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

## Project Information

**Project Name (if applicable):** Replacement of Thirteen (13) Damaged Lighting Assets on Various Routes in San Diego County.

| DIST-CO-RTE: | PM/PM: |
|---|---|
| 11–SD– I-5 | 38.5, 43.0, and 60.095. |
| 11–SD– I-8 | 6.26. |
| 11–SD– I-15 | 8.1, 36.9, 36.9, 43.1. |
| 11–SD– SR-52 | 7.8 |
| 11–SD– SR-78 | 0.604, 7.13, 11.508. |
| 11–SD– SR-163 | 8.9 |

**EA:** 11-3A959/ 1125000180 **Federal-Aid Project Number:** _____

## Project Description

Caltrans is proposing the in-kind replacement of multiple damaged light poles as a result of vehicle collisions north of Interstate 8. The assets are located at various Postmiles (PM) along State Routes (SR) 5, 8, 15, 163, and 78, all within San Diego County, California. Work would include: 1). removal and disposal of existing damaged poles, 2). installation of new light poles matching existing type, height, and location, 3). reconnection of electrical service, **and** 4). minor excavation and concrete work for pole foundations, as needed, traffic control during construction. No new lighting locations will be added; all replacements are in-kind and within existing disturbed Caltrans right-of-way. Environmental conditions are listed in the project's Environmental Commitments Record (ECR).

**Need** – The damaged light poles currently pose a safety hazard and no longer provide necessary illumination for nighttime visibility. Prompt replacement is required to: 1). restore safe operating conditions for motorists and pedestrians **and** 2). prevent further liability or damage from exposed bases or non-functioning infrastructure.

## Caltrans CEQA Determination (Check one)

☐ **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 1 (c).** (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**

| Koji Tsunoda | Koji Tsunoda | 10/20/2025 |
|---|---|---|
| Print Name | Signature | Date |

**Project Manager**

| Xiaoqing Jaber | Xiaoqing Jaber | 10/20/2025 |
|---|---|---|
| Print Name | Signature | Date |

**Caltrans NEPA Determination** (Check one)

☒ **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) (____)**
- ☐ **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**

| Not Applicable | | |
|---|---|---|
| Print Name | Signature | Date |

**Project Manager/ DLA Engineer**

| Not Applicable | | |
|---|---|---|
| Print Name | Signature | Date |

**Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable):** Not Applicable
**Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent:** 10/10/2025

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 condition