

The County of Yuba

Community Development and Services Agency



PLANNING COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: July 15, 2026

TO: Planning Commission

FROM: Alex Becerra, Planner II

RE: Waldo Road over Dry Creek Bridge Replacement Project —
Partially Recirculated Draft EIR — Public Comment Session

RECOMMENDATION: Staff requests that the Commission open the floor to receive public comment on the Partially Recirculated Draft EIR (Partially Recirculated DEIR). The public comment period runs from June 4, 2026 through July 20, 2026. Certification of the Final EIR will be considered at a future hearing.

BACKGROUND: Yuba County and Caltrans propose to replace the existing Waldo Road Bridge over Dry Creek, a tributary of the Bear River within the Spenceville Wildlife Area. The existing bridge, built in 1901, is structurally deficient. The new bridge will be a three-span, post-tensioned concrete box girder structure located approximately 100 feet upstream of the existing crossing, with a realigned roadway to correct substandard approach curves.

In October 2019, the County initiated early agency consultation on the proposed bridge replacement, routing the project to responsible agencies, utilities, tribal governments, and Beale Air Force Base (BAFB) for preliminary CEQA review. The project was later assigned State Clearinghouse No. 2022080453 as environmental review advanced toward a Draft EIR. The Original Draft EIR was published in March 2025 and circulated for a 45-day public review period. During that review, the County received two comment letters, including one from Beale Air Force Base identifying new biological information regarding fish presence in Dry Creek.

REASON FOR RECIRCULATION: BAFB's comment letter noted that the Beale Lake Dam, located approximately 1.8 miles downstream of the project site, was removed in 2020 to restore fish passage. Subsequent surveys (2021–2024) documented California Central Valley steelhead (a federally threatened species) upstream of the former dam location, with historical observations of Chinook salmon in Dry Creek as well. Because this information was not available when the Original Draft EIR was prepared, the County determined that additional environmental analysis was required under CEQA Guidelines Section 15088.5(a). The project description, alternatives, and all other previously circulated impact conclusions remain unchanged; only the Biological Resources, Tribal Cultural Resources, and Mandatory Findings of Significance chapters were revised and recirculated.

RECIRCULATED EIR FINDINGS:

- Biological Resources: Updated analysis concludes potential project impacts to steelhead and Chinook salmon Essential Fish Habitat remain less than significant with mitigation incorporated, through seven new avoidance and minimization measures, including seasonal in-water work restrictions.
- Tribal Cultural Resources: The chapter was updated to recognize steelhead and Chinook salmon as culturally important, character-defining features of Tribal Cultural Resource CA-YUB-1924/H; conclusions remain unchanged.
- Mandatory Findings of Significance: Revised to incorporate the new mitigation measures; no change to the overall significance conclusions.
- No public comments on the Partially Recirculated Draft EIR have been received to date.

NEXT STEPS: The public comment period remains open through July 20, 2026. Following its close, staff and the County's environmental consultant will prepare responses to comments and a Final EIR for the Commission's consideration at a future certification hearing.

Report Prepared By:

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