

Notice of Exemption

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

From: Caltrans
1976 E Dr Martin Luther King Jr Blvd
Stockton, CA 95205

Project Title: SR 152 Intersection Control Improvement

Project Applicant: Caltrans

Project Location - Specific: SR-152-PM-15.9/16.5

Project Location - City: Los Banos Project Location - County: Merced

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project proposes to construct a roundabout on State Route (SR) 152 from 0.3 miles west of Volta Road to 0.3 miles east of Volta Road (PM 15.9 to 16.5), approximately 2.5 miles west of Los Banos in Merced County. In addition, project work includes sidewalks, bike ramps, curb ramps, drainage features (drainage inlets, culverts, outlets, ditches, and basins) flashing beacons, and street lighting. Additional right-of-way and utility relocation may be required.

A detour would be constructed to the south of the intersection. The roadway would consist of two traffic lanes in both directions, a center left turn lane, and 4 ft shoulders on both sides of the roadway.

The purpose of the project is to reduce the number and severity of broadside collisions at the SR 152 and Volta Road intersection, approximately 2.5 miles west of the City of Los Banos in Merced County.

The project is needed due to insufficient existing intersection control and higher than average number of broadside collisions at the SR 152 and Volta Road intersection.

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

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project is Categorically Exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act under Class 1(c) PRC 21084; 14 CCR 15301, as the scope of work is a minor improvement to an existing facility. The project is not anticipated to affect any environmentally sensitive resources.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Laura Cook

Phone number: 209-662-2261

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: Laura M. Cook Date: 6/5/2026 Title: Senior Environmental Scientist (Supervisory)

☒ 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.