



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

<u>Project Information</u>	
Project Name (if applicable): SR 17 Pavement Maintenance Treatment	
DIST-CO-RTE: 1, 17, 152	PM/PM: 16.93-17.02,0.15-0.55,5.25-5.34,5.56-5.72
EA: 05-1R450	Federal-Aid Project Number: 0523000295
<u>Project Description</u>	
The proposed project is located at various locations on SR-017, SR-001, and SR-152 in Santa Cruz County. This project looks to improve the degraded roadway traction during wet weather conditions at these specific locations. The improvements include installing non-rubberized Open Graded Friction Course (OGFC) on Northbound (NB) SR-017 and installing High Friction Surface Treatment (HFSR) on NB SR-001 and both directions on SR-152 at the postmiles noted. All work is with state Right of Way.	
Location 1 NB State Route 017 PM 0.15 – 0.55 (Northbound only)	
Location 2 NB State Route 001 PM 16.93 - 17.02 (Northbound ramp connector between SR1/17)	
Location 3 State Route 152 PM 5.25 - 5.34 (Both Directions)	
Location 4 State Route 152 PM 5.56 - 5.72 (Both Directions)	

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. (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

Lucas Marsalek		12/11/24
Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager

Chad Stoehr		12/11/24
Print Name	Signature	Date



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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)(22)
23 CFR 771.117(d): activity (d)(Enter activity number)
Activity Enter activity number 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

Lucas Marsalek Signature Date 12/11/24

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Chad Stoehr Signature Date 12/11/24

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): 12/11/24
Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 12/11/24



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Continuation sheet:

Noise

Include the following general measures in the RE binder and implement as appropriate to further minimize temporary construction-noise impacts.

- Notify the public in advance of the construction schedule when construction noise and upcoming construction activities likely to produce an adverse noise environment are expected. This notice shall be given two weeks in advance. Notice should be published in local news media of the dates and duration of proposed construction activity. The District 5 Public Information Office posts notice of the proposed construction and potential community impacts after receiving notice from the Resident Engineer.
- Shield loud pieces of stationary construction equipment if complaints are received;
- Locate portable generators, air compressors, etc. away from sensitive noise receptors as feasible;
- Limit grouping major pieces of equipment operating in one area to the greatest extent feasible;
- Use newer equipment that is quieter and ensure that all equipment items have the manufacturers' recommended noise abatement measures, such as mufflers, engine covers, and engine vibration isolators intact and operational. Internal combustion engines used for any purpose on or related to the job shall be equipped with a muffler or baffle of a type recommended by the manufacturer; and,
- Consult District noise staff if complaints are received during the construction process.
- If nighttime work occurs, then a Noise Control Plan (NCP) will be implemented to ensure construction activities do not exceed standard during construction.

Green House Gas

- Where feasible, schedule truck trips outside of peak morning and evening commute hours. Traffic operations shall specify this in the lane closure charts.
- Where feasible, use alternative fuels such as renewable diesel for construction equipment. If use of alternative fuels is not possible, substitute gasoline-powered equipment for diesel-powered equipment. Comply with *Section 3-517-Equipment*, of the Construction Manual.
- Where feasible, use solar-powered construction equipment.
- Supplement existing construction environmental training with information on methods to reduce GHG emissions related to construction. This information will be shared using a handout. The information in the handout should include, but is not limited to:



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- For improved fuel efficiency from construction equipment, maintain equipment in proper tune and working condition, use right sized equipment for the job, and use equipment with new technologies.
- Limit idling to five minutes for delivery and dump trucks and other diesel-powered equipment.
- Reduce construction waste. For example, reuse or recycle construction and demolition waste. Maximize use of recycled materials in the project construction to the extent feasible. See standard spec *Section 14-10-Solid Waste Disposal and Recycling*.
- Use on-road heavy-duty trucks that meet the CARB's 2007 or cleaner certification standard for on-road heavy-duty diesel engines, and comply with the State On-Road Regulation. See standard spec *Section 7-1.02C-Emissions Reduction* and comply with Construction Manual *Section 7-1.04A (1)- Air Quality*.

