



NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY AND INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION CALAVERAS BIG TREES STATE PARK – BIG TREES PARKWAY BRIDGE DECK REPLACEMENT PROJECT BRIDGE NO. 30P-0001

Date: June 20, 2025

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (“CEQA”) and the CEQA Guidelines, the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation directed the preparation of a Draft Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (“IS/MND”) that identifies and evaluates the environmental effects of the project and presents mitigation for significant impacts. California State Parks is the lead agency for the proposed project under CEQA.

Project Title: Calaveras Big Trees State Park – Big Trees Parkway Bridge Deck Replacement Project Bridge No. 30P-0001 (“proposed project”)

Project Location: The proposed project is located on Big Trees Parkway approximately 4.3 miles northeast of the community of Arnold, California. Calaveras Big Trees State Park encompasses about 6,500 acres of parkland in Calaveras and Tuolumne Counties. The bridge is located approximately 5.5 miles east of the State Park entrance at the Big Trees Parkway crossing of the North Fork Stanislaus River. The land west of the bridge is within Calaveras County (Assessor’s Parcel Number [APN] 025-005-026), while the land east of the bridge is in Tuolumne County (APN 016-010-011). The bridge provides public access to the South Grove Trailhead and other park amenities south of the bridge including dedicated park picnic areas, and also provides service and emergency vehicle access. The proposed project site (“project site” or “site”) is approximately 2.5 acres in size.

Project Description: The project would replace the deteriorated and temporarily reinforced concrete roadway deck, walkway, and guardrail system at the Big Trees Parkway bridge over the North Fork Stanislaus River. The proposed bridge would be 236 feet long and 36 feet wide including barriers, two 13-foot-wide travel lanes, 2-foot-wide Manual for Assessing Safety Hardware (MASH)-compliant barriers on both sides of the bridge, and a 6-foot-wide sidewalk on the south side of the bridge. The existing deck of the three-span bridge would be rehabilitated through deck replacement. The existing 4-foot-wide sidewalks located on the north and south sides of the bridge would be removed and a new 6-foot-wide sidewalk on the south side of the bridge would be constructed. The project would also replace the existing timber guardrail with a new MASH-compliant guardrail.

Review Period: The public comment period begins on July 15, 2025, and ends on August 14, 2025.

Document Availability: The IS/MND can be viewed and downloaded from the Department of Parks and Recreation’s website, under the CEQA notices page for the Central California region, which can be found at the following location: https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=980, or at the State Clearinghouse CEQAnet Web Portal which can be found by searching for “Big Trees” at the following location: <https://ceqanet.lci.ca.gov/>.

How to Comment: Interested parties may provide written comments on the IS/MND, which must be received no later than 5 p.m. on August 14, 2025. Written comments on the IS/MND may be provided via email to: California Department of Parks and Recreation Contact: Mike Brown email: mike.brown@parks.ca.gov

Comments can also be sent by mail to the following address: State of California Department of Parks and Recreation, Attn: Mike Brown, 2241 Harvard Street, Suite 200, Sacramento, California 95815