

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Caltrans
1976 E Dr Martin Luther King Jr Blvd
Stockton, CA 95205

Project Title: State Route 59 Pavement Anchor Project

Project Applicant: Caltrans

Project Location - Specific: MER-059 PM 14.1-14.763/14.78-16.3

Project Location - City: Merced, CA Project Location - County: Merced

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The purpose of this project is to restore the facility to a state of good repair, to improve ride quality, to provide Traffic Management System elements, and to meet ADA requirements on State Route 59 in Merced in Merced County.

The project is needed because the existing asphalt concrete pavement shows signs of deterioration that has resulted in rough riding surface and higher maintenance cost. The existing facility lacks the Traffic Management System elements to enable the Traffic Management Center to monitor roadway conditions. Existing pedestrian facilities within the project limits do not meet current ADA standards.

Caltrans proposes to preserve and extend the pavement service life within the project limit through a Capital Preventative Maintenance project. The project is located on State Route 59 in Merced County, in the City of Merced, south of the State Route 59/W Childs Avenue intersection, at the intersection of State Route 59/State Route 99, and from the intersection of State Route 59/State Route 99 on V Street to just north of South Fork Black Rascal Creek near the State Route 59/Santa Fe Drive intersection. The scope of work includes cold plane of existing pavement; digouts to repair localized areas of severe failure; sealing cracks; repairing, replacing, and upgrading asphalt concrete dikes and curbs; adding shoulder backing; upgrading Americans with Disabilities Act ramps; replacing existing drainage grates with bicycle-proof grates where needed; and signal work at the following three intersections: State Route 59/15th Street, State Route 59/16th Street, State Route 59/Santa Fe Drive/Olive Avenue.

Temporary construction easements are anticipated at 100 locations to conform or upgrade curb ramps and driveways with the sidewalk. The scope of work includes structures on or adjacent to the proposed right of way.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Caltrans

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Caltrans

Exempt Status (check one):

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Class 1(c). (PRC 21084; 14 CCR 15300 et seq.)
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project is Categorically Exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act under Class 1(c) PRC 21084; 14 CCR 15300, as the scope of work is to restore an existing facility. The project is not anticipated to affect any environmentally sensitive resources.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Laura Cook

Phone number: 209-662-2261

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project?
 Yes No

Signature: *Laura N. Cook* Date: 12/10/2024 Title: Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisory)

- Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.

Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.