



# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

## TRANSPORTATION DIVISION

<http://www.edcgov.us/DOT/>

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**DATE:** December 8, 2015

**TO:** Interested Agencies and Individuals

**FROM:** El Dorado County Community Development Agency, Transportation Division

**RE:** Invitation to Comment: Mosquito Bridge Replacement Project – Controlled River Access

El Dorado County received federal funds to replace the existing Mosquito Bridge located 6 miles north of U.S. Highway 50, along Mosquito Road at the South Fork of the American River. The bridge does not meet current standards such as load requirements and bridge width. Currently, the bridge requires extensive annual maintenance resulting in long term road closures. Structurally, the bridge is rated near the bottom of all state bridges with a sufficiency rating (SR) of 12.5 out of 100. Bridges with a SR of < 50 are eligible for replacement under the FHWA Highway Bridge Program (HBP). The HBP will not fund non-vehicular use. Therefore, the existing bridge may or may not be removed, depending upon whether or not a source of funding can be found to finance the ongoing, high cost of maintenance necessary to keep it open, even for pedestrian use. If such funding cannot be found, the existing bridge will be removed as required by the HBP.

Mosquito Road is a rural narrow roadway that meanders through mountainous terrain and switchbacks into the steep South Fork American River canyon that narrows to a single lane near the bridge on both roadway approaches. These approaches to the bridge include five tight hairpin turns—one on the south canyon face (Placerville side), and four on the north canyon face (Mosquito/Swansboro side). The 9 foot wide bridge is restricted to only small vehicles; larger vehicles, such as those of first responders, and trucks are physically unable to access the bridge.

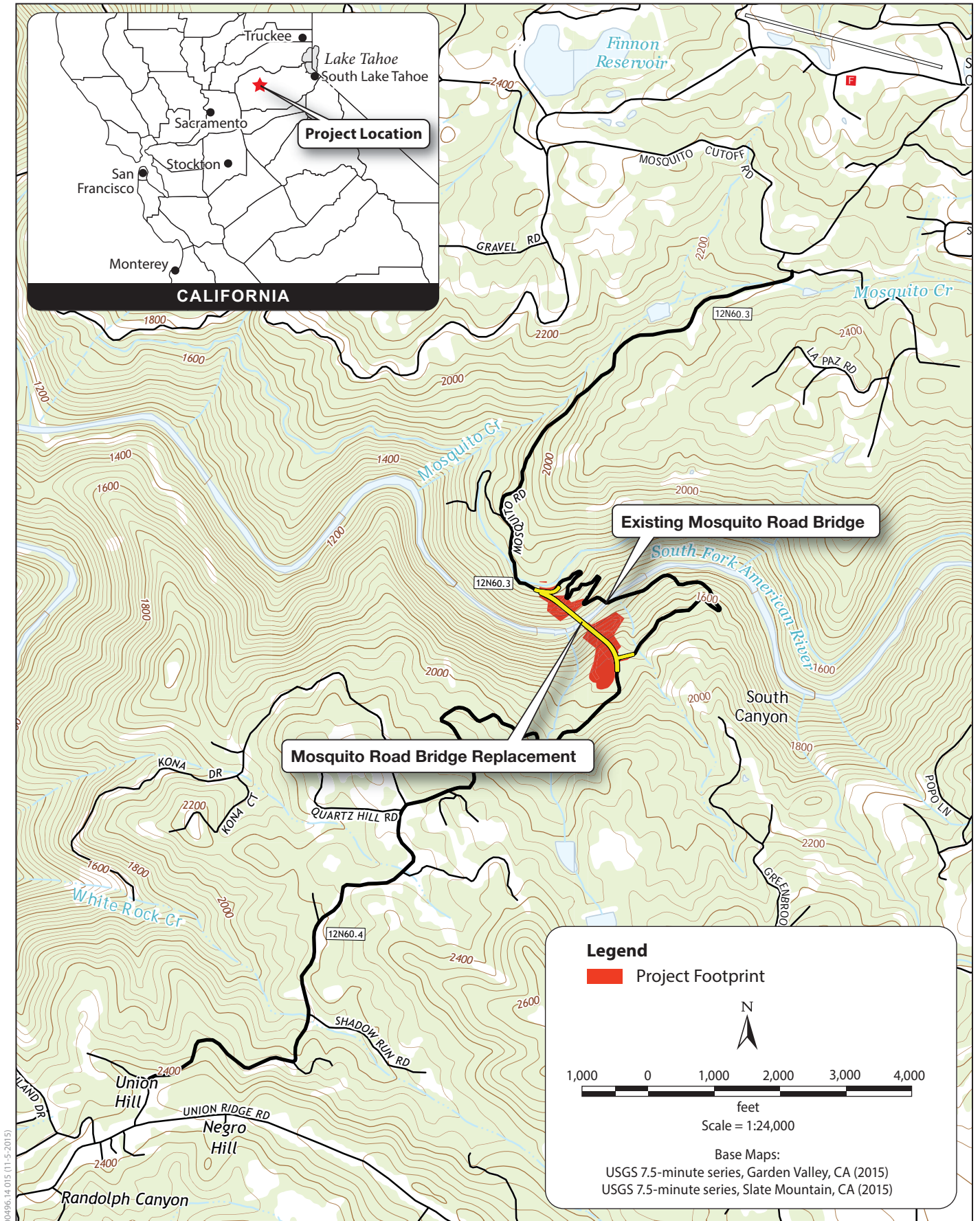
Due to reasons cited above, the County is considering a more direct crossing by raising the bridge profile approximately 400 feet, leaving the Mosquito Road approaches to the existing bridge no longer necessary to cross the canyon. The portion of Mosquito Road that leads to the existing bridge may or may not be abandoned, depending upon the interest in keeping it open on a limited basis or closed altogether. One option is to restrict this portion of the road to foot traffic, emergency and utility vehicles only. In this instance, however, minimal maintenance to the road would still be needed.

As a potential user/stakeholder to the old road on both sides of the river, the County is requesting your feedback as to preferences and your level of willingness to contribute to a share of the road maintenance.

Existing access to and from the river near the existing Mosquito Bridge is also the subject of a feasibility study the County will conduct as part of the proposed bridge replacement project pursuant to CA Streets & Highway Code 991.

Please submit your comments to me no later than December 31, 2015 using the contact information below. Thank you for your interest in the Mosquito Bridge Replacement Project. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Please be aware that you will have additional opportunity to comment on the project as a whole when the CEQA document is distributed to the public.

Janet Postlewait, Principal Planner  
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**Figure 1  
Location Map**