

Notice of Exemption

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

From: California Dept of Transportation
500 South Main St
Bishop, CA 93514

Project Title: Topaz Cape Seal

Project Applicant: California Dept of Transportation

Project Location - Specific: US 395 Post Miles 108.0/120.49

Project Location - City: Town of Walker Location - County: Mono

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The proposed scope of work includes chip sealing and slurry sealing of the existing paved roadway throughout the project limits. Specifically, the existing pavement surface will first receive a chip seal consisting of a graded aggregate applied with a rubber-modified asphalt binder. Immediately following aggregate application, the surface will be compacted using steel drum rollers and rubber-tired rollers to achieve proper aggregate embedment and ensure optimal adhesion.

All work activities are confined to the existing paved roadway and will occur from edge of pavement (EP) to edge of pavement (EP) becoming the PIA. No construction activities are proposed beyond the pavement limits; therefore, no ground disturbance outside the roadway prism is anticipated. Project specifications will likely require the use of vacuum sweepers to collect loose aggregate and debris, ensuring compliance with waste management and water quality protection measures by preventing material from leaving the roadway.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Dept of Transportation

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California Dept 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: 15301 – Class 1
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed project is exempt under CEQA Guidelines Section 15301 (Existing Facilities) because it consists solely of routine maintenance of an existing paved roadway. The work includes chip sealing and slurry sealing within the existing roadway prism, from edge of pavement to edge of pavement, with no expansion of the roadway. All activities will occur on previously disturbed pavement surfaces, and no ground disturbance or work outside the roadway. The project will not result in a significant environmental effect.

This Project is exempt because it involves:

- *To avoid take of migratory birds*: If vegetation removal is necessary during the bird nesting season (May 1 to July 30), biologists will conduct preconstruction nesting bird surveys no more than 72 hours prior to the start of construction activities. Biologists will conduct subsequent surveys if work does not occur within 72 hours. If an active nest is discovered, biologists may establish an appropriately sized ESA buffer based on species, nest location, sensitivity to disturbance, and/or the intensity or type of construction activities. Work may not occur within buffer areas until authorized by the Project Biologist.
- *Cultural Environmental Sensitive Areas (ESA)*: ESAs have been identified and shall be protected in accordance with Standard Specifications, Section 14-1.02, Cultural ESAs.

The project will not result in significant environmental effects, is not located in a particularly sensitive environment, and does not involve cumulative impacts or unusual circumstances.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Stephen Pfeiler Phone number: 760-874-8329

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: 1/29/2026 Title: Senior Environmental 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.