



please participate!

There are two ways to comment on the Draft Tier 1 EIS/EIR:

- 1 Attend and participate at the public hearings, and/or
- 2 Write to (or email) Celia McAdam, Executive Director, PCTPA, 299 Nevada St., Auburn, California 95603, or pctpa@pctpa.org

All comments made at the public hearings or received in writing will be recorded and addressed in the project's Final Tier 1 EIS/EIR. **All comments must be submitted by August 20, 2007.**

check us out online! www.pctpa.org

PCTPA's website (www.pctpa.org) is home to information about the Placer Parkway Project. From the PCTPA home page, just click on [projects], then on Placer Parkway. There you will find project documents, newsletters, meeting notices and other relevant materials to keep you informed.



Draft Tier 1 EIS/EIR for the Placer Parkway Corridor Preservation Project

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), and the South Placer Regional Transportation Authority (SPRTA) propose to select and preserve a corridor for the future construction of Placer Parkway, a new east-west roadway linking State Route (SR) 70/99 in Sutter County east to SR 65 in Placer County.

The Draft Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement/Program Environment Impact Report (Tier 1 EIS/EIR) for the Placer Parkway Corridor Preservation Project was released for public review on July 2, 2007. The Tier 1 EIS/EIR describes why the project is being proposed, presents alternatives considered for the project, describes the affected environment, and evaluates the impacts of each alternative.

WHAT IS THE PLACER PARKWAY?

Placer Parkway is envisioned as a 15-mile-long high-speed transportation facility connecting State Route (SR) 65 in Placer County and SR 70/99 in Sutter County. The facility will be constructed within a 500-foot- to 1,000-foot-wide corridor. It will reduce pressure on the existing transportation network, address anticipated future congestion on the local roadway system in southwestern

Placer County and southern Sutter County, and improve regional accessibility for businesses and jobs in the project vicinity. Other potential transportation modes, such as bus rapid transit, may be developed in the future in the corridor.

The concept for Placer Parkway is over a decade old. Detailed planning began in the late 1990's with the Conceptual Plan and the Project Study Report in 2001. The Placer Parkway project is an important component of the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

In 2003, SPRTA, via the Placer County Transportation Planning Agency (PCTPA), began work to identify the corridor alternatives to be analyzed in the Tier 1 EIS/EIR. In September 2005, after an extensive screening process and public participation program, the SPRTA Board agreed on five corridor alignment alternatives including a "No Build" alternative. In 2006, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency also agreed that these are a reasonable range of alternatives to evaluate. The corridor alternatives that are evaluated are shown on the map inside.

PUBLIC HEARINGS & PUBLIC COMMENTS

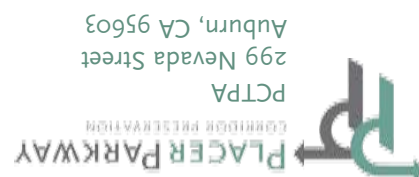
The SPRTA Board will conduct public hearings on the dates indicated below. The objective of the hearings is to receive comments on the Draft Tier 1 EIS/EIR and its adequacy. At each hearing, there will be a short presentation about the proposed project and the environmental review. The public, as well as agencies, organizations, and other interested individuals, are invited to attend and to make comments. See the last page for information on other ways to make formal comments.

Sutter County

August 6, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.
VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMUNITY BUILDING
1425 Veterans Memorial Circle
Yuba City, California

Placer County

August 8, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.
ROSEVILLE CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS
311 Vernon Street
Roseville, California



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A Tier 1 EIS/EIR is a combined Federal/State environmental review document. It emphasizes the relative differences among corridor alternatives to allow for an informed choice among alternatives. It focuses on broad topics and strategies for their mitigation. The Tier 1 process will identify a preferred corridor, which will allow SPRTA to acquire land. A Tier 2 environmental document, relying on this Tier 1 EIS/EIR, will provide a more detailed analysis of environmental impacts for specific alignments within the selected corridor.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

- Visit the PCTPA project website at www.pctpa.org
- E-mail PCTPA at pctpa@pctpa.org
- Call PCTPA at 530-823-4030

DRAFT TIER 1 EIS/EIR

The Draft Tier 1 EIS/EIR addresses requirements of the National Environmental Protection Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). In general, NEPA's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and CEQA's Environmental Impact Report (EIR) contain similar terms and processes. Both are disclosure documents prepared to ensure that environmental factors are taken into consideration by government decision-makers. One important difference between the two is determining the significance of an impact. Some impacts determined to be significant under CEQA may not lead to a determination of significance under NEPA.

