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

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): Fence Replacement Benjamin Holt Underpass

DIST-CO-RTE: 10-SJ-005 **PM/PM:** 31.35/31.70

EA: 10-1U010 **Federal-Aid Project Number:** N/A

Project Description

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to remove damaged Right of Way (ROW) chain link fencing and replace with more secure fencing consisting of security wrought iron along Interstate(I) 5 at 2 locations. Construction begins at postmile (PM) 31.35 and ends at PM 31.70 in San Joaquin County. All work will be within Caltrans Right of Way. The purpose of the project is to address the existing damaged and nonfunctional ROW fencing. The project is needed to prevent unauthorized access into Caltrans 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. (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

Elizabeth Hummel	Elizabeth Hummel	10/20/2026
Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager

Edujie Imoisili	Edujie Imonitie Imoisili	10/21/2026
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

Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Print Name	Signature	Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): N/A
Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 09/22/2026

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).

Continuation sheet:

General

• Environmental reevaluation will be required if the scope of the project changes to include additional areas or activities, or if previously unknown cultural or other sensitive resources are discovered. Contact Environmental Office if project changes occur or sensitive resources discovered.

• Contact the Environmental Office to attend the pre-construction meeting.

Cultural

• If cultural resources are discovered at the job site, do not disturb the resources and immediately:

1. Stop all work within a 60-foot radius of the discovery
2. Protect the discovery area
3. Notify the Engineer
4. The Department investigates. Do not move cultural materials or take them from the jobsite. Retain a qualified archeologist to assess the significance of the find. Do not resume work within the discovery area until authorized.

• If human remains are discovered, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that further disturbances and activities shall cease in any area or nearby area suspected to overlie remains, and the County Coroner should be contacted. 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) which will then notify the Most Likely Descendent (MLD). At that time, the landowner will work with the MLD on the respectful treatment and disposition of the remains. Further provisions of PRC 5097.98 are to be followed as applicable.

Hazardous Waste

• The Caltrans Standard Special Provision, 7-1.02K(6)(j)(iii), which pertains to Earth Material Containing Lead, shall be added to the construction contract. A lead compliance plan prepared by a Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) is required and all soil must remain on-site.

Biology

• Include Caltrans Standard Special Provision 14-6.03A in the construction contract. If work is to occur during the migratory bird nesting season (February 1–September 30), preconstruction surveys must be conducted by a qualified biologist two weeks prior to construction activities. Contact Environmental Office to schedule a preconstruction survey. If active nests are observed, buffers will need to be established around the nests until the young have fledged, in coordination with California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). A 100-foot buffer shall be established around migratory bird active nests. For hawks, a 300-foot buffer would need to be established. For Swainson's hawk, a 600-foot buffer would need to be established

No Permits Required.