

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

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): Interstate 680 Coordinated Adaptive Ramp Metering Project

DIST-CO-RTE: 04-ALA/CC-VAR PM/PM: VAR/VAR

EA: 0Q960 Federal-Aid Project Number: 0418000188

Project Description

Caltrans, in partnership with the Contra Costa Transportation Authority, proposes the Interstate 680 (I-680) Coordinated Adaptive Ramp Metering (CARM) Project to improve and compliment the ramp metering operations of a Caltrans State Highway Operation and Protection Program Project (SHOPP), EA 1Q720. The CARM project would provide additional real-time information on traffic conditions on northbound I-680 using The Infra-Red Traffic Logger (TIRTL). Continued on page 3.

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 <u>SER Chapter 34</u> 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

Wahida Rashid

Print Name

Talada Andid Signature

4/16/2024 Date

Project Manager

Print Name

Sam Woldesemayat

Umi Z

04/16/2024 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 <u>SER Chapter 30</u> 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)(27)

□ 23 CFR 771.117(d): activity (d)(Enter activity number)

 \Box 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

Wahida Rashid

Print Name

Signature

4/16/2024 Date

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Sam Woldesemayat

Print Name

m

04/16/2024

Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): 4/16/2024 **Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent:** 4/16/2024

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:

<u>Description of work:</u> A list of locations and its associated work is listed below in Table 1.

The EA 1Q720 Project (SHOPP project) would upgrade communications and Mainline Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) and construct ramp metering improvements. The CARM project would improve the ramp metering operations of EA 1Q720.

61 TIRTL devices will be installed approximately every 1/3 mile along northbound I-680 between Dublin Boulevard in Alameda County and North Main Street in Contra Costa County. The TIRTL is a traffic sensor that beams infrared light across mainline traveled lanes to detect and classify vehicles and sense speeds on multi-lane highway facilities. The TIRTL devices have receiver and transmitter units that are placed on opposite sides of the highway and beam two cones of infrared light across the mainline. Vehicles are detected and timestamped as they cross the beam pathways. The TIRTL foundations are approximately 5 feet deep. If topography permits, the TIRTL would be enclosed within a concrete pad approximately 6 inches above ground. If there is a sight obstruction, the TIRTL would be encased in a 2 feet high miniature cabinet enclosure. If there is a concrete barrier between the ramp and the TIRTL, the TIRTL would be installed on the barrier.

The existing median barriers in the southerly segment of this project will also be upgraded from Type 50 barriers to Type 60 barriers. Six ramps will be reconfigured to streamline access to I-680 and to provide storage for vehicles waiting to access the freeway.

Utility Relocation:

Utility relocation is not anticipated, as no conflicts with existing utilities have been identified; however, there may be intermittent disruption of services during construction.

Traffic:

A Traffic Management Plan (TMP) will be developed in the Design phase of the project. Freeway on-ramps may require closures longer than 24 hours. Detours will be provided around the work area. Motorists will be informed of closures and detours via changeable message signs and public announcements (press releases, brochures, advertising, Caltrans Highway Information Network [CHIN], etc.).

Right-of-Way:

All work will be completed in Caltrans right-of-way (ROW). No additional ROW is required.

Environmental Commitments:

All environmental commitments are listed in the attached Environmental Commitment Record (ECR).



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Location	Ramp Type	Proposed No. Lanes EA1Q720	SHOPP Scope of Work	CARM Scope of Work
Alcosta Boulevard	Direct Ramp (S)	3	Widen ramp to 3 lanes (2GP + 1HOV) and install ramp meter equipment.	 Install off-ramp back-of-queue detectors Install on-ramp mid-queue detectors
EB Bollinger Canyon Road	Loop Ramp (L)	2	Widen ramp to 2 lanes (1GP + 1HOV) and install ramp meter equipment	 Realign ramp between the existing bent and eastern abutment by constructing a new closed abutment. Construct a concrete barrier to separate the new ramp from the mainline. Construct a 1-lane ramp meter before merging with WB direct ramp. Taper all 4 lanes from the merged ramps into 1 before merging with the mainline as an aux lane Install necessary ITS equipment including back of queue detectors and mid queue detectors
WB Bollinger Canyon Road	S	3	Widen ramp to 3 lanes (2GP + 1HOV) and install ramp meter equipment	 Add 1 lane to the left of the 2 existing lanes. Construct a 3-lane ramp meter. Merge WB direct ramp with EB loop ramp Install necessary ITS equipment including back of queue detectors and mid queue detectors
EB Crow Canyon Road	L	2	Re-stripe ramp to 2 lanes (1GP + 1HOV) and install above ground ramp meter equipment	 Widen the ramp to 2 lanes immediately north of the Crow Canyon OC. Realign the ramp to continue parallel to the mainline. Construct a 2-lane ramp meter before merging with WB direct ramp. Taper all 5 lanes from the merged ramps into 1 before merging with the mainline as an aux lane Install necessary ITS equipment including back of queue detectors and mid queue detectors



