

CEQA Document- Initial Study/Negative Declaration

DATE: October 14, 2025

PROJECT TITLE: 2026 Lake County Regional Transportation Plan/
Active Transportation Plan

LEAD AGENCY: Lake County/City Area Planning Council (APC)
525 South Main Street, Suite B
Ukiah, CA 95482

CONTACT PERSON: Lisa-Davey Bates, APC Executive Director, 707-234-3314
John Speka, Senior Transportation Planner, 707-234-3314

PROJECT LOCATION: The Regional Transportation Plan/Active Transportation Plan covers the entire County-wide area, including the incorporated cities of Clearlake and Lakeport.

PROJECT SPONSOR: Lake County/City Area Planning Council
525 South Main Street, Suite B
Ukiah, CA 95482

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Regional Transportation Plan/Active Transportation Plan (RTP/ATP) update is a transportation planning document prepared by the Lake County/City Area Planning Council (APC). The Plan provides an overview of both short- and long-term transportation goals, objectives and policies for the region, as well as a list of potential projects intended for implementation. The RTP/ATP considers all modes of transportation including automobile, trucking, bicycle, pedestrian, air, public transit, and any related facilities needed for an effective transportation system. The Plan also assesses current and long-range transportation issues, identifies needs and deficiencies, considers funding options and suggests actions to address these items, in an effort to improve the overall transportation system in the region. While it is intended to guide transportation decision making over a 20-year planning horizon, it does not necessarily require that projects recommended in the document become implemented. Such decisions are instead made by jurisdictional authorities with discretionary control over subject facilities such as Caltrans, local streets and roads departments, or regional tribal leaders, based on a variety of factors (e.g. budgetary constraints, local priorities, environmental considerations, etc.) specific to local or regional needs.

SETTING: Lake County is located in Northern California, lying within the Pacific Coastal ranges between the counties of Mendocino and Sonoma to the west, and Glenn, Colusa, Yolo and Napa to the east and south. The County consists largely of mountainous terrain and resource lands surrounding Clear Lake, its primary geographic feature. The lake itself covers approximately five percent of the land area and includes a majority of the County's population centers along its shores. Much of the northern third of the County is unoccupied and lies within the Mendocino National Forest, while the rural southern portions are made up of sparsely populated communities divided among agricultural and other resource lands.

OTHER NECESSARY APPROVALS: Projects listed in the RTP/ATP will be undertaken by individual agencies within the region (e.g. Caltrans, public works, tribal authorities, transit agency, etc.) and may require approvals from responsible or trustee agencies (e.g. California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Army Corps of Engineers, etc.). No other approvals are required for adoption of the RTP/ATP.

NATIVE AMERICAN CONSULTATION: California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area were notified at the earliest stages of the RTP/ATP's development, with offers for individual consultation between the Lead Agency and the tribes. No requests for consultation were received from tribal representatives notified of the Plan, pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED: The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

☒ Aesthetics	☒ Agriculture and Forestry Resources	☒ Air Quality
☒ Biological Resources	☒ Cultural Resources	☐ Energy
☒ Geology/Soils	☒ Greenhouse Gas Emissions	☐ Hazards and Hazardous Materials
☒ Hydrology/Water Quality	☒ Land Use/Planning	☒ Mineral Resources
☒ Noise	☐ Population/Housing	☐ Public Services
☐ Recreation	☒ Transportation	☒ Tribal Cultural Resources
☐ Utilities/Service Systems	☒ Wildfire	☒ Mandatory Findings of Significance

"Significant effect on the environment" means a substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the project, including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, ambient noise, and aesthetic significance. An economic or social change by itself shall not be considered a significant effect on the environment. A social or economic change related to a physical change, may be considered in determining whether the physical change is significant (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15382).

INITIAL STUDY/EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

An explanation for all checklist responses is included, and all answers take into account the whole action involved, including off site as well as on-site; cumulative as well as project level; indirect as well as direct; and construction as well as operational impacts. The explanation of each issue identifies (a) the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and (b) the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance. In the checklist the following definitions are used:

"Potentially Significant Impact" means there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant.

"Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated" means the incorporation of one or more mitigation measures can reduce the effect from potentially significant to a less than significant level.

