



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

**Project Information**

**Project Name:** Fontana 210 Roadside Rehabilitation

**DIST-CO-RTE:** 08-SBD-210

**PM/PM:** 12.9-15.0

**EA:** 08-1T730

**Project Number:** 0826000108

**Federal-Aid Project Number:** N/A

**Project Description**

The landscape rehabilitation will occur in the city of Fontana in the westbound direction of State Route 210 in San Bernardino County between postmiles (PM) 12.9-15.0. Work will include removal of invasive plant species, degraded/dead trees, installation of new trees and groundcover plantings, implementation of erosion control measures, and upgrades to the irrigation systems. Irrigation improvements will consist of replacing multiple irrigation controllers, remote control valves, electrical wiring, and irrigation pipe (12" to 24") with standard trenching. Equipment staging areas, driving/parking off-pavement, and ramp closures will also be needed. All work will be performed within Caltrans right-of-way (ROW).

**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(h).** (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**

Kourtney Graves

Print Name

*Kourtney Graves*

Signature

9/22/26

Date

**Project Manager**

Matthew Sapp

Print Name

*Matthew Sapp*

Signature

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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)(7)**

☐ **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

Kourtney Graves

Print Name

*Kourtney Graves*

Signature

9/22/26

Date

### Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Matthew Sapp

Print Name

*Matthew Sapp*

Signature

9/22/26

Date

**Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion:** 9-22-2026

**Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent:** 9-22-2026

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:**

#### **Purpose and Need:**

The Purpose and Need are as follows: Purpose: The purpose of this project is to maintain our Classified Landscaped Freeway status by re-establishing planting and improving Roadside Safety for Maintenance Workers by relocating irrigation systems to safe and accessible locations. Need: The need of this project is to address gaps of landscape that can lead to the de-classification of the Classified Landscaped Freeway status. Maintenance worker safety is a current issue due to the location of existing valves near the roadway. Additionally, invasive plant species have taken over the landscape slopes and require additional maintenance and worker exposure.

### **AIR QUALITY**

#### **Memorandum: August 10, 2026.**

In coordination with District Environmental Engineering, the scope of the Project has been evaluated as an exempt project that falls under the broad category of exempt project type "*Plantings, landscaping, etc.*" as outlined in Table 1 of the Caltrans Carbon Monoxide Protocol and Table 2 in 40 CFR § 93.126. All projects listed under these tables are exempt from conformity analysis. An air quality report is not needed.

### **GREENHOUSE GAS (GHG)/CLIMATE CHANGE**

#### **Construction Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Estimate: August 10, 2026.**

In coordination with District Environmental Engineering, the CAL-CET2021 Upgrade (v1.0.0) air modeling software was used to estimate construction and Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that are summarized below. The GHG estimates for construction emissions on-road/offsite operations have been deduced as Carbon Dioxide Equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) averaging 0.56 metric tons per day and 41.9 metric tons during the 75 days of construction activity.

### **NOISE**

#### **Memorandum: September 10, 2026.**

In coordination with District Environmental Engineering, this project is a Type III project. Under 23 CFR 772.7 and the Caltrans Traffic Noise Analysis Protocol, it does not involve adding through-traffic lanes, changing the vertical or horizontal alignment of the highway, or significantly altering the physical characteristics of the road. It focuses strictly on landscape rehabilitation, erosion control, and irrigation upgrades, it requires no abatement consideration, and therefore, a noise analysis is not required.

### **HAZARDOUS WASTE**

#### **Initial Site Assessment (ISA) Checklist: September 10, 2026.**

In coordination with District Environmental Engineering, the hazardous waste potential for the project area is Low Risk. An existing aerially deposited lead (ADL) report shows non-hazardous concentrations of ADL near the project area.

### **Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures**

- **HW-1:** SSP 6-1.03B: Conditions for use of local material from non-commercial source, or source not regulated under California jurisdiction.
- **HW-2:** SSP 7-1.02k(6)(j)(ii): "Submit the lead compliance plan as an informational submittal;" requires bid item #070031 "*Lead Compliance Plan (Informational).*"
- **HW-3:** SSP 7-1.02k(6)(j)(iii): Unregulated earth material.



