



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

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): 04-ALA-VAR Wrong Way Improvement

DIST-CO-RTE: 04-ALA-013

PM/PM: ALA-13 PM 4.945/9.990

ALA-24 PM 5.645

ALA-580 PM 36.241/46.131

ALA-880 PM 22.724/29.161

EA: 3Y730

Fed Aid Number: 0423000300

Project Description

This is a Safety Improvement (SHOPP 201.010) project to improve safety at off-ramps along State Route (SR) 13, SR24, Interstate (I) 580 and I-880 in Alameda County. The project proposes to install red-pavement markers, an additional set of wrong way signs, and upgrade existing damaged wrong way signs. The project also proposes to upgrade street lighting at off-ramp terminus at WB I-580/MacArthur Blvd (PM R39.651) to enhance safety at the location.

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 1-C.** (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

Zachary Gifford

Print Name


Signature

4/24/2026

Date

Project Manager

Rachel Donovan

Print Name


Signature

Date



CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

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)(8)**

☐ **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

Zachary Gifford

Print Name

Signature

4/24/2026

Date

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Rachel Donovan

Print Name

Signature

Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): 4/23/26

Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 4/23/26

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).



CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

Environmental Conditions:

Air Quality:

Air Quality Conformity

This project is exempt from the requirement to determine air quality conformity per 40 CFR 93.126 (Table 2- Exempt Projects: Safety – Pavement Marking). Therefore, an Air Quality Study is not required.

Construction-Related GHG Emissions Analysis

Construction-generated GHG includes emissions resulting from material processing by onsite construction equipment, workers commuting to and from the project site, and traffic delays due to construction. The emissions will be produced at different rates throughout the project depending on the activities involved at various phases of construction. The analysis was focused on vehicle-emitted GHG. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is the single most important GHG pollutant due to its abundance when compared with other vehicle-emitted GHG, including methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), hydrofluorocarbon (HFCs) and black carbon (BC).

Based on project information available for environmental studies, the construction-related GHG emissions were calculated using the Caltrans Construction Emissions Tool (CAL-CET), CAL-CET2021 v1.0.4, developed by Caltrans. The estimated total amount of CO₂ produced would be 3071 tons. The table below summarizes the construction related emissions, including the total CO₂e emission.

Table 1: Summary of Construction-related GHG Emissions¹

Project Location: In Alameda County at Various Locations	PARAMETERS				PROJECT TOTAL
	CO ₂ (tons)	CH ₄ (tons)	N ₂ O (tons)	HFC (Tons)	CO ₂ e ¹ (metric tons)
TOTAL EMISSIONS	27	0.001	0.002	0.001	28

¹ Gases are converted to CO₂e by multiplying by their global warming potential (GWP). Specifically, GWP is a measure of how much energy the emissions of 1 ton of a gas will absorb over a given period of time, relative to the emissions of 1 ton of carbon dioxide (CO₂).

Implementation of Caltrans Standard Specifications, such as complying with air-pollution control rules, regulations, ordinances, and statutes that apply to work performed under the Contract and the use of construction best management practices, would result in reducing GHG emissions from construction activities, including but not limited to:

1. Regular vehicle and equipment maintenance
2. Limit idling of vehicles and equipment onsite
3. If practicable, recycle non-hazardous waste and excess material. If recycling is not practicable, dispose of material
4. Use solar-powered signal boards, if feasible
5. Use Tier 4 Interim or Tier 4 Final engines



CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

In addition, with innovations such as longer pavement lives, improvement in traffic management and changes in materials, construction-related GHG emissions produced during construction can be offset to some degree by longer intervals between maintenance and rehabilitation activities.

Noise:

This project does not qualify as either a Type I or Type II project under 23 CFR 772. Noise abatement needs not be considered, and a Noise Study Report is not required.

Hazardous Waste:

The project scope includes installation of red-pavement markers, delineation, signs and lighting work where minor earthwork or excavation is anticipated. At this stage, this project does not require any site investigations for aerially deposited lead (ADL). However, the Hazardous Waste Branch should be consulted during PS&E phase for re-assessment and to prepare the required special provisions if any excess soil is anticipated to be off hauled. Additionally, if any signage posts require replacements spec related to treated wood waste may be applicable.

Water Quality:

There is potential for the Project to result in temporary impacts on the physical and chemical characteristics of the aquatic environment surrounding the Disturbed Soil Area (DSA); however, standard BMPs (listed in ECR), including equipment maintenance, and spill prevention, would be implemented to reduce the flow of potential construction related chemicals into aquatic environments.

Cultural Resources:

The Office of Cultural Resource Studies has determined that the proposed project will not affect historic properties and no further review is necessary pursuant to the PA, Stipulation VII, Undertakings." The undertaking has been screened and is exempt under Class 6 (minor utility installation, maintenance, or relocation), Class 13 (addition or replacement of devices), and Class 14 (installation, removal or replacement of roadway markings) of Appendix 2, "Screened Undertakings" in the Section 106 PA.