Biology

If vegetation removal is required and conducted during nesting bird season (February 1 -September 30), before any vegetation is removed, a qualified biologist will conduct a focused nest survey for active migratory bird nests. If an active bird nest is found, an appropriate buffer based on the habits and needs of the species will be established. The nest area would be avoided until the nest is vacated and the juvenile have fledged and are no longer dependent on the nesting area.

Staging areas, equipment, and material storage will be located in paved areas, gravel shoulders, existing pullouts, or cleared level areas. Before construction takes place, all staging areas that are not located in existing pullouts or on previously disturbed ground surfaces must be evaluated by Caltrans Environmental for any potential environmental impacts.



Categorical Exclusion Checklist

PROJECT INFORMATION

DIST-CO-RTE: 5-SC-1,17,152

PM/PM: 16.93-17.02,0.15-0.55,5.25-5.34,5.56-5.72

Fed. Aid Number (Local Project): 0523000295

EA/Project Number: 05-1R450

SECTION A: Type of CE

Use the information in this section to determine the applicable CE and corresponding activity for this project.

1. Project is a CE under CE Assignment 23 USC 326 (activity must be listed in 23 CFR 771.117 (c) or (d) list (See [Chapter 30 in the SER](#)) or included in activities listed in [Appendix A of the CE Assignment MOU](#) to be eligible for 23 USC 326).

Yes, **Activity:** 22 No

Notes for specific activities:

- **If using (c)9**, distinguish between (c)9(i) or (c)9(ii) on the form and include copy of the emergency declaration in the file.
- **If using (c)22**, identify in the project description that all work is within operational right-of-way.
- **If using (c)23**, distinguish between (c)23(i) and (c)23(ii) on the form.
- **If using (c)26, (c)(27), or (c)(28)**, ensure that the action DOES NOT include any of the constraints found in 23 CFR 771.117(e). If it does, it may not be processed under (c)(26), (c)(27), or (c)(28), however, the project may qualify for a CE under 23 CFR 771.117(d)(13).

2. Project is a CE for a highway project under NEPA Assignment 23 USC 327 (Use only if project does not qualify under CE Assignment 23 USC 326 (activities not included in question 1)).

Yes No

3. Independent Utility and Logical Termini

- The project complies with NEPA requirements related to connected actions and segmentation (i.e., the project must have independent utility, connect logical termini when applicable, be usable and be a reasonable expenditure even if no additional transportation improvements in the area are made and not restrict further consideration of alternatives for other reasonably foreseeable transportation improvements). (FHWA Final Rule, "Background," Federal Register Vol. 79, No. 8, January 13, 2014.)

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

4. Categorical Exclusions Defined (23 CFR 771.117[a]).

FHWA regulation 23 CFR 771.117(a) defines categorical exclusions as actions which:

- do not induce significant impacts to planned growth or land use for the area;
- do not require the relocation of significant numbers of people;
- do not have a significant impact on any natural, cultural, recreational, historic or other resources;
- do not involve significant air, noise, or water quality impacts;
- do not have significant impacts on travel patterns; or
- do not otherwise, either individually or cumulatively, have any significant environmental impacts.

Checking this box certifies that project meets the above definition for a Categorical Exclusion.

5. Exceptions to Categorical Exclusions/Unusual Circumstances (23 CFR 771.117[b]).

FHWA regulation 23 CFR 771.117(b) provides that any action which normally would be classified as a CE but could involve *unusual circumstances* requires the Department to conduct appropriate environmental studies to determine if the CE classification is proper. Unusual circumstances include actions that involve:

- Significant environmental impacts;
- Substantial controversy on environmental grounds;
- Significant impact on properties protected by section 4(f) of the DOT Act or section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act; or
- Inconsistencies with any Federal, State, or local law, requirement or administrative determination relating to the environmental aspects of the action.

All of the above unusual circumstances have been considered in conjunction with this project. (Choose one)

Checking this box certifies that **none of the above conditions apply** and that the project qualifies for a Categorical Exclusion.

