

California Department of Transportation

OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT 10 RURAL PLANNING
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September 24, 2026

Mr. Jared Critchfield
Superintendent
Amador County Unified School District
217 Rex Ave
Jackson, CA 95642

**AMA - Multiple - ALL Amador
County Unified School District
(School Closure/
Consolidation Program
Project)
SCH 2026081109**

Dear Mr. Critchfield,

The Department of Transportation (Caltrans) appreciates the opportunity to review and comment on the Initial Study/ Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Amador County Unified School District School Consolidation Program Project. The District is proposing to consolidate six schools onto five campuses. This would require minor physical improvements at four campuses—Argonaut High School (HS), Amador HS, Jackson Junior HS, and Lone Junior HS. The proposed project would not change the elementary school attendance boundaries but would change the junior high school boundaries and the high school boundaries.

The proposed project would affect six of ACUSD's school campuses: Amador HS, Independence HS, Argonaut HS, Jackson Junior HS, Lone Junior HS, and Lone Elementary School (ES).

Caltrans, at this time has the following comments:

Traffic Operations

Intersection Safety and Operational Assessment Process (ISOAP) will need to be conducted for mitigations that are on the State Route.

We recommend that mitigations of state facility that is affected by Amador County Unified School District consolidation program be implemented before schools are consolidated, not after project is completed.

Travel Forecasting

Appendix A

- Page A-43:
 - Please double check the trip number with Table 6-7: Trip Generation estimate in Appendix D
 - Missing ITE version information for reference.

Appendix D

- Please double check Table 6-7 (page D-81): Trip Generation Volume estimates information vs. trip generation table that's attached in Appendix D
- Page D-45 "Study Intersections":
 - "SR88/Sutter Street and Hoffman Street" should be "SR 88 and Hoffman Street". It will reduce confusion.
- Figure 9/ 12/ 23/ 26/ 29/ 32/ 35/ 38: Page D-70/ 73/ 91/ 95/ 101/ 106/ 112/ 118
 - Intersection #1: typo "Sutter lone" should be "Hoffman St".
 - Intersection #2: mislabeled, "CA 88" should be in N-S direction.
- 2026, 2046 Traffic volumes are reasonable.

Climate Resiliency

Appendix A of the proposed project addresses many greenhouse gas emissions. The report identifies the local government climate action plan goals to align with Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) reduction, building decarbonization, that reduces carbon emissions. The Initial Study has identified implementation of Mitigation Measures TRA-1 would reduce impacts from VMT to less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

Mitigation Measure TRA-1: Within two years of project approval, ACUSD shall prepare and implement a Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Plan to reduce VMT associated with the proposed project. For tracking and compliance, we recommend that the District Superintendent also include Caltrans and CARB to review the TDM plan and monitor for compliance and reporting as noted on page 185 on the Initial Study/ Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND).

Encroachment Permits

If any future project activities encroach into State Right of Way (ROW), the project proponent must submit an application for an Encroachment Permit to the Caltrans District 10 Encroachment Permit Office. Appropriate environmental studies must be submitted with this application. These studies will include an analysis of potential impacts to any cultural sites, biological resources, hazardous waste locations, and/or other resources within State ROW at the project site(s). For more information, please visit the Caltrans Website at: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep/applications>

Jared Critchfield
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If you have any questions or would like to discuss these comments, please contact Ashley Cooper at (209) 670-9488 or at Ashley.Cooper@dot.ca.gov or me at (209) 639-8832 (email: gregoria.ponce@dot.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Gregoria Ponce'

Gregoria Ponce', Chief
Office of Rural Planning