



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

**Project Information**

**Project Name (if applicable):** Buck's Creek 1102

**DIST-CO-RTE:** 02-PLU-070

**PM/PM:** 5.35/18.80

**EA:** 02-4J170

**Federal-Aid Project Number:** 0222000146

**Project Description**

PG&E is seeking an encroachment permit from Caltrans for the purpose of undergrounding portions of the Bucks Creek 1102 12 kV Line. These power lines were damaged due to the recent 2021 Dixie Fire. The PG&E Wildfire System Hardening Program is part of the overall PG&E Community Wildfire Safety Program intended to reduce the risk of future wildfire ignitions in the Tier 2 & 3 High Fire District by performing targeted undergrounding of overhead lines. PG&E is coordinating with Caltrans and the Forest Service to work with in the State Route 70 corridor. (See 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 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 D Damm		08/16/2023
Print Name	Signature	Date

**Project Manager**

Clint A Burkenpas	<i>Clint Burkenpas</i>	08/18/2023
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, 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): Enter date
Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 8/16/23

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 70, in Plumas County, located with in Plumas National Forest. Proposed undergrounding project is approximately 15.78 miles of the electric distribution facilities on the Bucks Creek 1102 12 kV Line. Approximately 14.4 miles of the power line is located within State Highway Route 70 corridor between post mile (PM) 5.0 to 18.8, between Bucks Creek Power House and Rich Bar Road along the North Fork Feather River (Plumas County). The project alignment exits PG&E Power House on to SR 70 and continues both directions down to PM 5.0 and up to PM 18.8.

PG&E will also be installing new conduit boxes within the highway shoulder turnouts, which are already paved or previously disturbed. Standard ground vegetation clearance of the conduit boxes is an approximately five-foot buffer.

Most of the route is clear of vegetation, but some minor shrub and grass removal could be necessary. One tree will be removed, a 20-foot-tall California Bay located at 39.93228813, -121.3162697. The tree is located within Caltrans ROW. Additionally, 13 other trees will be trimmed. All vegetation work will be conducted from the road.

The Bucks Creek 1102 line is located within the Bucks Creek, Rock Creek Cresta, and Upper North Fork Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) hydro project boundaries. Biology and Cultural SMEs have reviewed the work locations and have provided specific measures that will be implemented pursuant to the FERC licenses. The project team will continue to coordinate with the License Coordinator about the project scope of work.

All work areas will be accessed from SR 70, established driveways, or disturbed areas along SR 70 or private property. Specific staging areas are currently being established by the team. Construction equipment may include one or more excavator, backhoe, front-end loader, boring machine, dump truck, vacuum truck, road sweeper, water truck, air compressor, rock saw, drum roller, compactor, paving machine, crew trucks, line/bucket trucks, flatbed trucks, light tower, and miscellaneous hand tools. Multiple five-person crews will work up to 24-hour days seven days a week. The proposed project is anticipated to begin in April 2023. PG&E is coordinating with USFS and Caltrans for approval before work begins. A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan will be implemented during the project to help prevent water quality impacts

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.

Based on the scope of work and due to the nature of the project, consultation under Section 7 and related agency coordination would not be required. USFS is assessing effects from the proposed project under NEPA as required for the Special Use Permit PG&E maintains with USFS.

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

**Signature:** *Clint Burkenpas*

**Email:** Clint.burkenpas@dot.ca.gov

**Signature:**

**Email:** anthony.pascal@dot.ca.gov

**Signature:**

**Email:** julie.casey@dot.ca.gov












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Final Audit Report

2023-08-17

Created:	2023-08-17
By:	Masum Patwary (s146288@dot.ca.gov)
Status:	Canceled / Declined
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAANZzk52QPQKnWLDLpsPGPXzA9b55JfxhZ

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2023-08-17 - 0:05:27 AM GMT
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2023-08-17 - 0:07:36 AM GMT
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2023-08-17 - 0:08:33 AM GMT
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2023-08-17 - 0:08:42 AM GMT
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Final Audit Report

2023-08-18

Created:	2023-08-18
By:	Masum Patwary (s146288@dot.ca.gov)
Status:	Signed
Transaction ID:	CBJCHBCAABAA-jkaZPhOvGSh3dPB_nVyDdeEvKhJ7kUy

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2023-08-18 - 7:42:00 PM GMT
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2023-08-18 - 7:42:43 PM GMT
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