

Notice of Exemption

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

From: Caltrans District 8, Environmental Planning
464 West 4th Street, MS 823
San Bernardino, California 92401

Project Title: Protected Left-Turn Signal at SR-18 and Knickerbocker Rd.

Project Applicant: California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), District 8

Project Location - Specific: State Route 18 (SR-18) / Postmile (PM) 49.203

Project Location - City: Big Bear Project Location - County: San Bernardino

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

Caltrans proposes to modify the existing traffic signals at the intersection of State Route 18 (SR-18) and Knickerbocker Road in the City of Big Bear, in San Bernardino County at Postmile (PM) 49.2. The project would provide a dedicated and protected left turn phase along the eastbound and westbound directions of SR-18 by replacing existing signal poles and foundations. Most of the existing conduits and pull boxes would be utilized to reduce the amount of trenching. All new poles would be placed at the same locations. "No U-turn" signs would be installed on the signal mast arms. A Transportation Management Plan (TMP) would be developed to minimize traffic impacts during construction. All work would be done within the State right of way.

The purpose of this project is to reduce collision risks and improve overall traffic flow at this intersection, allowing smoother traffic flow during high traffic volume.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Caltrans, District 8

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Caltrans, District 8

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) Section 15301
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public structures, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. The work would occur on an existing highway.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Malisa Lieng

Phone number: (909)261-3955

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: Malisa Lieng Date: 12/23/2025 Title: Senior Env. Scientist

☒ 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.