No further archaeology or architectural history studies are required at this time. However, if project plans change, further studies may be necessary. If previously unidentified cultural resources are unearthed during construction, work shall be halted in that area until a qualified archaeologist can assess the significance of the discovery.

Landscape:

The visual change caused by this project will involve the addition of signs (usually 2-one on either side of the roadway) at off-ramp locations. The signs will be a slight distraction from views of adjacent landscaping as their form and color contract to the surroundings. In some locations highway signs are already present, or there is no landscaping or vegetation, so the signs will have less impact. The reflectors on the roadway are expected to have no visual impact. The new light fixture is expected to not



CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

be noticed as it is in an urban setting with similar light fixtures in that area. The visual impact of the project is expected to be low.

Environmental commitments have been proposed to lessen the visual impact of the project, which are listed in the ECR.

Biological Resources:

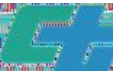
A Natural Environment Study-Minimal Impacts (NES-MI) was prepared for the project on April 22, 2026. An official species list was obtained from USFWS on April 21, 2026. It was determined that, with the implementation of avoidance and minimization measures (AMMs, listed in ECR), the project would have no effect on federal- or state-listed endangered, threatened, proposed, or candidate species.

Despite the presence of some biological resources in the BSA, the scope of work will be minimal and will not encroach on wildlife habitats. Construction will not permanently affect biological resources because the footprints of pavement markers, safety signs, and luminaires will be confined within the paved roadway and shoulders.

Additionally, permits from state or federal agencies are not required, and compensatory mitigation is not proposed.

Section 4(f) Transportation Act (23 CFR 774)

Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966, codified in federal law at 49 United States Code (USC) 303, declares that "it is the policy of the United States Government that special effort should be made to preserve the natural beauty of the countryside and public park and recreation lands, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, and historic sites. "The proposed project has been evaluated for the presence of archaeological and historic sites, public and private parks, recreational facilities, and wildlife refuges within approximately 0.5 mile of the project area to determine whether they are protected Section 4(f) resources and whether the project would "use" the properties. An analysis of the surrounding area shows that although there are additional potential Section 4(f) resources present within the study area, assuming all work will take place within existing state right-of-way and no temporary construction easements will be required, the project is not expected to result in a use of any Section 4(f) resources located within the project vicinity. Therefore, no further analysis of Section 4(f) resources is required.



Environmental Commitments Record (ECR)

DIST-CO-RTE: 04 - ALA - 013 PM/PM: 4.940/9.990 EA/Project ID: 04-3Y730_ / 0423000300

Project Description: AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS INSTALL/UPGRADE PAVEMENT MARKERS AT EXIT RAMPS AND UPGRADE INTERSECTION LIGHTING

Date (Last modification): 4/23/2026

Environmental Planner: Marisol Castro

Phone: 510-459-0500

Construction Liaison: Oren Nardi

Phone: 510-719-7440

Resident Engineer:

Phone:

PERMITS

Permit	Agency	Application Submitted	Permit Received	Permit Expiration	Permit Requirements Completed by	Permit Requirements Completed on	Comments
--------	--------	-----------------------	-----------------	-------------------	----------------------------------	----------------------------------	----------

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS

Category	Task and Brief Description	Source	Included in PS&E Package	Responsible Branch/Staff	Action to Comply	Due Date	Task Completed by	Task Completed on	Remarks	Mitigation for significant impacts under CEQA
Air Quality	If practicable, recycle nonhazardous waste and excess material. If recycling is not practicable, dispose of material									
Air Quality	Limit idling of vehicles and equipment onsite									
Air Quality	Regular vehicle and equipment maintenance									
Air Quality	Use solar-powered signal boards, if feasible									
Biology	Firearms Restrictions				Firearms are prohibited in the construction site, except for those carried by authorized security personnel or law enforcement.					
Biology	No In-Water Work				Work must not occur in surface waters, wetlands, or riparian areas associated with jurisdictional water bodies to protect water quality and existing species communities.					
Biology	Non-Disturbance Buffer for Nesting Birds				A protective radius for active bird nests shall					

Environmental Commitments Record for 04-ALA-VAR WRONG WAY

Category	Task and Brief Description	Source	Included in PS&E Package	Responsible Branch/Staff	Action to Comply	Due Date	Task Completed by	Task Completed on	Remarks	Mitigation for significant impacts under CEQA
					be established by the Caltrans-approved Biologist if observed at the work location. The protective radius shall be, at a minimum, 300 feet for active raptor and owl nests and 50 feet for active non-game and migratory bird nests. Buffers may be adjusted through consultation with the appropriate regulatory agencies based on nest location, topography, cover, the species' sensitivity to disturbance, and the intensity/type of potential work activities.					
Biology	Non-work Buffer for Special-status Species				If a special-status species is observed in the work area, the contractor will immediately establish a 50-foot protective radius around the special-status species and notify the Resident Engineer and Caltrans-approved Biologist. The animal will be allowed to leave the work area on its own volition, and appropriate regulatory agencies will be contacted. Buffers may be adjusted through					

