



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

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): Horse Gulch Curve Project & Horse Gulch Gap Project

DIST-CO-RTE: 02-TEH-36

PM/PM: 15.70/16.10 & 16.10/16.40

EA: 02-3J520 & 02-0K750 **Federal-Aid Project Number:** 0222000055 & 0223000201

Project Description:

The Horse Gulch Curve Safety project proposes to improve safety along State Route (SR) 36 between Post Miles (PM) 15.70 and 16.10 by enhancing roadway geometrics. Crashes at this location occur at a higher rate than the statewide average for similar facilities. Work will include earthwork, removing existing asphalt concrete, vertically and horizontally realigning the highway segment, installing 4 ft and 8 ft shoulders, installing centerline and edge line rumble strips, replacing fencing, and replacing and installing new culverts, constructing a new maintenance vehicle pullout and tree removal. Project funding is through the safety improvement (20.XX.201.010) component of the State Highway Operation and Protection Program.

The Horse Gulch Gap project proposes to proactively improve safety along SR 36 between PM 16.10 to 16.40 by enhancing roadway geometrics. Similar to Horse Gulch Curve, work for Horse Gulch Gap will include earthwork, removing existing asphalt concrete, vertically and horizontally realigning the highway segment, installing 4 ft shoulders, installing centerline and edge line rumble strips, replacing fencing, replacing and installing new culverts, and tree removal. Project funding is through the collision severity reduction (20.XX.201.015) component of the District 2 SHOPP Minor Program (SHOPP).

The two projects will be combined for construction.

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 2(C).** (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].)



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Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief

Carolyn Sullivan Carolyn Sullivan 08/02/2024
Print Name Signature Date

Project Manager

Sara Hunt Sara A Hunt 08/02/2024
Print Name Signature Date

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)(27)
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

Carolyn Sullivan Carolyn Sullivan 08/02/2024
Print Name Signature Date



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Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Sara Hunt

Sara A Hunt

08/02/2024

Print Name

Signature

Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): 07/09/2024

Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 07/09/2024

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).

Continuation sheet:

Staging: All staging and stockpiling activities would be limited to existing paved and/or gravel pullouts within Caltrans right-of-way limits.

Disposal/Borrow: All cut and fill material would be balanced on-site and a disposal site will not be utilized for this project.

Consultation/Coordination: There are ongoing consultation with resource agencies and Native American tribes for this project. No public lands are adjacent, so coordination with *Bureau of Land Management* and *U.S. Forest Service* is not required.

Permits: Permits from the *U.S Army Corps of Engineers* (Section 404), *Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board* (Section 401) and the *California Department of Fish and Wildlife* (1600 Lake and Streambed Alternation) will be required for this project.

Right of Way: An additional 8.27 acres of permanent right-of-way will be acquired from a private landowner for this project.

Utilities: All utilities in proximity to the locations of work would be protected in place; no utility conflicts are anticipated.








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Final Audit Report

2024-08-02

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