

2019058329

Notice of Exemption

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): Caltrans - District 1

PO Box 3700

Eureka, CA 95502

(Address)

Project Title: 01-0C110 Replace District 1 Materials Lab

Project Applicant: California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) - District 1

Project Location - Specific:

The existing Materials Lab is located at 1726 Albee Street in Eureka. The proposed location for the new laboratory is on River Ranch Road in Fortuna.

Project Location - City: Eureka

Project Location - County: Humboldt

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The proposed project would involve the purchase of a vacant 3.86-acre parcel in Fortuna for construction of a new lab. The purpose of the project is to improve health and safety, access, operational efficiency, and internal system deficiencies at the laboratory. The project would benefit lab employees as well as the traveling public.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Caltrans - District 1

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Caltrans - District 1

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: Common Sense, 14 CCR 15061[b][3]
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

Studies have indicated that no resources (biological, cultural, visual, etc.) would be negatively impacted by the project.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Julie East

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 707-441-4568

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: Julie East Date: 5/28/19 Title: Acting Env. Branch Chief

☒ 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

MAY 30 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

2019058329

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION/CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

01-Fortuna, CA District-County-Route	N/A P.M./P.M.	0C110 E.A/Project No.	N/A Federal-Aid Project Number.
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Briefly describe project including need, purpose, location, limits, and right-of-way requirements.

The proposed project involves purchasing a vacant 3.86-acre parcel (APN 200-362-16), and constructing a material testing lab on the parcel. The parcel is located within Humboldt County and is within the city limits of Fortuna, CA. The project is being proposed because the current facility has multiple deficiencies, including leaky plumbing, inadequate seismic resistance and laboratory ventilation, faulty electrical, presence of lead and asbestos, and because the facility does not meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Work would include constructing the lab and a parking lot, and installing associated storage facilities, solar panels, security fence, and landscaping. Biological, cultural, visual, water quality, and hazardous materials reviews have been completed. SC

See next page for additional project 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:


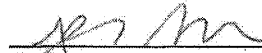
☐ Exempt by Statute. (PRC 21080[b]; 14 CCR 15260 et seq.)

☐ Categorically Exempt. Class _____ (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].)]

Steve Croteau Senior Environmental Planner  Signature	Jen Buck Project Manager  Signature
5-28-2019 Date	5/28/2019 Date

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 _____ 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.

N/A Senior Environmental Planner Signature	N/A Project Manager Signature
Date	Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion: N/A Date of ECR or equivalent: 5-28-2019

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION/CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM
Continuation Sheet

01-Fortuna, CA District-County-Route	N/A P.M./P.M.	0C110 E.A/Project No.	N/A Federal-Aid Project Number.
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Continued from page 1:

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

- No work would occur within 50 feet of the levee.
- Vegetation removal would be restricted to the period outside of the bird breeding season (September 1 through February 28), or if vegetation removal is required during the breeding season, a nesting bird survey would be conducted within one week of removal by a qualified biologist. If an active nest were located, the biologist would coordinate with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to establish appropriate species-specific buffer(s) and any monitoring requirements. The buffer would be delineated around each active nest, and construction activities would be excluded from these areas until birds have fledged, or the nest is determined to be unoccupied.
- Best Management Practices for water quality.
- Dependent on feasibility, a site plan would be developed to avoid two trees on the northern edge of the property, one along the southern property line, and a fourth tree where the proposed driveway would be located.
- Standard Special Provision 7-1.02K(6)(j)(iii) for lead.

Governor's Office of Planning & Research
 MAY 30 2019
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