

**CITY OF FRESNO
CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PW00878**

THE PROJECT DESCRIBED HEREIN IS DETERMINED TO BE CATEGORICALLY
EXEMPT FROM THE PREPARATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS
PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 19 OF THE STATE CEQA GUIDELINES.

APPLICANT: Department of Public Works
City of Fresno
2600 Fresno Street
Fresno, CA 93721

PROJECT LOCATION: The proposed project will occur at five locations near four schools in the midtown Fresno area: Heaton, Anthony and Muir Elementary schools; and Fresno City Community College. The locations include the intersections of: East Dennett and North Palm Avenues; East McKinley and North San Pablo Avenues; East McKinley and North Van Ness Avenues; East Webster and North Blackstone Avenues; and, East Webster and North Glenn Avenues.

(Council Districts 1, 3, and 7)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed project includes installation and upgrades of school crossing traffic signals, including poles, pedestrian push button posts, countdown heads, and Audible Pedestrian Signals, as well as sidewalk, ADA compliant curb ramps, signing and striping.

This project is exempt under Sections 15301/Class 1, 15302/Class 2, 15303/Class 3, and 15304/Class 4 of the State of California CEQA Guidelines. None of the exceptions to Categorical Exemptions set forth in the CEQA Guidelines, Section 15300.2 apply to this project.

EXPLANATION:

Section 15301/Class 1 of the CEQA Guidelines exempts from the provisions of CEQA, projects consisting of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. The types of "existing facilities" itemized below are not intended to be all-inclusive of the types of projects which might fall within Class 1. The key consideration is whether the project involves negligible or no expansion of an existing use. Examples of this exemption includes existing highways and streets, sidewalks, gutters, bicycle and pedestrian trails, and similar facilities (this includes road grading for the purpose of public safety), and rehabilitation of existing facilities to meet current standards of public health and safety.

Section 15302/Class 2 consists of replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced. Examples include but are not limited to: Replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity; and conversion of overhead electric utility distribution systems to underground, including connection to existing overhead electric utility distribution lines where the surface is restored to the condition existing prior to the undergrounding.

Section 15303/Class 3 exemptions include projects proposing new construction or conversion of small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor modifications are made to the exterior of the structure. Examples include but are not limited to: Water main, sewage, electrical, gas and other utility extensions, including street improvements, of reasonable length to serve such construction.

Section 15304/Class 4 exemptions include projects involving minor alterations to land, consisting of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes. Examples include but are not limited to: Grading of land with a slope of less than 10 percent; minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored; and the creation of bicycle lanes on existing rights-of-way.

The proposed project includes only minor alterations which will not negatively impact the existing characteristics of the area or the condition of land. The project will install, repair, replace or construct new public improvements with negligible expansion, will provide enhancements for public health and safety purposes, and will not remove mature or scenic trees.

The proposed project complies with all conditions described in 15301/Class 1, 15302/Class 2, 15303/Class 3, and 15304/Class 4 of the California CEQA Guidelines. Based on staff analysis, it was determined that no adverse environmental impacts would occur as a result of the proposed project and none of the exceptions to Categorical Exemptions set forth in the CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 apply to this project. Therefore, a categorical exemption, as noted above, has been prepared for the project.

Date: August 12, 2022

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Submitted By: 

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