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Location	Ramp Type	Proposed No. Lanes EA1Q720	SHOPP Scope of Work	CARM Scope of Work
WB Crow Canyon Road	S	3	Widen ramp to 3 lanes (2GP + 1HOV) and install ramp meter equipment. If forecasted volume is less than 900 vph, widening is not required.	 Add 1 lane to the left of the 2 existing lanes. Construct a 3-lane ramp meter. Merge WB direct ramp with EB loop ramp Install necessary ITS equipment including back of queue detectors and mid queue detectors
Sycamore Valley Road	S	2	Re-stripe ramp to 2 lanes (1GP + 1HOV) and install above ground ramp meter equipment	 Construct a 16 foot left shoulder and a 20' right shoulder. These shoulders will act as part-time lanes when the meter is on, resulting in a total of 4 lanes behind the stop bar. Install necessary ITS equipment including back of queue detectors and mid queue detectors
EB Diablo Road	L	2	Widen ramp to 2 lanes (1GP + 1HOV) and install ramp meter equipment	 Install off-ramp back-of-queue detectors Install on-ramp mid-queue detectors
WB Diablo Road	S	2	Widen ramp to 2 lanes (1GP + 1HOV) and install ramp meter equipment	 Install off-ramp back-of-queue detectors Install on-ramp mid-queue detectors
El Cerro Boulevard	S	2	Widen ramp to 2 lanes (1GP + 1HOV) and install ramp meter equipment	 Install off-ramp back-of-queue detectors Install on-ramp mid-queue detectors
El Pintado Road	S	2	Widen ramp to 2 lanes (1GP + 1HOV) and install ramp meter equipment	 Install off-ramp back-of-queue detectors Install on-ramp mid-queue detectors
Stone Valley Road	S	2	Widen ramp to 2 lanes (1GP + 1HOV) and install ramp meter equipment	 Install off-ramp back-of-queue detectors Install on-ramp mid-queue detectors



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Location	Ramp Type	Proposed No. Lanes EA1Q720	SHOPP Scope of Work	CARM Scope of Work
Livorna Road	S	2	Widen ramp to 2 lanes (1GP + 1HOV) and install ramp meter equipment	 Install off-ramp back-of-queue detectors Install on-ramp mid-queue detectors
Danville Boulevard / Rudgear Road	S	2	Widen ramp to 2 lanes (1GP + 1HOV) and install ramp meter equipment	 Install off-ramp back-of-queue detectors Install on-ramp mid-queue detectors
Olympic Boulevard	S	2	Widen ramp to 2 lanes (1GP + 1HOV) and install ramp meter equipment	 Add a part-time shoulder lane behind the stop bar to the right of the 2 existing lanes. Install necessary ITS equipment including back of queue detectors and mid queue detectors

Environmental Commitments Record (ECR)

DIST-CO-RTE: 04 - CC - 680 PM/PM: 0.000/24.420EA/Project ID: 04-0Q960_/0418000188Project Description: DEPLOY A SUITE OF TECHNOLOGY-BASED SOLUTIONS TO MAXIMIZE ROADWAY SYSTEM EFFICIENCYDate (Last modification): 4/16/2024Environmental Planner: Lily MuPhone: (510) 926-0152Construction Liaison: Ruben SanchezPhone:Resident Engineer:Phone:

