



**CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION
DETERMINATION FORM (rev. 05/2020)**

Project Information

DIST-CO-RTE: 03-BUT-162

PM/PM: 25.00/31.07

EA: 03-1J760

Federal-Aid Project Number: N/A

Project Description

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) issued a Director’s Order to restore areas damaged by the “North Complex Fire” on to State Route (SR) 162 in Butte County between post miles 25.00 to 31.07. On August 18, 2020, the fire started and burned over 314,949 acres of land and destroyed over 2,342 structures. The Governor issued the State of Emergency Proclamation on August 16, 2020. On SR 162, miles of guardrail along with pavement, markers, signs, fence, and culverts were damaged as direct result of the fire. Additionally, about 70 acres of burn scar along SR 162 were identified to become erosion risks during storm events.

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Caltrans CEQA Determination

- 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 1.** (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

Julia K Green

1/21/22

Print Name

Signature

Date

Project Manager

Sean Shaw

Sean M. Shaw

1/21/22

Print Name

Signature

Date



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Caltrans NEPA Determination

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:

[X] 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:

[X] 23 CFR 771.117(c): activity (c)(22)

[] 23 CFR 771.117(d): activity (d)()

[] Activity N/A 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), Julia K Green (Signature), 1/21/22 (Date)

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Sean Shaw (Print Name), Sean M. Shaw (Signature), 1/21/22 (Date)

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion: 11/24/21
Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 12/2/21



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Continuation sheet:

Project Description, continued

Damaged trees have to be removed immediately to open the road. Damaged guardrail can no longer protect traffic from fixed objects and steep slopes and has to be repaired immediately. Charred slopes are prone to erosion and failure to complete erosion control prior to the onset of the rainy season could lead to slope failures, high volumes of runoff and subsequent erosion. The long-term closure of SR 162 poses risk to the public and emergency services.

The scope of work includes the following:

- Repair or replace:
 - Pavement
 - Dike
 - Guardrail
 - Retaining wall
 - Striping
 - Markers
 - Fencing
 - Signs
- Erosion control measures
- Clean or replace culverts
- Install catch basins and debris racks
- Remove debris and vegetation near inlet or outlet
- Clear ditches
- Traffic control
- Incidental work

Staging

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

Disposal/Borrow

Based on the proposed scope of work and due to the nature of the project, a borrow site would not be required.

Right-of-Way

This project was completed within State ROW.

Consultation and Agency Coordination

Coordinated with the Department of Water Resources (DWR). The following Native American Tribes, Groups and Individuals were contacted: Mooretown Rancheria, KonKow Valley Band of Maidu, Enterprise Rancheria, and Berry Creek Rancheria.

Permits

Based on the proposed scope of work, regulatory permits were not required.