



# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

## TRANSPORTATION DIVISION

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November 9, 2015

El Dorado County Board of Supervisors  
330 Fair Lane  
Placerville, CA 95667

**Agenda Title: 11/17/2015 CEQA Adoption**  
**Bucks Bar Road at North Fork Cosumnes River**  
**Bridge Replacement Project (CIP No. 77116)**

**Meeting Date: November 17, 2015**

Dear Members of the Board:

This letter will serve to provide the Board with a summary of the Community Development Agency, Transportation Division's (Transportation) work with representatives from Native American tribes (Tribes) to mitigate impacts to tribal cultural resources (TCRs) caused by the Bucks Bar Bridge Replacement Project (Project).

Transportation staff conducted at least three public meetings before bringing an alignment recommendation for the Project to the Board in early 2014. The Board responded with selection of the "40 mph" alignment. The Board added direction to minimize impacts to cultural resources and private property.

Transportation staff then moved forward with the environmental phase of the Project. The Project's work limits are within CA-ELD-49, which is an archaeologically recognized Native American village site. Between September 2014 and October 2015, Transportation staff and their consultants conducted studies on site met with representatives from the Tribes on site at least seven times to discuss the manner in which impacts to TCRs would be minimized and mitigated.

The California Environmental Quality Act Mitigated Negative Declaration (CEQA Document) that the Board is being asked to approve includes the following measures to address the presence of TCRs:

- Transportation will implement cultural awareness training for contractor and County personnel prior to construction.
- During construction, contractor access to environmentally sensitive areas (ESAs) immediately adjacent the new bridge will be prohibited so as to protect TCRs in these ESAs. This will significantly reduce the area the contractor will be able to use during construction.
- Transportation will allow multiple Native American monitors on site during construction.
- Transportation will require its contractor to protect in place several TCRs with protective covers installed by our contractor during construction.
- Transportation will allow Native American monitors to inspect large boulders for TCRs as they are excavated from the existing fill slope on the Placerville side of the river.

- Transportation will require its contractor to temporarily relocate TCRs that are in direct conflict with new construction and, when possible, replace the TCRs to their original location after completion of construction.
- The CEQA Document includes explicit plans for mitigating TCRs that are discovered during construction.
- Transportation will hire a firm to perform terrestrial laser scanning of the site prior to construction to memorialize the pre-construction condition of the site.

In addition to these items, the Tribes also requested the following:

- The Tribes requested to be allowed to inspect the property on the Somerset side of the river for TCRs prior to BOS approval of the CEQA Document. Transportation staff met with the property owner and was able to convince the property owner to allow the Tribes to inspect a portion of his property during the week of November 9, 2015.
- The Tribes requested permanent rights to access to the TCRs on the Placerville side of the river. Since the Tribes do not currently have any access rights to the property in question, Transportation staff only agreed to contact the property owners and ask if the property owners would be willing to discuss permanent access with the Tribes. The property owners told Transportation staff that they were willing to discuss the issue with the Tribes, so Transportation staff provided each party with the other party's contact information. Whether or not the Tribes are able to secure the access will be determined by the Tribes and the property owners.

Finally, the Tribes have expressed concerns about the new bridge and walls placing a specific TCR in the shade. Transportation staff has performed analyses of the sun's path over the site at various times of the year. However, Transportation staff cannot discuss the matter publicly in any greater level of detail pursuant to a request by the Tribes and in accordance with Section 15120(d) of the Public Resources Code concerning information about the location of archaeological sites. Therefore, this issue will not be discussed any further in this letter other than to state that Transportation staff has concluded that the amount of sun and shade at the site will not change significantly.

Transportation staff has addressed all of the areas required by CEQA and NEPA. Transportation staff have been completely transparent with the Tribes regarding the manner in which Transportation is proposing to mitigate and protect TCRs during construction. Transportation has acquiesced to nearly every single request and demand made by the Tribes except for a request to change the proposed alignment of Bucks Bar Road that was adopted the Board on March 25, 2014. Implementation of the measures contained in the proposed CEQA Document will cause any potential impacts to the TCRs to be reduced to less than significant.

Please let me know if you have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,



John Kahling  
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