Memorandum

To: Chair and Commissioners

Date: January 10, 2002

Diane C Eidam

From: Diane C. Eidam

File: Book Item 5.2b
Information

Ref.: **UPDATE ON STATUS OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS FOR TRI-COUNTY PROJECTS**

This is an information item from Alpine, Amador and Calaveras counties to discuss the delivery of the four State highway projects funded with pooled STIP funds. The report will include a discussion, which will include the three Counties' concerns regarding project delivery and the impacts it may have on their desire to obtain ITIP funding, as well as the continuation of the Tri-County Partnership.

The four State highway projects to be discussed are:

SR 49 Bypass, Sutter Creek and Amador City
SR4 Bypass, Angels Camp
SR 4 Passing Lane
SR 88 Passing Lanes, Hams & Cooks Stations

ALPINE COUNTY LOCAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
50 Diamond Valley Road
Markleeville, CA 96120
(530) 694-2140

AMADOR COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
11400 American Legion Drive, Suite A
Jackson, CA 95642
(209) 267-2282

CALAVERAS COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
692 Marshall Avenue, Unit A
San Andreas, CA 95249
(209) 754-2094

January 10, 2002

Diane Eidam
Executive Director
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street, MS-52
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Calaveras, Alpine, Amador Tri-County STIP Projects
Progress Report

Dear Ms. Eidam:

During their meeting on August 22, 2001, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) heard and responded to a progress report by the Tri-Counties (Alpine, Amador, and Calaveras) concerning progress on the four State highway projects being funded by "pooled" State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funds. At the conclusion of this presentation the CTC invited the Tri-Counties to return in January 2002 to provide a progress update. The Commission urged Caltrans to complete environmental clearance of all four of the State highway projects in time for the January update. On September 6, 2002, the CTC wrote to Jeff Morales, Director, California Department of Transportation urging that the Tri-County effort be supported by a contribution of 25% in Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (ITIP) funds as part of the upcoming 2002 STIP.

This letter is intended to transmit the Tri-Counties' progress report update. The update is attached. The attachments show that environmental clearance (PA&ED) for the four STIP projects has not been obtained for any of our four State highway projects at this time. Since our presentation to the CTC last August, the Tri-Counties have increased their efforts at monitoring and assisting Caltrans with project delivery. As a partial result of these efforts, environmental clearance for three of the four STIP projects is expected to occur before June 2002. The fourth project, our number one priority Highway 49 Bypass in Amador County, is being delayed by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's concerns regarding direct and indirect impacts to wildlife resources.

The Tri-Counties and Caltrans representatives have met with representatives from the FHWA, the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the office of U. S. Congressman John Doolittle. At this point, the Tri-Counties believe the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's determinations are untimely (late), irresponsible, and harmful. Their determinations could cause delays to the Amador 49 Bypass project of six months to several years! The Tri-Counties also find

fault with Caltrans Environmental Branch for not achieving consensus with the FWS and FHWA much earlier in the process. We hope to report progress on this issue when we make our presentation during the CTC meeting in January. If not, we will appreciate the CTC's attention to and assistance with this problem.

The Tri-Counties are very pleased to understand that Caltrans and the CTC intend to program $15.275 million to construction of the Calaveras SR 4 Angles Camp Bypass project in the 2002 STIP. The Tri-Counties would take this opportunity to express our appreciation for this acknowledgement and support of our efforts.

The Tri-Counties have indicated through their 2002 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) submittals that, given support shown by the CTC and Caltrans, a new Tri-County MOU (Phase II) is being developed for additional state highway projects. As we discussed last August however, the ongoing problem of timely project delivery continues to threaten continuation of the partnership effort.

The Tri-Counties look forward to the opportunity to discuss our project delivery successes and concerns with the CTC during their meetings of January 23 and 24, 2002. The Commission's ongoing interest and involvement has been, and will continue to be, an elementary component of our success.

