



**COUNTY OF NEVADA  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS**  
950 MAIDU AVENUE, NEVADA CITY, CA 95959-8617  
(530) 265-1411 FAX (530) 265-9849 [www.mynevadacounty.com](http://www.mynevadacounty.com)

Sean Powers  
Community Development Agency Director

Trisha Tillotson  
Director of Public Works

**Date:** February 7, 2020  
**To:** Responsible Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Parties  
**From:** Nevada County Department of Public Works  
**Contact:** Jessica Hankins, Project Manager  
Telephone: (530) 265-1254  
Email: [jessica.hankins@co.nevada.ca.us](mailto:jessica.hankins@co.nevada.ca.us)  
**Subject:** Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the  
Edwards Crossing Bridge Replacement Project

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

FEB 11 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

The County of Nevada, as lead agency for the Edwards Crossing Bridge Replacement Project (Project), intends to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) consistent with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to address the potential physical environmental effects of the Project. In accordance with the CEQA Guidelines, the County has prepared this Notice of Preparation (NOP) to provide responsible agencies and other interested parties with sufficient information describing the proposal and its potential environmental effects to meaningfully respond. This project will also require National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) clearance from both Caltrans and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The NEPA documents will be prepared separately.

As specified by the State CEQA Guidelines, the NOP will be circulated for a 30-day review period. The County welcomes public input during this review. If no response or request for additional time is received from any responsible agency by the end of the review period, Nevada County may presume that the responsible agency has no response.

Written and/or email comments in response to this NOP should be provided to the County at the earliest possible date, but must be received by 5:00 p.m. on **March 13, 2020**. Please send all written and email comments to:

Jessica Hankins, Project Manager  
Nevada County Department of Public Works  
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170  
Nevada City, CA 95959  
Telephone: (530) 265-1254  
Email: [jessica.hankins@co.nevada.ca.us](mailto:jessica.hankins@co.nevada.ca.us)

Agencies that will need to consider the EIR when deciding whether to issue permits or other approvals for the proposed project should provide the name of a contact person. Comments provided by email should include "Edwards Crossing Bridge Replacement Project NOP Scoping Comment" in the subject line, and the name and mailing address of the commenter in the body of the email.

**Public Scoping Meetings:** Two public scoping meetings for the EIR will be held as follows:

**February 26, 2020 at 6:00-7:30 pm**  
Board of Supervisors Chambers  
Nevada County Government Center  
950 Maidu Avenue  
Nevada City, CA 95959

**February 27, 2020 at 6:00-7:30 pm**  
North Columbia Schoolhouse  
17894 Tyler Foote Road  
Nevada City, CA 95959

## **Project Location**

Edwards Crossing Bridge over the South Yuba River is located on North Bloomfield Road in Nevada County (see attached map), approximately 8 miles northeast of Nevada City and 5 miles south of the San Juan Ridge. BLM owns the land that the existing bridge is located on and the land that either of the options would be located on.

## **Project Description**

The project initially consisted of rehabilitating the Edwards Crossing Bridge, but the State's Bridge Inspection Report and Structure Inventory and Appraisal Report of December 6, 2017 rated the bridge as structurally deficient, requiring a replacement bridge. The existing bridge that crosses the South Yuba River is also insufficient for emergency vehicle access.

The project will construct a new two-lane bridge at one of two upstream locations as described under "Alternative 1" and "Alternative 2" below. The existing bridge will remain in place for pedestrian use and historic preservation. Both alternatives will provide access to emergency vehicles and serve as an evacuation route during emergencies such as fires. Staging areas, parking impacts, and environmental issues will be addressed in the CEQA evaluation.

This project is being funded through the Federal Highway Bridges Program.

### **Alternative 1: New Bridge 60 feet upstream**

Alternative 1 would construct a new 193-foot bridge 60 feet upstream from the existing bridge and would not change the current route to and from the bridge. This option consists of a pre-stressed concrete box girder bridge supported on concrete seat-type abutments. The location of this option requires accessing the bridge by negotiating the existing hairpin turn, which would require improvements, and steep roadway on the south side of the river, which restricts access for larger emergency vehicles. This single-span bridge would be above the normal high-water river level to avoid impacts to river hydraulics and minimize environmental issues associated with bridge construction.