PERMITS

Permit	Agency	Application Submitted	Permit Received	Permit Expiration	Permit Requirements Completed by	Permit Requirements Completed on	Co
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ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS

PS&E/BEFORE RTL

Category	Task and Brief Description	Source	Included in PS&E Package	Responsible Branch/Staff	Action to Comply	Due Date	Task Completed by	Task Completed on	Remarks	Mitigation for significant impacts under CEQA
Biology	Future Considerations	NES	Std. Spec	Design/Environ mental Analysis	As of the writing of this NES, the SHOPP project is still in the Design Phase and may undergo scope or design changes. If any change to the SHOPP project occurs after the approval of this NES, additional biological analysis will be required to re-evaluate the CARM project's impacts on the new existing conditions.					
Biology	Permits	NES	Std. Spec	Design/PDT	Caltrans will include a copy of all relevant permits, if required, within the construction bid package of the proposed Project. The Resident Engineer or their designee will be responsible for implementing the Conservation Measures and Terms					



Comments

Category	Task and Brief Description	Source	Included in PS&E Package	Responsible Branch/Staff	Action to Comply and Conditions of the	Due Date	Task Completed by	Task Completed on	Remarks	Mitigation for significant impacts under CEQA
					permits.					
Biology	Upland and Riparian Trees	NES	Std. Spec	Contractor/RE	During the design phase of the Project, Caltrans Office of Biological Science and Permitting will work with the Caltrans Design team to avoid and minimize Project impacts to trees. Efforts to preserve trees in place (by designating trees on plan sheets and marking trees with ESA fencing) will be made to avoid or minimize Project impacts to trees located in temporary impact areas. For upland trees that are removed, Caltrans will provide tree replacement on-site at a minimum 1:1 ratio. Prior to removal of any riparian trees, an assessment of such trees will be conducted by a certified arborist. Replacement ratio for impacted riparian trees will be based on the arborist recommendation and report. General recommendation for riparian tree replacement will be at a minimum 3:1 ratio, which will be achieved on-site.					

Category	Task and Brief Description	Source	Included in PS&E Package	Responsible Branch/Staff	Action to Comply	Due Date	Task Completed by	Task Completed on	Remarks	Mitigation for significant impacts under CEQA
PRE-CONST	RUCTION									
Category	Task and Brief Description	Source	Included in PS&E Package	Responsible Branch/Staff	Action to Comply	Due Date	Task Completed by	Task Completed on	Remarks	Mitigation for significant impacts under CEQA
Biology	Preconstruction Surveys	NES	Std. Spec	RE/Qualified Biologist	Prior to any ground disturbance, preconstruction surveys will be conducted by a qualified biologist for special status species. These surveys will consist of walking surveys of the Project limits and, if possible, accessible adjacent areas within at least 50 feet of the Project limits. The biologist(s) will investigate all potential cover sites, including mammal burrows, rocky outcrops, appropriately sized soil cracks, tree cavities, and debris. Native vertebrates found in the cover sites within the Project limits will be documented and relocated to an adequate cover site in the vicinity.	5				
Biology	Preconstruction Surveys for Nesting Birds	NES	Std. Spec	RE/Qualified Biologist	Preconstruction surveys for nesting birds will be conducted by a qualified biologist no more than 72 hours prior to the start of construction for activities occurring during the breeding season (February 1 to September 30).					

Category	Task and Brief Description	Source	Included in PS&E Package	Responsible Branch/Staff	Action to Comply	Due Date	Task Completed by	Task Completed on	Pomarka	Mitigation for significant impacts under CEQA
				-	personnel will attend a mandatory environmental education program delivered by a qualified biologist prior to working on the Project.					

