

California Department of Transportation

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August 5, 2026

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SCH#2026070152

Lucy Rollins, Senior Planner
Community Development Resource Agency
Placer County
3091 County Center Drive, Suite 190
Auburn, CA 95603

Placer County 2050 General Plan Update

Dear Lucy Rollins,

Thank you for including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in the review process for the project referenced above. We reviewed this local development for impacts to the State Highway System (SHS) in keeping with our mission, vision, and goals, some of which includes addressing equity, climate change, and safety, as outlined in our statewide plans such as the California Transportation Plan, Caltrans Strategic Plan, and Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure.

The Placer County 2050 General Plan Update (Project) proposes to prepare a comprehensive update to the Placer County General Plan, adopted in August 1994 and updated in May 2013, for a 20-year planning horizon. The Project will build off the current Placer County General Plan and will include goals, policies, and implementation programs that set the long-term plan for potential future development in unincorporated Placer County through the year 2050. Based on the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Environmental Impact Report (EIR) provided, we provide the following comments.

Freeway Operations

Please include potential impacts to the SHS in the traffic model forecasts when preparing the EIR.

Highway Operations

Developments and projects should identify potential impacts on SHS. The question of incorporating the Town of North Tahoe should be resolved as part of the General Plan update since this will have impacts on the Tahoe region.

Local Development Review

We also support including an assessment of potential SHS impacts within the analysis. Although this is a program-level EIR, a high level assessment of SHS facilities provides the opportunity to assess future growth areas or proposed changes in land use and identify focus areas to mitigate resulting impacts to the local and State transportation system.

Forecasting & Modeling

We look forward to the opportunity to review the EIR when available. The travel demand forecasting and vehicle-miles of travel (VMT) analysis related to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) should comply with the County of Placer Transportation Study Guidelines available [here](#).

Please provide our office with copies of any further actions regarding this proposal. We would appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on any changes related to this development.

If you have any questions regarding these comments or require additional information, please contact Satwinder Dhatt, Local Development Review Coordinator, by phone (530) 821-8261 or via email at satwinder.dhatt@dot.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

David J. Smith

David Smith, Branch Chief
Local Development Review
Division of Planning, Local Assistance, and Sustainability
California Department of Transportation, District 3