



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

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): I-15 Excess Land Disposal

DIST-CO-RTE: 08-RIV-15

PM/PM: 45.7

EA: 08-0R005

PN: 0816000198

Federal-Aid Project Number: N/A

Project Description

Caltrans District 08 proposes to dispose and decertify Excess Land Parcels DD004912-02-01 and DD004913-02-01 on Interstate 15 in the city of Norco, in Riverside County at Post Mile (PM) 45.7.

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 12.** (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

Kourtney Graves

Print Name

Kourtney Graves

Signature

4/14/2026

Date

Project Manager

Veronica Leon

Print Name

Veronica Leon

Signature

4/14/2026

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)(1)**

☒ **23 CFR 771.117(d): activity (d)(6)**

☐ **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

Kourtney Graves

Print Name

Kourtney Graves

Signature

4/14/2026

Date

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Veronica Leon

Print Name

Veronica Leon

Signature

4/14/2026

Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): 4/14/2026

Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: N/A

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).



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CULTURAL RESOURCES

Historic Property Survey Report: March 12, 2026.

In coordination with District Cultural Studies, the studies for this undertaking were carried out in a manner consistent with Caltrans' regulatory responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 CFR Part 800) and pursuant to the 2024 *Programmatic Agreement among the Federal Highway Administration, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the California State Historic Preservation Officer, the United States Army Corps of Engineers' Sacramento District, San Francisco District, and Los Angeles District, and the California Department of Transportation Regarding Compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act as it Pertains to the Administration of the Federal-Aid Highway Program in California (Section 106 PA)*, as well as under Public Resources Code 5024 and pursuant to the 2024 *Memorandum of Understanding Between the California Department of Transportation and the California State Historic Preservation Officer Regarding Compliance with Public Resources Code Section 5024 and Governor's Executive Order W-26-92(5024 MOU)* as applicable.

Due to the small nature of the proposed activity and its minimal footprint, public participation and consultation are not required. No cultural resources are present within the APE. Caltrans, pursuant to Section 106 PA Stipulation IX.A, has determined a Finding of No Historic Properties Affected is appropriate for this undertaking because there are no historic properties within the APE.

PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Email to File: March 18, 2026.

In coordination with District Paleontology, due to the nature of the activity description, no paleontological studies will be required.

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Programmatic No Effect Memorandum: March 26, 2026.

In coordination with District Biology, the activity would be conducted within Caltrans right-of-way on previously disturbed soil and does not involve construction activities. This activity does not constitute a federal action; therefore, this project will utilize the August 17, 2021 NEPA Process Improvement Team's Programmatic No-Effect Memo for biological compliance.

The Project Impact Area does not feature any habitat or natural communities. The proposed work is minimally invasive and does not include ground disturbance outside the paved or graded roadway. Therefore, the proposed work would result in No Effect and No Take to Federal- and State-listed species, respectively. No environmental permits or agreements are required.

HAZARDOUS WASTE

Initial Site Assessment (ISA) Checklist: March 16, 2026;

Hazardous Materials Disclosure Document – Disposal (HMDD-D): April 2, 2026.

In coordination with District Environmental Engineering, the hazardous waste potential for the area is Low Risk. The parcels/segments are free from significant contamination and can be sold or exchanged. Full disclosure of the information in the HMDD-D is required if the parcels are to be sold or exchanged.

A review of the GeoTracker and EnviroStor hazardous-materials databases, maintained by the Water Boards and the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), indicated no contamination on or near the subject parcel(s). On 3/05/2026, the Caltrans environmental team conducted a site visit and identified no recognized environmental conditions (RECs). The team did not perform testing of the parking-lot striping for potential lead or chromium content.



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NOISE

Memorandum to File: April 2, 2026.

In coordination with District Environmental Engineering, this project falls under Type III project categories of 23CFR772.7 in the Traffic Noise Analysis Protocol. Per the Traffic Noise Analysis Protocol, "Type III projects do not require a noise analysis." This is considered an exempt project. Hence, no noise study is needed.

AIR QUALITY

Memorandum to File: April 2, 2026.

In coordination with District Environmental Engineering, the scope of this project has been evaluated as an exempt project that falls under exempt project type listed under Table 1 of Caltrans Carbon Monoxide Protocol or Table 2 of 40 CFR 93.126. Therefore, no air quality study is needed.

PARKS AND RECREATION

Memorandum to File: April 14, 2026.

