



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

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): Crowder Flat Pavement – Geotechnical Activities

DIST-CO-RTE: 02-MOD-299

PM/PM: 35.12, 35.67, 36.26

EA: 02-2J750

Federal-Aid Project Number: 0221000131

Project Description

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), using state and federal funding, plans to conduct a geotechnical investigation on State Route (SR) 299 in Modoc County at post miles 35.12, 35.67, and 36.62. The purpose of the geotechnical investigation is to collect data on subsurface conditions at this location. The geotechnical investigation is needed to investigate subgrade conditions for design and construction purposes.

See Continuation Sheet.

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 6 (Information Collection).** (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

Kieth Pelfrey	<i>Kieth Pelfrey</i>	05/14/2026
Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager

Mazen Zaina	<i>Mazen Zaina</i>	05/14/2026
Print Name	Signature	Date



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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 (c)
[] 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

N/A

Print Name Signature Date

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

N/A

Print Name Signature Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): Enter date
Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: Enter date

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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Continuation sheet:

Geotechnical activities include excavating, logging, and backfilling three (3) soil pits using a backhoe. The anticipated pit sizes are approximately 10 feet long by 5 feet wide by 6 to 8 feet deep.

The excavation would be performed by a Caltrans crew or a contracted crew. Equipment would consist of a backhoe and one or two vehicles used by a geoprofessional will be on site to support the operation. All work would occur within the Caltrans ROW. The total area of topsoil disturbance associated with the geotechnical investigation is expected to be negligible. No trees or vegetation would need to be removed. Access to the soil pits will be from the existing roadway.

Schedule

The excavation operation may take one to two days to complete. The anticipated work schedule includes 10-hour days between Monday and Thursday. Work would be completed during daylight hours.

Traffic Control

Work is planned within the shoulders of SR-299. Traffic control would consist of shoulder closure and two-lane traffic will continue.

Staging/Stockpiling

Equipment storage for the operation is typically located at the local Caltrans maintenance yard. The geoprofessional's vehicles will be transported off-site at the end of each workday. The spoils of the excavated pit will be stacked next to the pit.

Disposal/Borrow Sites

The spoils of the excavated pit would be backfilled on the day of excavation. The geotechnical investigation does not require the use of a borrow site.

Right-of-Way

The geotechnical investigation would be performed entirely within Caltrans' right-of-way. No federal land is present within the project limits.

Utilities

No new utilities would be installed and no conflicts with existing utilities are anticipated.









02-2J750 Geotech CEQA CE 050626

Final Audit Report

2026-05-14

Created:	2026-05-13
By:	Kiara Cuerpo-Hadsall (s159623@dot.ca.gov)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAQ1FGzj9jhGWh9IVoeybDX5qmM_ivgaVI

"02-2J750 Geotech CEQA CE 050626" History

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2026-05-13 - 11:21:02 PM GMT- IP address: 149.136.17.251
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2026-05-13 - 11:22:00 PM GMT
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Signature Date: 2026-05-14 - 3:29:40 PM GMT - Time Source: server- IP address: 149.136.17.250 - Signature Appearance Selected: IMAGE
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