

Notice of Exemption

2019078012

Appendix E

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

From: (Public Agency): Caltrans
50 Higuera Street
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

County Clerk
County of:

(Address)

Project Title: Polar Star Creek Slide, 05-1M170/0519000077

Project Applicant: Caltrans

Project Location - Specific:

San Luis Obispo, Highway 1, PM 71.7

Project Location - City: Big Sur Coast Project Location - County: San Luis Obispo

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

POLAR STAR CREEK SLIDE, BIG SUR COAST, SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY, HIGHWAY 1, PM 71.7

Pavement distress caused by erosion of over-steepened slopes below the southbound lane of Highway 1. The project includes a sidehill viaduct and soldier pile wall to maintain two passable lanes and address erosion.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Caltrans

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Caltrans

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:
Statutory Exemptions. State code number: 15269 c

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project will not have a significant effect on the environment, does not damage a scenic or historical resource, and will not be a significant cumulative effect.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Allison Donatello Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 805-542-4685

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: Date: 7/2/19 Title: Assoc. Env. 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 OPR:

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

JULY 02 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Revised 2011

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION/CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

Continuation Sheet

05-SLO-1	71.7	05-1M170/0519000077	
Dist.-Co.-Rte. (or Local Agency)	P.M./P.M.	E.A/Project No.	Federal-Aid Project No. (Local Project)/Project No.

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Avoidance and Minimization Efforts:

Standard best management practices from Caltrans Standard Specifications 2015 shall be followed. Construction staging, material storage, and layout areas shall be limited to existing pullouts and previously paved areas only. The following avoidance and minimization measures will protect nesting bird species and special-status species that may be present in or near the project impact area:

1. **Nesting Birds:** To comply with the provisions of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and CDFG Code Sections 3503 and 3503.5, construction will occur between September 15 and February 15, to the extent possible, to avoid impacts to nesting birds. If construction is proposed for the breeding season, contact District 5 Biologist Barrett Holland (805-549-3573) to arrange a preconstruction survey at least two weeks prior to project start. If nesting activity is detected, Caltrans will, if possible, establish a buffer around the nest(s). The buffer will be maintained and construction activities will avoid nest sites until the biologist determines that the young have fledged or nesting activity has ceased. Typical buffers for nests include 250 feet for passerines and 500 feet for raptors.

2. **Storage Areas:** Material and equipment storage is restricted to existing unvegetated pull-outs and paved areas in the State right-of-way and not within the drip-line of oak trees and outside of the riparian corridor. Storage areas proposed by the contractor that are outside of the right-of-way shall be reviewed in advance by District 5 Biologist Barrett Holland (805-549-3573).

3. **Aquatic Resources:** Measures shall be taken to avoid direct and indirect impacts to waterways and riparian habitat.
 - a. No work within drainages, streams or riparian zones shall occur.
 - b. Standard best management practices shall be enacted to ensure that sediment and run-off do not occur.
 - c. Vehicles and equipment shall be checked and maintained daily, to prevent leaks of materials that if introduced to water could be deleterious to aquatic life.
 - d. Vehicles and Equipment shall be refueled at least 100 feet from the drainages within the project area. All refueling and equipment maintenance should be conducted away from waterbodies to avoid accidental contamination.

4. **Invasive Species:** To reduce the spread of invasive non-native plant species, Caltrans will implement the following protection measures to comply with Executive Order (EO) 13112:
 - a. Invasive plants are known on the project site, therefore any plant materials removed during construction will be contained and treated as trash and disposed of in a permitted landfill.