



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

Project Information

Project Name: Highway Maintenance Project

DIST-CO-RTE: 07-VEN-126

PM/PM: 20.0/R22.7

EA: 0Y970

Federal-Aid Project Number: 0726000125

CE#: 202605003

Project Description

Caltrans is proposing a highway maintenance project in Ventura County on State Route (SR) 126 from post miles (PM) 20.0 to R22.7 to improve roadway safety for users by restoring the highway and its facilities. The proposed scope of work includes 0.15 foot of cold plane asphalt concrete pavement & RHMA overlay, removing and replacing existing pavement striping and electrical loops, replacing any flexible delineators in the Class IV separated bikeway that have been knocked down, applying green conflict zone striping, installing roadside warning signs, adding reflective back plates to signal heads at seven signalized intersections, performing digouts, and installing shoulder backing. All proposed work is within Caltrans right-of-way (ROW) and project limits. No public utilities will be relocated, and no new ROW will be acquired.

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 1d.** (PRC 21084; 14 CCR 15301)

☐ 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

Susan Tse Koo

Print Name

Susan Tse Koo

Signature

07/14/2026

Date

Project Manager

Mohd Haque

Print Name

Mohd Haque

Signature

7/14/2026

Date



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Caltrans NEPA Determination (Check one)

☒ **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

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: 07/10/26

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:

General

- If there are any changes to the project scope of work, the Division of Environmental Planning shall be notified and updates to the previous assessment may be warranted.
- The Division of Environmental Planning will be provided the Plans, Specifications, and Estimates (PS&E) Package for review and comments.

Air Quality

- The proposed project is located within the boundary of the South Central Coast Air Basin (SCCAB) and within the jurisdiction of the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (VCAPCD). This project, therefore, must comply with the VCAPCD Fugitive Dust Implementation Rule 55 to minimize temporary emissions during construction of the project as applicable and appropriate.
- The PDT should review, evaluate, and consider project measures in Tables 1 and 3 of the GHG Reduction Measures Toolbox (caltrans-ghg-reduction-measures-a11y.pdf) and ensure that the project commit to include all feasible and relevant measures identified from the Tables. If any measures are proposed outside the Tables in the Toolbox, the PDT shall ensure that those measures are biddable, buildable, and can be successfully implemented. All identified reduction measures shall be carried forward in the ECR.
- Construction of the proposed project shall comply with all applicable VCAPCD Rules, including Rule 74.2 (Architectural Coating) which limits the amount of volatile organic compounds (VOC) emissions from paving, asphalt, concrete curing, and cement coatings operations.
- Objectionable odor should be minimized by conducting certain construction activities in areas at least 500 feet from the sensitive receptors as feasible.
- The AQB will coordinate for review and approval of a nonstandard special provision (nSSP) 14-9.05 to mandate contractors' compliance with all applicable air district rules including measures related to dust control.

Biological Resources

- Stormwater and Erosion Control Best Management Practices (BMPs) will be needed to avoid indirect impacts from roadway runoff. All appropriate storm water and Erosion BMPs will be incorporated into the project specifications.
- If at any time work, debris, or staging of equipment shall occur inside any channel, drainage, stream, rivers, or creek beds, this division must be notified immediately.
- All pollution and litter laws and regulations will be followed by the contractor and all personnel on site.
- All loose debris (as a result of construction of this project) must be hauled off the project site.
- All work will be limited to the prism of the roadway, or the edge of the unvegetated roadway for purposes of equipment maneuvering and traffic control.



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- Pre-construction burrowing owl surveys are needed prior to ground disturbing activities near Pole Creek at PM 21.97. If burrowing owls are present, a 500-foot buffer needs to be established, and biological monitoring is needed to prevent impacts. An addendum to the technical study and this CE will also be needed.

Cultural Resources

- If previously unidentified cultural materials are unearthed during construction, work will be halted in that area until a qualified archaeologist can assess the significance of the find.

Hazardous Waste

- All disturbed soil must remain on site.
- The waste generated by the removal of yellow thermoplastic and yellow paint traffic stripes requires disposal at a Class I facility.
- The Contractor shall prepare a project specific Lead Compliance Plan (LCP) to protect workers from exposure to hazards from lead while removing and handling the traffic stripe residue, in addition to a Work Plan for handling and testing of residue prior to transport to and disposal at an appropriate disposal facility.

Noise

- Construction noise levels should not exceed sustained 86 dBA at 50 feet from the job site activities from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m.
- Noise levels generated during construction shall comply with applicable local, state, and federal regulations.

Visual Resources

- If there are any changes to the proposed scope of work a revised visual impact assessment may be required.