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

Project Information

Project Name: Clean Sediment from 4 Culverts on I-15 Near Fallbrook

DIST-CO-RTE: 11-SD-15 **PM/PM:** 47.84,47.73,47.69,47.64

EA/PID: 11-15CUL/PID 1125000133 **Federal-Aid Project Number:** N/A

Project Description

A culvert opening project at multiple culvert locations on I-15 in San Diego County. Project work at postmile 47.84 (system number 4784) consists of exposing the east side culvert opening with a backhoe and loader, and the removal of sediment with a mini dozer. The ingress/egress would be at the north side of the culvert and access to the west side of the inlet will be from the roadway. Project work at postmiles 47.73, 47.69 and 47.64 (system numbers- 4773,4769,4764) would be completed at the east side outlet using a mini excavator to expose the culvert openings. Sediment removal within the culverts would be completed using a vactor truck. The access to the inlets on the west side would be from the roadway. All work is within operational right-of-way. All environmental commitments have been included in the Environmental Commitments Record (ECR).

Caltrans CEQA Determination

☐ **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**. (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

Mitchell Doucette	Mitchell Doucette	1/12/26
Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager

Van H. Nguyen	V Nguyen	1/8/26
Print Name	Signature	Date

Caltrans NEPA Determination

☐ **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)(22)**
- ☐ **23 CFR 771.117(d): activity (d)()**
- ☐ **Activity 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

Mitchell Doucette	Mitchell Doucette	1/12/26
Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Van H. Nguyen		1/8/26
Print Name	Signature	Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): 1/8/2026
Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 1/8/2026

Briefly list environmental commitments on continuation sheet if needed (i.e., not necessary if included on an attached ECR). Reference additional information, as appropriate (e.g., additional studies and design conditions).