

Chapter 3 **Comments and Coordination**

Early and continuing coordination with the general public and appropriate public agencies is an essential part of the environmental process to determine the scope of environmental documentation, the level of analysis, potential impacts and mitigation measures, and related environmental requirements. Agency consultation and public participation for this project have been accomplished through a variety of formal and informal methods, including project development team meetings, interagency coordination meetings, and public meetings. This chapter addresses Caltrans' efforts to fully identify, address, and resolve project-related issues through early and continuing coordination.

A Value Analysis (VA) study was conducted in April 1999. A Value Analysis is a systematic approach to identify and evaluate alternative solutions to improve the overall value of projects. The VA team identified performance criteria (e.g., operations, access, environmental, maintenance, compliance with standards) and assigned a relative weight to each. Four alternatives were evaluated against each of the criteria and a total performance was developed. The performance of each alternative was then divided by its cost to determine a value index. The team found that the value index of Alternative 1.1 (predecessor to Alternative 1 in this document, and the only remaining build alternative) best met the purpose and need of the project. The VA team also developed alternative ways to improve performance and/or reduce cost.

Agencies contacted during the planning and preparation of this document include:

State Office of Historic Preservation (OHP)
United States Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE)
Lassen National Forest
Native American Heritage Commission
Pit River Tribe / Illmawi Band
McArthur-Burney Falls Memorial State Park
United States Fish and Wildlife Service
State Department of Fish and Game (DFG)
City of Burney/Burney Chamber of Commerce
California Water Resources Control Board

California Department of Boating and Waterways
Pacific Crest Trail Association
Volcanic Legacy Scenic Byway-All American Road

In addition to the early coordination with the public agencies, a public open house was held in Burney on July 29, 2004. A notice of this meeting was published in the Record Searchlight on July 21 and 28, 2004 and letters were sent to landowners adjacent to the project location. Caltrans hosted an informational booth at the Intermountain Fair in McArthur in September 2004, at which staff answered questions, displayed videos, and distributed flyers about the project.

There has been continuous coordination with the various regulatory agencies relevant to the project. Discussions with regulatory agencies began in 1999 and continued through 2006. Meetings and information exchanges have been conducted with the California State Parks, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Lassen National Forest, California Department of Fish and Game, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

For the biological evaluation, the main coordination and consultation has been with California Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Lassen National Forest. All relevant federal and state endangered species consultations have been appropriately processed. The results of these consultations are shown in the Natural Environment Study (March 2006). Issues and comments received from the Lassen National Forest at a meeting on June 27, 2005 after review of Caltrans' 2005 Draft Natural Environment Study have been incorporated into the final Natural Environment Study (March 2006) and this document.

This final IS/EA reflects all substantive comments and responses to comments received during the public availability period. Changes made to the text of the IS/EA as a result of comments received are marked with a vertical line in the margins of this document. Comments and responses to comments on the draft IS/EA can be found in Appendix J of this document.

Chapter 4 **List of Preparers**

This document was prepared by the following Caltrans North Region staff:

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Dan McGann, Associate Environmental Planner (Archaeology). B.A., Anthropology and English; 26 years experience in California archaeology. Contribution: Section 106 compliance for the project.

Christine Ottaway, Landscape Associate MLA, MS; 9 years environmental planning experience. Contribution: Wrote Visual Impact Assessment.

Keith Pommerenck, Associate Environmental Planner (Noise). B.S., Environmental Resources; 18 years experience preparing noise reports. Contribution: Noise and Air Quality report.

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Barbara Shields, Associate Environmental Planner. M.A., Geography; 10 years environmental planning experience. Contribution: Initial Study/Environmental Assessment and coordinated the environmental process for the project.

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