

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION/CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

08-SBD-18	97.00/99.50	1E060/0813000140	N/A
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 widen the existing roadway, reconstruct shoulders in both travel directions, construct a raised curb median, upgrade guardrails to new standard Midwest Guardrail System (MGS), reconstruct driveways, overside drains & dikes, and extend drainage culverts. The scope of this project is to widen the northside of Amethyst Rd to accommodate the California Legal truck turn movements, a 6-foot class 2 bike lane, and an 8-foot right shoulder (see attached sheet L-3). Widen a portion of the right turn lane at northeast side of Begona Road (see attached sheet L-6). Widen northeast side of Cahuenga Rd to accommodate an 8-foot shoulder (see attached sheet L-8). At Borego Rd, construct ADA curb ramps, sidewalks, pedestrian cross walks, cross gutter, a retaining wall, and install a new traffic signal with lighting. The project limits are on SBD-18 from Amargosa Road (PM 97.0) to Cobalt road (PM 99.5) in the city of Victorville, in San Bernardino County. The project is in San Bernardino County on State Route 18 (SR-18) from Amargosa Road (PM 97.00) to Cobalt Road (PM 99.50) in the city of Victorville. Additional right-of-way required. See continuation sheet for activities involved.

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 1. (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.

Exempt by General Rule. [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].)]

Renetta Cloud

Print Name: Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief

 10/31/18
 Signature Date

Ashraf Habbak

Print Name: Project Manager

 10-31-18
 Signature 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)(27)
- 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.

Renetta Cloud

Print Name: Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief

 10/31/18
 Signature Date

Ashraf Habbak

Print Name: Project Manager/DLA Engineer

 10-31-18
 Signature Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion: **10/31/2018** Date of ECR or equivalent: **10/31/2018**

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

Continued from page 1:

The proposed project's activities:

- Construct a raised curb-median that will vary from three (3) feet to twelve (12) feet in width, with a four (4) inch high median curb bordered with Type D-4 curb and use rock blanket as the median infill;
- The traveled way on SR-18 will consist of eleven (11) foot and twelve (12) foot lanes in each direction with eight (8) foot outside shoulders with rumble strip at appropriate location to alert drivers and two (2) foot inside shoulders;
- Reconstruct driveways
- Modify and install Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) ramps, signal and lighting
- Add a six-foot Class 2 bike lane within eight-foot shoulder between the dike or curb and the edge of travelled way by striping throughout the project limits
- Extend existing cross culverts to accommodate widening the roadway within the project limits
- Incidental work includes upgrading guardrail to current standard and relocating the mailbox with the Clear Recovery Zone (CRZ).
- There are twenty-three (23) parcels that will be impacted by this proposed project, so additional right of way will be needed in the form of highway easements and temporary construction easements (TCE) to implement the build alternative. TCEs are needed primarily at locations where existing storm drain box culverts cross the state highway and must be extended to accommodate the proposed highway widening. Highway easements will be needed due to roadway widening and to maintain the slope along the embankment.
- Caltrans will develop a Traffic Management Plan with public outreach to minimize any potential impact to emergency services, school bus traffic, travelers and commuters during construction.

The following technical documentation was prepared in conjunction with determining and addressing applicable California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation a compliance requirement:

AIR QUALITY: Email to File – October 29, 2018

Based on the review of the new scope of this project, our original finding "This project is exempt from all emissions analysis per Table 1 of the Carbon Monoxide (CO) Protocol (Table 2 of 40 CFR 93.126); therefore, an air quality report is not needed" remains valid.

TRANSPORTATION AIR QUALITY CONFORMITY FINDINGS CHECKLIST- October 29, 2018

The project is exempt from all project-level conformity requirements (40 CFR 93.126). The project type is "Safety Project".

NOISE: Email to File – October 29, 2018

Based on the review of the new scope of this project, our original finding "This is a Type III project under 23 CFR 772.7, and noise study is not needed" remains valid.

HAZARDOUS WASTE: INITIAL SITE ASSESSMENT (ISA) CHECKLIST – October 29, 2018

The ISA determines there is a "Low Risk" for potential hazardous waste involvement.

