



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

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): Monument Fire

DIST-CO-RTE:02-Trinity-SR 299 **PM/PM:** 13.6 to 21.8

EA: 02-3J500 **Federal-Aid Project Number:** 0222000053

Project Description

PG&E is seeking an encroachment permit from Caltrans for the purpose of undergrounding portions of the Willow Creek 12 Kilovolt (kV) electrical transmission line (Willow Creek 1103). This previously overhead power line was damaged due to the recent 2021 Monument Fire. PG&E is coordinating with Caltrans and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to conduct replacement work within the State Route (SR) 299 corridor.

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		06/22/2023
Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager

Ian Howat	<i>Ian Howat</i>	06/22/2023
Print Name	Signature	Date



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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, 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

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

Print Name	Signature	Date

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).



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Continuation sheet:

The proposed project is located along SR 299, in Trinity County, partially located within Shasta-Trinity National Forest. The proposed undergrounding project could result in short-term, temporary visual disturbance. These activities are not expected to degrade the visual character of the area since they will take place in a short amount of time.

PG&E proposes to underground approximately 8.9 miles of the Willow Creek 1103 within the SR 299 corridor between post mile 13.6 to 21.8.

To underground these facilities, PG&E will use a combination of trenching and boring along the river side of SR 299. Additionally, 693 feet of an existing overhead conductor will be removed. The PG&E electric facilities will consist of underground conduit for electric distribution lines, associated boxes and transformers, riser poles, and protection features for above ground facilities. PG&E will bore underneath culverts and drainages that intersect with the path; no open trenching or replacement will take place at culvert locations. Ground water supplies will not be affected due to negligible water use during construction and all trenching will be backfilled with natural backfill or with asphalt, resulting in a like-for-like replacement of the disturbed ground surface.

If required, staging would occur within Caltrans right-of-way (R/W). Specific staging areas have been established directly off SR 299.

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

Soil storage will not take place on the river side of SR 299. The soil will be transported to the main laydown yard. PG&E is proposing to use the property located at 5210 SR 299 (APN 008-362-25-00), Burnt Ranch, as the primary laydown yard for the Willow Creek 1103 project.

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

This project would be completed within Caltrans right-of-way. No new or changes to existing utility easements are required. There are no proposed changes to the existing Caltrans R/W.

USFS is assessing effects from the proposed project under NEPA as required for the Special Use Permit PG&E maintains with USFS.







02-3J500 CE Final Need Signiture_FP

Final Audit Report

2023-06-22

Created:	2023-06-22
By:	Erin Damm (s147282@dot.ca.gov)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAAqMIXYx-SEiAe4BEGzjNCqdhMqaoJJ5Ph

"02-3J500 CE Final Need Signiture_FP" History

-  Document created by Erin Damm (s147282@dot.ca.gov)
2023-06-22 - 8:49:08 PM GMT
-  Document e-signed by Erin Damm (s147282@dot.ca.gov)
Signature Date: 2023-06-22 - 8:51:03 PM GMT - Time Source: server
-  Document emailed to Ian Howat (ian.howat@dot.ca.gov) for signature
2023-06-22 - 8:51:04 PM GMT
-  Email viewed by Ian Howat (ian.howat@dot.ca.gov)
2023-06-22 - 8:51:15 PM GMT
-  Document e-signed by Ian Howat (ian.howat@dot.ca.gov)
Signature Date: 2023-06-22 - 8:51:26 PM GMT - Time Source: server
-  Agreement completed.
2023-06-22 - 8:51:26 PM GMT



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