



**CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
DETERMINATION FORM (rev. 11/2020)**

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): Burnt Ranch Rockfall Director's Order

DIST-CO-RTE: 02-TRI-299

PM/PM: 11.2

EA: 02-2J530

Federal-Aid Project Number: 0221000088

Project Description

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), using State funds only, proposes to repair the existing rock mesh drapery located at PM 11.2 on State Route (SR) 299 in Trinity County. The original drapery was completed in 2020. Multiple rock-slides occurred on February 1, 2021 at several locations along the rock slope. The largest slide damaged the drapery system, requiring an emergency response.

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Caltrans CEQA Determination (Check one)

- Not Applicable** – Caltrans is not the CEQA Lead Agency
- Not Applicable** – Caltrans has prepared an IS or EIR under CEQA

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

- Exempt by Statute.** (PRC 21080[b]; 14 CCR 15260 et seq.)
- Categorically Exempt. Class** (PRC 21084; 14 CCR 15300 et seq.)
 - No exceptions apply that would bar the use of a categorical exemption (PRC 21084 and 14 CCR 15300.2). See the [SER Chapter 34](#) for exceptions.
- Covered by the 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].)

Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief

Julie McFall		3/26/21
<u>Print Name</u>	Signature	Date

Project Manager

Mike Mogen		3/29/2021
<u>Print Name</u>	Signature	Date

Caltrans NEPA Determination (Check one)

- Not Applicable**



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Caltrans 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). See [SER Chapter 30](#) for unusual circumstances. As such, the project is categorically excluded from the requirements to prepare an EA or EIS under NEPA and is included under the following:

23 USC 326: Caltrans has been assigned, and hereby certifies that it has carried out the responsibility to make this determination pursuant to 23 USC 326 and the Memorandum of Understanding dated April 18, 2019, executed between FHWA and Caltrans. Caltrans has determined that the project is a Categorical Exclusion under:

- 23 CFR 771.117(c): activity (c)(Enter activity number)**
- 23 CFR 771.117(d): activity (d)(Enter activity number)**
- Activity Enter activity number listed in Appendix A of the MOU between FHWA and Caltrans**

23 USC 327: Based on an examination of this proposal and supporting information, Caltrans 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.

Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief

NA	NA	NA
Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

NA	NA	NA
Print Name	Signature	Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion: NA
Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 3/25/2021

Briefly list environmental commitments on continuation sheet if needed (i.e., not necessary if included on an attached ECR). Reference additional information, as appropriate (e.g., additional studies and design conditions).



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Continuation sheet:

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The rockslide that occurred on February 1, 2021 resulted in damage to the existing rock mesh drapery. A contract has been awarded through the Emergency Director's Order to implement the following repairs within the affected area:

- Assess/repair the damage to the top anchors and cable supports.
- Reinstall the cable system and reattach the wire mesh fabric.
- Repair wire mesh where it has been torn.
- Raise the lower portion of the wire mesh from 5 feet to 10 feet above the bottom catchment area. Raising the bottom wire mesh should help to prevent this slope protection system failure from happening again.

Special Concerns

The original installation of the rock mesh drapery in 2020 took place in marginally suitable habitat for the Trinity bristle snail (TBS), as well as other protected snail species. A pre-construction survey to move the snails from the overland access route was conducted. During the installation process, crews were limited to on-foot access only to the helicopter drop zone at the top of the ridge. If overland access is needed for current emergency repair efforts, the contractor must use the existing, delineated rope path.

The emergency repair project is located next to the perennial McDonald Creek. This creek may contain foothill yellow-legged frogs, southern torrent salamanders, salmonids, northwestern pond turtles, and coastal tailed frog. No construction materials or debris may enter the creek.

Staging

Staging will occur within the boundaries of Caltrans existing Right of Way.

Disposal/Borrow

No borrow sites will be needed for this project. Excess material will be disposed of at a SMARA Pit run by Mercer Fraser.

Right of Way

Work will be completed within Caltrans Right of Way

Consultation/Coordination

The project consists of emergency repairs to previously completed construction; no additional tribal consultation/coordination is needed.

Permits

No permits are required.