



Ken Grehm, Director
Robert Costa, Deputy Director
Peter Kraatz, Assistant Director

January 23, 2020

State Clearinghouse
PO Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812

Re: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report

Project: Yankee Jims Bridge Replacement

Notice is hereby given that Placer County will be the Lead Agency and will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Yankee Jims Bridge Replacement Project. The EIR will research and evaluate the potential environmental impacts the new bridge will or may have for topics outlined in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Project Location

Yankee Jims Bridge is located on Yankee Jims Road in Placer County (see attached map). The bridge is located approximately 7.5 miles southeast of Colfax and crosses the North Fork American River. The existing bridge and the proposed location of the new bridge are within the Auburn State Recreation Area (SRA). The project area includes the location of the bridge and approximately 7 miles on Yankee Jims Road (5.5 miles extending northwest toward Colfax and 1.5 miles east toward Foresthill), which will require road improvements to get construction equipment and materials to the site.

Project Description

The Yankee Jims Road Bridge is located in an unincorporated area of Placer County within the Auburn State Recreation Area (SRA) and crosses the North Fork American River. The existing, one lane suspension bridge (No. 19C-0002), built in 1930, is structurally deficient based on a Caltrans Bridge Inspection Report dated May 12, 2016. Several alternatives to replace the existing bridge are being considered. The existing bridge would remain in place for pedestrian use and historic purposes.

The project would construct a new bridge at a downstream location with improved roadway approaches. The new bridge would include two lanes and shoulders. The existing bridge would be re-decked and small modifications would be necessary to allow for equipment and materials to be placed on the bridge during construction. The existing bridge cannot accommodate emergency response vehicles and, therefore, the new bridge would increase access for emergency and fire vehicles and be a vital evacuation route for area residents.

Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

Each of the environmental factors below will be addressed in the EIR.

Aesthetics	Agriculture and Forestry Resources	Air Quality
Biological Resources	Cultural Resources	Energy
Geology / Soils	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Hazards & Hazardous Materials
Hydrology / Water Quality	Land Use / Planning	Mineral Resources
Noise	Population / Housing	Public Services
Recreation	Transportation	Tribal Cultural Resources
Utilities / Service Systems	Wildfire	Mandatory Finding of Significance

The list below describes potential environmental effects in more detail and steps to evaluate and address such effects.

- Aesthetics – The visual setting around the bridge is considered sensitive. The new bridge would modify the visual character of the project area. A Moderate Visual Impact Assessment (VIA) will be prepared to understand the change in the landscape and identify minimization measures to lessen the visual impact of the new bridge.
- Biological Resources – The project crosses the North Fork American River, which is habitat for aquatic species. It is also likely that migratory birds and their nests are in the area.
 - A Natural Environment Study (NES) will be prepared to document the presence of sensitive species and habitats, as well as define mitigation measures in order to avoid or lessen disturbances. The NES will also address the potential impacts to the spread of invasive species.
 - A Biological Assessment will be prepared to document the potential effects to the California red-legged tree frog (CRLF), consistent with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. Section 7 Consultation will address potential impacts to the CRLF specimens during construction and potential direct and cumulative impacts to CRLF Critical Habitat within the project area. Modification of the design or construction of the chosen bridge alternative may become part of the avoidance and minimization strategy to ensure that potential impacts to the CRLF are reduced to the greatest extent possible. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) is expected to issue a Biological Opinion for the CRLF at the completion of the consultation process.
- Geology/Soils – There will be ground disturbance and excavation to place abutments and build the new bridge. The EIR will analyze the level of ground disturbance and excavation and identify any sensitive geological resources.

- Hydrology/Water Quality – The new bridge will cross the North Fork American River and involve stream channel work. A Location Hydraulic Study and Aquatic Resources Delineation Report will be prepared. The EIR will identify the potential impact to water resources.
- Noise – There are no sensitive receptors within 1,000 feet of the project. Construction related noise could potentially affect recreational users, which will be discussed in the EIR.
- Recreation – The new bridge will be within the Auburn Recreation Area. A Section 4(f) Evaluation will be prepared for the project.
- Cultural Resources – An Area of Potential Effect (APE) map will be created and will determine the limits of the field surveys. An Historic Property Survey Report and Archaeological Survey Report will be prepared, as well as an Historic Resource Evaluation Report (HRER) to provide historic context for the project area and document historic items, if found, within the APE.
- Land Use – The project will require acquisition of right-of-way on Federal (Bureau of Reclamation and Bureau of Land Management (BLM)) land. Encroachment permits will be obtained from agencies with jurisdiction as necessary. The project will also require road closure during construction and a temporary detour will be identified.
- Wildfire – The EIR will identify potential effects to wildfire in the area. The project is expected to reduce the threat to wildfire by providing greater access for emergency and fire vehicles and an evacuation route for area residents.
- Air Quality – The project is exempt from the requirement that a conformity determination be made. There will be construction related impacts that will be discussed in the EIR.
- Hazards & Hazardous Materials – The project area is mapped by Placer County as an “Area Moderately Likely to Contain Naturally Occurring Asbestos.” An Initial Site Assessment (ISA) will be conducted to identify any hazards that may occur in the project area. Testing for contaminated soils and naturally occurring asbestos will occur during the Plans, Specifications, and Estimates (PS&E) phase of the project.
- Tribal Cultural Resources – The EIR will make efforts to identify any tribal cultural resources in the area. Consultation with California Native American Tribes will consist of formal notification of the project. Avoidance, minimization, or mitigation measures will be developed should any tribal cultural resources be found within the APE. Detailed notes and minutes will be prepared to document responses, meetings, and conversations with respective tribes.