Environmental Commitments Record for 04-ALA-VAR WRONG WAY

Category	Task and Brief Description	Source	Included in PS&E Package	Responsible Branch/Staff	Action to Comply	Due Date	Task Completed by	Task Completed on	Remarks	Mitigation for significant impacts under CEQA
					consultation with the appropriate regulatory agencies, based on nest location, topography, cover, the species' sensitivity to disturbance, and the intensity/type of potential work activities. Under no circumstances would the capture, handling, or relocation of special-status species occur unless					
Biology	Pet Restrictions				Construction personnel are prohibited from bringing pets to the construction site to prevent harassment, injury, or mortality of special-status species.					
Biology	Pre-construction Surveys				Surveys for special-status species will be conducted by the Caltrans-approved Biologist prior to the start of construction. Surveys will consist of walking the accessible portions of the Project area, where appropriate, to determine the presence of specialstatus species.					
Biology	Proper Disposal of Asphalt Waste				All grindings and asphaltic-concrete waste will be stored within previously disturbed areas absent					

Environmental Commitments Record for 04-ALA-VAR WRONG WAY

Category	Task and Brief Description	Source	Included in PS&E Package	Responsible Branch/Staff	Action to Comply	Due Date	Task Completed by	Task Completed on	Remarks	Mitigation for significant impacts under CEQA
					of habitat, and at a minimum of 150 feet from any aquatic habitat or drainage features.					
Biology	Species Entrapment				All excavated, steep-walled holes or trenches more than 12 inches deep would be covered at the close of each working day with plywood or similar materials to prevent wildlife entrapment during construction. These holes would be thoroughly inspected for trapped animals before filling. All open-ended pipes or similar structures would be sealed or capped and remain sealed or capped until installed and operational.					
Biology	Staging Areas				All vehicles parking, staging, laydown, and access areas within the project limits must be located on paved surfaces or areas that have undergone the appropriate environmental clearance designated by the Caltrans-approved Biologist. These areas must be submitted to the Resident Engineer and					

Environmental Commitments Record for 04-ALA-VAR WRONG WAY

Category	Task and Brief Description	Source	Included in PS&E Package	Responsible Branch/Staff	Action to Comply	Due Date	Task Completed by	Task Completed on	Remarks	Mitigation for significant impacts under CEQA
					Caltrans-approved Biologist for authorization. If the contractor uses any property outside the Project area for the sole use of the Project, they must obtain all Permits, Licenses, Agreements, and Contracts under applicable environmental laws, regulations, orders, and decrees, and submit them to the Resident Engineer and Caltrans-approved Biologist for review and approval at least 15 business days before starting work on the job site.					
Biology	Vehicle Use				Project employees will be required to comply with guidance governing vehicle use, speed limits on unpaved roads, fire prevention, and other hazards. All vehicles will always remain on pavement or disturbed roadway shoulders, unless authorized by the Caltransapproved Biologist.					
Biology	Work Window for Nesting Birds				Construction will not occur from February 1 to September 30 to the maximum extent practicable to avoid nesting bird season. If					

Environmental Commitments Record for 04-ALA-VAR WRONG WAY

Category	Task and Brief Description	Source	Included in PS&E Package	Responsible Branch/Staff	Action to Comply	Due Date	Task Completed by	Task Completed on	Remarks	Mitigation for significant impacts under CEQA
					work must occur during the bird nesting season, a Caltrans-approved Biologist will conduct a pre-construction survey for active bird nests no more than 72 hours prior to the start of construction activities.					
Biology	Worker Environmental Awareness Training				All construction personnel will attend a mandatory environmental education program delivered by the Caltrans-approved Biologist(s) prior to working on the project. At a minimum, the training will include a description of specialstatus species and their habitats, including but not limited to nesting birds, bats, other burrowing mammals, and protocols for how to proceed if special-status species are discovered, living or dead. All special-status species observations and biological resource incidents must be immediately reported to the Resident Engineer and Caltrans-approved Biologist.					

Environmental Commitments Record for 04-ALA-VAR WRONG WAY

Category	Task and Brief Description	Source	Included in PS&E Package	Responsible Branch/Staff	Action to Comply	Due Date	Task Completed by	Task Completed on	Remarks	Mitigation for significant impacts under CEQA
----------	----------------------------	--------	--------------------------	--------------------------	------------------	----------	-------------------	-------------------	---------	---

Environmental Branch Chief

Zachary Gifford

Print Name



Zachary Gifford (Apr 24, 2026 15:29:54 PDT)

Signature

Date

Resident Engineer (for Commitments During Construction)

Print Name

Signature

Date

Project Engineer

Print Name

Signature

Date

Project Manager

DONOVAN, RACHEL A

Print Name



Signature

Date



Categorical Exclusion Checklist

PROJECT INFORMATION

DIST-CO-RTE: 04-ALA-013/24/580/880

PM/PM: ALA-13 PM 4.945/9.990

ALA-24 PM 5.645

ALA-580 PM 36.241/46.131

ALA-880 PM 22.724/29.161

Fed. Aid Number (Local Project): 0423000300

EA/Project Number: 3Y730

SECTION A: Type of CE

Use the information in this section to determine the applicable CE and corresponding activity for this project.

