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November 22, 2019

California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street, MS 52
Sacramento, CA 95814

Caltrans Director Toks Omishakin
1120 N Street, MS 52
P.O. Box 942873
Sacramento, CA 95273-001

Subject: 2020 Draft Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (ITIP) Hearing

Dear Commissioners and Director Omishakin:

The purpose of this correspondence is to thank the Commission for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Butte County Association of Governments (BCAG) for consideration into the development of the 2020 Interregional Transportation Improvement Program. In addition, BCAG would like to provide the entire Commission and Caltrans Director Toks Omishakin with a brief summary of Butte County's talking points which are germane to the development of the ITIP. It's my understanding that not all Commissioners are typically present during the ITIP hearings.

BCAG, Caltrans District 3, Yuba County and the City of Marysville are working to complete the last remaining project on State Route 70 from Laurellen Road, just north of the City of Marysville in Yuba County to the Yuba/Butte County line. If funding is approved by the Commission in the 2020 STIP, the State Route 70 corridor improvements that was directed by the CTC in 1988 will finally be completed and Butte County will finally be served by a continuous 4-lane highway.

Addressing fatalities continues to be our top priority in developing BCAG's 2020 RTIP recommendations. With this in mind, BCAG continues to recommend the SR 70 Corridor for joint Regional and Interregional funding in the STIP. We offer the following points for ITIP funding consideration:

ITIP Considerations

- **44 fatalities on State Route 70 since 2010, 4 have occurred on this segment this year.**
- This project is partially funded with SHOPP funds, the remaining \$32 million to complete the project is being requested as part of the 2020 STIP.
- This last project segment from Laurellen Road to the County line is lined with 158 driveways with heavy a.m. and p.m. commuter traffic, increased truck traffic that is part of the Paradise Clean-up and the agricultural industry.....bottom line, these fatalities are not going to decrease until this last project is complete.

- After 30 years and over \$1 billion in transportation investments, the Commission and Caltrans are poised to complete the State Route 70 Corridor between Sacramento and Chico by funding the last project in Yuba County.
- BCAG, Caltrans District 3 and with the support of the Yuba County Board of Supervisors and the Marysville City Council have agreed to a funding plan to complete this final project in Yuba County which includes a funding contribution of \$4 million from BCAG, a \$4 million contribution from Yuba County Board of Supervisors and a \$24 million contribution from Caltrans' ITIP.
- State Route 70 serves as a critical emergency access route as demonstrated in the Oroville Dam Crisis of 2017 with 180,000 evacuees and the Paradise Camp Fire in 2018.

Attached are our most recent fatality map and a corridor map highlighting the 68 miles of four lanes that have completed and the remaining gap of 9.6 miles left in Yuba County. We recognize the limited funding capacity in the ITIP and the funding needs from the rest of the state. We believe we have extenuating circumstances for this "grandfathered corridor" as highlighted above.

BCAG has already contributed \$4 million of RIP funding to complete the environmental component for this corridor and we are willing to match Yuba County's pledge of \$4 million thru SACOG leaving a request of \$24 million from Caltrans.

If we are unable to identify a plan to complete this remaining gap and this corridor becomes a future separate project, Caltrans District 03 has indicated the cost estimate would exceed \$50 million at which point BCAG would be financially unable to further partner. We sincerely hope we can come together and finish the job. If approved and programmed, the project can be delivered for construction within the timeframe of the 2020 STIP.

