



**CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
DETERMINATION FORM (rev. 04/2022)**

Project Information

Project Name: Groundwater Site Closures

DIST-CO-RTE: 07-LA-27

PM/PM: 15.05

TRACKING Number: 726-6MW-0061

DEP CE Number: 202603017

Project Description

Caltrans approves of the encroachment permit for Equilon Enterprises LLC (Shell Oil Products U.S.) to abandon four (4) groundwater monitoring wells (MW-4, MW-5, MW-10, MW-15) located within Caltrans right-of-way (ROW) adjacent to the Shell service station at 7601 Topanga Canyon Boulevard along State Route (SR) 27 at post mile (PM) 15.05, as well as perform traffic control activities, in the City of Canoga Park, Los Angeles County. The proposed work will include utility clearance, exposure of wells by air-knifing to approximately 5 feet below ground surface, overdrilling to remove existing casing and annular materials, and abandonment by pressure grouting from the bottom up. Boreholes will be sealed to the surface and pavement restored upon completion. Equilon Enterprises LLC is requesting a temporary encroachment permit to access Caltrans ROW at PM 15.05 to complete the above-mentioned work in accordance with the Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board requirements. Excavation will have a depth of 46.5 feet and an average width and length of 10 feet by 10 feet. No public utilities will be relocated, and no new ROW will be acquired.

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 1a.** (PRC 21084; 14 CCR 15301)
 - 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

Pauline Lee		03/26/2026
Print Name	Signature	Date



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Project Manager

Norman Hui

Norman Hui

03/26/2026

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 6 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 December 23, 2016 and executed by FHWA and Caltrans.

Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief

Pauline Lee

Pauline Lee

03/26/2026

Print Name

Signature

Date

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Norman Hui

Norman Hui

03/26/2026

Print Name

Signature

Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): N/A

Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: N/A



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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).

Continuation sheet:

- Please contact the Division of Environmental Planning should there be changes to the project scope.
- If there are any such changes to the proposed undertaking, an additional review by the cultural resource unit will be required. If previously unidentified cultural materials are unearthed during construction, work shall be halted in that area until a qualified archaeologist can assess the significance of the find.
- No unpaved soil will be disturbed, and no construction dewatering will be involved during construction activities.
- If there is an active nest on the pole, applicant will follow standard procedures to avoid impacts to the nest until the young have fledged. This will be done under the guidance of a professional biologist.
- The Office of Permit needs to provide the Encroachment Permit Special Provisions (TR-0408) to the applicant.
- Composite samples of waste material shall be collected and analyzed for waste profiling prior to transportation to an approved treatment, disposal, or recycling facility.
- A Draft Well Abandonment Report shall be prepared following completion of the well abandonment field work. The report shall document the well abandonment activities and contain pertinent documentation such as permits, boring logs, laboratory analytical reports, and disposal/recycling manifests. The final report needs to be signed by a State of California Registered Geologist.
- OEE recommends that the permit for the site contain conditions for remediation of the contamination on Caltrans right of way prior to abandonment of the monitoring wells.