered. Contact the Environmental Office if project changes occur or sensitive resources are discovered.
- Contact the Environmental Office to attend the pre-construction meeting.

Cultural:

- If cultural materials are discovered at the job site, do not disturb the resources and immediately:
 1. Stop all work within a 60foot radius of discovery
 2. Protect the discovery area
 3. Notify the Engineer
 4. The Department Investigates. Do not move cultural materials or take them from the job site. Retain a qualified archaeologist to assess the significance of the find. Do not resume work within the discovery area until authorized.
- If human remains are discovered, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that further disturbances and activities shall cease in any area or nearby area suspected to overlie remains, and the County coroner contacted. 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). At the same time the landowner will work with the MLD on the respectful treatment and disposition of the remains. Further provisions of PRC 5097.98 are to be followed as applicable.

Hazardous Waste:

- The Caltrans Standard Special Provision 7-1.02K(6)(j)(iii), which pertains to Earth Material Containing Lead, shall be added to the construction contract. A Lead Compliance Plan prepared by a Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) is required and all soil must remain on-site.
- Caltrans Standard Specification 36-4 will be implemented for the cold planning removal for non-hazardous striping and pavement markings.

No Permits Required