1. Project is a CE under CE Assignment 23 USC 326 (activity must be listed in 23 CFR 771.117 (c) or (d) list (See [Chapter 30 in the SER](#)) or included in activities listed in [Appendix A of the CE Assignment MOU](#) to be eligible for 23 USC 326).

☒ Yes, **Activity:** (c) 28 ☐ No

Notes for specific activities:

- **If using (c)9**, distinguish between (c)9(i) or (c)9(ii) on the form and include copy of the emergency declaration in the file.
- **If using (c)22**, identify in the project description that all work is within operational right-of-way.
- **If using (c)23**, distinguish between (c)23(i) and (c)23(ii) on the form.
- **If using (c)26, (c)(27), or (c)(28)**, ensure that the action DOES NOT include any of the constraints found in 23 CFR 771.117(e). If it does, it may not be processed under (c)(26), (c)(27), or (c)(28), however, the project may qualify for a CE under 23 CFR 771.117(d)(13).

2. Project is a CE for a highway project under NEPA Assignment 23 USC 327 (Use only if project does not qualify under CE Assignment 23 USC 326 (activities not included in question 1)).

☐ Yes ☒ No

3. Independent Utility and Logical Termini

- ☒ The project complies with NEPA requirements related to connected actions and segmentation (i.e., the project must have independent utility, connect logical termini when applicable, be usable and be a reasonable expenditure even if no additional transportation improvements in the area are made and not restrict further consideration of alternatives for other reasonably foreseeable transportation improvements). (FHWA Final Rule, "Background," Federal Register Vol. 79, No. 8, January 13, 2014.)

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

4. Categorical Exclusions Defined (23 CFR 771.117[a]).

FHWA regulation 23 CFR 771.117(a) defines categorical exclusions as actions which:

- do not induce significant impacts to planned growth or land use for the area;
- do not require the relocation of significant numbers of people;
- do not have a significant impact on any natural, cultural, recreational, historic or other resources;
- do not involve significant air, noise, or water quality impacts;
- do not have significant impacts on travel patterns; or
- do not otherwise, either individually or cumulatively, have any significant environmental impacts.

☒ Checking this box certifies that project meets the above definition for a Categorical Exclusion.

5. Exceptions to Categorical Exclusions/Unusual Circumstances (23 CFR 771.117[b]).

FHWA regulation 23 CFR 771.117(b) provides that any action which normally would be classified as a CE but could involve *unusual circumstances* requires the Department to conduct appropriate environmental studies to determine if the CE classification is proper. Unusual circumstances include actions that involve:

- Significant environmental impacts;
- Substantial controversy on environmental grounds;
- Significant impact on properties protected by section 4(f) of the DOT Act or section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act; or
- Inconsistencies with any Federal, State, or local law, requirement or administrative determination relating to the environmental aspects of the action.

All of the above unusual circumstances have been considered in conjunction with this project. (Choose one)

☒ Checking this box certifies that **none of the above conditions apply** and that the project qualifies for a Categorical Exclusion.

☐ Checking this box certifies that unusual circumstances **are involved**. However, the appropriate studies/analysis have been completed, and it has been determined that the CE classification is still appropriate.

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

SECTION B: Compliance with FHWA NEPA policy to complete all other applicable environmental requirements¹ prior to making the NEPA determination:

During the environmental review process for which this CE was prepared, all applicable environmental requirements were evaluated. Outcomes for the following requirements are identified below and fully documented in the project file. **[NOTE: EVERY SECTION BELOW MUST BE COMPLETED, DO NOT SKIP ANY SECTIONS.]**

FSTIP

- ☒ The project description on the Categorical Exemption/Categorical Exclusion Form matches the project description in the FSTIP and RTP, and the appropriate page of the FSTIP is in the project file.

Air Quality

- ☒ [Air Quality Conformity Findings Checklist](#) has been completed and project meets all applicable AQ requirements.
- ☐ For 23 USC 326 projects which require an air quality conformity determination (this will apply to certain projects under 23 CFR 771.117(c)(22), (c)(23), (c)(26), (c)(27), and (c)(28)), list the date of the Caltrans conformity determination:
- ☐ For 23 USC 327 projects, list date of FHWA concurrence on conformity determination:

Cultural Resources

- ☒ Section 106 compliance is complete.
- ☐ A Screened Undertaking Memo was prepared, or
- ☒ A Historic Properties Survey Report was prepared, and the following finding was made:
- ☒ No Historic Properties Affected ☐ No Adverse Effect with Standard Conditions
- ☐ No Adverse Effect ☐ Adverse Effect/MOA ☐ Phasing/Project PA

Noise

23 CFR 772

- ☐ Is this a Type 1 project? ☐ Yes ☒ No (skip this section.)
- ☐ Future noise levels with project either approach or exceed NAC or result in a substantial increase.
- If yes: ☐ Abatement is reasonable and feasible
- ☐ Abatement is not reasonable or feasible

¹ Please consult the SER for a complete list of applicable laws, statutes, regulations, and executive orders that must be considered before completing the CE.

