Print Form

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk
County of: Butte County
155 Nelson Avenue
Oroville, CA 95965

From: (Public Agency): Butte County Department of Public Works
7 County Center Dr
Oroville, CA 95965
(Address)

Project Title: Butte County Road Safety Signing Audit Project

Project Applicant: Butte County

Project Location - Specific:
Located within Butte County limits along approximately 136-miles of county road.

Project Location - City: N/A Project Location - County: Butte

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:
Butte County is addressing roadway safety along 24 key roadways that provide vital access and connectivity throughout the County as part of a Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). These facilities include approximately 136 - miles of arterial and collector roadways. This project is intended to address roadway safety, with an emphasis on signing and striping along critical transportation corridors. The Roadway Safety and Signing Audit (RSSA) evaluation process provides the County with the opportunity to proactively address safety concerns by comprehensively evaluating roadway geometrics and systemically treating recurring conditions with safety countermeasures. The RSSA project is considered a roadway safety improvement to upgrade roadway signage per MUTCD standards and modify signage accordingly.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Butte County

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Butte County

Exempt Status: **(check one):**

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- ☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- ☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: 15301, 15304
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:
The proposed project fits within the parameters for existing highways and streets, sidewalks, and related facilities. The proposed project would evaluate critical corridors for safety, primarily focusing on auditing the current regulatory and warning signs, over approximately 136 - miles of arterial and collector roadways within Butte County. The project would occur within Butte County existing ROW. The RSSA Project would improve roadway safety without adding automobile lanes. The project would improve roadway safety along 24 critical transportation corridors in Butte County through the implementation of CA MUTCD-required treatments on existing and potentially necessary signs. Signs identified to be out of compliance, would be upgraded to comply with current safety requirements. The proposed project would not expand the existing use of the project roadways or include removal of scenic trees or resources. No significant impacts or adverse effects to resources are anticipated to occur as a result of the proposed project. See Attachment A.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Zachary Meisel Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 552-5707

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature: _____ Date: 10/14/2025 Title: Assistant Civil Engineer

Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

Revised 2011

DECLARATION OF FEES DUE
(California Fish and Game Code Section 711.4)

Butte County Board of Supervisors
7 County Center Drive
Oroville, CA 95965

FILING NO. _____

Project Title/file number: Title, PW Project No. XXXXX-20XX-XX

CLASSIFICATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT:

1. NOTICE OF EXEMPTION/STATEMENT OF EXEMPTION
   - (**X**) A. Statutorily or Categorically Exempt
     $50.00 Clerk's Documentary Handling Fee
   - ( ) B. De Minimus Impact - Certificate of Fee Exemption
     $50.00 Clerk's Documentary Handling Fee

2. NOTICE OF DETERMINATION - FEE REQUIRED
   - ( ) A. Negative Declaration
     $1,876.75 State Filing Fee
     $50.00 Clerk's Documentary Handling Fee
   - ( ) B. Environmental Impact Report
     $2,606.75 State Filing Fee
     $50.00 Clerk's Documentary Handling Fee

3. ( ) OTHER (Specify)_____
   $50.00 Clerk's Documentary Handling Fee

PAYMENT / NON-PAYMENT OF FEES:

1. (**X**) PAYMENT: The above fees have been paid.
   See attached receipt(s).

2. ( ) NON-PAYMENT: The above fees are required. Not paid.

By: Joshua Pack
Title: Director – Public Works
Lead Agency: Butte County Department of Public Works
Date: 10/14/2025

TWO COPIES OF THIS FORM MUST BE COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED WITH ALL ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS FILED WITH THE BUTTE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE.

THREE COPIES OF ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTATION ARE REQUIRED FOR FILING.

ALL APPLICABLE FEES ARE DUE AND PAYABLE PRIOR TO THE FILING OF ANY ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT WITH THE BUTTE COUNTY CLERK'S OFFICE. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE COUNTY OF BUTTE.