Thank you for your time,

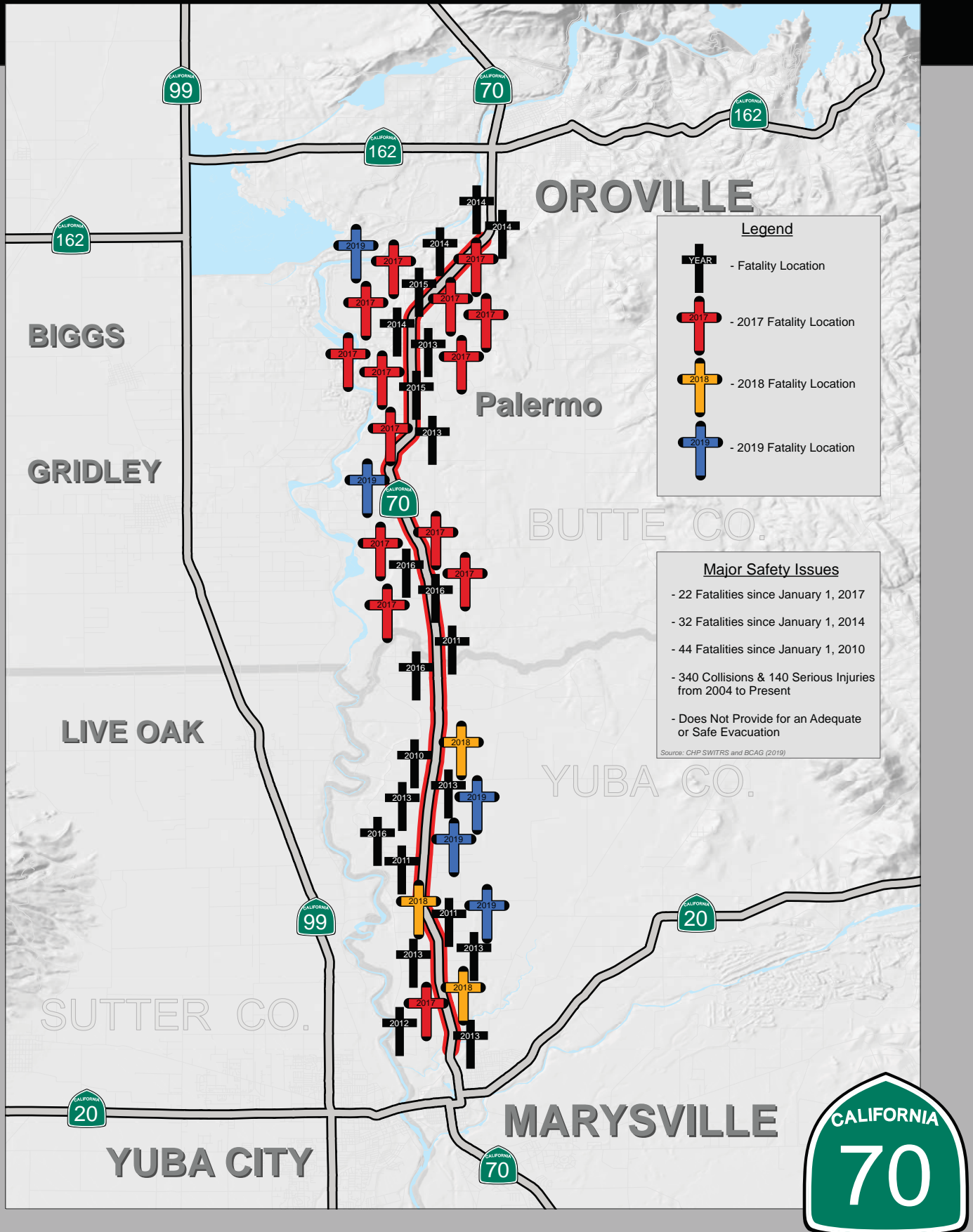


Bill Connelly, Chair
Butte County Association of Governments

HIGHWAY 70 FATALITIES

MARYSVILLE TO OROVILLE

2010 - 2019



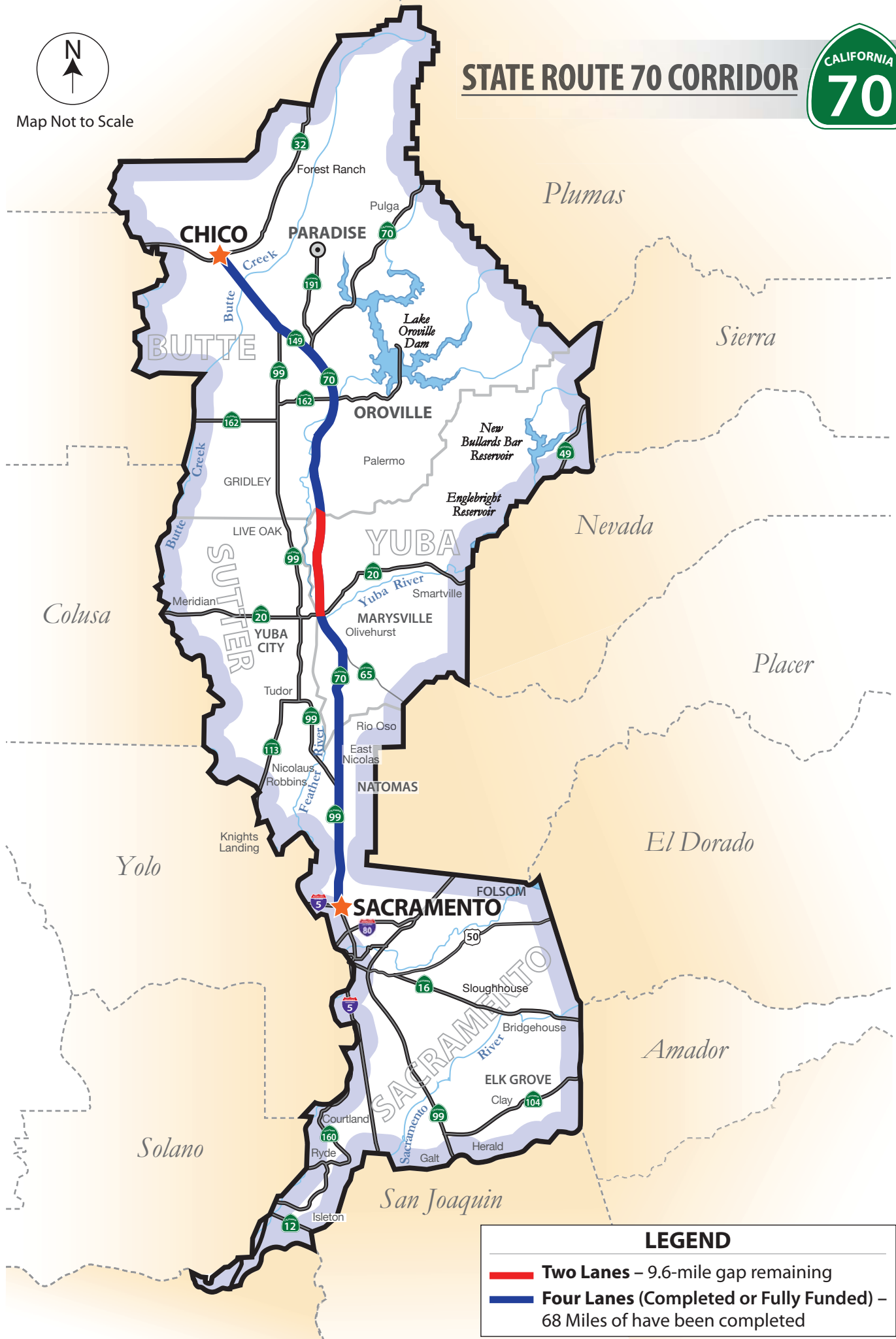
Last Updated: November 8, 2019







Map Not to Scale

STATE ROUTE 70 CORRIDOR



LEGEND

-  **Two Lanes** – 9.6-mile gap remaining
-  **Four Lanes (Completed or Fully Funded)** – 68 Miles of have been completed