

# Notice of Exemption

## Appendix E

**To:** Office of Planning and Research  
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk

County of: Fresno

2220 Tulare Street

Fresno, California, 93721

**From:** (Public Agency): City of Fresno, Public Works Department  
2600 Fresno Street, Room 4016  
Fresno, California, 93721

(Address)

Project Title: Traffic Signal Installation at Church Avenue and Walnut Avenue

Project Applicant: City of Fresno, Public Works Department

Project Location - Specific:

Intersection of Church Avenue and Walnut Avenue, Fresno, CA

Project Location - City: Fresno

Project Location - County: Fresno

### Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Project will install a new traffic signal at the intersection of Walnut Avenue and Church Avenue; construct curb ramps along the northwest and northeast corners of Walnut and Church; and install curb and gutter, sidewalk, signage, striping, new asphalt paving and street lighting. Property acquisition is required to accommodate the intersection widening for the traffic signal installation. Property acquisitions include ±295 square feet from APN 477-182-20 and ±790 square feet at APN477-030-27. Implementation of the project will not result in the reduction or expansion of the existing number of travel lanes or increase capacity of the existing roadway system; but will add safety features for motorists and pedestrians.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Fresno

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: City of Fresno Public Works Department

### Exempt Status: (check one):

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- ☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- ☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: 15301(c) Class 1, Existing Facilities
- ☒ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: 15282(j), Other Statutory Exemptions, Restriping of streets/highways

Reasons why project is exempt:

The use of the roadway (number of vehicles daily) would not increase with implementation of the signal installation, but that traffic flow will be managed better resulting in safer travel scenarios. Project involves the re-striping of an existing street and implementation of new curb and gutter and associated sidewalk areas.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Isaac Campos

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (559) 621-8657

### If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature: Isaac Campos

Date: 01/30/2024

Title: Engineer II

▪ Signed by Lead Agency      Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.  
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY OF FRESNO  
CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PW01045**

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:** Capital Projects Department  
City of Fresno  
2600 Fresno Street  
Fresno, CA 93721

**PROJECT LOCATION:** The Intersection of Church Avenue and Walnut Avenue in the  
City of Fresno, Fresno County, California.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

The project will install a new traffic signal at the intersection of Church Avenue and Walnut Avenue; construct curb ramps along the northwest and northeast corners of Church and Walnut; and install curb and gutter, sidewalk, signage, striping, new asphalt paving, and street lighting. Property acquisition is required to accommodate the intersection widening for the traffic signal installation. Property acquisitions include  $\pm 225$  square feet at Assessor's Parcel Number 477-182-20 and  $\pm 1,249$  square feet at Assessor's Parcel Number 477-030-27. Implementation of the project will not result in the reduction or expansion of the existing number of travel lanes or increase capacity of the existing roadway system but will add safety features for motorists and pedestrians.

**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 existing or former use." The type of "existing structures and facilities" exemplified below is the key consideration that applies to:

(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 other alterations such transit improvements and other similar alterations that do not create additional automobile lanes.

The above exemption is related to capacity and the existing use of the roadway. It is anticipated that the use of the roadway (number of vehicles daily) would not increase with implementation

of the traffic signal. Additionally, the installation of curb and gutter, sidewalk, signage, striping, paving, and/or lighting will not increase the capacity or use of the existing roadway.

## **Exceptions to Using a Categorical Exemption**

CEQA Guidelines, Section 15300.2, Exceptions, identifies the following exceptions to using a categorical exemption. Based on an examination of the project and supporting information, the project would not result in any impacts to the environment that would cause an exception to applying the Class 1, Existing Facilities, Categorical Exemption, to the project, as described below.

- (a) Location.** Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located – a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may in a particularly sensitive environment be significant.

Exception (a) does not apply because the project falls within the Class 1, Existing Facilities, exemption.

- (b) Cumulative Impact.** All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.

Exception (b) does not apply. The City has no plans to reconstruct the street or travel lanes or construct other projects or introduce other land uses at this site in the future. Therefore, the project would not make a cumulatively considerable contribution to a significant cumulative impact.

- (c) Significance Effects.** A categorical exemption shall not be used for any activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.

Exception (c) does not apply. There is not a reasonable possibility that the project would have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances. Project impacts would be typical construction-related effects (e.g., dust, traffic, noise) and would be temporary in nature. As described above, the project would include implementation of BMPs to avoid and minimize environmental impacts throughout construction activities. These include measures related to fugitive dust control, noise and traffic control, reducing erosion and sedimentation, and protecting water quality. Once constructed, the project would not result in significant impacts from operation.

- (d) Scenic Highways.** A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway.

