



COUNTY OF LAKE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Planning Division
Courthouse - 255 N. Forbes Street
Lakeport, California 95453
Telephone 707/263-2221 FAX 707/263-2225

Item 1
9:15 A.M.
January 28, 2021

STAFF REPORT

TO: Planning Commission

FROM: Scott Deleon, Community Development Director
Toccarra Thomas, Deputy Director
Sateur Ham, Assistant Planner

DATE: January 21, 2021

SUBJECT: General Plan Conformity Report, GPC 12-10
Initial Study, IS 12-27

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Vicinity Map
2. Initial Study, IS 12-27
3. Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program
4. Agency Comments

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Lake County Department of Public Works is requesting an approval of a General Plan Conformity Report to replace the existing bridge with a new structure that will meet current design and safety standards, improve public safety, and provide long term value for the County. The project site is located on First Street approximately 0.1 miles east of Main Street, near the single-family and two-family residential zoned community in Upper Lake over Clover Creek.

Utility relocation is anticipated for conflicts with overhead lines. Underground water line relocation may also be required. Adjustments to underground sewer and water manholes, valve boxes and cleanouts will be performed as needed to match the proposed grades.

The entire existing roadway is within County right-of-way which has a minimum width of 50'. Any additional need for right-of-way acquisition, rights of entry, or temporary construction easements will be minimized by maintaining the existing roadway alignment. Right of way and temporary construction easements will be purchased from portions of the four parcels at each corner of the bridge to accommodate construction of the culvert and roadway approaches.

The proposed project consists of the replacement of an existing single span reinforced concrete haunched T-girder (Bridge No. 14C-0015) over Clover Creek with a three 12' x 8' cell cast-in-place reinforced concrete box culvert. The continuous mat foundation of the box culvert is well suited design for the weak liquefiable soils at the site. The new structure will be designed to pass the 50-year and 100-year design storms without freeboard.

Road work will include reconstructing the approaches along First Street conforming at the intersection with Washington Street to the west, and approximately 200' past the bridge at the east. The approach road width will be constructed to current county standards, with 10' lanes, 5' shoulders, and 5' sidewalks. Parking along First Street will be replaced as necessary. Driveways will be reconstructed to conform to the new roadway profile.

The project may involve permanent modification or alteration of the streambed by adding rock slope protection, minor regrading, and the placement of a concrete bottom box culvert. The bottom of the box culvert will be buried with a natural stream bed backfill. It is anticipated that the flowline of the creek through the project limits will be restored to the current grades. Access to the creek will be required to construct the new structure. Depending on flows during construction, temporary stream diversion may be required.

Construction

It is anticipated that excavators, dozers, cranes, dump trucks, concrete trucks, concrete pumps, and pile driving or drilling equipment may be required to construct the new bridge. Construction is anticipated to be completed within one construction season. The road will be closed at the bridge site for the duration of the construction which is anticipated to last three months. There are multiple alternative routes residents can use to access their property resulting in a potentially delay of approximately only 5 minutes. Changeable Message Sign (CMS) boards will be displayed 30 days prior to construction of the upcoming road closure.

II. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

<u>Applicant:</u>	County of Lake Department of Public Works 255 North Forbes Street Lakeport, CA 95453
<u>Location:</u>	First Street, Upper Lake, CA Upper Lake USGS Quad; Section 7; T15N, R9W, MDM
<u>Project Name:</u>	Clover Creek Bridge Replacement at First Street (14C-0015)
<u>Existing Zoning:</u>	County Maintained Road; surrounding zones are single- (R1) and two- (R2) family residential family
<u>General Plan Designation:</u>	Surrounding general plan designations are low- and medium-density residential, and resource conservation
<u>Application:</u>	General Plan Conformity Report

III. GENERAL PLAN CONFORMITY ANALYSIS

Staff has determined that the Lake County Department of Public Works' Clover Creek improvements are consistent with the Lake County General Plan Chapter 6.

The transportation and circulation category is designed to create a network of highways, streets, sidewalks, trails, and transit services that move its residents and goods throughout the county. The proposed project shall provide and plan for a unified, coordinated, and cost-efficient countywide road and highway system that ensures safety, maintains adequate levels of service and the efficient movement of people and goods through improving the road structures to meet current standards.

Lake County General Plan

The Lake County General Plan includes several goals, policies, and implementation measures supporting the rehabilitation of roadways:

Goal T-1 of the Lake County General Plan is “To provide and plan for a unified, coordinated, and cost-efficient countywide road and highway system that ensures safety, maintains adequate level of service, and the efficient movement of people and goods.”

- **Policy T-1.1** The County shall establish a road network to accommodate projected growth in traffic volume resulting from residential development, commercial and tourism expansion, and geothermal activity and other industrial development.

The proposed improvements will ensure safe circulation for growing residential and commercial development where the general plan is designated as low to moderate density residential. In addition, the bridge was structured and built by the US Army Corps of Engineers in 1930s. The bridge currently do not meet current road standards per CalTrans standard rating, however, the proposed project will meet standard and ensure safe circulation for the growing population within this area.

