

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk
County of: Humboldt

From: (Public Agency): Humboldt County Association of Governments
611 I Street, Suite B
Eureka, CA 95501

(Address)

Email: beth.burks@hcaog.net

FILED
County of Humboldt
Juan P. Cervantes
County Clerk

Project Title: Humboldt County SAFE Emergency Roadside Call Box Expansion

Project Applicant: Humboldt County Association of Governments (HCAOG)

12-2023-062

04/24/2023
tn

Project Location - Specific:

State Route 36, State Route 96, State Route 169, and Bald Hills Road

Project Location - City: Project Location - County: Humboldt

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

As the designated Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies (SAFE) agency, HCAOG is seeking to expand the emergency roadside call box coverage area to better improve emergency assistance on rural highways. The project will install a total of 24 new call boxes at various locations within State right-of-way along S.R. 36 between Carlotta and Dinsmore, S.R. 96 between Hoopa and Orleans, S.R. 169, and on the County-maintained Bald Hills Road. Call boxes provide stranded motorists and residents in rural areas with a direct line to California Highway Patrol dispatch. These rural areas are not patrolled often and may not have cell phone reception.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Humboldt County Association of Governments

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Humboldt County Association of Governments

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));
[X] Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: 15301c
Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project work consists of hand-digging six-foot holes for metal posts on turnouts adjacent to the highway. The blue and white call box sign and yellow call box will be mounted on the pole. The project is within State right-of-way and is an element of the state highway system. The call box expansion project is exempt as it consists of alterations to existing highways and streets.

Lead Agency
Contact Person: Beth Burks Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 707-444-8208

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: Date: 4/24/2023 Title: Executive Director

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:



State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife  
**2023 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE**  
**CASH RECEIPT**  
 DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/23) Previously DFG 753.5a

RECEIPT NUMBER: 12-2023-062
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (If applicable)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY HUMBOLDT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL BETH.BURKS@HCAOG.NET	DATE 04/24/2023
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING HUMBOLDT		DOCUMENT NUMBER 12-2023-062
PROJECT TITLE HUMBOLDT COUNTY SAFE EMERGENCY ROADSIDE CALL BOX EXPANSION		

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME HUMBOLDT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL BETH.BURKS@HCAOG.NET	PHONE NUMBER (707) 444-8208
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS 611 I STREET SUITE B	CITY EUREKA	STATE CA
		ZIP CODE 95501

**PROJECT APPLICANT** (Check appropriate box)

Local Public Agency     School District     Other Special District     State Agency     Private Entity

**CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	\$3,839.25	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND)	\$2,764.00	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW	\$1,305.25	\$ _____

Exempt from fee

Notice of Exemption (attach)

CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)

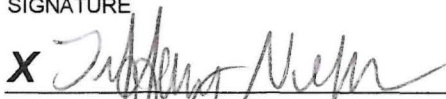
Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)

<input type="checkbox"/> Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only)	\$850.00	\$ _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> County documentary handling fee		\$ _____ \$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Other		\$ _____

**PAYMENT METHOD:**

Cash     Credit     Check     Other

**TOTAL RECEIVED**    \$ \_\_\_\_\_ \$50.00

SIGNATURE <b>X</b> 	AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE T Nielsen, Deputy County Clerk-Recorder
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Environmental analysis for Humboldt County emergency roadside call box installation:

Work consists of hand-digging with dig bars and post hole tools to a depth of 40 inches. No grading is necessary as poles are mounted on existing ground on with slopes of less than 2%. No trenching is necessary as the callboxes do not use cables, but rather use cellular and satellite phone technology. Contractors call in to USA DIG to check for the presence of power lines or other critical underground infrastructure prior to digging. Several sites require installing pre-fabricated concrete 5' x 5' pads to meet Americans with Disabilities standards.

No traffic control is needed. The steel mounting poles are located 6 feet from the edge of the traveled roadway. Sites are selected to provide at least 8 feet of shoulder width for vehicles to pull over, open doors, and be able to use a call box.

