

Project Information

Project Name: **Almaden Expressway Improvements**
 Sponsor: **Santa Clara County** TIP ID: **SCL070005** RTP ID: **230706**
 Agency: **Santa Clara County** Mode: **LOCAL ROAD** Sub Mode:
 Project Type: **EXPRESSWAY** Trans. System: **LOCAL RD** Purpose: **EXPANSION** County: **Santa Clara**
 Proj. Desc.: **San Jose: On Almaden Expressway btw Branham Lane and Blossom Hill Road; Various improvement including adding northbound and southbound auxiliary lanes.**
 RTP Tittle: **Make local streets and roads improvements (includes street channelization, overcrossings, bicycle and pedestrian access, and safety improvements)**

Step 1: Project Identification

1: Does this project have any federal funding?	Yes
2: Does this project (or any phases of the project) require any federal action (such as federal authorization or approval for funding or environmental review) after December 14, 2010?	Yes
3: Is the project exempt from both regional and project-level air quality conformity under 40 CFR 93.126? Project Type Selected: None Applies	No
4: Is the project exempt from regional air quality conformity under 40 CFR 93.127? Project Type Selected: None Applies	No
5: Is the project exempt from regional air quality conformity under 40 CFR 93.128? Project Type Selected: None Applies	No
6: Does this project meet the definition of a "project of air quality concern" under 40 CFR 93.123(b)(1)? Project Type Selected: None Applies	No

Dates for Interagency Consultation

Requested Date of Interagency Consultation: **JAN- 2011**
 Meeting Date of PM2.5 consultation via Air Quality Conformity Task Force to determine POAQC:
 Action Date of PM2.5 consultation via Air Quality Conformity Task Force to determine POAQC:

Dates for PM2.5 Hot-Spot Analysis

Meeting Date of PM2.5 consultation via Air Quality Conformity Task Force to determine review hot-spot analysis:
 Action Date of PM2.5 consultation via Air Quality Conformity Task Force to determine review hot-spot analysis:

PM_{2.5} Project Assessment Form for Interagency Consultation

RTIP ID# (required) 230706				
TIP ID# (required) SCL070005				
Air Quality Conformity Task Force Consideration Date February 2011				
Project Description (clearly describe project)				
<p>In San Jose, on Almaden Expressway between Branham Lane and Blossom Hill Road:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add northbound and southbound auxiliary lanes providing a 4th lane in each direction • Add a dedicated right-turn only lane from northbound Almaden Expressway onto Chynoweth Avenue • Add an eastbound lane out of the Best Buy store driveway onto northbound Almaden Expressway • Add a thru lane on eastbound Almaden Plaza Way • Add an additional left-turn lane from eastbound Blossom Hill Road to northbound Almaden Expressway and a right-turn-only lane from westbound Blossom Hill Road to northbound Almaden Expressway • Upgrade traffic signals and signage, install bicycle detection, and implement bicycle and pedestrian adaptive signal timing • Fill in sidewalk gaps <p>Attachment A provides an annotated map for the project.</p>				
<p>Type of Project: Change to existing regionally significant street <i>Pick one project type:</i> New State highway, Change to existing State highway, New regionally significant street, Change to existing regionally significant street, New interchange, Reconfigure existing interchange, Intersection Channelization, Intersection signalization, Roadway realignment, Bus, rail or intermodal facility/terminal/transfer point, Truck weight/inspection station</p>				
County Santa Clara	<p>Narrative Location/Route & Postmiles Project is located on Almaden Expressway in south San Jose between Branham Lane and Blossom Hill Road (1.06-mile section). The SR 85/Almaden Expressway interchange is within the project boundaries. Attachment B provides a project location map.</p> <p>Caltrans Projects – EA# N/A</p>			
Lead Agency: Santa Clara County				
Contact Person Michael Griffis	Phone# 408-573-2447	Fax# 408-441-0276	Email mike.griffis@rda.sccgov.org	
Federal Action for which Project-Level PM Conformity is Needed (check appropriate box)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Categorical Exclusion (NEPA)	<input type="checkbox"/> EA or Draft EIS	<input type="checkbox"/> FONSI or Final EIS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PS&E or Construction	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
Scheduled Date of Federal Action: March 2011				
NEPA Delegation – Project Type (check appropriate box)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Exempt	<input type="checkbox"/> Section 6004 – Categorical Exemption	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Section 6005 – Non-Categorical Exemption		
Current Programming Dates (as appropriate)				
	PE/Environmental	ENG	ROW	CON
Start	2008	2007	2008	04/2011
End	2009	02/2011	2010	04/2012

