



**CEQA CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION  
DETERMINATION FORM (rev. 04/2022)**

**Project Information**

**Project Name (if applicable):** Plumas 70 Sinkhole

**DIST-CO-RTE:** 02-PLU-70

**PM/PM:** 81.82

**EA:** 02-0K470

**Federal-Aid Project Number:** 0223000166

**Project Description**

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), using state funding only, has completed repairs related to damage caused by a sinkhole on the eastbound lane of State Route 70 in Plumas County located at Post Mile 81.82.

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 1c.** (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**

Julie McFall

12/11/23

Print Name

Signature

Date

**Project Manager**

Mohammad Rahmani

DEC/13/2023

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 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

NA Signature Date
Print Name

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

NA Signature Date
Print Name

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): NA
Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 11/8/23

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).



## CEQA EXEMPTION / NEPA CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION DETERMINATION FORM

### **Continuation sheet:**

Continued from page 1.

The culvert failure at PM 81.82 occurred following a set of storms where the water level exceeded the height of the 48" culvert without overtopping the roadway. Although water levels were high during the failure, the water level elevation was typical during heavier storms at this location. Once water levels in the stream subsided, the culvert was replaced.

Work for this location included a temporary repair to the culvert in order to reopen the road to traffic. Once the water subsided a new 48" culvert was installed and restoration of the roadway was completed.

### **Additional work**

Additional work for this location included traffic control, erosion control, hot mix asphalt (HMA) overlay, and traffic striping.

**Purpose:** The purpose of this project was to remove hazards, replace damaged assets, and repair facilities to Caltrans standards in order to restore public safety.

**Need:** The project was needed because the sinkhole prohibited travel for the public and damaged Caltrans assets.

### **Right-of-Way**

Acquisitions or TCEs were not needed for this project due to work being confined to Caltrans Right of Way.

### **Staging/Stockpiling**

Staging and stockpiling took place on graveled pullouts within Caltrans Right of Way.

### **Disposal/Borrow Sites**

The project did not utilize borrowed material.

### **Coordination/Consultation**

Caltrans had an environmental evaluation conducted, consisting of a review of resource records and databases, consultation, and coordination with applicable agencies and individuals, including the Native American Heritage Commission and local tribes. Once review was completed it was determined the proposed scope of work has no potential to affect cultural resources.

### **Permits**

No permits were needed with the scope of work performed.