

**CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION  
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION/PROGRAMMATIC CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION  
DETERMINATION FORM**

04-NAP-29	KP 41.0 to 45.7 (PM 25.5/28.4)	EA 259400
Dist.-Co.-Rte. (or Local Agency)	K.P./K.P.(P./M.P.M.) E.A. (State project)	Proj. No. (Local project) (Fed.Prog. Prefix Proj. No., Agr. No.)

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** (Briefly describe project, purpose, location, limits, right-of-way requirements, and activities.)

The safety improvement project will provide left turn channelization and pavement rehabilitation on State Route 29, near the City of St. Helena from Mee Lane to Charter Oak Lane, KP 41.0 to 45.7 (PM 25.5/28.4), in Napa County. Project activities to locate utilities underground will be restricted to Caltrans R/W and the railroad R/W parallel to SR 29. ...See Continuation Sheet.

**CEQA COMPLIANCE** (for State Projects only)

Based on an examination of this proposal, supporting information, and the following statements (See 14 CCR 15300 et seq.):

- If this project falls within exempt class 3, 4, 5, 6 or 11, it does not impact an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped and officially adopted pursuant to law.
- There will not be a significant cumulative effect by this project and successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time.
- There is not a reasonable possibility that the project will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.
- This project does not damage a scenic resource within an officially designated state scenic highway.
- This project is not located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Govt. Code § 65962.5 ("Cortese List").
- This project does not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

**CALTRANS CEQA DETERMINATION**

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

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

**Categorically Exempt.** Class 1, (PRC 21084; 14 CCR 15300 et seq.) or **General Rule 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 (CCR 15061(b)(3))]

	6/22/07		6/22/07
Signature: Environmental Office Chief	Date	Signature: Project Manager	Date

**NEPA COMPLIANCE** (23 CFR 771.117)

Based on an examination of this proposal, supporting information, and the following statements.

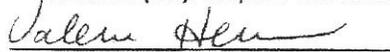
- This project does not have a significant impact on the environment as defined by the NEPA.
- This project does not involve substantial controversy on environmental grounds.
- This project does not involve significant impacts on properties protected by Section 4(f) of the DOT Act or Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.
- In non-attainment or maintenance areas for Federal air quality standards: this project comes from a currently conforming plan and Transportation Improvement Program or is exempt from regional conformity.
- This project is consistent with all Federal, State, & local laws, requirements or administrative determinations relating to the environmental aspects of this action.

**CALTRANS NEPA DETERMINATION**

Based on an examination of this proposal, supporting information, and the statements above under "NEPA Compliance", it is determined that the project is a:

**PROGRAMMATIC CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (PCE):** Based on the evaluation of this project and supporting documentation in the project files, all the conditions of the November 18, 2003 Programmatic Categorical Exclusion Agreement have been met.

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CE):** For actions that do not individually or cumulatively have a significant environmental effect and are excluded from the requirement to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Require FHWA determination.

	6/22/07		6/22/07
Signature: Environmental Office Chief	Date	Signature: Project Manager/DLA Engineer	Date

**FHWA DETERMINATION**

Based on the evaluation of this project and the statements above, it is determined that the project meets the criteria of and is properly classified as a Categorical Exclusion (CE).

*not applicable*

Signature: FHWA Project Development Engineer	Date
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**CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Project Description continued**

*The project will maintain access to the parking lot of the Ink House (1575 Saint Helena Highway South, APN 027-450-013), and the project will not include paving or other alterations to the parking lot. Also, the project will maintain driveway access to 1549 Saint Helena Highway South (APN 027-100-013).*

**Biological Resources**

A total of forty (40) native oak trees will be removed to construct the project. Tree compensation will consist of replacement planting at a ratio that would replace the biological value of a tree, e.g., a 3:1 ratio. Directional drilling will be used to locate utility lines to limit injury to tree root systems. Three potential sites have been identified for tree compensation. An independent environmental review will be conducted for these sites.

**Visual Resources**

The trees to be removed within the proposed project area have substantial visual features due to the species and grouping along State Route (SR) 29. However, the condition of the trees does not exhibit outstanding scenic qualities. Negative visual impacts are not anticipated, provided that tree replacement compensation for visual resources is incorporated into the proposed project.

To replace the loss of the forty (40) native oak trees that will be removed, oak trees or other appropriate tree species will be planted along the highway at a number that compensates for visual effects. Tree replacement planting will include ten (10) replacement trees for the removal of the 40-inch dbh valley oak within the City of St. Helena.

Replacement trees will be planted within the State-owned right-of-way along the SR 29. The trees shall be setback from the edge of the pavement to comply with safety setback guidelines. The trees will be planted where they will not interfere with motorists' sight distances. Three potential tree replacement sites have been identified.

