

2019048485

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

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

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

County Clerk
County of:

(Address)

Project Title: Geotech Drilling for the Permanent Restoration at Cushing Creek

Project Applicant: California Department of Transportation

Project Location - Specific:
The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)proposes geotechnical drilling on Route 101 in Del Norte County post mile 21.23.

Project Location - City: Project Location - County: Del Norte

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
Caltrans proposes to drill one mud-rotary boring on the existing road surface. The purpose of this action is to obtain additional information about the depth of movement in order to refine geotechnical design of a proposed project. This action is needed to gather further information.

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));
[X] Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: 15306- Class 6
Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reasons why project is exempt:
This is a Geotechnical data collection project that will not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. This project will not have significant impacts to the environment or to cultural or historic properties.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Cassie Nichols Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (707) 441-4570

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: Cassie Nichols Date: 4/24/19 Title: Associate 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: Government's Office of Planning & Research

APR 24 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION/CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

01-DN-101                      21.23                      01-0G210  
 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.)

Caltrans proposes to drill one (1) mud-rotary boring 4.75-inch diameter vertical or horizontal mud-rotary borings on the existing road surface. The estimated depth for vertical borings will be approximately 100 feet below ground surface (bgs). A slope indicator (SI) will be installed in the boring and periodically monitored over a period of up to 12 months before being destroyed in accordance with Del Norte County Environmental Health agency requirements. It is anticipated that the advancement, sampling and monitoring pipe installation for each of the borings will take approximately 4 days to complete. Because the proposed boring will be advanced through the closed southbound lane, no traffic control will be required for the drilling operation. No vegetation removal will be required. All work will occur in the Caltrans right of way. The purpose of this action is to obtain additional information about the depth of movement in order to refine the geotechnical design of the proposed project at this location. This action is needed to gather further information.

**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

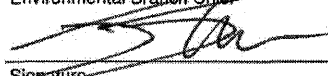
Based on an examination of this proposal, supporting information, and the above statements, the project is:

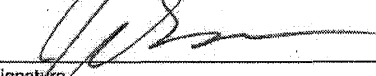
Exempt by Statute. (PRC 21080[b]; 14 CCR 15260 et seq.)

**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].)]

**Dana York**  
 Print Name: Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief  
  
 Signature                      Date                      4-23-19

**Jaime Matteoli**  
 Print Name: Project Manager  
  
 Signature                      Date                      4-23-19

**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)

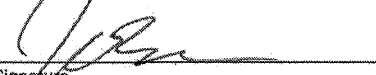
**23 USC 326:** The State has determined that this project has no significant impacts on the environment as defined by NEPA, and that there are no unusual circumstances as described in 23 CFR 771.117(b). As such, the project is categorically excluded from the requirements to prepare an EA or EIS under 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) ( )  
 23 CFR 771.117(d): activity (d) ( )

**Activity 7 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.

**Dana York**  
 Print Name: Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief  
  
 Signature                      Date                      4-23-19

**Jaime Matteoli**  
 Print Name: Project Manager/DLA Engineer  
  
 Signature                      Date                      4-23-19

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion: 04/22/2019                      Date of ECR or equivalent: 04/22/2019

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-DN-101	21.23	01-0G210	
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:

Biological, cultural, water quality, and hazardous waste reviews have been completed, and there were no significant impacts with the incorporation of the measures identified below.

**The following measures have been included as part of the project:**

- Equipment used will not generate noises that have been determined to have effects to potentially nearby listed species.
- All cuttings from boring activities must be contained as described in the Exploration Procedure section and subsequently placed into sealed containers and taken to the appropriate landfill site (Class II/III Landfill) for disposal.