



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

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): Radio Tower and Cabinet Placement

DIST-CO-RTE: 10 - CAL - 004

PM/PM: R41.68

EA: 10-1T200

Federal-Aid Project Number: N/A

Project Description

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to install a radio tower and cabinet near Postmile (PM) R41.68 on State Route 4 in Arnold, Calaveras County at Blue Lake Springs Mutual Water Company. The project includes installing a radio tower, cabinet, and conduit for antenna operations, as well constructing a concrete pad, foundation, and protective retaining wall. All work will be done on Blue Lake Springs Mutual Water Company property under Lease Agreement 56LA56010100. The purpose of the project is to improve radio signal service in the area for real-time communication. The project is needed to ensure efficient communication across Caltrans operations.

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		08/14/2024
Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager

Edujie I. Imoisili		08/14/2024
Print Name	Signature	Date



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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

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: 08/14/2024

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).



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Continuation sheet:

Item being installed/constructed	Details
Antenna	The antenna will be an 800 MHz antenna that will be mounted around the bend of a pipe on the water tank.
Conduit	Antenna feedlines will be run via an underground conduit to an existing on-site utility box.
Concrete Pad	The concrete pad will be 6.5'X5' and will be 4' away from base of water tank for service access.
Protective Retaining Wall	Retaining wall will be build up to 3' as needed to hold back dirt and prevent erosion and will be 10-15ft long. Depth of excavation will be from 2-2.5 ft.

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 Environmental Office if project changes occur or sensitive resources discovered.
- Contact the Environmental Office to attend the pre-construction meeting.

Cultural

- If cultural resources are discovered at the job site, do not disturb the resources and immediately:
 1. Stop all work within a 60-foot radius of the discovery
 2. Protect the discovery area
 3. Notify the Engineer
 4. The Department investigates. Do not move cultural materials or take them from the jobsite. Retain a qualified archeologist 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



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that further disturbances and activities shall cease in any area or nearby area suspected to overlie remains, and the County Coroner should be 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) which will then notify the Most Likely Descendent (MLD). At that 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

- Adhere to Caltrans standard specifications, section 14-11.15 for handling and disposal of electrical equipment containing materials.

No Permits Required.