



February 5, 2025

Blossom Scott-Heim, P.E.
Director of Public Works
County of Tuolumne
2 South Green Street
Sonora, CA 95370

Subject: Support for the Tuolumne County Department of Public Works Tuolumne Road North Evacuation Route Improvement Project

Dear Ms. Scott Heim,

Tuolumne City Sanitary District strongly supports the Tuolumne County's Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant application to reconstruct Tuolumne Road North, a critical emergency evacuation route. Tuolumne Road North provides an alternative access route during SR-108 incidents and closures and is an alternative evacuation route for residents of the Me-Wuk Rancheria, Cherokee and Tuolumne City.

Tuolumne County communities host a myriad of destinations including access to National Parks, recreational trails and activities, and casinos. and visitors utilize important major collector roads such as Tuolumne Road North to commute to work, school, reach recreational and entertainment destinations along Tuolumne Road North including the Tuolumne Community Resilience Center, Black Oak Casino Resort, Westside Pavilion, Summerville Pre-school and High School, Tuolumne City Branch Library, and Tuolumne Me-Wuk Indian Health Center. Additionally, Tuolumne Road North is a valuable access route to Tuolumne River canyon for the United States Forest Service (USFS) and emergency services during natural disasters.

Currently, Tuolumne Road North is in desperate need of safety improvements and due to the Gold Rush and history of the County there have been reports of old mine shafts opening and being discovered along Tuolumne Road North posing a dangerous situation for residents and visitors traversing the roadway. Proposed improvements would improve drainage, increase fire resiliency and sight distance, produce roadside clearing and shoulder widening to accommodate multi-lane evacuation and turnouts for emergency vehicles. The overall reconstruction and implementation of proposed improvements would provide residents, visitors and emergency service providers with a safe and reliable alternative evacuation and access route during natural disasters, increase fire resiliency and

The proposed improvements would span approximately 7 miles on Tuolumne Road North exit from SR-108 in Twain Harte, continuing south through the community of Cherokee and the Me-Wuk Rancheria to Tuolumne Road North and Tuolumne Road intersection in Tuolumne City. These improvements would allow residents and visitors to travel freely along Tuolumne Road North for evacuation purposes and improve roadway conditions, increasing overall public safety.

Tuolumne City Sanitary District supports this project because we agree the proposed improvements would allow for evacuation purposes and improve roadway conditions, increasing overall public safety, as previously mentioned.

The proposed improvements would be transformational for Tuolumne County, Tuolumne Band of Me-

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Wuk Rancheria, Tuolumne City and surrounding communities. Tuolumne City Sanitary District strongly supports this project to improve traffic safety and road conditions while creating a safe, reliable and efficient evacuation route in the event of an emergency.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this important project.

Sincerely,
Jeff Cooley
General Manager
Tuolumne City Sanitary District