Notice of Exemption

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

From: California Department of Transportation (CalTrans)
1656 Union Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Project Title: DN-101 Last Chance Grade Repair Storm Damage

Project Applicant: N/A

Project Location - Specific: U.S. Highway 101 in Del Norte County between Post Miles (PM) 12.0 to PM 16.5

Project Location - City: N/A Project Location - County: Del Norte

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:
The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is conducting repairs to U.S. Highway 101 in Del Norte County between postmiles (PM) 12.0 to PM 16.5. Heavy winter rains, which occurred on March 14, 2025, caused damages to highway facilities as a result of saturated soils, erosion, and earth movement. A sudden landslide caused damages to a retaining wall system, the roadway prism, and subsurface drainage system within an area known as Last Chance Grade (LCG). Immediate repairs were needed to protect the roadway and keep the route safe for the traveling public. The purpose of the project was to: (1) Repair and install new underdrains at damaged wall locations, (2) Fill gaps that had opened between drainage inlets, (3) Remove debris from the landslide and stabilize the hillsides, (4) Place backfill in eroded areas, and (5) Construct retaining walls and repair subsurface drainage and install additional underdrains.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Transportation

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California Department of Transportation

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: _____
- ☒ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: 14 CCR Section 15269(d)

Reasons why project is exempt:
The project is an emergency project essential to maintain, repair, or restore property and public services.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Elanah Riley Phone number: 530-708-5250

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: Elanah Riley Date: 10/16/2026 Title: Environmental Coordinator

☒ Signed by Lead Agency ☐ Signed by Applicant

Date Received for filing at OPR: 10/16/2026

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