### **Alternative 2: New Bridge 1,000 feet upstream**

Alternative 2 would build a new, 500-foot bridge 1,000 feet upstream at a higher elevation and eliminate the hairpin turn on the south side of the river. This bridge type is a concrete arch with spandrel columns and concrete spans, with the bridge deck approximately 170 feet above the river. This location eliminates the hairpin turn and steep roadway access and fits well into the geometry of the canyon. This bridge avoids foundations near the river, thus avoiding some of the hydraulic concerns associated with Alternative 1.

## **Alternatives**

In accordance with Section 15126.6 of the State CEQA Guidelines, an EIR must "describe a range of reasonable alternatives to the project, or to the location of the project, which would feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project but would avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the project and evaluate the comparative merits of the alternatives." As required by CEQA, the EIR will evaluate a No Project alternative and the alternatives described above.

## Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

Each of the environmental factors below will be addressed in the EIR.

Aesthetics	Mineral Resources
Agricultural and Forestry Resources	Noise
Air Quality	Population and Housing
Biological Resources	Public Services
Cultural Resources	Recreation
Energy	Transportation and Traffic
Geology and Soils	Tribal Cultural Resources
Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Utilities and Service Systems
Hazards and Hazardous Materials	Wildfire
Hydrology and Water Quality	Mandatory Findings of Significance
Land Use and Planning	

The list below describes some of the potential environmental effects in more detail and steps to evaluate and address such effects.

- **Aesthetics** – The new bridge will result in a noticeable change in the physical characteristics of the existing environment. Various design options and bridge types will be analyzed and presented to the community in order to mitigate adverse effects to aesthetics. A fully developed Visual Impact Assessment (VIA) with photo simulations will be prepared.
  - The VIA will assess how the visual changes caused by a new bridge could impact user groups. This technical report will include an inventory and photographs of viewpoints, notable visual resources, the site's landscape, and the vividness, intactness, and unity of the project area. Photographs will be used in the analysis and for visual renderings within the VIA.
- **Air Quality** – There will be construction-related air quality impacts that will be discussed in the EIR.
- **Biological Resources** – The project crosses the South Yuba River, which is habitat for aquatic species. It is also likely that birds and their nests are in the area.
  - A Natural Environment Study (NES) will be prepared to document the prevalence of species and define mitigation measures in order to avoid or lessen disturbances. The NES will include field surveys and extensive literature review to assist in determining the existence or potential for occurrence of sensitive plant and animal species. In accordance with Caltrans guidelines, a list of threatened and endangered species known to be or have the potential to be in the vicinity will be obtained from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). For optimal results, fieldwork will be conducted appropriate to the season, and plant surveys will be completed during the blooming season. The NES will include a description of the field methods used, lists of plant and animal species present, and any sensitive resources found. Avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures will be identified to reduce potential impacts to a less than significant level.
  - A California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW) protocol-level survey for the foothill yellow-legged frog (FYLF) will also be prepared to determine the existence or potential for occurrence of the species. Avoidance and minimization measures will be implemented to ensure that potential impacts to the FYLF are reduced to the greatest extent possible.
- **Cultural and Historic Resources** – The EIR will identify any cultural and historic resources in the area. Archaeological and historical resources will be recorded in the project area and a Historic Property Survey Report and an Archaeological Survey Report will be prepared. A record search of cultural resources will be conducted at the North Central Information Center to identify known

cultural resources within a one-mile radius of the project. An Area of Potential Effects (APE) Map will also be developed to determine the limits of the field surveys and documentation for reports.

