Notice of Exemption

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

From: CalTrans
11976 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
Stockton, CA 95205

Project Title: Merced 165 Pavement Anchor Project

Project Applicant: California Department of Transportation (CalTrans)

Project Location - Specific: MER-165-PM 17.07

Project Location - City: Los Banos Project Location - County: Merced

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:
The Office of Geotechnical Design- North (OGDN) proposed to conduct a subsurface investigation to characterize soil and rock conditions and support the foundation design for the proposed Main Canal Bridge replacement. The investigation will include drilling and sampling two geotechnical borings on the eat levee near existing Abutments 1 and 5. Each boring will have a diameter of either 4 or 7 inches and will be advanced to a maximum depth of approximately 100 feet to obtain soil and groundwater data needed for subsurface characterization and bridge foundation design. The purpose of the field work is to characterize the subsurface conditions is to provide analyses and design recommendations for the proposed bridge replacement.

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: Class 6 (PRC 21084; 14 CCR 15300 et seq.)
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:
The project is Categorically Exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act alteration of an existing facility. The project is not anticipated to affect any environmentally sensitive resources.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Laura Cook Phone number: (209) 662-2261

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: Laura M. Cook Date: 12/11/2025 Title: SES (Supervisory)

☒ 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.