CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
DETERMINATION FORM (rev. 06/2022)

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): Arcade-Cripple Creek Trail

DIST-CO-RTE: City of Citrus Heights **PM/PM:**

EA: **Federal-Aid Project Number:** 5475(053)

Project Description

The City of Citrus Heights proposes to construct a 0.5-mile addition to the planned 16 mile long Creek Corridor Trail Project (CCTP) as part of the Arcade-Cripple Creek Trail Extension Project. The Project is located in Citrus Heights and will extend east from the existing Stock Ranch Trail behind the Costco/Walmart shopping center to Sylvan Road. Continued on page 3.

Caltrans CEQA Determination (Check one)

☒ **Not Applicable** – Caltrans is not the CEQA Lead Agency

☐ **Not Applicable** – Caltrans has prepared an IS or EIR under CEQA

Based on an examination of this proposal and supporting information, the project is:

☐ **Exempt by Statute.** (PRC 21080[b]; 14 CCR 15260 et seq.)

☐ **Categorically Exempt. Class** Enter class. (PRC 21084; 14 CCR 15300 et seq.)

- ☐ No exceptions apply that would bar the use of a categorical exemption (PRC 21084 and 14 CCR 15300.2). See the SER Chapter 34 for exceptions.

☐ **Covered by the Common Sense Exemption**. This project does not fall within an exempt class, but it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity may have a significant effect on the environment (14 CCR 15061[b][3].)

Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief

Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager

Print Name	Signature	Date

Caltrans NEPA Determination (Check one)

☐ **Not Applicable**

Caltrans has determined that this project has no significant impacts on the environment as defined by NEPA, and that there are no unusual circumstances as described in 23 CFR 771.117(b). See SER Chapter 30 for unusual circumstances. As such, the project is categorically excluded from the requirements to prepare an EA or EIS under NEPA and is included under the following:

☒ **23 USC 326:** Caltrans has been assigned, and hereby certifies that it has carried out the responsibility to make this determination pursuant to 23 USC 326 and the Memorandum of Understanding dated April 18, 2022, executed between FHWA and Caltrans. Caltrans has determined that the project is a Categorical Exclusion under:

- ☒ **23 CFR 771.117(c): activity (c)(3)**
- ☐ **23 CFR 771.117(d): activity (d)()**
- ☐ **Activity listed in Appendix A of the MOU between FHWA and Caltrans**

☐ **23 USC 327:** Based on an examination of this proposal and supporting information, Caltrans has determined that the project is a Categorical Exclusion under 23 USC 327. The environmental review, consultation, and any other actions required by applicable Federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by Caltrans pursuant to 23 USC 327 and the Memorandum of Understanding dated May 27, 2022, and executed by FHWA and Caltrans.

Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief

Veronica Wilson	Veronica Wilson	07/13/2026
Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Dulce Robles	Dulce Robles	07/14/2026
Print Name	Signature	Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): 6/24/2026
Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: N/A

Briefly list environmental commitments on continuation sheet if needed (i.e., not necessary if included on an attached ECR). Reference additional information, as appropriate (e.g., additional studies and design conditions).

Continuation sheet:

The proposed alignment begins south of the Walmart property boundary and would proceed east through the Stock Ranch Nature Preserve, curving south around Walmart's water quality detention basin. The alignment continues north, crossing a tributary of Arcade Creek, and traverses along the south side of the Huntington Square Apartment complex prior to connecting to Sylvan Road. The alignment terminates east of Sylvan Road with a planned future trail extension segment from Sylvan Road to Mariposa Avenue. The Project has independent utility and would function as a stand-alone improvement.

Proposed facilities include a paved trail, a new prefabricated bridge across the unnamed creek tributary, solar lighting, and an at-grade signalized pedestrian crossing at Sylvan Road. Construction activities will involve grading to achieve ADA-compliant slopes, installing the creek crossing (the prefabricated bridge), paving the trail, erecting the solar lighting, and adding pedestrian signal infrastructure with minor utility adjustments as needed. The Project also includes installation of a gabion basket retaining wall along an actively eroding portion of Arcade Creek to stabilize the bank and prevent further erosion.

Construction access will be provided primarily through the Walmart and/or Costco parking lot under a temporary construction easement, with potential supplemental access from the Huntington Square Apartments parcel. These provisions will allow safe and efficient construction of the trail and its associated improvements.

Purpose and Need

The purpose of this Project is to construct one of the several planned segments of the CCTP by replacing dirt and narrow concrete paths with an ADA-compliant Class I multi-use trail. This trail extension is needed to enhance pedestrian and bicycle connectivity, provide a safe recreational facility, and improve access through the Arcade Creek greenbelt.

