

Chapter 3 Comments and Coordination

Agency consultation and public participation for this project have been accomplished through a variety of methods, including project development team meetings, interagency coordination meetings, a public workshop, and written correspondence. This chapter summarizes the results of Caltrans' efforts to fully identify, address and resolve project-related issues through early and continuing coordination. Copies of pertinent correspondence are included at the end of this chapter.

Public Outreach

Caltrans has conducted extensive outreach in the project area, related to the project and to safety in general. This includes:

- In March 2004, Caltrans held workshops at Mountain Air and Forest Springs Mobile Home Parks to discuss ideas for improving SR 49 and to talk about motorist safety. A California Highway Patrol (CHP) representative was present to talk to residents about defensive driving.
- Caltrans met with the Fire Chief from Nevada County Consolidated Fire District Station 88, located within the project's limits, and the pastor of Foothill Church, located adjacent to the fire station.
- A public meeting was held on April 19, 2005, at Higgins Oaks Lions Club. Approximately 20 residents attended this public meeting.
- A public meeting was held on April 27, 2005, at Foothill Church. Approximately 60 area residents attended.

Historic and Tribal Coordination

Consultation letters were sent to the following Native American groups on the dates shown:

- T'Si-akim Maidu (7/20/2005)
- Jill Harvey (7/20/2005)
- Todd Valley Miwok-Maidu Cultural Foundation (7/20/2005)
- United Auburn Indian Community (7/20/2005)

All the native groups listed above were also called by phone on 08/20/2005.

Request for information letters were sent to following local historical societies/historic preservation groups on the date shown:

- Nevada County Historical Society Museum (07/20/2005)
- Grass Valley Museum (07/20/2005)
- Nevada County Historical Society (07/20/2005)

The California Native American Heritage Commission (CalNAHC) was contacted to request a search of the sacred land files for the project area. Although the search failed to yield information on Native American cultural resources located within or adjacent to the project area, the CalNAHC provided an updated list of individuals and organizations in the Native American community.

Resource Agency Coordination

During the preparation of the Natural Environment Study Report, record search was conducted through the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) and information was obtained from the California Native Plant Society. In addition, United States Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) and California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) were contacted about biological resources in the area.

Caltrans contacted the USFWS (10/10/2004) to ask which federally listed or proposed threatened and endangered species potentially occur in the project. An initial USFWS species list was received in October of 2004 and an updated list was acquired in January 26, 2006.

Caltrans contacted CDFG in April of 2005 to inform them of the project, and to inquire about concerns this agency might have regarding endangered species and other sensitive biological resources in the project area. Field surveys and literature review conducted for this project indicate that no species listed as threatened, endangered, or candidate by the CDFG are present within the project area.

Draft Initial Study/Environmental Assessment Review

The draft IS/EA will be available for public and agency review for 30 days, and during that time a public workshop will be held in the vicinity of the project. Comments received during the review period will be considered prior to making a decision on the project.

Chapter 4 List of Preparers

The following Caltrans North Region staff contributed to the preparation of this Initial Study:

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Suzanne Melim, Associate Environmental Planner, B.S. Natural Resource Management; California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. Nine years of experience in biology and environmental planning. Contribution: Biological Study Maps.

Daryl Noble, Associate Environmental Planner - Archaeology, PQS PI-Prehistoric Archaeology, M.A. in Anthropology; 29 years experience in California archaeology. Contribution: Historic Property Survey Report (HPSR).

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