

**CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION/CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM**

<b>06-TUL-63</b>	<b>7.949/ 8.7/10.2</b>	<b>06-0P220/0612000285</b>	<b>N/A</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:**

Remove 0.25 feet of asphalt concrete and replace it with Hot Mix Asphalt at several on and off-ramps along State Route 198 in the City of Visalia in Tulare County. Work would replace pavement at the gore area located northwest of State Route 63 and Noble Avenue near the eastbound on-ramp. East of Court Street, the pavement on the eastbound on-ramp onto State Route 198, pavement would also be replaced. Work will also be done off-pavement and will consist of installing Construction Area Signs. The project would also be replacing twenty-one traffic loop detectors, one internet protocol camera, and two signal heads at the intersection of Noble Avenue and State Route 63. In addition, a traffic cabinet on the corner of Noble Avenue and State Route 63 would be replaced. Along the sidewalk of State Route 63, a forty-foot long trench at a depth of thirty inches would be required on the northbound lane just before Noble Avenue.

**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.

- 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].)]

**Juergen Vespermann**  
 Print Name: Senior Environmental Planner or  
 Environmental Branch Chief

**Rene Sanchez**  
 Print Name: Project Manager

  
 Signature

11-18-19  
 Date

  
 Signature

11/20/19  
 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.

Print Name: Senior Environmental Planner or  
 Environmental Branch Chief

Print Name: Project Manager/DIA Engineer

Signature

Date

Signature

Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion:

Date of ECR or equivalent :

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

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Continuation Sheet

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SSP 7-1.02k(6)(j)(iii) Earth Material Containing Lead

SSP 14-11.12 Removal of Yellow Traffic Stripe and Pavement Marking with Hazardous Waste Residue

SSP 36-4 Residue Containing Lead from Paint and or Thermoplastic

SSP 14-6.03 (B) Bird Protection