

California Department of Transportation

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Farhad Mortazavi
City of Jackson
33 Broadway
Jackson, CA 95642



**AMA-49/88 General Plan
Update
City of Jackson
Notice of Preparation (NOP)
SCH: 2022110545**

Mr. Mortazavi,

Caltrans appreciates the opportunity to review and respond to the City of Jackson's Notice of Preparation on its comprehensive update to its existing General Plan. The City of Jackson's current General Plan has been periodically amended, including updates to the Housing Element in 2015, the Land Use and Circulation Element in 2008, updates to the Noise and Open Space and Conservation Elements in 1987 to the Safety Element in 1981. The City's General Plan includes a broad goal policy framework that guides land use and planning decisions within the City. The overall purpose of the General Plan is to create a policy framework that articulates a vision for the City's long-term physical form and development while preserving and enhancing the quality of life for residents and increasing opportunities for high-quality local job growth and housing options. The key components of the General Plan will include broad goals for the future of Jackson and specific policies and actions that will help implement the stated goals.

The City of Jackson is located in the central portion of Amador County, at the intersection of State Routes 49 and 88 (SR 49/88) in the Sierra Nevada foothills.

Caltrans has the following comments:

Advance Planning

SR 49 has been added to the National Highway System in Amador County from the Calaveras County Line to the City of Plymouth. It is now listed as a Principal Arterial through Jackson.

There has also been a broad department concern with the impacts to the State Highway System from ongoing climate change and with emergency evacuation routes since the Camp Fire in Butte County. We strongly support policy and planning elements to address future flooding and fire events on the highways, as well as updating as-needed emergency evacuation planning and routes which may include the state highway system (SHS). One area of concern is the number and distribution of heliports as an alternative evacuation mode. Our

office also looks forward to a further opportunity to review these and other updates and changes to the Draft General Plan.

Traffic Operations

Senate Bill (SB) 743 is changing the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) analysis of transportation impacts. It requires local land use projects to provide a safe transportation system, reduce per capita vehicle miles traveled (VMT), increase accessibility by mode share of bicycle, pedestrian, and transit travel, and reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. VMT reduction is necessary to meet the statewide GHG goals. Caltrans recommends VMT per capita thresholds are 15% below existing regional VMT per capita.

VMT considerations tie closely with housing and land uses. Please include VMT discussions in the Transportation/Circulation element and other appropriate sections in the Jackson General Plan updates.

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

Sincerely,

Gregoria Ponce'

Gregoria Ponce', Chief
Office of Rural Planning

cc: State Clearinghouse