Sincerely,

Leonard Turnbeaugh, Executive Secretary
Alpine County Local Transportation Commission

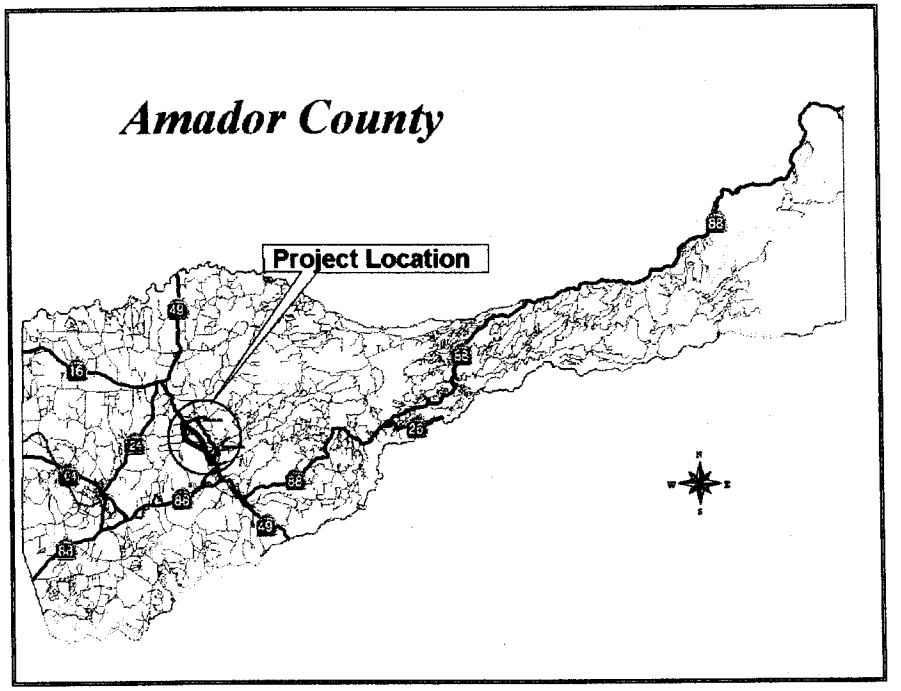
Charles F. Field, Executive Director
Amador Co. Transportation Commission

George Dondero, Executive Director
Calaveras Council of Governments

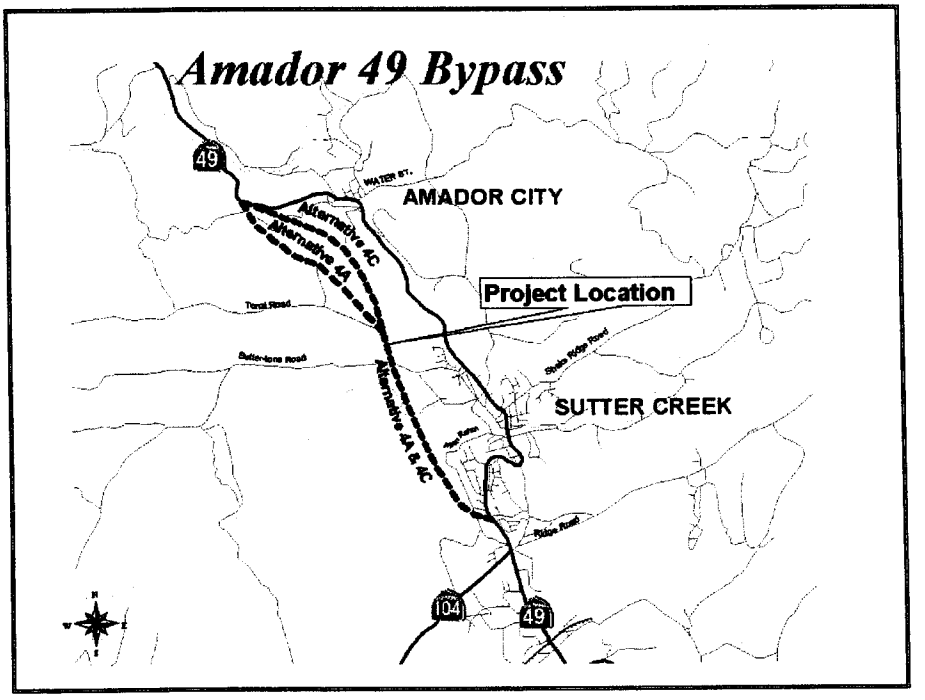
cc: Mark Leja, Director, Caltrans District 10