- The existing bridge is listed on the Caltrans Historic Bridge Inventory and is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. An Historic Resource Evaluation Report (HRER) will be prepared to provide historic context for the project area and documents buildings, structures, objects, districts, and cultural landscapes located within the project's APE.
- **Geology/Soils** – There will be ground disturbance and excavation to place abutments and build the new bridge. The EIR will analyze the level of ground disturbance and excavation and identify any sensitive geological resources.
- **Hazards & Hazardous Materials** – An Initial Site Assessment (ISA) will be conducted. The ISA will document hazardous waste sites through an agency record search to identify hazardous waste sites in the project area. A visual survey will also be conducted to identify any obvious areas of hazardous waste contamination. If hazardous waste sites are identified, the potential impact and the extent of contamination and remediation will be determined. Lead testing of paint chips on the existing bridge will also be performed to identify if abatement work is necessary.
- **Hydrology/Water Quality** – The new bridge will cross the South Yuba River and involve stream channel work. The EIR will identify the potential impact to water resources.
  - A Water Quality Assessment Report will be prepared to evaluate the potential effects a new bridge may have on the South Yuba River and other drainages and water resources.
- **Land Use** – The project will require temporary and permanent right-of-way on BLM and possibly private land. The extent of right-of-way will depend on the selected bridge alternative. Encroachment permits will be obtained from agencies with jurisdiction as necessary, and the standard right-of-way acquisition process will be followed for any private property acquisitions. The project will also affect access to roadways during construction, which could require a temporary detour.
- **Noise** – There will be construction-related and traffic-related noise due to the new alignment. A Noise Study Report will be prepared.
- **Recreation** – The land is owned by BLM and within the South Yuba Recreation Area. A Programmatic 4(f) Evaluation will be prepared for the project. The 4(f) Evaluation will identify potential impacts and measures to minimize harm to the South Yuba River State Park.
- **Tribal Cultural Resources** – The EIR will identify any tribal cultural resources in the area. Early consultation with California Native American Tribes will consist of formal notification of the project. Avoidance, minimization, or mitigation measures will be identified should any tribal cultural resources be found in the APE. Detailed notes and minutes will be prepared to document responses, meetings, and conversations.
- **Utilities** – There are utilities in the vicinity of the project; the EIR will determine if utility relocation is necessary.
- **Wildfire** – The EIR will identify potential effects to wildfire in the area. Ultimately, the project will reduce the threat to wildfire by providing greater access to emergency and fire vehicles and an evacuation route for area residents.

## Scoping Meetings

The County will conduct two scoping meetings during the 30-day public review period. Agencies, non-governmental organizations, community members and groups, and all other interested parties are encouraged to attend the meeting. The meeting will have project management staff on-hand to present the project and answer questions. Participants will have the opportunity to view maps and exhibits of the project and can comment on the project verbally or through provided comment cards. Meeting minutes with a summary of comments will be provided to agencies.

**February 26, 2020 at 6:00-7:30 pm**  
Board of Supervisors Chambers  
Nevada County Government Center  
950 Maidu Avenue  
Nevada City, CA 95959

**February 27, 2020 at 6:00-7:30 pm**  
North Columbia Schoolhouse  
17894 Tyler Foote Road  
Nevada City, CA 95959

## Comment Period

In accordance to Section 15082 of the CEQA Guidelines, this NOP will be circulated for a 30-day period from **February 11, 2020 to March 13, 2020.**

Responses to this NOP should focus on environmental issues, reasonable alternatives, and mitigation measures that the lead agency may need to explore in the draft EIR. Please include your name, the name of your organization or agency, and contact information.

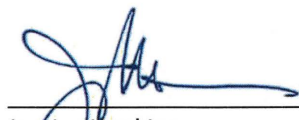
Please send comments regarding this NOP to the address or email below:

Attn: Jessica Hankins  
Nevada County Department of Public Works  
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170  
Nevada City, CA 95959

