Notice of Exemption

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

From California Department of Transportation
1976 East Doctor Martin King Junior Boulevard
Stockton, California 95205

Project Title: Merced County State Route (SR) 165 Intersection Control Improvement
Project Applicant: California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)

Project Location - Specific: Intersection located at State Route 165 and Willmott Road in the City of Los Banos, in Merced County at post mile 9.632

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

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:
The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to improve traffic safety and intersection control at the intersection State Route 165 and Willmott Road in the City of Los Banos, in Merced County at post mile 9.632. The District Traffic Safety Branch has determined a pattern of broadside collisions has been identified at the intersection due to motorists' failure to yield. The purpose is to reduce the number and severity of broadside collisions. The need is to address a pattern of motorist's failing to yield at the intersection.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Transportation
Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California Department of Transportation

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 2(c); 14 CCR 15302
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:
The project will reconstruct an intersection into a roundabout. The structure proposed, the roundabout, will be of similar capacity and purpose as the previous structure, an unprotected intersection. The proposed project would have "no effect" on any protected species listed by the state or federally. There are no historic properties within the project

vicinity and no potential to impact historical resources. In addition, there are no hazardous material impacts

Lead Agency Contact Person: Jonathan Coley Phone number: (209)479-4083

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: _____ Date: 12/31/25 Title: Branch Chief

☒ 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.