



**CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
DETERMINATION FORM (rev. 11/2020)**

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): Lockwood Valley Emergency Repairs(MP 1.75)

DIST-CO-RTE: 07-VEN-Ventura County **PM/PM:**

EA: 202510006 **Federal-Aid Project Number:** ER-15Y2(020)

Project Description

The County of Ventura proposes to repair and reconstruct approximately 310 linear feet of Lockwood Valley Road at Milepost 1.75, located adjacent to the Cuyama River in Ventura County, California. The purpose of the project is to restore the roadway to a safe and serviceable condition following damage caused by erosion and roadway foundation failure. The project is needed to maintain reliable access for local residents and emergency services and to prevent further roadway degradation.

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** Enter class. (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

N/A

Print Name

N/A

Signature

N/A

Date

Project Manager

N/A

Print Name

N/A

Signature

N/A

Date



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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, 2019, executed between FHWA and Caltrans. Caltrans has determined that the project is a Categorical Exclusion under:

- 23 CFR 771.117(c): activity (c)(9)
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 December 23, 2016 and executed by FHWA and Caltrans.

Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief

Michael Enwedo Michael Enwedo 10/15/2025
Print Name Signature Date

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Robert Wong Robert Wong 10/15/2025
Print Name Signature Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion: 10/14/2025
Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 10/14/2025



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Continuation sheet:

The scope of work includes the removal and recycling of damaged roadway material, excavation, and placement of rock rip-rap revetement with a buried rock toe along the riverbank to protect against future erosion. The project will also reconstruct the road foundation and replace the asphalt concrete roadway surface with existing County right-of-way. No new roadway alignment, capacity expansion, right-of-way acquisition, are proposed as part of this project.

Water Quality Best Management Practices

There are water resources within or immediately adjacent to the proposed project areas however, no adverse water quality impacts are anticipated. A Water Pollution Control Plan would be developed and implemented during construction. Additionally, Construction and post-construction BMPs would be implemented as follows:

Construction Erosion and Sediment Control BMPs:

Erosion control BMPs will be deployed during project construction to limit soil loss and protect water quality. Measures include, but are not limited to, installation and maintenance of silt fencing, K-rail barriers, sandbag and/or gravel bag barriers, or straw wattles to reduce erosion and retain soil on-site. Silt fencing or other barriers will be placed around inactive temporary soil stockpile sites to contain material and reduce runoff. A WPCP will be developed to identify and manage potential pollutant sources.

Post-Construction Stabilization BMPs

Post-construction BMPs will be implemented to reduce long-term erosion and protect water quality. Measures include, but are not limited to, hydroseeding disturbed areas to establish vegetative cover, installation of erosion control netting to stabilize soil, construction of rock riprap slope protection along the Cuyama River at MP 1.75, and installation of Class IV Rock Riprap with filter fabric around the new culvert at MP 12.69.

Biological Resources-Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Measures

The following avoidance and minimization efforts will be implemented to avoid impacts to habitats or communities of special concern:

•Prior to any ground-disturbing activities, environmentally sensitive area (ESA) fencing shall be installed around the single leaf pinyon pine woodland at MP 12.69. Caltrans-defined ESAs shall be noted on design plans and delineated in the field prior to the start of construction activities.

In accordance with California State Transportation Agency's Standard of Specifications, 14-1.02 Environmentally Sensitive Area:

•If an ESA is shown, the boundaries shown are approximate. The Department marks the exact boundaries on the ground. Do not enter an ESA unless authorized. If an ESA is breached, immediately:

- 1. Stop all work within 60 feet of the ESA boundary*
- 2. Secure the area*
- 3. Notify the Engineer*



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If an ESA is damaged, the Department determines the necessary remediation and the party to perform the work. The Department deducts the cost for this work.

Compensatory Mitigation

Following the completion of the project, a hydroseeding mix of appropriate local native species will be distributed along cleared and grubbed areas to restore and promote bank stabilization for future wash-outs. The seed mix comprised of species in Table 5 will be obtained from local commercial sources in Ventura, Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, and/or Kern County. It will be clearly tagged or labeled showing type of seed, test date, name of supplier and the percentage

Seeding shall occur in the fall, if feasible. Ideally, all restoration installation should be conducted after the first rains, typically beginning in October to December.

Table 5 Hydroseed Mix Prescription Common Name	Scientific Name	Form	Blooming Period
deerweed	<i>Acmispon glaber</i>	perennial forb	mid
western ragweed	<i>Ambrosia psilostachya</i>	perennial herb	late
big sagebrush	<i>Artemisia tridentata</i>	perennial forb	late
farewell to spring	<i>Clarkia purpurea</i>	annual herb	mid
California buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum fasiculatum</i>	perennial shrub	mid-late
rubber rabbitbrush	<i>Ericameria nauseosa</i>	perennial shrub	late
California poppy	<i>Eschscholzia californica</i>	annual forb	early-mid
fescue	<i>Festuca microstachys</i>	annual grasslike herb	early-mid
meadow barley	<i>Hordeum brachyantherum</i>	perennial grasslike herb	mid
goldfields	<i>Lasthenia californica</i>	annual herb	early-mid
tidy tips	<i>Layia platyglossa</i>	annual forb	early
silver bush lupine	<i>Lupinus albifrons</i>	perennial shrub	mid
bush monkey flower	<i>Diplacus aurantiacus</i>	perennial shrub	early-mid
one sided blue grass	<i>Poa secunda</i>	perennial grasslike herb	mid
purple needlegrass	<i>Stipa pulchra</i>	perennial grasslike herb	early-mid



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Jurisdictional Features-Avoidance and Minimization Efforts

A total of 0.161 acre of the Cuyama River at MP 1.75 under CDFW and RWQCB jurisdictions, and 0.07 acre under USACE jurisdiction, are anticipated to be permanently impacted. Additionally, 0.006 acre (261 square feet) of Unnamed Drainage 1 within the BSA at MP 12.69 would be permanently impacted.

