

Notice of Exemption

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

From: Caltrans District 5
50 Higuera Street,
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

Project Title: U.S. 101 Paso Robles Barrier Project Barrier Separation to Adjacent System

Project Applicant: California Department of Transportation District 5

Project Location - Specific: Between the U.S. 101 northbound and Ramada Dr in Paso Robles CA, 93446.

Project Location - City: Paso Robles Project Location - County: San Luis Obispo

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The project is located in San Luis Obispo County on State Route 101 in Paso Robles North of the SR 46 and US 101 North interchange. The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to install a positive barrier on the right side of the northbound (NB) freeway lanes on US101 in San Luis Obispo County (SLO), between Post Miles (PM) 54.33/54.82. This Safe System project is proposed to be funded from the State Highway Operation Protection Program (SHOPP) Minor A Proactive Safety – Collision Severity Reduction Program (201.015) in the 2026/27 fiscal year (FY). The proposed safety improvements include installing 500 linear feet of Midwest Guardrail System (MGS), and installing 2,100 linear feet of Type 60M concrete barrier with openings incorporated at the overside drains at PM 54.47 and 54.65. Additional improvements include installation of two gates at the existing right-of-way fence. All proposed work will be done within the existing Caltrans right-of-way.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Transportation District 5

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California Department of Transportation District 5

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)
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

This project is exempt under Class 1(c) and meets the guidelines for an existing facility to be altered or repaired for the purpose of public safety. The proposed geotechnical site investigation has been reviewed and would have no significant environmental impacts. Appropriate avoidance and minimization measures for biological resources will be implemented.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Lucas Marsalek

Phone number: (805) 458-5408

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:  Date: 7/16/26 Title: Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisor

☒ Signed by Lead Agency ☐ Signed by Applicant

Date Received for filing at OPR: 7/16/2026

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.

Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.