



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

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): MENDOTA & FIREBAUGH SR 33 & SR 180 CORRIDOR ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

DIST-CO-RTE: 06-FRE-33, 180

PM/PM: 69.4/70.92, 23.52/24.53

EA: 06-1E710

Federal-Aid Project Number: 0622000091

Project Description

The project would enhance and beautify the SR 33 corridor in the Cities of Mendota and Firebaugh and beautify the SR 180 corridor in the City of Mendota. The SR 33 corridor improvements in the City of Firebaugh would include planting along the west side of SR 33 where irrigation is already in place, installing rectangular rapid flashing beacons and radar feedback speed limit signs, sidewalk gap closures, installing a gateway monument sign on SR 33 just south of Saipan Avenue, installing sidewalk on west side of SR 33 between 14th and 15th Streets, and installing decorative median planting where irrigation is in place. The SR 180 and SR 33 corridor improvements for the City of Mendota would include adding radar feedback speed limit signs and rectangular rapid flashing beacons at marked crosswalks, installing benches in front of the Family Dollar at the northwest corner at SR 33 and Belmont Avenue, adding green paint and bike lane signing to bike lanes placed as part of a highway maintenance project being constructed immediately before this project, quick build bulb-outs, and a new 6 foot wide AC pedestrian walkway on SR 33 in from Naples Avenue to Bass Avenue. The purpose of this project is to enhance and beautify the SR 33 and SR 180 corridors in the cities of Mendota and Firebaugh while also enhancing safety for all users of the corridors.

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 1.** (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

G William "Trais" Norris, III	<i>G William "Trais" Norris, III</i>	4/12/2022
Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager

Shavonne Conley	<i>Shavonne Conley</i>	4/12/2022
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, 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

Print Name	Signature	Date
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Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Print Name	Signature	Date
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Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): N/A
Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: See continuation sheet
Avoidance/Minimization Measures (2/9/22)

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).



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Continuation sheet:

Avoidance/Minimization Measures (2/9/22)

Hazardous Waste:

- A lead compliance plan (LCP) developed by a Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) is required for ground disturbing activities (soil preparation for planting), as stated in Caltrans' Standard Special Provision (SSP) 7-1.02K(6)(j)(iii) Earth Material Containing Lead.

Paleontology:

- If unanticipated fossil discovery occurs during construction, Specification 14-7.03 of the Caltrans 2018 Standard Specifications identifies the procedures required to protect the resource.

Biology:

- If construction occurs into the avian nesting season (Feb 1 – Sep 31) a pre-construction survey will be required for migratory birds. Surveys for migratory birds must be completed prior to construction by a qualified biologist no more than 30 days prior to construction.
- If work runs into the nesting season and nesting birds are identified within the project area, the project may require a biological monitor or the use of an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) buffer depending on the scope of the project and degree of disturbance on species. Buffers are as follows: Nesting Raptors (including Swainson's Hawk) 500 feet; all other protected nesting birds 100 feet.
- Biological SSP 14 – 6.03B Species Protection for migratory and non-game birds, including Swainson's hawk, will be required. Biological SSP 14 – 1.02 Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) may be required.

Air Quality:

- Caltrans Standard Specifications, Section 14-9.02 "Air Pollution Control" and Section 10-5 "Dust Control" are required.
- If the project disturbs over 5 acres or removes 2500 cubic yards of soil for at least three days of the project, a Dust Control Plan (DCP) approved by the San Joaquin Air Pollution Control District will be required.

Noise:

- Caltrans Standard Specifications Section 14-8.02 "Noise Control" is required to regulate Construction noise.

Water:

- Based on the project disturbing less than one acre of soil, a Water Pollution Control Program needs to be prepared by the contractor in accordance with Caltrans Standard Specification Section 13.1- Water Pollution.