



**CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION  
DETERMINATION FORM (rev. 06/2022)**

**Project Information**

**Project Name (if applicable):** Spanish Creek

**DIST-CO-RTE:**02-Plumas-SR 89

**PM/PM:** 11.3 to 14.0

**EA:** 02-4J150

**Federal-Aid Project Number:** 02-2200-0144

**Project Description**

Caltrans is working with PG&E who has request an encroachment permit to conduct proposed work. PG&E proposes to underground approximately 2.76 miles of the electric distribution facilities on the Spanish Creek Line. The power line is located within State Route 89 corridor between Post Miles 11.3 and 14.0—between Moccasin and Indian Falls (Plumas County). The PG&E electric facilities would consist of underground conduit for electric distribution lines, associated boxes and transformers, riser poles, and protection features for above ground facilities.

**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 2(d).** (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**

Erin Damm

Print Name

Signature

Date

**Project Manager**

Ian Howat

Print Name

Signature

Date



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**Caltrans NEPA Determination** (Check one)

**Not Applicable**

Caltrans has determined this project has no significant impacts on the environment as defined by NEPA, and 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, 2022, 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 May 27, 2022, and executed by FHWA and Caltrans.

**Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief**

Print Name	Signature	Date
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**Project Manager/ DLA Engineer**

Print Name	Signature	Date
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**Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable):** 1/30/2023

**Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent:** N/A

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).



## CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

### Continuation sheet:

The proposed undergrounding project could result in short-term, temporary visual disturbance related to:

- Ground disturbance or other earthworks
- The presence of vehicles, personnel, and supplies in undeveloped areas
- Glare generated by reflections from metal and glass vehicle surfaces

These activities are expected to maintain the visual character of the area since they would take place during a discrete amount of time.

PG&E proposes to underground approximately 2.76 miles of the electric distribution facilities on the Spanish Creek Line. To underground these facilities, PG&E would use a combination of trenching and boring along SR 89. Per Caltrans' request, PG&E would bore underneath all culverts and drainages that intersect with the path; no open trenching or replacement would occur at culvert locations. The standard trench depth would be at least 42 inches below ground and average 18 inches in width, and the underground pipe would be approximately 3 to 6 inches in diameter. If the trench is located in gravel, it would be backfilled with natural backfill material and, if it is in asphalt, it would be filled with a slurry and asphalt cap.

All work areas would be accessed from SR 89, established driveways, disturbed areas along SR 89, or private property. The team is currently selecting specific staging areas.

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

This project would be completed within the existing State right of way. No new or changes to existing utility easements would be required.

USFS assesses the proposed project's effects under NEPA as required for the Special Use Permit PG&E maintains with USFS. The project is within Plumas National Forest. Construction would require only minor vegetation removal, which would be coordinated with the USFS before removal, and mainly consist of brush removal on road shoulders.

Based on the scope of work, regulatory permits would not be required.