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Biology

USFWS

Species List²:

- ☐ Not required
☒ Required, Date: 4/21/2026

Effect Determination:

- ☒ No Effect Section 7 (Federal Endangered Species Act)

Consultation with USFWS Findings (Effect determination):

- ☐ Not Likely to Adversely Affect with USFWS Concurrence. Date: _____³
☐ Likely to Adversely Affect with Biological Opinion Date: _____³

NOAA Fisheries

Species List²:

- ☐ Not required
☒ Required, Date: 4/21/2026

Effect Determination:

- ☒ No Effect Section 7 (Federal Endangered Species Act)

Consultation with NOAA Fisheries Findings (Effect determination):

- ☐ Not Likely to Adversely Affect with NOAA Fisheries Concurrence. Date: _____³
☐ Likely to Adversely Affect with Biological Opinion Date: _____³

Essential Fish Habitat (Magnuson-Stevens Act) Findings (Effect determination):

- ☒ Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act does not apply
☐ No Adverse Effect ☐ Adverse Effect and consultation with NOAA Fisheries

Floodplains

Floodplains (Executive Order #11988)

- ☒ No Floodplains ☐ No Significant Encroachment ☐ Significant Encroachment

² See the "Changes to Species List Requirements" memo (April 9, 2021) for decision tree and information on determining if a list is required and date requirements.

³ If concurrence or BO is expected after PA&ED, enter "Pending" into this field.

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Waters, Wetlands

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act

Impacts to Waters of the U.S.: ☒ No ☐ Yes; anticipated approval:

- ☐ Nationwide Permit ☐ Individual Permit ☐ Regional General Permit
☐ Letter of Permission

Section 401 of the Clean Water Act

- ☐ Exemption ☐ Certification ☒ Not Applicable

Wetland Protection (Executive Order #11990)

- ☒ No Wetland Impact
☐ Wetland Impact; Wetlands Only Practicable Alternative Finding is included in a separate document in the project file.

Section 4(f) Transportation Act (23 CFR 774)

Section 4(f) regulation was considered as a part of the review for this project and a determination was made:

- ☒ Section 4(f) does not apply
☐ There are no potential Section 4(f) properties in the project vicinity.
☒ The properties do not meet the definition of a Section 4(f) property, the project does not "use" a Section 4(f) property, or the project meets the criteria for an exception (e.g., temporary occupancy). Document in project file or CE.
☐ Section 4(f) applies
☐ De Minimis
☐ Programmatic: Type: List one of the five categories as defined in 23 CFR 774.3
☐ Individual:
☐ Legal Sufficiency Review complete ☐ HQ Coordinator Review Complete

Section 6(f) – Properties Acquired with Land and Water Conservation Fund grants

Was the above property purchased with grant funds from the Land and Water Conservation Fund?

- ☒ No, Section 6(f) does not apply. No additional documentation required.
☐ Yes: ☐ Documentation of approval from National Park Service Director (through California State Parks) has been received for the conversion/and replacement of 6(f) property.

Coastal Zone

Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972

- ☒ Not in Coastal Zone ☐ Qualifies for Exemptions ☐ Qualifies for Waiver
☐ Coastal Permit Required
☐ Consistent with Federal, State, and Local Coastal Plans ☐ Federal Consistency

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Coast Guard – Bridge Over Navigable Waters of the U.S.

- ☒ Not applicable
- ☐ 23 USC 144(c) USCG Bridge Permit Exception
- ☐ 33 CFR 115.70 Advance Approval
- ☐ USCG Bridge Permit

Relocation and Right of Way

Relocations

- ☒ No Relocations
- ☐ Project involves Enter number relocations and will follow the provisions of the Uniform Relocation Act.

Right of Way Acquisitions/Easements

- ☒ No right of way acquisitions or easements
- ☐ Project involves Enter number acquisitions and Enter number easements.

Hazardous Waste and Materials

Are hazardous materials or contamination exceeding regulatory thresholds (as set by U.S. EPA, Cal EPA, County Environmental Health, etc.) present? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, is the nature and extent of the hazardous materials or contamination fully known?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

If no, briefly discuss the plan for securing information:

SECTION C: Certification

Based on the information obtained during environmental review process and included in this checklist, the project is determined to be a Categorical Exclusion pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and is in compliance with all other applicable environmental laws, regulations, and Executive Orders.

Prepared by:

Marisol Castro

Marisol Castro

Environmental Scientist

Signature

Date



Transportation Air Quality Conformity Findings Checklist

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name: 04-ALA-VAR Wrong Way Improvement

DIST-CO-RTE-PM: 04-ALA-13 PM 4.945/9.990

04-ALA-24 PM 5.645

04-ALA-580 PM 36.241/46.131

04-ALA-880 PM 22.724/29.161

EA: 3Y730

Federal Aid Number: 0423000300

Document Type: ☒ 23 USC 326 CE ☐ 23 USC 327 CE ☐ EA ☐ EIS

CHECKLIST

Step 1. Is the project located in a nonattainment or maintenance area for ozone, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide (CO), PM_{2.5}, or PM₁₀ per [EPA's Green Book](#) listing of non-attainment areas?

☐ If no, go to Step 18. **Transportation conformity does not apply to the project.**

☒ If yes, go to Step 2.

Step 2. Is the project exempt from conformity per [40 CFR 93.126 or 40 CFR 93.128](#)?

☒ If yes, go to Step 18. **The project is exempt from all project-level conformity requirements (40 CFR 93.126 or 128)** (check one box below and identify the project type, if applicable).

☒ 40 CFR 93.126¹

Project type from Table 2: Safety – Pavement Marking

☐ 40 CFR 93.128

☐ If no, **go** to Step 3.

Step 3. Is the project exempt from regional conformity per [40 CFR 93.127](#)?

☐ If yes, go to Step 8. **The project is exempt from regional conformity requirements (40 CFR 93.127)** (identify the project type).

Project type: _____

☐ If no, go to Step 4.

Step 4. Is the project located in a region with a currently conforming RTP and TIP?

☐ If yes, **the project is included in a currently conforming RTP and TIP per 40 CFR 93.115. The project's design and scope have not changed significantly from what was assumed in RTP conformity analysis (40 CFR 93.115[b])** Go to Step 8.

☐ If no and the project is located in an isolated rural area, go to Step 5.

¹ Please refer to [Clarifications on Exempt Project Determinations](#) to verify exempt project type from Table 2. Road diets, auxiliary lanes less than one-mile, and ramp metering may be exempt under "projects that correct, improve, or eliminate a hazardous location or feature."

Transportation Air Quality Conformity Findings Checklist

- ☐ If no and the project is not located in an isolated rural area, STOP and do not proceed until a conforming RTP and TIP are adopted.

Step 5. For isolated rural areas, is the project regionally significant per 40 CFR 93.101, based on review by Interagency Consultation?

- ☐ If yes, go to Step 6.
- ☐ If no, go to Step 8. **The project, located in an isolated rural area, is not regionally significant and does not require a regional emissions analysis (40 CFR 93.101 and 93.109[e]).**

Step 6. Is the project included in another regional conformity analysis that meets the isolated rural area analysis requirements per 40 CFR 93.109, including Interagency Consultation and public involvement?

- ☐ If yes, go to Step 8. **The project, located in an isolated rural area, has met its regional analysis requirements through inclusion in a previously-approved regional conformity analysis that meets current requirements (40 CFR 93.109[e]).**
- ☐ If no, go to Step 7.

Step 7. The project, located in an isolated rural area, requires a separate regional emissions analysis.

- ☐ **Regional emissions analysis for regionally significant project, located in an isolated rural area, is complete. Regional conformity analysis was conducted that includes the project and reasonably foreseeable regionally significant projects for at least 20 years. Interagency Consultation and public participation were conducted. Based on the analysis, the interim or emission budget conformity tests applicable to the area are met (40 CFR 93.109[e] and 95.105).² Go to Step 8.**

Step 8. Is the project located in a CO nonattainment or maintenance area? (South Coast Air Basin only)

- ☐ If no, go to Step 9. **CO conformity analysis is not required.**
- ☐ If yes, **hot-spot analysis requirements for CO per the [CO Protocol](#) (or per EPA's modeling guidance, CAL3QHCR can be used with EMFAC emission factors³) have been met. Project will not cause or contribute to a new localized CO violation (40 CFR 93.116 and 93.123)⁴. Go to Step 9.**

Step 9. Is the project located in a PM₁₀ and/or a PM_{2.5} nonattainment or maintenance area?

- ☐ If no, go to Step 13. **PM_{2.5}/PM₁₀ conformity analysis is not required.**
- ☐ If yes, go to Step 10.

² The analysis must support this conclusion before going to the next step.

³ Use of the CO Protocol is strongly recommended due to its use of screening methods to minimize the need for modeling. When modeling is needed, the Protocol simplifies the modeling approach. Use of CAL3QHCR must follow U.S. EPA's latest CO hot spot guidance, using EMFAC instead of MOVES; see: <http://www.epa.gov/otaq/stateresources/transconf/projectlevel-hotspot.htm#co-hotspot>.

⁴ As of October 1, 2007, there are no CO nonattainment areas in California. Therefore, the requirements to not worsen existing violations and to reduce/eliminate existing violations do not apply.

Step 10. Is the project considered to be a Project of Air Quality Concern (POAQC), as described in EPA's [Transportation Conformity Guidance](#) for PM 10 and PM 2.5?

