



**CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION  
DETERMINATION FORM (rev. 04/2021)**

<b><u>Project Information</u></b>	
<b>Project Name (if applicable):</b> Chamberlain Creek Micro-surfacing Project	
<b>DIST-CO-RTE:</b> 01-MEN-20	<b>PM/PM:</b> 17.3/26.0
<b>EA:</b> 01-0K960	<b>Federal-Aid Project Number:</b> N/A
<b><u>Project Description</u></b>	
See continuation sheet for project description and details.	

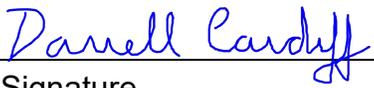
**Caltrans CEQA Determination** (Check one)

- Not Applicable** – Caltrans is not the CEQA Lead Agency
- Not Applicable** – Caltrans has prepared an IS or EIR under CEQA

Based on an examination of this proposal and supporting information, the project is:

- Exempt by Statute.** (PRC 21080[b]; 14 CCR 15260 et seq.)
- Categorically Exempt. Class 15301.** (PRC 21084; 14 CCR 15300 et seq.)
  - No exceptions apply that would bar the use of a categorical exemption (PRC 21084 and 14 CCR 15300.2). See the [SER Chapter 34](#) for exceptions.
- Covered by the 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].)

**Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief**

<b>Darrell Cardiff</b>		9/1/2021
Print Name	Signature	Date

**Project Manager**

<b>Chris Ghidinelli</b>		9/2/2021
Print Name	Signature	Date



CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

Caltrans NEPA Determination (Check one)

[X] Not Applicable

Caltrans 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). See SER Chapter 30 for unusual circumstances. As such, the project is categorically excluded from the requirements to prepare an EA or EIS under NEPA and is included under the following:

[ ] 23 USC 326: Caltrans has been assigned, and hereby certifies that it has carried out the responsibility to make this determination pursuant to 23 USC 326 and the Memorandum of Understanding dated April 18, 2019, executed between FHWA and Caltrans. Caltrans has determined that the project is a Categorical Exclusion under:

- [ ] 23 CFR 771.117(c): activity (c)(Enter activity number)
[ ] 23 CFR 771.117(d): activity (d)(Enter activity number)
[ ] Activity Enter activity number listed in Appendix A of the MOU between FHWA and Caltrans

[ ] 23 USC 327: Based on an examination of this proposal and supporting information, Caltrans 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.

Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief

Signature lines for Senior Environmental Planner and Project Manager, DCA Engineer, with 'Not Applicable' text overlaid.

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): N/A
Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 8/17/2021

Briefly list environmental commitments on continuation sheet if needed (i.e., not necessary if included on an attached ECR). Reference additional information, as appropriate (e.g., additional studies and design conditions).



# CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

## Continuation sheet:

**Chamberlain Creek Micro-surfacing Project**  
**EA: 01-0K960**  
**California Department of Transportation (District 1)**

### **Project Description**

Maintenance plans to place micro-surfacing as a form of preventative maintenance for this section of roadway. Maintenance is developing a project on Route 20 in Mendocino County about 8 miles west of Willits from Chamberlain Creek Bridge to 0.3 mile west of Irmulco Road.

Work will consist of replacing asphalt concrete surfacing, placing crack treatment, removing existing stripe and pavement markers, placing micro-surfacing, placing shoulder backing on existing shoulder backing (at locations with existing low shoulders at EP), replacing rumble strips, and replacing pavement delineation. All work will be within the existing State right of way. Equipment staging will be confined to paved surfaces and existing non-vegetated turnouts. Construction Area Signs and Portable Changeable Message Signs will be placed at Men-20-16.1/27.2 with negligible soil disturbance. There will be no tree removal.

