



**CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION  
DETERMINATION FORM (rev. 04/2021)**

**Project Information**

**Project Name (if applicable):** Camp Fire Emergency

**DIST-CO-RTE:** 03-VAR-VAR

**PM/PM:** VAR/VAR

**EA:** 4H830

**Federal-Aid Project Number:** N/A

**Project Description**

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) issued a Director's Order to repair fire damage caused by the "Camp Fire" on State Route (SR) 32, SR 70, SR 99, SR 149, and SR 191 in Butte and Plumas Counties at various locations. On November 8, 2018, the Camp Fire started near the town of Pulga on SR 70 and quickly spread westward toward the town of Paradise, causing mass evacuations and the closure of local streets and highways. The fire burned 153,000 acres, including 18,000 structures in the towns of Paradise, Magalia, Concow, and Yankee Hill. The town of Paradise was nearly destroyed, leaving tens of thousands of residents looking for shelter.

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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** Enter 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**

Julia K. Green	<i>Julia K Green</i>	7/1/21
Print Name	Signature	Date

**Project Manager**

Anthony W. Thurman	<i>Anthony Thurman</i>	7/8/2021
Print Name	Signature	Date



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Caltrans NEPA Determination (Check one)

Not Applicable

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)(9ii)
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

Julia K. Green
Print Name
Signature
Date
7/1/21

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Anthony W. Thurman
Print Name
Signature
Date
7/8/2021

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): 6/29/21
Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 4/23/20



## CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

### Continuation sheet:

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Thousands of burnt trees stood adjacent to state routes, presenting an imminent threat of falling onto the roadway. The burned vegetation off the mountainous slopes posed a threat of erosion and debris flows across the roadways. Roadside elements such as retaining walls, drainage systems, metal beam guard rails (MBGR), and signs were damaged. The roadway facilities needed repairs and restoration work completed to deal with the imminent threat of erosion and debris flows.

The availability of these state routes are essential for those affected by the Camp Fire, including residents and emergency services, as well as other vehicular traffic. This project is needed to avoid the failure or threat of failure to the transportation system and to prevent or mitigate the loss or impairment of life, health, property, and essential public services.

The scope of work included the following: removing/disposing/chipping hazard trees and debris; rock scaling slopes; installing erosion control (hydroseeding, rock slope protection (RSP), and mesh drapery system, or other method as directed) on slopes including RSP on banks and streams; repairing retaining walls, culverts, MBGR, right-of-way fencing, signs, and electrical elements; installing debris racks and risers adjacent to the inlet of culverts; and incidental work. Traffic control and Construction Zone Enhanced Enforcement Program (COZEEP) was required.

Construction limits:

SR 32 - Butte County - PM 10.18/R20.37

SR 70 - Butte County - PM R21.95/48.07

SR 70 - Plumas County - PM 0.00/33.02

SR 99 - Butte County - PM 21.48/R32.25

SR 149 - Butte County - PM R0.00/R5.30

SR 191 - Butte County - PM 0.00/11.38

Staging occurred within the Caltrans right-of-way (ROW).

No ROW relocations, acquisitions or easements required.

No disposal that required a borrow site.

Coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Officer, Caltrans Cultural Studies Office, and Plumas National Forest. The following Native American Tribes, Groups and Individuals were contacted: Berry Creek Rancheria of Maidu Indians, Estom Yumeka Maidu Tribe of the Enterprise Rancheria, Greenville Rancheria of Maidu Indians, Konkow Valley Band of Maidu Indians, Mechoopda Indian Tribe, Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians, Strawberry Valley Rancheria, and the Tsi Akim Maidu.

An emergency work notification was sent to California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) pursuant to Fish and Game Code 1610.