



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

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): Oak Fire Damage Repair

DIST-CO-RTE: 01-MEN-101

PM/PM: 51.0/55.0

EA: 01-0K830

Federal-Aid Project Number: 0121000014

Project Description

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) issued a Director's Order to make roadway repairs on State Route 101 in Mendocino County between post mile (PM) 51.0 and PM 55.0 as a result of the Oak Fire event of September 2020. The purpose of the project was to restore safe highway operations and to prevent future (winter) roadway closures. Fire damage identified to date includes hazardous trees, drainage systems, clogged ditches, unstable and denuded slopes, and other roadway impacts. The site assessment revealed a need for additional hazard tree removal, erosion control, drainage work, and other winter preparedness measures required for steep and difficult terrain. Failure to complete these repairs prior to the onset of the rainy season could lead to slope failures, high volumes of runoff and subsequent erosion, including potential loss of roadway and associated infrastructure. This project was needed immediately to prevent and lessen the loss or impairment of life, health, property, and essential services. (Continued on page 3)

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

Robert Wall	<i>Robert Wall</i>	5/26/22
Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager

Trevor Goff	<i>Trevor Goff</i>	08/30/2022
Print Name	Signature	Date



CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

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

Robert Wall (Print Name), Robert Wall (Signature), 5/26/22 (Date)

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Trevor Goff (Print Name), Trevor Goff (Signature), 08/30/2022 (Date)

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): 5/25/22

Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 1/6/2021



CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

Continuation sheet:

Description (Continued from page 1)

Severe and highly mobile burned underbrush presents a significant imminent threat that could potentially cause future closure of the route during upcoming rain events. Additionally, during the fire damage site assessment, a sinkhole was discovered on the edge of the shoulder at PM 52.36. Identified as being related to a spiral nail wall used for temporary shoring during construction of the recast concrete box culvert, this sinkhole required immediate repair.

The scope of work includes repair/replace drainage systems, pavement repair, drainage inlet/outlet erosion protections, erosion control/slope protection, repair/replace signs and right-of-way fence, hazard tree assessment/removal/disposal, water pollution control program (WPCP), mobilization and traffic control.

Right-of-Way

All staging and work occurred within current State right-of-way.

Disposal/Borrow

A State-owned disposal site, known as the "Plasma Site", in Willits, was used to off-haul soils from the excavation of the culvert replacement, amounting to ~300 yards+/-.

Consultation and Agency Coordination

The following tribes were contacted: Cahto Tribe of the Laytonville Rancheria, Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians, Pinoleville Pomo Nation, Redwood Valley Rancheria, Round Valley Indian Tribes, and Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo. No responses were received.

Permits

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