Project Assessment Form for PM_{2.5} Interagency Consultation

Project Purpose and Need (Summary): *(please be brief)*

This project will decrease congestion and delay on Almaden Expressway between Blossom Hill Road and Branham Lane through the SR 85/Almaden Expressway interchange. This section of Almaden Expressway has experienced a large increase in commercial/retail development over the last 10 years contributing to severe traffic congestion. The project will also improve bicycle and pedestrian facilities along Almaden Expressway to support alternative modes of travel.

Surrounding Land Use/Traffic Generators *(especially effect on diesel traffic)*

The surrounding land uses to the project site are large, regional commercial/retail developments and single-family homes. There is one undeveloped parcel on the east side of Almaden Expressway north of SR 85. This parcel is planned to be a retail/commercial center. Attachment C provides a map of the surrounding land uses.

SR 85 has the following truck restrictions:

No trucks over 9,000 pounds gross vehicle weight. ("Trucks" include trucks with full trailer or semitrailer.) Road maintenance and emergency vehicles, buses, and RVs allowed.

(Source: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/trucks/routes/restrict-list.htm>)

Therefore, the SR 85/Almaden Expressway interchange has limited diesel vehicle use.

PM_{2.5} Project Assessment Form for Interagency Consultation

Opening Year: If facility is a highway or street, Build and No Build LOS, AADT, % and # trucks, truck AADT of proposed facility

Intersection	No Build LOS (AM/PM)	Build LOS (AM/PM)
Almaden Expy/Branham Lane	E/D	E/D
Almaden Expy/Cherry/Chynoweth	D/F	D/E
Almaden Expy/NB SR85 Off-ramp	B/D	B/D
Almaden Expy/Almaden Plaza Way	B/C	B/C
Almaden Expy/Blossom Hill Road	F/E	D/D

Almaden Expressway	AADT	# of Trucks	% of Trucks	Truck AADT
No Build	38,100	1,150	3%	1,150
Build	38,100	1,150	3%	1,150

RTP Horizon Year / Design Year: If facility is a highway or street, Build and No Build LOS, AADT, % and # trucks, truck AADT of proposed facility

Intersection	No Build LOS (AM/PM)	Build LOS (AM/PM)
Almaden Expy/Branham Lane	F/F	F/F
Almaden Expy/Cherry/Chynoweth	F/F	F/F
Almaden Expy/NB SR85 Off-ramp	E/E	E/E
Almaden Expy/Almaden Plaza Way	D/C	D/C
Almaden Expy/Blossom Hill Road	F/F	F/F

Almaden Expressway	AADT	# of Trucks	% of Trucks	Truck AADT
No Build	50,000	1,500	3%	1,500
Build	50,000	1,500	3%	1,500

Project Assessment Form for PM_{2.5} Interagency Consultation

Opening Year: If facility is an interchange(s) or intersection(s), Build and No Build cross-street AADT, % and # trucks, truck AADT

N/A

RTP Horizon Year / Design Year: If facility is an interchange (s) or intersection(s), Build and No Build cross-street AADT, % and # trucks, truck AADT

N/A

Opening Year: If facility is a bus, rail or intermodal facility/terminal/transfer point, # of bus arrivals for Build and No Build, % and # of bus arrivals will be diesel buses

N/A

RTP Horizon Year / Design Year: If facility is a bus, rail or intermodal facility/terminal/transfer point, # of bus arrivals for Build and No Build, % and # of bus arrivals will be diesel buses

N/A

Describe potential traffic redistribution effects of congestion relief (*impact on other facilities*)

While the project will improve traffic operations, it is not projected to result in increased traffic volumes on Almaden Expressway; therefore, there would be little or no redistribution of traffic from local streets onto Almaden Expressway. In addition, there is a lack of nearly parallel routes for this section of the Expressway that allows travelers to cross SR 85, furthering limiting traffic redistribution.