From the CEQA view, the Draft Tier 1 EIS/EIR identifies that the following significant environmental effects cannot be avoided if the Placer Parkway project is implemented:

LAND USE

- Land use conversion
- Compatibility with proposed land uses
- Consistency with applicable General Plan policies

FARMLAND

- Farmland conversion
- Williamson Act conversion
- Conflicts with agricultural plans or policies

VISUAL AND AESTHETICS

- Change in visual character and quality of the study area

CULTURAL RESOURCES

- Potential substantial adverse change in the significance of a historic resource

TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION

- Addition of traffic on SR 70/99 (between I-5 and Elkhorn Boulevard), and on SR 65 (between I-80 and the SR 65 Lincoln Bypass), thereby lengthening the period of time during the peak period where these two freeways operate at Level of Service F conditions

AIR QUALITY

- Construction air quality impacts would exceed the Placer County Air Pollution Control District (PCAPCD) and the Feather River Air Quality Management District's (FRAQMD) construction emissions thresholds for reactive organic gases (ROG), oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), and particulate matter less than or equal to 10 microns (PM₁₀)
- All build alternatives would exceed the FRAQMD significance thresholds for ROG and NO_x

NOISE

- Exceedances of noise standards set by FHWA and Caltrans, and exceedances of noise thresholds as specified in the Sutter and Placer County General Plans

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

- Potential to affect seven special-status species and their habitat: the vernal pool fairy shrimp, vernal pool tadpole shrimp, Valley elderberry longhorn beetle, Swainson's hawk, white-tailed kite, giant garter snake, and Boggs Lake hedge hyssop
- Potential loss of vernal pool species and their habitat

