



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

**Project Information**

**Project Name:** Geotechnical Borings for SR 186 Realignment and New Bridge Construction Over All-American Canal Project

**DIST-CO-RTE:** 11-IMP-186

**PM/PM:** 0.5/2.1

**EA:** 11-43108, PID 1120000096

**Federal-Aid Project Number:**

**Project Description**

Caltrans' Office of Geotechnical Design South (OGDS) proposes an information-gathering subsurface geotechnical investigation to conduct drilling of four (4) exploratory borings to ensure proper design and constructability of the bridge support locations. This geotechnical subsurface investigation is required to produce a Preliminary Foundation Report (PFR) for the new bridge over the All-American Canal.

**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 6.** (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**

Shay Lynn M. Harrison

7/29/2024

Print Name

Signature

Date

**Project Manager**

Jorge Perez-Valdes

7/29/2024

Print Name

Signature

Date



CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

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)(24)
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 May 27, 2022, and executed by FHWA and Caltrans.

Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief

Signature block for Shay Lynn M. Harrison, including print name, signature, and date (7/29/2024).

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Signature block for Jorge Perez-Valdes, including print name, signature, and date (7/29/2024).

Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: See Continuation Sheet, below

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:

#### **Biological Resources:**

- No removal of vegetation is necessary, or will be authorized, as part of the proposed project activities.
- Staging or storage areas will occur in paved areas or level areas devoid of vegetation.
- No work is authorized in drainages, including the All-American Canal and the Alamo Canal. Possible debris or runoff, generated as a result of the work, shall be directed away from the drainages to prevent deposition into the waterways.
- If modifications are made to the project plans, or staging areas are added, the Office of Environmental Stewardship and Ecological Studies must be notified so that a reevaluation may be completed.

**NPDES/Stormwater** – Drilling for borings within Caltrans right-of-way is covered in our current Stormwater MS4 Permit. Although if drilling within the Imperial Irrigation District right-of-way (or gaining access to proposed drilling locations) and needing an encroachment permit, then it is possible that the Imperial Irrigation District may require a Water Pollution Control Program (WPCP). If this is the case, then please contact the IID to confirm stormwater encroachment permit requirements.