



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

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): State Route 99/State Route 120 Interchange Improvements (Phase 1B Geotechnical Site Investigation)

DIST-CO-RTE: 10-SJ-99

PM/PM: 3.1-6.2/R5.1-T7.2

EA: 10-1M300

Federal-Aid Project Number: 1020000156

Project Description

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in conjunction with the San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG) proposes to construct improvements to the State Route 99/State Route 120 interchange in the City of Manteca in San Joaquin County (10-1E740 State Route 99/State Route 120 Interchange Improvement Project).

This separate Categorical Exemption/Categorical Exclusion has been prepared to evaluate the geotechnical site investigation planned for Phase 1B (10-1M300) of this project's construction. (*continued*)

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 6.** (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

Laura Cook		1/16/2026
Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager

Charlie Do		01/16/26
Print Name	Signature	Date



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

23 CFR 771.117(c): activity (c)(24)

23 CFR 771.117(d): activity (d)()

Activity 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

Laura Cook Laura M. Cook 1/16/2026
Print Name Signature Date

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Charlie Do Charlie Do 01/16/26
Print Name Signature Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): N/A
Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 4/1/2019



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Continuation sheet:

Project Description (continued)

The site investigation will involve boring approximately 12 holes with four to six inch diameter augers to a maximum depth of 10 to 15 feet. Drilling is proposed at four locations, and would also involve marking, utility location, infiltration testing, and grouting of the boreholes.

The drilling subcontractor Blackburn will visit the site at least 72 hours prior to any field exploration to mark the proposed exploration locations with white paint and notify Underground Services Alert to mark member underground utilities in the vicinity of the exploration locations. Blackburn will mark an area of about 20 feet by 20 feet with white paint for the evaluation. In addition, ground penetrating radar will be performed by a utility locating subcontractor to identify obvious signs of existing buried utilities within the vicinity of the proposed exploration locations.

During the drilling activities, a work area of about 50 feet by 35 feet will be required to accommodate the drill rig, support truck, equipment, and drilling field crew of three. Additional support staff will include one to two geologists/engineers and their pick-up truck. The driller will use conventional six inch solid flight augers to drill through the existing surface. Following completion of the borings, Blackburn will perform field infiltration testing in general accordance with CTM 750 within selected borehole(s).

Drill cuttings and waste will be contained in 55-gallon drums and removed from the site by the drilling contractor for disposal upon completion of the borings and infiltration testing. Drums will be stored at an offsite staging area.

Upon completion of drilling and infiltration testing, the boreholes will be backfilled with neat cement grout with bentonite clay in accordance with standard practice and San Joaquin County Environmental Health Department boring permit requirements. San Joaquin County will be notified prior to grouting and will likely be present during the grouting process. The boreholes will be backfilled with grout to within six inches below the surface and native soil will be used to backfill the top six inches.

Work will typically occur between 8 AM and 6 PM during a normal work week (Monday to Friday). The drilling activities and infiltration testing are anticipated to take up to two days to complete. The drill rig, support truck and all other vehicles and equipment will be removed at the end of each day. No additional right-of-way acquisition is anticipated to perform this site investigation.

General

Under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) the geotechnical site investigation planned for the Phase 1B of the State Route 99/State Route 120 Interchange Improvement Project is Categorically Exempt. Under the National



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Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) the geotechnical site investigation work is Categorically Excluded.

Environmental reevaluation will be required if the scope of the project changes to include additional areas or activities, or if previous unknown biological, cultural, or other sensitive resources are discovered. Contact District 10 Environmental Branch Chief if project changes occur or sensitive resources are discovered.