

California Department of Transportation

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT 10 PLANNING
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August 14, 2025

Mr. Mike Brown
California Department of Parks and Recreation
Central Valley District
22708 Broadway Street
Columbia, CA 95310

CAL/TUO-4-PM 47.075
Calaveras Big Trees State
Park- Big Trees Parkway
Bridge Deck Replacement
Initial Study - SCH 2025070612

Dear Mr. Brown,

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) appreciates the opportunity to review and comment on the Calaveras Big Trees State Park – Big Trees Parkway Bridge Deck Initial Study. The California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) is proposing to rehabilitate the bridge deck and construct necessary approach roadway improvements to accommodate the bridge upgrades. This project would replace the deteriorated concrete roadway deck, construct the necessary roadway approach improvements, and address seismic deficiencies of the existing bridge to satisfy current performance standards. The project requires compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

This project is located on Big Trees Parkway approximately 4.3 miles northeast of the community of Arnold encompassing about 6,500 acres of parkland in Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties. The land west of the bridge is within Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) 025-005-026, while the land east of the bridge is within APN 016-010-011.

Caltrans has the following comments:

Hydrology

Caltrans has determined there are no significant changes to the existing drainage systems on the bridge deck nor beyond the bridge, either on the roadway or approaches at either end of the bridge. However, we would like to review bridge improvement plans/drawings showing in detail the existing and proposed drainage systems for further impacts evaluation, if any, to the river, bridge deck, and roadway at either end of the bridge.

Traffic Operations

The proposed project will generate truck traffic (haul trucks, heavy equipment transport truck/semi-truck with flatbed trailer and vendor deliveries) during construction. Please specify the truck types the project is projected to use. Since the intersection of State

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Route (SR) 4/Big Trees Parkway is used for the access of construction delivery trucks to the project site during construction, this intersection needs to accommodate delivery truck turning radius.

Environmental

If there are any construction related activities that will encroach into Caltrans Right of Way (ROW) as a result of the project, the project proponent must apply for an Encroachment Permit with the Caltrans District 10 Encroachment Permit Office. All California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation, like the Final Initial Study, with supporting technical studies, must be submitted with the Encroachment Permit Application. These studies may include an analysis of potential impacts to any cultural sites, historic properties, biological resources, hazardous waste/materials, scenic highways, and/or other environmental resources within Caltrans Right of Way, at the project site(s).

Encroachment Permits

If any project activities encroach into State ROW, the project proponent must apply for an Encroachment Permit to the Caltrans District 10 Encroachment Permit Office. Appropriate environmental studies must be submitted with this application. For more information, please visit the Caltrans Website at: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep/applications>

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Shiferaw Jemberie (209) 986-9635 (email: Shiferaw.jemberie@dot.ca.gov) or me at (209) 639 -8832 (email: Gregoria.ponce@dot.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Gregoria Ponce', Chief
Office of Rural Planning

cc: Bret Sampson, Director, Calaveras County Planning Department
Quincy Yaley, Director, Tuolumne County Community Development Department
State Clearinghouse