Checking this box certifies that unusual circumstances **are involved**. However, the appropriate studies/analysis have been completed, and it has been determined that the CE classification is still appropriate.

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

SECTION B: Compliance with FHWA NEPA policy to complete all other applicable environmental requirements¹ prior to making the NEPA determination:

During the environmental review process for which this CE was prepared, all applicable environmental requirements were evaluated. Outcomes for the following requirements are identified below and fully documented in the project file. **[NOTE: EVERY SECTION BELOW MUST BE COMPLETED, DO NOT SKIP ANY SECTIONS.]**

FSTIP

- The project description on the Categorical Exemption/Categorical Exclusion Form matches the project description in the FSTIP and RTP, and the appropriate page of the FSTIP is in the project file.

Air Quality

- [Air Quality Conformity Findings Checklist](#) has been completed and project meets all applicable AQ requirements.
- For 23 USC 326 projects which require an air quality conformity determination (this will apply to certain projects under 23 CFR 771.117(c)(22), (c)(23), (c)(26), (c)(27), and (c)(28)), list the date of the Caltrans conformity determination:
- For 23 USC 327 projects, list date of FHWA concurrence on conformity determination:

Cultural Resources

- Section 106 compliance is complete.
- A Screened Undertaking Memo was prepared, or
- A Historic Properties Survey Report was prepared, and the following finding was made:
- No Historic Properties Affected No Adverse Effect with Standard Conditions
- No Adverse Effect Adverse Effect/MOA Phasing/Project PA

Noise

23 CFR 772

- Is this a Type 1 project? Yes No (skip this section.)
- Future noise levels with project either approach or exceed NAC or result in a substantial increase.
- If yes: Abatement is reasonable and feasible
- Abatement is not reasonable or feasible

¹ Please consult the SER for a complete list of applicable laws, statutes, regulations, and executive orders that must be considered before completing the CE.

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Biology

USFWS

Species List²:

- Not required
 Required, Date: November 2024

Effect Determination:

- No Effect Section 7 (Federal Endangered Species Act)

Consultation with USFWS Findings (Effect determination):

- Not Likely to Adversely Affect with USFWS Concurrence. Date: _____³
 Likely to Adversely Affect with Biological Opinion Date: _____³

NOAA Fisheries

Species List²:

- Not required
 Required, Date: _____

Effect Determination:

- No Effect Section 7 (Federal Endangered Species Act)

Consultation with NOAA Fisheries Findings (Effect determination):

- Not Likely to Adversely Affect with NOAA Fisheries Concurrence. Date: _____³
 Likely to Adversely Affect with Biological Opinion Date: _____³

Essential Fish Habitat (Magnuson-Stevens Act) Findings (Effect determination):

- Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act does not apply
 No Adverse Effect Adverse Effect and consultation with NOAA Fisheries

Floodplains

Floodplains (Executive Order #11988)

- No Floodplains No Significant Encroachment Significant Encroachment

² See the "Changes to Species List Requirements" memo (April 9, 2021) for decision tree and information on determining if a list is required and date requirements.

³ If concurrence or BO is expected after PA&ED, enter "Pending" into this field.

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Waters, Wetlands

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act

Impacts to Waters of the U.S.: No Yes; anticipated approval:

- Nationwide Permit Individual Permit Regional General Permit
 Letter of Permission

Section 401 of the Clean Water Act

- Exemption Certification Not Applicable

Wetland Protection (Executive Order #11990)

- No Wetland Impact
 Permanent Wetland Impact; Only Practicable Alternative Finding is included in a separate document in the project file

Section 4(f) Transportation Act (23 CFR 774)

Section 4(f) regulation was considered as a part of the review for this project and a determination was made:

- Section 4(f) does not apply
- There are no potential Section 4(f) properties in the project vicinity.
 - The properties do not meet the definition of a Section 4(f) property, the project does not “use” a Section 4(f) property, or the project meets the criteria for an exception (e.g., temporary occupancy). Document in project file or CE.
- Section 4(f) applies
- De Minimis
 - Programmatic: Type: List one of the five categories as defined in 23 CFR 774.3
 - Individual:
 - Legal Sufficiency Review complete
 - HQ Coordinator Review Complete

Section 6(f) – Properties Acquired with Land and Water Conservation Fund grants

Was the above property purchased with grant funds from the Land and Water Conservation Fund?