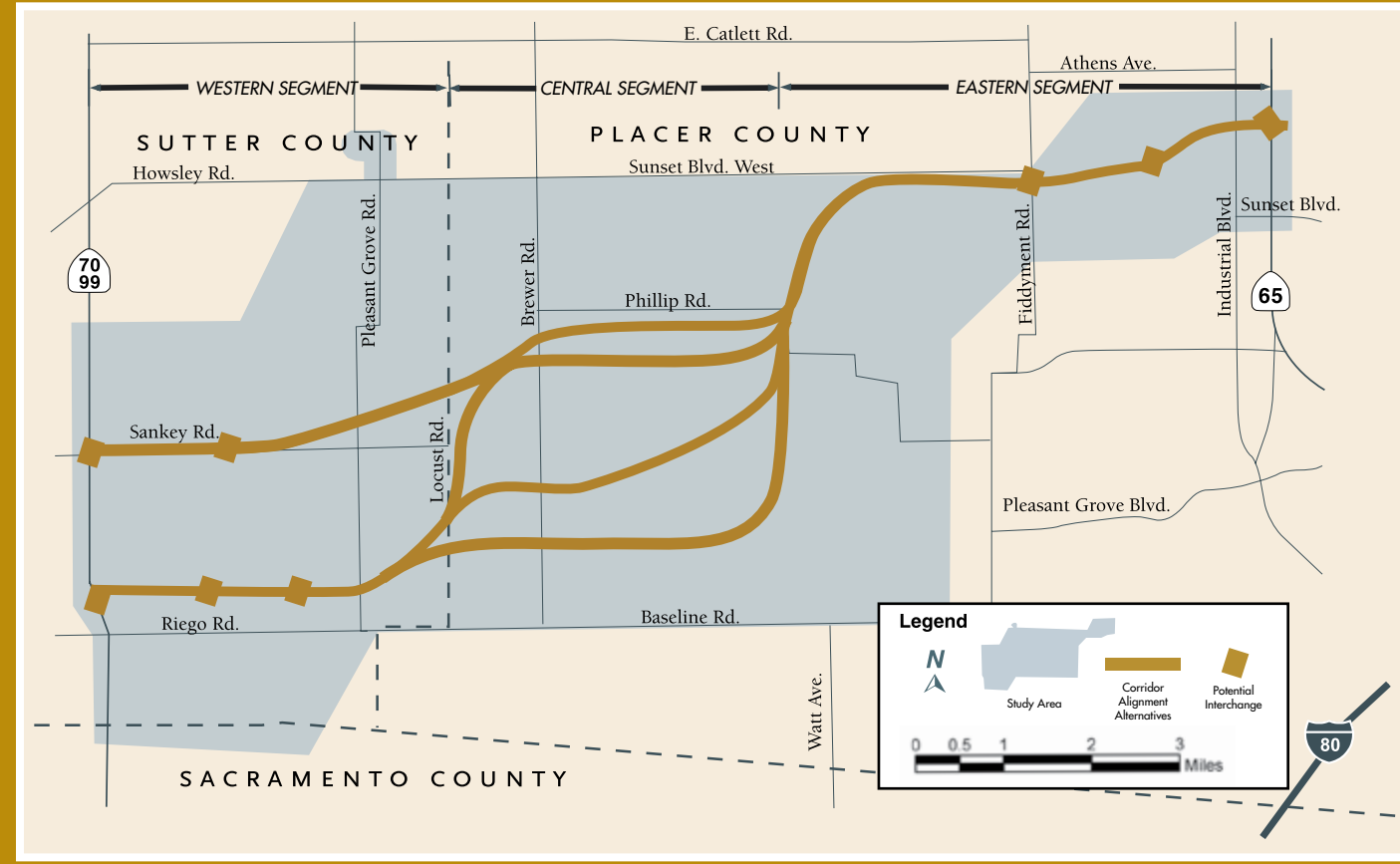
GROWTH

- One of many factors that would encourage growth in and near the study area by extending and improving the regional transportation system

CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

- Farmland and Williamson Act conversion, visual resources and cultural resources, traffic and transportation in some locations, air quality, noise, hydrology and water quality, and biological resources

corridor alignment alternatives
 FOR TIER 1 EIS/EIR ANALYSIS



The Draft Tier 1 EIS/EIR does not identify a "preferred" corridor alternative. This alternative will be identified in the Final Tier 1 EIS/EIR based on comments received on the Draft Tier 1 EIS/EIR.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Once the comment period closes, a Final Tier 1 EIS/EIR will be prepared, which responds to all the environmental comments received on the Draft Tier 1 EIS/EIR. A preferred corridor alignment will also be identified. The Final Tier 1 EIS/EIR is expected to be complete by the summer of 2008.

The Final Tier 1 EIS/EIR will be made available for public review before FHWA and SPRTA take action on the environmental work and the proposed project. The Sutter County Board of Supervisors will separately consider formal adoption of the selected corridor within its jurisdiction, based on the Final Tier 1 EIS/EIR.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND COPIES OF THE DRAFT TIER 1 EIS/EIR

On June 29, 2007, a notice that the Draft Tier 1 EIS/EIR is available for review was sent to over 1770 individuals, agencies, and organizations, and in early July a similar notice was published in the Federal Register. The Draft Tier 1 EIS/EIR can be reviewed at the following locations:

- **PCTPA**, 299 Nevada Street, Auburn and on its web site, www.pctpa.org
- **Planning and Public Works Departments** at Placer, Sutter, and Sacramento counties as well as the cities of Lincoln, Rocklin, Roseville, Sacramento, Yuba City, and the Town of Loomis
- **Libraries** in Placer County (Auburn, Lincoln, Loomis, Rocklin, and Roseville); Sutter County (Rio Oso, Pleasant Grove, and Yuba City); Sacramento County (Antelope and Sacramento), as well as at Sacramento State University and Sierra College