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

Project Information

Project Name: Install MGS, Dike, Vegetation Control, and Terminals on SR 78 in San Diego County

DIST-CO-RTE: 11-SD-78 **PM:** 36.508/36.608 & PM42.62/42.76

EA/PID: 11-3B037/PID 1126000140 **Federal-Aid Project Number:** N/A

Project Description

Caltrans proposes to install a Midwest Guardrail System (MGS), terminal systems, and hot mixed asphalt (HMA) dike (Type F) along eastbound SR 78 on the northwest corner of Rancho Santa Teresa Drive. Caltrans will also remove the existing HMA dike and up to 1' of existing HMA shoulder so that there is a minimum 1.5' of clearance from the existing SDG&E utility to the back of the MGS post. There have been run-off-road collisions involving eastbound vehicles crossing westbound lane and off the roadway. Guardrail is recommended at this location to reduce the severity of run-off-road collision. All work is within Caltrans right-of-way. Environmental commitments for biological resources, visual resources, hazardous materials, cultural resources and NPDES/Stormwater are included in the Environmental Commitments record (ECR).

Caltrans CEQA Determination

☐ **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

Mitchell Doucette	Mitchell Doucette	9/28/2026
Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager

Derek Carpenter		9/28/2026
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)()**
- ☐ **23 CFR 771.117(d): activity (d)()**
- ☐ **Activity 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:09/15/2026