

Notice of Exemption

2019110407

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): Caltrans855 M Street, Ste. 200Fresno, CA 93720

(Address)

Project Title: McKenzie Preserve Planting (06-0M050)Project Applicant: Caltrans

Project Location - Specific:

McKenzie Table Mountain Preserve (2247 Auberry Road, Fresno County)Project Location - City: N/AProject Location - County: Fresno

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Replacement planting of trees removed with the Prather Curve Correction project.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: CaltransName of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Caltrans

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: Class 4 (b) New Landscaping☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project will not impact the natural environment. It will enhance the McKenzie Preserve property by providing additional trees that are native to the area.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Som PhongsavanhArea Code/Telephone/Extension: (559) 445-6447

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 ☐ NoSignature: Date: 11/29/19Title: Senior Environmental Planner

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

☒ 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: **NOV 20 2019**

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION/CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

06-FRE-168 29.0/29.4 06-0M050 060000353
 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.)

The purpose of the project is to plant new trees to compensate for those removed during construction of the Prather Curve Correction project. The planting area is approximately four miles from the Prather Curve Correction site. It is on the McKenzie Table Mountain Preserve property that is a California Department of Fish and Wildlife approved preserve (2247 Auberry Road, Fresno County). The planting is needed to comply with the requirements for the Prather Curve Correction Project.

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 4. (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].)]

Som Phongsavanh

Print Name: Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief

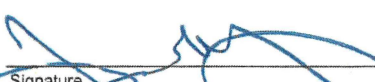


Signature

11/20/19
Date

JEANIE WILLY

Print Name: Project Manager



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/DLA Engineer

Signature

Date

Signature

Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion: N/A

Date of ECR or equivalent: 11/18/19

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