

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

DISTRICT 10

P.O. BOX 2048, STOCKTON, CA 95201

(1976 E. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BLVD. 95205)

PHONE (209) 948-7325

FAX (209) 948-7164

TTY 711

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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

OCT 10 2019**STATE CLEARINGHOUSE**

October 10, 2019

Mr. Brad Michalk, Environmental Coordinator
California State Parks
Facilities & Development
One Capital Mall Suite 400
Sacramento, CA 95814

CAL-4-PM 44.49
Draft Initial Study
Negative Declaration
SCH# 2019099058

Dear Mr. Michalk,

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) appreciates the opportunity to review and comment on the Calaveras Big Trees Cabin Expansion and Campsite Relocation Project. The proposed project is located 14.5 miles east of Murphy's CA along State Route (SR) 4 between Camp Connell and Arnold within the Stanislaus National Forest in Calaveras County. The proposed project would expand an existing cluster of four rental cabins (plus one recreational building) by adding eleven additional cabins and a camp host site (Recreational Vehicle space) along with the infrastructure necessary to support the expansion on 12-acres within the Calaveras Big Trees State Park.

Caltrans has reviewed the Draft Initial Study-Negative Declaration (IS-ND) and has the following comments:

Further review will be necessary once a drainage report and drainage plans are submitted. Based on the draft plans it appears that there will be an increase of impervious area along with a new roadside ditch. It is difficult to prevent comingling of water but, Caltrans will not assume any additional runoff created by this project. The 24" CMP culvert and "L" type headwall shown on sheet C13 is not designed/sized for the increased flow amount. The runoff from the roadside ditch will need to be mitigated before entering the Caltrans Right-of-Way (ROW).

There are large mature trees in the area that will most likely need to be removed due to the project. These trees may provide habitat for nesting birds. If construction will occur during migratory bird season (February 1 – September 30), a pre-construction bird survey will be required. If an active bird nest is observed, a protective buffer will need to be established to protect the nest until the young

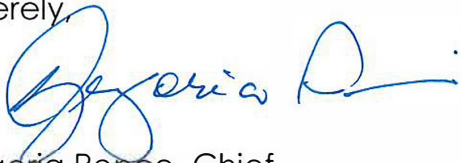
Mr. Brad Michalk
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have fledged. The size of protective buffers will be determined in coordination with California Department of Fish and Wildlife or using applicable species-specific survey and monitoring protocol guidelines. This environmental commitment is described in the Draft Initial Study as well.

Where an Encroachment Permit will be required for any work done within Caltrans ROW now, or in future proposed developments, or any construction activities that will encroach into Caltrans ROW, appropriate environmental studies must be submitted with this application. Please include California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation with supporting technical studies when submitting the Encroachment Permit. For more information please visit the Caltrans Website. <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep/applications>

If you have any questions or would like to discuss these comments, please contact Michael Casas at (209) 948-7475 (michael.casas@dot.ca.gov) or me at (209) 948-7325 (gregoria.ponce@dot.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Gregoria Ponce, Chief
Office of Rural Planning

cc: Joshua Pack, Director Public Works Calaveras County
Amber Collins, Executive Director Calaveras Council of Governments
State Clearinghouse