

# CALAVERAS PLANNING ON FUTURE CONGESTION

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August 01, 2012

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SAN ANDREAS - Traffic jams may be in Calaveras County's future.

A regional transportation plan issued recently by the Calaveras Council of Governments indicates that over the next 23 years, many of the county's roads and highways could be increasingly clogged.

That is especially true of Highway 4, the primary route to such economic mainstays as vacation cabins, wineries and mountain recreation.

Although the plan specifically addresses the next five years of anticipated transportation projects, it also looks ahead as far as 2035.

By then, the report says, the Highway 4/Highway 49 intersection in Angels Camp could have rush hours with bumper-to-bumper traffic that will earn a level of service rating of "F," the lowest grade issued by traffic planners.

To avoid such gridlock in what was once a rural, uncongested region, the report forecasts that local, state and federal agencies will need to spend about \$294.4 million over the next 23 years.

The report also warns that some needs - such as repairing crumbling local roads - will likely require new local revenues, possibly from a sales tax increase.

The report details the assumptions it makes about population, employment and development patterns over coming years. Changes in any of those variables could greatly increase or decrease the need for work on roads and other transportation infrastructure.

The public has until Sept. 10 to comment on the draft regional transportation plan.

Contact reporter Dana M. Nichols at (209) 607-1361 or [dnichols@recordnet.com](mailto:dnichols@recordnet.com). Visit his blog at [recordnet.com/calaverasblog](http://recordnet.com/calaverasblog).

## **See for yourself**

See the Calaveras County Regional Transportation Plan online at [calacog.org](http://calacog.org). Hard copies are available for review at the CCOG office, 444 E. Saint Charles Street/Highway 49, San Andreas.

Comments on the plan are due by 5 p.m. Sept. 10 and should be sent to the attention of Melissa Eads, executive director, at the CCOG office.