Print Form

2020010035

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: MT Konocti TMS 01-0E830

Project Applicant: California Department of Transportation

Project Location - Specific:
This project is located on SR 20, 29, and 175 in Lake County and US 101 in Mendocino County with 13 locations at various post miles.

Project Location - City: Various Project Location - County: Lake/Mendocino

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: 1/2/20 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

Revised 2011

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION/CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

01-LAK/MEN-VAR	VAR	01-0E830	01-1500-0034
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 and Mendocino Counties. Construction activities will include erecting poles and towers, installing cabinets and conduit, mounting equipment in cabinets and on poles, pipe installation, and conducting various related electrical work.
(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].)

Adele Pommerenck		FOR Cathy McKeon	
Print Name: Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief		Print Name: Project Manager	
Adele Pommerenck	1/2/20	James T. Van Born	2-JAN-2020
Signature	Date	Signature	Date

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.

Adele Pommerenck		FOR Cathy McKeon	
Print Name: Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief		Print Name: Project Manager/DLA Engineer	
Adele Pommerenck	1/2/20	James T. Van Born	2-JAN-2020
Signature	Date	Signature	Date

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).

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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:
The need of this project arose because traffic information is currently collected via dial-up telephone lines and DSL connections. These connections are sometimes unreliable, and they limit the transfer of information due to limited bandwidth availability. 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.

THE SCOPE OF WORK INCLUDES:

Location 1: SR 20 PM 7.76
Installation of new radio antenna and camera on existing pole and battery backup system on existing cabinet, as well as replacement of existing changeable message sign (CMS) and controller with new models. Cold planing and overlaying of existing maintenance vehicle pullout (MVP) will be necessary.

Location 2: SR 20 PM 12.20
Installation of new 35' pole, CMS, radio antenna, camera, cabinet and concrete pad, 24" reinforced concrete pipe (RCP) culvert, and paved MVP with supported embankment.

Location 3: SR 20 PM 19.28
Installation of new 35' pole, radio antenna, camera, cabinet and concrete pad, count station, and MVP.

Location 4: SR 29 PM 22.19
Installation of new 35' Pole, CMS, cabinet, MVP with supported embankment, guardrail, and count station. Trenching will be necessary from the newly acquired PG&E service source to the MVP to provide power for new equipment.

Location 5 State Furnished Materials (SFM): SR 29 PM 38.6
Installation of new count station using existing cabinet at location. An encroachment permit will be obtained for work on Highland Springs Road.

Location 6 SFM: SR 29 PM 44.56
Installation of new cabinet adjacent to existing cabinet, concrete pad, 35' pole, CMS, radio antenna, and camera. Cold planing and repaving of existing MVP will be necessary, and new trenching may be required if unable to use existing conduit.

Location 7 SFM: SR 175 PM 0.3
Installation of new 35' pole, radio antenna, camera, cabinet, and count station. Trenching between the cabinet and pole will be necessary, as will construction of an MVP and required supportive embankment. To provide service to this location, a temporary construction easement (TCE) will be required to intercept the existing PG&E service line, a new power pole with the attached line will be placed in the Caltrans Right-of-Way, and trenching will occur from the new pole to the proposed cabinet.

Location 8 SFM: US 101 PM 8.4
Install 35' pole, radio antenna, and CMS. Trenching will be required to install conduit from new pole to existing service pull-box and it will be necessary to run conductors from PG&E service box to existing cabinet. Cold planing of existing MVP and placement of 0.3' of hot mix asphalt (HMA) will also be required.

Location 9 SFM: SR 29 PM 27.89
Mounting of radio antenna and camera on existing signal pole and battery backup system cabinet on existing cabinet.

Location 10 SFM: SR 29 PM 52.54
Mounting of new closed-circuit television system and radio antenna on existing equipment.

Location 11 SFM: SR 53 PM 1.47
Mounting of new closed-circuit television system and radio antenna on existing equipment.
(Continued on next page)

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Location 12 SFM: SR 53 PM 1.99
Mounting of new closed-circuit television system and radio antenna on existing equipment.

Location 13 SFM: SR 53 PM 2.96
Mounting of new closed-circuit television system and radio antenna on existing equipment.

STAGING

All equipment will be staged within Caltrans right-of-way or within temporary construction easement (TCE) or encroachment permit areas identified in 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
- A temporary construction easement (TCE) may be required at Location 7 SR 175 PM 0.3
- Encroachment permits may be required at the following:
    - Location 4 SR 29 PM 22.2
    - Location 5 SR 29 PM 38.6
    - Location 7 SR 175 PM 0.30

CONSULTATION/COORDINATION

No cultural resources were identified during or as a result of Native American consultation for this undertaking.

PERMITS

No permits are required.