Attachment A
Road Safety and Signing Audit (RSSA) - Butte County

Project Location

The proposed project is a Roadway Safety and Signing Audit (RSSA) project located within the limits of Butte County along specific County roadways (corridors). See **Figure 1: Regional Map**. This RSSA project includes 24 key corridors totaling approximately 136-miles. See **Figure 2: Vicinity Map**. ***Table 1: Project Roadways*** identifies the specific corridors.

Table 1: Project Roadways

No.	Roadway	From	To
1.	Forbestown Road	Highway 162	End of County Maintained
2.	Mt Ida Road	Foothill Boulevard	Old Olive Highway
3.	Old Olive Hwy	Highway 162	Forbestown Road
4.	Cohasset Road	Chico City Limits	Laughing Fox Lane
5.	Skyway	Chico City Limits	Paradise City Limits
6.	Skyway	Lower Coutolenc Road	Retson Road
7.	New Skyway	Paradise City Limits	Coutolenc Road
8.	Palermo Honcut Highway	Lower Honcut Road	Palermo Road
9.	Upper Palermo Road	Palermo Road	Lower Wyandotte Road
10	Lower Wyandotte Road	V-7 Road	Foothill Boulevard
11	Wycliff Way	Creston Road	Skyway
12	Pentz Road	Highway 70	Paradise City Limits
13	River Road	Highway 32	Chico River Road
14	Lincoln Boulevard	South Villa Avenue	Palm Avenue
15	Lower Honcut Road	Highway 70	La Porte Road
16	Larkin Road	Entire County Maintained	Entire County Maintained
17	Oro Bangor Highway	V-7 Road	Las Plumas Avenue
18	Oro Bangor Highway	Lower Wyandotte Road	Foothill Boulevard
19	Oro Bangor Highway	Foothill Boulevard	La Porte Road
20	Foothill Boulevard	Oroville City Limits	Oro Bangor Highway
21	Miners Ranch Road	Oro Bangor Highway	Highway 162
22	Dogtown Road	Entire County Maintained	Entire County Maintained
23	Dayton Road	Chico City Limits	Durham-Dayton Highway

24	West East Avenue	Highway 32	Chico City Limits

Project Purpose and Need

Butte County is addressing roadway safety along 24 key corridors that provide vital access and connectivity throughout the County as part of a Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) grant. These facilities include approximately 136-miles of arterial and collector roadways. This project is intended to address roadway safety, with an emphasis on signing and striping along critical transportation corridors. The RSSA evaluation process provides the County with the opportunity to proactively address safety concerns by comprehensively evaluating roadway geometrics and systemically treating recurring conditions with safety countermeasures. The RSSA project is considered a roadway safety improvement to upgrade roadway signage. Maintenance and/or routine roadway improvements within the existing right-of-way is consistent with the goals and policies of Butte County.

Project Description

This RSSA project would evaluate critical corridors for safety, primarily focusing on auditing the current regulatory and warning signs, over approximately 136-miles of arterial and collector roadways within Butte County. The RSSA would identify existing signs, locations, types, sizes, conditions of signs, and identify which signs would need to be replaced, relocated, or removed. It would also identify where new signs would be required based on safety requirements and sign information. The signs would be analyzed to ensure they are in compliance with the current California Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (CA MUTCD). The 2014 Edition CA MUTCD provides specific direction on which warning devices are to be used in different circumstances. The CA MUTCD-required treatments were compared to the existing treatments to determine which signs need to be removed, relocated, replaced, or left in place. Signs identified to be out of compliance, would be upgraded to comply with current safety requirements.

An overview of the Existing Signs that were inventoried is provided in ***Table 2: Existing Sign Inventory*** and a Summary of Recommended Sign Actions based on the preliminary evaluation of existing and potentially necessary signs is provided in ***Table 3: Summary of Recommended Sign Actions***.

