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

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): Sage Hen Summit CCTV & RWIS Project

DIST-CO-RTE: 02-LAS-395 **PM/PM:** 133.75

EA: 02-1K350 **Federal-Aid Project Number:** 0224000098

Project Description

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), using State funding, is proposing to build a closed-circuit television (CCTV) and road weather information system (RWIS) and make other associated improvements near Sage Hen Summit along U.S. Route 395 in Lassen County. Improvements on U.S. 395 would occur from post mile (PM) 133.60 to 133.89.

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 3 New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures.** (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

Julie McFall	Julie McFall	10/22/2026
Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager

Mohammad Rahmani	Mohammad Rahmani	10/23/2026
Print Name	Signature	Date

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	N/A	N/A
Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

N/A	N/A	N/A
Print Name	Signature	Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): N/A
Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 10/22/26

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).

Continuation sheet:

The purpose of the project is to provide detection of adverse winter roadway conditions and provide accurate, timely and reliable traveler information to the Transportation Management Center (TMC) and traveling public along the US 395 corridor between Alturas and Susanville. The project is needed because, at an elevation of 5,548 feet, Sage Hen Summit develops adverse winter roadway conditions prior to surrounding highway areas. Remote monitoring of highway conditions is needed for the traveling public to be prepared, and for Caltrans Maintenance crews to assess the need for de-icing or snow removal activities.

The proposed improvements would include:

Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)

Constructing an RWIS and CCTV station and a luminaire adjacent to the paved roadway of U.S. 395 at PM 133.84. Construction of the RWIS and CCTV station would require paving the road shoulder and constructing a 14-foot by 34-foot concrete pad along the northbound lane.

Guardrail

Constructing approximately 334 linear feet of Midwest Guardrail System (MGS) Guardrail along the northbound lane.

Electrical Infrastructure

Installing four (4) electrical poles along a new easement on private property to connect to existing electrical infrastructure owned by Surprise Valley. Electrical transmission line would be installed aboveground from Surprise Valley's existing pole to a new utility junction box on BLM land. The electrical transmission line would then be installed underground in a conduit, extending from PM 133.7 to the new RWIS and CCTV equipment at PM 133.84. The maximum depth of excavation for the conduit is 4 feet and the maximum depth of excavation for the poles is 7 feet. The 20-foot easement on private property would be cleared and grubbed along the proposed line.

Lighting

Installing a single light pole within the road shoulder along the south bound lane at PM 133.75.

Construction Access and Staging

Construction access would be from the pavement or road shoulders; no temporary construction access roads are expected. Construction staging would occur on the road pullout located on the southbound lane near PM 133.70.

Disposal/Borrow Sites

The project would not utilize disposal sites. Asphalt grindings and other construction debris would become property of the contractor. Approximately 350 cubic yards of borrow material would be imported from a licensed facility for grading.

Vegetation and Tree Removal

Clearing and grubbing of trees and vegetation would be required within the 20-foot-wide easement for approximately 1,000 linear feet. This easement will be maintained to ensure no new vegetation interferes with the power lines and the electrical provider's ability to reach them.

Right-of-Way

Work would occur within Caltrans' right-of-way (ROW), Bureau of Land Management (BLM) property, and private property. Three (3) temporary construction easements would be required. A permanent easement on BLM land for the CCTV and RWIS concrete pad would be required. A permanent easement on private property for electrical pole installation and service access would also be required.

Coordination/Consultation

To identify potential cultural resources, Caltrans staff conducted a review of internal and external agency resource records and databases. Additionally, a field review of the project area was completed by cultural staff. Once review was completed it was determined the proposed scope of work has no potential to affect cultural resources.

Construction activities will require tribal monitoring for all ground disturbing activities.

Utilities

Utility conflicts with existing fiberoptic line are anticipated within Caltrans ROW. Prior to the start of construction, the existing fiberoptic line will be relocated away from the proposed electric line. Caltrans will coordinate with the utility owner regarding relocation.

Permits

No jurisdictional features would be impacted; therefore, no resource-agency permits are anticipated for this project.

Caltrans will permanently acquire an easement on private property to accommodate the installation of four electrical poles that will support a CCTV. According to the County, the property is currently zoned U-C-A-P (Upland Conservation, Agricultural Preserve Combining District) and is currently enrolled under a Williamson Act

(California Land Conservation Act) contract. In accordance with Lassen County's Uniform Rules for Agricultural Preserves, the construction of nonpublic utility lines for transmission or distribution of electricity are permitted within the Agricultural Preserve Combining District; however, a Use Permit is required prior to acquisition of property. Caltrans is currently in the process of obtaining a Special Use Permit from Lassen County.

It is estimated that approximately 0.47 acres of Williamson Act land would be permanently acquired by Caltrans to accommodate the project. The existing parcel is approximately 280 acres in size. Because the amount of land that would be converted for use is small in relation to the size of the parcel that would be affected and is well below the 100-acre CEQA threshold, the conversion of Williamson Act land is not substantial and there would be no impact.

Traffic

Construction will be conducted under the Standard Plan for reversing traffic control, with speed reduction. Most operations can be conducted during typical 12 hour work shifts. Lane closures on 2 lane conventional highways are not allowed during times when traffic volumes are high enough to create queues too large to clear in a standard traffic control cycle. News releases to the local media will be released as needed throughout the duration of the project to keep the public informed.

Schedule

The project would be completed in one construction season. Due to weather conditions, a seasonal construction window is required.

02-1K530 Sage Hen Summit CEQA CE

Final Audit Report 2026-10-23

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