

Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH #: pending

Project Title: Highway 101 Rocks Road Tree Removal

Lead Agency: Caltrans

Contact Name: Sunny McBride

Email: sunny.mcbride@dot.ca.gov

Phone Number: 805-440-9575

Project Location: Prunedale

City

San Benito

County

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes the Highway 101 Rocks Road Tree Removal Project to improve safety for the traveling public on Highway 101 in San Benito County between post miles R1.28 and 2.01 near Aromas, California. The project area is approximately 3 miles west of San Juan Bautista. The project would remove approximately 228 blue gum eucalyptus trees (*Eucalyptus globulus*) adjacent to Highway 101 that are in poor health and exhibit structural weakness or imbalance. The trees are within 40 to 60 feet of the pavement edge and are at risk of falling into the roadway. The project includes replacement planting with native species.

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

The project is not expected to impact wetlands, riparian areas, or jurisdictional waterways. The project area is not within the California coastal zone, and the project will not require a Coastal Development Permit. With implementation of avoidance and minimization measures, the project is not expected to impact nesting migratory birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act or California Fish and Game Code. The project is not expected to impact any special-status plant species. The project is expected to likely adversely affect the California red-legged frog. The project is expected to meet the criteria for the Programmatic Biological Opinion for California red-legged frog for the purposes of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service formal consultation. Critical habitat for the California red-legged frog is not present within the Biological Study Area. No take of state-listed species is anticipated and therefore California Endangered Species Act consultation is not required.

Although the general baseline eucalyptus grove would remain, the removal of approximately 50 to 75 percent of the trees would result in a noticeable change in a visual landmark for highway travelers and local residents. However, the planting of native trees and shrubs throughout the project limits will help to minimize the reduction of the vegetated character.

Minimization and avoidance measures for riparian areas and special-status species, nesting birds, and roosting bats will help to avoid impacts to these resources. The planting of native trees and shrubs throughout the project limits will provide native habitat and help to minimize the reduction of the vegetated character.

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

No known issues or controversy.

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

California Transportation Commission