

California Department of Transportation

DISTRICT 3
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Notice of Intent to Adopt U.S. Department of Transportation Section 4(f) *De Minimis* Finding for Impacts to Meeks Creek Resort, Meeks Creek Trailhead and Meeks Creek Campground.

What is being planned?

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is proposing a fish passage/terrestrial wildlife connectivity and bridge scour repair project on State Route (SR) 89 between Post Mile (PM) 24.4 and PM 25.3 in El Dorado County. The project proposes to remove Meeks Creek Bridge (Bridge No. 25-0019), construct a new bridge on SR 89 to provide fish and wildlife passage, repair scour damage, provide bicycle and pedestrian access, add Transportation Management Systems (TMS) elements with a Maintenance Vehicle Pullout (MVP), and restore Meeks Creek channel within Caltrans right of way. The total length of the project is 0.9 miles.

Why this public notice?

The proposed project is an action that is subject to Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966 codified at (49 U.S.C. 303) and (23 U.S.C. 138). Section 4(f) of this legislation seeks to protect publicly owned parklands, recreation areas, waterfowl and wildlife refuges, and significant historic sites from impacts-the "use" of these resources-caused by transportation projects. If a "use" is identified of a Section 4(f) property, an assessment is made of the effects, and either avoidance, minimization, mitigation, or enhancement measures are established to lessen those effects. The proposed project is federally funded and is, therefore, subject to Section 4(f). Caltrans is the Federal lead agency and will make the Section 4(f) determination. When Caltrans determines that a project may "use" a Section 4(f) property, one method available for Caltrans to approve the "use" is by preparing a *de minimis* impact finding. Prior to Caltrans determining a *de minimis* impact finding, the regulation requires that the public is afforded an opportunity to review and comment on the effects to the resource protected under Section 4(f).

What is available for review?

A document has been prepared to support a *de minimis* impact finding and is available for public review and comment. Public comments on the Section 4(f) *de minimis* finding will be accepted until December 27, 2024. Responses or replies to the public comments may not be required, depending on the substantive nature of the comments; however, all comments and responses will be considered and documented in the administrative record for the proposed project. Contact Bibiana Rodriguez, Environmental Scientist, at 530-720-9957 or Thaleena Bhattal, Senior Environmental Scientist, at (530) 821-8301 for a copy of the Section 4(f) *de minimis* memorandum.