Right of Way

To accommodate construction, right-of-way (ROW) acquisitions will be required from several parcels. These include a permanent and temporary easement from the Sunrise Recreation and Park District, a temporary access easement from Walmart and/or Costco, and a temporary access easement from Huntington Square Apartments. If the existing trail easement across the Huntington Square Apartment property is insufficient to contain the construction activities, an additional temporary construction easement would be needed.

Permits and Approvals

The Project will result in temporary impacts to a total of 0.10 acres of waters of the U.S. and state (Arcade Creek and its tributary), as well as approximately 0.01 acres of permanent impacts. Prior to work within jurisdictional waters, the City will obtain a Section 401 WQC from the Regional Water Quality Control Board, a Section 1602

Streambed Alteration Agreement from California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and a non-notifying Section 404 Nationwide Permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The northwestern pond turtle (NWPT) has a low potential to occur within the BSA due to the presence of suitable aquatic and upland habitat, as well as nearby, recent occurrences. Temporary and permanent impacts to Arcade Creek are anticipated as a result of construction, which provide suitable aquatic habitat for the species. Given that NWPT is proposed to be listed under the FESA, Section 7 consultation will be required with USFWS upon official listing of the species. Though no official determination will be made for purposes of Section 7 consultation at this time, once officially listed under FESA, the determination for NWPT is proposed to be *may affect, not likely to adversely affect*. The project would have *no effect* on valley elderberry longhorn beetle due to the distance between the two existing elderberry shrubs and the proposed construction areas and activities.

Environmental Commitments
For a complete description of these commitments, please see the associated technical study.

Air Quality

- AQ-1: Implement Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD) basic and enhanced construction emission control practices to reduce fugitive dust
- CC-1: The implementing agency will require through construction contract terms and specifications that the contractor adheres to the mitigation measures and implements all applicable Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD) best management practices for reducing construction-related Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions

Biological Resources

- BIO-1: Biological awareness training
- BIO-2: Flagging/fencing environmentally sensitive areas
- BIO-3: Construction best management practices to avoid impacts to streams and the environment
- BIO-4: Compensatory mitigation for permanent effects to stream channel and riparian woodland habitat
- BIO-5: Native vegetation removal guidelines
- BIO-6: Restoration of temporary impacts to riparian and oak woodland
- BIO-7: Pre-construction rare plant surveys
- BIO-8: Nesting bird surveys
- BIO-9: Swainson’s hawk protocol level surveys
- BIO-10: Pre-construction surveys for NWPT
- BIO-11: NWPT entrapment avoidance measures
- BIO-12: Measures to prevent the spread of invasive species
- BIO-13: Measures to prevent trash attracting wildlife
- BIO-14: Rodenticide/herbicide use prohibition during construction

- BIO-15: Wildlife protection during construction

Community Impacts

- LU-1: An outreach and engagement plan will be developed to ensure potential security concerns from residents of the Huntington Square Apartments are identified and addressed prior to construction
- LU-2: A Traffic Management Plan will be prepared to identify ways to minimize impacts to the public during partial road closures anticipated during construction

Hazardous Materials

- Yellow thermoplastic and paint striping that is removed during planned roadway improvements may require special handling and disposal requirements. All striping paints should be treated as lead-containing. Traffic striping and pavement marking waste generated by this project should be managed during construction.

Noise

- NOI-1: To minimize the construction-generated noise, the contractor shall follow the Caltrans Standard Specifications for noise control and Chapter 34, Article III, Sec. 34-88(5) of the City of Citrus Heights Municipal Code

Visual Resources

- VIS-1: Aesthetic treatments on the new paved trail and prefabricated bridge over Arcade Creek will be consistent with other trails and bridges along the CCTP
- VIS-2: Lighting along the trail will be downcast to minimize glare. The Project's lighting design must be consistent with the City Citrus Heights lighting guidelines and standards

Water Quality

- WQ-1: The proposed project will require a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Construction Permit for Discharges of storm water associated with construction activities (Construction General Permit 2022-0057-DWQ)
- WQ-2: Requirements to conform to water quality standards
- WQ-3: High visibility environmentally sensitive fencing of staking near jurisdictional waters prior to the start of construction
- WQ-4: Best management practices to reduce erosion during construction

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Final Audit Report 2026-07-14

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By:	Caitlin Greenwood (s148891@dot.ca.gov)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAA0y82M0xQ2VfbeWibMmq2HpMB8qQC5MwM

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