Supplemental Initial Study/
Mitigated Negative Declaration and Initial
Environmental Checklist

Van Sickle Bi-State Park Safety and Equitable Access Improvements Project

Prepared for:

DGS
GENERAL SERVICES

Department of General Services

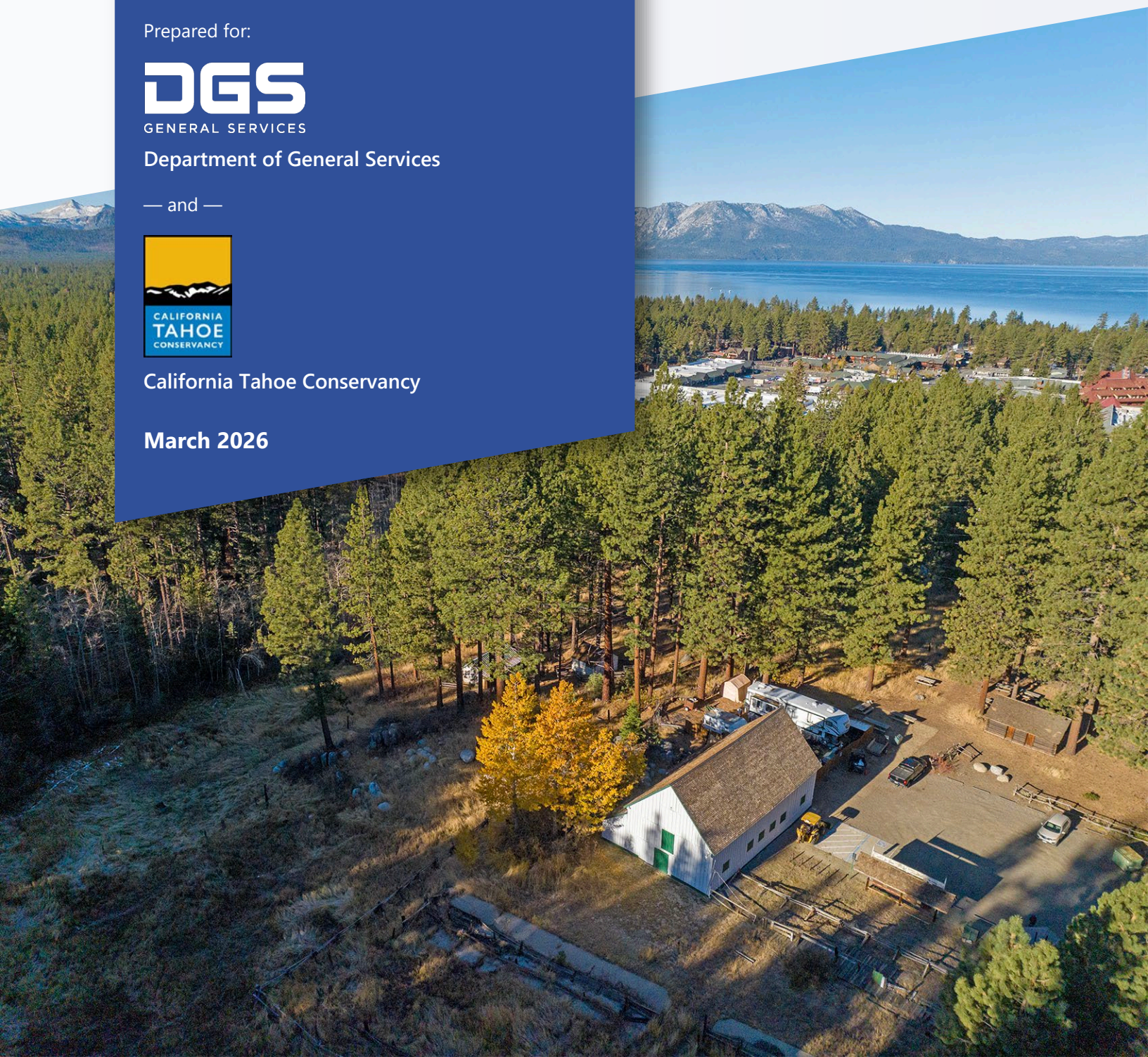
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CALIFORNIA TAHOE CONSERVANCY

