



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

Project Information

Project Name: Modesto Maintenance Station Rehabilitation Project

DIST-CO-RTE: 10-STA-99

PM/PM: 16.81

EA: 10-1M430

Project Number: 1020000182

Project Description

This project proposes to reconstruct and renovate the Modesto Maintenance Station (Facility #38M5715) in order to meet current District 10 Maintenance needs. The existing facility was not designed to house the current number of working crews and does not address current needs for Fire, Life, and Safety, accessibility, and building codes (including fixture counts and proper space requirements). The new facility will address current maintenance and district needs for this facility and service area. The facility is located in the City of Modesto about 16.81 miles north of the Merced County line, west of State Route 99 at 908 North Emerald Avenue. *(continued)*

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.** (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

Laura Cook		10/8/2024
Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager

Vincent Ladio		10/9/2024
Print Name	Signature	Date



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Caltrans NEPA Determination

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

Laura Cook N/A N/A
Print Name Signature Date

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Vincent Ladio N/A N/A
Print Name Signature Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): N/A
Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 10/4/2024

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:

(continued) The project proposes to demolish, remove and reconstruct the following existing facilities to meet Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements, Fire, Life, and Safety requirements, and current building codes. The project scope of work includes the following:

- Demolition of Permits Building.
- Demolition of Equipment Storage Building.
- Demolition of storage building.
- Removal of Engineer Permit Office Trailer.
- Demolition of existing loading dock and ramp.
- Demolition of Crew Building and Covered Patio Canopy. Modify the existing mechanic facility to be used for storage.
- Construct a new office with crew space, equipment storage and a resident mechanic shop.
- Construct carport breeze way with Covered Patio Canopy.
- Relocation of the fuel island and canopy with a 10,000 gallons capacity (6000 diesel/4000 gas).
- Installation of solar panel, Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations, standby generator, and a fire hydrant pump system.
- Construction of canopy adjacent to Mechanic Shop cover wash rack building and install a new sand/oil clarifier system.
- Construction of canopy to cover trash and storage area.

The Permits Building, Covered Patio Canopy, Crew Building, and the fuel station will be demolished and reconstructed to fit in a single footprint at the southwest corner of the Maintenance Station; this proposed reconstruction will serve as an office/crew building. Two Equipment Storage Buildings will be demolished, removed and reconstructed in a single footprint at the mid-west of the Maintenance Station to accommodate the permit engineers and electrical crew, and also provide storage with additional clearance to access the northwest gate.

The project also proposes to cold plane 0.25 feet and place hot mix asphalt Type A to address the damaged pavement, as well as overlay the Maintenance Station parking surface with 0.15 feet of hot mix asphalt Type A. The project also includes removal and replacement drainage facilities, fence installation, and parking stall striping.

To keep the road open to traffic during construction, the project would maintain one through-traffic lane not less than 10 feet in width for use by both directions of travel. During construction work, the lane closure will be in effect between the hours of 9:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. from Monday through Thursday, 12:00 a.m. midnight to 5:00 a.m. on



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Friday, and 10:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. midnight on Sunday. Construction of the proposed project is anticipated to take approximately 360 working days to complete. A Traffic Management Plan (TMP) will be prepared for this project during the design phase of the project. Caltrans will also coordinate with California Highway Patrol (CHP) to ensure minimal traffic impacts to emergency response and other critical services.

General

The project qualifies for a Common Sense Exemption under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), as the leaking underground storage tank (LUST) site located at 908 North Emerald Avenue within the Maintenance Station has been closed and remediated since July 12, 1996. Furthermore, soil surveys indicate the site does not exceed regulatory thresholds for petroleum hydrocarbons.

The project is state-only funded, and does not have federal funding or a federal nexus that would require preparation of an environmental document for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The above findings are subject to change if: (1) the scope of the project changes to include additional activities or areas; or (2) there is unforeseen discovery of sensitive or cultural resources. Environmental reevaluation will be required if either of these conditions are met.

Biological Resources

The ornamental plants and mature trees in the BSA have the potential to support nesting migratory birds or raptors, including ground-nesting birds, during the nesting season (February 1st to September 30th). No take of the species or their nests is anticipated with inclusion of Caltrans 2022 Standard Specification 14-6.03A (Species Protection) in the construction contract.

- For work that is scheduled during the migratory bird nesting period (February 1-August 31) or raptor nesting period (February 1-September 30), a pre-construction survey would be performed 14 days before the proposed start date of any construction-related activities. Construction work would be approved if a survey of the job site within the 14 days before the proposed start days of the construction activity shows an absence of nesting birds. If activities fail to commence within 14 days, or if there is a halt to the activities with a delay of more than 14 days, another nesting migratory bird/nesting raptor survey must be performed before construction activities can recommence.
- If any active migratory bird nest is observed, a 100-foot ESA buffer must be implemented and avoided until the young have fledged or a qualified biologist determines that construction may proceed.
- If an active raptor nest is observed, a 300-foot ESA buffer must be implemented and avoided around the nest until the young have fledged or a qualified biologist determines that construction may proceed.



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- If an active Swainson's hawk nest is observed, a 600-foot ESA buffer must be implemented and avoided around the nest until the young have fledged or a qualified biologist determines that construction may proceed.

There is low potential that bumble bee hives occur underground or above ground within the BSA that could potentially be disturbed by proposed ground-disturbing activities. No take of the species or their nests is anticipated with inclusion of Caltrans 2022 Standard Specification 14-6.03A (Species Protection) in the construction contract.

- A pre-construction survey for active bumble bee hives should be performed. Caltrans Standard Special Provisions under 14-6.03A (Species Protection) will be implemented to define survey requirements and to define protective buffer distances for bumble bee hives.
- If an active bumble bee hive is observed, a 50-foot buffer will be implemented around the hive until a qualified biologist determines that construction may proceed.

Hazardous Waste

The proposed project includes pavement and structure work that would potentially involve encountering aerially deposited lead in unpaved areas, asbestos containing material in the existing building materials, lead based paint on the existing buildings, and potentially hazardous striping and treated wood waste in the project area.

Additionally, the project would involve excavation within the boundaries of a closed leaking underground storage tank (LUST) site. These potential impacts are considered less than significant, as the site was closed and remediated on July 12, 1996. However, due to the depth of excavation required for the canopy foundations, as well as the potential to export soil from the site, a Preliminary Site Investigation was prepared on May 29, 2024 to characterize the soil.

The Preliminary Site Investigation confirmed that the soil in the project area does not exceed regulatory thresholds for petroleum hydrocarbon concentrations, indicating that the leaking underground storage tank site has been properly remediated. As such, the proposed project is not anticipated to result in significant impacts from hazardous waste.

The following avoidance and minimization measures will be implemented to minimize hazardous waste impacts from the proposed project.

- 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.
- Project specific surveys for asbestos containing material and lead based paint will be required for the buildings slated for demolition or renovation, prior to construction activities.



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- If the scope of work for this project requires striping removal prior to cold planing, then the Caltrans Standard Special Provision (SSP) 14-11.12 shall be added to the construction contract and the Contractor shall manage the removed stripe and pavement marking as a hazardous waste. If the cold planing residue will not include striping or other hazardous waste, then the Caltrans Standard Special Provision (SSP) 36-4 shall be added to the construction contract and waste would be managed as construction debris.
- If the project would include the management or disposal of treated wood waste, Caltrans Standard Special Provision (SSP) 14-11.14 shall be added to the construction contract.