TRINITY COUNTY
NOTICE OF PREPARATION
WILDWOOD ROAD REALIGNMENT AND WIDENING PROJECT

PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
Wildwood Road Realignment and Widening Project

TO: AFFECTED AGENCIES AND INTERESTED PARTIES
FROM: TRINITY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DATE: September 28, 2009

SUBJECT: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for a multi-year program to realign and widen Wildwood Road

Lead Agency: Trinity County

Project Title: Wildwood Road Realignment and Widening Project

Agency Contact:
Janice Smith, Sr. Environmental Compliance Specialist
Trinity County Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 2490
Weaverville, CA 96093-2490
Email jsmith@trinitycounty.org

Notice is hereby given the Trinity County will be the Lead Agency and will prepare a Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the Wildwood Road Realignment and Widening Project, as described below. The County requests your views concerning the scope and content of the environmental information germane to your interests or agency’s statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project.

A project description, location map, and a summary of the potential environmental effects are contained in the attached materials. Due to time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date, but no later than 30 days after receipt of this notice. Please send your response to Janice Smith at the Trinity County Department of Transportation, at the address shown above. We will need the name for a contact person in your agency.

Sincerely,

Janice C. Smith
Sr. Environmental Compliance Specialist
Trinity County Department of Transportation
(530) 623-1365
Project Title: Wildwood Road Realignment and Widening Project

Project Location: The project is located in Trinity County, California, on Wildwood Road, (County Road 302). Wildwood Road connects State Highway 36 near the Shasta-Trinity County Line to State Highway 3 north of Hayfork. Approximately 6.6 miles of Wildwood Road will be rehabilitated, from Post Mile 5.0 near Gemmill Gulch north to the intersection with East Fork Road (County Road 343) at Post Mile 11.6. The project is located on the Dubakella Mountain East 7.5-minute USGS Quad in Township 30 North, Range 11 West. (See attached USGS quad).

Project Description: The project purpose is to widen the roadway to two standard travel lanes with shoulders, improve the alignment to reduce the severity of curves and improve sight distance, and to rehabilitate the roadway structural section and drainage. The road would part from its existing alignment in one or more areas, requiring large amounts of fill in some ravines and stream crossings. Culverts at all stream crossings will be replaced with new pipes equipped to handle the anticipated 100-year storm events, and to facilitate fish passage where appropriate. Excavation of the slope above the road will also be required in several locations. Retaining walls, rock slope protection, and guardrails may be used to enhance stability and safety. The road will be reconstructed with new structural section, aggregate base and asphalt concrete pavement with edge and centerline striping and appropriate signage.

Schedule: The Program EIR will consider the effects of reconstruction, realignment and widening of approximately 6 miles of Wildwood Road, within the limits described above and illustrated on the attached map. However, design and construction is expected to occur in three segments over the next several years. Therefore the proposed document will be a Program EIR. As design of each segment is complete, Trinity County will determine if a subsequent CEQA document is required, in which case that document will tier off of the document now being prepared. The current schedule for this project is as follows:

Segment 1: Miles 11.6 to 9.6; from the intersection with East Fork Road to Sheila Creek Picnic Area
    Design currently programmed in 2011-2012; Construction currently programmed in 2013-2014

Segment 2: Miles 9.7 to 7.0; from Sheila Creek Picnic Area to the Hayfork/Yolla Bolli Ranger District Boundary

Segment 3: 7.0 to 4.9; from the Ranger District Boundary to Gemmeill Gulch Picnic Area
    Design 2017-2018; Construction 2019-2020

All dates subject to availability of funding and will possibly be delayed by one or two years.

Right of Way: Most of the proposed Wildwood Road Project is within the Shasta-Trinity National Forest (STNF), within. The existing roadway is located within an existing Public Road Easement from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), which extends 25 feet each side of the existing roadway centerline, or more if necessary to accommodate cuts and fills. There are two areas where the road crosses private lands, where it is subject to the terms of easement s acquired by the USDA over these lands. Some new right-of-way will be required in order to realign and widen the road. Construction activities and temporary use of the STNF 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 USDA easement.

September 28, 2009
POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: The road runs through steep terrain along the side of a forested cliff, with Hayfork Creek running along the base of the slope. The road crosses seven ephemeral or intermittent streams on culverts. The road would part from its existing alignment in one or more sections, requiring fill across one or more of these streams.

Hayfork Creek and its tributaries are designated (but unoccupied) critical habitat for Federally Threatened Coho Salmon, essential fish habitat for Chinook salmon, and occupied by steelhead trout (state species of special concern), rainbow trout and speckled dace, and potentially amphibians and other wildlife species of special concern. The project has the potential to generate sediment that could affect this aquatic habitat both during and after construction.

The surrounding forest may also be habitat for other state and federal threatened and endangered species and other species of special concern, including the Northern Spotted Owl, Pacific Fisher and Trinity Bristlesnail. Portions of the project will occur in waters of the United States and wetlands may be present within the project footprint. Potential impacts include tree removal, grading, discharge of fill, construction noise and erosion.

Cultural resources may be present within the project limits. At least two Native American Sacred Sites are in the project vicinity, but outside of the area to be disturbed.

The project limits include areas of potential geologic instability. Design methods to ensure seismic safety and soil stability will be addressed in the EIR.

There are two Forest Service picnic areas along the alignment. Use of these areas may be temporarily disrupted.

Construction will probably require extensive road closures. The road is accessible from both ends by two State Highways, and a detour along existing State Highways 3 and 36 is available.
Governor’s Office of Planning and Development Review
Researc, State Clearinghouse
PO Box 7044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

Marcelino Gonzalez, Local Development
Caltrans District 2
PO Box 496073
Redding, CA 96049-6073

Julie Owen
Caltrans Office of Local Assistance
PO Box 496073
Redding, CA 96049-6073

Donald Koch, Regional Manager
California Dept of Fish & Game
601 Locust Street
Redding, CA 96001

Air Pollution Control Officer
NCUAQMD
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Eureka, CA 95501

Dean Prat, North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Bd
5550 Skylane Blvd, Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403

Sharon Heywood, Forest Supervisor
Shasta-Trinity National Forest
3644 Avtech Parkway
Redding, CA 96002

Donna Harmon, District Ranger
South Fork Management Unit
Shasta-Trinity National Forest
P.O. Box 159
Hayfork, CA 96041

Mark Goldsmith, Planning Officer
Weaverville District
Shasta-Trinity National Forest
PO Box 1190
Weaverville, CA 96093

David Ammerman, US Army Corps of Engineers
Eureka Field Office
601 Starlare Drive, Slip 14
Eureka, CA 95501-0766

Jane Hicks, North Section Chief
US Army Corps of Engineers
1455 Market Street
San Francisco, CA 94103-1398

State Office of Historic Preservation
PO Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001

Sharon Heywood, Forest Supervisor
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3644 Avtech Parkway
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Irma Lagomarsino
National Marine Fisheries Service
1655 Heindon Road
Arcata, CA 95521

Ray Bosch
US Fish & Wildlife Service
1655 Heindon Road
Arcata, CA 95521

Marilyn Delgado, Tribal Chair
Nor-Rel-Muk Nation
PO Box 1977
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Kirk Girard, Director, Humboldt County Planning Division
3015 H Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Greg Plucker, Director, Siskiyou County
County Community Development Dept.
806 South Main Street
Yreka, CA 96097-3321

Nash Gonzalez, Director, Mendocino County Planning & Building Services
501 Low Gap Road, Room 1440
Ukiah, CA 95482

George Robson, Director, Tehama County Planning Dept.
444 Oak Street, Room 1
Red Bluff, CA 96080

Russ Mull, Director, Shasta County Dept. of Resource Management Planning Division
1855 Placer Street, Suite 103
Redding, CA 96001

Paul Ammon, Tribal Chair
Tsunwge Council
PO Box 373
Salyer, CA 95563

Robert Burns
Wintu Educational and Cultural council
PO Box 483
Hayfork, CA 96041

Leonard Masten, Tribal Chair
Hoopa Valley Tribe
PO Box 1348
Hoopa, CA 95546

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Trinity County Life Support
PO Box 2907
Weaverville, CA 96093

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

Cal-Fire
Weaverville District
PO Box 1296
Weaverville, CA 96093

Dan Dias, Marshal
Trinity County Marshal’s Office
PO Box 1369
Weaverville, CA 96093

Eric Palmer
Trinity County Sheriff’s Dept
PO Box 1228
Weaverville, CA 96093

Joe Micheletti, Area Commander
California Highway Patrol
PO Box 1350
Weaverville, CA 96093
Rick Coleman, General Manager
Trinity PUD
PO Box 1216
Weaverville, CA 96093

Pat Frost, Manager, Trinity County Resource Conservation District
PO Box 1450
Weaverville, CA 96093

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

Wendy Tyler, Clerk
Trinity County Board of Supervisors
PO Box 1613
Weaverville, CA 96093

Dero Forslund
County Administrative Officer
PO Box 1613
Weaverville, CA 96093

Howard Freeman, Supervisor
Trinity County District 4
PO Box 1173
Weaverville, CA 96093

California Transportation Commission
Attention: Susan Bransen
120 N Street, MS 52
Sacramento, CA 95814
(mailed 10/27/08)
Mailed 09/28/06

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

Trinity County Historical Society
PO Box 333
Weaverville, CA 96093

Jeanne Bonomini
Senior Planner
Trinity County Planning Department
PO Box 2819
Weaverville, CA 96093

Joseph Bower
Citizens for Better Forestry
PO Box 1510
Hayfork, CA 96041

Wendy Reiss, Supervisor
Trinity County District 5
PO Box 507
Hayfork, CA 96041

Judy Morris, Supervisor
Trinity County District 2
PO Box 1998
Weaverville, CA 96093

Mountain Valley Unified School District
PO Box 339
Hayfork, CA 96041

NRCS
PO Box 1450
Weaverville, CA 96093

Trinity Journal
PO Box 340
Weaverville, CA 96093

Organization to Preserve Trinity County
PO Box 307
Weaverville, CA 96093

Roger Jaegel, Supervisor
Trinity County District 3
PO Box 283
Hayfork, CA 96041

Judy Pflueger, Supervisor
Trinity County District 1
PO Box 187
Trinity Center, CA 96091

\(^{*}\) returned, resent October 7, 2006

denotes Certified Mail

add - EPIC

Wildland - George Sexton

Kanin / S. stygus
October 19, 2009

Ms. Janice Smith, Sr. Environmental Compliance Specialist
Trinity County Department of Transportation
PO Box 2490
Weaverville, CA 96093-2490

Email: jsmith@trinitycounty.org

Dear Ms. Smith,

The Conservation Congress, Citizens for Better Forestry, and Klamath Forest Alliance appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed Draft Program EIR to realign and widen the Wildwood Road.

We are opposed to this project for a variety of biological, economic, and legal reasons. In addition, unfortunately the county has not demonstrated it can carry out these types of projects successfully. Members of our organizations have commented that the county “screwed up royally” on the Hyampom Road Project and don’t have faith the Wildwood Road Project will be any different.

This project will be very costly and will take years to properly analyze. The USFWS, NMFS, NHPA, and the EPA must all be contacted for consultation as well as permits. The Army Corp of Engineers may also have to be consulted. We strongly believe a CEQA document is legally required and is not at the discretion of Trinity County to determine.

We have serious concerns regarding impacts to water quality, soils, the potential for mass wasting, impacts to threatened, endangered, and sensitive wildlife, fish and plants species, as well cultural resources. The area includes critical habitat for both TES wildlife and fish species such as the Northern spotted owl, Pacific Fisher, and Chinook salmon to name only a few.

Hayfork Creek is not in compliance for water quality, beneficial uses, and is has been on the 303D list since at least 1998. This project will only exacerbate these problems. We incorporate by reference the EPAs report at http://www.epa.gov/region09/water/tmdl/trinityso/lstmds.pdf and strongly encourage Trinity County to incorporate the findings in the EIR.

PO Box 5
Lewistown, MT 59457
406-538-4220
As regular users of the Wildwood Road our members don’t see a need to realign and widen this road. A substantive economic cost/benefit analysis should be conducted for the EIR that clearly displays the need for this project.

Please keep us on the mailing list for this project and forward any other opportunities to comment as well as a copy of the draft EIR when it becomes available. Thank you for consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

Denise Boggs,
Executive Director
October 12, 2008

Ms. Janice Smith,
Sr. Environmental Compliance Specialist
Trinity County Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 2490
Weaverville, CA 96093-2490

RE: Wildwood Road Realignment and Widening Project

Dear Ms. Smith:

In response to your September 28, 2009, request for environmental information germane to our agency’s statutory responsibilities with this project, we note the following facts.

The location of the proposed “Wildwood Road Realignment & Widening Project” is in the center on many known and documented ultramafic rock formations (see attached map). The implication, and high likelihood, is that Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA) will be disturbed. This project therefore triggers the requirements of California Code of Regulations (CCR), Title 17, Section 93105, Air Toxic Control Measure (ATCM) for “Construction, Grading, Quarrying and Surface Mining Operations.

Prior to completion of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR), the NCUAQMD suggest a meeting to discuss the most efficacious methods of implementing the necessary controls mandated by ATCM 93105.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions concerning this issue.

Sincerely,

Richard L. Martin Jr.
Air Pollution Control Officer

Attachments: Local ultramafic rock formation map from the Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology (http://www.consrv.ca.gov)
Green areas are recorded ultramafic rocks with a very high likelihood of N.M.A.
October 21, 2009

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

Dear Ms. Smith:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Notice of Preparation of an Environmental Impact Report submitted on behalf of Trinity County for the Wildwood Road Realignment project. Wildwood Road connects State Route (SR) 3 to SR 36.

We look forward to the EIR discussing notices and consultation with Caltrans relating to road closures, detours, and traffic control plans.

If you have any questions, or if the scope of this project changes, please call me at (530) 225-3369.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

MARCELINO GONZALEZ
Local Development Review
Office of Community Planning
District 2

“Caltrans improves mobility across California”
RE: SCH#2009092086 Wildwood Road Realignment and Widening Project; Trinity County.

Dear Ms. Smith:

The Native American Heritage Commission has reviewed the Notice of Preparation (NOP) regarding the above referenced project. The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) states that any project that causes a substantial adverse change in the significance of an historical resource, which includes archaeological resources, is a significant effect requiring the preparation of an EIR (CEQA guidelines 15064(b)). To adequately comply with this provision and mitigate project-related impacts on archaeological resources, the Commission recommends the following actions be required:

- Contact the appropriate Information Center for a record search to determine:
  - If a part or all of the area of project effect (APE) has been previously surveyed for cultural resources.
  - If any known cultural resources have already been recorded on or adjacent to the APE.
  - If the probability is low, moderate, or high that cultural resources are located in the APE.
  - If a survey is required to determine whether previously unrecorded cultural resources are present.

- If an archaeological inventory survey is required, the final stage is the preparation of a professional report detailing the findings and recommendations of the records search and field survey:
  - The final report containing site forms, site significance, and mitigation measures should be submitted immediately to the planning department. All information regarding site locations, Native American human remains, and associated funerary objects should be in a separate confidential addendum, and not be made available for public disclosure.
  - The final written report should be submitted within 3 months after work has been completed to the appropriate regional archaeological Information Center.

- Contact the Native American Heritage Commission for:
  - A Sacred Lands File Check. Sacred Lands File check completed, no sites indicated
  - A list of appropriate Native American Contacts for consultation concerning the project site and to assist in the mitigation measures. Native American Contacts List attached

- Lack of surface evidence of archeological resources does not preclude their subsurface existence.
  - Lead agencies should include in their mitigation plan provisions for the identification and evaluation of accidentally discovered archeological resources, per California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) §15064.5(f). In areas of identified archaeological sensitivity, a certified archaeologist and a culturally affiliated Native American, with knowledge in cultural resources, should monitor all ground-disturbing activities.
  - Lead agencies should include in their mitigation plan provisions for the disposition of recovered artifacts, in consultation with culturally affiliated Native Americans.
  - Lead agencies should include provisions for discovery of Native American human remains in their mitigation plan. Health and Safety Code §7050.5, CEQA §15064.5(e), and Public Resources Code §5097.99 mandates the process to be followed in the event of an accidental discovery of any human remains in a location other than a dedicated cemetery.