PM_{2.5} Project Assessment Form for Interagency Consultation

Comments/Explanation/Details *(please be brief)*

This project is not considered a POAQC, as defined in 40 CFR 93.123(b)(1), for the following reasons:

- The project is not a new or expanded highway project with a significant number of or significant increase in diesel vehicles.
- The project does not affect intersections that are at Level-of-Service D, E, or F with a significant number of diesel vehicles, or those that will change to Level-of-Service D, E, or F because of increased traffic volumes from a significant number of diesel vehicles related to the project.
- This project does not include the construction of a new bus or rail terminal or transfer point.
- This project does not expand a bus or rail terminal or transfer point.
- Currently, there is no state implementation plan for PM_{2.5}. Therefore, the project area is not identified within an implementation plan as an area of potential violation. Pursuant to federal air quality guidelines, a plan will be prepared by December 2012.

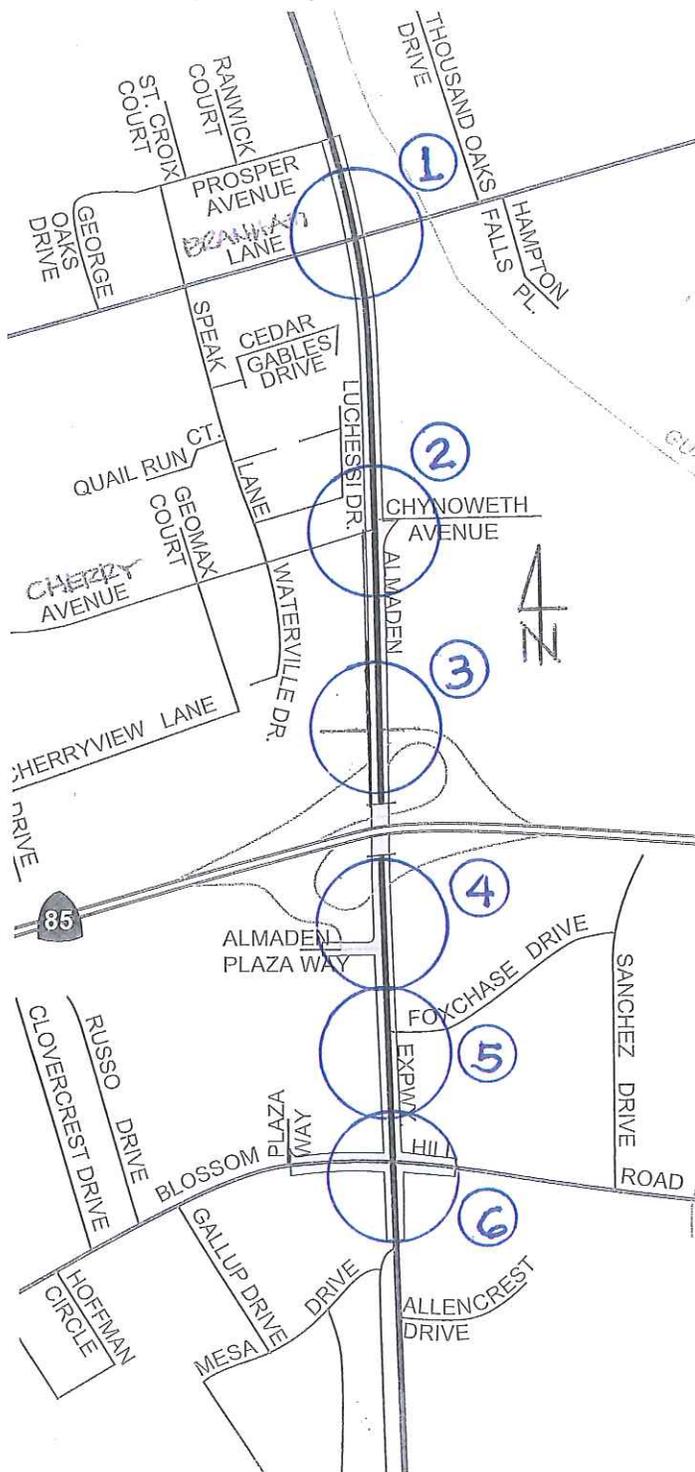
The project would not affect the capacity of SR 85 and the truck restrictions on SR 85 limit truck use of the SR 85/Almaden Expressway intersection. The project will increase the capacity of a short stretch of Almaden Expressway; however, the traffic volume will not exceed the 125,000 ADT threshold for a POAQC. In addition, the total truck percentages along the Expressway would not exceed the 8 percent threshold, and the total truck average annual daily traffic would not exceed the 10,000-vehicle threshold for a POAQC.

