

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: Sutter

433 Second Street

Yuba City, CA 95991

From: (Public Agency): City of Yuba City

1201 Civic Center Blvd.

Yuba City, CA 95993

(Address)

Project Title: Feather River Parkway Pedestrian Bridge and Connector Trail Installation Project

Project Applicant: City of Yuba City

Project Location - Specific:

Feather River Parkway in Yuba City. 39°08'57.0"N 121°36'31.9"W

Project Location - City: Yuba City

Project Location - County: Sutter

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Pedestrian Bridge and Connector Trail Installation Project proposes installation of a new pedestrian bridge and connector trail in the Feather River Parkway, which would be a prefabricated structure of no more than 50 feet over an ephemeral drainage. The connector trail and bridge, which would be approximately 200 feet total, would connect users on the west side of the ephemeral drainage to the existing trails, pavilion, and picnic area on the east side of the ephemeral drainage.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: City of Yuba City

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Claire Shawver, Construction Project Manager

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 3, 15303, New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures

☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The project consists of construction and location of limited number of new, small facilities or structures and installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Claire Shawver, Construction Project Manager

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 822-4713

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: 11/20/20

Title: Const. Manager

▪ 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: _____

City of Yuba City

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION FINDING

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of Project:

Feather River Parkway, Pedestrian Bridge and Connector Trail Installation Project

Lead Agency Name and Address:

City of Yuba City, 1201 Civic Center Blvd., Yuba City, CA 95993

Contact Person and Phone number:

Brad McIntire, Parks and Recreation Director, (530) 822-4652

Project Location:

The Project is located along the western edge of the Feather River within the city limits of Yuba City, in Sutter County. Coordinates are 39°08'57.0"N 121°36'31.9"W

General Plan Designation:

The Feather River Parkway is designated “Parks, Recreation and Open Space” in the Yuba City General Plan (May 2018)

Zoning:

The Feather River Parkway is zoned as a “Flood District” by the City of Yuba City. Public facilities and recreational facilities are an allowed use of an area zoned as “Flood District.”

Project Description:

The Pedestrian Bridge and Connector Trail Installation Project (Project) proposes installation of a new pedestrian bridge and connector trail in the Feather River Parkway (Parkway). The Parkway is an approximately 90-acre riverfront park in Yuba City that extends along the edge of the Feather River. The proposed bridge would be a prefabricated structure of no more than 50 feet over an ephemeral drainage. The bridge would connect users on the west side of the ephemeral drainage to the existing trails, pavilion, and picnic area on the east side of the ephemeral drainage. Including the length of the bridge, the connector trail would be approximately 200 feet, and would consist of installation of a new concrete pathway (extending from the new bridge) that would connect to an existing pathway. The Project is located in the southern end of the Parkway just north of a Feather River Parkway pond and southeast of the maintenance road near the secondary gated entrance to the park. Figure 1 shows the Project’s location in relation to the Feather River Parkway. Figure 2 provides a detailed location map of the proposed Project.

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION FINDING

The City of Yuba City has determined this Project is categorically exempt under CEQA Guidelines Article 19, Section 15303 New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures as a Class 3 categorical exemption. A Class 3 categorical exemption consists of “construction and location of limited number of new, small facilities or structures; installation of small new equipment and facilities in small structures; and the conversion of existing small structures from one use to another where only minor modifications are made to the exterior of the structure.”

Exceptions to Categorical Exemptions

In accordance with CEQA Guidelines, Section 15300.2, and Public Resources Code, Section 21084, the City has considered whether circumstances exist that would create an exception to this categorical exemption and has not found that any such circumstances exist. As a categorically exempt project, the City has made the following findings:

- | Yes | No | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Would the project have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive or special status species? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Would the project and successive projects of the same type in the same place result in cumulative impacts? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Are there "unusual circumstances" creating the reasonable possibility of significant effects? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Would the project result in damage to scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, or historic buildings within a state scenic highway? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Is the project located on a site that the Department of Toxic Substances Control and the Secretary of the Environmental Protection have identified, pursuant to Government Code section 65962.5, as being affected by hazardous wastes or clean-up problems? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource? |

Discussion:

The Project site is a small area (less than one acre) within the Parkway. The approximately 90-acre Parkway was created by the City of Yuba City (City) over the period 2012 through 2020. The Parkway is located within the City limits of Yuba City and within the Feather River floodplain and is owned and managed by the City. The Parkway is surrounded by mixed use development including retail, light industrial, high and low density residential, and utilities. The Parkway has been used for agricultural production in the past and is not an area with important mineral resources.

There are no environmental impacts identified with installation of the pedestrian bridge or connector trail, and there are no other projects of the same type planned within the immediate area that would cause a cumulative impact. There are no current unusual circumstances that would create the reasonable possibility of any significant effects associated with the Project.

Multiple biological surveys of the Project area have been conducted associated with recreational and habitat improvements implemented by the City since 2014 (Feather River Parkway Project Phase I and II) and the City continues to monitor for identified sensitive species in the area including valley elderberry longhorn beetle. The area for installation of the pedestrian bridge, while near the Feather River Parkway pond, is approximately 125 feet outside of the riparian zone and 150 feet from the ordinary high-water mark (OHWM) of the Feather River Parkway pond.

There is no State Scenic Highway in the vicinity of the Feather River Parkway. The Project does not involve removal of any large live trees, and there are no rock outcroppings or historic buildings on site to be affected by Project activities. As shown by a search of the Department of Toxic Substances Control EnviroStor database, there are no hazardous waste sites within or approximate to the Feather River (DTSC 2020).

Potential impacts to cultural resources were analyzed during the environmental review for development of the Parkway. This included thorough record searches of the Parkway area and, in 2010 (and updated in 2017), a cultural resource pedestrian survey by qualified archeologists. This survey and the associated cultural resource inventory identified only one historical resource in the Parkway. This was the abandoned “sewer farm” operated as part of the City Department of Public Works water treatment plant. These sewer ponds were determined ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places listing (City of Yuba City 2014). As there are no historical or archaeological resources on site and as the activities associated with the Project are limited to the addition of a small walkway and structure (short bridge), the Project would not impact historical or archaeological resources.

References:

DTSC, 2020. The California Dept. of Toxic Substances Control EnviroStor Database. Searched April 20, 2020. <http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/>

City of Yuba City, 2014. Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration, Feather River Parkway, Phase II Project. April 4, 2014. State Clearinghouse No. 2014022014

Figure 1: Project Location



Figure 2: Project Location - Detail

