



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

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): Loyalton Culvert Rehabilitation North

DIST-CO-RTE: 03-SIE-049

PM/PM: 61.85/64.05

EA: 03-3G790

EFIS: 0325000126

Project Description

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to rehabilitate culverts from PM 61.85 to PM 64.05 on State Route (SR) 49 in Sierra County. The proposed work consists of removing existing culverts and replacing the culverts with the same or larger diameters, installing flared end sections (FES), removing and replacing rock slope protection, and excavating the roadside ditches. (Continued on page 3)

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

Veronica Wilson

Veronica Wilson

10/16/2025

Print Name

Signature

Date

Project Manager

Girmay Beyene

Girmay Beyene
Girmay Beyene (Oct 16, 2025 07:39:36 PDT)

10/16/2025

Print Name

Signature

Date



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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)(26)**

☐ **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

N/A

Print Name

Signature

Date

0Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

N/A

Print Name

Signature

Date

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

Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 10/13/25

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:

There are 9 culverts location as follows:

Location (System No.)	System Post Mile	Culvert Length (ft)	Culvert Material	Culvert Diameter (ft)	Proposed Work
Location 1 (Sys No.1)	62.16	37.6	RCP	1.5	Replace Culvert with 24" RCP, Place new FES at inlet and outlet, replace culvert markers as needed.
Location 2 (Sys No.2)	62.49	48.5	CSP	2	Replace Culvert with 24" RCP, Place new FES at inlet and outlet, replace RSP at inlet, replace culvert markers as needed, excavate Ditch at outlet.
Location 3 (Sys No.3)	63.06	34.5	CSP	1	Replace Culvert with 18" RCP, Place new FES at inlet and outlet, replace culvert markers as needed.
Location 4 (Sys No.4)	63.08	48.9/34.1	CSP	1.5	Replace both Culverts with one 18" x 86.7' RCP, Place new FES at inlet and outlet, replace culvert markers as needed, excavate Ditch at outlet.
Location 5 (Sys No.5)	63.61	7.1	CSP	2	Replace Culvert with 24" RCP, Excavate Ditch at both inlet and outlet, replace culvert markers as needed.
Location 6 (Sys No.6)	63.64	34.4	CSP	1	Replace Culvert with 18" RCP, Place new FES at inlet and outlet, replace culvert markers as needed, excavate Ditch at both inlet and outlet.
Location 7 (Sys No.7)	63.66	28.6	CSP	1	Replace Culvert with 18" RCP, Place new FES at inlet and outlet, replace culvert markers as needed, excavate Ditch at both inlet and outlet.
Location (Sys No.8)	63.70	30.4	CSP	1	Replace Culvert with 18" RCP, Place new FES at inlet and outlet, replace culvert markers as needed, excavate Ditch at both inlet and outlet.
Location 9 (Sys No.9)	64.00	64.4	CSP	1	Replace Culvert with 24" RCP, Place new FES at inlet and outlet, replace RSP at inlet, replace culvert markers as needed, excavate Ditch at both inlet outlet.

Table 1: Locations of Culvert replacement

Purpose and Need

Currently the drainage systems are below standard and in need of repair. The purpose of this project is to rehabilitate failed culverts to ensure proper highway drainage. The proposed project would remediate these culverts, bring them up to roadway design standards, and allow them to function properly during storm events.

Environmental Commitments

Permit Requirements

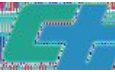
California Department of Fish and Wildlife 1600, Regional Water Quality Control Board 401 and US Army Corps of Engineers 404 (Non- Reporting) Nationwide Permit (NWP) .