Sincerely,

Katy Sanchez
Program Analyst
(916) 653-4040

CC: State Clearinghouse
Redding Rancheria
Tracy Edwards, Chief Executive Officer
2000 Redding Rancheria
Redding, CA 96001
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Fax: (530) 241-1879

Wintu Educational and Cultural Council
Robert Burns
PO Box 483
Hayfork, CA 96041
(530) 628-5930

Round Valley Reservation/Covelo Indian Community
Eugene Jamison, Jr., President
P.O. Box 448
Covelo, CA 95428
(707) 983-6126
(707) 983-6128 - Fax

Redding Rancheria
Barbara Murphy, Chair
2000 Redding Rancheria
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Wintu Tribe of Northern California
Kelli Hayward
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(530) 245-0241 - FAX
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Redding Rancheria Cultural Resources
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Nor-Rel-Muk Nation
Marilyn Delgado, Chairperson
PO Box 1967
Weaverville, CA 96093
(530) 623-4940
(877) 534-3109 FAX

This list is current only as of the date of this document.

Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources for the proposed SCH# 2009092066 Wildwood Road Realignment and Widening Project; Trinity County.
July 9 2010

Janis Smith,
I am re-sending this info to you, since the original email must have been misplaced back in May?

Any widening or realigning of the Wildwood road is a complete waste of tax payers funds and unnecessary in my opinion. Thus I will not be signing any forms to allow access onto my property.

I am not trying to be an obstructionist, but merely stating my point of view and asserting my rights as a tax paying property owner of which TCDOT has an easement through.

Again, I would encourage the County to spend our tax dollars on something much more needed than road reconstruction plans.
Thank You,

Suren Holbek
805 Butte Ave.
Mt. Shasta, CA
96067

Erniebob727@hotmail.com
Janice Smith,
Thank you for the notice dated April 27th, describing plans to do some reconstruction work on the Wildwood road.

I have been aware of activity by the County for some time now, with rumors of their intent to re-work sections of the road. As many roads in Trinity County, the Wildwood road is always in need of repair and maintenance. I realize what a huge job it must be, and what a tight budget the County must be working with. I have been told that the proposed reconstruction work is part of the monies that Trinity County received from the Federal stimulus package.

The "Right of entry form", also sent with the notice, I will not be signing, since as far as I can see, the County has already been entering my property without my consent, to do their preliminary work. The right of entry form is about 1 ½ years late to ask permission to use private property in survey and pre-construction work.

The 40 foot easement the County has for the Wildwood road through my property, has been abused many times by the TCDOT. I have encountered crews cutting my trees on the downhill slope from the road, for no apparent reason, spraying oil into the culverts and ditches, within 40’ of Hayfork Creek (to clean the tips of equipment during resurfacing projects) and dropping non-hazardous trees, well outside the 40’, easement without my consent.

Any "reconstruction" to the Wildwood road, will only make my property noisier and my view of the road more visible. I have owned my property for 21 years, living there much of that time, until recently. I have no interest in seeing the road widened of losing my privacy by seeing more of the road.

I think any stimulus monies could be much better spent hiring a few more Deputies in the sheriffs Dept. Something Trinity County desperately needs!

Thank you,  Suren Holbek
5700 Wildwood road
APN:19-11-02

The New Busy think 9 to 5 is a cute idea. Combine multiple calendars with Hotmail. Get busy.

No virus found in this incoming message.
Checked by AVG - www.avg.com
Version: 8.5.441 / Virus Database: 271.1.1/2991 - Release Date: 07/09/10 06:36:00
November 9, 2009

Ms. Janice Smith
Sr. Environmental Compliance Specialist
Trinity County Department of Transportation
P.O. Box 2490
Weaverville, CA 96093

Re: Notice of Preparation for the Wildwood Road Realignment and Widening Project Program Environmental Impact Report

Dear Ms. Smith,

The California Transportation Commission (Commission) received the Notice of Preparation that a Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) will be prepared for the Wildwood Road Realignment and Widening Project (project) in Trinity County (County).

It is our understanding that the total estimated cost for all three project segments is approximately $13,500,000. However, at this time, funding is programmed only for the first segment of this project.

The Commission has no comments to the PEIR or the alternatives to be considered in the PEIR. However, the Commission recommends that the County identify and secure the necessary funding to complete the project.

If you have any questions, please contact Susan Bransen, Associate Deputy Director, at (916) 653-2082.

Sincerely,

BIMLA G. RHINEHART
Executive Director

c: Jay Norvell, Chief, Caltrans Environmental Analysis