Project Priority #1
Amador SR 49 Sutter Creek/Amador City Bypass

Project Location Map – Amador 49 Bypass



Area Specific Map with Alternatives – Amador 49 Bypass



Project Priority #1
Amador SR 49 Sutter Creek/Amador City Bypass

Project Schedule
January 2002

Amador 49 Bypass, Sutter Creek and Amador City						
	Original Schedule (9/97 PSR)	Adjusted Schedule 1998 STIP Amend	Adjusted Schedule (CTC 1/01)	Adjusted Schedule (CTC 8/01)	Adjusted Schedule (CTC 1/02)	"2000 STIP" "Use-It-Or-Lose-It"
Environmental (PA&ED)	August 1999	December 2000	October 2001	December 2001	January 2002	
Design (PS&E)	August 2001	December 2002	November 2002	August 2002	August 2002	
R/W Cert.	September 2001	December 2002	December 2002	December 2002	December 2002	
Construction (RTL)	September 2001	June 2003*	June 2003*	December 2002*	December 2002*	June 2003
Completed	August 2003	November 2004	June 2005	April 2006	April 2006	
*ACTC maintains December 2002 RTL dated (June 2003 is up against use-it-or-lose-it deadline)						

EFFORTS CARRIED OUT AUGUST 2001 THROUGH DECEMBER 2001

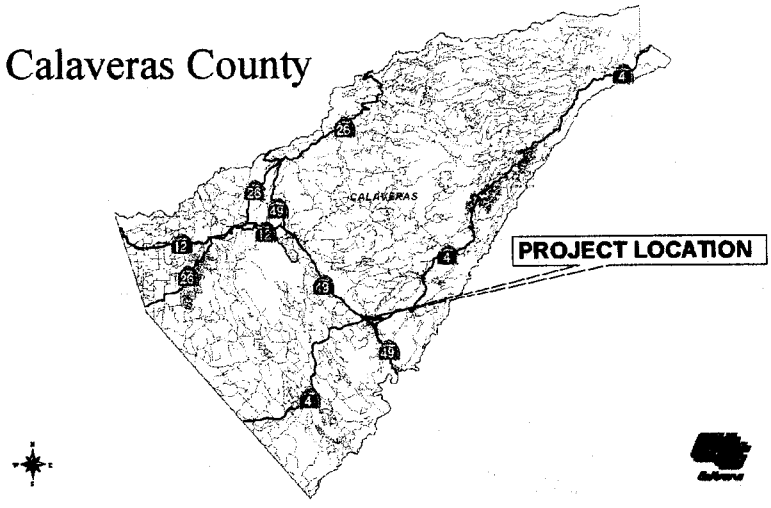
- Draft relinquishment agreements and new controlled access highway agreements negotiated with Cities and County.
- TEA grant for landscaping in conjunction with the Bypass project submitted by Caltrans District 10 for statewide competitions.
- Caltrans design work initiated (at risk). Design team scheduled to complete PS&E before December 2002 pending timely environmental clearance.
- Caltrans right-of-way preliminary work completed. Right-of-way team scheduled to complete R-O-W by December 2002 pending timely environmental clearance.
- Final environmental documents (EA/EIR) provided to FHWA for approval. (FHWA awaiting US Fish & Wildlife Service concurrence.)
- Tri-Counties hired second consultant to assist in monitoring/improving project delivery.

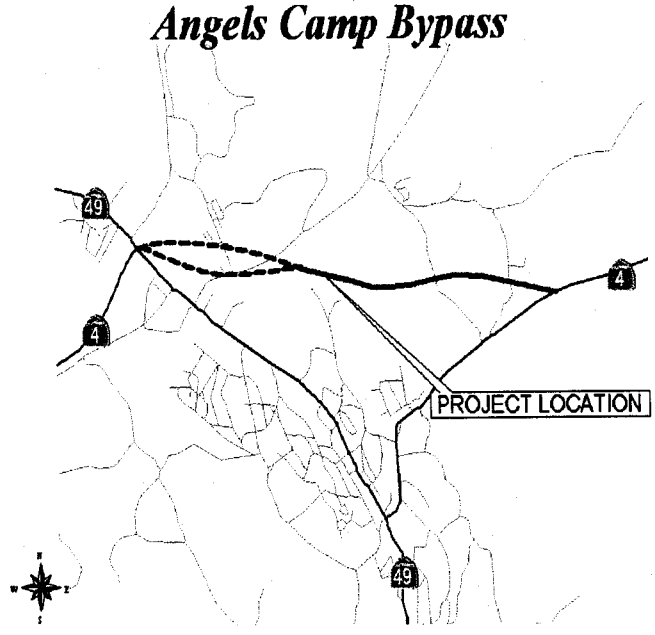
ONGOING EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE PROJECT DELIVERY SCHEDULE

- Tri-Counties and Congressman Doolittle met with Caltrans, FHWA and Fish & Wildlife Service on November 19, 2001. Follow-up information provided to FWS before November 30, 2001. Follow-up meeting tentatively scheduled for early December 2001 was delayed by request of the FWS. FWS was to advise Caltrans and Tri-Counties regarding their biological opinion and need to meet by December 21, 2001. Tri-Counties await response from FWS.