- ☐ If no, **the project is not a project of concern for PM10 and/or PM2.5 hot-spot analysis based on 40 CFR 93.116 and 93.123 and EPA's Hot-Spot Analysis Guidance. Interagency Consultation concurred with this determination on _____. Go to Step 12.**
- ☐ If yes, go to Step 11.

Step 11. The project is a POAQC.

- ☐ **The project is a project of concern for PM10 and/or PM2.5 hot-spot analysis based on 40 CFR 93.116 and 93.123, and EPA's Hot-Spot Guidance. Interagency Consultation concurred with this determination on _____. Detailed PM hot-spot analysis, consistent with 40 CFR 93.116 and 93.123 and EPA's Hot-Spot Guidance, shows that the project would not cause or contribute to, or worsen, any new localized violation of PM10 and/or PM2.5 standards. Go to Step 12.**

Step 12. Does the approved PM SIP include any PM10 and/or PM2.5 control measures that apply to the project, and has a written commitment been made as part of the air quality analysis to implement the identified SIP control measures? [Control measures can be found in the applicable Federal Register notice at: <https://www.epa.gov/state-and-local-transportation/conformity-adequacy-review-region-9#ca>.]

- ☐ If yes, **a written commitment is made to implement the identified SIP control measures for PM10 and/or PM2.5 through construction or operation of this project (40 CFR 93.117). Go to Step 14.**
- ☐ If no, go to Step 13.

Step 13a. Have project-level mitigation or control measures for CO, PM10, and/or PM2.5, included as part of the project's design concept and scope, been identified as a condition of the RTP or TIP conformity determination? AND/OR

Step 13b. Are project-level mitigation or control measures for CO, PM10, and/or PM2.5 included in the project's NEPA document? AND

Step 13c (applies only if Step 13a and/or 13b are answered "yes"). Has a written commitment been made as part of the air quality analysis to implement the identified measures?

- ☐ If yes to 13a and/or 13b and 13c, **a written commitment is made to implement the identified mitigation or control measures for CO, PM10, and/or PM2.5 through construction or operation of this project. These mitigation or control measures are identified in the project's NEPA document and/or as conditions of the RTP or TIP conformity determination (40 CFR 93.125(a)). Go to Step 14.**
- ☐ If no, go to Step 14.

Step 14. Does the project qualify for a Categorical Exclusion pursuant to 23 USC 326?

- ☐ If yes, go to step 15.
- ☐ If no, the project requires preparation of a Categorical Exclusion, EA, or EIS pursuant to 23 USC 327. Go to Step 16.

Step 15. Is any analysis required by steps 1-13 of this form?⁵

- ☐ If yes, then Caltrans prepares the appropriate analysis and documentation for the project file and makes the conformity determination through its signature on the CE form. No FHWA involvement is required. See the AQCA Annotated Outline. Go to Step 18.
- ☐ If no, then Caltrans makes the conformity determination through its signature on the CE form. No FHWA involvement is required. Go to Step 18.

Step 16. Is the project located in a non-attainment/maintenance area for **ozone only and considered not regionally significant/non-exempt?**

- ☐ If yes, go to Step 18.⁶
- ☐ If no, then **an AQCA is needed**. See the AQCA Annotated Outline. Caltrans submits a conformity determination request to FHWA for FHWA's conformity determination. Go to Step 17.

Step 17. Send FHWA Request for Conformity Determination package and [FHWA Submittal Package Checklist](#) to DOTP- Air Quality (rodney.tavitas@dot.ca.gov) and DEA-Air Quality (daisy.laurino@dot.ca.gov) for completeness review. Please direct technical questions to DOTP-Air Quality office. Headquarters staff will coordinate with FHWA on behalf of the district.

Date of FHWA air quality conformity determination: _____

Step 18. STOP as all air quality conformity requirements have been met.

SIGNATURE

Marisol Castro

Environmental Scientist

Signature

Date

⁵ Please note that not all projects that qualify for a categorical exclusion will be exempt from air quality conformity requirements. Many types of projects that may qualify for a CE (such as the addition of auxiliary lanes less than one-mile, weaving lanes less than one-mile, turning lanes less than one-mile, climbing lanes less than one-mile, parking, road diets, ramp metering, and even many bridge projects) MAY require some level of project level conformity analysis and may even require interagency consultation. Additionally, please note that for ALL projects the project file must include evidence that one of the three following situations apply: 1) Conformity does not apply to the project area; or 2) The project is exempt from all conformity analysis requirements; or 3) The project is subject to project-level conformity analysis (and possibly regional conformity analysis) and meets the criteria for a conformity determination. The project file must include all supporting documentation and this checklist.

⁶ Project-level conformity analysis shows that the project will conform to the State Implementation Plan. Because the project area is Attainment/Unclassified for carbon monoxide (CO) and particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5), no hot spot analysis is required for the project-level conformity determination by 40 CFR 93.116 and 93.123. The project comes from a conforming Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Include documentation of interagency consultation review in the final CE/EA/EIS, if applicable.