Metal beam guardrails will be installed for existing unique oak trees on the west side of the southbound lanes.

The trees will be planted, at minimum, as seedlings and the maximum as 15-gallon container size. Trees will be supported by a temporary irrigation system and truck watered at regular intervals for the first three years. Progress inspections will be required throughout the contract to ensure that the replacement trees are healthy. Any replacement trees that do not survive will be replaced within 15 days of notice from Caltrans.

**Cultural Resources**

Two historic properties are listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) within the project site. A third historic property has been determined eligible for the NRHP. The project, as currently defined, will not affect any historic properties.

**Air Quality**

The project is a non-capacity vehicle-increasing project which will not have an adverse effect

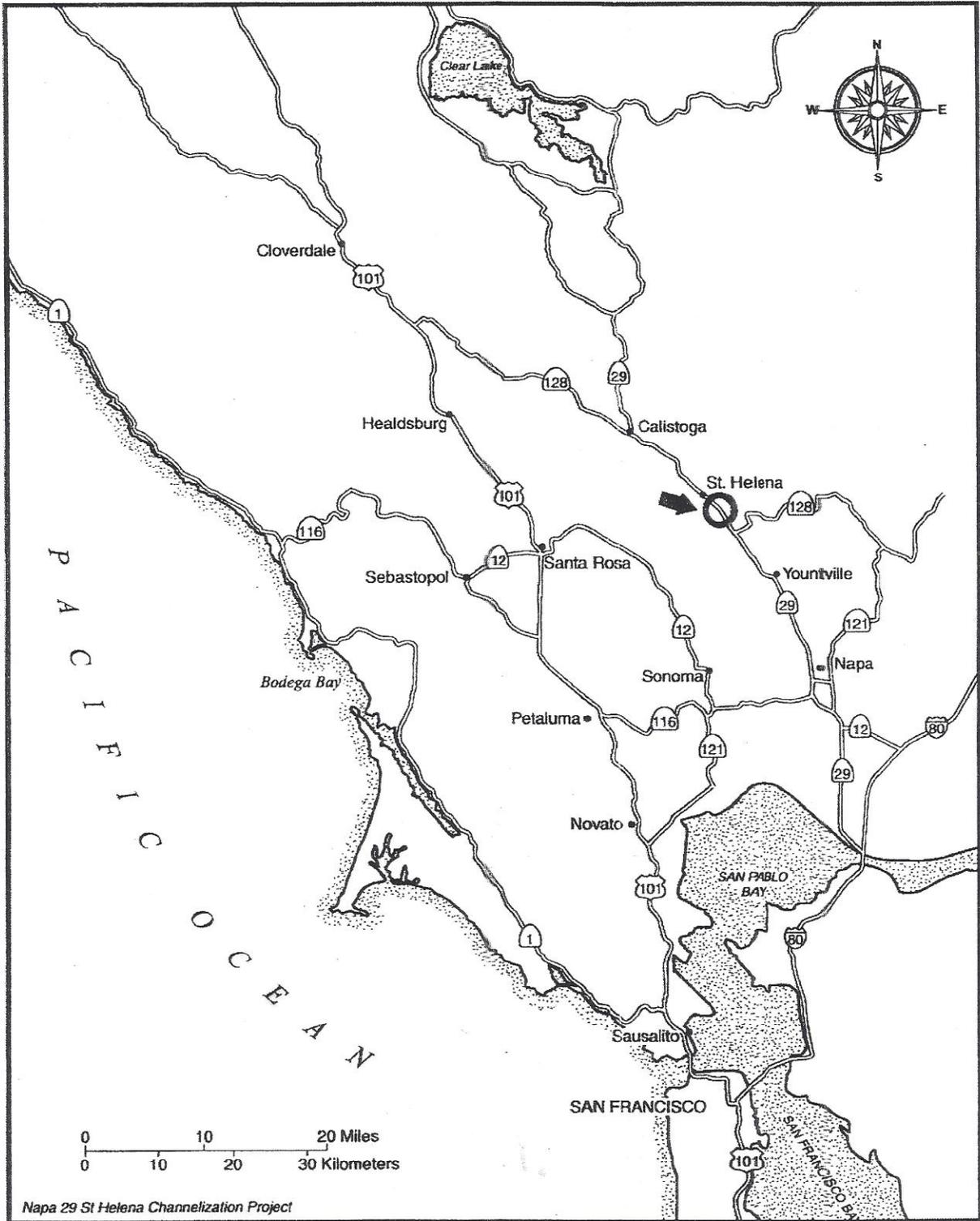


Figure 1. Project Vicinity.