These expected impacts to potentially jurisdictional CDFW features will require a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement, which shall be obtained prior to ground disturbance or issuance of a grading permit. The impacts to potentially jurisdictional USACE features may require a Nationwide Permit Pre-Construction Notification (PCN) as well as a Nationwide Permit 14: Linear Transportation Projects which shall be obtained prior to ground disturbance or issuance of a grading permit. In addition, the RWQCB may require the submission of a Notice of Intent (NOI).

The following best management practices for construction within jurisdictional habitat should be followed by construction personnel:

- *Prior to initiation of all construction activities including staging and mobilization, all personnel associated with project construction shall attend a Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) training, conducted by a qualified biologist, to assist workers in recognizing special-status biological resources that occur on site.*
- *A full-time construction monitor is recommended to ensure that construction impacts on jurisdictional resources remain within the designated work area and are minimized.*
- *Materials should be stored on impervious surfaces or plastic ground covers to prevent any spills or leakage and should be at least 50 feet from drainage features. Construction materials and spoils should be protected from stormwater runoff using temporary perimeter sediment barriers such as berms, silt fences, fiber rolls, covers, sand/gravel bags, and straw bale barriers, as appropriate.*
- *All vehicles and equipment should be in good working condition and free of leaks. The contractor should prevent oil, petroleum products, or any other pollutants from contaminating the soil or entering a watercourse (dry or otherwise). When vehicles or equipment are stationary, mats or drip pans should be placed below vehicles to contain fluid leaks.*
- *All re-fueling, cleaning, and maintenance of equipment will occur at least 50 feet from potentially jurisdictional waters.*
- *Adequate spill prevention and response equipment should be maintained on-site and readily available to implement to ensure minimal impacts to the aquatic environment.*



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Special Status Species-Avoidance and Minimization Efforts

The following avoidance and minimization efforts are proposed:

- *A full-time biological monitor will be present during initial ground disturbing activities.*
- *A Worker Environmental Awareness Training will be provided for all construction personnel prior to the start of any ground-disturbance or vegetation removal to discuss Crotch bumble bee identification, ecology, habitat, and avoidance and minimization measures.*
- *Pre and post construction sweeps of the work areas for special-status species. If a special-status species is found, the individual should be avoided. If avoidance is not feasible, the species should be captured and transferred to appropriate habitat and location by a qualified Biologist where it would not be harmed by project activities. Caltrans and/or CDFW shall be consulted regarding the presence of a federal or state listed species within the BSA.*
- *Once ground disturbing activities are finished, biological monitoring may be reduced to spot checks.*

Nesting Birds- Avoidance and Minimization Efforts

The Agency and/or its designer shall conduct nesting bird surveys, establish buffer(s) for active nest, and perform nest monitoring, as applicable, in accordance with the following:

- *No earlier than 14 days prior to ground or vegetation disturbing activities that would occur during the nesting/breeding season of native bird species potentially nesting on the site (typically February 1 through August 31), a qualified biologist shall perform a nesting bird survey at each of the two sites to determine if active nests of any bird species protected by the FESA, CESA, MBTA, and/or CFG Code Sections 3503, 3503.5, and/or 3511 are present in the work areas or within 100 feet of the BSA for songbirds or within 300 feet of the BSA for raptors and special-status bird species.*
- *A second nesting bird survey shall be conducted within three days of the start of ground or vegetation disturbing activities at each of the two sites to determine if active nests of any protected bird species are present in the work areas or within 100 feet of the BSA for songbirds or within 300 feet of the BSA for raptors and special-status bird species.*
- *In the event that an active nest is found within the survey area(s), construction activities should be temporarily suspended until a suitable buffer area can be established to ensure protection of the nest. The size of the buffer area should be determined by the monitoring biologist in coordination with Caltrans and based on the species, location of the nest, type of work being conducted, surrounding habitat conditions, and adjacent land uses (typically up to 100 feet for songbirds and 300 feet for raptors, but no smaller than 25 feet for songbirds and 100 feet for raptors). The buffer shall be demarcated with flagging or other highly visible material.*



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- *The biologist shall monitor the active nest(s) and project activities within the buffer should be postponed or halted, at the discretion of the biologist, until the nest is vacated and juveniles have fledged, as determined by the biologist, and there is no evidence of a second attempt at nesting.*

If previously unidentified cultural resources or archaeological resources are discovered within or near construction limits, do not disturb the resources and immediately stop all work within a 60-foot radius of the discovery, secure the area and notify the resident/project engineer. The local agency shall notify Caltrans Division of Environmental Planning immediately. Caltrans will assess the discovery and take appropriate action as required by the Section 106 Programmatic Agreement. Do not resume work within the radius of discovery until authorized by Caltrans.

All work is proposed within the City owned right of way and is not anticipated to adversely impact biological or cultural resources, expose the public to any hazardous waste, or disrupt or worsen traffic circulation.