



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

Project Information

Project Name: Tree Removal on eastbound and westbound SR 76 for Flight Safety Concerns

DIST-CO-RTE: 11-SD-76

PM: 2.75

EA/PID: 11-3A983/PID 1125000229

Federal-Aid Project Number: N/A

Project Description

Caltrans proposes a District Director's Order (DDO) emergency contract to remove the two groups of eucalyptus trees located on SR 76 eastbound and westbound near Foussat Road at PM 2.75 that is posing a hazard to the adjacent airfield. Caltrans Division of Aeronautics has reported several large eucalyptus trees within State Right-of-Way that need to be removed. These trees are in the flight path of the Bob Maxwell Memorial Airfield (Oceanside Municipal Airport) and have grown to a height that creates a hazard for arriving and departing aircraft. Due to the size and number of trees to be removed, this work is beyond the District Tree Crew's capacity and an Emergency Contract is needed to remove the trees in a timely manner. Trees will be cut at ground level to confirm no soil disturbance, then sprayed with herbicide to kill the stumps. Work activities include the construction of area signs, traffic control system, and tree removal. Environmental commitments for biological resources, visual resources, hazardous waste/materials, and NPDES/Stormwater are included in the Environmental Commitments Record (ECR).

Caltrans CEQA Determination

- 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

Mitchell Doucette	<i>Mitchell Doucette</i>	5/20/2025
Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager

Derek Carpenter	<i>Derek Carpenter</i>	5/20/2025
Print Name	Signature	Date



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Caltrans NEPA Determination (Check one)

[X] 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)()

[] 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

N/A

Print Name

Signature

Date

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

N/A

Print Name

Signature

Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): N/A

Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 5/20/2025