



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

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): Pedestrian Safety Improvements

DIST-CO-RTE: 10-MER, STA-VAR **PM/PM:** VAR

EA:10-1T460 **Federal-Aid Project Number:** N/A

Project Description

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes a Highway Maintenance Safety project on State Route 108, 120, 132, and 165 in Merced and Stanislaus Counties at various locations. The Construction will occur on both paved and unpaved surfaces within the Caltrans right of way. The scope of work includes the construction and/or improvement of bicycle and pedestrian facilities. See Continuation Sheet. The purpose of this project is to enhance pedestrian and bicyclist safety. The project is needed to reduce the number and severity of collisions at these locations.

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

Elizabeth Hummel

Print Name

Elizabeth Hummel

Signature

07/28/2025

Date

Project Manager

Jason B. Miller

Print Name

Signature

Date

7/28/25



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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, 2022, 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 May 27, 2022, and executed by FHWA and Caltrans.

Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief

Print Name

Signature

Date

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Print Name

Signature

Date

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

Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 7/28/2025

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:

The scope of work for each location will include the following:

1. Location #1, MER/165/9.95 and cross street Overland Ave.:
 - Remove 4 existing crosswalks and replace with ladder marked crosswalks.
2. Location #2, STA/108/24.73/24.81:
 - Install W11-15 (Bicycle/Pedestrian sign) on existing light pole on each sidewalk. Remove W11-1 sign on west sidewalk at PM 24.77. Install W11-15 at 135 ft south from Briggsmore Ave.
3. Location #3, STA/120/4.66 and cross street East A St.:
 - Replace 2 existing crosswalks with ladder pattern.
4. Location #4, STA/120/5.64 and cross street Johnson Ave.:
 - Replace 2 existing crosswalks with ladder patterns.
5. Location #5, STA/132/16.00/16.09:
 - Replace 3 existing crosswalks with ladder patterns.
6. Location #6, STA/132/16.56 and cross street Empire Ave.:
 - Replace 2 existing crosswalks with ladder patterns.
7. Location #7, STA/132/18.83 and cross street Creekwood Dr.:
 - Reinstall Bike Lane sign (R- 81 CA). Replace the NO PED CROSSING USE CROSSWALK sign (R-49 CA).
8. Location #8, STA/132/L15.15/L15.24:
 - Replace 7 crosswalks with ladder patterns. Install R10-15 sign at I St.
9. Location #9, STA/132/L15.16 and cross street J St.:
 - Replace 3 crosswalks with ladder patterns.
10. Location #10, STA/132/L15.34 and cross street H St.:
 - Replace 4 crosswalks with ladder patterns.
11. Location #11, STA/132/L15.44 and cross street G St.:
 - Replace 4 crosswalks with ladder patterns. Pavement repair at the SW corner of the intersection

General:

- Environmental reevaluation will be required if the scope of the project changes to include additional areas or activities, or if previously unknown cultural or other sensitive



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resources are discovered. Contact the Environmental Office if project changes occur or sensitive resources discovered.

- Contact the Environmental Office to attend the pre-construction meeting.

Cultural:

- If cultural materials are discovered at the job site, do not disturb the resources and immediately:

1. Stop all work within a 60-foot radius of discovery
2. Protect the discovery area
3. Notify the Engineer
4. The Department Investigates. Do not move cultural materials or take them from the job site. Retain a qualified archaeologist to assess the significance of the find. Do not resume work within the discovery area until authorized.

- If human remains are discovered, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that further disturbances and activities shall cease in any area or nearby area suspected to overlie remains, and the County coroner contacted. 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). At the same time the landowner will work with the MLD on the respectful treatment and disposition of the remains. Further provisions of PRC 5097.98 are to be followed as applicable.

Hazardous Waste:

- The project would require removal of traffic striping and pavement markings, which may contain hazardous concentrations of lead. The Caltrans Standard Special Provision 14-11.12 shall be included in the construction contract and the Contractor shall manage the removed stripe and pavement marking as a hazardous waste.
- The Caltrans Standard Special Provision 7-1.02K(6)(j)(iii), which pertains to Earth Material Containing Lead, shall be added to the construction contract. A Lead Compliance Plan prepared by a Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) is required and all soil must remain onsite.
- The Caltrans Standard Special Provision pertaining to nonhazardous waste striping, 84-9.03B, shall be added to the construction contract.

No permits required.