

Date of Hearing: May 14, 2025

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 1343 (Gallagher) – As Amended April 21, 2025

Policy Committee: Transportation

Vote: 16 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill authorizes local agencies that would have been affected by a planned-but-since-abandoned transportation facility crossing the Feather River in the City of Yuba City and in Sutter and Yuba Counties, acting jointly with the relevant transportation planning agency, to develop and file with the California Transportation Commission (CTC) a local alternative transportation improvement program that addresses transportation problems and opportunities in the area that was to be served by the planned state facilities.

The bill directs CTC to allocate to regional priorities all proceeds from the sale of the excess properties (meaning those properties acquired to construct planned state transportation facilities crossing the Feather River in the City of Yuba City and the Counties of Sutter and Yuba, which project is no longer planned to be constructed and is now planned as a local bridge project), less any reimbursements due to the federal government and all costs incurred in the sale of those excess properties.

FISCAL EFFECT:

One-time redirection of revenues, in the range of \$3 million to \$7 million, from the sale of properties related to the Feather River crossing project. In directing the proceeds, this bill reduces the amount of funding from the sale of highway properties that goes to the General Fund. Absent this bill, these revenues would be directed to offsetting General Fund debt service on transportation bonds.

Minor and absorbable direct costs to Caltrans.

COMMENTS:

A few decades ago, Caltrans purchased lands in Yuba and Sutter Counties with the intent of using those properties as part of a state highway crossing of the Feather River. However, subsequently, Caltrans determined the cost of the project was prohibitive. Since then, the properties have languished, and no crossing of the Feather River at that location has been built, and Caltrans is considering selling the properties. The author wants proceeds from the sale of the properties made available to the two counties to fund consideration of crossing. According to the author:

In the 1990's, the California Department of Transportation purchased several properties in Yuba and Sutter counties as right-of-way (ROW) in

order to build a third bridge across the Feather River. Currently, there are two other crossings. One is the Twin Cities Memorial Bridge, and the other is on the Feather River Bridge at Colusa Avenue. These crossings are less than a mile apart, and leave much of the southern part of the cities underserved. Unfortunately, due to lack of funding, Caltrans is no longer pursuing the bridge project and is planning on selling the ROW properties as excess property. AB 1343 would allow Yuba City and Yuba/Sutter counties to keep funds from the sale of properties that the Department of Transportation originally acquired in order to do a feasibility study on a new location for the third bridge.

The Legislature has approve proposals that, like this bill, dedicate the proceeds of sales of excess Caltrans property to uses that address the purposes for which Caltrans originally purchased those properties. Several of those proposals have become law. The author tried to put into law this proposal once before, in AB 810 in the 2017-18 Legislative Session. The Legislature approved AB 810, but the Governor vetoed it, contending, "These revenues are used to pay existing debt service on transportation construction projects statewide, which is an important purpose. Maintaining this funding stream to the General Fund is even more necessary when the state's budget remains precariously balanced."

Analysis Prepared by: Jay Dickenson / APPR. / (916) 319-2081