- No, Section 6(f) does not apply. No additional documentation required.
 Yes: Documentation of approval from National Park Service Director (through California State Parks) has been received for the conversion/and replacement of 6(f) property.

Coastal Zone

Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972

- Not in Coastal Zone Qualifies for Exemptions Qualifies for Waiver
 Coastal Permit Required
 Consistent with Federal, State, and Local Coastal Plans Federal Consistency

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Coast Guard – Bridge Over Navigable Waters of the U.S.

- Not applicable
- 23 USC 144(c) USCG Bridge Permit Exception
- 33 CFR 115.70 Advance Approval
- USCG Bridge Permit

Relocation and Right of Way

Relocations

- No Relocations
- Project involves Enter number relocations and will follow the provisions of the Uniform Relocation Act.

Right of Way Acquisitions/Easements

- No right of way acquisitions or easements
- Project involves Enter number acquisitions and Enter number easements.

Hazardous Waste and Materials

Are hazardous materials or contamination exceeding regulatory thresholds (as set by U.S. EPA, Cal EPA, County Environmental Health, etc.) present? Yes No

If yes, is the nature and extent of the hazardous materials or contamination fully known?

- Yes No

If no, briefly discuss the plan for securing information:

SECTION C: Certification

Based on the information obtained during environmental review process and included in this checklist, the project is determined to be a Categorical Exclusion pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and is in compliance with all other applicable environmental laws, regulations, and Executive Orders.

Prepared by:

Laura Riccardelli

Environmental Coordinator

Laura Riccardelli

Signature

12/11/24

Date



Environmental Commitments Record (ECR)

DIST-CO-RTE: 05 - SCR - 017 **PM/PM:** 0.150/0.550 **EA/Project ID:** 05-1R450_ / 0523000295

Project Description: Install Non-Ruberized Open Grade Friction Coarse

Date (Last modification): 12/11/2024

Environmental Planner: Laura Riccardelli

Phone: 805-319-0163

Construction Liaison:

Phone:

Resident Engineer:

Phone:

PERMITS

Permit	Agency	Application Submitted	Permit Received	Permit Expiration	Permit Requirements Completed by	Permit Requirements Completed on	Comments
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ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS

PRE-CONSTRUCTION

Category	Task and Brief Description	Source	Included in PS&E Package	Responsible Branch/Staff	Action to Comply	Due Date	Task Completed by	Task Completed on	Remarks	Mitigation for significant impacts under CEQA
Noise	Notify the public in advance of the construction schedule when construction noise and upcoming construction activities likely to produce an adverse noise environment are expected. This notice shall be given two weeks in advance. Notice should be published in local news media of the dates and duration of proposed construction activity. The District 5 Public Information Office posts notice of the proposed construction and potential community impacts after receiving notice from the Resident Engineer.	Env Doc	SSP	RE/ECL	notify public of construction noise					

CONSTRUCTION

Category	Task and Brief Description	Source	Included in PS&E Package	Responsible Branch/Staff	Action to Comply	Due Date	Task Completed by	Task Completed on	Remarks	Mitigation for significant impacts under CEQA
Biology	If vegetation removal is required and conducted during nesting bird season (February 1 -September 30), before any vegetation is removed, a qualified biologist will conduct a focused nest survey for active migratory bird nests. If an active bird nest is found, an appropriate buffer based on the habits and needs of the species will be established. The nest area would be avoided until the nest is vacated and the juvenile have fledged and are no longer dependent on the nesting area.	Env Doc	SSP	RE/ECL/Bio	Do nesting bird surveys for veg removal					
Biology	Staging areas, equipment, and material storage will be located in paved areas, gravel shoulders, existing pullouts, or cleared level areas. Before construction takes place, all staging areas that are not located in existing pullouts or on	Env Doc	SSP	RE/ECL/Bio	keep staging on certain areas-see Spec					

