

**Sierra County
Board of Supervisors'
Agenda Transmittal &
Record of Proceedings**

MEETING DATE: June 2, 2020	TYPE OF AGENDA ITEM: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regular <input type="checkbox"/> Timed <input type="checkbox"/> Consent
DEPARTMENT: Public Works and Transportation	
APPROVING PARTY: Tim H. Beals, Director	
PHONE NUMBER: 530-289-3201	

AGENDA ITEM: Authorize letter of support to the Federal Highway Administration in support of the Yuba River Scenic Byway nomination package, which seeks the designation of National Scenic Byway for California State Route 49 from the Yuba-Sierra County Line to Yuba Pass.

SUPPORTIVE DOCUMENTS ATTACHED: Memo Resolution Agreement Other

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: This scenic byway received California designation in 1971, and is included in the 175-mile Yuba Donner National Forest Scenic Byway in 1992.

FUNDING SOURCE:
GENERAL FUND IMPACT: No General Fund Impact
OTHER FUND:
AMOUNT: \$ N/A

ARE ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL REQUIRED? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, -- -- <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	IS THIS ITEM ALLOCATED IN THE BUDGET? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No IS A BUDGET TRANSFER REQUIRED? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
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SPACE BELOW FOR CLERK'S USE

BOARD ACTION: <input type="checkbox"/> Approved <input type="checkbox"/> Approved as amended <input type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Adopted as amended <input type="checkbox"/> Denied <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> No Action Taken	<input type="checkbox"/> Set public hearing For: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Direction to: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Referred to: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Continued to: _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Authorization given to: _____	Resolution 2020- _____ Agreement 2020- _____ Ordinance _____ Vote: Ayes: Noes: Abstain: Absent: <input type="checkbox"/> By Consensus
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COMMENTS:

CLERK TO THE BOARD

DATE

SIERRA COUNTY

Board of Supervisors
P.O. Drawer D
Downieville, California 95936
Telephone (530) 289-3295
Fax (530) 289-2830



June 2, 2020

Federal Highway Administration
National Scenic Byways Program
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: National Scenic Byways Nomination – Yuba River Scenic Byway

Byway Nomination Review Committee:

Sierra County strongly supports the Yuba River Scenic Byway nomination package, which seeks the designation of National Scenic Byway for a very distinctive section of California Highway that meanders through Sierra County, the Tahoe National Forest and up to the northern terminus of California's historic Mother Lode in the Sierra Nevada mountain range.

The Yuba River Scenic Byway received the designation as a California State Scenic Highway on July 14 1971. It was also included in the 175-mile Yuba Donner National Forest Scenic Byway in 1992. This current nomination traverses 41.2 miles of California State Route 49 along the North Yuba River at elevations ranging from 1500 feet on the Middle Fork of the Yuba River to 6,700 feet at Yuba Pass along the historic gold rush highway.

In 2008, the Tahoe National Forest began developing a Corridor Management Plan for a section of the Yuba Donner Scenic Byway. This plan was focused on the "Poppy Route" designated portion of State Highway 49 between the Yuba County line near Camptonville and Yuba Pass. Dr. Emilyn Sheffield, California State University, led this collaborative effort along with a USDA Forest Service Recreation Solutions Enterprise Team, with support from the Federal Highway Administration and in partnership with the USDA Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region, the California Department of Transportation, California State University, Chico Research Foundation and many local partners. In August 2011, the Yuba River Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan was completed and issued. Unfortunately, at that time, the funding that the Scenic Byways had lapsed and no new nominations were being accepted. Momentum for this nomination was lost as time moved on. During the annual coordination with Caltrans this year, the nomination was revisited. Caltrans looked into the program and discovered that there is an opportunity to put forth a nomination for this program. As the Corridor Management Plan had been previously prepared and had gone through the entire FHWA process for consideration this is the perfect opportunity to revive this work. We are asking that this Scenic Byway nomination be given favorable consideration as it was strongly supported by the public and the agencies that collaborated in preparation of the management plan, which was completed in 2011.

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In the experience of most locals who travel outside of Sierra County, even to beautiful areas around the world, upon their return, as they travel up the canyon to return home, they experience anew each time a sense of awe at the beauty of this route.

The Yuba River Scenic Byway, is characterized by dense forest on mountainous terrain divided by deep river canyons provides such scenic beauty and peaceful solitude as to attract tourists, naturalists, historians, and recreationalists of many sorts. This unmatched scenic route offers such rich cultural, historical, and natural heritage and it deserves every consideration for designation as a National Scenic Byway.

Sincerely,

SIERRA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

By:

James Beard
Chairperson