"Less Than Significant Impact" means that the effect is less than significant and no mitigation is necessary to reduce the impact to a lesser level.

"No Impact" means that the effect does not apply to the Project, or clearly will not impact nor be impacted by the Project.

INITIAL STUDY/ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW: This section assesses the potential environmental impacts which may result from the project. Questions in the Initial Study Checklist are stated and answers are provided based on analysis undertaken.

<u>I. AESTHETICS.</u> Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) In nonurbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☐	☒

a) through d) No Impact- The Regional Transportation Plan/Active Transportation Plan (RTP/ATP) is a program level document, which includes a general overview of both short- and long-range projects expected to be implemented over time. Its adoption will not result in specific impacts to scenic resources, although individual projects included within the Plan may, if implemented, include potentially adverse effects. The vast majority of the transportation system in the Lake County region is pre-existing with many of the projects included in the RTP/ATP involving improvements or maintenance of the system. Other projects discussed within the Plan, such as grading, road widening and expanded right-of-way acquisition, new structures or new road projects are presently only conceptual in nature and will involve a project level evaluation of scenic as well as light and/or glare impacts at the time of design. There are no designated State Scenic Highways in Lake County.

<u>II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES.</u> Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒

a) through e) No Impact- The RTP/ATP is a program level document, which includes a general overview of both short- and long-range projects expected to be implemented over time. Its adoption will not result in specific impacts to agricultural or forestland resources, although individual projects included within the Plan may, if implemented, include potentially adverse effects. Projects involving grading, widening or expansion of streets, roads or highways may entail the acquisition of additional right-of-way, which could include marginal degrees of resource land conversion depending on the setting. In these cases, potentially adverse effects will be analyzed and appropriate mitigation measures will be recommended at the time of project development.

<u>III. AIR QUALITY.</u> Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of any applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☐	☒

a) through d) No Impact- Adoption of the RTP/ATP would not conflict with local air quality plans or create objectionable odors, nor are projects contained in the Plan, upon implementation, expected to have any substantial impacts on local air quality. The Lake County Air Basin has been designated as an “attainment” area with respect to each of the (10) State and (6) national area criteria pollutants including ozone, suspended particulate matter (PM10), fine suspended particulate matter (PM2.5), carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, sulfates, lead, hydrogen sulfide and visibility reducing particles. Potentially adverse effects resulting from individual projects within the Plan will be analyzed and appropriate mitigation measures will be recommended at the time of design. Short term impacts that may result from local construction activities will not affect overall air quality in the region, which is considered to be among the cleanest in the nation. In addition, components of the Plan (e.g. Transit Element, Active Transportation Element, etc.) include goals and policies intended to reduce dependency on automobile travel, traffic related congestion and vehicle miles traveled, to the overall benefit of local and regional air quality.

<u>IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES.</u> Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☐	☒

b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

a) through f) No Impact- The RTP/ATP is a program level document, which includes a general overview of both short- and long-range projects expected to be implemented over time. Adoption of the RTP/ATP will not result in specific impacts to biological resources, although individual projects included within the Plan may, if implemented, include potentially adverse effects. The vast majority of the transportation system in the Lake County region is pre-existing with many of the projects included in the RTP/ATP involving improvements or maintenance of the system. Other projects discussed within the Plan, such as grading, road widening and expanded right-of-way acquisition, new structures or new road projects are presently only conceptual in nature and will involve a project level evaluation of impacts to sensitive or special status species, riparian habitat, sensitive natural communities, wetlands, native resident, migratory species, or other biological resources, at the time of design. In these cases, potentially adverse effects will be analyzed and appropriate mitigation measures will be recommended at the time of project development. Likewise, consistency with all local policies or approved local, regional or State habitat conservation plans will be addressed during the design phase of the proposed projects.