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Waters, Wetlands

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act

Impacts to Waters of the U.S.: ☒ No ☐ Yes; anticipated approval:

- ☐ Nationwide Permit ☐ Individual Permit ☐ Regional General Permit
☐ Letter of Permission

Section 401 of the Clean Water Act

- ☐ Exemption ☐ Certification ☒ Not Applicable

Wetland Protection (Executive Order #11990)

- ☒ No Wetland Impact
☐ Wetland Impact; Wetlands Only Practicable Alternative Finding is included in a separate document in the project file.

Section 4(f) Transportation Act (23 CFR 774)

Section 4(f) regulation was considered as a part of the review for this project and a determination was made:

- ☒ Section 4(f) does not apply
☐ There are no potential Section 4(f) properties in the project vicinity.
☒ The properties do not meet the definition of a Section 4(f) property, the project does not “use” a Section 4(f) property, or the project meets the criteria for an exception (e.g., temporary occupancy). Document in project file or CE.
☐ Section 4(f) applies
☐ De Minimis
☐ Programmatic: Type: List one of the five categories as defined in 23 CFR 774.3
☐ Individual:
☐ Legal Sufficiency Review complete ☐ HQ Coordinator Review Complete

Section 6(f) – Properties Acquired with Land and Water Conservation Fund grants

Was the above property purchased with grant funds from the Land and Water Conservation Fund?

- ☒ No, Section 6(f) does not apply. No additional documentation required.
☐ Yes: ☐ Documentation of approval from National Park Service Director (through California State Parks) has been received for the conversion/and replacement of 6(f) property.

Coastal Zone

Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972

- ☒ Not in Coastal Zone ☐ Qualifies for Exemptions ☐ Qualifies for Waiver
☐ Coastal Permit Required
☐ Consistent with Federal, State, and Local Coastal Plans ☐ Federal Consistency

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Coast Guard – Bridge Over Navigable Waters of the U.S.

- ☒ Not applicable
- ☐ 23 USC 144(c) USCG Bridge Permit Exception
- ☐ 33 CFR 115.70 Advance Approval
- ☐ USCG Bridge Permit

Relocation and Right of Way

Relocations

- ☒ No Relocations
- ☐ Project involves Enter number relocations and will follow the provisions of the Uniform Relocation Act.

Right of Way Acquisitions/Easements

- ☒ No right of way acquisitions or easements
- ☐ Project involves Enter number acquisitions and Enter number easements.

Hazardous Waste and Materials

Are hazardous materials or contamination exceeding regulatory thresholds (as set by U.S. EPA, Cal EPA, County Environmental Health, etc.) present? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, is the nature and extent of the hazardous materials or contamination fully known?

- ☐ Yes ☐ No

If no, briefly discuss the plan for securing information:

SECTION C: Certification

Based on the information obtained during environmental review process and included in this checklist, the project is determined to be a Categorical Exclusion pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and is in compliance with all other applicable environmental laws, regulations, and Executive Orders.

Prepared by:

Marisol Castro

Marisol Castro

Environmental Scientist

Signature

Date

EA 3Y730 - CE-CE Determination Form 4-24-26

Final Audit Report

2026-04-24

Created:	2026-04-24
By:	Marisol Castro (s161746@dot.ca.gov)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAW9gRE8agUsQdYsGgrmD28D_1NDUdilt1

"EA 3Y730 - CE-CE Determination Form 4-24-26" History

-  Document created by Marisol Castro (s161746@dot.ca.gov)
2026-04-24 - 10:00:16 PM GMT- IP address: 149.136.17.247
-  Document emailed to Zachary Gifford (zachary.gifford@dot.ca.gov) for signature
2026-04-24 - 10:02:30 PM GMT
-  Document emailed to Rachel Donovan (rachel.donovan@dot.ca.gov) for signature
2026-04-24 - 10:02:30 PM GMT
-  Document emailed to Marisol Castro (s161746@dot.ca.gov) for signature
2026-04-24 - 10:02:30 PM GMT
-  Document e-signed by Marisol Castro (s161746@dot.ca.gov)
Signature Date: 2026-04-24 - 10:03:58 PM GMT - Time Source: server- IP address: 149.136.17.247
-  Email viewed by Zachary Gifford (zachary.gifford@dot.ca.gov)
2026-04-24 - 10:07:59 PM GMT- IP address: 98.80.50.146
-  Email viewed by Rachel Donovan (rachel.donovan@dot.ca.gov)
2026-04-24 - 10:14:59 PM GMT- IP address: 54.163.72.250
-  Document e-signed by Rachel Donovan (rachel.donovan@dot.ca.gov)
Signature Date: 2026-04-24 - 10:27:08 PM GMT - Time Source: server- IP address: 149.136.17.251
-  Document e-signed by Zachary Gifford (zachary.gifford@dot.ca.gov)
Signature Date: 2026-04-24 - 10:29:54 PM GMT - Time Source: server- IP address: 174.194.195.54
-  Agreement completed.
2026-04-24 - 10:29:54 PM GMT



Powered by
Adobe
Acrobat Sign