Notice of Preparation Meeting

Public outreach will be conducted to invite agencies, stakeholders, and community members to the meeting. The meeting will have project management staff on-hand to present the project and answer questions. Participants will have the opportunity to view maps and exhibits of the project and can comment on the project verbally or through provided comments cards. Meeting minutes with a summary of comments will be provided to agencies.



The NOP meeting will occur on **Thursday, February 6th from 6:00 – 8:00pm at the Placer County Facility located at 3091 County Center Drive in Auburn.**

Comment Period

The comment period will begin on February 6th and end on March 6th, 2020.

This NOP will be circulated for a 30-day period, in accordance with Section 15082 of the CEQA Guidelines. Responses to this NOP should focus on environmental issues, reasonable alternatives, and mitigation measures that the lead agency may need to explore in the draft EIR. Please include your name, the name of your organization or agency, and contact information.

Please send comments regarding this NOP to the address below or via email to:
LAPerron@placer.ca.gov.

Placer County
Attn.: Laura Perron
3091 County Center Drive, Suite 220
Auburn, CA 95603

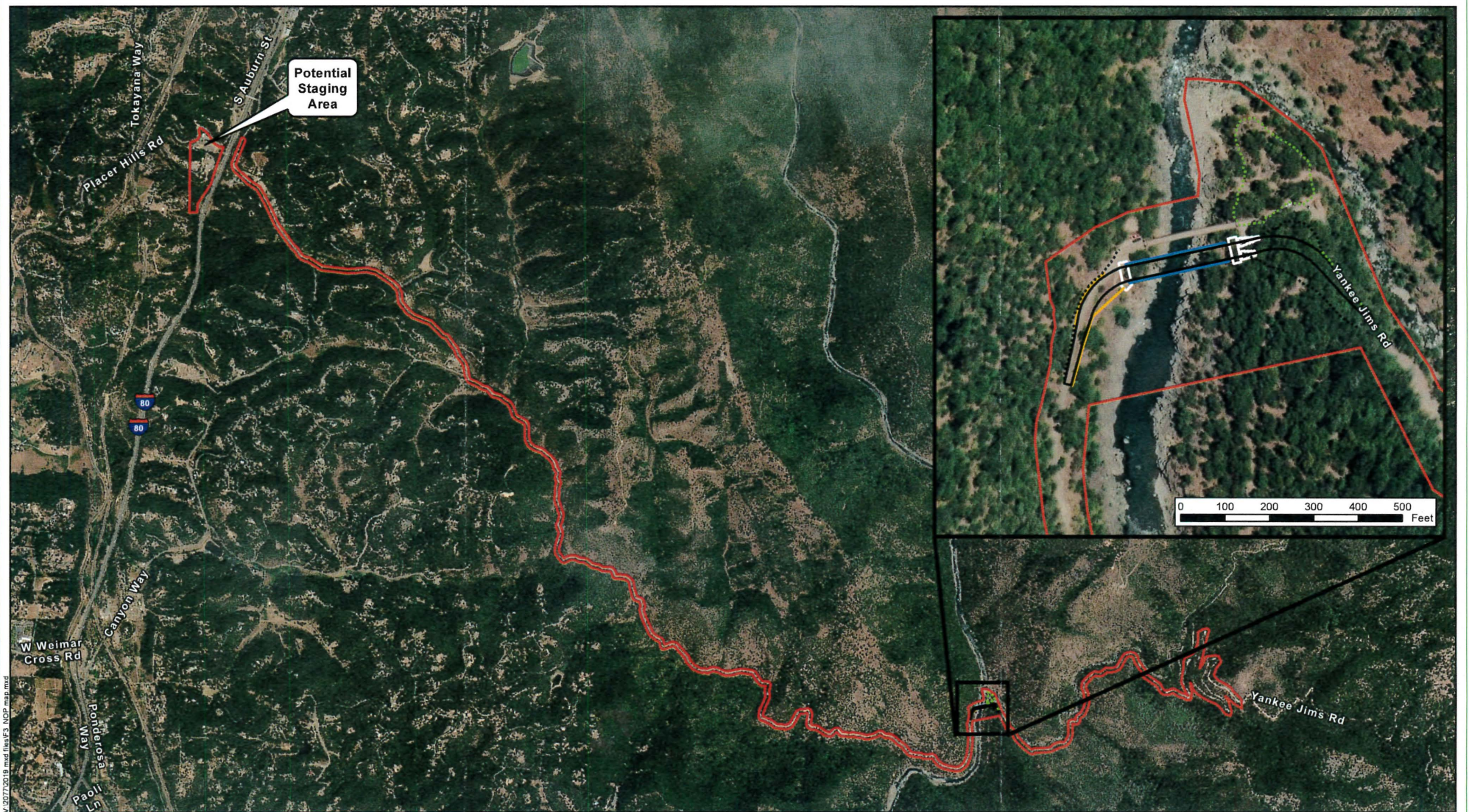
Comments must be received by Friday, March 6th, 2020.

