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

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): Pavement Rehabilitation

DIST-CO-RTE: 10-MER-140 **PM/PM:** 4.3/6.1

EA: 10-1V350 **Federal-Aid Project Number:** N/A

Project Description

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is proposing a highway maintenance project in Merced County, near Gustine, on State Route (SR) 140 from Post mile (PM) 4.3 to PM 6.1. The area of work spans from West Junction Route 33 at Sullivan Road to East Junction Route 33 at North Avenue. The project proposes a cold plane and to place hot mix asphalt (HMA) from edge of pavement (EP) to EP. Dig outs will be performed by the process of cold planing. Existing white and yellow striping and pavement markings will be removed with the pavement during the cold planning process. All work will be done in Caltrans Right of Way. The purpose of this project is to repair areas of failing or damaged pavement. The project is needed to prevent further deterioration of the paved highway surface and extend the service life of SR 140.

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

Maria Garcia Lopez on behalf of

Elizabeth Hummel	Maria Garcia Lopez	10/16/2026
Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager

Edujie I. Imoisili	Edujie Imonitie Imoisili	10/20/2026
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: 10/16/2026

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 the Environmental Office if project changes occur or sensitive resources are 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-ft radius discovery

  2. Project the discovery area

  3. Notify the Engineer

  4. The department investigates. Do not move cultural materials or take them from the job site. Retain a qualified archaeologist 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 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) who will then notify the Most Likely Descendent (MLD). At the same 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 project requires removal of yellow paint/thermoplastic traffic striping and/pr pavement markings. If determined to be nonhazardous, the waste shall be managed as construction debris Caltrans Standards Special Provision (SSP) 36-4 shall be added to the contract.

Biology:

- Include Caltrans Standard Special Provision 14-6.03A in the construction contract. If construction activities occur during the migratory bird nesting season (February 1 – September 30), preconstruction surveys must be conducted by a

qualified Caltrans biologist within 14 days prior to the start of any construction activities. Contact the Caltrans District 10 Environmental Office to schedule a preconstruction survey. If active nests are observed, protective buffers shall be established around each nest until the young have fledged, per California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) guidelines. If construction activities do not commence within 14 days after Environmental clearance, or stop for more than 14 days, a subsequent bird survey may be required. Work shall not commence or recommence until authorized by the Environmental Office.

No permits are required for this project.