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

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): AMA Double-Barrel Culvert System Replacement

DIST-CO-RTE: 10-AMA-124 **PM/PM:** 0.32

EA: 10-1E850 **Federal-Aid Project Number:** N/A

Project Description

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes a maintenance project to replace an existing double barrel culvert along State Route (SR) 124 in Amador County at Postmile (PM) 0.32. The scope of work consists of replacing the existing 4' Corrugated Steel Pipe (CSP) double barrel culvert with a 4 ft by 4 ft reinforced concrete box culvert. The project's purpose is replacing the deteriorated culvert system. The project is needed to maintain proper function of the culvert system, prevent failure of the overlying highway, and protect the safety of the traveling public.

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	Elizabeth Hummel	08/06/2025
Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager

Edujie I. Imoisili	Edujie Imonitie Imoisili	8/6/2025
Print Name	Signature	Date

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: 08/06/2025

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).

Continuation sheet:

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 resources are discovered. Contact Environmental Office if project changes occur or sensitive resources discovered. Please ensure the Environmental Office is invited to the pre-construction meeting and notified of the start of any construction activities.

Cultural:

- If cultural resources are discovered at the job site, do not disturb the resources and immediately:
    - 1.Stop all work within a 60-foot radius of the 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 archeologist 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 should be 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) which will then notify the Most Likely Descendent (MLD). At that 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.

Bio:

- Include Caltrans Standard Special Provision 14-6.03A in the construction contract. If work occurs during the migratory bird nesting season (February 1 – September 30), preconstruction surveys must be conducted by a qualified Caltrans biologist within 14 days prior to the start of any construction activities. If active nests are observed, buffers will need to be established around each nest until the young have fledged, per California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) guidelines. A 100-foot buffer will be established around active nests. For hawks, a 300-foot buffer will be established. For Swainson's hawks, a 600-foot buffer will be established. If construction activities do not commence within 14 days of the cleared survey, or if construction activities stop for more than 14 days, a subsequent bird survey may be required before construction commences or recommences. No construction activities shall commence without clearance from the Caltrans District 10 Environmental Office.
- Include Caltrans Standard Special Provision 14-6.03A in the construction contract. A pre-construction botanical survey will be conducted by a qualified Caltrans biologist within 14 days prior to the start of any construction-related

activities. If Ione Manzanita (IM) is observed within the project limits, the plant will be demarcated with flagging and an Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) will be established with a 5-foot buffer. If IM is observed within the project limits, a Worker Environmental Awareness Training (WEAT) will be delivered by a qualified Caltrans biologist to all personnel who will be onsite during construction, prior to the first day of construction-related activities. No work will be allowed within the protective buffer limits. If special status plants are identified within the project limits they will be identified by ESA flagging.

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 on-site.

Permits:

- Regional Water Quality Control Board Waste Discharge Requirements
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife 1602 permit