- **Policy T-1.2** Roads should be improved and constructed to the design standards recommended by the County Department of Public Works, Lake County Road Design and Construction Standards. Road design standards shall be based on the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) standards, and supplemented by California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and County standards.

The proposed bridge will be engineered and updated to meet current county road standards per Caltrans Sufficiency Rating. The existing bridge width is too narrow, all of the girders have vertical cracks ranging from 1/64” to 1/32” wide, spaced as close as 3’ on center due to tension stresses from bending moments. These vertical cracks were first reported in 1999. Lake County Department of Public Works worked in cooperation with the California Department of Transportation and various agencies to meet the road design standards and to satisfy all local, state, and federal requirements as well as performing all the necessary requirement to evaluate environmental impacts and addressed all mitigation measurements as a result from satisfying the NEPA/CEQA requirement.

- **Policy T-1.4** The County should continue to upgrade the road system to reduce traffic accidents, improve circulation, and maintain its physical condition, in conformance with the priorities and recommendations established in the Regional Transportation Plan.

The existing concrete structure is too narrow for the roadway’s functional classification and is considered functionally obsolete. The existing bridge has concrete bridge railing with no approach railings. The project need is to provide a safe permanent crossing over Clover Creek on First Street

since the existing structure is considered functionally obsolete. The objective is to improve public safety and to provide for a permanent structure that has long term value for the County.

- **Policy T-1.10** The County shall utilize road construction methods that seek to reduce air, water, and noise pollution associated with road and highway development.

The proposed project would result in the replacement of an existing bridge with a new box culvert. The project is designed to minimize water quality impacts. The culvert is also designed to pass the 50-year and 100-year design storms without freeboard.

Upper Lake Area Plan Conformance

Upper Lake Area Plan Objective 5.3.2 directs “Improve the operation and safety of the County Road System within the Planning Area.”

- **Policy 5.3.2** Improve traffic safety of various road segments, bridges and intersections.

The existing bridge is structurally deficient and requires replacement. The replacement bridge will provide for a safe and smooth passage for the travelling public because it will improved traffic safety from a functionally obsolete road structure built in the 1930s.

IV. Environmental Analysis

An environmental analysis was completed for the project pursuant to CEQA guidelines. Potentially significant impacts were identified related to the following:

- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology & Soils
- Hazards & Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology & Water Quality
- Noise
- Public Services
- Transportation/Traffic

Implementation of and compliance with project conditions of approval identified in the CEQA Initial Study as mitigation measures would avoid or reduce potential impacts to less than significant levels. Permit conditions will be imposed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (see Attachment 2).

A biological analysis was prepared for this project. Recommendations provided in that study were incorporated into the Mitigation and Monitoring Plan to reduce impacts to sensitive species potentially existing in the project area (see Attachment 3). An archaeological records search and survey for the project site was conducted; no cultural resources were found.

V. RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Planning Commission take the following actions:

- A. Adopt a mitigated negative declaration for the Clover Creek Bridge at First Street Replacement Project with the following findings:

1. Potential environmental impacts related to the project have been mitigated to insignificant levels by CEQA mitigation measures specified in the Mitigation and Monitoring Plan.
 2. The project is consistent with the Lake County General Plan, the Upper Lake-Nice Area Plan, and the Zoning Ordinance.
 3. The project has potential to result in adverse impacts to wildlife and, therefore, is subject to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife filing fee.
 4. As mitigated, this project will not result in any significant adverse environmental impacts.
- B. Report that the replacement of the Clover Creek Bridge at First Street is in conformity with the Lake County General Plan with the following findings:
1. The proposed bridge replacement is consistent with the Community Commercial, Medium Density Residential, and Resource Conservation land use designations of the General Plan.
 2. The proposed bridge replacement is consistent with Lake County General Plan goals and policies related to Transportation and Circulation and to the health and safety of the residents and property of Lake County.
 3. The proposed bridge replacement is consistent with the Upper Lake-Nice Area Plan objective to improve the operation and safety of the County Road Systems.

Sample Motions:

Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration

I move that the Planning Commission find that the **General Plan Conformity, GPC 12-10 for Bridge Replacement over Clover Creek** applied for by the **Lake County Department of Public Works** on property located on **county-maintained right-of-way on First Street at Upper Lake, CA adjacent to APNs: 027-195-09, 027-196-01, 027-197-05, 027-221-11** will not have a significant effect on the environment as a mitigated negative declaration shall be issued with the findings listed in the **Staff Report dated January 21, 2021**.

General Plan of Conformity

I move that the Planning Commission find that the **General Plan Conformity, GPC 12-10 for Bridge Replacement over Clover Creek** applied for by the **Lake County Department of Public Works** on property located on **county-maintained right-of-way on First Street at Upper Lake, CA adjacent to APNs: 027-195-09, 027-196-01, 027-197-05, 027-221-11** is in conformity with the Lake County General Plan with the findings listed in the **Staff Report dated January 21, 2021**.

Reviewed by: _____