Project Priority #2
Calaveras SR 4 Angels Camp Bypass

Project Location Maps – Location Map of Project in State/Region, and Area Specific Map





Project Priority #2
Calaveras SR 4 Angels Camp Bypass

Project Schedule
January 2002

Cal 4 Bypass Angels Camp					
	Original Schedule	Adjusted Schedule (CTC 1/01)	Adjusted Schedule (CTC 8/01)	Adjusted Schedule (CTC 1/02)	"2000 STIP "Use-It-Or-Lose-It"
Environmental (PA&ED)	August 2001	August 2001	January 2002	March 2002	
Design (PS&E)	December 2004	December 2004	February 2005	March 2005	
R/W Cert.	December 2004	December 2004	February 2005	March 2005	
Construction (RTL)	December 2004	December 2004	March 2005	March 2005	*June 2005***
Completed	June 2007	June 2007	June 2007	June 2007	
**Construction funding for Cal 4 Angels Bypass not yet programmed. It has been proposed for FY 2004/05 consistent with Caltrans' schedules.					

EFFORTS CARRIED OUT AUGUST 2001 THROUGH DECEMBER 2001

- Negotiating relinquishment agreement and new Controlled Access Highway Agreement (CAHA) between City, County, and Caltrans.
- Tri-Counties and Congressman Doolittle met with Caltrans, FHWA and Fish & Wildlife Service on November 19, 2001. On November 24, 2001, the FWS issued biological opinion enabling environmental process to move forward on delayed schedule.
- Confirmed right-of-way schedule and "critical path" issues with District 10 Right-of-Way Chief.
- Tri-Counties hired second consultant to assist in monitoring/improving project delivery.

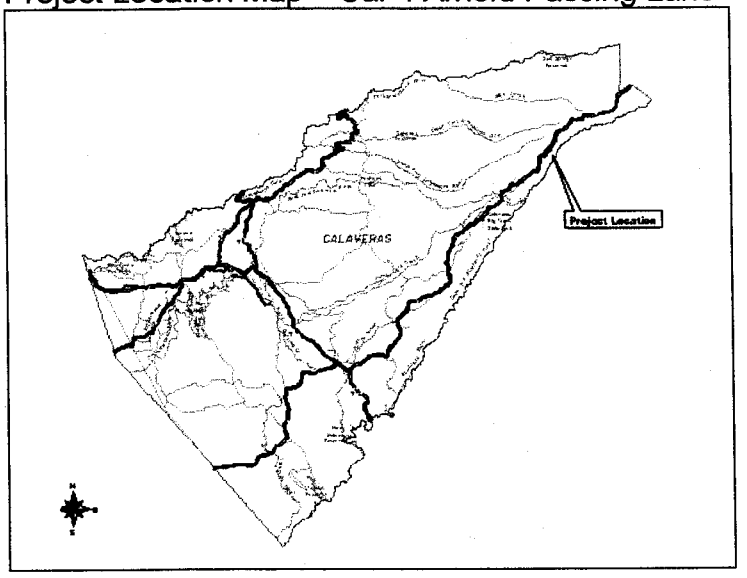
ONGOING EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE NEW PROJECT SCHEDULE

- Conclude relinquishment agreement and new CAHA.
- Conclude public and agency review of environmental documents, respond to comments, obtain signatures for project report and final environmental documents.
- Confirm design schedule, identify and set assignments to resolve "critical path" issues.
- Re-confirm right-of-way schedule. Identify and set assignments to resolve "critical path" issues.