Environmental Commitments Record for SR17 Pavement Maintenance

Category	Task and Brief Description	Source	Included in PS&E Package	Responsible Branch/Staff	Action to Comply	Due Date	Task Completed by	Task Completed on	Remarks	Mitigation for significant impacts under CEQA
	previously disturbed ground surfaces must be evaluated by Caltrans Environmental for any potential environmental impacts.									
Noise	Consult District noise staff if complaints are received during the construction process.	Env Doc	SSP	RE/ECL	Consult District noise staff if complaints are received during the construction process.					
Noise	If nighttime work occurs, then a Noise Control Plan (NCP) will be implemented to ensure construction activities do not exceed standard during construction.	Env Doc	SSP	RE/ECL	If nighttime work occurs, then a Noise Control Plan (NCP) will be implemented					
Noise	Limit grouping major pieces of equipment operating in one area to the greatest extent feasible	Env Doc	SSP	RE/ECL	Limit grouping major pieces of equipment operating in one area to the greatest extent feasible					
Noise	Locate portable generators, air compressors, etc. away from sensitive noise receptors as feasible	Env Doc	SSP	RE/ECL	Locate portable generators, air compressors, etc. away from sensitive noise receptors					
Noise	Shield loud pieces of stationary construction equipment if complaints are received	Env Doc	SSP	RE/ECL	Shield loud pieces of stationary construction equipment if complaints are received					
Noise	Use newer equipment that is quieter and ensure that all equipment items have the manufacturers' recommended noise abatement measures, such as mufflers, engine covers, and engine vibration isolators intact and operational. Internal combustion engines used for any purpose on or related to the job shall be equipped with a muffler or baffle of a type recommended by the manufacturer; and,	Env Doc	SSP	RE/ECL	Use newer equipment that is quieter					
GHG	Supplement existing construction environmental training with information on methods to reduce GHG emissions related to construction. This information will be shared using a handout. The information in the handout should include, but is not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o For improved fuel efficiency from construction equipment, maintain equipment in proper tune and working condition, use right sized equipment for the job, and use equipment with new technologies. o Limit idling to five minutes for delivery and dump trucks and other diesel-powered equipment. o Reduce construction waste. For example, reuse or 	Env Doc	SSP	RE/ECL	Supplement existing construction environmental training with information on methods to reduce GHG emissions					

Environmental Commitments Record for SR17 Pavement Maintenance

Category	Task and Brief Description	Source	Included in PS&E Package	Responsible Branch/Staff	Action to Comply	Due Date	Task Completed by	Task Completed on	Remarks	Mitigation for significant impacts under CEQA
	recycle construction and demolition waste. Maximize use of recycled materials in the project construction to the extent feasible. See standard spec Section 14-10- Solid Waste Disposal and Recycling. o Use on-road heavy-duty trucks that meet the CARB's 2007 or cleaner certification standard for on-road heavy-duty diesel engines, and comply with the State On-Road Regulation. See standard spec Section 7-1.02C- Emissions Reduction and comply with Construction Manual Section 7-1.04A (1)- Air Quality.									
GHG	Where feasible, schedule truck trips outside of peak morning and evening commute hours. Traffic operations shall specify this in the lane closure charts.	Env Doc	SSP	RE/ECL	schedule truck trips outside of peak morning and evening commute hours.					
GHG	Where feasible, use alternative fuels such as renewable diesel for construction equipment. If use of alternative fuels is not possible, substitute gasoline-powered equipment for diesel-powered equipment. Comply with Section 3-517- Equipment, of the Construction Manual.	Env Doc	SSP	RE/ECL	use alternative fuels such as renewable diesel for construction equipment.					
GHG	Where feasible, use solar-powered construction equipment.	Env Doc	SSP	RE/ECL	use solar-powered construction equipment.					