

Notice of Exemption

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

From: California Department of Transportation, District 2
1657 Riverside Drive, MS 5
Redding, California 96001

Project Title: Spring Garden Icy Curve Warning System Improvement

Project Applicant: California Department of Transportation, District 2

Project Location - Specific: PM 50.77/50.89

Project Location - City: Quincy

Project Location - County: Plumas

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Department of Transportation proposes using state funds to upgrade an automated safety warning system on State Route (SR) 70 from Post Miles (PM) 50.77 to 50.89 near the City of Quincy, Plumas County. The upgrade to the existing traffic system will be near Quincy at 0.4 miles west of Spring Garden Overhead #09-0062 and includes adding additional systems to detect icy conditions on the roadway and alert the traveling public.

The purpose of the project is to improve safety along the SR70 corridor during inclement weather through increased weather monitoring and alerting capabilities to motorists of adverse road conditions on SR70 allowing motorists an opportunity to proceed with caution.

The project is needed because the unique geometry of SR70 near Spring Garden creates a condition where the highway is clear and dry for miles leading up to a narrow section of icy pavement. The effect on motorists is a false sense of security that the roads are safe leading up to the icy section. While the existing icy curve warning system has been effective, conditions over the last two years have changed and current ice detection sensors are no longer in the first to freeze, last to thaw location. Motorists traveling along SR70 near Spring Garden need to be alerted in real time of icy road conditions.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Transportation, District 2

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California Department of Transportation, District 2

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: Class 1(c), Section 15301 Existing Facilities
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

This project is exempt under Class 1(d), Section 15301 Existing Facilities as the project proposes to replace and upgrade existing vehicle notification systems. The proposed work does not remove vegetation, negatively impact plant, wildlife, waterways, cultural resources nor visual aesthetics.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Eric L. Rulison

Phone number: 530-782-3267

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: 07/06/2026 Title: Senior Environmental Scientist

☒ Signed by Lead Agency ☐ Signed by Applicant

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.

Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.