

2019068126

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

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

From: (Public Agency): Caltrans, District 2
1657 Riverside Drive
Redding, CA 96001
(Address)

Project Title: Plumas 70 Geotechnical Core Drilling

Project Applicant: California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)

Project Location - Specific:
State Route (SR) 70, Post Miles (PM) 20.5-21.07, in Plumas county. Approximately 13 miles west of SR 70 and 89 intersection.

Project Location - City: N/A Project Location - County: Plumas

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
The purpose of the proposed project is to perform geotechnical drilling to obtain geologic data of the underlying bedrock. The core samples and associated data are needed for a future permanent restoration project and will help determine final design. Accurate samples will accelerate the future project's timeline.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Caltrans

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Caltrans

- 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));
[X] Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Class 6; Section 15306
[] Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reasons why project is exempt:
The purpose of the project is to collect geotechnical information as part of a study leading to the design of a future project. The project activities will not result in a serious disturbance or impacts to environmental resources of hazardous or critical concern.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Emiliano Pro Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530)225-3174

- 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: [Signature] Date: 6/26/19 Title: Env. Branch Chief

[X] Signed by Lead Agency [] Signed by Applicant

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

Governor's Office of Planning & Research
Date Received for filing at OPR:
JUN 26 2019
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION/CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

02-PLU-70 20.5/21.07 02-4H440 0218000119
 Dist.-Co.-Rte. (or Local Agency) P.M./P.M. E.A/Project No. Federal-Aid Project No. (Local Project)/Project No.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: (Briefly describe project including need, purpose, location, limits, right-of-way requirements, and activities involved in this box. Use Continuation Sheet, if necessary.)

Under a Standard T-13 Lane Closure, perform core sample drilling up to 100' deep approximately 8' away from the edge of traveled way. All work will be contained using industry standard best management practices for typical core sample drilling. Working days are estimated to be 35 days taking place over a 4-month period. There are no encroachments on any water's of the U.S. There are no adjacent property owner encroachments. All work will take place on the un-paved hinge point frequently used for parking and no additional disturbed soil areas will be generated. No night work is planned or anticipated. Excess drilling waste is stored in sealed containers and transported to a licensed waste disposal facility. All holes will be properly sealed with grout in accordance with all applicable state, federal, and local water quality laws.

CALTRANS CEQA DETERMINATION (Check one)

- Not Applicable – Caltrans is not the CEQA Lead Agency Not Applicable – Caltrans has prepared an Initial Study or Environmental Impact Report under CEQA

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

- Exempt by Statute. (PRC 21080[b]; 14 CCR 15260 et seq.)
 Categorically Exempt, Class 6. (PRC 21084; 14 CCR 15300 et seq.)

Based on an examination of this proposal and supporting information, the following statements are true and exceptions do not apply:

- 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.

- 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].)]

Emiliano Pro

Print Name: Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief

Signature

6/26/19
Date

Stacey Barnes

Print Name: Project Manager

Signature

6/26/19
Date

NEPA COMPLIANCE

In accordance with 23 CFR 771.117, and based on an examination of this proposal and supporting information, the State has determined that this project:

- does not individually or cumulatively have a significant impact on the environment as defined by NEPA, and is excluded from the requirements to prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and
- has considered unusual circumstances pursuant to 23 CFR 771.117(b).

CALTRANS NEPA DETERMINATION (Check one)

- 23 USC 326:** The State 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). As such, the project is categorically excluded from the requirements to prepare an EA or EIS under the National Environmental Policy Act. The State has been assigned, and hereby certifies that it has carried out the responsibility to make this determination pursuant to Chapter 3 of Title 23, United States Code, Section 326 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated May 31, 2016, executed between the FHWA and the State. The State has determined that the project is a Categorical Exclusion under:

- 23 CFR 771.117(c); activity (c)(24)
 23 CFR 771.117(d); activity (d)()
 Activity ___ listed in Appendix A of the MOU between FHWA and the State

- 23 USC 327:** Based on an examination of this proposal and supporting information, the State 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 December 23, 2016 and executed by FHWA and Caltrans.

Emiliano Pro

Print Name: Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief

Signature

6/26/19
Date

Stacey Barnes

Print Name: Project Manager/DLA Engineer

Signature

6/26/19
Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion: 06/26/2019

Date of ECR or equivalent : 06/26/2019

Briefly list environmental commitments on continuation sheet. Reference additional information, as appropriate (e.g., CE checklist, additional studies and design conditions).

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION/CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

Continuation Sheet

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------|-----------------|---|
| 02-PLU-70 | 20.5/21.07 | 02-4H440 | 0218000119 |
| Dist.-Co.-Rte. (or Local Agency) | P.M./P.M. | E.A/Project No. | Federal-Aid Project No. (Local Project)/Project No. |

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Purpose and Need:

The purpose of the proposed project is to obtain geologic data to determine if the project location is appropriate for a retaining wall related to a future permanent restoration project. The project is needed because the Department does not have any data relating to the geological condition of the underlying rock and bedrock.

Construction Activities:

- Geotech core drilling (4"-6" up to 100' deep)
- Standard T-13 Lane Closure (State Route 70 to remain open)

Staging Areas:

Construction activities would occur within the roadway of State Route 70 or within the associated shoulder area. Activities would remain within Caltrans right-of-way and off-site staging would not be required.

Disposal/Borrow Areas:

Excess drilling waste is stored in sealed containers and transported to a licensed waste disposal facility. All holes will be properly sealed with grout in accordance with all applicable state, federal, and local water quality laws. No borrow needed.

Right-of-Way/Utilities:

Project will not require additional right-of-way or utility relocation.

Consultation/Coordination:

This project falls Under Stipulation VII of the Programmatic Agreement of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. This undertaking is a "screened undertaking" as class 29 of the MOU. Accordingly, this undertaking is exempt from further review or consultation.

Coordination with regulatory agencies has been conducted through database searches.

Permits:

No regulatory agency permits are required for this project.

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

JUN 26 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE