

Notice of Exemption

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

From: California Department of Transportation
500 S Main St
Bishop, Ca 93514

Project Title: Haiwee Thin Blanket

Project Applicant: California Department of Transportation

Project Location - Specific: INY-395-R25.8/29.9

Project Location - City: Haiwee Project Location - County: Inyo

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The purpose of this project is to restore the pavement to a serviceable condition. The pavement within the project limits is suffering distress and needs to be rehabilitated to provide a serviceable condition at the most severe locations until a larger project can be programmed. This project consists of a thin blanket overlay on U.S. Route 395 in Inyo County about 8 miles south of Cartago from 0.3 miles north of Haiwee Canyon Road to 0.5 miles north of Sage Flats Drive. The work includes cold planning or milling pavement in selected areas within the wheel path, placing hot mix asphalt the full width of pavement, restriping asphalt, placing shoulder backing, and applying fog seal to road connections, dikes, and drainage inlets. All work and staging areas will be within Caltrans Right-of-Way on existing pavement and disturbed shoulders. Temporary construction signs will be required. This project is state funded and estimated to take 45 working days.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Transportation

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

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: 15301 Class 1(c)
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

This project aims to remove and replace asphalt in severely distressed locations within the project limits to rehabilitate the existing highway to a serviceable condition in alignment with CEQA Categorical Exemption 15301 Class 1(c). The proposed project will be conducted on previously disturbed and paved areas within Caltrans right-of-way, resulting in no expansion of existing use. By adhering to environmental commitments required by technical studies, this project will not impact any known environmental resources. No exceptions to Categorical Exemptions apply.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Kristopher Bason

Phone number: (760)784-4056

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: *Kristopher Bason* Date: 09/08/2026 Title: Senior Environmental Scientist Supervisor

☒ 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.

09-43130_CEQA NOE_09-03-2026

Final Audit Report

2026-09-08

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