Notice of Exemption

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

From: Caltrans District 11
4050 Taylor Street, MS 242
San Diego, CA 92110

Project Title – Hardwire Existing Solar Panel Signs, and Refresh Pavement Markers on SR 111

Project Applicant – Caltrans, District 11

Project Location – Specific: Northbound and southbound sides of SR 111 adjacent to SR 86

Project Location - City: Heber Project Location - County: Imperial

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: Caltrans proposes to upgrade existing solar powered flashing beacons to hardwired flashing beacons to prevent panel theft and increase consistency of the flashers. Caltrans also proposes to refresh pavement markings throughout the intersection and install signal ahead pavement markings to increase driver visibility and awareness. Other work activities include refreshing pavement delineation across the intersection, removing existing solar panels from signal ahead signs on both northbound and southbound sides of SR 111. Caltrans will install new modified electrical system with flashing beacon at each sign and install new signal ahead pavement markings on westbound SR 86. The project also includes temporary construction signs, traffic control. No new signs are being installed but 4 signs will be upgraded with flashing beacons.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Caltrans, District 11

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Caltrans, District 11

Exempt Status:

- ☐ 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
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt: Project consists of the repair, maintenance, of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. Specifically, Caltrans proposes to upgrade existing solar powered flashing beacons to hardwired flashing beacons to prevent panel theft and increase consistency of the flashers. Caltrans also proposes to refresh pavement markings throughout the intersection and install signal ahead pavement markings to increase driver visibility and awareness.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Emery McCaffery Phone number: 858-289-1270

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: Emery Mccaffery Date: 9/21/2026 Title: Environmental Scientist

☒ Signed by Lead Agency ☒ Signed by Applicant

Date Received for filing at OPR: 9/21/2026

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Form adapted from Appendix E of the CEQA Guidelines August 2024