

## Notice of Exemption

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

**From:** California Department of Transportation, District 9  
500 South Main Street  
Bishop, CA 93514

Project Title: Mammoth Lakes 395 Wildlife Crossing.

Project Applicant: California Department of Transportation, District 9.

Project Location - Specific: On U.S. Route 395, from post miles R18.03 to R22.74, near the town of Mammoth Lakes in Mono County.

Project Location - City: N/A

Project Location - County: Mono

### Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to construct two wildlife crossing structures and install wildlife exclusionary fencing on U.S. Route 395 near the town of Mammoth Lakes in Mono County. The purpose of this project is to evaluate feasible methods to minimize wildlife vehicle collisions on U.S. Route 395 between post miles R18.03 and R22.74 in Mono County. One wildlife overcrossing structure is proposed at post mile 19.67, approximately 0.15 miles east of the junction with Mount Morrison Road. In addition, a wildlife undercrossing structure is proposed at the Convict Creek crossing at post mile 20.23. Wildlife exclusionary fencing, which would be installed on the northbound and southbound sides of U.S. Route 395 along the entire length of the project limits, would serve to guide mule deer and other wildlife to the two crossing structures and assist in preventing wildlife from entering the highway where they could be struck by vehicles. Additional project features would include aesthetic treatments, slope work, native vegetation establishment, wildlife jump-outs and double cattle guards. Construction of the wildlife crossing structures would require temporary traffic detours, temporary paved roads in the median, new right of way acquisition and temporary construction easements.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Transportation, District 9.

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California Department of Transportation, District 9.

### 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 Exemption. State code number: 21080.56 subdivisions (a) to (d) inclusive

Reasons why project is exempt:

On September 23, 2021, Governor Gavin Newsom signed Senate Bill 155, which added section 21080.56 to California Public Resources Code. This section provides a CEQA statutory exemption for restoration projects that meet certain requirements. Caltrans District 9 has independently determined that the Mammoth Lakes 395 Wildlife Crossing project meets the criteria set forth in Public Resources Code section 21080.56 and is statutorily exempt from CEQA. On March 16, 2026, California Department of Fish and Wildlife Director Meghan Hertel provided official concurrence (concurrence number 21080.56-2026-096-R6) on the CEQA statutory exemption for restoration projects determination made by Caltrans.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Kristopher Bason Phone number: 760-784-4056

Signature: *Kristopher Bason* Date: 04/24/2026 Title: Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisor

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.