CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) PROCESS OVERVIEW

Caltrans determines whether the activity is a "project."

**Is the project ministerial?**

- Yes: **STOP:** No further action required under CEQA
- No

**Is the project exempt from CEQA?**

- Yes: Statutory Exemption or Categorical Exemption, Complete the Categorical Exemption/Categorical Exclusion (CE/CE) Form. See SER Chapter 34.
- No

**Is it clear that the project will have NO significant effect on the environment?**

- Yes: General Rule Exemption, File the Notice of Exemption (NOE). This is required for all projects on the SHS. See the policy memo "Mandatory Filing of Notices of Exemption for Projects Subject to CEQA."
- No

Caltrans Prepares Initial Study (IS). See SER Chapter 35. If it is clear that an EIR will be required, it is not necessary to prepare an Initial Study first.

**Did Caltrans determine from the Initial Study that there will be NO significant direct or indirect impact on the environment?**

- Yes: Caltrans prepares a Negative Declaration (ND). See SER Chapter 35.
- No: Caltrans determined from the Initial Study that there may be a significant direct or indirect impact on the environment, after mitigation.

**Did Caltrans determine from the Initial Study that there will be NO significant direct or indirect impact on the environment, after mitigation?**

- Yes: Caltrans prepares a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND). See SER Chapter 35.
- No: Caltrans Prepares Initial Study (IS).

Caltrans determines whether the project is ministerial.

- Yes: **STOP:** No further action required under CEQA
- No

Caltrans Prepares Initial Study (IS). See SER Chapter 35.

**Did Caltrans determine from the Initial Study that there will be NO significant direct or indirect impact on the environment?**

- Yes: Caltrans prepares a Negative Declaration (ND). See SER Chapter 35.
- No: Caltrans determined from the Initial Study that there may be a significant direct or indirect impact on the environment, after mitigation.

Caltrans Prepares Initial Study (IS).

**Did Caltrans determine from the Initial Study that there will be NO significant direct or indirect impact on the environment, after mitigation?**

- Yes: Caltrans Prepares Initial Study (IS).
- No: Caltrans Prepares Initial Study (IS).