April 5, 2013

Mr. Randy Moore, Regional Forester
U.S. Forest Service
Pacific Southwest Region
1323 Club Drive
Vallejo, CA 94592

Dear Mr. Moore:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) wants to inform you of its continued assignment of consultation responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the federal environmental protection laws under NEPA’s regulatory umbrella.

On September 25, 2012, FHWA and Caltrans signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Federal Highway Administration and the California Department of Transportation concerning the State of California’s Participation in the Project Delivery Program Pursuant to 23 USC 327, which became effective on October 1, 2012. This MOU was signed pursuant to the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), and allows the Secretary of Transportation to assign, and the State of California to assume all responsibilities for consultation and coordination with federal resource, regulatory, and land management agencies for most federal-aid highway projects in California. The assignment of environmental decision making to Caltrans includes the federal-aid highway projects on federal lands and the FHWA’s federal lands (“direct federal”) projects when Caltrans designs and constructs the projects. Detailed information about NEPA Assignment is published on-line at http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/nepa_pilot.html/nepa_delegation_pilot_program.htm. By statute, the State is deemed to be a federal agency for these assigned responsibilities.

Similarly, on June 7, 2010, the FHWA and Caltrans renewed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Federal Highway Administration, California Division, and the California Department of Transportation on State Assumption of Responsibilities for Categorical Exclusions (CE). This MOU was signed pursuant to 23 USC 326 which allows the Secretary of Transportation to assign, and the State of California to assume, the Secretary’s environmental decision making responsibilities for CEs. For these projects, the State may also be assigned the FHWA’s responsibilities for environmental consultation and coordination under other federal environmental laws. By statute, the State is deemed to be a federal agency for these assigned authorities and responsibilities.

“Caltrans improves mobility across California”
Both MOUs, published on-line at http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/nepa_pilot/html/nepa_delegation_pilot_program.htm, detail the roles and responsibilities for the FHWA and Caltrans in project-level environmental decision making, and the MOU for the NEPA Assignment Program (23 U.S.C 327) also includes a list of projects which will be retained by the FHWA. For the retained projects, the FHWA will continue to be involved in interagency dialogues with your agency for project-specific environmental decisions. As the NEPA Assignment Program continues, other projects to be retained by the FHWA, may be identified, according to the provisions of the MOU.

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Finally, it is important to mention that the NEPA Assignment does not affect the FHWA’s roles and responsibilities for other phases of project development beyond environmental analysis. For example, the FHWA’s existing right-of-way procedures for federal land transfers will not be affected by these changes.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Dale Jones, NEPA Assignment Manager, at (916) 653-5157.

Sincerely,

MALCOLM DOUGHERTY
Director

Enclosure: Memorandum of Understanding between Federal Highway Administration and the California Department of Transportation concerning the State of California’s Participation in the Project Delivery Program Pursuant to 23 USC 327.
March 26, 2013

Mr. Thomas A. Contreras, Forest Supervisor
U.S. Forest Service
Angeles National Forest
701 North Santa Anita Avenue
Arcadia, CA 91006

Dear Mr. Contreras:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) wants to inform you of its continued assignment of consultation responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the federal environmental protection laws under NEPA’s regulatory umbrella.

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Sincerely,

/ос/ Bruce L. April

BRUCE L. APRIL,
Acting Chief Division of Environmental Analysis
California Department of Transportation

Enclosure: Memorandum of Understanding between Federal Highway Administration and the California Department of Transportation concerning the State of California’s Participation in the Project Delivery Program Pursuant to 23 USC 327.
March 26, 2013

Mr. William Metz, Forest Supervisor
U.S. Forest Service
Cleveland National Forest
10845 Rancho Bernardo Road, Ste. 200
Rancho Bernardo, CA 92127-2107

Dear Mr. Metz:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) wants to inform you of its continued assignment of consultation responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the federal environmental protection laws under NEPA’s regulatory umbrella.

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Sincerely,

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BRUCE L. APRIL,
Acting Chief Division of Environmental Analysis
California Department of Transportation

Enclosure: Memorandum of Understanding between Federal Highway Administration and the California Department of Transportation concerning the State of California’s Participation in the Project Delivery Program Pursuant to 23 USC 327.
March 26, 2013

Ms. Kathy Hardy, Forest Supervisor
U.S. Forest Service
Eldorado National Forest
100 Forni Road
Placerville, CA 95667

Dear Ms. Hardy:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) wants to inform you of its continued assignment of consultation responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the federal environmental protection laws under NEPA’s regulatory umbrella.