California Tahoe Conservancy

March 2026

ASCENT



Supplemental Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration and Initial Environmental Checklist

Van Sickle Bi-State Park Safety and Equitable Access Improvements Project

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March 2026

20210058.21

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter		Page
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS		III
1	INTRODUCTION	1-1
	1.1 Background and Overview	1-1
	1.2 Purpose of this Document	1-3
	1.3 Public Involvement Process	1-4
	1.4 Document Organization	1-5
2	PROJECT DESCRIPTION	2-1
	2.1 Project Location and Setting	2-1
	2.2 Modified Project	2-4
	2.3 Construction Activities and Timing	2-9
	2.4 Best Management Practices and Project Design Features	2-10
	2.5 Potential Permits and Approvals Required	2-11
3	ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST	3-1
	Project Information	3-1
	Environmental Factors Potentially Affected	3-2
	Determination (To be completed by the Lead Agency)	3-3
	TRPA Environmental Determination (to be completed by TRPA)	3-4
	CEQA Sections Eliminated from Further Analysis	3-5
	Evaluation of Environmental Impacts	3-10
	3.1 Aesthetics	3-11
	3.2 Agriculture and Forestry Resources	3-14
	3.3 Air Quality	3-18
	3.4 Biological Resources	3-34
	3.5 Cultural Resources	3-44
	3.6 Energy	3-49
	3.7 Geology and Soils	3-53
	3.8 Greenhouse Gas Emissions	3-58
	3.9 Hazards and Hazardous Materials	3-64
	3.10 Hydrology and Water Quality	3-67
	3.11 Land Use and Planning	3-72
	3.12 Mineral Resources and Natural Resources	3-74
	3.13 Noise	3-76
	3.14 Population and Housing	3-79
	3.15 Public Services	3-81
	3.16 Recreation	3-85
	3.17 Transportation/Traffic and Circulation	3-87
	3.18 Tribal Cultural Resources	3-91
	3.19 Utilities and Service Systems	3-94
	3.20 Wildfire	3-98
	3.21 Cumulative Impacts and Mandatory Findings of Significance	3-103
4	REFERENCES	4-1
5	REPORT PREPARERS	5-1
	5.1 California Department of General Services	5-1
	5.2 California Tahoe Conservancy	5-1
	5.3 Ascent	5-1

Appendices

Appendix A Technical Assessment of Biological Resources for the Van Sickle Bi-State Park Safety and Equitable Access Improvements Project

Figures

Figure 2-1 Regional Location 2-2
Figure 2-2 Project Location 2-3
Figure 2-3 Site Plan 2-5

Tables

Table 2-1 Potential Permits and Approvals 2-12
Table 3.3-1 National and California Ambient Air Quality Standards 3-19
Table 3.3-2 Attainment Status Designations for the Lake Tahoe Air Basin 3-22
Table 3.21-1 Cumulative Projects List 3-105

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

°C	degrees Celsius
2019 Vision Plan	Van Sickle Bi-State Park Vision Plan Update 2019
AB	Assembly Bill
ACC II	Advanced Clean Cars II
ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
AN	El Dorado County Assessment Number
BACT	Best Available Control Technology
BMP	Best Management Practice
CAAQS	California Ambient Air Quality Standards
CAFE	Corporate Average Fuel Economy
CAL FIRE	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
CALGreen	California Green Building Standards Code
Cal-OSHA	California Division of Occupational Safety and Health
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CAA	Clean Air Act
CAP	Climate Action Plan
CCR	California Code of Regulations
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEHC	California Essential Habitat Connectivity
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CFC	California Fire Code
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
City	City of South Lake Tahoe
CMTP	Construction Management and Traffic Plan
CNEL	Community Noise Equivalency Levels
CNRA	California Natural Resources Agency
CO	Carbon monoxide
Code	TRPA Code of Ordinances
Conservancy	California Tahoe Conservancy
CRHR	California Register of Historic Resources
CWA	Clean Water Act
CWPP	Community Wildfire Protection Plans
DCSD	Douglas County School District
DBH	diameter at breast height
DVTE	Daily Vehicle Trip Ends
EDCAQMD	El Dorado County Air Quality Management District
EDCZO	El Dorado County Zoning Ordinance
EIP	Environmental Improvement Program
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement

EO	Executive Order
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Environmentally Sensitive Area
FHSZ	Fire Hazard Severity Zones
FPA	Forest Practices Act of 1973
FR	Forest Resource
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
HAP	hazardous air pollutants
HDPUV	Heavy-Duty Pickup Trucks and Vans
hp	horsepower
HRA	Health Risk Assessment
HSC	Health and Safety Code
IEC	Initial Environmental Checklist
IEPR	Integrated Energy Policy Report
IPES	Individual Parcel Evaluation System
IS/ND/IEC	Initial Study/Negative Declaration/Initial Environmental Checklist
IS/MND/IEC	Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration/Initial Environmental Checklist
kbmg	Bryan Meadow Granodiorite
LCFS	Low Carbon Fuel Standards
LOS	Level of Service
LRA	Local Responsibility Area
LTAB	Lake Tahoe Air Basin
LTUSD	Lake Tahoe Unified School District
MMRP	Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program
MRZ	Mineral Resource Zone
MY	Model Year
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
NCIC	North Central Information Center
NDOW	Nevada Department of Wildlife
NDSP	Nevada Division of State Parks
NHTSA	National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration
NO_2	Nitrogen dioxide
NOI	Notice of Intent
NOP	Notice of Preparation
NOx	Oxides of nitrogen
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
O&M	Operations and Maintenance
OEHHA	Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment
OPR	Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (formerly Governor's Office of Planning and Research)
Original Project	Van Sickle Bi-State Park Project

Park	Van Sickle Bi-State Park
PAS	Plan Area Statement
PDF	Project Design Feature
PL	Public Law
PM	Particulate Matter
$PM_{2.5}$	fine particulate matter
PM_{10}	respirable particulate matter
PPM	parts per million
PRC	Public Resources Code
Project	Van Sickle Bi-State Park Safety and Equitable Access Improvements Project
REC	recreation
RTP	Regional Transportation Plan
RV	Recreational Vehicle
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SB	Senate Bill
SCORP	2003 Nevada Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
SCS	Sustainable Communities Strategy
SEZ	Stream Environment Zone
SIP	State Implementation Plans
SLF	Sacred Lands File
SO_2	Sulfur dioxide
SQIP	Scenic Quality Improvement Program
SRA	State Responsibility Area
State Parks	California Department of Parks and Recreation
STPUD	South Tahoe Public Utility District
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
TAC	Toxic Air Contaminates
THP	Timber Harvest Plan
TMP	Transportation Management Plan
TMPO	Tahoe Metropolitan Planning Organization
TPZ	Timberland Production Zone
TRPA	Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
TRT	Tahoe Rim Trail
TTD	Tahoe Transportation District
µg/m3	micrograms per cubic meter
USFWS	US Fish and Wildlife Service
US 50/SSCRP	US 50/South Shore Community Revitalization Project
USGS	US Geological Survey
VMT	Vehicle Miles Traveled
VOC	Volatile Organic Compound
WFCE	Working Forest Conservation Easements
WUI	Wildland-Urban Interface
ZEV	Zero-Emission Vehicle

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1 INTRODUCTION

The California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) proposes to construct several project improvements for the Van Sickle Bi-State Park Safety and Equitable Access Improvements Project (Project) on the California side of the Van Sickle Bi-State Park (Park). The proposed Project modifies the original Park project (Original Project) that was evaluated in the Van Sickle CA/NV Bi-State Park Initial Study/Negative Declaration/Initial Environmental Checklist (IS/ND/IEC) (Conservancy 2009), and hereafter will be referenced as the Modified Project to distinguish between the Original Project.

The Modified Project analyzed in this Supplemental IS/MND/IEC addresses activities on land owned by the California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) and the City of South Lake Tahoe (City) on the California side of the Park.

1.1 BACKGROUND AND OVERVIEW

In 2005, the Conservancy, California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks), and the Nevada Division of State Parks (NDSP) prepared the 2005 Van Sickle Bi-State Park Master Plan (2005 Master Plan). Existing improvements on the California side of the Park were evaluated and certified by the Conservancy in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, State Clearinghouse No. 2009042033. Phases one and two were completed in 2012 and included a day-use area on the California side (i.e., the area adjacent to the historic barn) and a day-use area and an equestrian trailhead on the Nevada side. In 2019, the Conservancy and NDSP collaboratively developed the Van Sickle Bi-State Park Vision Plan Update (2019 Vision Plan), an update to the 2005 Master Plan.