Exception (d) does not apply. The project site is not located within, along, or near any Officially Designated State Scenic Highway or local roadway of importance (Caltrans 2023). The nearest Officially Designated State Scenic Highway, State Route 180, is located more than 20 miles east of the project site. Therefore, implementation of the project would not affect any scenic highways or damage any scenic resources.

- (e) Hazardous Waste Sites.** A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

Exception (e) does not apply. The GeoTracker and EnviroStor databases were checked on December 12, 2023, and there are no hazardous waste sites located within 1,000 feet of the project site. In addition, the project site is not on any list compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 (SWRCB 2023; DTSC 2023). Refer to Attachment 1, GeoTracker Database Search, and Attachment 2, EnviroStor Database Search.

- (f) Historical Resources. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

Exception (f) does not apply. The project site does not include any historic resources (Historic Fresno 2023). Further, project implementation would be entirely within the existing road right-of-way and would not affect any structures or other areas. The project does not involve any disturbing of soil(s) and therefore there is a de minimis chance of adverse changes to potential cultural resources. Therefore, the project would not cause substantial adverse changes in the significance of a historical resource.

The project constitutes a single and complete project. For the reasons stated previously, the project is categorically exempt from CEQA by Class 1, Existing Facilities.

**This project is exempt under Section 15282(j) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines.**

The following statutory exemption may also apply to the project: Other Statutory Exemptions (CEQA Guidelines 15282[j]). Section 15282(j) applies to “a project for restriping streets or highways to relieve traffic congestion.” The project does involve the restriping of an existing roadway, after traffic signal installation, in an effort to improve vehicular traffic, which could result in a smoother flow of traffic and improved congestion on the associated roadway section(s).

Date: December 20, 2023

Prepared By: David J. R. Mack, AICP



Senior Project Manager  
Harris & Associates

Submitted by:



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Isaac Campos  
Engineer II  
City of Fresno  
Capital Projects Department  
(559) 621-8657

## References

- Caltrans (California Department of Transportation). 2023. California State Scenic Highway System Map. Accessed December 2023. <https://caltrans.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=465dfd3d807c46cc8e8057116f1aaca>.
- City of Fresno. 2014. Fresno General Plan, Historic and Cultural Resources Element. Accessed December 2023. <https://www.fresno.gov/darm/general-plan-development-code/>.
- DTSC (Department of Toxic Substance Control). 2023. EnviroStor Database Search, Walnut Avenue and Church Avenue, Fresno, California. Accessed December 2023. <https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/map/>.
- Historic Fresno. 2023. Local Register or Historic Resources. Accessed December 2023. <http://historicfresno.org/lrhr/index.htm>.
- Peters Engineering Group. 2023. Project Plans – Exhibit 1. September 20.
- SWRCB (State Water Resources Control Board). 2023. GeoTracker Database Search. Accessed December 2023. <https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/>.

## **Attachment 1. GeoTracker Database Search**

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GeoTracker

Search for a Project

Search for an Address

Home

Download Data

Tools

Contact Us

Map

Satellite

Night Mode

Hyde Park

Hyde track

West Fresno/ CTC Campus

Edison High School

Computech Middle School

Hinton Park

Anchor Academy Charter

West Fresno Center

W Florence Ave

E Florence Ave

W Church Ave

E Church Ave

S Fruit Ave

S Walnut Ave

S Farris Ave

S Thorne Ave

S Knight Ave

E Belgravia Ave

E Tower Ave

S Fairview Ave

S MLK Jr Blvd

S Fig Ave

2 Total Sites

0 Open Sites

2 Closed Sites

0 Sites w/ Water Quality Data

LEGEND - CHOOSE MORE SITES

LUST Cleanup Sites - REMOVE

Cleanup Program Sites - REMOVE

Military Cleanup Sites - REMOVE

Military Privatized Sites - REMOVE

Military UST Sites - REMOVE

Signifies a Closed Site

ACTIVE MAP COVERAGES:

Military Bases - REMOVE

LIST SITES VISIBLE ON MAP

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## **Attachment 2. EnviroStor Database Search**

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ENVIROSTOR

Sites and Facilities

Cleanup Sites

☒ Federal Superfund

☒ State Response

☒ Voluntary Cleanup

☒ School Cleanup

☒ Evaluation

☒ School Investigation

☒ Military Evaluation

☒ Tiered Permit

☒ Corrective Action

☐ Field Points

STATUS

All Statuses

Permitted Sites

☒ Operating

☒ Post-Closure

☒ Non-Operating

Other Sites

GIS Layers

Tools

TAKE A TOUR

SHARE THIS MAP

S Walnut Ave, Fresno, CA, USA

Map Address

Map

Satellite

Hyde Park

Hyde track

J's ice cream

West Fresno/ CTC Campus

Westgate Garden Apartments

West Fresno Center -Fresno City College

Computech Middle School

Hinton Park

50 m

Keyboard shortcuts

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