

Notice of Exemption

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

County Clerk
County of San Benito
1601 Lana Way
Hollister, CA 95023

From: Caltrans District 5
50 Higuera Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Project Title: San Benito Wildlife Crossing – Geotechnical Drilling

Project Applicant: Caltrans District 5

Project Location - Specific: On US 101 in the Aromas Hills near Post Mile 1.4

Project Location - City: N/A Project Location - County: San Benito

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

Caltrans proposes fifteen (15) geotechnical borings on and around US 101 near PM 1.4. These borings are intended to gather geotechnical data for the design of a wildlife overcrossing. The project requires a subsurface investigation to design structure foundations, assess potential for liquefaction and lateral spreading, and its effect on the structure.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Caltrans District 5

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Caltrans District 5

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: 15306 - Information Collection
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The planned work has been reviewed and it would have no significant environmental impacts. Appropriate avoidance and minimization measures for biological resources will be implemented.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Dianna Beck

Phone number: (805) 459-9406

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: Dianna Beck Date: 3/19/2026 Title: Senior Environmental Planner

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.