

Notice of Exemption

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

County Clerk
County of Santa Clara

From: Caltrans District 4 Office of Maintenance Environmental
111 Grand Ave
Oakland, CA 94612

Project Title: I-280 Culvert Replacement (EA 04-0V250)

Project Applicant: Caltrans

Project Location - Specific: The project is located on the Interstate (I-) 280 southbound separation to State Route (SR-) 37 in Santa Clara County from post mile (PM) R2.8 to R3.0.

Project Location - City: San Jose

Project Location - County: Santa Clara

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

Caltrans proposes removing and replacing a culvert system on the Interstate (I-) 280 southbound separation to State Route (SR-) 87 in Santa Clara County from post mile (PM) R2.8 to R3.0. There is a substantial amount of water seeping through the pavement and depressed areas between the two drainage inlets (Dis) on the asphalt concrete (AC) pavement. Based on visual inspections of the site and review of the as-builts, the settlement and cracks is likely due to the failure of the underdrain pipes. The underdrains have limited capacity as they are partially filled with soil, corroded, and at some locations are fully blocked, causing water seepage through the roadway surface. The foundation soils are migrating into the underdrain system and as a result, cavities and settlement have been created.

To prevent the underdrain system from migrating into the water seepage, the existing underdrain will be removed and replaced with a new system consisting of 10" Perforated PVC pile (PPP) (Refer to D102 in 2022 Standard Plans), and a Class 3 Permeable Material (PM) drainage layer under the shoulder with a length of 330' to draw down the inflow of the groundwater. Trenching of the roadway will be required to access the underdrain.

The foundation soils under the pavement will be strengthened using compaction grouting in combination with sodium silicate, which is a fast-acting chemical setting agent. Before the construction of the new underdrain, the compaction grouting will be

used within the limits of the settled areas to an approximate depth of 20 feet. The roadway will then be repaved with hot mix asphalt (HMA).

Traffic control will be required during construction.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Caltrans

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Caltrans

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: PRC 21084; 14 CCR 15301 Class 1
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

Class 1 Existing Facilities. The project is not anticipated to result in any environmental impacts. The project contains a number of standardized project measures which are employed on most, if not all, Caltrans projects and were not developed in response to any specific environmental impacts resulting from the project.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Juliane Smith

Phone number: (510) 926-0426

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: Juliane Smith Date: 10/15/26

Title: Senior Environmental Scientist (NEPA/CEQA Specialist)

☒ 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.