



COUNTY OF YOLO

Office of the County Administrator

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Ribbon Cutting for CR 40 Bridge over Cache Creek

(Rumsey, CA) – On November 30, Yolo County hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the replacement of the County Road (CR) 40 Bridge over Cache Creek, originally constructed in 1930 and commonly referred to as the “Low Water Bridge.”

The nearly 100-year-old bridge was closed to vehicular traffic in 2008 following a Caltrans report that deemed the bridge to have a safe load capacity of zero tons. Structurally deficient, the bridge could not be used by CAL FIRE and other fire agencies to move heavy machinery into areas of the massive wildfire in 2015, causing significant delays that inhibited the efforts of the firefighters. As a key access point for firefighters crossing Cache Creek into the Capay Valley, the bridge is critical rural infrastructure and a public safety priority for what is a highly fire-prone region.



This past month the County’s contractor, Steelhead Constructors JV, completed the bridge replacement with a new three-span, reinforced concrete slab bridge. Consor Engineering served as the county’s construction management firm on the project. The new bridge, designed for the county by MGE Engineering, was constructed to accommodate CAL FIRE’s 72-foot-long tractor and trailer vehicle used to transport fire-fighting equipment across Cache Creek and into the Capay Valley.

With the assistance of Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry and Senator Bill Dodd, the project received an initial state appropriation of \$800,000 for planning and preconstruction activities in FY2017-18 and a subsequent appropriation of \$2,200,000 for construction in FY2019-20. The total cost of construction was approximately \$4.2 million, with the remaining costs covered by the federal Highway Bridge Program. From the beginning of the project, Yolo County collaborated with the Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation to advocate for a mutually successful project.

"The newly constructed CR 40 Bridge is a huge win for public access to recreation and public safety, especially for fire protection," said Chair of the Yolo County Board of Supervisors Angel Barajas. Many community champions were instrumental in the funding, design, and construction of this bridge. "Special thanks to my County Supervisor colleagues, including County



staff, Senator Bill Dodd, Assemblymember Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, Yocha Dehe Fire Department, CAL FIRE, and all the incredible men and women who worked tirelessly to build this bridge."

The new bridge offers pedestrians, bicyclists, ATV users, and equestrian traffic access to public lands. The bridge also provides a clearance of at least 8 feet for recreational rafters during summer irrigation flows in Cache Creek.

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