

2020010037

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

703 B Street

Marysville, CA 95901

(Address)

Project Title: East Lake Co TMS 01-0E820

Project Applicant: California Department of Transportation

Project Location - Specific:

This project is located on state routes 20, 29, and 53 in Lake County with seven locations at various post miles.

Project Location - City: Various

Project Location - County: Lake

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The purpose of this project is to ensure that the California Department of Transportation can provide accurate and timely data for traffic and travel conditions by installing a wireless communication system that will improve system reliability.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Transportation

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California Department of Transportation

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 1, Section 15301

☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

Class 1 consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Adele Pommerenck

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 530-741-4215

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: Adele Pommerenck Date: 1/12/20 Title: Sr Env Planner

☒ Signed by Lead Agency ☐ Signed by Applicant

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

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: JAN 02 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION/CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

01-LAK-VAR	VAR	01-0E820	01-1500-0033
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 California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to install new, or upgrade existing, elements of a Traffic Management System (TMS) that will form the "backbone" of a wireless communication system along multiple locations throughout Lake County. Construction activities will include erecting poles, installing cabinets and conduit, retaining wall construction, embankment construction, mounting equipment in cabinets and poles, pipe installation, and conducting various related electrical work activities.

(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 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].)]

<p>Adele Pommerenck</p> <p>Print Name: Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief</p> <p><i>Adele Pommerenck</i> 1/12/20 Signature Date</p>	<p>Cathy McKeon</p> <p>Print Name: Project Manager</p> <p><i>James T. Van Born</i> 2-Jan-2020 Signature Date</p>
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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)(21)

☐ 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>Adele Pommerenck</p> <p>Print Name: Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief</p> <p><i>Adele Pommerenck</i> 1/12/20 Signature Date</p>	<p>Cathy McKeon</p> <p>Print Name: Project Manager/DLA Engineer</p> <p><i>James T. Van Born</i> 2-Jan-2020 Signature Date</p>
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Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion: 01/02/20 Date of ECR or equivalent: 01/02/20

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

01-LAK-VAR	VAR	01-0E820	01-1500-0033
Dist.-Co.-Rte. (or Local Agency)	P.M./P.M.	E.A/Project No.	Federal-Aid Project No. (Local Project)/Project No.

Continued from page 1:

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this project is to ensure Caltrans can provide accurate and timely data for traffic and travel conditions including construction activities, collisions, and weather-related incidents by installing a wireless communication system backbone, upgrading existing traffic volume sensors to real-time traffic monitoring stations, and making related improvements to Intelligent Transportation System elements.

NEED:

Traffic information is currently collected via dial-up telephone lines and DSL connections. These connections are unreliable, they limit the transfer of information due to limited bandwidth availability, and some traffic data is obtained by installing temporary traffic volume collection systems that expose field workers to traffic during installation. This project is needed to improve system reliability for providing traffic information to highway system users and reduce maintenance worker exposure to traffic.

THE SCOPE OF WORK INCLUDES:

Location 1: SR 20 PM 30.68

Replace existing changeable message sign (CMS) with new CMS, controller, camera and radio antenna, and a new paved maintenance pad will be necessary.

Location 2: SR 53 PM 1.23

Installation of new 35' pole, CMS, pole mounted camera and radio antenna, cabinet, and a transformer onto existing power pole for service. Trenching from the power service to new cabinet and from the cabinet to the new CMS and pole will be necessary. A new embankment and retaining wall will be constructed, a new maintenance pad will be paved, and an existing guardrail will be extended. An encroachment permit from City of Clearlake will be obtained for this location.

Location 3: SR 29 PM 20.02

Installation of new traffic monitoring system (TMS), 35' pole, changeable message sign (CMS), pole mounted radio antenna and camera, cabinet and concrete pad. Conduit will be run from the utility service to the new cabinet and extinguishable message sign (EMS) by trenching or directional drilling, and a new paved maintenance pad will be necessary.

Location 4: SR 29 PM 5.98

Mounting of radio antenna and camera on existing poles will occur, and the contractor will install a loop for a census station.

Location 5 State Furnished Materials (SFM): SR 53 PM 3.6

Installation of a battery backup system cabinet on existing cabinet and mounting of a radio antenna and camera on existing pole.

Location 6 SFM: SR 29 PM 3.923

Installation of 35 ft pole, pole mounted cabinet, and radio relay.

Location 7 SFM: SR 29 PM 34.74

Installation of a battery backup system cabinet on existing cabinet and mounting of a radio antenna and camera on existing signal pole.

STAGING:

All equipment will be staged within Caltrans right-of-way or within the encroachment permit area identified in the right-of-way section below).

DISPOSAL/BORROW:

No excavation disposal or borrow sites will be needed.

RIGHT-OF-WAY:

- No right-of-way acquisition required
- No temporary construction easements required
- An encroachment permit may be required at Location 2 SR 53 PM 1.23

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CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION/CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM**Continuation Sheet**

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CONSULTATION/COORDINATION:

No consultation or coordination with resource agencies or interest groups would be needed to approve this project.

PERMITS:

No permits are required.