



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

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): Stanislaus and Merced County Bridge Maintenance

DIST-CO-RTE: 10-STA, MER-VAR **PM/PM:** VAR

EA: 10-1R160 **Federal-Aid Project Number:** N/A

Project Description

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to perform bridge maintenance on thirteen (13) Bridges on State Route 33, 99, 140, and 165 and I-5 in Merced and Stanislaus Counties. Work includes pothole sealing, joint sealing, new approach slabs, signs replacement and installation, striping removal, bridge deck overlay and resurfacing. Please see continuation sheet for more project location information. All work will be within Caltrans Right of Way. The purpose of this project is to provide preventative maintenance to deteriorating sections of these bridges. The project is needed to minimize future costly rehabilitation needs and maintain the bridge functionality.

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

Print Name

Signature

11/18/2024

Date

Project Manager

Jason Miller

Print Name

Signature

11/18/24

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)()
[] 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: 11/18/2024

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).



CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

Continuation sheet:

Pothole sealing is proposed at PM 4.357 on State Route 140 in Merced County.

Table 1. Bridge Maintenance Locations

LOCATION #	COUNTY	ROUTE	POSTMILE (PM)	BRIDGE NAME	BRIDGE NO.
1	Stanislaus (STA)	33	5.57	ORESTIMBA CREEK	38 0021
2	STA	5	6.47	CALIFORNIA AQUEDUCT – PM 049.24	38 0108L
3	STA	5	6.47	CALIFORNIA AQUEDUCT - PM 049.24	38 0108R
4	STA	5	8.94	CROW CREEK	38 0111L
5	Merced (MER)	140	4.47	CCID MAIN CANAL	39 0046
6	MER	99	M33.53	SOUTH AVENUE OVER CROSSING (OC)	39 0146
7	MER	140	0.58	DELTA-MENDOTA CANAL CPM 057.95	39 0168
8	MER	5	30.34	TAGLIO ROAD OC	39 0179
9	MER	99	R36.34	SOUTH TURLOCK ON RAMP OC	39 0191K
10	MER	165	30.29	MERCED RIVER	39 0217
11	MER	99	27.1	SULTANA DRIVE OC	39 0218
12	MER	99	R30.38	WINTON PARKWAY OC	39 0223



CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

13	MER	99	25.1	WESTSIDE BLVD OC	39 0232
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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. Contract the Environmental Office if project changes occur or sensitive resources are discovered.
- Contact the Environmental Office to attend the pre-construction meeting.

Cultural:

- If cultural materials are discovered at the job site, do not disturb the resources and immediately:
 1. Stop all work within a 60foot radius of discovery
 2. Protect the discovery area
 3. Notify the Engineer
 4. The Department Investigates. Do not move cultural materials or take them from the job site. Retain a qualified archaeologist 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 that further disturbances and activities shall cease in any area or nearby area suspected to overlie remains, and the County coroner 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) who will then notify the Most Likely Descendent (MLD). At the same 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.

Biology:

- Standard Special Provision (SSP) 14-6.03A, will be required at all locations and will need to be included in the construction contract:
 - If work will occur within the migratory bird nesting season (February 1 – September 30), a request must be submitted to the Caltrans District 10 Environmental Office to have a qualified biologist conduct a pre-



CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

construction bird survey within 14 days prior to the start of any construction related activities. If an active nest is observed, a protective buffer shall be established around the nest until the young have fledged. No construction related activities shall occur within the limits of the protective buffer until authorized by the Caltrans District 10 Environmental Office. Once authorized, if construction activities do not commence within 14 days after completion of the bird survey or if construction activities stop for more than 14 days, a subsequent bird survey may be required. Work shall not commence or recommence until authorized by the Caltrans District 10 Environmental Office.

Hazardous Waste:

- The Caltrans Standard Special Provision 7-1.02K(6)(j)(iii), which pertains to Earth Material Containing Lead, shall be added to the construction contract. A Lead Compliance Plan prepared by a Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) is required and all soil must remain on-site.
- The Caltrans Standard Special Provision (SSP) pertaining to nonhazardous waste striping, 84-9.03B, shall be added to the construction contract.
- SSP 14-11.14 regarding the handling, storing, transporting, and disposing of treated wood waste shall be included in the construction contract.
- The non-Standard Special Provision (nSSP) 14-11.16 will be included in the contract for specific survey for Asbestos Containing Materials to be conducted prior to construction activities.
- nSSP 14-9.02 for NESHAP Notification will be included in the construction contract.

No Permits Required