In conjunction with Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act and its implementing regulations under 23 CFR Part 774, Caltrans evaluated the excess land parcels in reference to potential use of Section 4(f) properties. Based on the nature of the excess land disposal and decertification, Caltrans has determined that the project does not meet the definition of a Section 4(f) property, does not "use" a Section 4(f) property, and/or meets the criteria for an exception (e.g., temporary occupancy).

COMMUNITY IMPACTS

Memorandum to File: April 14, 2026.

After reviewing the aerial photos, right-of-way maps, and Traffic Operations report, there is currently a Park N Ride facility and horse trail within the project limits. There are also businesses, residences, a school, a park, a horse trail, bicycle and pedestrian access, and other community resources and/or events within the community adjacent to the excess land parcels. However, due to the nature of the excess land disposal and decertification, Caltrans has determined there will be no adverse effects to community resources, and a Community Impact Study is not required.

LAND USE

Memorandum to File: April 14, 2026.

The excess land parcels are in a developed, urban area, and their sale is not expected to have any adverse effects on Land Use. The excess land parcels are not located within a Coastal Zone, and do not intersect with and are not located adjacent to a Wild or Scenic River. Due to the nature of the excess land disposal and decertification, a Land Use Study is not required.

FARMLANDS/TIMBERLANDS

Memorandum to File: April 14, 2026.

None of the excess land parcels are located adjacent to land that has been surveyed by the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (2020). No effect on farmlands/timberlands or any existing agricultural activity will occur. Due to the nature of the excess land disposal and decertification, a Farmlands/Timberlands Study is not required.



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GROWTH

Memorandum to File: April 14, 2026.

Based on Caltrans' *Guidance for Preparers of Growth-related, Indirect Impact Analyses*, the nature of the excess land disposal and decertification is not capacity increasing and is not anticipated to have a substantial influence or adverse effects on growth in the project area. Therefore, a Growth analysis is not required.

VISUAL/AESTHETICS:

Memorandum to File: April 14, 2026.

No or negligible visual changes to the environment are proposed due to the nature of the excess land disposal and decertification.

HYDROLOGY AND FLOODPLAIN:

Memorandum to File: April 14, 2026.

The excess land parcels intersect the Middle Santa Ana River watershed, however, no levees or streambeds are adjacent to the project site. The excess land parcels are not located in a FEMA Effective 100-year floodplain and do not intersect with nor are they located adjacent to a Wild or Scenic River. Due to the nature of the excess land disposal and decertification, no studies are required.

WATER QUALITY AND STORMWATER RUNOFF:

Memorandum to File: April 14, 2026.

Due to the nature of the excess land disposal and decertification, there is no anticipation that there will be impacts to water quality or stormwater resources. Therefore, no studies are required.

GEOLOGY/SOILS/SEISMIC/TOPOGRAPHY:

Memorandum to File: April 14, 2026.

The excess land parcels are not within any fault zones as identified by the California Department of Conservation Geological Survey. Due to the nature of the excess land disposal and decertification, no further analysis is required.

ENERGY:

Memorandum to File: April 14, 2026.

The excess land disposal and decertification is not expected to have any effects on Energy. Therefore, an Energy Impact Analysis is not required.

CLIMATE CHANGE:

Memorandum to File: April 14, 2026.

The excess land disposal and decertification will not make any changes to the operation of the facility, is not capacity increasing, and will not impact vehicle miles traveled (VMT) or operational emissions. Therefore, no further analysis is required.

SB 743/INDUCED DEMAND ANALYSIS:

Memorandum to File: April 14, 2026.

The excess land disposal and decertification is not capacity increasing and will not induce travel demand or VMT. Therefore, no further SB 743/Induced Demand analysis is required.



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WILDFIRE:

Memorandum to File: April 14, 2026.

The excess land parcels are not within a Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ). Due to the nature of the excess land disposal and decertification, a wildfire study is not required.

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS:

Memorandum to File: April 14, 2026.

Due to the nature of the excess land disposal and decertification, there are no anticipated cumulative impacts.

Permits and Agreements:

According to the Programmatic No Effect Memorandum, no permits or agreements are required.

In conjunction with the results of the above technical documentation, Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measure(s) and/or an Environmental Commitments Record (ECR) are not required. Changes to the project's scope of work, will require that the District's Division of Environmental Planning be notified in a timely manner, to determine if an Environmental Re-Evaluation will be required to confirm that the environmental documentation for NEPA/CEQA compliance, remains valid.

Updates to the original Technical Studies, or preparation of new Technical Studies may be required, and/or a new CE/CE Determination Form may need to be completed, and/or an Environmental Document may need to be prepared and approved, to document the project's compliance with all applicable NEPA/CEQA requirements.