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TUOLUMNE COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

September 21, 2016

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Tuolumne County Transportation Council (TCTC) as the lead agency has prepared a Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the 2016 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The 2016 RTP is intended to guide future transportation projects for the next 20 years. The Draft EIR will be a Program EIR and per the CEQA Guidelines, a Program EIR is an EIR that may be prepared on a series of actions that can be characterized as one large project. The purpose of a Program EIR is to allow the lead agency to consider broad policy alternatives and program-wide mitigation measures at an early time when the agency has greater flexibility to deal with basic problems or cumulative impacts.

Project Title

The Program EIR for the Tuolumne County Transportation Council (TCTC) 2016 Regional Transportation Plan.

Project Location

The geographical extent of the proposed RTP includes the area within the limits of Tuolumne County, California, including the incorporated City of Sonora and all unincorporated areas under the jurisdiction of the Tuolumne County. The attached figure shows the RTP plan area.

Public Comment

TCTC is soliciting comments on the adequacy and completeness of the analysis and proposed mitigation measures described in the Draft 2016 RTP Environmental Impact Report (EIR). You may submit written comments to TCTC prior to the close of public comment which ends on November 4, 2016, at 3:00 p.m. In addition, you may comment by providing testimony at a public hearing at the TCTC Council Meeting on October 12, 2016 at 3:00 p.m., at the Board of Supervisors Chambers, 2 South Green Street, 4th Floor, Sonora, California.

Project Description

Tuolumne County Transportation Council (TCTC), as the State-designated regional transportation planning agency (RTPA) for Tuolumne County, is required by both federal and State law to prepare a long-range (at least 20-year) transportation planning document known as a Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The RTP is an action-oriented document used to achieve a coordinated and balanced regional transportation system. California Government Code §65080 et seq. and Title 23 United States Code (USC) §134 require Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPA) to prepare long-range transportation plans to: 1) establish regional goals, 2) identify

present and future needs, deficiencies and constraints, 3) analyze potential solutions, 4) estimate available funding, and 5) propose investments. State Statutes require that the RTP serve as the foundation for the short-range transportation planning documents: the Regional and Federal Transportation Improvement Programs (RTIP and FTIP).

Environmental Review Findings

TCTC has prepared a Draft Program EIR pursuant to requirements of the State Guidelines for the Implementation of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The EIR has been prepared because of the potential for unavoidable, significant adverse effects resulting from program implementation. The EIR prepared for the 2016 RTP identifies and discusses potential impacts, mitigation measures, residual impacts, and monitoring requirements. Significant and unavoidable effects on the environment are anticipated in the following areas:

- Greenhouse Gas Emissions/Climate Change;
- Traffic and Circulation;
- Cultural Resources

If the project description changes, TCTC will require a reevaluation of the EIR to consider the changes. If you challenge this environmental document in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues raised by you or others in written correspondence or in hearings on the proposed 2016 RTP.

Document Availability

If a copy of the EIR is not attached, the EIR may be obtained online at:

<http://www.tuolumnecountytransportationcouncil.org/single-post/2016/07/13/2016-Regional-Transportation-Plan-Update> or at any of the following locations in Tuolumne County:

Tuolumne County Transportation Council
48 W Yaney Avenue
Sonora, CA 95370

Tuolumne County Sonora Main Library
480 Greenley Road,
Sonora, CA 95370

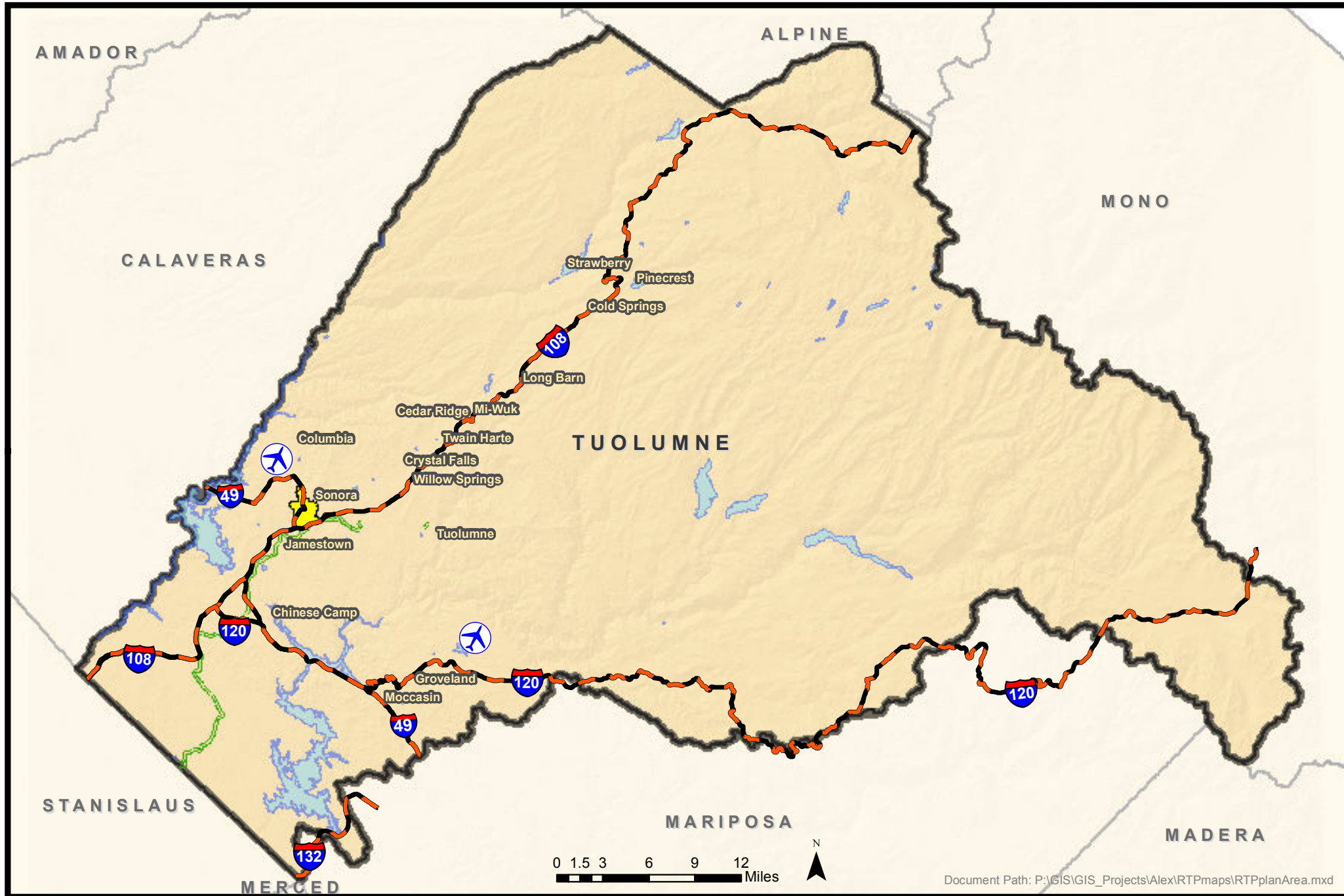
How to Comment

Because of the time sensitive nature of the regional transportation planning process, we request your response at the earliest possible date. Mail comments by November 4, 2016 to:

Alex Padilla, Transportation Planner
Tuolumne County Transportation Council
2 South Green Street,
Sonora, CA 95370
apadilla@co.tuolumne.ca.us

If representing an agency, please identify the agency name and appropriate contact name, phone number, and email address. Comments from the public must include name, phone number, and email or postal address. Please limit comments to environmental issues evaluated in the Draft EIR such as traffic, biology, noise, etc. You will receive notice of the dates of future public meetings to consider project approval or denial.

Tuolumne County Regional Transportation Plan



RTP Plan Area

Legend



Airport

==== Railroad

— Highway



Sonora City Limits