

**Appendix A:  
Visual Impact Assessment**

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*Jeff Crovitz, P.E., Director*

## Technical Memorandum

To: Julie Myrah, Branch Chief  
Caltrans Maintenance Planning Service – District 10

Cc: Parminder Singh, District Local Assistance Engineer  
Caltrans Office of Local Assistance – District 10

From: Mark Davis  
Calaveras County Department of Public Works

Date: May 18, 2016

RE: Dogtown Road - Indian Creek Bridge Replacement Project – Visual Impact Assessment  
Federal Project No. BRLO 5930(063)

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### **PURPOSE OF THIS MEMORANDUM**

The purpose of this memo is to evaluate the potential impacts to visual resources due to the Indian Creek Bridge Replacement Project and to demonstrate that the project will provide less than significant impacts to area residents.

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

Calaveras County, in coordination with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) propose to replace the existing Dogtown Road Bridge (Bridge Number 30C-0050) over Indian Creek. Dogtown Road is a rural two-way, 16-foot wide minor collector in rolling/mountainous terrain in Calaveras County. The road has a weekday traffic volume of approximately 100 vehicles per day. The existing bridge crosses Indian Creek approximately 4 miles east of State Route 49 or by road, approximately 6.5 miles north of State Route 4.

As indicated in the Caltrans Bridge Inspection Report, the bridge has a sufficiency rating of 69.1 and has been classified as functionally obsolete due to insufficient width as well as scoured and exposed foundations resulting from debris buildup. As a result, the bridge has been recommended for replacement.

The existing bridge was constructed in 1930 and consists of a two-span, 28-foot long, reinforced concrete slab. The proposed project will replace the existing bridge with a three-span, cast-in-place, reinforced concrete slab approximately 110 feet long. The proposed alignment of Dogtown Road will shift the existing alignment approximately 15 feet to the west at the creek crossing. The roadway modifications required for



the new roadway profile will extend approximately 250 feet to the south and 400 feet to the north of the bridge crossing. The roadway profile will be raised approximately 6 feet.

**VISUAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

The Caltrans questionnaire to determine the level of VIA analysis was completed. As shown in the attachment, the response to each question has a corresponding value of 1, which resulted in an overall score of 10. Consistent with Caltrans Visual Assessment Guidelines, a score of 10 to 14 recommends the preparation of a brief visual assessment in memo format. This memo serves as the visual assessment memo.

Review of the project site and preliminary project plans indicate that the project will provide less than significant visual impacts to the environment. To facilitate construction of the proposed improvements, 16 trees will be removed. Significant impacts to the existing vegetation are not anticipated outside of the proposed roadway. The roadway will be raised approximately 6 feet; however the grade change is not significant enough to impact the current appearance of the project location. As previously stated, the existing bridge will be replaced with a reinforced concrete slab, which is a structure type commonly used along rural roads. Because the project would not significantly change the existing visual setting and would not introduce visual elements that are uncommon in the area, the potential visual impacts would be less than significant.



**Existing Bridge looking Downstream**



**Looking South along Dogtown Road**



Looking North along Dogtown Road



Looking West towards Property and Residence just Northwest of Bridge



Residence Driveway Northwest of Bridge

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