

# 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: Monterey

168 West Alisal Street #1, Salinas, CA, 93901

**From:** (Public Agency): Caltrans District 5

50 Higuera Street

San Luis Obispo CA, 93401

(Address)

Project Title: Garrapata Bridge Traffic Calming Emergency Project

Project Applicant: Caltrans District 5

Project Location - Specific:

**The approaches and bridge deck of Garrapata Bridge on State Route 1.**

Project Location - City: Monterey/ Big Sur Project Location - County: Monterey

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The purpose of the project is to temporarily reduce the speed limit throughout the project limits from 55 miles per hour to 35 miles per hour due to the deteriorated condition of the Garrapata Bridge rail which cannot withstand vehicle collisions at the current operating speed. Temporary measures would remain in use until a permanent solution is determined for the bridge rail. Project beneficiaries include all users of State Route 1.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Caltrans District 5

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Caltrans District 5

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Reasons why project is exempt:


This project is exempt because it qualifies as an emergency project per CEQA guideline 15269 (b). The installation of delineators and lowering of the speed limit throughout the project limits constitutes an emergency repair necessary to maintain service essential to public health, safety, or welfare.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Lucas Marsalek Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (805) 458-5408

**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:  Date: 6/24/25 Title: Senior Env Scientist Supervisor

■ Signed by Lead Agency      Signed by Applicant

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: \_\_\_\_\_



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

**Project Information**

**Project Name (if applicable):** Garrapata Bridge Traffic Calming Emergency Project

**DIST-CO-RTE:** 05-MON-001

**PM/PM:** 62.6/63.9

**EA:** 05-1S980

**Federal-Aid Project Number:** 0525000123

**Project Description**

Caltrans District 5 proposes the temporary implementation of multiple traffic calming measures at the approaches of and on the Garrapata Creek Bridge in Monterey County and State Route 1 from postmile 62.60 to 63.90. Traffic calming measures will be placed between 2,000 to 500 feet apart on the northbound and southbound sides of the bridge approaches. Traffic calming measures include the following elements:

- Four construction area stationary mounted signs (2 "Road Work Ahead", and 2 "End Roadwork" signs)
- Two stationary vehicle speed feedback signs on either approach of the bridge
- Four 35 miles per hour work zone speed limit signs on either approach of the bridge
- Two solar-powered Traffic Monitoring Station Systems which will capture speeds on each approach of the bridge.

Channelizers and pavement delineation would be placed on the bridge on either side of the bridge, between the bridge rail and the north and southbound lanes.

These measures are needed to reduce the speed limit throughout the project area from 55 miles per hour to 35 miles per hour. The speed reduction is required due to the deteriorated state of the Garrapata Creek Bridge rail, which cannot withstand vehicle collisions at the current operating speed throughout the project limits. Installation of these traffic calming measures will serve as an interim safety precaution.

**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.)
- Emergency Project.** (PRC 21080(b)(4); 14 CCR 15269 et seq.)
- Categorically Exempt.** (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].)



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

**Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief**

<u>Lucas Marsalek</u>	<u></u>	<u>6/24/25</u>
Print Name	Signature	Date

**Project Manager**

<u>Victor Devens</u>	<u></u>	<u>6/24/25</u>
Print Name	Signature	Date



CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

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):

[ ] 23 CFR 771.117(d):

[ ] 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

Lucas Marsalek Signature 6/24/25
Print Name Signature Date

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Victor Devens Signature 6/24/25
Print Name Signature Date

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:**

The following measures will be included with the project to avoid and minimize impacts to biological resources:

1. If vegetation trimming is required, vegetation trimming will be scheduled outside of the nesting bird season (February 1 to September 30), to avoid potential impacts to nesting birds and/or woodrats. If trimming is required during the nesting season, a qualified biologist will conduct a survey no more than one week prior to scheduled trimming/removal. If active nests are found in or near a shrub proposed for trimming, a readily visible exclusion zone where construction activity must be avoided will be established by the Caltrans Biologist using Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) fencing, or stakes and flagging. The nest area and buffer would be avoided until the nest is vacated and it is determined that young have fledged and are no longer dependent on the nest site.
2. All access, staging and equipment storage areas shall be clearly defined on project plans and at the construction site.
3. Vehicles and equipment shall be free of dirt, mud, or vegetation that may contain non-native species that could establish because of work conducted within the project area.