Notice of Exemption

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

From: Caltrans
1976 E Dr. Martin Luther King Jr Blvd
Stockton, CA 95205

Project Title: Merced 165 Pavement Anchor Project

Project Applicant: Caltrans

Project Location - Specific: SR-165-PM-7.0/12.1

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

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:
The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposed to construct Complete Street elements to improve multi-modal corridor access, aesthetics, and mobility along state route (SR) 165 and in the City of Los Banos by constructing new sidewalks, ADA curb ramps, crosswalks, and Class II buffered bike lanes; and creating access improvements to turn-outs and barriers. Additional right-of-way may be required.

The project is needed to address the deficient pavement on SR 165 and promote mobility through the City of Los Banos for motorist, pedestrians, and bicyclists.

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 1(c) (PRC 21084; 14 CCR 15300)
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:
The project is Categorically Exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act under Class 1(c) PRC 21084; 14 CCR 15300, as the scope of work is a minor improvement to 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: 11/4/2026 Title: Senior Environmental Scientist (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.