CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
DETERMINATION FORM (rev. 06/2022)

Project Information

**Project Name (if applicable):** GLE 32 CAPM Potholing

**DIST-CO-RTE:** 03-GLE-32 **PM/PM:** 0.00/10.90

**EA:** 03-0J500 **Federal-Aid Project Number:** 0319000291(EFIS)

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes a project to gain onsite confirmation of the location of utilities that are in the proposed construction limits. This project is necessary to help avoid conflicts and disruptions with utility lines within the project limits.

Project Description

The proposed potholing investigations include drilling through the highway pavement surface, located on State Route (SR) 32 in Glenn County between PM 0.00-10.90. The test holes will be created using a high-power vacuum suction system. The holes will be around a foot in diameter, and the depth will span from ground level to the required extent of the investigation. The depth of potholing locations will vary from 3-12 feet.

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.)

[x]  **Categorically Exempt.** **Class** **6**. (PRC 21084; 14 CCR 15300 et seq.)

[x]  No exceptions apply that would bar the use of a categorical exemption (PRC 21084 and 14 CCR 15300.2). See the [SER Chapter 34](https://dot.ca.gov/programs/environmental-analysis/standard-environmental-reference-ser/volume-1-guidance-for-compliance/ch-34-exemptions-to-ceqa#except) 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**

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| Mundeep Purewal  |  | Mundeep Purewal  |  | 4/25/23 |
| Print Name |  | Signature |  | Date |

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| Ephrem Teweldeberhan |  | Ephrem teweldeberhan |  | 4/26/2023 |
| Print Name |  | Signature |  | Date |

**Project Manager**

Caltrans NEPA Determination (Check one)

[ ]  **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](https://dot.ca.gov/programs/environmental-analysis/standard-environmental-reference-ser/volume-1-guidance-for-compliance/ch-30-categorical-exclusions#exception) 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:

[x]  **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, 2022, executed between FHWA and Caltrans. Caltrans has determined that the project is a Categorical Exclusion under:

[x]  **23 CFR 771.117(c): activity (c)(24)**

[ ]  **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 May 27, 2022, and executed by FHWA and Caltrans.

**Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief**

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| Mundeep Purewal  |  | Mundeep Purewal  |  | 4/25/23 |
| Print Name |  | Signature |  | Date |

**Project Manager/ DLA Engineer**

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| Ephrem Teweldeberhan |  | Ephrem Teweldeberhan |  | 4/26/2023 |
| Print Name |  | Signature |  | Date |

**Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable):** 04/17/23

**Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent:** 04/24/23

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).

Continuation sheet:

**Project Description Continued:**

Once the location and depth are recorded, the hole will be backfilled and compacted to original conditions using the same extracted material. There are sixty-two (62) potholing locations, eleven (11) of those locations will use electronic detection.

**Staging:**

The staging area, if required, will be identified within Caltrans Right-of-Way.

**Disposal/Borrow:**

The project would not utilize any borrowed material. The test holes will be backfilled using the original extracted material. If necessary, the contractor will be responsible for disposal of excess material.

**Right-of-Way:**

All work will occur within the Caltrans Right-of-Way.

**Consultation/Coordination:**

No Consultation/Coordination is required based on current scope of work.

**Permits:**

No environmental permits will be required.