



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Transit
Administration**

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October 1, 2020

Mr. Henry Li
General Manager/CEO
Sacramento Regional Transit District
Public Works Transit
1400 29th Street
Sacramento, CA, 95816

Attention: Mr. Daryl Abansado, Director, Engineering and Construction

Subject: Categorical Exclusion Request for Folsom Light
Modernization Double Track

Dear Mr. Li:

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) has completed its review of your September 14, 2020 letter requesting an environmental determination for the construction of the proposed Sacramento Regional Transit District (SacRT) Folsom Light Modernization Double Track project. The project will improve the light rail service to Folsom along its existing Gold Line. Based on your letter and supporting documentation, FTA has determined that the project qualifies as a Categorical Exclusion under 23 CFR Part 771.118(d)(8), specifically:

“Modernization or minor expansions of transit structures and facilities outside existing right-of-way.”

This review, which is based on past experience with the similar projects, finds the SacRT Folsom Light Modernization Double Track project: does not induce significant environmental impacts to planned growth or land use for the area; does not require the relocation of significant numbers of people; does not have a significant impact on cultural, recreational, historical or other resources; does not involve significant air, noise, or water quality impacts; does not have significant impacts on travel patterns; and does not otherwise, either individually or cumulatively, have any significant environmental impact.

Regarding natural impacts, the project area does impact the Rancho Cordova segment and the immediate vicinity of elderberry shrubs which is the host plant for the threatened Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle.

As a result, SacRT and FTA initiated formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) pursuant to Section 7 of the federal Endangered Species Act on July 10, 2020, which resulted in the issuance of a Biological Opinion and Incidental Take Statement on September 14, 2020, concluding the level of anticipated take is not likely to result in jeopardy to the species, provided that terms and conditions of the incidental take statement including identified conservation, transplanting, and credit purchase measures are followed.

SacRT should be aware of guidance concerning Categorical Exclusions (CEs). In particular, FTA strongly encourages grant applicants to contact the Regional Office before exercising pre-award authority for projects, which it believes a CE under 23 CFR 771.118 (d) (8) applies. This reduces the risk of a grantee inappropriately exercising pre-award authority for projects resulting in loss of eligibility for reimbursement of costs.

If you have any questions about this review, please contact Mr. Ted Matley, Director of Planning and Program Development, at (415) 734-9468 or by email at ted.matley@dot.gov.

Sincerely,

RAYMOND S TELLIS

Ray Tellis
Regional Administrator