



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

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): Honeysuckle 2

DIST-CO-RTE: 03-NEV-174

PM/PM: 8.7/ 9.7

EA: 03-4G320 **Federal-Aid Project Number:**

Project Description

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes a culvert replacement project along State Route 174 in Nevada County, between post miles (PM) 8.7 and 9.7. The work includes replacing existing culverts and a drainage inlet (DI), installing flared end sections, and replacing rock slope protection. Additional activities include clearing and grubbing, limited excavation, backfilling, and relocating a speed limit sign and an address sign. Traffic control will be required throughout construction. (Continued on page 3)

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.** (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

Veronica Wilson

Veronica Wilson

08/05/2026

Print Name

Signature

Date

Project Manager

Harjinder Dhillon

Harjinder Dhillon

08/05/2026

Print Name

Signature

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): N/A

Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 7/16/2026

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:

There are 4 culvert locations as follows:

Location #	County	Route	PM	Work Description
1	NEV	174	8.8	Remove the existing 12" × 69.5' CSP and HDPE hybrid culvert and replace it with either a 21" × 15" × 69.5' arch CSP or an 18" × 69.5' CSP.
2	NEV	174	9.04	Remove the existing 18" × 52.3' CSP. Install a 24" × 52.3' RCP, install a flared end section (FES).
3	NEV	174	9.05	Remove the existing 18" × 29.1' CSP. Install a 24" × 29.1' RCP, remove the existing DI, and install a new DI.
4	NEV	174	9.61	- Remove the two existing culverts and replace them with either a 21" × 15" × 52.2' arch CSP or an 18" × 52.2' CSP pipe. The two culverts to be removed are: 12" × 19.8' HDPE culvert and 9.6" × 19.8' HDPE culvert. - Install a flared end section (FES) at the inlet and replace the rock slope protection (RSP) at the outlet. - Perform clearing and grubbing, backfill, and relocate the speed limit sign and the address sign.

Table 1: Locations of Culvert replacement

Purpose and Need

The purpose of the project is to provide timely culvert maintenance that helps prevent or delay the need for more extensive and costly culvert rehabilitation in the future.

Many culverts along this segment of highway are aging and exhibit damage. Additionally, conditions at several culvert inlets and outlets require improvement to ensure proper drainage function and to prevent further deterioration.

Scope of Work

Work would include the following: replacing existing culverts and a drainage inlet (DI), installing flared end sections, and replacing rock slope protection. Additional activities include clearing and grubbing, limited excavation, backfilling, and relocating a speed limit sign and an address sign. Traffic control will be required throughout construction. Construction is anticipated to begin on July 1, 2027 and last approximately 20 working days.



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Right of Way/Staging

Work would occur within Caltrans Right-of-Way and one Temporary Construction Easement (TCE).

Disposal/Borrow

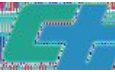
No disposal or borrow sites are required for this project.

Consultation/Coordination

No consultation or coordination would be required.

Permits/Approvals

No permits or approvals are required.



Environmental Commitments Record (ECR)

DIST-CO-RTE: 03 - NEV - 174 PM/PM: 8.500/9.630 EA/Project ID: 03-4G320_ / 0326000217

Project Description: Rehabilitate failed culverts.

Date (Last modification): 7/16/2026

Environmental Planner: Obaida Akther

Phone: 530-812-3325

Construction Liaison:

Phone:

Resident Engineer:

Phone:

PERMITS

Permit	Agency	Application Submitted	Permit Received	Permit Expiration	Permit Requirements Completed by	Permit Requirements Completed on	Comments
1- No Permits Required	n/a						

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS

PA&ED

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
Biology	Addendum to 03-3G920	Env Doc		Project Biologist	Write it	5/1/26				

CONSTRUCTION

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	Construction contractor must comply with Caltrans Standard Specification 7-1.02C "Emissions Reduction"	Std. Spec		RE						
Air Quality	The construction contractor must comply with the Caltrans Standard Specifications in Section 14-9.	Std. Spec		RE						
Hazardous Waste	Use Standard Special Provision (SSP) 36-4Residue Containing Lead from Paint and Thermoplastic or (SSP) 84-9.03BRemove Traffic Stripes and Pavement Markings Containing Lead		Yes							
Hazardous Waste	Use Standard Special Provision (SSP) 7-1.02K(6)(j)(ii) Lead Compliance Plan (SSP)		Yes							
Hazardous Waste	Use Standard Special Provision (SSP) 7-1.02K(6)(j)(iii) Unregulated Earth Material Containing Lead (SSP)		Yes							
Noise	Construction contractor must comply with Caltrans Standard Specification Section 14-8.02, "Noise Control,".	Std. Spec		RE						

EA 03-4G320_CEQA CE

Final Audit Report

2026-08-05

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