The overall vision for the Park is to create a bi-state park with outstanding scenic and natural character, for the protection of historical, archeological, ecological, and geological resources while creating opportunities for compatible types of recreation. The 2019 Vision Plan includes pedestrian connections to the casino core, camping, expanded day-use opportunities, revised trails and park circulation, relocated maintenance facilities, and employee housing.

The Conservancy now proposes to construct several new elements within the California side of the Park, including approximately 0.4 miles of Class 1 paved trail, a new entrance plaza and two picnic areas with amenities, and to improve several existing features including the bathrooms to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements and the unpaved parking lot at the California day-use area which would be paved and upgraded with snow storage and stormwater facilities for future potential winter operations. The Conservancy and NDSP continue to collaborate as components of the 2019 Vision Plan are independently implemented.

1.1.1 Description of the Original Project in California

As analyzed in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Original Project involved establishment of a 724-acre public park on approximately 183 acres in California and 541 acres in Nevada. On the California side of the Park, the 2009 IS/ND/IEC proposed construction of the California day-use area, an entrance road (leading to the Nevada-side of the Park), a paved multi-use trail paralleling the entrance road to connect visitors to the Van Sickle Barn and California day-use area, a 10-stall unpaved parking lot, a prefabricated sewered restroom, trailer pads with utility hook-ups for on-site hosts, and 4 parking spaces to accommodate on-site hosts.

The 2009 IS/ND/IEC identified the following Park goals for the Original Project:

- Goal #1. To provide a recreation resource that responds to the outdoor recreational needs of the residents and visitors of South Lake Tahoe.
- Goal #2. To protect and enhance the natural and cultural resources of the Van Sickle Bi-State Park and to preserve its qualities as a significant asset to both states' outdoor recreational character.

The 2009 IS/ND/IEC also identified the following Park objectives:

- Objective #1. Develop a recreational area that emphasizes day-use areas and internal trail systems.

- Objective #2. Provide a rich and rewarding experience that will expand the Park user's awareness and appreciation of the natural environment through interpretive signage.
- Objective #3. Provide expanded recreation choices and economic opportunities by interrelating the surrounding commercial area in the urban core with recreation facilities, proposed trails, and open spaces.
- Objective #4. Create a flexible planning approach allowing for potential connections that may occur in the next phase to accommodate changes in recreational demand, proposed trail projects in the area, and increasing development in adjacent casino core commercial area.
- Objective #5. Design facilities and infrastructure that are sensitive to and minimize impacts on the natural environment.
- Objective #6. Design Park facilities to allow for efficient and cost-effective maintenance.
- Objective #7. Develop and maintain interagency coordination and operations for Park management, maintenance, and fire safety.

In addition, the purpose and need for the Original Project was to:

- Implement specific planning recommendations for a park development within state lands owned by both the NDSP and the Conservancy based on the TRPA Regional Plan and Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) and the 2003 Nevada Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP).
- Address the opportunity to provide recreation facilities close to the urban casino core of Lake Tahoe where local residents and visitors can enjoy the outdoor environment without having to drive from their accommodations.
- Provide recreation facilities for local residents and visitors of the Lake Tahoe Basin, while protecting and showcasing the unique scenic, natural, cultural, and historic features of the site.
- Provide a trailhead that would provide a connection to the proposed Daggett Summit Spur, which would link to the Tahoe Rim Trail (TRT).

