



# **Yankee Jims Bridge Replacement Project**

## **Notice of Intent to Adopt U.S. Department of Transportation Section 4(f) De Minimis Finding for Impacts to Auburn State Recreation Area**

### **What is being planned?**

The Placer County Department of Public Works, in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration and Caltrans, proposes to build a new arch suspension bridge adjacent to the existing Yankee Jims Bridge over the North Fork American River. The Project is needed to improve access related to evacuation routes and emergency vehicles. The purpose of the Project is to improve pedestrian access over the North Fork of the American River and the adjacent recreational facilities by replacing the existing bridge with a new two-lane bridge. The main project features include a new arch suspension bridge 10-15 feet downstream of the existing bridge, minor intermittent roadway improvements on Yankee Jims Road west of the existing bridge, and an unpaved parking lot and stairway access down to the river northeast of the existing bridge and retaining walls along the roadway approach. Additionally, the existing Yankee Jims Road Bridge would be strengthened to facilitate construction. The existing bridge would then remain in place as a historic structure. Construction is anticipated to take approximately 2-3 years and may begin as early as late 2024 or early 2025.

### **What is the purpose of this public notice?**

The proposed Project is an action that is subject to Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966 codified at (49 U.S.C. 303) and (23 U.S.C. 138). Section 4(f) of this legislation seeks to protect publicly-owned parklands, recreation areas, waterfowl and wildlife refuges, and significant historic sites from impacts resulting from the “use” of these resources that is caused by transportation projects. If a “use” is identified of a Section 4(f) property, an assessment is made of the effects, and either avoidance, minimization, mitigation, or enhancement measures are established to lessen those effects. When Caltrans determines that a project may “use” a Section 4(f) property, one method available for Caltrans to approve the “use” is by preparing a de minimis impact finding. Prior to Caltrans determining a de minimis impact finding, the regulation requires that the public is afforded an opportunity to review and comment on the effects to the resource protected under Section 4(f).

A majority of the Project is located within Auburn State Recreation Area (ASRA) and construction of the Project will temporarily restrict access along Yankee Jims Road, west of the existing bridge, and around the existing bridge structure. See below for more information.

### **What is available for review?**

A document has been prepared to support Caltrans’s intent to determine a *de minimis* impact finding. This document summarizes how the Project will result in a temporary use of ASRA and is available for public review at the following website: [yankeejimsbridge.com](http://yankeejimsbridge.com).

Public comments on the Section 4(f) *de minimis* finding will be accepted until **May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024**. Contact **Chris Carroll, Caltrans Environmental Scientist, at (530) 720-5583** to submit your comments or for more information about the Project. Responses or replies to the public comments may not be required, depending on the substantive nature of the comments; however, all comments and responses will be considered and documented in the administrative record for the proposed Project.