



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

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): Lost Hills Highway Planting Project

DIST-CO-RTE: 06-KER-46

PM/PM: 31.5/33.2

EA: 06-1C840

Federal-Aid Project Number: 06-2100-0186

Project Description

The proposed project is in Kern County along State Route (SR) 46 between Post Miles (PM) 31.5 and 33.2. The scope of work will include the planting of native plants to satisfy the mitigation requirements of the SR 46 Highway Rehab Project (EA 06-44254). The plants will be installed along SR 46, to the east of the Interstate 5 Interchange, and along the Kern River Flood Canal.

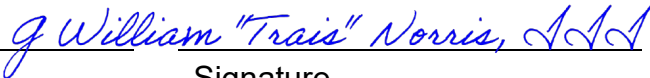
Caltrans CEQA Determination (Check one)

- 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 7.** (PRC 21084; 14 CCR 15307.)
 - 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

Trais Norris		11/4/2024
Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager

Michael Mills		10/05/2024
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)()

[] 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

Print Name Signature Date

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Print Name Signature Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): Enter date
Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: Enter date

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:

Hazardous Waste:

A lead compliance plan (LCP) developed by a Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) is required. The estimated cost of the LCP is \$3,500.

Biology:

1. A workers environmental awareness training will be provided for nesting birds to any new workers that are on-site longer than 30 minutes.
2. A preconstruction survey for special status species, and their sign, will be completed within 30 days of the start of construction.
3. Established native plants will not be impacted.
4. Additional measures from the Streambed Alteration Agreement, for EA 06-44254, will be followed.