

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION/CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

10-STA-120	1.02	1K200/101900072
10-STA-132	4.51	
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 replace three (3) culverts in Stanislaus County. Two (2) culverts will be replaced on state route (SR) 120 at post miles (PM) 1.02, and one (1) culvert on SR 132 at PM 4.51. On SR 120 at PM 1.02, the two existing 18" corrugated steel pipe (CSP) culverts will be replaced with an 18" reinforced concrete pipes (RCP). On SR 132 and PM 4.51, the existing 30" CSP culvert will be replaced with a 30" RCP. All culvert replacement will include open trenching. Culvert will be cleaned prior to installation, along with clearing and grubbing on each side of the...(see continuation sheet)

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].)]

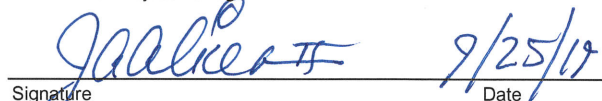
DOMINIC VITALI

Print Name: Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief


Signature

JOSÉ A. ALICEA II

Print Name: Project Manager


Signature

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 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 any other actions 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 EIS under the National Environmental Policy Act. The State has been assigned, and hereby certifies that it has carried out the responsibilities of the determination pursuant to Chapter 3 of Title 23, United States Code, Section 326 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated May 1, 2016, executed between the FHWA and the State. The State has determined that the project is a Categorical Exclusion.

☐ 23 CFR 771.117(c): activity (c) ☐

☐ 23 CFR 771.117(d): activity (d) ☐

☐ Activity listed in Appendix A of the MOU between the State and the FHWA

☐ 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 pursuant to 23 USC 327 and the Memorandum of Understanding dated December 23, 2016 and executed by FHWA and the State.

Print Name: Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief

Signature

Date

Print Name: Project Manager/DLA Engineer

Signature

Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion: n/a

Date of ECR or equivalent: 08/13/2019

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Continuation Sheet

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culvert, fill, and flared end sections. RSP may be added to the inlet/outlet. All work will be performed when the culverts are dry. All construction will take place within existing Caltrans right-of-way. No construction activities, staging, parking of equipment, storage or dumping of any materials, outside of Caltrans right-of-way will be allowed. The purpose of the project is to replace deteriorating culverts. The need of the project is to extend the service life of the culverts and the travelled way as well as maintain the proper flow of the channel.

General –

- Environmental reevaluation will be required if the scope of the project changes to include additional areas or activities, or if previously unknown cultural or other sensitive resources are discovered. Contact Environmental Office if project changes occur or sensitive resources discovered.

Biology –

- If construction will occur during migratory bird season (February 1 – September 30), a pre-construction bird survey will be required.
- If an active bird nest is observed, a 100-foot buffer will be established around the nest until the young have fledged. Caltrans Standard Special Provision (SSP) 14-6.03A will be added to the construction contract to request a 300-foot buffer be established around any active hawk nest that is observed. For Swainson's hawk, a 600-foot buffer would need to be established.
- Caltrans Standard Special Provision 10-1.03 shall be implemented so that work is conducted during the dry season only (August 1 to October 15), when the culverts are most dry to avoid any inadvertent discharges.
- If a Routine Maintenance Agreement (RMA) is obtained by project RTL that covers culvert relining work at PM 5.21, then a Verification Request Form (VRF) will be submitted to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) prior to the start of construction. If the Department doesn't have an RMA available to use, then biological reevaluation will be necessary.

Cultural –

- If cultural resources are discovered at the job site, do not disturb the resources and immediately:
 1. Stop all work within a 60-foot radius of the discovery
 2. Protect the discovery area
 3. Notify the Engineer

The Department investigates. Do not move cultural materials or take them from the job site. Retain a qualified archeologist to assess the significance of the find. Do not resume work within the discovery area until authorized.
- If human remains are discovered, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that further disturbances and activities shall cease in any area or nearby area suspected to overlie remains, and the County Coroner should be contacted. 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) which will then notify the Most Likely Descendent (MLD). At that time, the landowner will work with the MLD on the respectful treatment and disposition of the remains. Further provisions of PRC 5097.98 are to be followed as applicable.