

## California Department of Transportation

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT 10 PLANNING  
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 California Department of Fire and  
 Forestry Vegetation Management Program  
 Amador El Dorado Unit  
 P.O. Box 944246  
 Sacramento, California 94244

**AMA-County Wide  
 Ingress, Egress and  
 Education Plan  
 Initial Study (IS)  
 SCH 2022090184**

Mr. McDaniel,

Caltrans appreciates the opportunity to review and respond to Amador County's County-wide Ingress, Egress, and Education Plan Initial Study. The project aims to provide for safe ingress and egress of vehicles and equipment in the event of large wildlife.

This project involves the clearance of roadside vegetation (fuels) on private roads within unincorporated regions in Amador County. All roadside vegetation up to 10 inches in diameter at breast height (dbh) shall be removed within 20 feet of the road edge on either side. This distance may be reduced in locations where fences exist within this 20-foot zone. A combination shall make the fuel reduction of Pine Grove Camp crews and private contractors. The work to be done with private contractors may include the hand cutting and chipping of vegetation or the mastication of vegetation on-site utilizing a mechanical masticator. This mastication will be "reach-in" mastication only.

### **Caltrans at this time has the following comments:**

#### **Environmental**

If any construction-related activities encroach into Caltrans Right of Way (ROW), the project proponent must apply for an Encroachment Permit to the Caltrans Encroachment Permit Office. All California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation, with supporting technical studies, must be submitted with the Encroachment Permit Application. These studies will analyze potential impacts on cultural sites, biological resources, hazardous waste locations, scenic highways,

and/or other environmental resources within Caltrans ROW at the project site(s). Evidence of consultation with local Native American tribes and interested parties will need to be presented within the technical documents to approve encroachment in the Caltrans ROW. Mature trees within and/or near Caltrans ROW could provide suitable nesting habitats. If work occurs between February 1 and September 30 of any year, a pre-construction bird survey must be conducted by a qualified biologist before any construction-related activities in Caltrans ROW. A protective buffer must be established around the nest if an active nest is observed per California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) guidelines. No work is allowed within the protective buffer limits until the young have fledged and until authorized by the Caltrans District 10 Environmental Office.

Caltrans suggest Amador County Planning Department continue to coordinate and consult with Caltrans to identify and address potential cumulative transportation impacts that may occur from this project and other developments near this location. This will assist Caltrans in ensuring that traffic safety and quality standards are maintained for the traveling public on existing and future state transportation facilities.

If any future project activities encroach into Caltrans ROW, the project proponent must submit an application for an Encroachment Permit to the Caltrans District 10 Encroachment Permit Office. Appropriate environmental studies must be submitted with this application. These studies will include an analysis of potential impacts to any cultural sites, biological resources, hazardous waste locations, and/or other resources within Caltrans ROW at the project site(s). For more information, please visit the Caltrans Website at: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep/applications>

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Paul Bauldry at (209) 670-9488 or by email at paul.bauldry@dot.ca.gov, or me at (209) 483-7234 (email: Gregoria.Ponce@dot.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

*Gregoria Ponce'*

Gregoria Ponce', Chief  
Office of Rural Planning

cc: State Clearinghouse