

Notice of Exemption

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

From: California Department of Transportation
703 B Street
Marysville, CA 95901

Project Title: Salt Creek Canyon Project (EA 03-0L000)

Project Applicant: California Department of Transportation – District 3

Project Location - Specific: Colusa County on State Route (SR) 20 from post mile (PM) 0.0 to PM R22.1.

Project Location - City: Near Williams, Unincorporated area

Project Location - County: Colusa

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to conduct a geotechnical investigation to evaluate subsurface conditions for the Salt Creek Canyon Project on State Route 20 in Colusa County.

The scope of geotechnical work includes subsurface investigation work for site geotechnical engineering characterization for the design and construction of the proposed project soldier pile walls with ground anchors or soil nail walls and associated widenings / embankments. Soldier pile walls possibly with rows of ground anchors are proposed at post miles 10.85 EB, 11.10 EB and 11.25 WB. The subsurface investigation program will involve drilling, visual logging, in-situ testing, and sampling of soil and rock from borings at the proposed ERS locations.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Caltrans – District 3

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Caltrans – District 3

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: Class 6, Section 15306 Information Collection.
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The geotechnical drilling is considered basic data collection, research, experimental management, and resource evaluation activities which do not result in a serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource. Therefore, the project is categorically exempt under CEQA Section 15306-Information Collection.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Thaleena Bhattal

Phone number: (530) 821-8301

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: Thaleena Bhattal Date: 7/22/2026 Title: Environmental Branch Chief

☒ 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.