Table 2: Existing Sign Inventory

# Regulatory Signs	# Warning, School, & Object Marker Signs	# of Total Signs
521	1,028	1,549

Table 3: Summary of Recommended Sign Actions

# Mobilization	# Relocate Existing Sign on New Post	# Remove Existing Sign and Post	# Replace Existing Roadside Sign	# Replace and Relocate Existing Sign on New Post	# Reset Sign on New Post	# Furnish and Install New Sign Panel and Post
1	838	19	99	260	50	923

This project would occur within Butte County public right of way (ROW). No ROW acquisitions would be required for the proposed RSSA project.

The project would not include physical roadway improvements or utility relocation.

Vegetation removal would consist of minor trimming of shrubs, bushes, and tree limbs in order to access existing signs and allow existing signs to be visible by motorists. Ground disturbance will consist of placing new posts into the ground with an approximate excavation depth of 3 to 6 feet, depending on the sign type, within the existing road right-of-way.

Equipment storage would occur off-site or on public ROW within existing paved streets and shoulders in the project area. Materials would be brought to the project site as they are being installed and would not be stored on-site.

The project has the potential to generate standard construction-related noise. No adverse construction-related noise is anticipated. Excavation for sign posts is considered temporary and nonintrusive.

The proposed RSSA project would implement a Traffic Management Plan to clearly direct and control traffic disruptions that may result from construction activities. Construction activities are predominantly expected to take place within sidewalk areas (for placement of new or relocated signs), and in roadway shoulders. For work occurring in sidewalk areas, alternate accessible pedestrian paths of travel would be provided meeting the CA MUTCD. Any lane closures necessary for the installation of signs would adhere to the local agency permit requirements, and closures would be anticipated during daytime business hours (outside of AM and PM peak periods). Full closures are not anticipated; as such, detour routes would not be necessary. Night work would not be allowed.

Categorical Exemptions

State CEQA Guidelines Section (§) 15300 defines projects for which a Categorical Exemption can be used and is derived from § 21084 of the Public Resources Code (PRC). This code requires CEQA to include a list of classes of projects which have been determined not to have a significant effect on the environment and which shall, therefore, be exempt from the provisions of CEQA. Accordingly, the Secretary for Resources provided a list of classes of projects that do not have a significant effect on the environment and hence, were declared to be categorically exempt from the requirement for the preparation of environmental documents.

The proposed project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines § 15301 (Class 1) Existing Facilities. The Class 1 exemption is applicable to projects that consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. Subsection (c) provides additional detail in regarding to "existing facilities" to include:

(c) Existing highways and streets, sidewalks, gutters, bicycle and pedestrian trails, and similar facilities (this includes road grading for the purpose of public safety), and other alterations such as the addition of bicycle facilities, including but not limited to bicycle parking, bicycle-share facilities and bicycle lanes, transit improvements such as bus lanes, pedestrian crossings, street trees, and other similar alterations that do not create additional automobile lanes.

The proposed project is also categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines § 15304 (Class 4) Minor Alteration to Land. The Class 4 exemption is applicable to projects that consist of minor public or private alterations in the condition of land, water, and/or vegetation which do not involve removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees except for forestry or agricultural purposes.

The proposed project fits within the parameters for existing highways and streets, sidewalks, and related facilities. The proposed project would evaluate critical corridors for safety, primarily focusing on auditing the current regulatory and warning signs, over approximately 136-miles of arterial and collector roadways within Butte County. The project would occur within Butte County existing ROW. The RSSA Project would improve roadway safety without adding automobile lanes. The project would improve roadway safety along 24 critical transportation corridors in Butte County through the implementation of CA MUTCD-required treatments on existing and potentially necessary signs. Signs identified to be out of compliance, would be upgraded to comply with current safety requirements. The proposed project would not expand the existing use of the project roadways or include removal of scenic trees or resources. No significant impacts or adverse effects to resources are anticipated to occur as a result of the proposed project.

Exceptions to Exemptions

CEQA includes a list of six conditions called exceptions to exemptions listed in State CEQA Guideline §15300.2. If a project were to violate any of the exceptions, an exemption would not apply. The proposed project would not violate any of the exceptions. Each exception is listed below followed by the reason it would not be violated:

a) *Location. Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are qualified by consideration of where the proposed project is to be located – a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may be in a particularly sensitive environment be significant. Therefore, these classes are considered to apply in all instances, except where the project may impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.*

It is unlikely for a sign post to be within or immediately adjacent to hazardous materials or hazardous waste. New or relocated signs would involve minor excavation or surface disturbance that would occur in sidewalk, existing paved roadway surfaces or disturbed shoulder areas within the County's public ROW**.** Any potentially hazardous materials that may exist at the project site would be treated in accordance with the preparation of a Soil Management Plan (SMP), Caltrans requirements, Health and Safety Code standards, and other applicable standard BMPs.

b) *Cumulative Impact. All exemptions for these classes are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time is significant.*

The project would not have an impact on surrounding or adjoining areas where new or relocated sign posts would be placed, or result in a cumulative impact over time. The proposed project will provide roadway safety improvements to County roadways by upgrading roadway signage where deemed necessary to comply with current safety requirements. Other phases of the RSSA are to be completed on other key roadways to proactively address safety concerns on critical transportation corridors in Butte County. The project is supported by regulatory agencies, such as Caltrans, and is funded through an HSIP grant. There would be no cumulative impact as a result of the proposed project.

c) *Significant Effect. A categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.*

It is unlikely that the project would have a significant effect on the environment because the project would have minimal excavation depths that would occur within an existing roadbed, sidewalk, or disturbed area. New sign replacement construction will be restricted to the roadway shoulders within existing right-of-way in areas where signs have been previously located.

d) *Scenic Highways. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway.*

The proposed project does not include work on an officially-designated state scenic highway. There are no officially-designated scenic highways within Butte County. Route 149 located in Butte County is listed as an eligible scenic highway. Route 149 runs perpendicular to one of the project roadways, Pentz Road. The proposed project would implement CA MUTCD-required treatments on existing and potentially necessary signs and would not cause noticeable visual changes to the environment. The proposed project would not remove any trees, damage any historic structures or scenic resources within a highway officially designated as a state scenic highway.

e) Hazardous Waste Sites. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

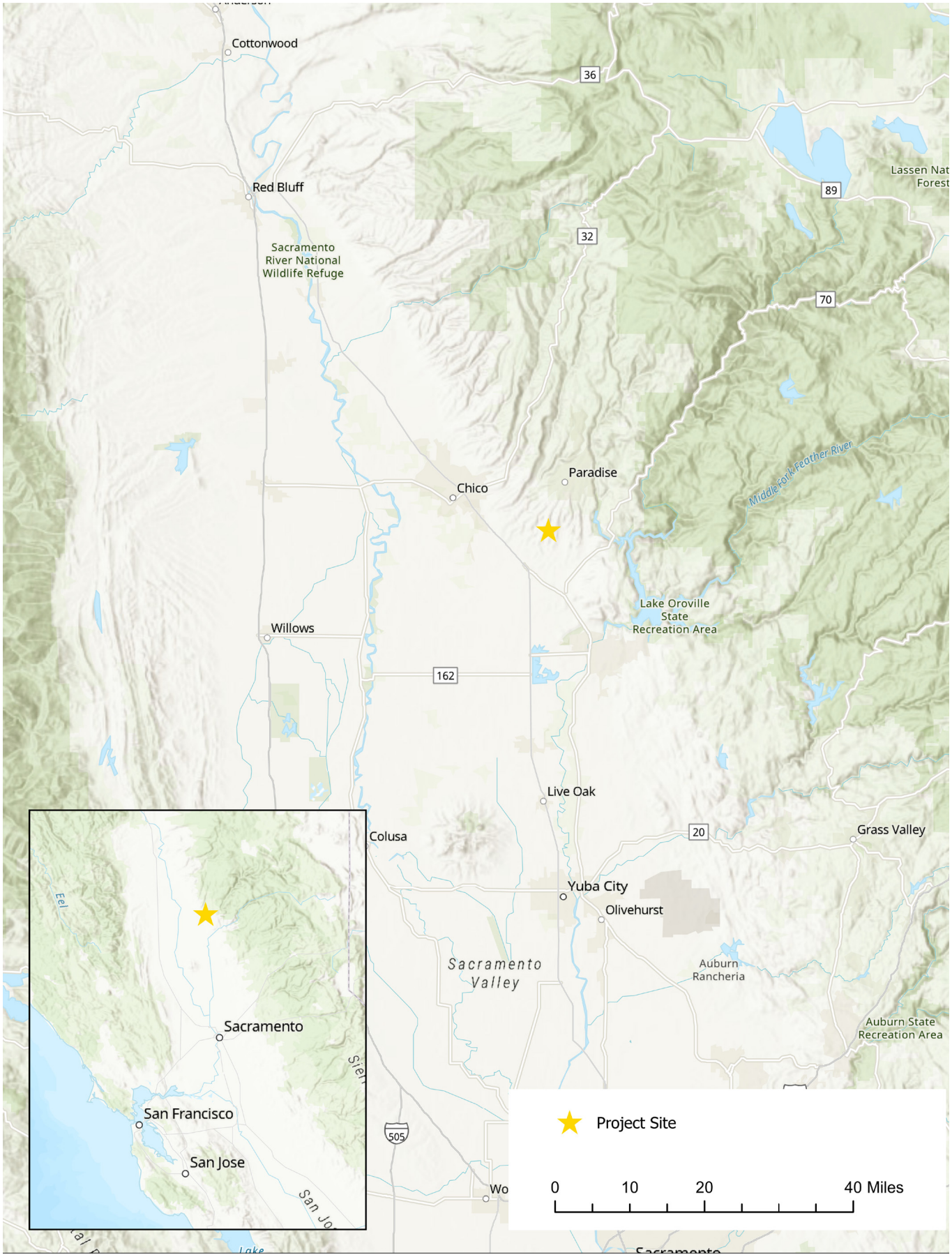
See response to (a) above.

f) Historical Resources. A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource. No Historical resources would be affected.

Historical resources or structures would be unlikely to be affected by the proposed project. Minor ground disturbing activities would be within existing ROW and no work would involve structures or work on historic structures or resources. There may be signs located immediately adjacent to a historic site, public park or recreation area, however, it is anticipated that construction would not impact any of these sites because construction will be restricted to the roadway shoulders within existing right-of-way in areas where signs have been previously located. Therefore, no significant adverse impacts to cultural or historic resources would occur as a result of this proposed project.

Conclusion

The proposed RSSA project is considered a roadway safety improvement to upgrade roadway signage. The project would improve roadway safety along 24 critical transportation corridors in Butte County through the implementation of CA MUTCD-required treatments on existing and potentially necessary signs. New or relocated signs would involve minor excavation or surface disturbance that would occur in sidewalk, existing paved roadway surfaces or disturbed shoulder areas within the County's public ROW. The proposed project would not expand the existing use of the project roadways or include removal of scenic trees or resources. No significant impacts or adverse effects on resources are anticipated to occur as a result of the proposed project.