CONSTRUCTION

Category	Task and Brief Description	Source	Included in PS&E Package	Responsible Branch/Staff	Action to Comply	Due Date	Task Completed by	Task Completed on	Remarks	Mitigation for significant impacts under CEQA
Biology	Concrete Waste and Stockpiles	NES	Std. Spec	Contractor/RE	All grindings and asphaltic-concrete waste will be stored within previously disturbed areas absent of habitat and at a minimum of 150 feet from any aquatic habitat, culvert, or drainage feature.					
Biology	Monofilament Erosion Control	NES	Std. Spec	Contractor/RE	Plastic mono-filament netting (erosion control matting) or similar material will not be used for the Project because California red-legged frog and Alameda whipsnake may become entangled or trapped in it. Acceptable substitutes include coconut coir matting or tackified hydroseeding compounds.					
Biology	Night Work and Night Lighting	NES	Std. Spec	Contractor/RE	To the extent practicable, nighttime construction will be minimized. Artificial lighting of the proposed project construction area during nighttime hours will be minimized to					

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					the maximum extent practicable and will be shielded and pointed away from sensitive resources.					
Biology	Prevention of Wildlife Entrapment	NES	Std. Spec	Contractor/RE	To prevent inadvertent entrapment of wildlife during construction, excavated holes or trenches more than one foot deep with walls steeper than 30 degrees will be covered at the close of each working day by plywood or similar materials. Alternatively, an additional 4-foot-high vertical barrier, independent of exclusionary fences, will be used to further prevent the inadvertent entrapment of listed species. If it is not feasible to cover an excavation or provide an additional 4-foot-high vertical barrier, independent of exclusionary fences, one or more escape ramps constructed of earth fill or wooden planks will be installed. Before such holes or trenches are filled, they will be thoroughly inspected for trapped animals.					
Biology	Special Status Species On-site	NES	Std. Spec	Contractor/RE	The Resident Engineer will immediately contact the Caltrans biologist(s) if a special status species is observed within a					

Category	Task and Brief Description	Source	Included in PS&E Package	Responsible Branch/Staff	Action to Comply	Due Date	Task Completed by	Task Completed on	Remarks	Mitigation for significant impacts under CEQA
					construction zone. The Resident Engineer will suspend construction activities within a 50-foot radius of the animal until the animal leaves the site voluntarily or an agency approved protocol for removal has been established.					
Biology	Work Window for Nesting Birds	NES	Std. Spec	Contractor/RE	To the extent practicable, clearing and grubbing activities will be conducted during the non-nesting season, from October 1 to January 31.					
Cultural Resources	If previously unidentified cultural materials are unearthed during construction, it is Caltrans' policy that work be halted in that area until a qualified archaeologist can assess the significance of the find. Consultation with local Native American tribes may also need to be consulted. Additional archaeological survey will be needed if project limits are extended beyond the present survey limits. Contact the Lead Caltrans Archaeologist in the Office of Cultural Resource Studies.	Env Doc	SSP	Contractor/RE	Contact archaeologist if cultural materials are found during construction					
Landscape	Guard Rails	VIA	Std. Spec	Contractor/RE	Guard rails not installed on vehicular pavement should include a Caltrans approved strip of concrete pavement underneath the barriers to prevent weed growth.					
Landscape	Protect Existing Vegetation	VIA	Std. Spec	Contractor/RE	Protect trees, screening shrubs, and planting from damage during construction and within staging staging areas and their access with Caltrans approved ESA fencing and tree trunk				Page 6	

Category	Task and Brief Description	Source	Included in PS&E Package	Responsible Branch/Staff	Action to Comply protection.	Due Date	Task Completed by	Task Completed on	Remarks	Mitigation for significant impacts under CEQA
Landscape	Retaining Walls	VIA	Std. Spec	Contractor/RE	Retaining walls must include Caltrans approved aesthetic features to lessen visual impacts.					
Landscape	Staging Areas	VIA	Std. Spec	Contractor/RE	Staging areas must have screened fencing, kept in an orderly condition, and free of trash and debris. Lighting must be controlled to avoid shining into adjacent properties.					
Landscape	Trenching	VIA	Std. Spec	Contractor/RE	When trenching for utilities, avoid trenching within drip lines of trees and screening shrubs. Directional drilling that would avoid damaging root systems of established plant material must be used, when reasonable, as opposed to open trenching to install new conduit in places where work within the drip line would be required.					
Noise	Construction Noise Levels	Noise & Vibration Memo	Std. Spec	Contractor/RE	Per Section 14-18.02 Noise Control, do not exceed 86 dBA Lmax at 50 feet from the job site activities from 9pm-6am.					
Noise	Minimize Temporary Construction Noise Impacts	Noise & Vibration Memo	Std. Spec	Contractor/RE	Internal combustion engines shall be equipped with a muffler of a type recommended by manufacturer. Unnecessary idling of					

