



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

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): San Joaquin State Route 12 ADA Upgrade Project

DIST-CO-RTE: 10-SJ-12

PM/PM: 14.9/17.4

EA: 10-1G580

Project Number: 1018000001

Project Description

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to replace existing or construct new American Disabilities Act (ADA) pedestrian facilities consisting of curb ramps, sidewalks, and driveways, as well as install electrical improvements at seven signals including new accessible pedestrian signals (APS) and interconnecting signalized intersections by installing a fiber optic line within the project limits. The project limits are within San Joaquin County in the City of Lodi, on State Route (SR) 12 between Westgate Drive (postmile 14.9) and South Stockton Street (postmile 17.40). (see continuation page)

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(c).** (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		10/09/2024
Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager

Karanveer Bains		10/9/2024
Print Name	Signature	Date



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Caltrans NEPA Determination (Check one)

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)(15)
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
Print Name
Signature: Laura N. Cook
Date: 10/09/2024

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Karanveer Bains
Print Name
Signature: Karanveer Bains
Date: 10/9/2024

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): 10/1/24
Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 10/1/24

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).



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Continuation sheet:

(continued) In areas where concrete reconstruction is needed, the project proposes to excavate approximately 6 inches below the surface. The interconnection of traffic signals may require trenching behind the existing sidewalks or directional boring under the sidewalks. In most cases, a two-foot strip of the asphalt concrete (AC) pavement will be sawcut and replaced in kind along the length of the curb ramp replacement to facilitate the construction of the curb ramps. Temporary construction easements and right of way acquisition may be needed for the reconstruction of curb ramps, sidewalks and driveways.

The purpose of this project is to improve accessibility of pedestrian facilities in compliance with current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. The project is needed because there are curb ramps, sidewalks, driveways, and Accessible Pedestrian Signals within the project limits that do not meet current ADA standards.

General

The project is Categorically Exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act and Categorically Excluded under the National Environmental Policy Act unless: (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 proposed project will have "no effect" on any animal or plant species listed under the California or federal Endangered Species Acts, California species of concern, California Fully Protected Species, or CNDDDB-tracked wildlife species considered for environmental review. No consultation under the federal Endangered Species Act or California Endangered Species Act is required.

Mature trees, ornamental plantings and large shrubs, which may provide nesting habitat for migratory birds, were observed within and adjacent to the project limits. There is a low risk that migratory birds and raptors, including Swainson's hawks, and their habitats will be affected by this project.

The following avoidance and minimization measures are required for the project:

- Work is not permitted to occur in the vicinity of any waterway without consulting the Caltrans biologist, additional biological studies and any required permitting.
- A preconstruction survey for migratory birds and raptors will be required fourteen (14) days prior to start of construction, if construction activities occur within the migratory bird nesting season (February 1 - September 30).
- If migratory birds or raptors are found nesting within or to a work area during construction activities, the following Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA)



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buffers will be required in accordance with Measure 14-06.03B (Bird Protection) of the Caltrans 2024 Standard Specification and/or Special Provisions shall be implemented:

- 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.
- 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.
- Since the Environmentally Sensitive Area is placed at a few locations, with a lower number of working days (90 working days or less), a department biologist would be needed to conduct any pre-construction surveys and/or construction monitoring for sensitive biological resources. No long-term, post-construction survey, monitoring, or mitigation effort will be expected. However, if the scope of the project changes, then additional biological studies may be needed.

Cultural Resources

There are two (2) built environment resources located within the vicinity of the project area. Both built environment resources are ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places and neither will be affected by project related activities.

The work conforms to the following “classes of screened undertakings” listed in the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement, Attachment 2:

- Class 8 – Addition of bicycle lanes or pedestrian walkways.
- Class 11 – Modification of existing features, such as slopes, ditches, curbs, sidewalks, driveways, dikes, or headwalls within or adjacent to the right of way.

As a result, this project has no potential to affect historic properties and no potential to affect historical resources.

Hazardous Materials

There are 10 closed LUST sites adjacent to the project area. All sites have been appropriately remediated and received No Further Action Required (NFAR) letters from the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board. In addition, the scope of work in the vicinity of these sites is limited to removal of existing asphalt or cement sidewalks and incidental excavation required to construct upgraded sidewalks. There is one open remediation site adjacent to the project area. The sites potential media of concern is aquifer ground water and therefore far below the proposed depths of excavation required for this project.



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Given the above mentioned circumstances, the proximity of these sites (open & closed), and the depths of excavation required for this project, the potential to encounter contaminated soil is considered minimal.

- 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.

Visual Resources

To avoid impact to visual resources, trenching will be limited to paved areas throughout the project corridor. With implementation of this and all of the avoidance and minimization measures listed below, permanent visual impacts are not anticipated.

- Tree and vegetation impacts will be avoided to the extent feasible. All trenching will occur in paved areas of the roadway.
- Replacement Highway Planting shall be provided in all areas of highway planting removal where safety and maintenance requirements can be met. A plant Establishment period will also be provided. All impacted irrigation shall be evaluated for replacement, modified, and/or repaired.
- All disturbed soils and ground surfaces shall be restored and treated with erosion control.
- During construction operations, unsightly material and equipment in staging areas shall be placed where they are less visible and/or covered where possible.
- Construction activities shall limit all construction lighting to within the area of work and avoid light trespass in residential areas through directional lighting, shielding, and other measures as needed.