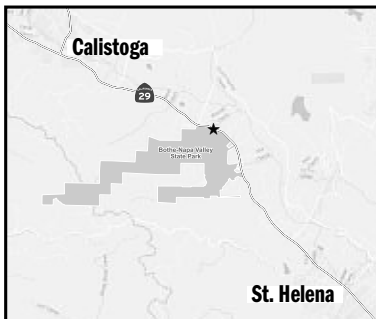


**Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration and Notice of Availability of an Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration, Environmental Assessment and Section 4(f) De Minimis Determination for the Ritchie Creek Bridge Replacement for Fish Passage Improvement Project**

**WHAT'S BEING PLANNED?**

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is proposing to replace the existing Ritchie Creek Bridge (Bridge No. 21-0057) with a new bridge at post mile (PM) 33.13, located on State Route 29 (SR 29). The project is located 4 miles southeast of the city of Calistoga and 3.5 miles to the north of the city of St. Helena in Napa County. The new bridge dimensions would be similar to the existing bridge and would include a 12-foot travel lane and an 8-foot shoulder in each direction. The existing bridge on SR 29 is classified as a depth and jump barrier to adult and juvenile salmonids. Caltrans is proposing to remove the fish passage barriers by replacing the existing bridge, grading the creek and constructing a roughened channel to allow for fish passage. In return for improvements to fish passage, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) would grant Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) compliance unit credits pursuant to requirements of the Caltrans Statewide National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit issued by the State Water Resources Control Board.

**WHY THIS AD?**

Caltrans has studied the impacts that the proposed project may have on the environment and has determined that with mitigation, there are less than significant impacts. The Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration/Environmental Assessment (IS-MND/EA) is the document that explains why the proposed project will, with mitigation, have less than significant impacts on the environment. This public notice is to inform you of the preparation of the IS-MND/EA and of its availability for review during the public comment period.

**WHAT IS AVAILABLE?**

The IS-MND/EA and other project information are available to download at the Caltrans environmental document website: <https://dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-4/d4-popular-links/d4-environmental-docs> or <https://bit.ly/33xFFK1>. Additionally, the document will be made available at the following location:

**St. Helena Public Library**  
**1492 Library Lane**  
**St. Helena, CA 94574**

**WHERE YOU COME IN:**

We welcome your comments on the IS-MND/EA during the public comment period from December 1, 2020 to January 8, 2021. Please send your comments to Nathan Roberts via email to: [Nathan.Roberts@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Nathan.Roberts@dot.ca.gov)

A virtual public meeting will be held on December 15, 2020, starting at 5:30 PM to discuss the project. You are invited to attend an online public meeting via WebEx.

**WHEN AND WHERE**

The meeting will be December 15, 2020, from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM via WebEx.

**To join the meeting:**

1. Download the WebEx app to your computer or mobile device.
2. Join the meeting by entering this link into your browser: <https://bit.ly/3o03Fxl>
3. Or join using computer audio or calling the number listed below and entering the access code when prompted: Dial: **1- 408-418-9388**  
 Meeting Number (access code): **1461907016**  
 Meeting Password: **prMAN2qHU76**
4. You can also call in, if you don't have computer access, using the above number and entering the access code.

If you cannot attend the meeting, you can provide comments via email or mail during the comment period, December 1, 2020 to January 8, 2021 to Caltrans District 4, ATTN: Nathan Roberts, P.O. Box 23660, MS 8B, Oakland, CA 94623 or via email to: [Nathan.Roberts@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Nathan.Roberts@dot.ca.gov). Please note that Caltrans prefers to receive comments via email during this time due to COVID-19 as staff are primarily working remotely.

**CONTACT**

For individuals with sensory disabilities, the document can be made available in Braille, in large print, on audiocassette, or on computer disk by writing to the above address or email or by calling California Relay **Service (800) 735-2929 (TTY), (800) 735-2922 (Voice), or 711.**

For more information about the document or if you have comments, questions, or concerns regarding the proposed Project, please contact Nathan Roberts at [Nathan.Roberts@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Nathan.Roberts@dot.ca.gov).