



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

**Project Information**

**Project Name (if applicable):** 0S520 WB SR-22 Safety Project

**DIST-CO-RTE:** 12-ORA-22

**PM/PM:** R11.2

**EA:** 12-0S520 / 1220000085

**Federal-Aid Project Number:**

**Project Description**

This Minor A SHOPP project proposes to apply high friction surface treatment, cold plane and apply asphalt overlay, install loop detectors, remove MBGR system, and restripe the ramp to original configuration at the existing Westbound (WB) SR-22 La Veta Avenue on Ramp in the City of Orange. The purpose of the safety improvement project is to reduce the number and severity of collisions by creating more friction on the on-ramp. This project is needed to address collisions caused by wet pavement conditions occurring at the project location. Total Estimated Disturbed Soil Area (DSA) is less than one acre. All work occurs in State's existing Right of Way. This project will be funded by state and federal funds.

**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(d).** (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**

Smita Deshpande

*Smita Deshpande*

7/23/2024

Print Name

Signature

Date

**Project Manager**

Jared Lindo

*Jared Lindo*

7/23/2024

Print Name

Signature

Date



**CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION  
DETERMINATION FORM**



CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

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)
23 CFR 771.117(d): activity (d)(1)
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

Smita Deshpande Signature Date 7/23/2024

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Jared Lindo Signature Date 7/23/2024

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): Enter date
Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: Enter date

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:**

There are no significant environmental consequences anticipated with the proposed project. In addition to the measures given in the Caltrans Standard Specifications, measures related to cultural resources, greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), hazardous waste, water quality, and biological resources and any subsequent requirements will be implemented as project features to the proposed project.

### **Water Quality**

WQ-1: The Disturbed Soil Area (DSA) for the proposed project is anticipated to be less than 1.0 acre therefore a Water Pollution Control Program (WPCP) will be prepared and implemented to address temporary impacts to water quality. Potential temporary impacts to water quality will be addressed during construction with the application of specific temporary Best Management Practices (BMPs) as outlined in the contractor's WPCP. If the project disturbs more than 1.0 acre, a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) should be prepared and implemented in place of a WPCP.

WQ-2: This project must conform to all applicable water quality regulations and/or permit requirements of the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and any applicable local Regional Water Quality Control Board(s), including, but not limited to, the Caltrans Statewide NPDES Permit (Order No. 2022-0033-DWQ, NPDES No. CAS000003), the Statewide NPDES General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated With Construction and Land Disturbance Activities (Order No. 2022-0057-DWQ, NPDES No. CAS000002), and the Caltrans Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP), and any subsequent revisions and/or additional requirements at the time of construction.

WQ-3: A Storm Water Data Report (SWDR) will be approved by the NPDES Unit to determine that this project conforms to Federal and State Clean Water Acts, and any other water quality regulations.

WQ-4: The project limits are within a Significant Trash Generating Area (STGA) as identified in the Caltrans Trash Implementation Plan submitted to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to comply with the Statewide Trash Provisions (SWRCB Resolution No. 2015-0019). Caltrans has committed to the SWRCB that roadways identified as STGA's will implement "Full Trash Capture" devices by the year 2030. To meet the Caltrans Statewide Trash Implementation Plan, the project will evaluate and incorporate Full Trash Capture devices within the STGA in the project limits to comply with the SWRCB Trash Provisions.

### **Cultural Resources**



## CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

The cultural resources review was performed by Victoria Stosel, Associate Environmental Planner PQS Principal Investigator Prehistoric Archaeology, and included a review of the Environmental Study Request, location map, CCRD and aerial photography. Based on this review, the undertaking, as currently proposed, has no potential to affect historical resources. As a result, this undertaking is exempt from further review, no additional archaeological or built environment studies are required at this time and the Section 106 compliance process, CEQA cultural resources component, and PRC 5024 compliance are complete. Please note that this assessment could change and additional studies may be required if the project changes and ensure the following measures found in the Caltrans 2022 Standard Specifications in the Plans, Specifications, and Estimates apply to this project and are to be included in the Environmental Commitments Record (ECR) in the Resident Engineer's (RE) File:

CR-1: If buried cultural resources are encountered during Project Activities, it is Caltrans policy that work stop within 60 feet of the area until a qualified archaeologist can evaluate the nature and significance of the find.