OR

Jessica.Hankins@co.nevada.ca.us

**Comments must be received by 5 p.m. on March 13, 2020.**



Jessica Hankins  
Public Works Project Manager

Enc: Edwards Crossing Bridge Replacement Project Map

Edwards Crossing Bridge Replacement – Project Map



COName	OwnerName	MailingAdd	MailingCt	MailingZip
<b>EMAIL TO: Agencies and Interested Parties</b>				
Ananda Village	Peter Goering			
BLM	Jim Horn	5152 Hillisdale Circle	El Dorado Hills	
BLM	Elizabeth Meyer-Shields	5152 Hillisdale Circle	El Dorado Hills	
CHP	Officer Tim Sheehan	11363 McCourtney Road	Grass Valley, CA	95945
Fire Safe Council	Jamie Jones	P.O. Box 1112	Grass Valley, CA	95945
Nevada City	Mayor Reinette Senum	317 Broad Street	Nevada City, CA	95959
Nevada City	Vice Mayor Erin Minett	317 Broad Street	Nevada City, CA	95959
Nevada City	Councilmember Duane Strawser	317 Broad Street	Nevada City, CA	95959
Nevada City	Councilmember David Parker	317 Broad Street	Nevada City, CA	95959
Nevada City	Councilmember Valerie Moberg	317 Broad Street	Nevada City, CA	95959
Nevada County Board of Supervisors	Jeffrey Thorsby	950 Maidu Avenue	Nevada City, CA	95959
Nevada County Board of Supervisors	Richard Anderson	950 Maidu Avenue	Nevada City, CA	95959
Nevada County Board of Supervisors	Sue Hoek	950 Maidu Avenue	Nevada City, CA	95959
Nevada County Board of Supervisors	Heidi Hall	950 Maidu Avenue	Nevada City, CA	95959
Nevada County Board of Supervisors	Ed Scofield	950 Maidu Avenue	Nevada City, CA	95959
Nevada County Board of Supervisors	Dan Miller	950 Maidu Avenue	Nevada City, CA	95959
Nevada County CDA	Sean Powers	950 Maidu Avenue	Nevada City, CA	95959
Nevada County CEO's Office	Mali Dyck	950 Maidu Avenue	Nevada City, CA	95959
Nevada County CEO's Office	Allison Lehman	950 Maidu Avenue	Nevada City, CA	95959
Nevada County Consolidated Fire District	Terry McMahan	640 Coyote Street	Nevada City, CA	95959
Nevada County Fire Marshal's Office	Scott Eckman	950 Maidu Avenue	Nevada City, CA	95959
Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commis	Bernard Zimmerman	P.O. Box 1014	Nevada City, CA	95959
Nevada County Planning Dept	Brian Foss	950 Maidu Avenue	Nevada City, CA	95959
Nevada County Public Works	Trisha Tillotson	950 Maidu Avenue	Nevada City, CA	95959
Nevada County Public Works	Patrick Perkins	950 Maidu Avenue	Nevada City, CA	95959
Nevada County Sheriff's Department	Captain Mike Walsh			
Nevada County Transportation Commission	Dan Landon	101 Providence Mine Rd #102	Nevada City, CA	95959
NorCal Roads				
North San Juan Fire	Chief Jason Flores			
North San Juan Fire District Board/Nev Co His	Bruce Boyd			
North San Juan Taxpayers	Sol Henson			
State Parks	Matt Green			
State Parks	Dan Lubin, Environmental Scientist			
State Parks Ranger	Ryan Randar			
State Parks Ranger	James Carey			
South Yuba River Park Association		PO Box 1658	Penn Valley	95946
SYRCL	Melinda Booth	313 Railroad Avenue, Suite 101	Nevada City, CA	95959
SYRCL	Rachel Hutchinson	313 Railroad Avenue, Suite 101	Nevada City, CA	95959
SYRCL	Ashley Overhouse, River Policy Manager	313 Railroad Avenue, Suite 101	Nevada City, CA	95959