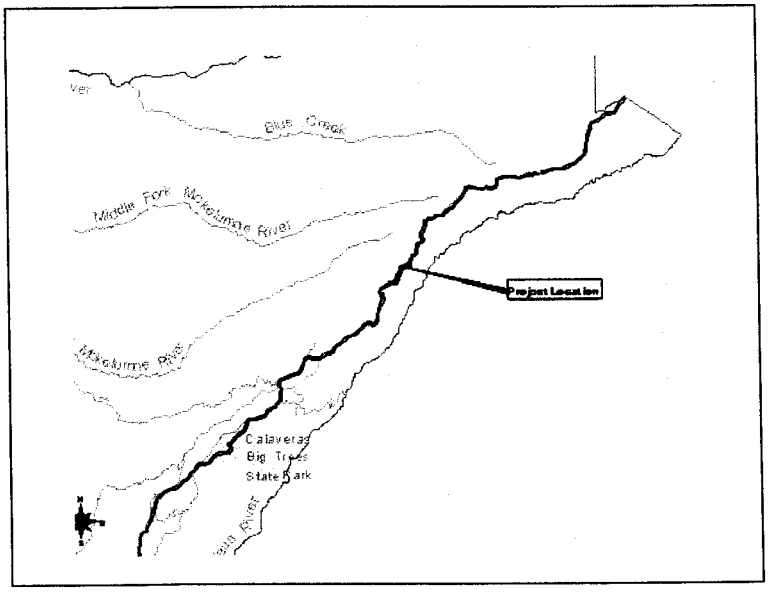
Project Priority #3
Calaveras SR 4 Passing Lane near Arnold

(Desired by Alpine County)

Project Location Map – Cal-4 Arnold Passing Lane



Area Specific Map – Cal-4 Arnold Passing Lane



Project Priority #3
Calaveras SR 4 Passing Lane near Arnold
(Desired by Alpine County)

Project Schedule
January 2002

Calaveras 4 Passing Lane Near Arnold				
	Original Schedule	Adjusted Schedule (CTC 8/01)	Adjusted Schedule (CTC 1/02)	"2000 STIP "Use-It-Or-Lose-It"
Environmental (PA&ED)	September 2001	December 2001	February 2002	
Design (PS&E)	October 2002	October 2002	October 2002	
R/W Cert.	October 2002	December 2002	December 2002	
Construction (RTL)	December 2002	December 2002	December 2002	June 2003
Completed	April 2004	October 2003	October 2003	

EFFORTS CARRIED OUT AUGUST 2001 THROUGH DECEMBER 2001

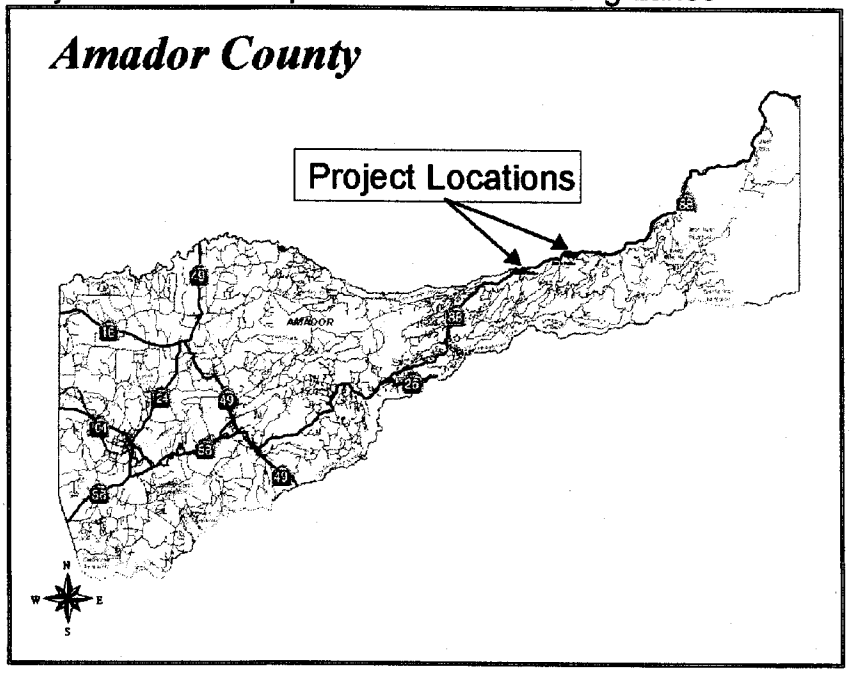
- Environmental documents completed and delivered to FHWA. FHWA awaiting State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and US Forest Service (Stanislaus National Forest) review and clearance.
- Tri-Counties offer fee ($2,000!) to resolve USFS/Caltrans/FHWA "roadblock", but it will require "collection agreement" and set an unfavorable precedent.