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Right-of-Way

All work would occur within Caltrans Right-of-Way



Environmental Commitments Record (ECR)

DIST-CO-RTE: 03 - SIE - 049 PM/PM: 61.850/64.050 EA/Project ID: 03-3G790_ / 0325000126

Project Description: Rehabilitate failed culverts

Date (Last modification): 10/13/2025

Environmental Planner: Obaida Akther

Phone: 530-812-3325

Construction Liaison:

Phone:

Resident Engineer:

Phone:

PERMITS

Permit	Agency	Application Submitted	Permit Received	Permit Expiration	Permit Requirements Completed by	Permit Requirements Completed on	Comments
1600	California Department of Fish & Wildlife						
401	Regional Water Quality Control Board						
404 Non-Reporting	US Army Corps of Engineers						

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS

PA&ED

Category	Task and Brief Description	Source	Included in PS&E Package	Responsible Branch/Staff	Action to Comply	Due Date	Task Completed by	Task Completed on	Remarks	Mitigation for significant impacts under CEQA
Biology	Technical Study	Env Doc	n/a	Biologist	Write it	10/1/25	Rochelle Frymire	10/8/25	In UFS and supercontainer	No

Environmental Commitments Record for Loyalton Culvert Rehabilitation										
Category	Task and Brief Description	Source	Included in PS&E Package	Responsible Branch/Staff	Action to Comply	Due Date	Task Completed by	Task Completed on	Remarks	Mitigation for significant impacts under CEQA
PRE-CONSTRUCTION										
Category	Task and Brief Description	Source	Included in PS&E Package	Responsible Branch/Staff	Action to Comply	Due Date	Task Completed by	Task Completed on	Remarks	Mitigation for significant impacts under CEQA
Biology	Comply with AMM BIO-1 Install fencing and/or flagging to protect sensitive biological resources	Env Doc	n/a	RE/ECL	Prior to construction, Caltrans's contractor would install high-visibility orange construction fencing and/or flagging, as appropriate, along the perimeter of the work area adjacent to ESAs (e.g., wetlands, other waters, special-status species habitat, and active bird nests). The fencing would be maintained throughout the duration of the construction period. If the fencing is removed, damaged, or otherwise compromised during construction, the fencing would be repaired or replaced. SSP 14-1.02 for ESA fencing would be incorporated into the project specifications in the contract					
CONSTRUCTION										
Category	Task and Brief Description	Source	Included in PS&E Package	Responsible Branch/Staff	Action to Comply	Due Date	Task Completed by	Task Completed on	Remarks	Mitigation for significant impacts under CEQA
Air Quality	Comply with Standard Specifications 14-9 Air Quality	Env Doc	Std. Spec	RE						
Biology	Comply ith 404 Permit SPK# xxxx	404 Permit	n/a	RE						
Biology	Comply with 401 Permit WDID# xxxxx	401 Permit	n/a	RE						
Biology	Comply with AMM BIO-2 Conduct construction activities during the non-raining season	Env Doc	n/a	RE/ECL	To avoid any impacts to water quality during construction all work					

Environmental Commitments Record for Loyalton Culvert Rehabilitation										
Category	Task and Brief Description	Source	Included in PS&E Package	Responsible Branch/Staff	Action to Comply	Due Date	Task Completed by	Task Completed on	Remarks	Mitigation for significant impacts under CEQA
					shall be conducted between May-October, subject to site conditions. May-October is typically considered the non-rainy season in California and little to no-flow would be expected in this culvert during this time					
Biology	Comply with LSA# xxxx	1600 Agreement	n/a	RE						
Cultural Resources	Comply with Standard Specifications 14-2. Archaeological Resources General	Std. Spec	Std. Spec	RE/ECL						
Hazardous Waste		ISA		RE	Recommends to use of a pre-liner instead of patching the deteriorated culvert if groundwater is known to be present in the vicinity of a culvert or perched/spring water permeates to the inside of the culvert					
Noise	Comply with Standard Specification 14-8-02 Noise Contro	Env Doc	Std. Spec	RE						
Paleontology	Comply with 14-7.03 for Discovery of Unanticipated Paleontological Resources	Env Doc		RE						

Environmental Document CE for EA 03-3G790

Final Audit Report

2025-10-16

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By:	Obaida Akther (s159621@dot.ca.gov)
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