



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

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): CONSTRUCT DPPIAS AT 4 LOCATIONS

DIST-CO-RTE: 07-LA-101, 134, 170 **PM/PM:** VAR

EA: 1Q100_001 **Federal-Aid Project Number:** 0722000208

Project Description

The Office of Geotechnical Design South proposes to conduct geotechnical subsurface exploration and testing in support of a stormwater treatment project in Los Angeles County. The geotechnical investigation includes percolation testing, which involves excavation up to a depth of 5 feet with a hand shovel and water trucks on site. One percolation test will be conducted at each of the four Design Pollution Prevention Infiltration Areas (DPPIA) locations (a total of four percolation tests). See table of specific locations under Continuation Sheet. This project is 100% State funded per the project manager, therefore this is a CEQA only document.

Note that this document covers only geotechnical subsurface exploration and testing for this project.

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 6.** (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

Robert Wang

Print Name

Signature

08/05/2026

Date

Project Manager

Samantha Venegas

Print Name

Signature

08/05/2026

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): N/A

Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 8/5/2026



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Continuation sheet:

Location Table:

Device #	Highway & Direction	PM	BPM Device
1	LA-134 WB	R8.4	DPPIA
2	LA-134 WB	2.6	DPPIA
3	LA-170 SB	R17.2	DPPIA
4	LA-101 SB	9.3	DPPIA

Air Quality

Objectionable odors would be mainly related to operation of diesel-powered equipment and off-gas emissions during road-building activities, such as paving and asphaltting. SCAQMD Rule 1113 (Architectural Coating) limits the amount of VOC emissions from paving, asphalt, concrete curing, and cement coatings operations. Construction of the proposed project shall comply with all applicable AQMD Rules. While construction equipment on site would generate some objectionable odors primarily arising from diesel exhaust, these emissions would generally be limited to the project site and would be temporary in nature. Objectionable odor should also 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.

The AQB should be informed of any changes to the proposed scope or the class of action determined for this project. Such changes may require an update or reassessment of air quality issues for the proposed project.

Biology

The percolation test borings for the DPPIA activities will not impact sensitive biological resources. The impact areas of this project consist mainly of landscaped ornamental vegetation regularly maintained by Caltrans Division of Maintenance. However, Location #2 (LA-134, PM 2.6) and Location #4 (LA-170, PM R17.2) contain coast live oak trees (*Quercus agrifolia*) within the work area. Excavation within the dripline/root systems near all oak trees at these locations should be avoided. No other federal/state threatened/endangered species occurrences or observations were discovered within the project limits.

Cultural

Based on this review, the undertaking, as currently proposed, has no potential to affect historical resources eligible for or listed in the National Register of Historic Places or that qualify for registration as California Historic, and is exempt from further review



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pursuant to the PRC 5024 MOU Stipulation VII and Appendix 2, and the work conforms to the following types of screened undertakings listed in the PRC 5024 MOU Appendix 2:

Class 29 Preliminary engineering tests, such as seismic, geologic, or hazardous materials testing that involve buildings or structures or require trenching or ground boring.

As a result, this undertaking is exempt from further review, no additional studies are required and the CEQA cultural resources component and PRC 5024 compliance are complete. Please note that this assessment could change if there are any changes to the proposed activities or if additional locations are added. If there are any such changes to the proposed undertaking, an additional review by the cultural resources unit will be required. 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

Exposed soils along roadways may be impacted with ADL due to historic use of leaded gasoline. ADL impacted soils are generally present up to 30 feet laterally from the edge of the paved road and to depths of two feet below ground surface (ft bgs), sometime extending to five ft bgs. Caltrans must comply with the requirements of the Soil Management Agreement with the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) on management, transport, and disposal of ADL contaminated soil. Based on the information provided, we understand that there will be minor soil disturbance in unpaved areas while performing the percolation tests.

Special handling, waste management, and disposal are required for generated contaminated soil. It is also recommended that the geotechnical unit review their health and safety requirements to ensure that there is no exposure to potential contaminants in the soil during the percolation tests.

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Final Audit Report

2026-08-05

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