Notice of Exemption

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

County Clerk
County of ORANGE

From: Caltrans District 12
1750 E. Fourth St. Suite 100
Santa Ana, CA 92705

Project Title: To replace a changeable message sign (CMS) on Southbound State Route 73 (SR-73) and replace loops and install V-Signature technology at existing census stations on SR-261

Project Applicant: Caltrans

Project Location - Specific: At SR-73 (PM 20.7); SR-261 (PM 5.8) in various cities

Project Location - City: Newport Beach, Irvine, Orange Project Location - County: Orange

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: The project proposes to replace one changeable message sign (CMS) on Southbound State Route 73 (SR-73) and replace loops and install V-Signature technology at existing census stations on SR-261 in the cities of Laguna Beach/Irvine and Tustin/Anaheim Hills in Orange County. All work will occur within Caltrans Right of Way. The project will need state funding only. This is an ITS minor B project. The Disturbed Soil Area (DSA) for the project is anticipated to be less than 1.0 acre.

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: CCR Tit. 14 § 15301(c)
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:
Existing highways and streets, sidewalks, gutters, bicycle and pedestrian trails, and similar facilities (this includes road grading for the purpose of public safety, and other alterations such as the addition of bicycle facilities, including but not limited to bicycle parking, bicycle-share facilities and bicycle lanes, transit improvements such as bus lanes, pedestrian crossings, street trees, and other similar alterations that do not create additional automobile lanes).

Lead Agency Contact Person: Iffat Qamar Phone number: 949-431-1630

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: _____ 8/21/25 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.

Form adapted from Appendix E of the CEQA Guidelines August 2024

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Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.