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

Project Information

Project Name: SR-18 Dry Creek Maintenance Station Electrical Upgrades (L5711)

DIST-CO-RTE: 08-SBD-18 **PM/PM:** 32.900

EA: 08-1T290 **PN:** 0826000034 **Federal-Aid Project Number:** N/A

Project Description

Caltrans proposes to 1. Relocate and replace the existing main switchgear box in the maintenance building; 2. A new generator pad (16 feet by 14 feet) will be built to relocate the existing Generac generator (80kw) and support a 200kw generator in the future. Dry Creek Maintenance Station (DCMS) (L5711) is located on State Route 18 (SR-18) at 32821 Hilltop Boulevard in the City of Running Springs, in San Bernardino County at postmile (PM) 32.900.

All project work will be in DCMS, which is in existing Caltrans Right-of-Way (ROW) and is under a Special-Use Permit - United States Forest Service (SUP-USFS). There will be ground disturbance of up to 3 feet and utility relocation.

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(c). (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

Kourtney Graves	Kourtney Graves	10/28/2026
Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager

Mike Ristic	Michael Ristic	Oct 28, 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)(2)**
- ☐ **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

Kourtney Graves	Kourtney Graves	10/28/2026
Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Mike Ristic	Michael Ristic	Oct 28, 2026
Print Name	Signature	Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): 10-28-26
Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 10-28-26

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:

Purpose and Need:

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to improve and enhance the operation of the maintenance station. Need: The need of this project is to upgrade the old electrical system, as the maintenance station building is aging and has exposed electrical wires.

The following technical documentation was prepared in conjunction with determining and addressing applicable California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation and compliance requirements.

AIR QUALITY

Memorandum: September 8, 2026.

In coordination with District Environmental Engineering, the scope of the Project has been evaluated as an exempt project that falls under the broad category of exempt project type "*projects that correct, improve, or eliminate a hazardous location or feature*" listed under Table 1 of Caltrans Carbon Monoxide Protocol and Table 2 in 40 CFR § 93.126. All projects listed under these tables are exempt from conformity analysis. An air quality report is not needed. However, a Greenhouse Gas (GHG) analysis is needed for construction emissions.

Transportation Air Quality Conformity Findings Checklist: September 8, 2026.

The project is exempt from all project-level conformity requirements 40 CFR 93.126; Project type from Table 2: projects that correct, improve, or eliminate a hazardous location or feature.

GREENHOUSE GAS (GHG)/CLIMATE CHANGE

Construction GHG Emissions Analysis Memorandum: September 8, 2026.

In coordination with District Environmental Engineering, the CAL-CET2021 upgraded air modeling software was used to estimate construction Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions that are summarized below. The GHG estimates for construction emissions on-road/offsite operations have been deduced as Carbon Dioxide Equivalent (CO_2e) in 17 metric tons during the 40 days of construction activity (which also represent the annual average for the project). Please see GHG/Climate Change measures in the Environmental Commitments Record (ECR).

NOISE

Memorandum: October 19, 2026.

In coordination with District Environmental Engineering, this project falls under Type III project categories of 23CFR772.7 in the Traffic Noise Analysis Protocol. Per the Traffic Noise Analysis Protocol, "Type III projects do not require a noise analysis." This is considered an exempt project. Hence, no noise study is needed.

HAZARDOUS WASTE

Initial Site Assessment (ISA) Checklist: September 3, 2026.

In coordination with District Environmental Engineering, the hazardous waste potential for the project area is Low Risk. The scope of the project will involve subsurface utility relocation.

PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Email: October 16, 2026.

In coordination with District Paleontology, due to the nature of the project description, no paleontological studies will be required for this project.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Cultural Resources Compliance Memorandum: August 12, 2026.

In coordination with District Cultural Studies, the provisions of the PRC 5024 MOU, Attachment 2, have been applied to this project. This project falls under: Class 1, "*Pavement reconstruction, resurfacing, shoulder backing, or placement of seal coats,*" Class 6, *"Minor utility installation, maintenance, or relocation*," Class 10, "*Repair of the highway and its facilities,*" Class 17, *"Additions or alterations to existing buildings, such as work on or in office or equipment buildings, maintenance stations, warehouses, roadside rests, vista points, minor transit facilities, weigh and inspection stations, toll facilities, or state-owned rentals,"* and Class 18, *"Restoration or rehabilitation of deteriorated or damaged structures, facilities, or mechanical equipment to meet current standards of public health and safety."*

As a result, this undertaking is exempt from further review, no additional archaeological or built environment studies are required at this time and the CEQA cultural resources component, and PRC 5024 compliance are complete. This memorandum documents compliance with the agreed-upon historic preservation procedures.

Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measures

- **CR-1:** If buried cultural resources are encountered during Project Activities, it is Caltrans policy that work stop within 60 feet of the area until a qualified archaeologist can evaluate the nature and significance of the find.

- **CR-2:** In the event that human remains are found, the county coroner shall be notified and ALL construction activities within 60 feet of the discovery shall stop. 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). The person who discovered the remains will contact the District 8 Division of Environmental Planning; Gabrielle Duff, DEBC: (909) 501-5142 and Julie Scrivner, DNAC: (909) 260-8265. Further provisions of PRC 5097.98 are to be followed as applicable.

- **CR-3:** Cultural sensitivity training will be provided prior to start of construction.

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Natural Environmental Study – No Effect Memorandum (NES-NEM): August 18, 2026.

In coordination with District Biology, the project will have *No Effect* and *No Take* of listed species or habitat. Due to the Project footprint occurring solely on pavement, habitat for rare and endangered plant species does not exist within the Project Impact Area (PIA). There are no jurisdictional waters nor critical habitat within the PIA. Although there are no jurisdictional waters within the maintenance station, Dry Creek, a seasonal channel, is located adjacent to the maintenance station. No permits or agreements are required.

PERMITS AND AGREEMENTS:

According to the Natural Environmental Study – No Effect Memorandum (NES-NEM), no permits or agreements are required.

In conjunction with the results of the above technical documentation, the Avoidance, Minimization, and/or Mitigation Measure(s) included in the Environmental Commitments Record (ECR), are expected to be implemented, as applicable. Changes to the project's scope of work, will require that the District's Division of Environmental Planning be notified in a timely manner, to determine if an Environmental Re-Evaluation will be required to confirm that the environmental documentation for NEPA/CEQA compliance, remains valid.

Updates to the original Technical Studies, or preparation of new Technical Studies may be required, and/or a new CE/CE Determination Form may need to be completed, and/or an Environmental Document may need to be prepared and approved, to document the project's compliance with all applicable NEPA/CEQA requirements.