
**CERTIFICATE OF DETERMINATION
OF EXEMPTION/EXCLUSION FROM ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

Project Title: Butano Canyon Bridge Replacement Project
Project Location: Spruce Lane is located off Redwood Ave in San Mateo County
Assessor's Parcel Numbers: 089031020, 089031170
City and County: Pescadero, San Mateo County

Description of Nature and Purpose of Project:

The Butano Canyon Bridge Replacement Project will replace an unserviceable bridge in unincorporated San Mateo County, CA. The project site is located in a community called Butano Canyon within the Santa Cruz mountains, surrounded by Butano State parks and private forested lands. The project site consists of Spruce Lane, a single lane private road, residential driveways on both sides of the creek, and the bridge across the creek.

The existing Butano Canyon Bridge is a 100-foot long three span wooden bridge on Spruce Lane constructed in 1952 with redwood spanners. The bridge has become unserviceable due to deterioration including a failing deck and an unstable foundation, resulting in it being unsafe for emergency vehicles or residents.

The project will remove the existing deteriorated bridge deck and exposed abutments, construct new retaining walls, relocate a power pole and propane tank, minor realignment of a section of Spruce Lane, and reconstruct Butano Canyon Bridge. The bridge replacement will take in a similar footprint to the current bridge and approach, expect for the minor realignment of approximately 120 feet of Spruce Lane approximately five to 10 feet to the west. The exposed concrete above ground of the existing abutments will be cut and removed. The new abutments will be installed outside of the stream channel, beyond top of bank, and well above the 100-year water surface elevation. Minor adjustments (a few feet) are being made to the angle of the bridge and to the sinuosity and width of the road to provide better access through Spruce Lane. The new bridge will restore access for residents and emergency vehicles.

Name of Person, Board, Commission or Department Proposing to Carry Out Project:

San Mateo Resource Conservation District
Kellyx Nelson
80 Stone Pine Road, Suite 100
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

EXEMPT STATUS:

Categorical Exemption, Class 2 [CEQA State Guidelines, Section 15302]

REMARKS:

This project is needed for safe landowner and emergency vehicle passage over Butano Creek through replacement of an existing bridge.

As described below, the project meets the CEQA criteria for exemption from environmental review under Class 2 (15302).

Project Description

The Butano Canyon Bridge Replacement Project will replace an unserviceable bridge in unincorporated San Mateo County, CA. The project site is located in a community called Butano Canyon within the Santa Cruz mountains, surrounded by Butano State parks and private forested lands. The project site consists of Spruce Lane a single lane private road, residential driveways on both sides of the creek, and bridge across the creek.

The existing Butano Canyon Bridge is a 100-foot long three span wooden bridge on Spruce Lane constructed in 1952 with redwood spanners. The bridge has a failing deck, the foundation has become unstable, and it is unsafe for emergency vehicles or residents. A new bridge is required to restore safe access.

The project will remove the existing deteriorated bridge, construct new retaining walls and abutments, install a new bridge, relocate a power pole and propane tank, and realign a small portion of Spruce Lane. The new bridge will be rebuilt on the same site and for the same purpose. Adjustments are being made to the angle of the bridge by a few feet and to the sinuosity and width of the road to provide better access through Spruce Lane to emergency vehicles. Under the proposed project, work will take place over six weeks, between August 1 – October 31, 2020. All work will occur above the ordinary high water, the project will not require any work within the active stream channel, and additional actions will be taken to reduce impacts to the site and avoid impacts to special-status species. The following describes each of these activities in greater detail.

Remove existing bridge: The existing bridge will be removed via crane and excavator. Some salvageable material from the bridge will be saved with appropriate pieces potentially used in a future project to install large woody debris in the Butano Creek channel; other material will be properly disposed of. The above ground exposed concrete of the existing abutments will be saw cut and removed, the below ground portion of the existing abutments will be left in place to reduce impacts and erosion.

Construct retaining wall: Two retaining walls will be constructed, one at each end of the bridge, to retain engineered fill and facilitate an appropriate turn radius, per CalFire specification. The retaining walls will be installed out of the stream channel, at the top of the bank, and well above the modeled 100-year water surface elevation.

Relocate power pole and propane tank: There is currently a power pole and a propane tank located directly adjacent to the northwest edge of the bridge. The pole and tank will be relocated for the proposed bridge.

Realign Spruce Lane: Spruce Lane will be realigned at the approach to the bridge from the east. An existing 42-inch diameter California nutmeg (*Torreya californica*) will be removed for the realignment.

Reconstruct Butano Canyon Bridge: A 98-foot length, Big R single span modular bridge will be constructed with a 12-foot clear width, 54-inch tall guardrails, and HL-93 capacity rating. The bridge will be supported by

drilled cast-in-place concrete piers installed out of the stream channel and above modeled 100-year water surface elevation.

Class 2 (CEQA State Guidelines, Section 15302)

This section of the CEQA guidelines describes replacement of existing structures or facilities, where new structures will be located on the same site and serve the same purpose. The purpose of this project is to replace an existing, unserviceable bridge with a new bridge on the same site to restore vehicle access for neighbors and emergency vehicles.

15302. REPLACEMENT OR RECONSTRUCTION

Class 2 consists of replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site as the structure replaced and will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the structure replaced, including but not limited to:

- (a) Replacement or reconstruction of existing schools and hospitals to provide earthquake resistant structures which do not increase capacity more than 50 percent.*
- (b) Replacement of a commercial structure with a new structure of substantially the same size, purpose, and capacity.*
- (c) Replacement or reconstruction of existing utility systems and/or facilities involving negligible or no expansion of capacity.*
- (d) Conversion of overhead electric utility distribution system facilities to underground including connection to existing overhead electric utility distribution lines where the surface is restored to the condition existing prior to the undergrounding.*

This project will reconstruct a bridge on the same site as an existing bridge. The reconstructed bridge will have substantially the same purpose and capacity as the bridge being replaced. The new bridge will be slightly shorter in length and slightly wider than the old bridge to create a better alignment and width for emergency vehicles.

The project will not have a significant impact on Butano Creek or species of concern. Actions and precautions will be taken to reduce impacts to the site and avoid impacts to special-status species. All work will take place above the ordinary high water line of the creek, and a tarp or other protective fabric will be temporarily installed below the bridge to prevent any debris from falling into the creek from bridge removal and reconstruction. Additionally, silt fences will be installed above the ordinary high water line to further prevent material or sediment from entering the creek. Measures will be taken to reduce impacts to the site, such as tree protections and minimizing disturbance of the soil and site. Measures will also be taken to reduce impacts to special status species including pre-construction surveys and a suite of additional best management practices.

CEQA State Guidelines Section 15300.2 states that a categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances. As described above, there are no unusual circumstances surrounding the proposed project that would suggest a reasonable possibility of a significant environmental effect.

REMARKS: See page 3.

Contact Person: Amy Kaeser Telephone: (650) 712-7765 x 121

10/7/2019

Date of Determination:

I do hereby certify that the above determination has been made pursuant to State and Local requirements.



**Amy Kaeser, Conservation Project Manager
San Mateo Resource Conservation District**

Governor's Office of Planning & Research
OCT 14 2019
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

October 7, 2019

State Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

Dear Sir or Madam,

Enclosed please find the CEQA Notice of Exemption for the project entitled: Butano Canyon Bridge Replacement Project. Copies of this Notice of Exemption have been concurrently filed with the County of San Mateo. Please return a stamped copy in the self-addressed stamped envelope provided.

If you have questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Amy Kaeser
Conservation Project Manager
650.712.7765 x 121
amy@sanmatorcd.org

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

OCT 14 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE