



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

TRANSPORTATION DIVISION

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**NOTICE OF PREPARATION
OF AN
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
FOR THE
MT. MURPHY ROAD BRIDGE PROJECT**

DATE: January 21, 2015
TO: Interested Agencies and Individuals
FROM: El Dorado County Community Development Agency, Transportation Division

The El Dorado County Community Development Agency, Transportation Division (Transportation) is preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Mt. Murphy Road Bridge Project. Transportation is soliciting the view of interested persons and agencies on the scope and content of the information to be included in the EIR. Agencies should comment with regard to the information that is relevant to the agencies' statutory responsibilities, as required by Section 15082 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines. Transportation will also accept written comments regarding the scope and content from interested persons and organizations concerned with the project, in accordance with the CEQA Guidelines Section 15083.

The scoping comment period begins January 21, 2015 and ends February 20, 2015. All written comments should be directed to: El Dorado County Community Development Agency, Transportation Division, Attention: Ms. Janet Postlewait, 2850 Fairlane Court, Placerville, CA 95667. **Individuals and organization/agency representatives are invited to provide written and oral comments at a scoping meeting that will be held on January 28, 2015 beginning at 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Gold Trail Grange Hall, 319 State Highway 49, Coloma, CA. (Please park in the Sutter's Mill parking area northwest of the Grange).** Persons with disabilities that may require special accommodations at the scoping meeting should contact Janet Postlewait at the above address, or by phone at 530.621.5900. This notice can also be found on the El Dorado County Transportation website at <http://www.edcgov.us/MtMurphyBridge/>.

PROJECT LOCATION: The Mt. Murphy Road Bridge is located in Coloma, California approximately 500 feet north of State Route 49, which connects Auburn, CA and Placerville, CA (See Attachment A).

BACKGROUND: The Mt. Murphy Road Bridge Project (Project) is currently programmed in the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Highway Bridge Program (HBP), administered by the State of California (State) through California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) under a Master Agreement with El Dorado County (County). The County's required match under the HBP program is being paid using Toll Bridge Credits, so there is no cost to the County for the bridge replacement scenario.

Mt. Murphy Road Bridge crosses the South Fork American River. The project location is within the boundary of the Marshall Gold Discovery Park, a California State Park that was established to recognize the first discovery of gold in California. Mt. Murphy Road Bridge is one lane wide with no shoulders or sidewalks for safe passage of pedestrians and vehicles. The steel truss and wooden approach spans were constructed in 1915 and the approach spans were reconstructed in 1931. The existing structure is eligible for listing on the

National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The bridge has been deemed Functionally Obsolete and Structurally Deficient based on a Caltrans inspection conducted on September 11, 2012.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The project includes evaluation of rehabilitation or replacement of the existing bridge and approach structures and must meet the Federal, State, and County safety and design standards.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROCESS AND PUBLIC INPUT: Following receipt of input during the Notice of Preparation (NOP) comment period, the County will prepare a Draft Environmental Impact Report that will describe the Project and the alternatives (including a no project alternatives as required by CEQA) and will identify the potential environmental effects and mitigation measures that may be necessary to minimize or avoid such effects. The Draft document will be made available for public review and input for a 45-day review period. The County will consider all comments received and will prepare a Final document which identifies any necessary changes to the Draft and provides responses to all comments on the Draft document. The County Board of Supervisors will consider certification of the Final document prior to approval of actions required for undertaking the Project.