Notice of Exemption

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Caltrans District 11
4050 Taylor Street, MS 242
San Diego, CA 92110

Project Title – Encampment Deterrent on I-5 and SR-163

Project Applicant – Caltrans, District 11

Project Location – Specific: 4 ramps at Palm Avenue at I-5 at post mile 6.00, and near SR-163 at post mile 3.98

Project Location - City: San Diego Project Location - County: San Diego

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project: Caltrans proposes placement of rock slope protection as a deterrent for the homeless individuals at all four (4) ramps at Palm Avenue at Interstate 5 at post mile 6.00. Work also includes repairing chain-link fencing at one of the off-ramps to reduce homeless trespassing. Additional work includes placement of signs, and replacement of existing damaged chain link fence near SR-163 at post mile 3.98 to reduce homeless trespassing. The installation of the replaced chain link fence and asphalt driveway along with 4 signs have estimated hole dimensions of 8" in diameter by 4' deep. Caltrans will replace an existing fence panel with a new fence gate and placing aggregate base, as well as installing 2 No Pedestrian Crossing signs. This is next to SR-163 PM 4.00 on outside sides of the northbound/southbound (NB/SB) bridge near the surface street Camino de la Reina. Also, two (2) No Pedestrians signs will be installed at SB SR-163 exit ramp to 6th Avenue/University Avenue at PM 3.054 on both sides of the ramp. All work is within existing Caltrans right-of-way.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Caltrans, District 11

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Caltrans, District 11

Exempt Status:

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- ☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- ☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: 15301
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt: Project consists of the repair, maintenance, of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. Specifically, Caltrans proposes placement of rock slope protection as a deterrent for the homeless individuals at all four (4) ramps at Palm Avenue at Interstate 5 at post mile 6.00. Work also includes repairing chain-link fencing at one of the off-ramps to reduce homeless trespassing. Additional work includes placement of signs, and replacement of existing damaged chain link fence near SR-163 at post mile 3.98 to reduce homeless trespassing.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Emery McCaffery Phone number: 858-289-1270

If filed by applicant:
1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project?
☐ Yes ☒ No

Signature: Emery Mccaffery Date: 11/3/2026 Title: Environmental Scientist

☒ Signed by Lead Agency ☒ Signed by Applicant

Date Received for filing at OPR: 11/3/2026

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Form adapted from Appendix E of the CEQA Guidelines August 2024