

TRINITY COUNTY  
NOTICE OF PREPARATION  
HYAMPOM ROAD IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

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**DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**  
*Hyampom Road Improvements Project*

The Hyampom Road Improvements Project will be constructed by the County of Trinity utilizing federal matching funds. Therefore, the project will require review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will be prepared to satisfy the requirements of CEQA. A Categorical Exclusion for NEPA compliance will suffice for the proposed project. Trinity County will be the Lead Agency for CEQA compliance and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) will be the Lead Agency for NEPA compliance.

**Project Name:** Hyampom Road Improvements Project; Post Miles 6.5 to 8.5

**Applicant:** Trinity County Department of Transportation

**Location:** The project area is located approximately 11 kilometers (seven miles) west of Hayfork and approximately 19 kilometers (12 miles) east of Hyampom, along Hayfork Creek on Hyampom Road (County Road 301; Forest Highway 114) in Trinity County within the Hayfork Ranger District of the Shasta Trinity National Forest (see **Figures 1** and **2**).

**Project:** Hyampom Road is a key part of the local transportation system in that it is the only year-round publicly maintained access to the community of Hyampom. The proposed project will reduce traffic disruption due to slope failure and localized flooding and will enhance traffic safety along Hyampom Road and the Nine Mile Bridge over Hayfork Creek. The following improvements along approximately 2.9 kilometers (1.8 miles) of Hyampom Road are proposed as part of the project:

- Realignment of tight radius curves to achieve a 40 kilometers per hour (25 miles per hour) design speed.
- Widening of Hyampom Road to two 3.35-meter (11-foot) lanes with 0.6-meter (two-foot) paved shoulders, including roadway excavation and embankment and installation of new asphalt concrete pavement.

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- Realignment of portions of the roadway to accommodate horizontal curves, which will meet a minimum 40 kilometers per hour (25 miles per hour) design speed.
  - Raising the profile of the existing road for approximately one kilometer (0.6 mile) at the eastern end of the project to correct flooding problems.
  - Widening the Hayfork Nine Mile Bridge to 8.39 meters (27.5 feet), i.e., from face of post rail to face of post rail, or 7.9 meters (26 feet) from shoulder edge to shoulder edge. The widening will consist of two 3.35-meter (11-foot) lanes and two 0.61-meter (two-foot) shoulders. This widening includes the addition of a new steel girder and augmenting the pier walls and foundations. This work may require dewatering and excavation within the creek bed.
  - Rehabilitating the existing bridge, including the replacement of the barrier rail, refinishing the bridge deck, and repainting the existing steelwork.
  - Stabilizing the new and existing embankment slopes through the placement of rock slope protection and retaining wall systems.
  - Extending the existing culvert at James Creek, with pipe similar to what is currently in place. Other existing culverts along Hyampom Road (i.e., which accommodate non-jurisdictional ephemeral drainages) may be extended or replaced as part of the project. Which culverts will require extension or replacement will be determined during the design phase of the project, when the drainage design will be completed.
  - Providing new trail access for the Eight Mile Trail (located just east of the Nine Mile Bridge). Sufficient fill will be placed to realign the road towards the creek and improve the alignment of the approach to the bridge. The trailhead will be relocated slightly to accommodate the road realignment. The proposed project will create a walkway to access the trail in order to improve hiker safety. The area that is now currently unofficially used for parking for access to the trailhead will remain in its current location, as will access to the parking area.

No major roadway or bridge realignment will occur as part of the project.

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**Schedule:** Construction is expected to begin in the summer of 2004 and be completed in the fall of 2005.

**Related Projects:** Additional rehabilitation and reconstruction projects are planned along Hyampom Road. Rehabilitation, curve realignment and minor widening are planned from the intersection of SR 3 in Hayfork to the National Forest Boundary at Post Mile 3.7 in summer of 2002. A CEQA negative declaration (SCH # 2001082019) was approved by the Trinity County Planning Commission on September 13, 2001. The FHWA, in cooperation with Shasta-Trinity National Forest and Trinity County, are planning major rehabilitation of the remaining segments of Hyampom Road between the Forest Boundary and the Bluffs at Post Mile 14.0 starting in 2006. FHWA will prepare a NEPA document, and Trinity County will prepare a CEQA document for that future project.

**Right of Way:** The proposed Hyampom Road Project is entirely within the Shasta-Trinity National Forest. The existing roadway is located within an existing Federal Department of Transportation (DOT) easement, which extends 20 meters (66 feet) each side of the existing roadway centerline. Some new right-of-way may be required in order to construct the project. Construction activities and temporary use of the USFS property outside of the existing easement will require a Special Use Permit from the United States Forest Service (USFS). Permanent road realignment outside of the existing easement will require a revised DOT easement.

**Existing Environmental Documents**

**& Studies:** The following environmental documents and technical studies have been prepared and are on file for review at the Trinity County Department of Transportation, 303 Trinity Lakes Boulevard, Weaverville, CA 96093:

- Reconnaissance and Scoping Report, California Forest Highway 114, Hayfork-Hyampom Road, Shasta-Trinity National Forest, Trinity County. July 2001. Prepared by FHWA, Central Federal Lands Highway Division
- Final Project Study Report, in Trinity County 11km West of Hayfork for the Widening and Realignment of Hyampom Road and the Rehabilitation of the Hayfork Nine Mile Bridge. October 1999. Prepared by Psomas.

Studies contained within the Project Study Report include:

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- Advance Planning Study for the Hayfork Creek Bridge, Hyampom Road, Trinity County, Br. No. 5C-67. August 1999. Prepared by J. Muller International.
  - Trinity County Preliminary Environmental Assessment Report (PEAR) for the Hyampom Road Project. September 13, 1999. Prepared by Hughes Environmental Consultants.
  - Geotechnical Review, Hyampom Road-Nine Mile Bridge, Trinity County, California. September 7, 1999. Prepared by Taber.

***Environmental***

***Effects:***

Key issues to be addressed as part of the EIR process will include impacts to aesthetics, air quality, biological resources (including impacts to state-listed Trinity bristlenail, federally listed Coho salmon and Northern spotted owl and impacts to jurisdictional waters of the U.S.), cultural resources, geology/soils (including erosion impacts), hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology/water quality, noise, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, and utilities/services systems. Potential cumulative impacts from other planned reconstruction projects on Hyampom Road will also be considered.

***Scoping***

***Period:***

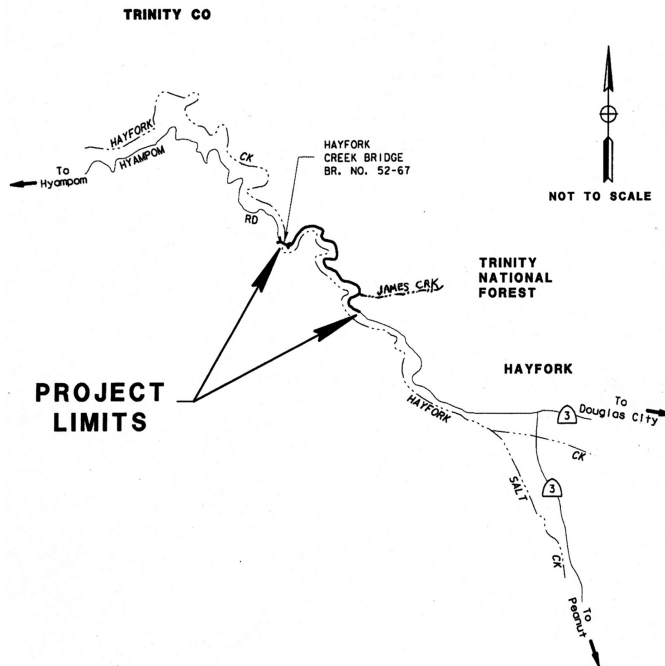
The purpose of this scoping period is to provide involved agencies and the public an opportunity to learn about the project and to solicit comments to assist the Lead Agencies in identifying the range of actions, alternatives, mitigation measures, and significant effects to be analyzed in the EIR. A public comment period has been established from February 20, 2002 through March 22, 2002. Comments should be made in writing and submitted to:

Jan Smith  
Trinity County Department of Transportation  
P.O. Box 2490  
Weaverville, CA 96093

Public and agency comments must be received no later than 5:00 p.m., March 22, 2002.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**NOTICE OF PREPARATION**  
**DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT**  
**HYAMPOM ROAD IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT**

As lead agency, Trinity County is preparing a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for the proposed Hyampom Road Improvements Project; Post Miles 6.5 to 8.5.



**Location:** The project area is seven miles west of Hayfork and 12 miles east of Hyampom, between James Creek and the Nine Mile Bridge crossing Hayfork Creek on Hyampom Road (County Road 301; Forest Highway 114) in Trinity County within the Hayfork Ranger District of the Shasta Trinity National Forest (USFS).

**Purpose:** Hyampom Road is a major collector that provides the only year-round publicly maintained access to the community of Hyampom. The proposed project will reduce traffic disruption due to slope failure and localized flooding and will enhance traffic safety along Hyampom Road and the Nine Mile Bridge over Hayfork Creek.

**Project Description:** The Trinity County

Department of Transportation proposes to: Realign tight radius curves to achieve a 25 miles per hour design speed; Widen Hyampom Road and Nine Mile Bridge to 11-foot lanes with two-foot paved shoulders; Raise the profile of the road at the eastern end of the project to correct flooding problems; Rehabilitate the bridge (replace the barrier rail, refinish the deck, and repaint); Place rock slope protection and retaining walls; Replace the culvert at James Creek with a bridge; Realign the approach to Nine Mile Bridge and relocate the trail access for the Eight Mile Trail. No major roadway or bridge realignment will occur as part of the project.

**Schedule:** Construction is planned for the summers of 2004 and 2005.

**Related Projects:** Additional projects are planned along Hyampom Road. Rehabilitation, curve realignment and minor widening are planned from the intersection of SR 3 in Hayfork to the USFS Boundary at Post Mile 3.7 in summer of 2002. A CEQA negative declaration was approved by the Trinity County Planning Commission on September 13, 2001. The FHWA, in cooperation with USFS and Trinity County, are planning reconstruction of the remaining segments of Hyampom Road between the Forest Boundary and the Bluffs at Post Mile 14.0 starting in 2006. FHWA will prepare a NEPA document, and Trinity County will prepare a CEQA document for that future project.

**Right of Way:** The proposed Hyampom Road Project is entirely within the Shasta-Trinity National Forest, within a Federal Department of Transportation (DOT) easement. Construction will require a Special Use Permit from the USFS. Permanent road realignment outside of the existing easement will require a revised DOT easement.

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**Environmental Effects:** Key issues to be addressed in the EIR will include impacts to aesthetics, air quality, biological resources (including impacts to state-listed Trinity bristlenail, federally listed Coho salmon and Northern spotted owl), cultural resources, geology/soils (including erosion impacts), hazardous materials, hydrology/water quality, floodplains, wetlands, noise, recreation, transportation/traffic, utilities/public services and cumulative impacts.

**Public Comments:** A public comment period has been established from February 20, 2002 through March 22, 2002. The purpose of this scoping period is to provide involved agencies and the public an opportunity to learn about the project and to solicit comments to assist the Lead Agency in identifying the range of actions, alternatives, mitigation measures, and significant effects to be analyzed in the EIR. Maps and other project information are available for review and copies may be purchased at the Trinity County Department of Transportation, 303 Trinity Lakes Boulevard, Weaverville, CA. Comments should be made in writing and submitted to the address provided below no later than 5:00 p.m., March 22, 2002.

Trinity County Department of Transportation  
Attn: Jan Smith  
P.O. Box 2490  
Weaverville, CA 96093

NOTICE OF PREPARATION

DISTRIBUTION LIST

February 20, 2002

Marcelino Gonzalez  
Local Development Review  
Caltrans District 2  
P.O. Box 496073  
Redding, CA 96049-6073

Robert Torzynski  
North Coast Unified Air Quality  
Management District  
2300 Myrtle Avenue  
Eureka, CA 95501

Governor's Office of Planning and  
Research  
State Clearinghouse  
P.O. Box 3044  
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

Sharon Heywood, Forest Supervisor  
Shasta-Trinity National Forest  
2400 Washington Ave.  
Redding, CA 96001

Jim Spear  
Natural Resources Conservation  
Service  
P.O. Box 1450  
Weaverville, CA 96093

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National Marine Fisheries Service  
501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200  
Long Beach, CA 90802-4213

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PG&E  
3600 Meadow View Road  
Redding, CA 96001

