

Notice of Exemption

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

From: 500 South Main St Bishop CA 93514

Project Title: Tehachapi Sinkhole DDO

Project Applicant: Caltrans

Project Location - : State Route 202 PM 9.3

Project Location - City: Tehachapi Project Location - County: Kern

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project consists of emergency repair of a sinkhole along State Route 202 in Kern County near Tehachapi, approximately 0.1 miles south of Red Apple Avenue. The sinkhole developed adjacent to the roadway shoulder due to erosion caused by a separation at a joint in an existing 72-inch reinforced concrete pipe (RCP) culvert.

Work includes traffic control, excavation to determine the extent of subsurface voids, sealing the failed culvert joint, and backfilling the sinkhole and associated voids with suitable material (e.g., clean soil or controlled low strength material). Additional work may include minor roadway or shoulder restoration as needed to return the facility to a safe operating condition

Caltrans has determined that the project will have negligible impacts on environmental resources, with no anticipated adverse environmental effects.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Caltrans

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Caltrans

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: _____
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: (PRC 21080[b](2); 14 CCR 15269 et seq.)

Reasons why project is exempt:

This project is categorically exempt under CEQA pursuant to Section 15269 (Emergency Projects) because it involves the emergency repair of a failed culvert and associated sinkhole to maintain safe roadway operations. Immediate action is required to prevent further erosion and potential roadway failure, and the work is limited to restoring existing infrastructure with no expansion of use.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Heather Elder

Phone number: 760-874-8320

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: Heather Elder Date: 4/21/2020 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.