

This document is an extract of a larger publication.

civilgrandjury.org is a project of UnGovr.org, a US-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to government transparency and public accountability.



TEHAMA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
COUNTY GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

SUMMARY

The Tehama County Grand Jury Committee investigated issues pertaining to the Reeds Creek Road washout. The investigation regarded the roadway integrity in relation to public safety for the Reeds Creek Community (Refer to Appendix A through F).

METHODOLOGY

The Tehama County Grand Jury Committee visited the site of the Reeds Creek Road washout and obtained photos of the washout damage caused by Liza Creek (Appendix C & D). The Tehama County Public Works Department (TCPWD) personnel were formally interviewed on June 30, 2021 and August 12, 2021. Additional information and documentation were requested and subsequently provided (Appendix A, B, E, & F).

FINDINGS

F1. TCPWD annual budget, staffing shortages, outdated equipment and low wages have affected road inspection and repair timelines. TCPWD is responsible for 1,088 miles of roadway and 260 miles of unpaved roadway. TCPWD is currently behind in their designated three-year inspection cycle.

F2. The Reeds Creek Road washout has closed one lane of a two-lane roadway and currently, traffic must stop in each direction to alternate passage of the area. Reeds Creek Road is utilized by individuals who live in the area, Reeds Creek Elementary School busses, parents driving children to school as well as ranchers with large cattle trailers. Emergency evacuations were not adequately addressed during the interview process.

F3. TCPWD identified issues prohibiting the repair as being: 1. Property domain issues 2. Environmental studies 3. Budget restraints. TCPWD has not identified any Tehama County roadways that are as significantly impacted as the Reeds Creek Road washout.

F4. Currently, TCPWD visually inspects the Reeds Creek Road washout monthly and is scheduled for re-survey every two years, however the washout has impacted the roadway since the early 1990's. TCPWD has identified that Reeds Creek Road is safe for vehicle traffic and the

roadway is not currently undercut; however, TCPWD reported that if the road does become severely undercut the repair project will then be seen as a priority.

F5. Currently, TCPWD is reliant on law enforcement, first responders, general public and staff to identify and report needed roadway repairs. TCPWD has obtained a consulting group to use LIDAR data radar to process and analyze Tehama County roadways.

RECOMMENDATIONS

R1. The Grand Jury recommends that the TCPWD implement LIDAR surveying technology that identifies roadway issues within Tehama County and implements data-driven reports in a timely manner. It is also recommended that TCPWD research and identify additional funding streams through grants or contracts.

R2. The Grand Jury recommends that TCPWD develop and implement a written safety policy for emergency evacuations. The safety plan policy will be shared with emergency first responder agencies within Tehama County. The safety plan policy will be provided to the 2022 Grand Jury for review and posted on the Tehama County website.

R3. The Grand Jury recommends that TCPWD prioritize implementation of the property domain and environmental studies for the Reeds Creek Road washout repair process. TCPWD to identify timelines for the process to begin and report to the 2022 Grand Jury.

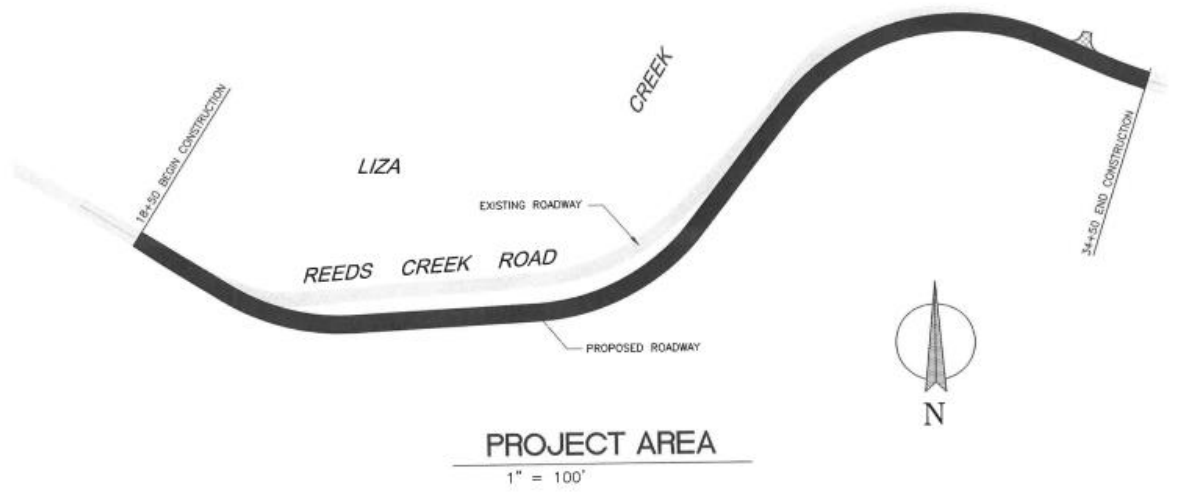
R4. The Grand Jury recommends that TCPWD temporarily reinforce the Reeds Creek Road washout until such time as permanent repairs can be completed. It is also recommended that the Tehama County Board of Supervisors make an onsite visit to the Reeds Creek Road washout site.

R5. The Grand Jury recommends that by 3-1-2022, TCPWD implement LIDAR surveying technology within Tehama County. 2022 Grand Jury to follow up regarding implementation of this process.

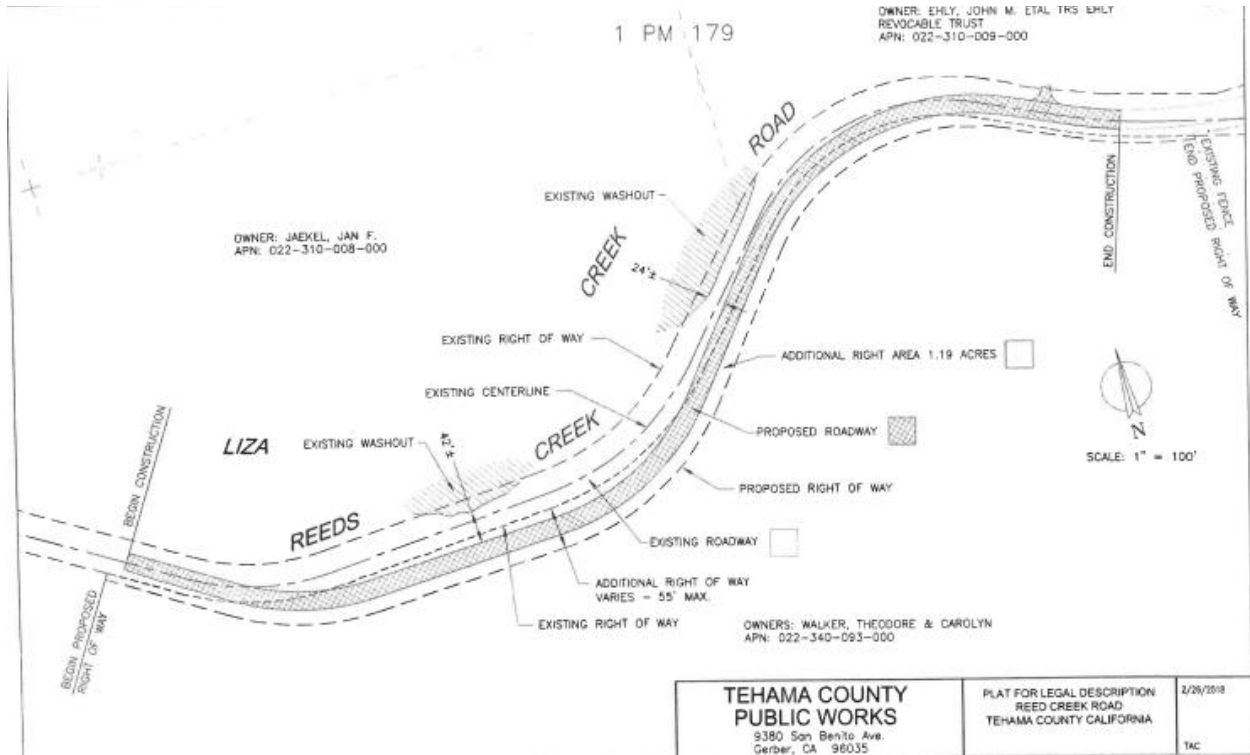
REQUIRED RESPONSES

Pursuant to Penal Code section 933 and 933.05, the Grand Jury requests responses to R1 – R5 within 90 days.

Appendix A



Appendix B



Appendix C



Appendix D



Appendix F