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Sincerely,

/os/ Bruce L. April

BRUCE L. APRIL,
Acting Chief Division of Environmental Analysis
California Department of Transportation

Enclosure: Memorandum of Understanding between Federal Highway Administration and the California Department of Transportation concerning the State of California’s Participation in the Project Delivery Program Pursuant to 23 USC 327.
March 26, 2013

Mr. Edward E. Armenta, Forest Supervisor
U.S. Forest Service
Inyo National Forest
351 Pacu Lane, Suite 200
Bishop, CA 93514

Dear Mr. Armenta:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) wants to inform you of its continued assignment of consultation responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the federal environmental protection laws under NEPA’s regulatory umbrella.

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BRUCE L. APRIL,
Acting Chief Division of Environmental Analysis
California Department of Transportation

Enclosure: Memorandum of Understanding between Federal Highway Administration and the California Department of Transportation concerning the State of California’s Participation in the Project Delivery Program Pursuant to 23 USC 327.

“Caltrans improves mobility across California”
March 26, 2013

Ms. Patricia Grantham, Forest Supervisor
U.S. Forest Service
Klamath National Forest
1711 S. Main St.
Yreka, CA 96097

Dear Ms. Grantham:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) wants to inform you of its continued assignment of consultation responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the federal environmental protection laws under NEPA’s regulatory umbrella.

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Acting Chief Division of Environmental Analysis
California Department of Transportation

Enclosure:  *Memorandum of Understanding between Federal Highway Administration and the California Department of Transportation concerning the State of California’s Participation in the Project Delivery Program Pursuant to 23 USC 327.*

“Caltrans improves mobility across California”
March 26, 2013

Ms. Nancy J. Gibson, Forest Supervisor
U.S. Forest Service
Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
35 College Drive
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

Dear Ms. Gibson:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) wants to inform you of its continued assignment of consultation responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the federal environmental protection laws under NEPA’s regulatory umbrella.

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Enclosure: Memorandum of Understanding between Federal Highway Administration and the California Department of Transportation concerning the State of California’s Participation in the Project Delivery Program Pursuant to 23 USC 327.

“Caltrans improves mobility across California”
March 26, 2013

Mr. Jerry Bird, Forest Supervisor
U.S. Forest Service
Lassen National Forest
2550 Riverside Drive
Susanville, CA 96130

Dear Mr. Bird:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) wants to inform you of its continued assignment of consultation responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the federal environmental protection laws under NEPA’s regulatory umbrella.

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Acting Chief Division of Environmental Analysis
California Department of Transportation

Enclosure:  Memorandum of Understanding between Federal Highway Administration and the California Department of Transportation concerning the State of California’s Participation in the Project Delivery Program Pursuant to 23 USC 327.
March 26, 2013

Ms. Peggy Hernandez, Forest Supervisor
U.S. Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest
6755 Hollister Ave., Suite 150
Goleta, CA 93117

Dear Ms. Hernandez:

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Acting Chief Division of Environmental Analysis
California Department of Transportation

Enclosure: Memorandum of Understanding between Federal Highway Administration and the California Department of Transportation concerning the State of California’s Participation in the Project Delivery Program Pursuant to 23 USC 327.
March 26, 2013

Ms. Sherry Tune, Forest Supervisor
U.S. Forest Service
Mendocino National Forest
825 N. Humboldt
Willows, CA 95988

Dear Ms. Tune:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) wants to inform you of its continued assignment of consultation responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the federal environmental protection laws under NEPA’s regulatory umbrella.

On September 25, 2012, FHWA and Caltrans signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Federal Highway Administration and the California Department of Transportation concerning the State of California’s Participation in the Project Delivery Program Pursuant to 23 USC 327, which became effective on October 1, 2012. This MOU was signed pursuant to the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), and allows the Secretary of Transportation to assign, and the State of California to assume all responsibilities for consultation and coordination with federal resource, regulatory, and land management agencies for most federal-aid highway projects in California. The assignment of environmental decision making to Caltrans includes the federal-aid highway projects on federal lands and the FHWA’s federal lands (“direct federal”) projects when Caltrans designs and constructs the projects. Detailed information about NEPA Assignment is published on-line at http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/nepa_pilot/html/nepa_delegation_pilot_program.htm. By statute, the State is deemed to be a federal agency for these assigned responsibilities.

Similarly, on June 7, 2010, the FHWA and Caltrans renewed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Federal Highway Administration, California Division, and the California Department of Transportation on State Assumption of Responsibilities for Categorical Exclusions (CE). This MOU was signed pursuant to 23 USC 326 which allows the Secretary of Transportation to assign, and the State of California to assume, the Secretary’s environmental decision making responsibilities for CEs. For these projects, the State may also be assigned the FHWA’s responsibilities for environmental consultation and coordination under other federal environmental laws. By statute, the State is deemed to be a federal agency for these assigned authorities and responsibilities.
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Finally, it is important to mention that the NEPA Assignment does not affect the FHWA’s roles and responsibilities for other phases of project development beyond environmental analysis. For example, the FHWA’s existing right-of-way procedures for federal land transfers will not be affected by these changes.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Dale Jones, NEPA Assignment Manager, at (916) 653-5157.

Sincerely,

/os/ Bruce L. April

BRUCE L. APRIL,
Acting Chief Division of Environmental Analysis
California Department of Transportation

Enclosure: Memorandum of Understanding between Federal Highway Administration and the California Department of Transportation concerning the State of California’s Participation in the Project Delivery Program Pursuant to 23 USC 327.

“Caltrans improves mobility across California”
March 26, 2013

Ms. Kimberly H. Anderson, Forest Supervisor
U.S. Forest Service
Modoc National Forest
800 West 12th Street
Alturas, CA 96101

Dear Ms. Anderson:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) wants to inform you of its continued assignment of consultation responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the federal environmental protection laws under NEPA’s regulatory umbrella.

On September 25, 2012, FHWA and Caltrans signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Federal Highway Administration and the California Department of Transportation concerning the State of California’s Participation in the Project Delivery Program Pursuant to 23 USC 327, which became effective on October 1, 2012. This MOU was signed pursuant to the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), and allows the Secretary of Transportation to assign, and the State of California to assume all responsibilities for consultation and coordination with federal resource, regulatory, and land management agencies for most federal-aid highway projects in California. The assignment of environmental decision making to Caltrans includes the federal-aid highway projects on federal lands and the FHWA’s federal lands (“direct federal”) projects when Caltrans designs and constructs the projects. Detailed information about NEPA Assignment is published on-line at http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/nepa_pilot/html/nepa_delegation_pilot_program.htm. By statute, the State is deemed to be a federal agency for these assigned responsibilities.

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Sincerely,

/os/ Bruce L. April

BRUCE L. APRIL,
Acting Chief Division of Environmental Analysis
California Department of Transportation

Enclosure: Memorandum of Understanding between Federal Highway Administration and the California Department of Transportation concerning the State of California’s Participation in the Project Delivery Program Pursuant to 23 USC 327.
March 26, 2013

Mr. Earl W. Ford, Forest Supervisor
U.S. Forest Service
Plumas National Forest
P.O. Box 11500
159 Lawrence Street
Quincy, CA 95971

Dear Mr. Ford:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) wants to inform you of its continued assignment of consultation responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the federal environmental protection laws under NEPA’s regulatory umbrella.

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“Caltrans improves mobility across California”
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Sincerely,

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BRUCE L. APRIL,
Acting Chief Division of Environmental Analysis
California Department of Transportation

Enclosure: Memorandum of Understanding between Federal Highway Administration and the California Department of Transportation concerning the State of California’s Participation in the Project Delivery Program Pursuant to 23 USC 327.
March 26, 2013

Ms. Jody Noiron, Forest Supervisor
U.S. Forest Service
San Bernardino National Forest
602 South Tippecanoe Avenue
San Bernardino, CA 92408-2607

Dear Ms. Noiron:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) wants to inform you of its continued assignment of consultation responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the federal environmental protection laws under NEPA’s regulatory umbrella.

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BRUCE L. APRIL,
Acting Chief Division of Environmental Analysis
California Department of Transportation

Enclosure:  Memorandum of Understanding between Federal Highway Administration and the California Department of Transportation concerning the State of California’s Participation in the Project Delivery Program Pursuant to 23 USC 327.
March 26, 2013

Mr. Kevin B. Elliott, Forest Supervisor
U.S. Forest Service
Sequoia National Forest
1839 South Newcomb Street
Porterville, CA 93257

Dear Mr. Elliott:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) wants to inform you of its continued assignment of consultation responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the federal environmental protection laws under NEPA’s regulatory umbrella.

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Acting Chief Division of Environmental Analysis
California Department of Transportation

Enclosure: Memorandum of Understanding between Federal Highway Administration and the California Department of Transportation concerning the State of California’s Participation in the Project Delivery Program Pursuant to 23 USC 327.
March 26, 2013

Ms. J. Sharon Heywood, Forest Supervisor
U.S. Forest Service
Shasta-Trinity National Forest
3644 Avtech Parkway
Redding, CA 96002

Dear Ms. Heywood:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) wants to inform you of its continued assignment of consultation responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the federal environmental protection laws under NEPA’s regulatory umbrella.

