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

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): Culvert Replacement

DIST-CO-RTE: 10-SJ-205 **PM/PM:** 3.34

EA: 10-1V330 **Federal-Aid Project Number:** N/A

Project Description

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes replacing three (3) culverts on State Route (SR) 205 in San Joaquin County. All 3 culverts will be replaced on SR 205 at Post Mile (PM) 3.34. The scope of work includes replacement of the existing elliptical culverts with standard Corrugated Steel Pipe (CSP) Arch culverts, installation of flared end section and installation of Rock Slope Protection (RSP) at the outlets. All work will occur within existing Caltrans Right of Way. The purpose of this project is to replace the damaged and failing culverts. The project is needed to ensure motorist safety over these drainages.

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	10/28/2026
Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager

Huan Cung	Huan Cung	10/29/2026
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: 10/28/2026

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 are discovered.
- Please ensure the Environmental Office is invited to the pre-construction meeting and notified of the start of any construction activities.

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

  The Department investigates. Do not move cultural materials or take them from the job site. 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 –

- Caltrans Standard Special Provision 7-1.02K(6)(j)(iii) pertaining to earth material containing lead, shall be included in the contract.
- The Caltrans Standard Special Provision 14-11.12 shall be included in the construction contract and the Contractor shall manage the removed stripe and pavement marking as a hazardous waste.

Biology –

In order to avoid all potential impacts to protected animals, Standard Special Provision (SSP) 14-6.03A will be included in the project contract as follows:

- If work will occur within the migratory bird nesting season (February 1 – September 30), a request must be submitted to the Engineer to have a qualified biologist conduct a pre-construction bird survey within 14 days prior to the start of any construction related activities. If an active nest is observed, a protective buffer must be established around the nest until the young have fledged. No

construction related activities must occur within the limits of the protective buffer until authorized by the Engineer. Once authorized, if construction activities do not commence within 14 days after completion of the bird survey or if construction activities stop for more than 14 days, a subsequent bird survey may be required. Work shall not commence or recommence until authorized by the Engineer.

- A qualified biologist will conduct nesting burrowing owl surveys, prior to any construction-related activities occurring during the burrowing owl nesting season (February 1 – August 31). If burrowing owls are onsite during their non-nesting season (September 1 – January 31), an appropriate buffer will be established to avoid the species during construction. Do not begin any construction-related activities until authorized. The Engineer may authorize beginning construction-related activities for the project if a survey of the project location by the qualified biologist shows an absence of nesting burrowing owls. If nesting burrowing owls are found during the pre-construction survey, the appropriate protective radius must be established around the nest. No work may commence within the protective radius until authorized.
- A qualified biologist will conduct American badger surveys, prior to any construction-related activities. Do not begin any construction-related activities until authorized. The Engineer may authorize beginning construction-related activities for the project if a survey of the project location by the qualified biologist shows an absence of active American badger and their dens. If American badger dens are found during the pre-construction survey, the appropriate protective radius must be established around the den. No work may commence within the protective radius until authorized.
- A qualified biologist will conduct crotch's bumble bee surveys, prior to any construction-related activities. Do not begin any construction-related activities until authorized. The Engineer may authorize beginning construction-related activities for the project if a survey of the project location by the qualified biologist shows an absence of active crotch's bumble bees and their hives. If crotch's bumble bees are found during the pre-construction survey, the appropriate protective radius must be established around the hive. No work may commence within the protective radius until authorized.

Permits –

No Permits Required