



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

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): Elam Safety Geotech

DIST-CO-RTE: 03-TEH-32

PM/PM: 21.01/21.20, 23.74/23.80

EA: 02-0K180

Federal-Aid Project Number: 0223000119

Project Description

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is proposing to perform an exploratory geotechnical investigation to determine subsurface composition for a retaining wall.

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.** (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

Kieth Pelfrey

05/28/2026

Print Name

Signature

Date

Project Manager

Logan Moore

Logan Moore
[Logan Moore \(May 29, 2026 09:42:27 PDT\)](#)

05/29/2026

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)(Enter activity number)
[] 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, N/A Signature, N/A Date

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

N/A Print Name, N/A Signature, N/A Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): N/A

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:

The Office of Geotechnical Design–North (OGDN) proposes to drill up to seven borings as part of a subsurface exploration program to characterize subsurface conditions within the Elam Safety Retaining Wall (RW) area. The project includes the Elam Safety Retaining Wall and a soldier pile wall, which are intended to stabilize the roadway and accommodate the proposed widening. The retaining walls will be constructed in areas of limited right-of-way and variable subsurface conditions. The proposed maximum depth of the boring is 80 feet below the ground surface, as it is anticipated that bedrock will be encountered within 15 feet of the ground surface.

Purpose

The purpose of the geotechnical investigation is to provide site-specific data to support the design of the proposed soldier pile wall and retaining structures.

Need

Geotechnical investigation is needed because there is no subsurface soil information in the vicinity.

Right of Way

No R/W will be acquired for the purpose of Geotechnical surveys. Boring will take place in Caltrans R/W.

Staging/Stockpiling

Staging will be limited to Caltrans R/W. A nearby Caltrans Maintenance yard may be utilized. No vegetation removal will occur for the purpose of staging/stockpiling.

Disposal/Borrow Sites

The project would not utilize borrowed material. If any excess material is generated, it will be collected and disposed of in accordance with standard Caltrans disposal procedures

Coordination/Consultation

To identify potential cultural resources, Caltrans staff conducted a review of internal and external agency resource records and databases. Once review was completed it was determined the proposed scope of work has no potential to affect cultural resources.

Utilities

All utility conversations will be coordinated with Caltrans Right of Way.



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Permits

No permits will be necessary based on the current scope of work.