Noise levels generated from this project will not exceed 89 decibels. There will be no vegetation removal or root disturbance. Proposed activities occur entirely within the footprint of existing turn-outs. There will therefore be no impact to wetlands. None of the proposed sites are located within the boundaries of California State Parks. The new call boxes would not create a hazard to the public, involve the transport of hazardous materials, or pose a wildfire risk.

HCAOG conducted outreach to Tribal Governments to consult on the locations for call boxes. HCAOG attended information sessions to present the proposed call box project to the Hoopa Valley Tribal Council and Karuk Resource Advisory Board in June 2022. Feedback regarding locations has been incorporated into the project proposal. No cultural concerns were raised and cultural monitors were not requested. Project referrals were emailed to the Yurok Tribe and Bear River Band. The Yurok Tribe confirmed the importance of the call box locations via email and did not cite cultural concerns. See attached documentation of Tribal involvement and approval.

**Project Referral for SAFE Roadside Emergency Call boxes**

2/28/2023 12:45 PM

Steve Luther (steven.luther@humboldt.gov) Add contact

mailto:steven.luther@humboldt.gov



Dear Yelmer:

Hello! I wanted to reach out about a project that HCAOG is engaged in within the ancestral territory of the Bear River Band of the Rogueville Rancheria. We are proposing to expand the roadside call box system to Highway 36. Attached is a project referral document and a Google Earth map for more information. Please let me know if I can provide any additional information to assist in your Tribal review.

Thank you

Stephen Luther  
Associate Regional Planner  
Humboldt County Association of Governments  
633 I Street, Suite B  
Eureka, CA 99501  
707.444.8208 ext 391

RE: SAFE Call box Project Referral

Brandi Natt (bnatt@yuroktribe.nsn.us) Add contact

To: Stevie Luther; Rosie Clayburn;  
Cc: Grant Klopmeier; Beth Burks;

3/30/2023 5:18 PM

Hello Stevie,

The Yurok Tribe has requested Call boxes along Hwy 196, Hwy 96 and Bald Hills Road several years ago. I have been working with HCAOG since 2019 for these emergency call boxes. The Yurok Tribe does believe these call boxes are necessary for all the traveling public along SR-169. I'm not sure where CHP is getting there data in regards to only local traffic and having other means of calling 911 as this statement does not appear correct. The Yurok Office is located in Weitchpec and is not open 24 hours a day. The area is extremely limited with cell service and WIFI locations. This route is one of the most rural locations that would benefit the most. Due to being rural and response times in the event of emergencies are already lengthy it would be most beneficial to utilize a call box instead of driving 45-60 minutes to make a call at the Tribal Office in Weitchpec, if it is open. Additionally, there are Yurok staff that come from Klamath and Eureka and travel this road regularly to provide services to Yurok Tribal members and thus are not locals.

If you require additional information or would like a letter from the Yurok Tribal Council please let me know and I can facilitate that.

Sincerely,



Brandi Natt  
Transportation Director  
Yurok Tribe

Office: 707-482-1350  
Mobile: 707-954-6230  
Email: [bnatt@yuroktribe.nsn.us](mailto:bnatt@yuroktribe.nsn.us)

*cho' skuy' soo hoo-le'mo-nee*  
*"travel safe all around here"*

From: Stevie Luther <stephen.luther@hcaog.net>  
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2023 2:27 PM  
To: Rosie Clayburn <rclayburn@yuroktribe.nsn.us>  
Cc: Brandi Natt <bnatt@yuroktribe.nsn.us>; Grant Klopmeier <gklopmeier@yuroktribe.nsn.us>; Beth Burks <beth.burks@hcaog.net>  
Subject: SAFE Call box Project Referral

Dear Ms. Clayburn and members of the Yurok Tribe Transportation department,

I wanted to reach out about a project that HCAOG is engaged in within Yurok Tribal territory. We are proposing to expand the emergency roadside call box system to various locations on Highway 96 and potentially Highway 169. Attached is a project referral document and a Google Earth map for more information.

CHP reviewed the proposed locations and questioned whether one was necessary on SR-169, noting that it has local traffic only and locals in the area have other means of calling 911 including a tribal office nearby, cell phone boosters and wifi locations. What are your thoughts on the need for a call box at that location?

Please let me know if I can provide any additional information or answer any questions to assist in your Tribal review.