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Enclosure: Memorandum of Understanding between Federal Highway Administration and the California Department of Transportation concerning the State of California’s Participation in the Project Delivery Program Pursuant to 23 USC 327.

“Caltrans improves mobility across California”
March 26, 2013

Mr. John D. Exline, Forest Supervisor
U.S. Forest Service
Sierra National Forest
1600 Tollhouse Road
Clovis, CA 93611

Dear Mr. Exline:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) wants to inform you of its continued assignment of consultation responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the federal environmental protection laws under NEPA’s regulatory umbrella.

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March 26, 2013

Mr. Tyrone Kelley, Forest Supervisor
U.S. Forest Service
Six Rivers National Forest
1330 Bayshore Way
Eureka, CA 95501

Dear Mr. Kelley:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) wants to inform you of its continued assignment of consultation responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the federal environmental protection laws under NEPA’s regulatory umbrella.

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Acting Chief Division of Environmental Analysis
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March 26, 2013

Ms. Susan Skalski, Forest Supervisor
U.S. Forest Service
Stanislaus National Forest
19777 Greenley Road
Sonora, CA 95370

Dear Ms. Skalski:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) wants to inform you of its continued assignment of consultation responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the federal environmental protection laws under NEPA’s regulatory umbrella.

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/os/ Bruce L. April

BRUCE L. APRIL,
Acting Chief Division of Environmental Analysis
California Department of Transportation

Enclosure: Memorandum of Understanding between Federal Highway Administration and the
California Department of Transportation concerning the State of California’s Participation in
the Project Delivery Program Pursuant to 23 USC 327.
March 26, 2013

Mr. Tom Quinn, Forest Supervisor
U.S. Forest Service
Tahoe National Forest
631 Coyote Street
P.O. Box 6003
Nevada City, CA 95959

Dear Mr. Quinn:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) wants to inform you of its continued assignment of consultation responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the federal environmental protection laws under NEPA’s regulatory umbrella.

On September 25, 2012, FHWA and Caltrans signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Federal Highway Administration and the California Department of Transportation concerning the State of California’s Participation in the Project Delivery Program Pursuant to 23 USC 327, which became effective on October 1, 2012. This MOU was signed pursuant to the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act (MAP-21), and allows the Secretary of Transportation to assign, and the State of California to assume all responsibilities for consultation and coordination with federal resource, regulatory, and land management agencies for most federal-aid highway projects in California. The assignment of environmental decision making to Caltrans includes the federal-aid highway projects on federal lands and the FHWA’s federal lands (“direct federal”) projects when Caltrans designs and constructs the projects. Detailed information about NEPA Assignment is published on-line at http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/nepa_pilot/html/nepa_delegation_pilot_program.htm. By statute, the State is deemed to be a federal agency for these assigned responsibilities.

Similarly, on June 7, 2010, the FHWA and Caltrans renewed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Federal Highway Administration, California Division, and the California Department of Transportation on State Assumption of Responsibilities for Categorical Exclusions (CE). This MOU was signed pursuant to 23 USC 326 which allows the Secretary of Transportation to assign, and the State of California to assume, the Secretary’s environmental decision making responsibilities for CEs. For these projects, the State may also be assigned the FHWA’s responsibilities for environmental consultation and coordination under other federal environmental laws. By statute, the State is deemed to be a federal agency for these assigned authorities and responsibilities.
Both MOUs, published on-line at 
http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/env/nepa_pilot/html/nepa_delegation_pilot_program.htm, detail the 
roles and responsibilities for the FHWA and Caltrans in project-level environmental decision 
making, and the MOU for the NEPA Assignment Program (23 U.S.C 327) also includes a list of 
projects which will be retained by the FHWA. For the retained projects, the FHWA will 
continue to be involved in interagency dialogues with your agency for project-specific 
environmental decisions. As the NEPA Assignment Program continues, other projects to be 
retained by the FHWA, may be identified, according to the provisions of the MOU.

For the assigned projects, Caltrans is deemed to be the FHWA for project-level environmental 
decision making. For instance, Caltrans will conduct all consultation under the Endangered 
Species Act and the National Historic Preservation Act for the projects. For these projects, 
please address all correspondence to Caltrans, even if the FHWA was initially involved in the 
environmental process for the project.

Finally, it is important to mention that the NEPA Assignment does not affect the FHWA’s roles 
and responsibilities for other phases of project development beyond environmental analysis. For 
example, the FHWA’s existing right-of-way procedures for federal land transfers will not be 
affected by these changes.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Dale Jones, NEPA Assignment Manager, at (916) 
653-5157.

Sincerely,

/os/ Bruce L. April

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