The project is expected to begin in the Spring of 2022 and estimated to occur over approximately 45 working days. Night work is not anticipated. If some activities are required during the night, the contractor would comply with Caltrans Standard Specifications and requirements. The project is expected to utilize a variety of equipment including Macro pavers, emulsion tanks, loader, skip loaders, steel drum rollers, kick broom, Pick-up broom, bituminous distributor, asphalt paver, crew trucks, utility trucks, mechanics truck, pavement grinder (tungsten-carbide), crack router, crack seal machine, water truck, water buffalo, oil pot, 10-yard trucks (asphalt and shoulder backing transport), traffic control truck (with roof mount arrow board), light plants (possibly), PCMS boards, shoulder machine, thermoplastic striper machine, Shadow vehicle (with roof mount arrow board), rumble strip machine, attenuator truck, flatbed trucks, and trailers.

### **Traffic**

Traffic control will be maintained by the contractor in accordance with the Caltrans Traffic Management Plan (TMP) and the Standard Plans. The TMP includes requirements related to lane closures, flagging, notification, and coordination with other projects. The proposed project will include one-lane reversing closures where applicable and delays up to 15 to 20 minutes.

### **Environmental Commitments**

- Use SSP 7-1.02K(6)(j)(iii) for earth materials containing lead
- Use SSP 84-9.03B for thermoplastic/ paint striping for pavement delineation removal



## CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

- Use SSP 36-4 when removing thermoplastic by cold planning or grinding
- Protect Northern Spotted Owl from PM 17.3 to 26.0 :
  - Implement the following Noise level restrictions
  - February 1 through July 31: Do not perform work that generates noise levels above 90 dBA LMax or 20dBA above ambient noise levels
  - August 1 through January 31: Comply with section 14-8.
  - Measure the noise level at 50 feet from the source of the noise generating activity. Backup alarms are excluded from the noise requirements.

### Environmental Analysis

#### **Aesthetic/Visual Resources**

A Visual Impact Assessment and Scenic Resource review was conducted August 13, 2021. The review determined that there will be no noticeable changes in the visual environment or to scenic resources. Therefore, impacts are less-than-significant.

#### **Air Quality, Noise, and Greenhouse Gases**

An environmental document assessment for air quality, noise, and greenhouse gas (GHGs) impacts was conducted on July 19, 2021. According to the assessment, the project is a Type III project that will not cause an increase in operational or long-term impacts on air quality, noise, or GHGs, but will have construction related (short-term) impacts. Generation of short-term construction related noise, and the generation of short-term construction air emissions of fugitive dust and exhaust from construction equipment are to be controlled and reduced through the use of the 2018 standard specifications (e.g. Section 14-9). Additionally, the project will not generate operational GHG emissions, nor contribute to a cumulatively considerable impact, and would implement GHG reduction or avoidance measures (standard BMPs) where feasible to reduce construction GHG emissions. Therefore, project impacts are compliant with all applicable plans and will be less-than-significant.

#### **Biological Resources**

A Biological Resources Evaluation Memo (memo) was completed by Caltrans on June 7, 2021. The memo evaluated impacts to fish, plants, birds, and jurisdictional waters and determined the following:

- “no take” for listed plants identified in CNDDDB
- “no take” for listed Western Snowy Plover, and Yellow-Billed Cuckoo since they are not present and suitable or critical habitat is not present
- “no take” of listed SONCC Coho, CC Chinook or NC steelhead
- “no impact” to critical habitat or Essential Fish habitat and
- “no take” to Northern Spotted Owl or Marbled Murrelet.



## CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

Due to presence of suitable and critical habitat for NSO from PM 17.3-26.0, avoidance measures listed in the environmental commitments section of this CE will be implemented to ensure the project will have no take. As a result, impacts are considered less-than-significant.

### **Cultural Resources**

A screening memo was completed by Caltrans on June 24, 2021. Based on the scope of the construction activities, these undertakings have no potential to affect historic properties or cultural resources.

### **Hazardous Waste**

An Initial Site Assessment was completed August 3, 2021. Based on the review, minor hazardous waste/materials will be encountered within project limits. These issues are routine construction issues that will be managed in the construction contract through standard BMPs and the inclusion of any Special Standard Provisions (SSPs). As a result, the project will not have any impacts related to hazardous waste and will be less-than-significant.

### **Other Resources**

All work will be conducted within Caltrans's right of way. Implementation of Standard BMPs and standard measures will ensure there are no impacts to environmental resources.

### **Permits**

Regulatory permits are not required for this project.