<u>V. CULTURAL RESOURCES.</u> Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in § 15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☐	☐	☐	☒

a) through c) No Impact - The RTP/ATP is a program level document, which includes a general overview of both short- and long-range projects expected to be implemented over time. Adoption of the RTP/ATP will not result in specific impacts to cultural resources, although individual projects included within the Plan may, if implemented, include potentially adverse effects. The vast majority of the transportation system in the Lake County region is pre-existing with many of the projects included in the RTP/ATP involving improvements or maintenance of the system. Other projects discussed within the Plan, such as grading, road widening and expanded right-of- way acquisition, new structures or new road projects are presently only conceptual in nature and will involve a project level evaluation of potential impacts to historical and archaeological resources, or disturbance of human remains outside of formal cemeteries, at the time of design.

<u>VI. ENERGY.</u> Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	☐	☐	☐	☒

a) and b) No Impact- The RTP/ATP is a program level document, which includes a general overview of both short- and long-range projects expected to be implemented over time. Adoption of the RTP/ATP will not result in specific energy related impacts, although individual projects included within the Plan may, if implemented, include potentially adverse effects. The vast majority of the transportation system in the Lake County region is pre-existing with many of the projects included in the RTP/ATP involving improvements or maintenance of the system. Other projects discussed within the Plan, such as grading, road widening and expanded right-of-way acquisition, new structures or new road projects are presently only conceptual in nature and will involve a project level evaluation of potential impacts resulting from wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, at the time of design.

<u>VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS.</u> Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:	☐	☐	☐	☒
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map, issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	☐	☐	☐	☒
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iv) Landslides?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☐	☒

a) through f) No Impact - The RTP/ATP is a program level document, which includes a general overview of both short- and long-range projects expected to be implemented over time. Adoption of the RTP/ATP will not result in specific impacts to geology and soils, although individual projects included within the Plan may, if implemented, include potentially adverse effects. The vast majority of the transportation system in the Lake County region is pre-existing with many of the projects included in the RTP/ATP involving improvements or maintenance of the system. Other projects discussed within the Plan, such as grading, road widening and expanded right-of- way acquisition, new structures or new road projects are presently only conceptual in nature and will involve a project level evaluation of

impacts related to exposure to fault ruptures, ground shaking, slides, erosion or soils capability, or potential impacts to unique paleontological resources, sites or unique geologic features, at the time of design.

<u>VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.</u> Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☐	☒

a) and b) No Impact – Certain projects included within the RTP/ATP may involve roadway capacity increases, although, given the small and rural nature of the region, they are usually intended more for safety or multi-modal considerations and are unlikely to lead to additional automobile traffic. Potentially adverse effects resulting from individual projects within the Plan will be analyzed and appropriate mitigation measures will be recommended at the time of design. The Goals, Objectives, Policies section of the RTP/ATP includes policies intended to reduce GHGs by prioritizing transportation projects which lead to reduced greenhouse gas emissions. Goals and policies also support and encourage expanding opportunities for utilizing transit, active transportation, and the use of zero emission vehicles.

<u>IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS.</u> Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the	☐	☐	☐	☒

<u>IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS.</u> Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
environment?				
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	☐	☐	☐	☒

a) through g) No Impact - The RTP/ATP is a program level document, which includes a general overview of both short- and long-range projects expected to be implemented over time. Adoption of the RTP/ATP will not result in specific risks involving hazardous materials or situations, although individual projects included within the Plan may, if implemented, include potentially adverse effects. The vast majority of the transportation system in the Lake County region is pre-existing with many of the projects included in the RTP/ATP involving improvements or maintenance of the system. Other projects discussed within the Plan, such as grading, road widening and expanded right-of-way acquisition, new structures or new road projects are presently only conceptual in nature and will involve a project level evaluation of impacts involving the transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials, or other conditions which would expose people or structures to hazardous materials or situations, at the time of design.

<u>X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY.</u> Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	☐	☐	☐	☒

<u>X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY.</u> Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:	☐	☐	☐	☒
i) result in a substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	☐	☐	☐	☒
ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;	☐	☐	☐	☒
iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	☐	☐	☐	☒
iv) impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

a) through e) No Impact - The RTP/ATP is a program level document, which includes a general overview of both short- and long-range projects expected to be implemented over time. Adoption of the RTP/ATP will not result in impacts to water quality or hydrology, although individual projects included within the Plan may, if implemented, include potentially adverse effects. The vast majority of the transportation system in the Lake County region is pre-existing with many of the projects included in the RTP/ATP involving improvements or maintenance of the system. Other projects discussed within the Plan, such as grading, road widening and expanded right-of-way acquisition, new structures or new road projects are presently only conceptual in nature and will involve a project level evaluation of impacts involving existing drainage patterns, additional surface or polluted runoff, increases in pollutant discharges, or additions to potential flood hazards, at the time of design.

<u>XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING.</u> Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose	☐	☐	☐	☒

of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?				
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a) and b) No Impact - Adoption of the RTP/ATP would not conflict with existing general, area or specific plans or zoning ordinances within the region. The RTP/ATP is a program level document, which includes a general overview of both short- and long-range projects expected to be implemented over time. The vast majority of the transportation system in the Lake County region is pre-existing with many of the projects included in the RTP/ATP involving improvements or maintenance of the system. Other projects discussed within the Plan, such as grading, road widening and expanded right-of-way acquisition, new structures or new road projects are presently only conceptual in nature and will involve a project level consistency evaluation at the time of design. As project implementation will be led by the individual jurisdictions in which they are located (i.e. cities, county, tribal lands, State right-of-way), local land use regulations will apply. As a result, consistency with all local policies or approved local, regional or State plans will be addressed during the design phase of the proposed projects.

<u>XII. MINERAL RESOURCES.</u> Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

a) and b) No Impact - The RTP/ATP is a program level document, which includes a general overview of both short- and long-range projects expected to be implemented over time. Adoption of the RTP/ATP will not result in impacts to available mineral resources, although individual projects included within the Plan may, if implemented, include potentially adverse effects. The vast majority of the transportation system in the Lake County region is pre-existing with many of the projects included in the RTP/ATP involving improvements or maintenance of the system. Other projects discussed within the Plan, such as grading, road widening and expanded right-of-way acquisition, new structures or new road projects are presently only conceptual in nature and will involve a project level evaluation of impacts involving the availability of known mineral resources at the time of design.

<u>XIII. NOISE.</u> Would the project result in:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒

a) through c) No Impact - The RTP/ATP is a program level document, which includes a general overview of both short- and long-range projects expected to be implemented over time. Adoption of the RTP/ATP will not result in exposures to excessive levels of noise, although individual projects included within the Plan may, if implemented, include potentially adverse effects. Short term impacts that may result from local construction activities will be held to noise standards of the local jurisdiction in which the project is located (e.g. cities or County). Longer term impacts such as traffic noise will need to be evaluated as part of the environmental review of the individual projects, with potential abatement measures recommended as needed.

<u>XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING.</u> Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒

a) and b) No Impact – Adoption of the RTP/ATP will not result in population growth or housing displacement. Given the small populations (Countywide estimated to be 67,254 as of January 1, 2025) and flat or negative growth rates of the rural Lake region, improvements to or expansion of the existing transportation system will not have a substantial impact on housing or population. Local land use decisions regarding housing development may include the need for improved access over time to

facilitate better or more efficient circulation, although the current overall lack of development pressure in the area would not be affected by implementing projects found within the RTP/ATP. Implementation of projects discussed in the Plan will involve a project level evaluation of impacts to housing and population growth at the time of design.

<u>XV. PUBLIC SERVICES.</u> Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:	☐	☐	☐	☒
Fire protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Police protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Parks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒

a) No Impact – Adoption of the RTP/ATP would not affect the provision of government services or facilities. Implementing projects within the Plan would lead to improvements to or expansion of the existing transportation system, which would benefit many of the public services including those involving response times, access, connectivity and medical services. Short term impacts may lead to some minor congestion and alternative routing in certain cases, although not to a significant degree. Active transportation projects included within the RTP/ATP, upon implementation, will improve safety and access for pedestrians and bicyclists to schools, parks and other public spaces. Implementation of projects discussed in the Plan will involve a project level evaluation of impacts to public services at the time of design.

<u>XVI. RECREATION.</u>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	☐	☐	☐	☒

b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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a) and b) No Impact – The RTP/ATP is a program level document, which includes a general overview of both short- and long-range projects expected to be implemented over time. Adoption of the RTP/ATP will not lead to adverse impacts on parks or other recreational activities within the region. While implementation of certain projects may improve transportation modes to and from local and regional recreation areas, the potential increase in use will not result in the substantial deterioration of such facilities. Implementation of projects discussed in the Plan will involve a project level evaluation of impacts to parks and recreational activities at the time of design.