Therefore, the project meets the Clean Air Act requirements and 40 CFR 93.116 without the need for a hotspot analysis. The project would not create a new, or worsen an existing, PM_{2.5} violation.

Attachment D is the NEPA Categorical Exemption/Categorical Exclusion Determination Form. The link to the Initial Study is:

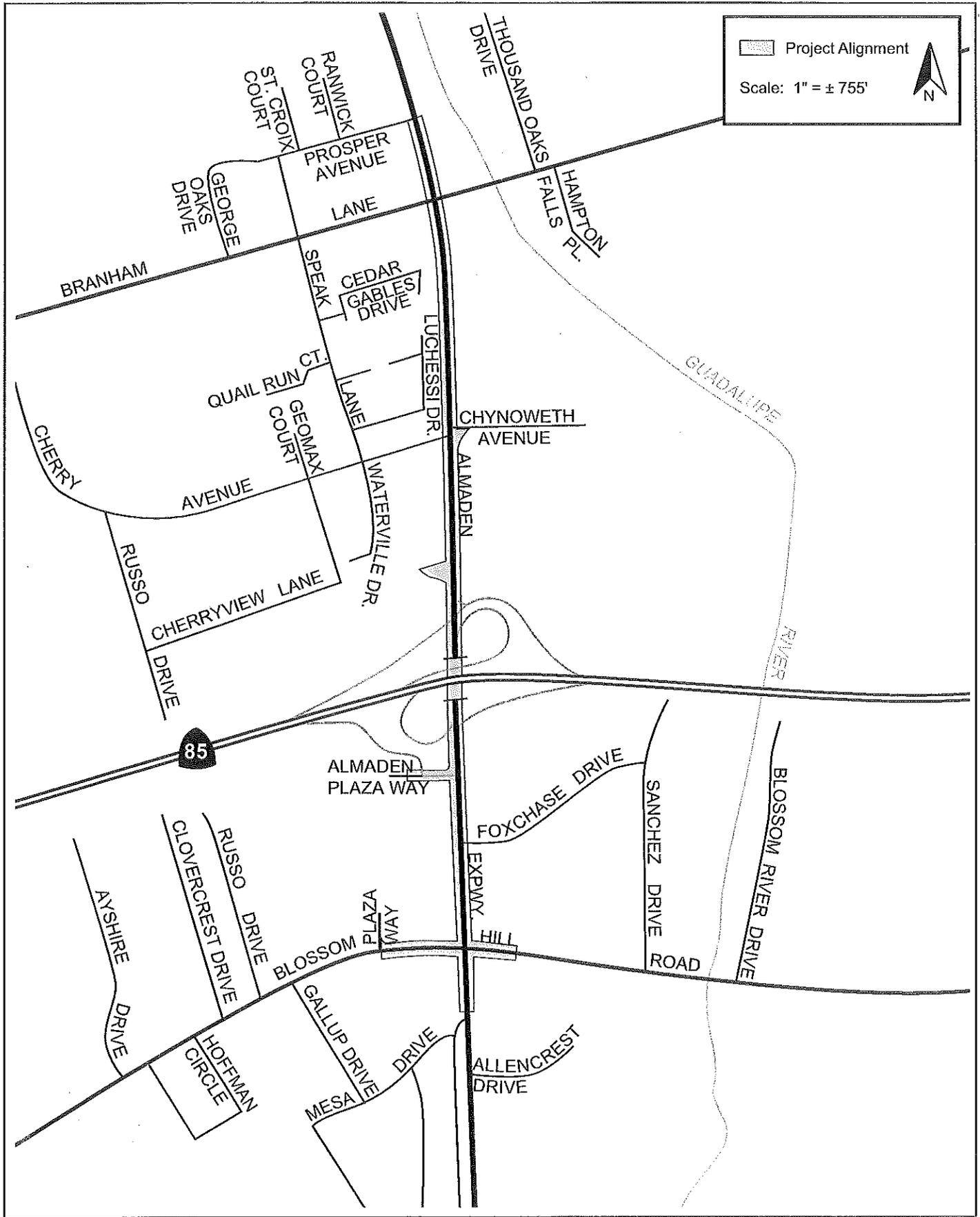
http://www.sccgov.org/rda/001001_Almaden_Expressway_2008_0601/001001_AlmadenExpressway_IS.pdf