Please include the following in the PS&E package:

- SSP 7-1.02K(6)(j)(iii): Earth Material Containing, for Lead, for Lead Compliance Plan in the PS&E Package
- SSP 14-11.12: Remove Yellow Traffic Stripe and Pavement Marking with Hazardous Waste Residue
- SSP 14-11.14: Treated Wood Waste
- SSP 36-4: Containing Lead from Paint and Thermoplastic
- SSP 84-9.03C: Remove Traffic Stripes and Pavement Marking Containing Lead
- SSP 8-1.04C and NSSPs 6-1.03, 19-7, and SN-007 for imported borrow
- NSSP 14-11.15: Disposal of Electrical Equipment Requiring Special Handling, if electrical waste is generated

Per Aerially Deposited Lead (ADL) Investigation Report (EA 0P390, 08-SBD-18 PM 101.15/115.9), soil in the investigation area is impacted by ADL. In consideration of total lead concentrations throughout the project as a whole, soil may be managed as non-hazardous or reused within Study Area without restrictions Surplus soil within the study zone may be released to the Contractor for disposition in accordance with local, State and Federal guidelines, requirements, regulations and law.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: Email to File – October 11, 2018

Cultural studies have determined that the original **HISTORIC PROPERTY SURVEY REPORT – May 21, 2018** remains valid.

Caltrans, Pursuant to Section 106 PA Stipulation IX.A and as applicable PRC 5024 MOU stipulation IX.A.2, has determined a Finding of No Historic Properties Affected is appropriate for this undertaking because there are no historic properties within the APE/ the following historic properties will not be affected.

- LADWP Boulder-Los Angeles Power Line (CA-SBR-7694H/P36-007694). NRHP Eligibility determined by SHPO June 22, 2000: Criteria A and C. Power lines pass high above the project footprint, while the nearest support towers are located outside of the existing Caltrans right-of-way. Hence, the power lines are located outside of the vertical APE, while the support towers are located outside of the horizontal APE. This undertaking has no potential to affect the NRHP eligibility of this resource, and no special provisions are required to protect or avoid the historic LADWP Power Line during construction.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures

- CR-1: If buried cultural resources are encountered during Project Activities, it is Caltrans policy that work stop in that area until a qualified archaeologist can evaluate the nature and significance of the find.
- CR-2: In the event that human remains are found, the county coroner shall be notified and ALL construction within 60 feet of the discovery shall stop. Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98, if the remains are thought to be Native American, the coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) who will then notify the Most Likely Descendent (MLD); the person who discovered the remains will contact the District 8 Division of Environmental Planning; Andrew Walters, District Environmental Branch Chief (DEBC): (909) 383-2647 and Gary Jones, District Native American Coordinator (DNAC): (909) 383-7505. Further provisions of PRC 5097.98 are to be followed as applicable.

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION/CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM
Continuation Sheet

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES: Email to File – October 26, 2018

Based on the review of the new scope of this project, the **NATURAL ENVIRONMENTAL STUDY (MINIMAL IMPACTS) - July 20, 2018** remains valid.

Results: Biological Resources, Discussion of Impacts, and Mitigation

Special Status Plant Species Occurrence

The project will be widening the shoulders which will require work to leave the paved area. Though there appears to be no special status species, and it is unlikely any special status species would find suitable habitat within the study area due to a lack of suitable habitat, the project does have the potential to spread invasive species through transfer. In order to prevent this from occurring, BIO-1 and BIO-2 will be implemented.

Special Status Animal Species Occurrences

The project area is highly disturbed or developed. As such, the likelihood for special status species to be present is minimal. In order to avoid any indirect impacts, BIO-3 will be implemented.

Conclusion and Regulatory Determination

Federal Endangered Species Act Consultation Summary

A Species list was obtained from USFWS (via Fish and Wildlife Services, Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office and Arizona Ecological Services Field Office) on June 13, 2018. Caltrans has determined that, in accordance with Section 7 of Endangered Species Act, the proposed project will have "No Effect" on the listed endangered California Condor, least Bell's vireo, Southwestern willow flycatcher, Arroyo toad, or Mohave tui chub; nor the listed threatened desert tortoise.

Essential Fish Habitat Consultation Summary

The project is not within the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) jurisdiction area.

Invasive Species

Invasive plant species were observed in the project area. By remaining on paved and already disturbed areas, the project will not encourage the spread of invasive species. The implementation of BIO-1 and BIO-2 will prevent the introduction of additional or other invasive species into the Biological Study Area (BSA). Therefore, the project will not contribute to the propagation of invasive plant species.

Migratory Bird Treaty Act

Direct, as well as indirect impacts to migratory treaty act birds and the respective habitats will be prevented via measures. Consequently, the project will have **No Take** of Migratory Treaty Act birds.

California Special Status Species

The proposed project will have "No Effect" on and State listed endangered least bell's vireo, Mohave tui chub, southwestern willow flycatcher, western-yellow-billed cuckoo, tricolored blackbird; nor the state listed threatened Swainson's Hawk, Mohave ground squirrel, or desert tortoise.

