



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

**Project Information**

**Project Name (if applicable):** RHMA Overlay

**DIST-CO-RTE:** 06-TUL-137/198                      **PM/PM:** Various

**EA:** 1F900                      **Federal-Aid Project Number:** Not applicable

**Project Description**

The project is located at various locations on State Route 137 and State Route 198 in Tulare County. The project proposes to remove 0.10 feet to 0.15 feet of existing pavement and replace it with 0.10 feet to 0.15 feet with rubberized hot mix asphalt gap graded. The scope of the work includes hot mix asphalt digouts, sign panel replacement on existing posts, fog seal (on State Route 198 from post mile R11.1 to R11.8 and on State Route 198 from post mile 33.2 to 37.5), and placement of shoulder backing for approximately 2 feet from the edge of pavement at an approximate depth of 0.10 feet (on State Route 137 from post mile 2.2 to post mile 3.3 and on State Route 198 from post mile 33.2 to post mile 37.5). The striping will be grinded per Caltrans guidelines. Begin work and end work is for traffic control, construction signs, and traffic awareness. Night work is anticipated. All work to occur in the Caltrans right of way.

**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 1c** existing facilities, highways. (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**

Pedram Mafi

Print Name

  
Signature

8/19/24

Date

**Project Manager**



**CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION  
DETERMINATION FORM**

Rene Sanchez  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

08/21/2024  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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)(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): not applicable
Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 8/19/24

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:**

If previously unidentified cultural materials are unearthed during construction, work shall be halted in that area until a qualified archaeologist can assess the find.

A lead compliance plan developed by a Certified Industrial Hygienist is required for ground disturbing activities, as stated in Caltrans' Standard Special Provision (SSP) 7-1.02K(6)(j)(iii) Earth Material Containing Lead.

Residue from the removal of yellow thermoplastic pavement marking and/or yellow painted traffic stripe may contain lead chromate. Residue produced from the separate removal of any yellow thermoplastic pavement marking, and/or yellow painted traffic stripe may contain heavy metals in concentrations that exceed thresholds established by the Health and Safety Code and 22 California Code of Regulations. Include Standard Special Provision 36-4 for work involving residue from grinding and cold planing that contains lead from paint and thermoplastic.

Apply avoidance and/or minimization measure as required for nesting birds/night work. Pre-construction surveys for nesting migratory birds shall be required if vegetation removal work is done during the nesting bird season, February 15 to September 1. No trees shall be removed within the nesting season without prior approval by a Caltrans Biologist.

Add the following Standard Special Provisions to the contract:

- Species Protection 14-6.03 for the San Joaquin kit fox
- Species Protection 14-6.03A for Tipton kangaroo rat
- Species Protection 14-6.03B for Bird Protection