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

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): McCloud Chain On

DIST-CO-RTE: 02-SIS-89 **PM/PM:** 23.6/24.2

EA: 02-3K280 **Federal-Aid Project Number:** 0226000036

Project Description

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), using state funding, is proposing to add seven lights to the chain on area on State Route (SR) 89 at postmiles (PM) 23.6/24.2.

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** 1c. (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

Julie McFall	Julie McFall	11/18/2026
Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager

Mazen Zaina	Mazen Zaina	11/20/2026
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

N/A	N/A	N/A
Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

N/A	N/A	N/A
Print Name	Signature	Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): N/A
Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 10/13/26

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:

The McCloud Chain On project will add lighting to serve the northbound (facing west) chain on pull-out on State Route (SR) 89 between postmiles (PM) 23.69 and 24.02. The project is in Siskiyou County on SR 89 near McCloud, east of Haul Road from PM 23.6 to 24.2. The project includes construction of seven new lights (drilled foundation, pole, mast arm, and luminaire), new electrical service and service cabinet, underground conduit (installed by horizontal directional drilling and/or open trench), conductors, a portable 2,000-watt generator, generator cabinet, and manual transfer switch. Pacific Power, the local electric service provider, will furnish and install a new meter at the service cabinet, conductors from power pole to service cabinet, pole-mounted transformer, and upgrade or replace existing power poles and facilities as needed. The generator cabinet will be furnished by Caltrans and installed by the contractor. The contractor will furnish and install all other items, including the conduit from the power pole to the service cabinet.

Purpose

The purpose of this project is to provide lighting at the chain on pull-out. The installation of lighting will improve visibility for motorists and maintenance personnel, enhance safety during chain installation activities, and support more efficient winter operations. Lighting will also help reduce improperly chained vehicles approaching Snowman's Hill Summit, contributing to safer winter travel through the corridor. This project focuses solely on lighting improvements.

Need

The existing chain on area for northbound SR 89 traffic between PM 23.69 and 24.02 does not include lighting. During winter weather and low-visibility conditions, the lack of illumination makes it difficult for drivers, especially truck operators, to safely pull over, install tire chains, and re-enter traffic.

Right-of-Way

No additional right-of-way is required.

Staging/Stockpiling

Staging will be limited to Caltrans right-of-way.

Disposal/Borrow Sites

The project does not propose any disposal or borrow sites.

Consultation/Coordination

Caltrans has performed an environmental evaluation consisting of a review of resource records and databases, consultation, and coordination with applicable agencies and individuals. Based on the current scope of work, it is anticipated that known resources will not be affected by the project.

Utilities

Electrical service is required to support the proposed lighting systems. All utilities in proximity to the locations of work would be protected in place. If any relocations are needed, they will be coordinated within Caltrans Right of Way.

Permits

No permits will be required for this project.

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Final Audit Report 2026-11-20

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