Please find a map attached of the Yankee Jims Road Bridge Replacement Project and the distribution list for the NOP.

Thank you,

Kevin Ordway, P.E.
Senior Civil Engineer
Public Works and Facilities

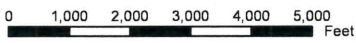
Organization	Contact	Address	City	State	Zip
State Clearinghouse		PO Box 3044	Sacramento	CA	95812
CTC		1120 N Street, MS 52	Sacramento	CA	95814
CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife	Kevin Thomas	1701 Nimbus Road	Rancho Cordova	CA	95670
Quincy	Mark Reno	11017 Cobblerock Drive, Suite 100	Rancho Cordova	CA	95670
Flatiron West Division	Dan Erskine	2100 Goodyear Road	Benicia	CA	94510
Placer County	Public Works	3091 County Center Drive, Suite 220	Auburn	CA	95603
Foresthill Forum	Kelly McCaughna	175 Fulweiler Avenue	Auburn	CA	95603
Foresthill Forum	Susan MacIntosh	24601 Harrison Road	Foresthill	CA	95631
CA State Parks		PO Box 942896	Sacramento	CA	94296
US Bureau of Reclamation	Aaron Brown	7794 Folsom Dam Road	Folsom	CA	95630
US Bureau of Reclamation	John Hutchings	7794 Folsom Dam Road	Folsom	CA	95630
BLM	Mother Lode Field Office	5152 Hillside Circle	El Dorado Hills	CA	95762
Caltrans	Vlad Popkov	703 B Street	Marysville	CA	95901
CalFire	Elsa Hucks	13760 Lincoln Way	Auburn	CA	95603
Foresthill PUD	Hank White	PO Box 266	Foresthill	CA	95631
Placer County OES	Young Rodriguez	2968 Richardson Drive	Auburn	CA	95603
PARC	Eric Peach	PO Box 9312	Auburn	CA	95604
OARS		7330 River Park Drive	Lotus	CA	95651
United Auburn Indian Community	Charles Hutcheson	10720 Indian Hill Road	Auburn	CA	95603
Foresthill Fire	Michael Ridley	24320 Main Street	Foresthill	CA	95631
Colfax Area Historical Society		PO Box 185	Colfax	CA	95713
Foresthill Divide Historical Society		PO Box 646	Foresthill	CA	95631
Placer County Fire	Brian Estes	13760 Lincoln Way	Auburn	CA	95603
American Whitewater Expeditions		PO Box 455	Coloma	CA	95613
Auburn State Recreation Area	Mike Howard	501 El Dorado Street	Auburn	CA	95603
Placer County Board of Supervisors	Supervisor Bonnie Gore	175 Fulweiler Avenue	Auburn	CA	95603
Placer County Board of Supervisors	Supervisor Robert Weygandt	175 Fulweiler Avenue	Auburn	CA	95603
Placer County Board of Supervisors	Supervisor Jim Holmes	175 Fulweiler Avenue	Auburn	CA	95603
Placer County Board of Supervisors	Supervisor Kirk Uhler	175 Fulweiler Avenue	Auburn	CA	95603
Placer County Board of Supervisors	Supervisor Cindy Gustafson	175 Fulweiler Avenue	Auburn	CA	95603
City of Colfax	Councilmember Joe Fatula	PO Box 702	Colfax	CA	95713
City of Colfax	Mayor Marnie Mendoza	PO Box 702	Colfax	CA	95713
City of Colfax	Councilmember Kim Douglass	PO Box 702	Colfax	CA	95713
City of Colfax	Councilmember Trinity Burruss	PO Box 702	Colfax	CA	95713
City of Colfax	Mayor Pro Tem Sean Loman	PO Box 702	Colfax	CA	95713
North Fork American River Alliance	Ron Gould	PO Box 292	Gold Run	CA	95717
Placer Hills Fire District	Matt Slusher	PO Box 350	Meadow Vista	CA	95722
Placer County Historical Society		PO Box 5643	Auburn	CA	95604
Senator Brian Dahle		11310 McCourtney Road, Unit E2/E3	Grass Valley	CA	95949



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 Source: ESRI Aerial, Dokken Engineering 1/15/2020, Created by: briann



1 inch = 2,000 feet



Project Area	Proposed Cut Limits	Proposed Bridge Abutments
Proposed Fill Limits	Proposed Edge of Pavement	Proposed Retaining Wall
	Proposed Bridge Arches	

Project Features
 Yankee Jims Bridge Replacement Project
 Placer County, California