

**CITY OF FRESNO
CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR
THE CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION FOR THE STATE ROUTE 99 MAINTENANCE
AGREEMENTS WITH THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

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

PROJECT LOCATION: State Route 99 within City of Fresno Council Districts 1, 2, and
3

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The City of Fresno (City) and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) propose to execute an updated Freeway Maintenance Agreement. This administrative update clarifies and defines the respective maintenance responsibilities of both agencies along State Route 99 (SR-99) within the Fresno city limits. The updated agreement incorporates portions of the freeway corridor that have been realigned due to two independent projects: the California High-Speed Rail project and the Veterans Boulevard Interchange project. The roles and responsibilities established in this agreement are consistent with standard freeway maintenance agreements statewide and introduce no new operational frameworks.

This project is exempt under Section 15301/Class 1 (Existing Facilities) of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines as follows:

Under Section 15301/Class 1, the proposed project is exempt from CEQA requirements when the project 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 key consideration is whether the project involves negligible or no expansion of use.

This project is strictly administrative in nature. It updates jurisdictional maintenance boundaries to reflect physical changes previously evaluated and constructed under separate, completed environmental review documents (the California High-Speed Rail and Veterans Boulevard Interchange projects). Executing this agreement will not result in physical construction, right-of-way expansion, changes to traffic capacity, or alterations to the environment beyond routine, ongoing roadway maintenance.

The City evaluated the exceptions to categorical exemptions listed in CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 and determined none apply:

- Location (15300.2(a)): Class 1 exemptions are not uniquely restricted by location unless a historically sensitive resource is impacted. The maintenance occurs on an active, pre-existing state highway corridor.
- Cumulative Impact (15300.2(b)): The update aligns maintenance duties with existing infrastructure. It does not contribute to successive, related environmental impacts over time.
- Significant Effect / Unusual Circumstances (15300.2(d)): There are no unusual circumstances or reasonable possibilities of a significant environmental effect. Routine highway maintenance is a standard municipal and state activity.
- Scenic Highways (15300.2(d)): The project will not damage scenic resources within a officially designated state scenic highway.
- Hazardous Waste Sites (15300.2(e)): The agreement does not involve physical excavation or ground disturbance on a site compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.
- Historical Resources (15300.2(f)): The administrative assignment of maintenance duties has no potential to cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

Furthermore, the proposed project is not expected to have a significant effect on the environment. A categorical exemption, as noted above, has been prepared for the project and the area is not environmentally sensitive.

Date: June 3, 2026

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Submitted by:



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