ALMADEN EXPRESSWAY LEVEL OF SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT



- ① Improvements include construction of sidewalk north of Prosper Avenue and providing a pedestrian friendly square corner at the southwest corner of the intersection. A fourth southbound thru-lane approaching Branham was dropped from the project because right-of-way for widening could not be obtained.
- ② A dedicated right-turn only lane from northbound Almaden Expressway onto Chynoweth Avenue will be provided where right-turns are currently prohibited. Four southbound thru-lanes will be provided at Cherry Avenue. Four northbound thru-lanes will be constructed by future Arcadia development at Chynoweth Ave. The southwest corner will be reconstructed to a pedestrian friendly square corner.
- ③ Currently, only right-turns are allowed out of the Best Buy store driveway. The project will construct an additional eastbound lane to allow left turns from Best Buy onto northbound Almaden Expressway.
- ④ The project would construct an additional eastbound right-turn lane on Almaden Plaza Way. Overhead signs will be installed to assist drivers with selection of the correct lane approaching the intersection.
- ⑤ On this northbound stretch on Almaden Expressway between Blossom Hill Road and Hwy 85, widening will provide for lanes dedicated to traffic entering southbound Hwy 85 and northbound Hwy 85.
- ⑥ Eastbound Blossom Hill would be provided with an additional left-turn lane onto northbound Almaden Expressway. Westbound Blossom Hill will be provided with dedicated right-turn lane onto northbound Almaden Expressway. The southwest and northeast corners of the intersection will be reconstructed to create a pedestrian friendly square corners.

Please visit website at www.countyroads.org



Almaden Expressway Operational Improvement Project

LOCATION MAP



CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION/ CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

04-SCL-0-CR

HPLUL - 5937 (112)

Dist.-Co.-Rte. (or Local Agency)

P./M.P.M.

E.A. (State project)

Federal-Aid Project No. (Local project)/ Proj. No.

Almaden Expressway Improvements

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

(Briefly describe project, purpose, location, limits, right-of-way requirements, and activities involved.)

The County of Santa Clara proposes to construct improvements to Almaden Expressway along an approximately 1.06 mile segment between Branham Lane and Blossom Hill Road. The project will entail construction of an additional lane in both directions of the roadway, improvements of bicycle and pedestrian facilities, traffic signal modifications, a small retaining structure

CEQA COMPLIANCE (for State Projects only)

Based on an examination of this proposal, supporting information, and the following statements (See 14 CCR 15300 et seq.):

- 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.

CALTRANS CEQA DETERMINATION

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

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

Categorically Exempt. Class ____ (PRC 21084; 14 CCR 15300 et seq.)

Categorically Exempt. General Rule 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 (CCR 15061[b][3])]

Print Name: Environmental Branch Chief

Print Name: Project Manager/DLA Engineer

Signature

Date

Signature

Date

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) (<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/hep/23cfr771.htm> - sec.771.117).

In non-attainment or maintenance areas for Federal air quality standards, the project is either exempt from all conformity requirements, or conformity analysis has been completed pursuant to 42 USC 7506(c) and 40 CFR 93.

CALTRANS NEPA DETERMINATION

Section 6004: 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 (MOU) dated June 7, 2007, 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 ___ listed in the MOU between FHWA and the State

Section 6005: Based on an examination of this proposal and supporting information, the State has determined that the project is a CE under Section 6005 of 23 U.S.C. 327.

Jo Ann Cullom

Teppitak Panwai for Michael Lim

Print Name: Environmental Branch Chief

Print Name: Project Manager/DLA Engineer

Jo Ann Cullom

9/9/09

Teppitak

9/9/09

Signature

Date

Signature

Date

Briefly list environmental commitments on continuation sheet. Reference additional information, as appropriate (e.g., air quality studies, documentation of conformity exemption, FHWA conformity determination if Section 6005 project; §106 commitments; §4(f); §7 results; Wetlands Finding; Floodplain Finding; additional studies; and design conditions). Revised September 15, 2008