CR-2: In the event that human remains are found, the county coroner shall be notified and ALL construction activities within 60 feet of the discovery shall stop. Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98, if the remains are thought to be Native American, the coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) who will then notify the Most Likely Descendent (MLD). The person who discovered the remains will contact the District 12 Division of Environmental Analysis; Alben Phung, Senior Environmental Scientist: (949)279-8715 and Cheryl Sinopoli, DNAC: (949)483-1018. Further provisions of PRC 5097.98 are to be followed as applicable.

### **Hazardous Waste**

ISA - As part of the ISA process, Environmental Engineering's Mitch Khalilifar visited the project site on January 27, 2022 and performed a visual site inspection in order to complete the (K-phase) preliminary ISA study. Based on the findings during the site inspection, no evidence of known significant hazardous waste contamination that may impact the project was observed.

HAZ-1: Aerially Deposited Lead (ADL) - If the project involves soil disturbance, then, the soil in unpaved *or* paved areas might be contaminated with the Lead from vehicle emissions. Soil samples shall be collected, tested and analyzed for ADL contamination during the PS&E stage. The ADL Investigation will be conducted by the Environmental Engineering Branch (EE) during the *early* Design Phase. The Design Branch Senior (or PE) should provide EE with the layout plans showing the locations of soil subject to disturbance in *early* Design Phase. If lead contamination is found, the results/conclusions will be addressed in the PS&E package (*prior to construction and in time for Environmental Certification*).



## CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

HAZ-2: Yellow Paint Traffic Stripes & Thermoplastic - The Yellow Chromate Pigment used in Yellow Traffic Striping Marking Materials and yellow paint was banned in in State of California in years 2004 and 1997 respectively. If the material was placed after these dates, then, the material is considered as non-hazardous and therefore SSP 84-03B\_A04-19-19 shall be used for the removal of all different colors of traffic striping/Marking and paint. If the material was placed before those dated noted above, then, SSP 14-11.12A10\_19-18 shall be used.

HAZ-3: This project proposes to remove the existing MBGR which contains Treated Wood Waste (TWW). Management of TWW must follow Department of Toxic Substances Control regulation that is adopted by Caltrans.

### Air Quality

This project is exempt from conformity per 40 CFR 93.126 as a Safety project within Table 2. The Air Quality Conformity Findings Checklist was completed by Will Polster on 7/22/2024.

### Noise

This project is not defined as a Type 1 project based on Caltrans Traffic Noise Analysis Protocol because it does not add a through-traffic lane and is not an addition of an auxiliary lane. Therefore, a noise study is not needed.

### Climate Change Assessment

The Environmental Division has evaluated this non-capacity increasing project for GHG emissions and other climate change impacts. It has determined that the project would not cause a significant impact on GHG emissions because it does not increase roadway capacity and has the following strategies considered:

GHG-1: Fuel efficient measures for equipment and traffic management should be used where feasible in addition to reducing the frequency of vehicle idle times to the greatest extent possible

Greenhouse gas emissions were estimated using the 2021 Caltrans construction Emissions Tool v1.0.2 for a project duration of 50 working days:

GHG	CO	NOx	CO2	CH4	TOG	ROG	HFC	N2O	BC
Total Emissions (tons)	0.213	0.290	71	0.002	0.0451	0.042	0.002	0.004	0.003



**CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION  
DETERMINATION FORM**

**Technical Studies Completed:**

Mini-PEAR (CT, DEA, Dove, 2/16/2022)

Initial Site Assessment (CT, DEA, Khalifar, 1/27/2022)

Biological No-Effects Memo (CT, DEA, Ketsela, 4/17/2024)

Screened Undertaking Memo (CT, DEA, Stosel, 5/2/2024)

Environmental Engineering Memo (CT, DEA, Caraig, 6/17/2024)

Water Quality Memo (CT, DEA, Salas, 5/20/2024)

Climate Change Assessment Form (CT, DEA, Polster, 7/22/2024)