

**CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION/CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM**

<b>06/FRE/41 and 06/MAD/41</b>	33.1/33.4 and 0.0/0.3, also 0.3/2.75	<b>06-0N990/ 0612000114</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.)

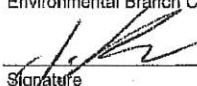

Caltrans intends to transfer to Madera County the following property, which it still owns, as follows:  
Relinquishment Number 85776 -- a portion of old San Joaquin River Bridge (No. 42-0112) and right-of-way in the riverbed from the Fresno/Madera County line to the northern bank (Segment 1)  
 (continued on next page)

**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].)]

<p><b>Juergen Vespermann</b>                  Print Name: Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief                    Signature</p>	<p><b>Anand Kapoor</b>                  Print Name: Project Manager                    Signature</p>
8-13-19 Date	8/27/2019 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.

<p>Print Name: Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief                    Signature</p>	<p>Print Name: Project Manager/DLA Engineer                    Signature</p>
Date	Date

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**PROJECT DESCRIPTION continued from page 1:**

Relinquishment Number 84396 --is comprised of three segments:

Segment 1: the old highway and right-of-way portion of Cobb Ranch Boulevard from the old San Joaquin River bridge northwards to the new alignment by the Cobb Ranch Boulevard/Childrens' Boulevard/State Route 41 Interchange, including the old San Joaquin River Overflow Bridge (No. 41-0040);

Segment 2: an oblong parcel between Cobb Ranch Boulevard and the San Joaquin River by the interchange, opposite Avenue 10; and

Segment 3: on the west side of the freeway, the old highway portion of Business Route 41 from just north of Avenue 10 to where the roadway alignment curves to the northwest.

The action of Caltrans relinquishing property to Madera County would not have any environmental impacts.

The following environmental resources have been identified within or adjacent to the proposed relinquishments:

**Paleontology**

Segment 3 of Relinquishment Number 84396 is underlain by a high potential paleontological resource. High potential includes rock units which, based on previous studies, contain or are likely to contain significant vertebrate, significant invertebrate, or significant plant fossils. These units include, but are not limited to, sedimentary formations that contain significant nonrenewable paleontological resources anywhere within their geographical extent, and sedimentary rock units temporally or lithologically suitable for the preservation of fossils. Excavation on Segment 3 could discover scientifically significant fossils.

**Biology**

Habitat types within Relinquishment Number 85776 at the old San Joaquin River Bridge are Valley Foothill Riparian, Riverine, and Developed (Bridge). Within Relinquishment Number 84396, Segment 1 includes Ruderal, Developed, and Landscaped habitat types. Segment 2 consists of Ruderal, Valley Foothill Riparian, Riverine, and Non-Native Grassland. Segment 3 consists of Ruderal and Developed habitats.

Many Federal and State-listed threatened and endangered species are listed within one mile of the relinquishment parcels. The National Marine Fisheries Services has listed the endangered Spring-run Chinook and their Essential Fish Habitat and California Central Valley Steelhead Distinct Population Segment for the San Joaquin River. In addition, the California Native Plant Society rare plant inventory listed rare plant species with potential to occur within the vicinity of these parcels.

Any project activity or future development of these parcels may warrant consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and/or the Regional Water Quality Control Board for those species potentially supported by habitat as well as jurisdictional waterway features within the parcels.

A 1600 Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (California Department of Fish and Wildlife), Section 404 permit (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers), and a Section 401 water quality certification (Regional Water Quality Control Board) may be required for proposed activities within these parcels.

**Hazardous Waste**

There are no known aerially-deposited lead burial locations or hazardous waste sites on these parcels.

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

September 3, 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE