



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

Project Information

Project Name (if applicable): Director's Order-1T310-Rosa Fire Damage

DIST-CO-RTE: 08-RIV-74

PM/PM: 74.5/92.1

EA: 1T310/0826000039

Federal-Aid Project Number:

Project Description

A Director's Order (DO) was requested to repair fire damaged to State Route 74 (SR 74). The fire damage includes more than one mile of burned guardrail, end treatments, and signage; fire-damaged trees along the roadside; and compromised debris racks, culverts, and other roadside safety features. All work will occur in Caltrans' right of way.

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 1(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

James L. Camarillo

Print Name

Signature

3/25/2026

Date

Project Manager

Nick Truong

Print Name

Signature

3/27/2026

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:

[X] 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)(22)
[] 23 CFR 771.117(d): activity (d)(1)
[] 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

NA

Print Name

Signature

Date

Project Manager/ DLA Engineer

NA

Print Name

Signature

Date

Date of Categorical Exclusion Checklist completion (if applicable): NA

Date of Environmental Commitment Record or equivalent: 12/12/2025



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Continuation sheet:

On Monday, August 4, 2025, at approximately 12:27 p.m., the Rosa Fire ignited 1 mile west of Santa Rosa Truck Trail, West of Pinyan Pines, Riverside County, CA. The Rosa Fire burnt in steep, rugged, and remote terrain at moderate elevations. By mid-August, containment reached 98%, evacuation warnings were lifted. State Route 74 (SR-74) sustained fire damage from Spring crest Drive (PM 74.5) to Cahuilla Way (R92.I). Damage includes over one mile of burned guardrail, end treatments, and signage; fire-damaged trees along the roadside; and compromised debris racks, culverts, and other roadside safety features. Burned guardrails no longer provide adequate protection from fixed objects and steep slopes. In addition, blocked drainage systems may lead to flooding and roadway failures, particularly as the storm season is approaching. If repairs are not completed promptly, the risk of roadway collapses and closures will increase, jeopardizing the safety of travelers, emergency responders, and maintenance crews. This emergency work is essential to prevent or reduce the loss of life, property, or critical public services.

Work Required for Repair or Restoration includes:

- Replace burned guardrails and end treatments.
- Replace fire-damaged signage, delineators, reflectors, and pavement markers.
- Remove debris and clear drainage basins.
- Repair damaged pavement.
- Repair damaged drainage systems.
- Perform rock slope scaling.
- Provide traffic control.
- Repair dike and berm.
- Implement of the Construction Zone Enhanced Enforcement (COZEEP).
- Cultural Monitoring.

The following technical documentation was prepared in conjunction with determining and addressing applicable California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation and compliance requirements.

Programmatic No-Effect memo for Biological Compliance- December 01, 2025

Section 106 Compliance-Screened Undertaking- March 25, 2026

Cultural Resource Email- March 25, 2026

SHPO Finding of No Adverse Effect Mermo – March 25, 2026

Noise Memorandum- October 17, 2025

Air Quality Review Memorandum- October 30, 2025

Air Quality Conformity Findings Checklist- March 13, 2026

Initial Site Assessment (ISA) Checklist- November 03, 2025

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

In coordination with the District Biological Studies, a Programmatic No-Effect memo for Biological Compliance was prepared December 01, 2025.



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The Stewardship and Monitoring unit reviewed the project scope and project impact area for 08-1T310 and determined the Programmatic No-Effect Memo will apply.

This No Effect Memo has analyzed impacts to the surrounding natural resources including special status and listed species and critical habitats. Caltrans determined the project will have No Effect and No Take of the federally- and State-listed, Candidate, or Proposed species and No Effect to critical habitat. This project is located outside of NOAA Fisheries jurisdiction; there will be No Effect to NOAA Fisheries species. Caltrans made a determination that this project will not lead to a trend towards listing for the USFS R5 RF Sensitive Plant Species List and the USFS Pacific Southwest Region Sensitive Species List for the San Bernardino Forest.

Most of the suitable habitat was burned in the fire. There are no impacts to any existing stream systems. Only pre-disturbed culvert inlet areas are being dug out. The project is an Operation & Maintenance activity under the Coachella Valley MSHCP.

CULTURAL STUDIES

In coordination with the District Cultural Studies, a Section 106 Compliance-Screened Undertaking was prepared on March 25, 2026.

Based on this review of materials, resources and analyses, the undertaking, as currently proposed, has no potential to affect Historic Properties eligible for or listed on the NRHP.

As a result, this undertaking is **exempt from further review**, no additional archaeological or built environment studies are required at this time and the **Section 106 compliance process, CEQA cultural resources component, and PRC 5024 compliance are complete**. This memorandum documents compliance with the agreed-upon historic preservation procedures.

Please note that this assessment could change, and additional studies may be required if the project changes. Also, the following measures found in the Caltrans 2024 Standard Specifications (14-2.03A) and Estimates apply to this project and are to be included in the Environmental Commitments Record (ECR) in the Resident Engineer's (RE) File:

- **CR-1:** If buried cultural resources are encountered during Project activities, it is Caltrans policy that work stop within 60 feet of the area until a qualified archaeologist can evaluate the nature and significance of the find.
- **CR-2:** In the event that human remains are found, the county coroner shall be notified and ALL construction activities within 60 feet of the discovery shall stop. Pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98, if the remains are thought to be Native American, the coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) who will then notify the Most Likely Descendent (MLD). The person who discovered the remains will contact the District 8 Division of Environmental Planning; Gabrielle Duff, Environmental Branch Chief: (909) 501-5142, and Julie Scrivner, DNAC: (909)-260-8265. Further provisions of PRC 5097.98 are to be followed as applicable.
- **CR-3:** Contractor-supplied Tribal Monitor designated by the Santa Rosa Band of Cahuilla Indians required for all work within the Santa Rosa Reservation external boundary along SR 74. Contact Caltrans PQS for monitoring information.



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In addition, as assigned by FHWA, Caltrans conducted a de minimis evaluation under Section 4(f) for the use of built environment historic properties. Caltrans requested review and comment from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on the Area of Potential Effects (APE), identification efforts, and concurrence with the finding of effect.

In accordance with 36 CFR Part 800, SHPO concurred with Caltrans' APE determination, determined that Caltrans made a reasonable and good faith effort to identify historic properties within the APE, and did not object to the finding of No Adverse Effect.

Please note that under certain circumstances—such as unanticipated discoveries or changes to the project description—FHWA may have additional future responsibilities for this undertaking pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.

NOISE

In coordination with the District's Environmental Engineering, a DDO/Emergency Project Review Request (Noise) Memorandum was prepared October 17, 2025.

This project falls under Type III project categories of 23CFR772.7 in the Traffic Noise Analysis Protocol. Per the Traffic Noise Analysis Protocol, "Type III projects do not require a noise analysis." This is considered an exempt project. Hence, no noise study is needed.

HAZARDOUS WASTE AND MATERIAL

In coordination with the District Environmental Engineering, an Initial Site Assessment (ISA) Checklist was prepared and approved November 03, 2025, for this project, it was determined that this project has a "Low Risk" for potentially hazardous waste involvement.

Refer to the following 2024 Standard Specifications Sections:

- **HAZ-1:** Section 6-1.03 use of local materials.
- **HAZ-2:** Add item #070030 for Lead Compliance Plan (LCP) to the cost estimate; comply with the 2024 Caltrans Standard Specifications with specific attention to Section 7-1.02K(6)(j)(ii) "Lead Compliance Plan" requirements.

AIR QUALITY

In coordination with the District's Environmental Engineering, a Director's Order Request- Air Quality Review Memorandum was prepared October 30, 2025.

This project has been evaluated as exempt project that falls under the broad category of exempt project type "Pavement resurfacing and/or rehabilitation" listed under Table 2 "Projects Exempt from Regional Emissions Analysis" of 40 CFR § 93.126. Therefore, no air quality study is needed.