



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

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): Gray's Flat 0401

DIST-CO-RTE: 02-PLU-070

PM/PM: 25.00/26.40

EA: 02-4J270

Federal-Aid Project Number: 222000156

Project Description

PG&E is seeking an encroachment permit from Caltrans for the purpose of undergrounding portions of the Grays Flat 0401 kilovolt (kV) Line. These power lines were damaged due to the 2021 Dixie Fire. PG&E is coordinating with Caltrans and the USFS to work within the State Route 70 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		03/28/2024
Print Name	Signature	Date

Project Manager

Mohammad Rahmani	<i>Mohammad Rahmani</i>	03/28/2024
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



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Continuation sheet:

Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: Enter date

The purpose of this project is for PG&E to reduce the risk of wildfire ignitions by performing targeted undergrounding of overhead electric power lines in high fire-hazard severity zones along State Route 70 from post miles 25.00 to 26.40.

PG&E proposes to underground approximately 1.41 miles of the electric distribution facilities on the Grays Flat 0401 Line.

PG&E electric facilities will consist of underground conduits for electric distribution lines, associated boxes and transformers, riser poles, and protection features for above-ground facilities.

PG&E will use a combination of trenching and boring along the midline of SR 70. PG&E will bore all culverts and drainages that intersect with the path; no open trenching or replacement will take place at culvert locations. The standard trench depth will be at least 42 inches below ground and average 24 inches in width. PG&E estimates the maximum depth of the trench will be approximately 110 inches below ground. The underground pipe will be approximately 3 to 6 inches in diameter. All trenching will be backfilled with natural backfill or with asphalt, resulting in a similar aesthetic appearance once construction has been completed.

PG&E will install new conduit boxes within the highway shoulder turnouts. Standard ground vegetation clearance of the conduit boxes is an approximately five-foot buffer.

The project will require temporary lane closures to ensure construction activities do not present a safety hazard and to provide for movement of construction-related vehicles and equipment.

Staging: All work areas will be accessed from SR 70, established driveways, or disturbed areas along SR 70 or private property.

Right-of-way: 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.

Consultation/Agency Coordination: PG&E is coordinating with USFS and Caltrans for approval before work begins.

Permits:

- A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan will be implemented during the project to help prevent water quality impacts.
- PG&E will obtain a Section 1602 Lake Streambed Alternation Agreement from CDFW.







03-4J270 CE for signature

Final Audit Report

2024-03-28

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