

2019058322

Print Form

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

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

County Clerk

County of: _____

From: (Public Agency): Caltrans

1656 Union Street

Eureka, CA 95501

(Address)

Project Title: Last Chance Grade Existing Alignment Monitoring Well Installation

Project Applicant: California Department of Transportation

Project Location - Specific:

On US Route 101 in Del Norte County between post miles (PM) 14.4 and 15.6

Project Location - City: South of Crescent City Project Location - County: Del Norte

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

Caltrans proposes to install six monitoring wells into the existing shoulder of Route 101 between post miles (PM) 14.4 and 15.6. The purpose of the project is to collect groundwater data as part of the preliminary geotechnical exploration for the Last Chance Grade project.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Transportation

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Same as above.

Exempt Status: (check one):

- ☐ 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: Class 6 (Sec. 21804; 15306)
☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The proposed project involves information collection which will not result in serious or major disturbance to an environmental resource.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Amanda Lee

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 707-441-4571

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 ☐ NoSignature: [Signature] Date: 5-28-19 Title: Environmental Planner☒ Signed by Lead Agency ☐ Signed by Applicant

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

Date Received for filing at OPP:

Superior's Office of Planning & Research

MAY 28 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Revised 2011

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION/CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

01-DN-101 District-County-Route	14.0/15.6 P.M./P.M.	01-0F280 E.A/Project No.	N/A Federal-Aid Project Number.
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PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Briefly describe project including need, purpose, location, limits, and right-of-way requirements.

The proposed project would install six monitoring wells on Route 101 between post miles (PM) 14.4 and 15.6 in Del Norte County. The purpose of the project is to collect groundwater data needed to model potential dewatering programs and their impacts on landslide stabilization efforts as part of the preliminary geotechnical exploration for the Last Chance Grade Project. Work would include drilling percussion-rotary or sonic borings into existing gravel and paved shoulders to create the holes for the proposed monitoring wells. Each hole would be eight-inches in diameter and 300 feet deep. Standpipe monitoring wells would be installed in each of the borings. Holes designated to receive a monitoring well would first be flushed with clean water, a slotted PVC or steel stand-pipe installed and the annular space filled with clean #8 sand sealed with bentonite plugs to prevent infiltration of surface water, or migration of water between aquifers. Traffic-proof well covers would be installed in the road surface with quick setting Portland cement to allow access for monitoring. All work would occur within State Right of Way. Biological, cultural, air and noise reviews have been completed. A.L.

See next page for additional project information.

CALTRANS CEQA DETERMINATION (Check one)

☐ Not Applicable – Caltrans is not the CEQA Lead Agency ☐ Not Applicable – Caltrans has prepared an Initial Study or Environmental Impact Report under CEQA

Based on an examination of this proposal, supporting information, and the above statements, the project is:

☐ Exempt by Statute. (PRC 21080[b]; 14 CCR 15260 et seq.)

☒ **Categorically Exempt. Class 6.** (PRC 21084; 14 CCR 15300 et seq.)

Based on an examination of this proposal and supporting information, the following statements are true and exceptions do not apply:

- If this project falls within exempt class 3, 4, 5, 6 or 11, it does not impact an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law.
- There will not be a significant cumulative effect by this project and successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time.
- There is not a reasonable possibility that the project will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.
- This project does not damage a scenic resource within an officially designated state scenic highway.
- This project is not located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Govt. Code § 65962.5 ("Cortese List").
- This project does not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

☐ **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].)]

<p>Steve Croteau Senior Environmental Planner</p> <p><i>Steve Croteau</i> 5-28-2019 Signature Date</p>	<p>Jaime Matteoli Project Manager</p> <p><i>Jaime Matteoli</i> 5/28/19 Signature Date</p>
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NEPA COMPLIANCE

In accordance with 23 CFR 771.117, and based on an examination of this proposal and supporting information, the State has determined that this project:

- does not individually or cumulatively have a significant impact on the environment as defined by NEPA, and is excluded from the requirements to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and
- has considered unusual circumstances pursuant to 23 CFR 771.117(b).

CALTRANS NEPA DETERMINATION (Check one)

☒ **23 USC 326:** The State 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). As such, the project is categorically excluded from the requirements to prepare an EA or EIS under the National Environmental Policy Act. The State has been assigned, and hereby certifies that it has carried out the responsibility to make this determination pursuant to Chapter 3 of Title 23, United States Code, Section 326 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated May 31, 2016, executed between the FHWA and the State. The State has determined that the project is a Categorical Exclusion under:

☐ 23 CFR 771.117(c): activity (c) ()

☐ 23 CFR 771.117(d): activity (d) ()

☒ Activity 7 listed in Appendix A of the MOU between FHWA and the State

☐ **23 USC 327:** Based on an examination of this proposal and supporting information, the State 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 December 23, 2016 and executed by FHWA and Caltrans.

<p>Steve Croteau Senior Environmental Planner</p> <p><i>Steve Croteau</i> 5-28-2019 Signature Date</p>	<p>Jaime Matteoli Project Manager</p> <p><i>Jaime Matteoli</i> 5/28/19 Signature Date</p>
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Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion: 5/24/2019 Date of ECR or equivalent: 5/24/2019

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION/CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

Continuation Sheet

01-DN-101 District-County-Route	14.0/15.6 P.M./P.M.	01-0F280 E.A/Project No.	N/A Federal-Aid Project Number.
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Continued from page 1:

The following measures have been included as part of the project:

- Work would occur after September 15 and before February 2 to avoid potential noise disturbance to nesting northern spotted owls and marbled murrelets.

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

MAY 28 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE