

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
County Clerk
County of: _____

From: (Public Agency) Caltrans, Dist. 06
2015 E. Shields, Suite 100
Fresno CA 93721

Project Title: Mono Wind Restoration-SR 41

Project Applicant: California Department of Transportation

Project Location - Specific:

Near the Yosemite National Park, on State Route 41 between post miles 4.0/45.7 in Madera County, and post miles 0.0/2.0 in Mariposa County.

Project Location - City: Oakhurst Project Location - County: VAR

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Mono Wind event started in January 2021 producing high winds toppling trees north of Oakhurst near the Yosemite National Park area closing State Route 41. Caltrans removed trees from the roadway and open the road in 3 days. An assessment of tree condition/health was performed by District 6 Maintenance resulting in identifying 350 trees as needing immediate felling and/or removal as they are located adjacent to the travel way. These trees constitute fire fuel within the travel way and need to be removed per Caltrans Guidelines for Defensible Space in State right-of-way. The trees to be removed constitute an imminent threat to the highway and traffic and are considered a fire hazard due to abnormal drought in the area.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Transportation

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California Department of Transportation

Exempt Status (check one):

- Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: _____
- Statutory Exemption. State code number: _____

Reason why project is exempt:

Emergency projects are exempt from the requirements of CEQA.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: G. William Norris, III Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (209) 601-3521

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? YES NO

Signature: *G. William "Traia" Norris, III* Date: 11/18/2021 Title: Senior Environmental Planner

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR _____