Notice of Exemption

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

From: California Department of Transportation, District 8
464 W. 4th Street, 6th Floor (MS 827)
San Bernardino, CA 92401-1400

Project Title: SR-79 Drainage Rehabilitation; EA: 08-1T620/PN: 0826000109

Project Applicant: California Department of Transportation, District 8

Project Location - Specific: The project site is located at post mile (PM) R10.0 on State Route 79.

Project Location - City: French Valley Project Location - County: Riverside

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

Caltrans proposes to construct a concrete side ditch to convey runoff into a new drainage inlet, which will be connected to the existing drainage system via a culvert on State Route (SR) 79 at the intersection of Pourroy Road in Riverside County. The proposed project aims to rehabilitate drainage facilities to effectively address and reduce ponding issues along the northbound outside lane near post mile (PM) R10.0, which has relatively flat shoulder and roadside. There will be driving/parking off-pavement, equipment staging area, vegetation removal, and ground disturbance of up to 5 feet. Additionally, the relocation site of the existing signposts/sign within the project limits will be determined during PS&E. No work will be performed within the nearby channel, and all construction activities will be within Caltrans right-of-way (ROW).

The purpose of the project is to alleviate stormwater ponding along northbound SR-79 at PM R10.0. The need of the project is to address existing drainage deficiencies that cause recurring water ponding on the traveled way during storm events, degrading reliable highway operating conditions on the roadway.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Transportation, District 8

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: N/A

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: Class 1(c)
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reasons why project is exempt:
Covered exemption, existing highways, and no impacts are anticipated.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Kourtney Graves Phone number: 909-472-1362

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: _____ Date: 11/19/26
Title: Environmental Branch Chief

☒ Signed by Lead Agency ☐ Signed by Applicant

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

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