



**COUNTY OF NEVADA
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
950 MAIDU AVENUE, NEVADA CITY, CA 95959-8617
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Steven L. DeCamp
Community Development Agency Director

Steve Castleberry
Director of Public Works

April 30, 2015

File: 240.1587 001

THE HONORABLE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
ERIC ROOD ADMINISTRATIVE CENTER
950 MAIDU AVENUE
NEVADA CITY, CA 95959-8600

DATE OF MEETING: May 26, 2015

SUBJECT: Environmental Clearance for the State Route 49 Emergency Vehicle Preemption (EVP) Project

RECOMMENDATION: Approve the attached Resolution.

FUNDING: The project will be funded with Fiscal Year 2015/16 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), Transportation Enhancement (TE) funds. There is no impact on the General Fund and no budget amendment is necessary.

BACKGROUND:

State Route 49 is a major transportation corridor in Western Nevada County and this project proposes to install emergency vehicle preemption (EVP) at three signalized intersections in the SR 49 corridor. All three signal locations (Alta Sierra Drive, Lime Kiln Road, and Combie Road) are located within Caltrans right of way. SR 49 has some of the highest traffic/congestion levels in western Nevada County and emergency vehicles operating in higher congestion levels are at higher risk for involvement in crashes and are subject to unpredictable delays in reaching the scene of a fire or vehicle crash. One means to offset the effects of congestion is the installation of EVP equipment at signalized intersections. EVP systems are designed to give emergency response vehicles a green light on their approach to a signalized intersection while providing a red light to conflicting approaches. Most commonly reported benefits of using EVP include improved response time, improved safety, and cost savings.

This Department has reviewed the project for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and has identified the project as a Class I project. Class I projects consist of repair or minor alteration of an existing public facility involving negligible or no expansion of use. Therefore, the project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA, per Section 15301 (f) of the Public Resources Code. A Notice of Exemption has been prepared for the project and, upon approval by the Nevada County Board of Supervisors, will be filed with the Nevada County Clerk's Office.

Please contact me if additional information is required.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Castleberry". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

STEVE CASTLEBERRY, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

SC:DG:lb