

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

DISTRICT 10

P.O. BOX 2048, STOCKTON, CA 95201

(1976 E. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BLVD. 95205)

PHONE (209) 948-7325

FAX (209) 948-7164

TTY 711

[www.dot.ca.gov](http://www.dot.ca.gov)Making Conservation  
a California Way of Life.

Governor's Office of Planning &amp; Research

**OCT 30 2019**

October 30, 2019

**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

Mr. Steve Sucheski, Project Manager  
California State Parks  
Acquisitions & Development  
One Capital Mall Suite 410  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**CAL-4-PM 44.49**  
**Draft Initial Study**  
**Negative Declaration**  
**SCH# 2019099058**

Dear Mr. Sucheski,

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) appreciates the opportunity to review and comment on the Calaveras Big Trees Cabin Expansion and Campsite Relocation Project. The proposed project is located 14.5 miles east of Murphy's, CA along State Route (SR) 4 between Camp Connell and Arnold within the Stanislaus National Forest in Calaveras County. The proposed project would expand an existing cluster of four rental cabins (plus one recreational building) by adding eleven additional cabins and a camp host site (Recreational Vehicle space) along with the infrastructure necessary to support the expansion on 12-acres within the Calaveras Big Trees State Park.

Caltrans held a teleconference with your office to discuss the Draft Initial Study-Negative Declaration (IS-ND) on Tuesday, October 29, 2019 regarding potential comingling of water into Caltrans right of way (ROW) culverts as a result of the project. The California State Parks, and Department of Parks and Recreation has agreed to the following to address culvert concerns as discussed during the teleconference.

The Department of Parks and Recreation has confirmed with Caltrans District 10 Hydraulic Engineer, the project will install cobbled stone check dams at each of the existing culverts located along the road expansion of the project. The check dams will reduce any bypass flow within the roadside ditch upstream of the existing 24-inch corrugated metal pipe (CMP) culvert within Caltrans ROW along SR 4 and entrance to the campsite. The preferred rock type is to be angular placed at an adequate depth to ensure stability as per Table 865.2 of the Highway Design Manual. The rock is to be regularly inspected and maintained for continued effectiveness. The Engineer representing the Department of Parks and

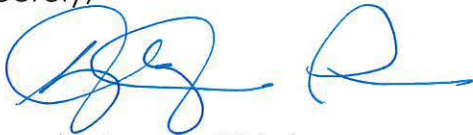
Mr. Steve Sucheski  
Page 2

Recreation has ensured Caltrans that the post-development flow will be less than the pre-development flow. It should be noted that cut/fill slopes greater than 4:1 may experience erosion during storm events and revegetation, or other erosion control measures should be established to help address erosion where necessary.

Where an Encroachment Permit will be required for any work done within Caltrans ROW now, or in future proposed developments, or any construction activities that will encroach into Caltrans ROW, appropriate environmental studies must be submitted with the application. Please include California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation with supporting technical studies when submitting the Encroachment Permit. For more information please visit the Caltrans Website. <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep/applications>

If you have any questions or would like to discuss these comments, please contact Michael Casas at (209) 948-7475 ([michael.casas@dot.ca.gov](mailto:michael.casas@dot.ca.gov)) or me at (209) 948-7325 ([gregoria.ponce@dot.ca.gov](mailto:gregoria.ponce@dot.ca.gov)).

Sincerely,



Gregoria Ponce, Chief  
Office of Rural Planning

cc: Joshua Pack, Director, Public Works, Calaveras County  
Amber Collins, Executive Director, Calaveras Council of Governments  
Peter Maurer, Planning Director, Calaveras County  
State Clearinghouse  
Brad Michalk, Environmental Coordinator, California State Parks