

## Notice of Exemption

2019048225

## Appendix E

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

County Clerk

County of: \_\_\_\_\_

From: (Public Agency): CA Department of Transportation  
North Region Environmental Management  
1656 Union Street, Eureka, CA 95501

(Address)

Project Title: Geotechnical Drilling for Blue Lake Widen and Rumble Project

Project Applicant: California Department of Transportation

Project Location - Specific:

Highway 299, Humboldt County, post miles 20.5-30.15

Project Location - City: near Blue Lake, CA

Project Location - County: Humboldt County

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Caltrans proposes to complete a geotechnical investigation to support the design and installation of several mechanically stabilized earth embankments (MSE) on State Route (SR) 299 between post miles 20.5 and 30.15 for Caltrans project 01-0F460. All borings are located w/i the existing fills and will be drilled from the roadway.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Transportation

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California Department of Transportation

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 6
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project is exempt because there is not a reasonable possibility that the project will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances, it does not damage a scenic resource, it is not located on the "Cortese List", there will not be significant adverse impact on endangered, rare, or threatened species or their habitat, and it does not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of historical resources.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Laurel Osborn

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 707-441-4599

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: Laurel Osborn Date: 4/10/19 Title: Assoc. Env. Planner

☒ Signed by Lead Agency ☐ Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.  
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

APR 10 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

2019048225

## CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION/CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

<b>01-HUM-299-101</b>	<b>20.5/30.15</b>	<b>01-0F460</b>	<b>01 1600 0010</b>
Dist.-Co.-Rte. (or Local Agency)	P.M./P.M.	E.A/Project No.	Federal-Aid Project No. (Local Project)/Project No.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** (Briefly describe project including need, purpose, location, limits, right-of-way requirements, and activities involved in this box. Use Continuation Sheet, if necessary.)

The Office of Geotechnical Design West (OGDW) proposes to complete a geotechnical investigation to support the design and installation of several mechanically stabilized earth embankments (MSE) on State Route (SR) 299 between post miles 20.5 and 30.15 for Caltrans project 01-0F460. The project includes 4 segments within the approximately 10-mile long project. Drilling is proposed in segments 1, 2, and 4. All the borings proposed are located within existing fills and will be drilled from the existing highway surface. The purpose of the geotechnical drilling is to assess the in-situ density of the existing fill prism and characterize the textural makeup of the fill prism for foundation purposes. The subsurface data will be summarized, interpreted, used in project design and provided in a Geotechnical Report to be included in the contract plans. All work will be in the existing State right of way. Air, hazardous waste, water quality, biological and cultural reviews were completed.

**CALTRANS CEQA DETERMINATION** (Check one)

☐ Not Applicable – Caltrans is not the CEQA Lead Agency      ☐ Not Applicable – Caltrans has prepared an Initial Study or Environmental Impact Report under CEQA

Based on an examination of this proposal, supporting information, and the above statements, the project is:

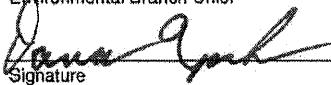
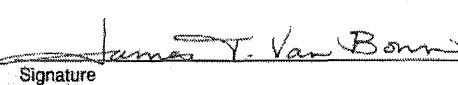
☐ Exempt by Statute. (PRC 21080[b]; 14 CCR 15260 et seq.)

☒ **Categorically Exempt. Class 6.** (PRC 21084; 14 CCR 15300 et seq.)

Based on an examination of this proposal and supporting information, the following statements are true and exceptions do not apply:

- If this project falls within exempt class 3, 4, 5, 6 or 11, it does not impact an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law.
- There will not be a significant cumulative effect by this project and successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time.
- There is not a reasonable possibility that the project will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.
- This project does not damage a scenic resource within an officially designated state scenic highway.
- This project is not located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Govt. Code § 65962.5 ("Cortese List").
- This project does not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

☐ **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]).]

<p><b>Dana York</b></p> <p>Print Name: Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief</p> <p> 1/30/19</p> <p>Signature Date</p>	<p><b>James Van Bonn</b></p> <p>Print Name: Project Manager</p> <p> 1-Feb-2019</p> <p>Signature Date</p>
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**NEPA COMPLIANCE**

In accordance with 23 CFR 771.117, and based on an examination of this proposal and supporting information, the State has determined that this project:

- does not individually or cumulatively have a significant impact on the environment as defined by NEPA, and is excluded from the requirements to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and
- has considered unusual circumstances pursuant to 23 CFR 771.117(b).

**CALTRANS NEPA DETERMINATION** (Check one)

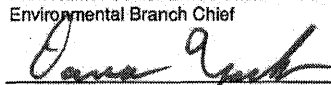
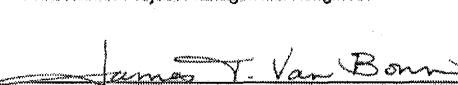
☒ **23 USC 326:** The State has determined that this project has no significant impacts on the environment as defined by NEPA, and that there are no unusual circumstances as described in 23 CFR 771.117(b). As such, the project is categorically excluded from the requirements to prepare an EA or EIS under the National Environmental Policy Act. The State has been assigned, and hereby certifies that it has carried out the responsibility to make this determination pursuant to Chapter 3 of Title 23, United States Code, Section 326 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated May 31, 2016, executed between the FHWA and the State. The State has determined that the project is a Categorical Exclusion under:

☒ **23 CFR 771.117(c): activity (c) (24)**

☐ **23 CFR 771.117(d): activity (d) ( )**

☐ **Activity \_\_\_\_\_ listed in Appendix A of the MOU between FHWA and the State**

☐ **23 USC 327:** Based on an examination of this proposal and supporting information, the State 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 December 23, 2016 and executed by FHWA and Caltrans.

<p><b>Dana York</b></p> <p>Print Name: Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief</p> <p> 1/30/19</p> <p>Signature Date</p>	<p><b>James Van Bonn</b></p> <p>Print Name: Project Manager/DLA Engineer</p> <p> 1-Feb-2019</p> <p>Signature Date</p>
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Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion: 1/30/19      Date of ECR or equivalent: 1/30/19

Briefly list environmental commitments on continuation sheet. Reference additional information, as appropriate (e.g., CE checklist, additional studies and design conditions).

## CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION/CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

## Continuation Sheet

01-HUM-299-101	20.5/30.15	01-0F460	01 1600 0010
Dist.-Co.-Rte. (or Local Agency)	P.M./P.M.	E.A/Project No.	Federal-Aid Project No. (Local Project)/Project No.

Continued from page 1:

This project is not anticipated to have impacts to air, water quality, cultural, biological, visual, or hazardous waste. Caltrans 2018 Standard Specifications will be implemented. No permits are required for this project.

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