



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

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): Tamarack Fire Drainage Restoration

DIST-CO-RTE: 10-ALP-89

PM/PM: 15.21/16.87

EA: 10-1P060

Federal-Aid Project Number: N/A

Project Description

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes an emergency Director’s Order project to address damages caused by the Tamarack Fire at five locations along State Route (SR) 89 between post miles (PM) 15.21 and 16.87, in Alpine County. The scope of work at Location 1 (PM 15.21) proposes replacing the existing 48” Corrugated Steel Pipe (CSP) with a 10’x10’ Reinforced Concrete Box culvert, excavating upstream of the culvert to restore the channel, and Rock Slope Protection (RSP) placement upstream of the inlet. At Location 2 (PM 15.65) and Location 3 (PM 15.84) RSP will be placed at the inlets and outlets. At Location 4 (PM 16.02) a new metal debris rack will be installed approximately 25’ upstream from the inlet. At Location 5 (PM 16.87) excavation will occur and RSP will be placed upstream and downstream of the existing culvert to restore the channel and control slope erosion. A Drainage Easement may be required at Location 1 and Temporary Construction Easement may be required for the work at Location 2. The purpose of the project is to restore flow of the natural channels and ensure function of the associated culverts to handle debris created from the fire. The project is needed to prevent the loss or impairment of life, property, or essential public services along this section of SR-89.

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

Elizabeth Hummel (Acting)		05/16/2022
Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager Tanya Sanguinetti		05/16/2022
Print Name	Signature	Date



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Caltrans NEPA Determination (Check one)

[X] 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)(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

Print Name Signature Date

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Print Name Signature Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): N/A
Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: See Continuation Sheet

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:

Statutory Exemption 15269 Subsection (c):

(c) Specific actions necessary to prevent or mitigate an emergency. This does not include long-term projects undertaken for the purpose of preventing or mitigating a situation that has a low probability of occurrence in the short term, but this exclusion does not apply if (i) if the anticipated period of time to conduct environmental review of such a long-term project would create a risk to public health, safety or welfare, or (ii) if activities (such as fire or catastrophic risk mitigation or modifications to improve facility integrity) are proposed for existing facilities in response to an emergency at a similar existing facility.

General:

- Environmental reevaluation will be required if the scope of the project changes to include additional areas or activities, or if previously unknown cultural or other sensitive resources are discovered. Contact the Environmental Office if project changes occur or sensitive resources discovered.

Cultural:

- If cultural materials are discovered at the job site, do not disturb the resources and immediately:
 1. Stop all work within a 60foot radius of discovery
 2. Protect the discovery area
 3. Notify the Engineer
 4. The Department Investigates. Do not move cultural materials or take them from the job site. Retain a qualified archaeologist to assess the significance of the find. Do not resume work within the discovery area until authorized.
- If human remains are discovered, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that further disturbances and activities shall cease in any area or nearby area suspected to overlie remains, and the County coroner contacted. Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. If the remains are thought to be Native American, the coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) who will then notify the Most Likely Descendent (MLD). At the same time the landowner will work with the MLD on the respectful treatment and disposition of the remains. Further provisions of PRC 5097.98 are to be followed as applicable.

Visual:

- To mitigate visual impacts of the new debris rack at Location 4, the debris rack shall be treated with Natina stain to help soften the element visually with the environment.



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Permits:

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Section 404 permitting under the Clean Water Act - Regional General Permit #8 for emergency projects. The RGP 8 is certified by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) 404 authority under section 401 and a letter of intent will be submitted.
- California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW) Emergency 1610 Lake & Streambed Alteration notification