

Notice of Exemption

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

County Clerk
County of Sonoma

From: Caltrans District 4 Office of Maintenance Environmental
111 Grand Ave
Oakland, CA 94612

Project Title: HWY 1 Valley Ford Slipout Repair DO (EA 0V500)

Project Applicant: Caltrans

Project Location - Specific: The project is located on Highway 1 at post mile (PM) 4.1 in Sonoma County, north of Valley Ford.

Project Location - City: Unincorporated Sonoma County

Project Location - County: Sonoma

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposed repairing a slipout that occurred on Highway 1 at post mile (PM) 4.1 in Sonoma County, north of Valley Ford. The slipout was caused by a series of rain events that occurred this winter. A section of the existing culvert had been displaced due to a failed joint, allowing the stormwaters to cause the slipout. The dimensions of the slipout are approximately 30 feet wide by 30 feet deep, with the edge of failure (hinge point) located about 4 feet from the edge of traveled way. The slipout caused the pipe to lose its support which resulted in pipe separation at the outlet end. Field Maintenance crews promptly installed sandbags to divert flow to prevent further erosion. Additionally, safety cones were placed to ensure the safety of the area. Delaying or not completing the permanent emergency repairs would increase the risk of continued embankment failure, potentially leading to an emergency highway closure if the condition is deemed an imminent threat.

The project will first clear and grub vegetation, debris, and loose material from the eroded slope. The slope will then be excavated a minimum of one foot into relatively firm material followed by lining the excavations with Class 8 rock slope protection (RSP) mixed with on-site native soil to match existing grade. Native soil from the failed area that was excavated can be used to fill voids underneath the roadway shoulder and the edge of pavement.

The project will then remove the separated 24-inch Reinforced Concrete Pipe (RCP) culvert in two segments about 3-feet each, and replace it at the joint separation with a new 24-inch RCP culvert. An RSP energy dissipation pad about 8-feet by 10-feet will be placed at the outfall to prevent future erosion of the south-facing slope below HWY-1.

Temporary traffic control will be required during construction activities.

Silt fence and fiber rolls will be installed around the work area as sediment and erosion control.

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: PRC 21084; 14 CCR 15301 Class 1
- Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

Class 1 Existing Facilities. The project is not anticipated to result in any environmental impacts. The project contains a number of standardized project measures which are employed on most, if not all, Caltrans projects and were not developed in response to any specific environmental impacts resulting from the project.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Juliane Smith

Phone number: (510) 926-0426

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: Juliane Smith Date: 5/4/26

Title: Senior Environmental Scientist (NEPA/CEQA Specialist)

- 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.