Category	Task and Brief Description	Source	Included in PS&E Package	Responsible Branch/Staff	Action to Comply	Due Date	Task Completed by	Task Completed on	Remarks	Mitigation for significant impacts under CEQA
					internal combustion engines within 100 feet of residences shall be strictly prohibited. Noise-generating equipment shall be located as far as practical from sensitive receptors when sensitive receptors adjoin or are near the construction Project area. "Quiet" air compressors and other "quiet" equipment shall be utilized where such technology exists. Locate stationary noise generating equipment as far as possible from sensitive receptors or provide baffled housing or sound aprons to equipment when sensitive receptors adjoin or are near a construction project area.					
Water Quality	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)	WQS	Std. Spec	Contractor/RE	Permanent BMPs and stormwater pollution controls will be implemented, including but not limited to the installation of vegetated slopes, conveyance systems, riprap, biofiltration swales, and gross solids removable devices. A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will be developed for the Project, as one is required for all projects that have at least one acre of soil					

Category	Task and Brief Description	Source	Included in PS&E Package	Responsible Branch/Staff	Action to Comply	Due Date	Task Completed by	Task Completed on	Remarks	Mitigation for significant impacts under CEQA
					disturbance. The SWPPP complies with the Caltrans Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP).					
Water Quality	Temporary and Permanent Best Management Practices (BMPs)	WQS	Std. Spec	Contractor/RE	The potential for adverse effects to water quality would be avoided by implementing temporary and permanent BMPs outlined in Section 13.2 of the 2023 Caltrans Standard Specifications. Caltrans erosion control BMPs would be used to minimize any wind or water-related erosion.					
Water Quality	Trash and Construction Debris	WQS	Std. Spec	Contractor/RE	All trash and construction debris would be removed from construction areas daily. All water quality BMP materials would be properly maintained during project construction and removed upon completion of construction activities. After completion of the project, all construction equipment and materials would be removed from the project area.					
Water Quality	Work Areas	WQS	Std. Spec	Contractor/RE	Work areas would be minimized to the smallest area feasible.					

Category	Task and Brief Description	Source	Included in PS&E Package	Responsible Branch/Staff	Action to Comply	Due Date	Task Completed by	Task Completed on	Remarks	Mitigation for significant impacts under CEQA		
POST-CONS	POST-CONSTRUCTION											
Category	Task and Brief Description	Source	Included in PS&E Package	Responsible Branch/Staff	Action to Comply	Due Date	Task Completed by	Task Completed on	Remarks	Mitigation for significant impacts under CEQA		
Biology	Replacement Planting	NES	Std. Spec	Contractor/RE	Any roadside vegetation that are damaged or removed during project construction must be replaced according to Caltrans policy within two years after roadway completion and with a one year minimum Plant Establishment Period (PEP). All areas that are temporarily affected during construction will be revegetated with an assemblage of native grass, shrub, and trees as appropriate. Invasive, exotic plants will be controlled within the PCA to the maximum extent practicable, pursuant to Executive Order 13112.							
Landscape	Replacement Irrigation Systems	VIA	Std. Spec	Contractor/RE	Damaged irrigation systems must be replaced and repaired to provide full coverage of the planting at all times, and it must be to current code requirements. Where existing irrigation is not available, provision should be made to provide temporary truck watering to irrigate plants until							

Category	Task and Brief Description	Source	Included in PS&E Package	Responsible Branch/Staff	Action to Comply	Due Date	Task Completed by	Task Completed on	Remarks	Mitigation for significant impacts under CEQA
					repairs have been made to existing irrigation facilities.					
Environmental E Wahida Rashid	Branch Chief 	4/16/2024		Resident En	gineer (for Commit	ments Duri	ing Construction)			
Print Name	Signature	Date	_	Print Name		Signatu	ıre	Da	ite	
Project Enginee	r			Project Man WOLDESE	ager MAYAT, SAMUEL D		ania Z	04/	16/2024	
Print Name	Signature	Date		Print Name		Signatu	ire	Da	ate	