

NOTICE OF INTENT
TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
(Pursuant to PRC Section 21092 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15072)

Sierra County has prepared an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Plumbago Road Bridge Replacement (Project) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Sections 15063 and 15071. Based on the analysis provided in the IS/MND and with the incorporation of mitigation measures identified in the IS/MND to mitigate project impacts, the County finds that the project would result in no significant environmental impacts. Therefore, an IS/MND is proposed for compliance with the requirements of CEQA. Details of the proposed project and information on how a copy of the document can be obtained for review are provided below.

Project Title: Plumbago Road over Kanaka Creek Bridge (13C0051) Replacement Project

Lead Agency: Sierra County

Project Location: The Project is located along Plumbago Road approximately 0.4 air miles southeast of the town of Alleghany in southwest Sierra County, California. The Project area is on a County right-of-way (ROW) through privately-owned parcels surrounded by the Tahoe National Forest. The Project Area is located on the Alleghany USGS topographic quadrangle (quad) (T19N, R10E, Section 34 and T18N, R10E, Section 3; Mt. Diablo Base and Meridian).

Project Description: Sierra County evaluated constructing a new bridge on a new upstream alignment but rejected it to avoid cultural resources and permanent right-of-way (ROW) acquisition. The proposed bridge would therefore be constructed on substantially the same alignment with an upstream shift of approximately 7.5 feet to enhance Project constructability. Bridge replacement on substantially the same alignment is preferred because it avoids cultural resources and the need to acquire a permanent ROW.

Two bridge structure types were evaluated for the Project. The selected structure is a 92.5-foot-long, 18.3-foot-wide, single-span, cast-in-place, prestressed concrete box girder superstructure supported on seat type abutments with 36-inch cast-in-drilled-hole concrete pile shaft foundations. This design is preferred as it produces large savings in construction and maintenance costs. The other structure type considered consisted of a single-span, composite welded steel plate girder superstructure with a reinforced concrete deck slab on seat type abutments with 36-inch cast-in-drilled-hole concrete pile shaft foundations. While this structure would not require falsework, and would take less time to construct, it would be more expensive to construct and maintain.

Public Review: Sierra County is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act for the Project. Members of the public are invited to comment on the proposed IS/MND. The comment period is from April 4, 2024 to May 8, 2024.

The proposed IS/MND can be reviewed at the Sierra County Transportation Department at 101 Courthouse Square in Downieville, or on the Sierra County web site at: <https://sierracounty.ca.gov/>.

Formal comments regarding the IS/MND may be submitted in writing via U.S. mail or email any time during the public review period. Written comments regarding the scope and content of information in the IS/MND or any questions regarding the document should be submitted no later than May 8, 2024. Comments may be sent to:

Bryan Davey
Sierra County Transportation Department
101 Courthouse Square
Downieville, CA 95936
bdavey@sierracounty.ca.gov

Following the close of the written comment period, the Lead Agency will consider the Initial Study in a public meeting and determine whether it is in compliance with CEQA and whether to approve the project. The time and date of the public meeting will be noticed separately.