<u>XVII. TRANSPORTATION.</u> Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines § 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☐	☒

a) through d) No Impact – Adoption of the RTP/ATP will lead to overall improvements to the transportation system with individual projects having a positive effect on different aspects of the system including highways, local streets and roads, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, public transit and others. Implementation of certain projects discussed in the Plan will involve increases in capacity, which could result in additional vehicular movement, although such increases are not expected to adversely affect either individual components of the transportation system, or the regional system as a whole. Many other projects found within the Plan are intended to improve safety for automobile, bicycle and pedestrian traffic upon implementation. An evaluation of specific impacts from yet-to-be-implemented projects will be required at the time of design.

<u>XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES.</u>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project cause a substantial	☐	☐	☐	☒

adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code § 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or	☐	☐	☐	☒
ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code § 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code § 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	☐	☐	☐	☒

a) No Impact - The RTP/ATP is a program level document, which includes a general overview of both short- and long-range projects expected to be implemented over time. Adoption of the RTP/ATP will not result in specific impacts to tribal cultural resources, although individual projects included within the Plan may, if implemented, include potentially adverse effects. The vast majority of the transportation system in the Lake County region is pre-existing with many of the projects included in the RTP/ATP involving improvements or maintenance of the system. Other projects discussed within the Plan, such as grading, road widening and expanded right-of-way acquisition, new structures or new road projects are presently only conceptual in nature and will involve a project level evaluation of potential impacts to historical resources or resources potentially significant to one or more of the region's Native American tribes, at the time of design.

<u>XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS.</u> Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable	☐	☐	☐	☒

future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?				
c) Result in a determination by the waste water treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	☒

a through e) No Impact – The RTP/ATP is a program level document, which includes a general overview of both short- and long-range projects expected to be implemented over time. Adoption of the RTP/ATP will not result in impacts to utilities and service systems, although individual projects included within the Plan may, if implemented, include potentially adverse effects. The vast majority of the transportation system in the Lake County region is pre-existing with many of the projects included in the RTP/ATP involving improvements or maintenance of the system. Other projects discussed within the Plan, such as grading, road widening and expanded right-of-way acquisition, new structures or new road projects are presently only conceptual in nature and will involve a project level evaluation of potential impacts related to stormwater drainage, electric power lines, or natural gas or telecommunications infrastructure, at the time of design.

<u>XX. WILDFIRE.</u> If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒

d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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a through d) No Impact – The RTP/ATP is a program level document, which includes a general overview of both short- and long-range projects expected to be implemented over time. Adoption of the RTP/ATP will not result in specific risks involving hazardous materials or situations, although individual projects included within the Plan may, if implemented, include potentially adverse effects. The vast majority of the transportation system in the Lake County region is pre-existing with many of the projects included in the RTP/ATP involving improvements or maintenance of the system. Other projects discussed within the Plan, such as grading, road widening and expanded right-of-way acquisition, new structures or new road projects are presently only conceptual in nature and will involve a project level evaluation of transportation projects that may that may exacerbate fire risk, or expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes, at the time of design.

<u>XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.</u>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☐	☒

a) through c) Less than Significant Impact/No Impact - The RTP/ATP is a program level document, which includes a general overview of both short- and long-range projects expected to be implemented over time. Adoption of the RTP/ATP will not result in cumulative impacts to biological or historical resources, although individual projects included within the Plan may, if implemented, include potentially adverse effects, either directly, indirectly or cumulatively. The vast majority of the transportation system in the Lake County region is pre-existing with many of the projects included in the RTP/ATP involving improvements or maintenance of the system. Other projects discussed within the Plan, such as grading, road widening and expanded right-of-way acquisition, new structures or new road projects are presently only conceptual in nature and will involve a project level evaluation of impacts and/or cumulative impacts involving biological, historical, archaeological or other resources, at the time of design.

DETERMINATION: On the basis of this initial evaluation:

☒ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

10/16/2025

Date



Signature