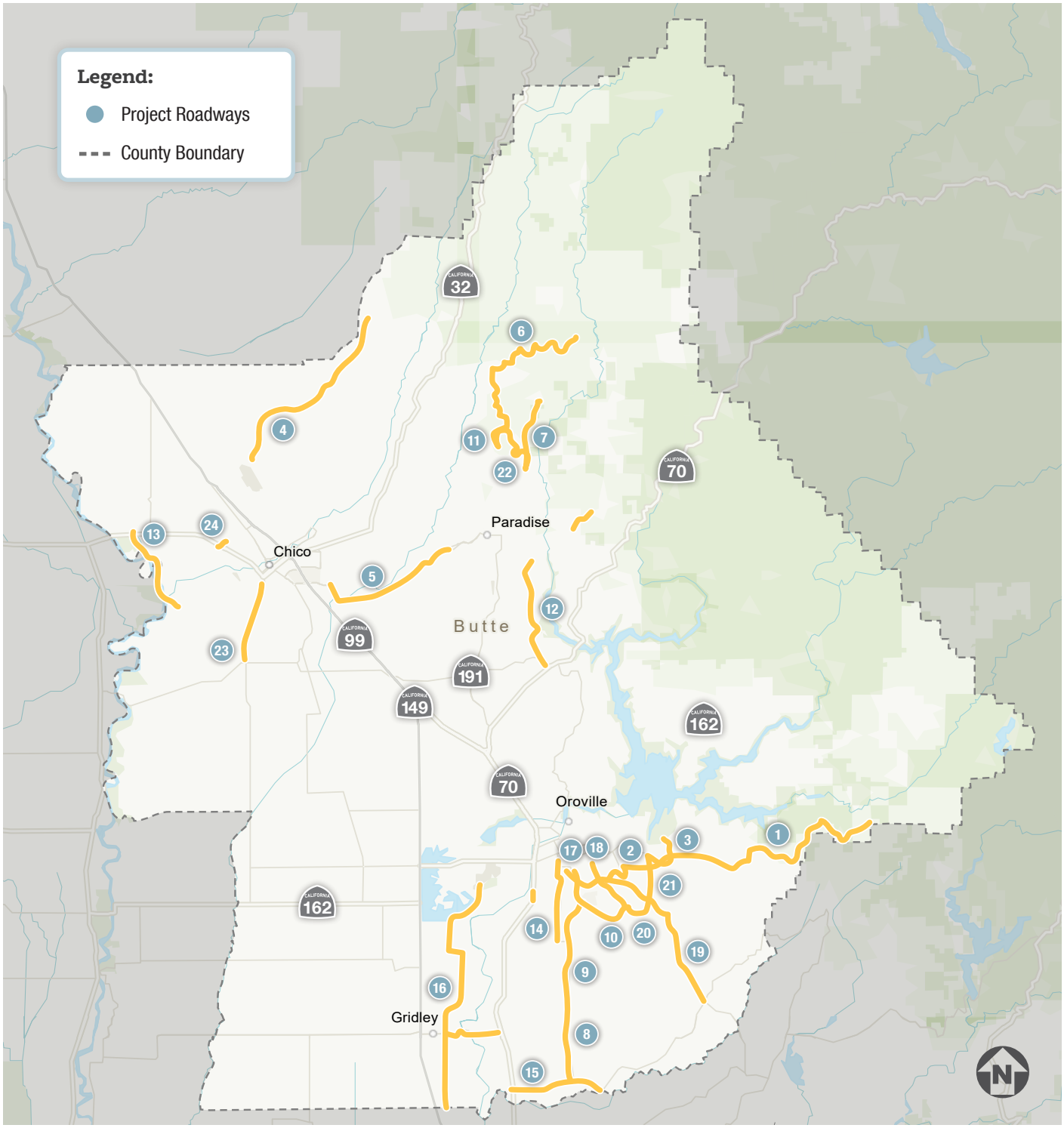
Source: ESRI, 2025

Figure 1: Regional Map

Road Safety Signing Audit Project
Butte County

Not to scale

Kimley»Horn



1 Forbestown Road
2 Mt. Ida Road
3 Old Olive Highway
4 Cohasset Road
5 Skyway
6 Skyway
7 New Skyway
8 Palermo Honcut Highway
9 Upper Palermo Road
10 Lower Wyandotte Road
11 Wycliff Way
12 Pentz Road
13 River Road
14 Lincoln Boulevard
15 Lower Honcut Road
16 Larkin Road
17 Oro Bangor Highway
18 Oro Bangor Highway
19 Oro Bangor Highway
20 Foothill Boulevard
21 Miners Ranch Road
22 Dogtown Road
23 Dayton Road
24 West East Avenue

Source: ESRI, 2025

Figure 2: Vicinity Map

Road Safety Signing Audit Project
Butte County

Kimley»Horn