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### **PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

**Email: September 14, 2026.**

In coordination with District Paleontology, due to the nature of the project description, no paleontological studies will be required for this project.

### **CULTURAL RESOURCES**

**Cultural Resources Compliance Memorandum: September 15, 2026.**

In coordination with District Cultural Studies, the provisions of the PRC 5024 MOU, Attachment 2, have been applied to this project. This project falls under: Class 6, *"Minor utility installation or relocation,"* Class 10, *"Repair of the highway and its facilities,"* Class 11, *"Modification of existing features, such as slopes, ditches, curbs, sidewalks, driveways, dikes, or headwalls, within or adjacent to the right of way,"* Class 18, *"Restoration or rehabilitation of deteriorated or damaged structures, facilities, or mechanical equipment to meet current standards of public health and safety,"* Class 19, *"Any work on Category 5 bridges, including rehabilitation or reconstruction,"* and Class 25, *"Establishment, replacement, or removal of landscaping, vegetation, or irrigation systems on state or local public property, including highway and local roads rights of way and building sites."*

As a result, this undertaking is exempt from further review, no additional archaeological or built environment studies are required at this time and the CEQA cultural resources component, and PRC 5024 compliance are complete. This memorandum documents compliance with the agreed-upon historic preservation procedures.

### **Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures**

- **CR-1:** If buried cultural resources are encountered during Project Activities, it is Caltrans policy that work stop within 60 feet of the area until a qualified archaeologist can evaluate the nature and significance of the find.
- **CR-2:** In the event that human remains are found, the county coroner shall be notified and ALL construction activities within 60 feet of the discovery shall stop. Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98, if the remains are thought to be Native American, the coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) who will then notify the Most Likely Descendent (MLD). The person who discovered the remains will contact the District 8 Division of Environmental Planning; Gabrielle Duff, DEBC: (909) 501-5142 and Julie Scrivner, DNAC: (909) 260-8265. Further provisions of PRC 5097.98 are to be followed as applicable.
- **CR-3:** Cultural sensitivity training will be provided prior to start of construction.

### **BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

**Natural Environmental Study – No Effect Memorandum: September 9, 2026.**

In coordination with District Biology, the project will have *No Effect* and *No Take* of federally or state-listed species or habitat. Vegetation and tree removal may affect active native bird nests if conducted during the nesting season. No streams, wetlands, riparian habitat, or other aquatic resources occur within the project footprint. No permits or agreements are required or anticipated.

### **Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures**

- **BIO-1:** Equipment Staging, Storing, and Borrow Sites: All staging, storing, and borrow sites require the approval of the Caltrans biologist.
- **BIO-2:** Pre-construction Survey & Buffers: If any work is scheduled between February 1<sup>st</sup> and September 15<sup>th</sup>, a Qualified Biologist must conduct a qualified pre-construction nesting bird survey and establish species appropriate avoidance buffers until fledging for any active nests.



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- **BIO-3:** Pre-construction Bat Surveys: Within 3 days prior to work, a qualified biologist will survey any palm trees for bat roosting signifiers using non-intrusive methods. If a bat roost is detected, postpone work at the affected location and coordinate with the Caltrans biologist or contracted biologist as needed to maintain compliance; additional measures and/or agency consultation may be required.

### **PERMITS AND AGREEMENTS:**

According to the Natural Environmental Study – No Effect Memorandum (NES-NEM), no permits or agreements are required.

*In conjunction with the results of the above technical documentation, the Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measure(s) included in the Environmental Commitments Record (ECR), are expected to be implemented, as applicable. Changes to the project's scope of work, will require that the District's Division of Environmental Planning be notified in a timely manner, to determine if an Environmental Re-Evaluation will be required to confirm that the environmental documentation for NEPA/CEQA compliance, remains valid.*

*Updates to the original Technical Studies, or preparation of new Technical Studies may be required, and/or a new CE/CE Determination Form may need to be completed, and/or an Environmental Document may need to be prepared and approved, to document the project's compliance with all applicable NEPA/CEQA requirements.*