ONGOING EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE PROJECT SCHEDULE

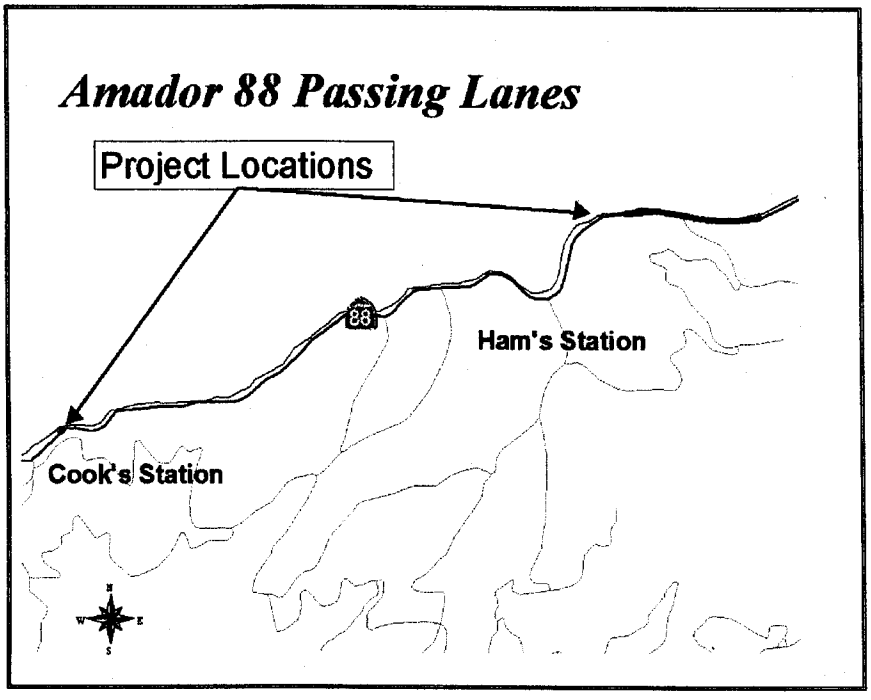
- Resolve USFS issue regarding fee for environmental review, obtain USFS environmental clearance.
- Obtain SHPO environmental clearance.
- Conclude project report and environmental determinations.
- Confirm and continue biweekly monitoring of Caltrans right-of-way and design schedules (including USFS ROW easements and permits).

Project Priority #4
Amador SR 88 Passing Lanes near Cook's and Ham's Stations
(Desired by Alpine County)

Project Location Map – Pine Grove Passing Lanes



Area Specific Map – Pine Grove Passing Lanes



Project Priority #4
Amador SR 88 Passing Lanes near Cook's and Ham's Station

(Desired by Alpine County)

Project Schedule
January 2002

AMA 88 Passing Lanes, Hams and Cooks Stations					
	Original Schedule	Adjusted Schedule (CTC 1/01)	Adjusted Schedule (CTC 8/01)	Adjusted Schedule (CTC 1/02)	"2000 STIP "Use-It-Or-Lose-It"
Environmental (PA&ED)	October 2001	October 2001	June 2002	June 2002	
Design (PS&E)	June 2003	June 2003	April 2003	April 2003	
R/W Cert.	June 2003	June 2003	June 2003	June 2003	
Construction (RTL)	June 2003	June 2003	July 2003	July 2003	*June 2003***
Completed	September 2004	September 2004	November 2004	November 2004	
***Construction funding for AMA 88 Passing Lanes not yet programmed. It has been proposed for FY 2002/03 however Caltrans has suggested it be moved to FY 2003/04 as of 8/01.					

EFFORTS CARRIED OUT AUGUST 2001 THROUGH DECEMBER 2001

- Draft environmental documents completed and delivered to FHWA. FHWA awaiting SHPO and USFS (El Dorado National Forest) clearance.

ONGOING EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE PROJECT SCHEDULE

- Obtain USFS clearance for environmental documents and right-of-way easement/permits.
- Obtain SHPO clearance.
- Conclude project report and environmental clearance.
- Confirm and continue biweekly monitoring of Caltrans right-of-way and design.