SYRCL	Karl Ronning			
US Fish & Wildlife Services	Ian Vogel	2800 Cottage Way, Rm W-2605	Sacramento, CA	95825
	Hilary Smith			
	Julia Childs			
	Bob and Marianne Bryant	19813 Lake City Road	Nevada City, CA	95959
	Mark DeMartini	12191 Jones Bar Rd.	Nevada City, CA	95959
	Nancy Henson			
	Kurt Lorenz			
	Holger Pape			
<b>MAIL TO: Agencies and Interested Parties</b>				
Yuba Watershed Institute	Chris Freidel	Po Box 2198	Nevada City, CA	95959
Nevada City Chamber of Commerce		132 Main Street	Nevada City	95959
Nevada City Rancheria	c/o CHIRP	PO Box 2624	Nevada City, CA	95959
	Jon Hill	14343 Moonshadow Drive	Nevada City, CA	95959
	Gene Mesede	11372 N. Bloomfield Road	Nevada City, CA	95959
	Mike Puetz	18786 N. Bloomfield Rd.	Nevada City, CA	95959
State Clearinghouse		PO Box 3044	Sacramento, CA	95812
California Transportation Commission		1120 N Street, MS 52	Sacramento, CA	95814
CA Dept of Fish and Wildlife	Kevin Thomas	1701 Nimbus Road	Rancho Cordova	95670
Caltrans	Harinder Basi	703 B Street	Marysville, CA	95901
<b>MAIL TO: Property Owners and Residents within 500+ feet - updated 2/6/20</b>				
	ALBAR LLC	POB 189171	SACRAMENTO, CA	95818
	CURRENT RESIDENT	18805 NORTH BLOOMFIELD RD	NEVADA CITY, CA	95959
	BRIGHTON JAMES R ETAL	13581 MOUNTAIN SPRING RD	NEVADA CITY, CA	95959
	BRUSH WILLIAM C & ZOE O TRSTES	16773 BLOOMFIELD CT	NEVADA CITY, CA	95959
	BUKOLSKY IVAN	15308 N BLOOMFIELD RD	NEVADA CITY, CA	95959
ACQUISITION SECTION	CALIFORNIA STATE OF	POB 942896	SACRAMENTO CA	94296-0001
OFFICE OF REAL ESTATE	CALIFORNIA STATE OF	400 R STREET STE 5000	SACRAMENTO CA	95814-6280
	CALIFORNIA STATE OF	400 P STREET STE 3110	SACRAMENTO, CA	95814
	CANON JAMIE ETAL	15188 N BLOOMFIELD RD	NEVADA CITY, CA	95959
RANDOLPH AND KATHRYN CHILTON	CHILTON HARRISON R JR & KATHRYN B	15353 N BLOOMFIELD RD	NEVADA CITY, CA	95959
DIAMOND ARROW CHRISTIAN CTR	CHURCH OF GOD ASSN OF NO CALIFORNIA	15742 N BLOOMFIELD RD	NEVADA CITY, CA	95959
	HELMUTH ROBERT A & SANDRA L	15252 NO BLOOMFIELD RD	NEVADA CITY, CA	95959
	HENSON RALPH & NANCY L	14178 GRIZZLY HILL RD	NEVADA CITY CA	95959
	CURRENT RESIDENT	14178 MOUNTAIN SPRING RD	NEVADA CITY, CA	95959
	ISAACSON CHRIS	PO BOX 2517	NEVADA CITY, CA	95959
	CURRENT RESIDENT	15122 NORTH BLOOMFIELD RD	NEVADA CITY, CA	95959
	JONES TROY	15490 N BLOOMFIELD RD	NEVADA CITY, CA	95959
	LEHRER CELENE (R) ETAL	15398 N BLOOMFIELD GRANITEVILLE RD	NEVADA CITY, CA	95959
	MARKEY DARLENE L TRSTE	18786 NORTH BLOOMFIELD RD	NEVADA CITY, CA	95959
	MCCARDLE MARY J	16853 SUN BLOOM WAY	NEVADA CITY, CA	95959
	MCCOY JON & SARA TRSTES ETAL	15285 N BLOOMFIELD RD	NEVADA CITY, CA	95959
	MICHEL DONALD H & ADA M TRSTES	15183 NO BLOOMFIELD-GRANITEVILLE RD	NEVADA CITY, CA	95959
	NICKELL SETH A	1840 11th STREET	ARCATA, CA	95521
	CURRENT RESIDENT	13013 MOUNTAIN SPRING RD	NEVADA CITY, CA	95959
	PATTERSON PATRICIA	18679 N BLOOMFIELD RD	NEVADA CITY, CA	95959
	SLATON TORRELL E & HEIDI	15156 N BLOOMFIELD RD	NEVADA CITY, CA	95959
	Bureau of Land Management	2800 Cottage Way Suite W1623	Sacramento, CA	95825
FOLSOM RESOURCE AREA	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	63 NATOMA ST	FOLSOM CA	95630