



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

**Project Information**

**Project Name (if applicable):** Grass Valley Wildfire Evacuation Route – Geotechnical Investigation

**DIST-CO-RTE:** 03-NEV-049

**PM/PM:** 2.10/9.80

**EA:** 03-4J110

**EFIS:** 0323000087

**Project Description**

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is conducting geotechnical subsurface borings for the purpose of collecting analytical samples on and/or adjacent to two bridges and three roadway shoulder locations on State Route 49 in Nevada County. This investigation work is needed to provide data to finalize engineering design alternatives for the proposed Grass Valley Wildfire Evacuation Route project. Caltrans proposes mobilization of equipment and personnel to perform geotechnical borings, and incidental work.

**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 6.** (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		05/27/2025
Print Name	Signature	Date

**Project Manager**

Samuel L Vandell		05/27/2025
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)()

[ ] 23 CFR 771.117(d): activity (d)()

[ ] 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 May 27, 2022, and executed by FHWA and Caltrans.

Senior Environmental Planner or Environmental Branch Chief

N/A

Print Name

Signature

Date

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

N/A

Print Name

Signature

Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): N/A

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:**

**Staging**

If required, all staging would occur within the Caltrans right-of-way on existing pullouts.

**Disposal/Borrow**

Based on the proposed scope of work, no borrow or disposal is required for this project.

**Right-of-Way**

This project would be completed within the operational right-of-way.

**Consultation/Agency Coordination**

Based on the proposed scope of work and due to the nature of the project, consultation with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will be required for this project.

**Permits**

Based on the proposed scope of work, a 1600 permit for the CDFW, a 401 permit for the RWQCB, and a 404 Non-Reporting permit for the USACE will be required for this project.