California Native Plant Society Listed Species

Rare species listed by the California Native Plant Society will not be affected with the implementation of avoidance and minimization measures.

PERMITS:

No permits are required.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures

- **BIO-1: Material and spoils control:** Project materials will not be cast from the project site into nearby habitats and project related debris, spoils, and trash will be contained and removed to a proper disposal facility.
- **BIO-2: Equipment Staging:** Equipment, vehicles, and materials staged and stored in Caltrans right-of-way will be sited in previously disturbed areas only and will avoid native vegetation.
- **BIO-3: Pre-construction Surveys during Nesting Bird Season:** If the construction activities occur during the nesting season (February 15-September 1), A pre-construction survey for nesting and breeding special status birds will be conducted no more than one week prior to construction activities. If no nests are found, construction can proceed. If nests are found, impact avoidance measures (e.g. buffers) will be required until young have fledged.

HYDROLOGY/FLOODPLAIN: Memorandum to File – October 18, 2018

The project is within FIRM map (06071C581H). We do not foresee any hydraulic issues at this time. However, the department requests the opportunity to review detailed drainage plans and hydraulic calculations.

VISUAL RESOURCES: QUESTIONNAIRE TO DETERMINE VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (VIA) LEVEL – October 29, 2018

The results of the Visual Impact Assessment (VIA) Questionnaire SCORE of 9 means that: No noticeable visual changes to the environment are proposed and no further analysis is required. In addition, per e-mail dated October 29, 2018:

1. Areas in raised median will have rock blanket to be consistent with EA 00120 and mentioned in the Project Report.
2. Areas where new MGS will be installed must have Vegetation Control (Minor Concrete).
3. If any areas where vegetation is removed, vegetation must be identified, noted and counted on plans for possible replacement.
4. Erosion Control must be applied in all areas of disturbance, including TCEs, staging areas and Drainage Easements used by this project.

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5. Bike lanes must be a part of this project as Complete Streets policy and mentioned in the Project Report.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures.

AES-1: Raised median shall have rock blanket treatment. This treatment will be consistent with the SR-18 corridor.

RELOCATION AND RIGHT OF WAY: Right of Way Data Sheet – Revised March 27, 2018 with attached Utility Information Sheet – March 23, 2018

A field review revealed that due to the construction of the project there may be possible relocations. There are Southern California Edison (SCE) vaults present and fire hydrants throughout the project. Test-holes may be necessary to determine underground utilities locations.

• **Per Utility Relocation Email to File: September 4, 2018**

- Poles: the most power and light poles will be protected in place; no need to relocate due to widen. The only traffic signal poles at intersection Amethyst Road, and south-east corner of Cobalt Road need to be reset due to widening.
- Gas and Water line along the SR-18 may be impact due to thickness of new structure section, but still early to justify until we have potholes data.
- Some fire hydrants, water valves, water meter and manholes may need to relocate or adjust to grade.
- Some Mail box need to reset.

More detailed information will be provided during the Plans, Specification and Estimate (PS&E) phase of the project.

STORM WATER QUALITY: Memorandum to File – October 18, 2018

This project is located within the City of Victorville MS4 area. It has a total disturbed soil area of 5.0 acres; A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will be provided by the Contractor and approved by Caltrans prior to the start of construction. The SWPPP also include the development of a Construction Site Monitoring Program (CSMP) that describes procedures and methods related to the visual and sampling and analysis plans for non-visible pollutant. We anticipate temporary staging area outside of the right-of-way, the size of area should be of one acre or less. The project should have minimal water quality impacts because it will maintain the original line, grade and original purpose of facility.

Permit(s) Required

- Caltrans Statewide National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit, Order No. 2012-0011-DWQ, NPDES No. CAS000003, And "Construction General Permit (CGP)", Order No. 2009-0009-DWQ, NPDES No. CAS000002

PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES: Email to File – October 26, 2018

Environmental Planning/Paleontological Branch has reviewed the revised ESR request for the above referenced project. Due to the fact that the project is within previously disturbed area; therefore, no paleontological studies will be required for this project. Should you have any questions please let me know.

In conjunction with the results of the above technical documentation, the Avoidance and Minimization Measures included in the initial ECR prepared for this project will be implemented during the preparation for and performance of all activities related to construction activities. If it is determined that revisions to the ECR are required for this project, the ECR will be updated accordingly.

Changes to the project's scope of work, limits, construction strategy and/or staging and storage requirements and/or the timeframe of construction, as well as final design (PS&E) efforts not addressed during preliminary design (PS&ED), requires that the District's Division of Environmental Planning be notified in a timely matter, to determine if an Environmental Re-Evaluation (and/or updates to the Technical Studies performed) are required.