Mountain Valley Unified School  
District  
P.O. Box 339  
Hayfork, CA 96041

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California Dept. of Fish & Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001

Bob Williams  
California Dept. of Fish & Game  
601 Locust Street  
Redding, CA 96001

State Office of Historic Preservation  
P.O. Box 942896  
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

Anna Arnold  
South Fork Management Unit  
Shasta-Trinity National Forest  
P.O. Box 159  
Hayfork, CA 96041

David Ammerman  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Eureka Field Office  
P.O. Box 4863  
Eureka, CA 95502

Ray Bosch  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service  
1655 Heindon Road  
Arcata, CA 95521

Pat Frost  
Trinity County Resource  
Conservation Dist  
P.O. Box 1450  
Weaverville, CA 96093

Hyampom CSD  
P.O. Box 214  
Hyampom, CA 96046

Roy O'Connor  
North Coast Regional Water Quality  
Control Board  
5550 Skylane Blvd, Suite A  
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Fred Fortis  
California Dept. of Forestry  
Weaverville District  
P.O. Box 1296  
Weaverville, CA 96093

California Highway Patrol  
P.O. Box 1350  
Weaverville, CA 96093

Joyce Andersen, District Ranger  
Weaverville Ranger District  
P.O. Box 1190  
Weaverville, CA 96093

Jane Hicks, North Section Chief  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
San Francisco District  
333 Market Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105-2197

Irma Lagomarsino  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
1655 Heindon Road  
Arcata, CA 95521

Trinity County Historical Society  
P.O. Box 333  
Weaverville, CA 96093

Hayfork Fire Protection District  
P.O. Box 668  
Hayfork, CA 96041

Dennis Harman, Sr. Engineer  
Verizon  
P.O. Box 1218  
Weaverville, CA 96093

Rick Coleman, General Manager  
Trinity PUD  
P.O. Box 1216  
Weaverville, CA 96093

Hayfork Public Library  
P.O. Box 700  
Hayfork, CA 96041

Trinity County Development Corp.  
P.O. Box 2148  
Weaverville, CA 96093

Organization for the Preservation of  
Trinity County  
P.O. Box 307  
Weaverville, CA 96093

Craig Hair  
Trinity County Waterworks  
District 1  
P.O. Box 217  
Hayfork, CA 96041

Trinity County Sheriff's Dept.  
P.O. Box 1228  
Weaverville, CA 96093

Trinity County Life Support  
P.O. Box 2907  
Weaverville, CA 96093

Trinity County  
Chamber of Commerce  
P.O. Box 517  
Weaverville, CA 96093

Chris Erickson  
District 1 Supervisor  
P.O. Box 1635  
Weaverville, CA 96093

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District 2 Supervisor  
P.O. Box 1544  
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P.O. Box 1527  
Hayfork, CA 96041

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Burnt Ranch, CA 95527

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Trinity Center, CA 96091

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Hayfork, CA 96041

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Mad River, CA 95552

Hyampom General Store  
Hyampom, CA 96046

South Fork CRMP  
c/o Bill Huber  
P.O. Box 1  
Hyampom, CA 96046

John Rapf  
P.O. Box 246  
Hyampom, CA 96046

Postmaster  
Hyampom Post Office  
Hyampom, CA 96046

Post at County Clerk's Office  
Planning Dept  
Counter DOT

Weaverville Public Library  
Weaverville, CA 96093

## PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NOTICE OF PREPARATION

The written comments are in hard-copy format, and are not available in this on-line version of the Hyampom Road Improvements Project Post Mile 6.8-8.3 Draft EIR.

The written comments can be viewed in the hard copy version of the Draft EIR, available at :

Hayfork Library located in Hayfork, CA,

Hayfork Ranger Station Headquarters located in Hayfork, CA,

Weaverville Library located at 211 Main Street, Weaverville, CA,

Trinity County Planning Department located at 190 Glen Road, PO Box 2819, Weaverville, CA 96093, (530) 623-1351,

Trinity County Department of Transportation, 303 Trinity Lakes Boulevard, PO Box 2490, Weaverville, CA 96093, (530) 623-1365

Copies of the Draft EIR may be purchased for the cost of the copying at the Trinity County Department of Transportation in Weaverville.