



CALAVERAS COUNTY

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Wagon Trail Project Community Meeting Summary 12.09.24

Calaveras County Public Works staff invited nearly 200 people with properties/businesses along the Wagon Trail construction alignment to attend a community update meeting. The meeting was an opportunity for staff to highlight completed work and introduce the anticipated 2025 construction activities.

The meeting was held Monday, December 9, 2024, from 5:30- 7:00 PM at the Copperopolis Armory. Approximately 25 community members, four County representatives and three construction management team members attended the meeting.

Topic Summary

Robert Pachinger, Deputy Director of Calaveras County Public Works, summarized the completed work, presenting a project map, and progress photos. Mr. Pachinger also detailed the 2025 anticipated work.

Additionally, a brief explanation was provided noting the impact of cultural findings within the project area and that tribal monitors had been working on site continuously. A portion of the road was redesigned to minimize cultural impacts. This led to questions about why the project was designed in an area of cultural significance. Staff explained that while they were aware of the significance of the project area, no one anticipated the extent of the potential findings. Multiple alternatives were evaluated during the design stage, but the chosen design alternative was selected based on safety considerations related to curves, slopes, and overall road conditions on Highway 4.

Attendees also raised questions about the project's cost increase from \$27 million to \$53 million. Staff clarified that the additional budget was necessary to preserve archaeological findings discovered during construction. Caltrans provided an additional \$14 million in funding; the County is responsible for the remaining costs.

Anticipated 2025 Construction Activities

- Work is anticipated to begin in March 2025, weather permitting.
- A temporary closure at the intersection of Pool Station Road and Highway 4 is planned.
 - This raised concerns about accessibility between Angels Camp and Copperopolis. Staff assured attendees that emergency vehicles would have access during construction. Staff also noted that they would work with the contractor to minimize the duration of the closure.
- A detour with traffic control is being explored so that the road remains open.
- The intersection at Highway 4 and Appaloosa Road will be completed this year. Press releases and message boards will notify residents in advance.
- The retaining wall near Nassau Creek will be completed in spring.
- Phase 1 work is expected to be completed by the end of the 2025 construction season.

Following the presentation, several attendees had questions specific to their properties and those were addressed by staff individually.