Thank you,

--  
*Stephen Luther*  
Associate Regional Planner  
Humboldt County Association of Governments

Re: Call box sites

Jeff Hodge <jhvdot@gmail.com> Add contact

To: Keduescha Lara-Colegrove;

Cc: Stevie Luther;

11/9/2022 9:42 AM

Good Morning Keduescha,

I am running down my list of things to do and I have the Call Box project next. I'm not sure if Steve needs anything in writing or official from your department but I believe he would like to know if you have any issues with the current sites. If so, please let one of us know so he can locate an alternate site.

Thank you,

Jeff

On Fri, Oct 28, 2022 at 11:46 AM Jeff Hodge <jhvdot@gmail.com> wrote:

Good Morning Keduescha,

There is currently a Project to extend Call Box locations along Highway 96 through Hoopa to the Orleans area. These are the emergency phones you see along the State Highways. Steve Luther works for HCAOG and is lead on this project and would like your review and any comments or concerns you might have on the proposed installation sites. If you have any questions please let me know.

Have a great day,

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Stevie Luther <stephen.luther@hcaog.net>

Date: Fri, Oct 28, 2022 at 10:39 AM

Subject: Call box sites

To: Jeff Hodge <jhvdot@gmail.com>

Hi Jeff,

Hope you are doing well! I wanted to provide the revised list of call box locations that we had talked about back in June. Using the feedback I got from the Tribal Council, I kept the location at Tish Tang, moved #2 closer to the curve you pointed out where there's a history of crashes, moved #3 for better spacing, and added #4 to be near Deerhorn Road.

We'll be looking to apply for a Caltrans encroachment permit before the end of this year with an eye toward installation in spring 2023, and would appreciate any comments from you or your THPO on these sites.

Thank you,

--

*Stephen Luther*

Associate Regional Planner

Humboldt County Association of Governments

611 I Street, Suite B

Eureka, CA 95501

707.444.8208 ext 301

RE: Call box tribal review

Misty Rickwalt [mrickwalt@karuk.us](mailto:mrickwalt@karuk.us) [Add contact](#)

4/29/2022 2:47 PM

To: Stevie Luther;  
Cc: Alex Watts-Tobin; Bill Tripp;

Hi Stevie,

Glad to hear things are progressing on this project! Have you met with the Karuk Resources Advisory Board (KRAB) yet? They are the group we'd need to meet with prior to any Council presentations. I am cc'ing Alex Watts-Tobin (Karuk THPO) as he is who we would need to schedule the meeting with, if that hasn't already been done. They would likely need background information on the project, timeline of installation, and a map of the proposed call-box locations within Karuk Aboriginal Territory.

Alex, when is the next KRAB meeting, and can this agenda item be added to that meeting if the date works for Stevie/HCAOG? Are folks still able to join remotely, or are the meetings in-person only, now?

Yootva (thank you),

Misty D. Rickwalt

Karuk Tribe Transportation Director  
P.O. Box 203, Orleans, CA 95556  
[mrickwalt@karuk.us](mailto:mrickwalt@karuk.us)  
530-627-3016 office || 530-517-0045 cell

**From:** Stevie Luther <[stephen.luther@hcaog.net](mailto:stephen.luther@hcaog.net)>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 29, 2022 1:33 PM  
**To:** Misty Rickwalt <[mrickwalt@karuk.us](mailto:mrickwalt@karuk.us)>  
**Subject:** Call box tribal review

Hi Misty,

I hope this message finds you well! I wanted to reach out about the SAFE call box program. We are finally getting some traction to move forward on the Caltrans encroachment permits, bringing us one step closer to installing new emergency call boxes along Hwy 96. I wanted to see if we could bring an agenda item to the Karuk Tribal Council to discuss the SAFE call box locations, and hear any other considerations related to the call box program. Please let me know if there's any further information I can provide.

Thank you,

--

*Stephen Luther*  
Associate Regional Planner  
Humboldt County Association of Governments  
611 J Street, Suite B  
Eureka, CA 95501  
707-444-8208 ext 301

Have you signed up for the Bike Month Challenge yet? Join in to get more people on bikes at [BikeMonthHumboldt.org](http://BikeMonthHumboldt.org)

