

**CITY OF FRESNO
CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT NO. P18-02371**

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 Intersection of South Orange Avenue and East Central Avenue, including the northern side of East Central Avenue to the east of South Orange Avenue in Fresno, California

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The City of Fresno Department of Public Works proposes intersection improvements including: widening the intersection approaches to construct left turn pockets on South Orange Avenue northbound, on East Central Avenue westbound and on East Central Avenue eastbound, as well as a right turn lane on East Central Avenue westbound. The widening would occur on the northern edge of East Central Avenue due to the presence of the Fresno Irrigation District's Central Canal directly to the south. In order to construct a left turn lane on South Orange Avenue northbound, the box culvert crossing through Fresno Irrigation District's Central Canal would be widened. Modification of traffic signal to facilitate protected left turns. Manhole and water valve lids would be raised/lowered, and utility poles would be relocated. Mature Mulberry, Ash and palm trees would need to be removed along the east side of South Orange Avenue, south of East Central Avenue. Right of way was acquired from APN 330-021-09 for the proposed improvements of this project.

This project is exempt under Section 15301/Class 1 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines.

Staff has performed a preliminary environmental assessment of this project and determined that it falls within the Categorical Exemption set forth in CEQA Guidelines Section 15301/Class 1 which exempts existing facilities under certain conditions. Staff found that the conditions are met:

Section 15301/Class 1 consists 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 use beyond that existing at the time of the lead agency's determination. 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.

Specifically included in this class of exemption are:

(c) Existing highways and streets, sidewalks, gutters, bicycle and pedestrian trails, and similar facilities (this includes road grading for the purpose of public safety); and


d) Restoration or rehabilitation of deteriorated or damaged structures, facilities, or mechanical equipment to meet current standards of public health and safety, unless it is determined that the damage was substantial and resulted from an environmental hazard such as earthquake, landslide, or flood.

The proposed project will make improvements to the intersection of South Orange Avenue and East Central Avenue by reconstructing the existing intersection to include left turn lanes and a right turn lane to improve safety at the intersection without increasing roadway capacity. No additional traffic or associated traffic impacts will result from the proposed improvements. The project is consistent with the Fresno General Plan and complies with all conditions described in Section 15301/Class 1 of the California CEQA Guidelines.

None of the exceptions to Categorical Exemptions set forth in the CEQA Guidelines, Section 15300.2 apply to this project. Furthermore, the proposed project is not expected to have a significant effect on the environment. Accordingly, a categorical exemption, as noted above, has been prepared for the project.

Date: August 10, 2022

Prepared By: Randall Morrison, PE

Submitted by: 

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