

**Notice of Availability and Notice of Intent
To Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration
for the Whiskey Slide Road over Jesus Maria Creek Bridge Replacement Project**

In compliance with Section 15072 of the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines, notification is hereby given to responsible agencies, trustee agencies, interest groups and the general public that the County of Calaveras proposes to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the **Whiskey Slide Road over Jesus Maria Creek Bridge Replacement Project**.

The County has prepared an Initial Study to evaluate potential impacts to the environment from implementation of the proposed project. Based on the results of the Initial Study, the County staff determined that with implementation of the mitigation measures identified in the Initial Study, the proposed project would not have a significant impact on the environment. The proposed project involves replacing a structurally deficient bridge with a new structure, and all potential environmental impacts that may result with implementation of the project can be mitigated to less than significant levels.

The MND and supporting attachments are available for review by the general public at the offices of the Calaveras County Public Works Department, 891 Mountain Road, San Andreas, CA 95249 and online at: <http://publicworks.calaverasgov.us/Public-Works/Forms-and-Documents>

The proposed MND will undergo a 30-day public review period during which time comments will be received starting **February 12, 2020** and ending **March 12, 2020**. Comments responding to the adequacy and appropriateness of the MND should be sent to the County at the address below or submitted at the **public workshop on February 27, 2020 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.** in the Board of Supervisors Overflow Room (room next door to Board Chambers).

Calaveras County Public Works Department
891 Mountain Ranch Road
San Andreas, California 95249
Attn: Evan Weston – Project Manager

Commenters wishing to appeal the decision to prepare an MND must specifically state this intention in their letter.

Project Location: The proposed project is located in unincorporated, central Calaveras County and is approximately 2.5 miles southeast of the intersection of Whiskey Slide Road with Jesus Maria Road and 3.5 miles northwest of the intersection of Whiskey Slide Road with Mountain Ranch Road in the town of Mountain Ranch, California. The project is located in Section 30 of Township 5 North and Range 13 East and can be found on the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute “Rail Road Flat, CA” topographic quadrangle.

Project Description: The Calaveras County Public Works Department proposes to replace the existing Whiskey Slide Road over Jesus Maria Creek Bridge with a new bridge approximately 30 feet west of the existing alignment. The new bridge would be an approximately 60-foot-long, 20 to 24-foot-wide cast-in-place prestressed single-span bridge. The bridge would feature a 20-foot-wide travel way between two traffic barriers up to 2 feet wide each. The vertical profile of the new bridge would be approximately 6 feet higher than the existing bridge deck. Reinforced concrete, seat-type abutments founded on spread footings would be constructed in each creek bank.

The approach roadway improvements would extend approximately 220 feet from the bridge to the south along a generally tangent alignment and 350 feet from the bridge to the north along the curved alignment. The vertical profile and horizontal alignment of roadway approaches would gradually conform to the existing roadway at the project limits. At the curves, the interior shoulder would increase an additional 3 feet for trailer off-tracking. Exposed slopes below and adjacent to the new bridge will be protected by rock slope protection placed within the 100-year floodplain. A short length of retaining wall or other earth retaining system would be constructed along the south-west bridge approach due to the steep channel banks and roadway realignment.

The project is anticipated to be constructed over two construction seasons in multiple stages. During the first two construction stages, traffic would be maintained on the existing bridge and roadway. Following construction of the new roadway and bridge, traffic would be shifted to the new bridge and new driveway tie-ins would then be constructed and the existing bridge and approaches would be removed. No detours would be required during project construction. At a minimum, a single lane of through traffic would be maintained throughout the duration of construction. Project construction is anticipated to begin in spring 2023 and be completed by fall 2024.

Project CEQA Contact: Evan Weston, (209) 754-2819