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

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): Benbow CAPM

DIST-CO-RTE: 01-HUM-101 **PM/PM:** 0.0-1.1 and 2.2-10.27

EA: 01-0L310

Project Description

The project proposes improvements to approximately six miles of U.S. 101 In Humboldt County between post miles (PM) T0.0 and 1.1, and PM 2.2 and R10.27. The purpose of the project is to install new pavement, guardrail and bridge approach upgrades along with dike and overside drain improvements, and replace a census station at PM T0.019. The project is needed to preserve and extend the service life of the roadway. Deficiencies within the project limits include pavement in "fair" condition, one TMS asset in "poor" condition, and nonstandard items including Metal Beam Guard Rail (MBGR) and signs. All work will be within Caltrans ROW.

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

Dominic Vitali		10/30/2025
Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager

Marie Brady	Marie Brady	31OCT25
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)(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

Dominic Vitali		10/30/2025
Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Marie Brady	Marie Brady	31OCT2025
Print Name	Signature	Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): 10/30/2025
Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 10/30/2025

Continuation sheet:

Biological, cultural, visual, and hazardous waste and materials reviews have been completed by qualified specialists, and no impacts to sensitive natural resources are anticipated.

Environmental Permits
No permits are required to complete this work.

The following measures have been included as part of the project:

- A qualified biologist will conduct an onsite nesting survey, at the locations/activities listed below, no more than 5 days prior to construction activity commencing and/or vegetation removal occurring within the nesting bird season (Feb 1 – Sept 15).
    - Guardrail installation between PM's 5.92-6.0, 6.94
    - Potential staging and guardrail installation near PMs 7.51-7.74, 10.04-10.3

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Final Audit Report 2025-10-31

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