



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

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): Highway 395 Improvements – Ref Permit# 08-23-6-MC-1145

DIST-CO-RTE: 08 - SBD-395

PM/PM: 11.75

EA: 08-23-6-MC-1145

Federal-Aid Project Number: N/A

Project Description

The purpose of this Encroachment Permit request is to construct improvements to provide access to U.S. Highway 395. Proposed improvements within the highway right-of-way include construction of curb, gutter, and sidewalk along the project frontage; a driveway approach; a raised median; and associated striping and traffic control features. The project includes the modification of the traffic signal at Highway 395 and Seneca Road to accommodate a southbound U-turn movement. All work addressed under this encroachment permit would occur within Caltrans right-of-way, and this CEQA document evaluates only those activities within Caltrans jurisdiction.

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 1(c)** (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

James L. Camarillo		04/02/2026
Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager

Jiaqian Li		04/02/2026
Print Name	Signature	Date



CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

Caltrans NEPA Determination (Check one)

[X] 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 (26)

[] 23 CFR 771.117(d): activity (d)(Enter activity number)

[] Activity Enter activity number 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

NA

Print Name

Signature

Date

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

NA

Print Name

Signature

Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): NA

Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 04/02/2026



CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

Continuation sheet:

The following technical documentation was prepared in conjunction with determining and addressing applicable California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation and compliance requirements.

- **Biological Resources Email Concurrence** – March 23, 2026
- **Cultural Studies Email Concurrence** – March 17, 2026
- **Paleontology Resources Email Concurrence** – March 23, 2026
- **Air Quality Memorandum** – January 14, 2026
- **Noise Study Memorandum** – January 14, 2026
- **Hazardous Waste Email Concurrence** – March 9, 2026

Biological Resources Email Concurrence – March 23, 2026

In coordination with the District Biological Studies, a review of the permit package provided by the applicant was completed on December 02, 2025.

The information is determined to be compliant. Also, minimization measures were reviewed which would be used to offset the potential impacts to biological resources identified under the Biological Technical Report prepared by the permittee's consultant. The permit work may proceed as scheduled providing the permittee complies with the following:

Avoidance, and Minimization Measures

MM BIO-1: Based on the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) and environmental assessment, the project site has a low potential to support special-status wildlife species. However, because the site is located within habitat designated by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), the presence of burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) cannot be ruled out.

If burrowing owls are identified on-site, a Section 2081 permit from CDFW would be required to authorize and mitigate potential impacts to the species.

Cultural Studies Email Concurrence – March 17, 2026

In coordination with the District Cultural Studies, the Cultural Resource documentation on July 2, 2020 provided with the application is adequate to cover Caltrans' responsibilities this undertaking is exempt from further review, no additional archaeological or built environment studies are required at this time and the CEQA cultural resources component, and PRC 5024 compliance are complete. This



CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

memorandum documents compliance with the agreed-upon historic preservation procedures.

Paleontology Resources Email Concurrence – March 23, 2026

The information is determined to be compliant. Paleontology resources have no further comments on the issuance of the encroachment permit.

ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

Noise Study Memorandum – January 14, 2026

Traffic noise impact is not predicted for this project scope under 23 CFR 772.7 per Traffic Noise Analysis Protocol. This project is determined to be Type III Category; therefore, noise analysis is not required. Standard specification SS 14-8.02 Noise Control should be followed.

Air Quality Memorandum- January 14, 2026

Environmental Engineering unit “A” completed review of documents submitted with the subject encroachment permit for Air Quality concerns. This project is listed in Table 1, Carbon Monoxide (CO) Protocol. It is exempt from all air emissions analyses. Therefore, no air quality study is needed.

Hazardous Waste/Material Memorandum – January 13, 2026

Caltrans Environmental Engineering completed the review on March 9, 2026. The permit is recommended providing the permittee complies with the above, in addition to all applicable standards, specifications, policies, requirements, conditions, and regulations of the California Department of Transportation.

Avoidance, and Minimization Measures:

- Soil in the project area is impacted by low, non-hazardous concentrations of aerially deposited lead (ADL) and hence, a site-specific lead compliance plan should be developed to address health and safety of construction workers and the public.
- Contractor to comply with the conditions for use of local material from non-commercial source specification attached herewith.