

Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: California Department of Transportation
500 South Main Street
Bishop, CA 93514

Project Title: Death Valley/Travertine Emergency Work

Project Applicant: Caltrans

Project Location - Specific: State Route 190 – Post Mile 111.97 and Post Mile 112.48

Project Location - City: Furnace Creek Project Location - County: Inyo

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

Immediate emergency work to protect life, property, and safety of the traveling public. Travertine (furnace) creek had eroded the roadway shoulder creating a severe drop at the edge of pavement and water was encroaching upon the roadway. Work required the installation of 2 culverts (Post Miles 111.97 and 112.48) to divert flows across the highway back into the historic flow path. Once water was diverted away from the roadway repairs to the dirt shoulders and asphalt occurred.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Caltrans

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Caltrans

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: _____
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: PRC 21080[b]; 14 CCR 15269 (b) et seq.)

Reasons why project is exempt:

After the last severe storm in the area, the water patterns changed requiring an emergency project. Water is now topping the pavement into the travel lane and flowing at the edge of pavement on the shoulder all highlighting the urgency of an emergency project to restore proper

drainage and roadway integrity. The water running alongside the roadway not only has undermined the pavement structural section due to saturation, but also poses operational risks creating unexpected conditions with water on the roadway and increasing erosion along the shoulder. In addition, a suitable stable shoulder for errant vehicle recover is no longer present due to the saturated soil, rills, and drop off at edge of pavement. This situation needs to be immediately addressed through an emergency project – due to failure and threat of failure of the roadway and for public safety – to provide appropriate drainage to limit further roadway deterioration, reconstruct the damaged structural section, prevent further damage to surrounding infrastructure, and ensure safe travel conditions for the public.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Heather Elder Phone number: 760-874-832

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: Heather Elder Date: 5/8/2025

Title: Senior Environmental Scientist

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.