1.1.2 Natural and Cultural Resource Protection

Natural and cultural resource protection efforts of the Original Project included:

- Replacement of approximately 3,000 feet of existing poorly graded dirt roads/trails with engineered, paved roads with designed storm water drainage facilities and BMPs. The lower entrance road was realigned to facilitate stream environment zone (SEZ) restoration and better alignment with Heavenly Village Way.
- Installation of locked gates to prevent public vehicle access from new paved roads to existing unpaved roads/trails.
- Grading, re-vegetation, and fencing measures along the entrance road to limit unauthorized parking and dispersed pedestrian, bicycle, or vehicle access from the road.
- Removal and control of noxious weeds.
- Installation of informational signage to encourage staying on the trails.
- Removal of trees necessary for the road re-alignment was coordinated with best management practices (BMPs) to reduce fuels/hazards in the wildland urban interface and improve forest health, consistent with Conservancy and Nevada State Parks programs.
- Cultural resource protection and informational efforts were implemented for the Van Sickle Barn and Equestrian complex. Signage describes the history and fencing protects sensitive areas. The Conservancy monitored the site during construction to prevent potential impacts.

1.1.3 Park Development Progress in California

In California, constructed improvements include the main Park entrance and roadway that provides access through the California side of the Park to the Nevada side of the Park; a 0.2-acre day-use/picnic area that includes an informational kiosk, gravel parking lot with 10 public spaces and one accessible parking space, prefabricated flush toilet restrooms; site host facilities (i.e., pad, utility connections, and 4 parking spaces); a stamped concrete state line monument in the road; a native-surface trail connecting the park entrance to the California day-use area (unpaved rather than paved as contemplated by the 2009 IS/ND/IEC); and stormwater collection facilities.

In addition, the Conservancy previously had easement rights to part of a parcel near the entrance to the Park (El Dorado County Assessment Number (AN) 029-441-003). The entire parcel was purchased by the Conservancy in 2025, which will allow for some of the modifications proposed by the Modified Project, see Section 2.2.1 below.

1.2 PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

1.2.1 CEQA

This Supplemental IS/MND/IEC has been prepared for the Modified Project pursuant to the rules for Supplemental Environmental Review in accordance with CEQA, as set forth in Public Resources Code Section 21166 and Sections 15162 and 15163 of the State CEQA Guidelines. Section 15162 notes no subsequent or supplemental EIR shall be required unless the Lead Agency determines, on the basis of substantial evidence in light of the whole record, one or more of the following:

> (1) Substantial changes are proposed in the project which will require major revisions of the previous EIR due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects;
>
> (2) Substantial changes occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken which will require major revisions of the previous EIR due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant effects; or
>
> (3) New information of substantial importance, which was not known and could not have been known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the previous EIR was adopted, shows any of the following:
>
> > a. The project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous EIR;
> >
> > b. Significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the previous EIR;
> >
> > c. Mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible, and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative; or
> >
> > d. Mitigation measures or alternatives which are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous EIR would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative. (CEQA Guidelines Section 15162(a); see also Public Resources Code Section 21166).

Section 15163 of the State CEQA Guidelines provides that a lead agency may choose to prepare a supplement to an EIR rather than a subsequent EIR if:

> (1) Any of the conditions described in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 (above) would require preparation of a subsequent EIR, and
>
> (2) Only minor additions or changes would be necessary to make the previous EIR apply to the project in the changed situation.

Section 15163(b) of the State CEQA Guidelines further states that a supplement to an EIR needs to contain the information necessary to make the previous EIR adequate for the project as revised.

As clarified in *Friends of the College of San Mateo Gardens v. San Mateo County Community College* (2016) 1 Cal.5th 937, although the wording of the State CEQA Guidelines denotes "EIR", the Court's opinion noted this subsequent review framework extended to projects for which a negative declaration was initially adopted, and no EIR prepared. As also mentioned in the Court's opinion:

> *"A decision to proceed under CEQA's subsequent review provisions must thus necessarily rest on a determination — whether implicit or explicit — that the original environmental document retains some informational value… Nothing in the statute requires the agency to make an explicit finding to that effect."*

As such, this Supplemental IS/MND/IEC has been prepared for the Modified Project pursuant to the rules for Supplemental Environmental Review under Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 21166 and CEQA Guidelines Section 15163. The Conservancy, as the Lead Agency under CEQA, will consider the Modified Project's potential environmental impacts when considering whether to approve the Modified Project. This Supplemental IS/MND/IEC analyzes whether proposed changes to the Modified Project would result in any new or substantially more severe environmental impacts than those analyzed in the prior CEQA document (the Original Project) or whether any of the other standards requiring further environmental review under CEQA are met.

1.2.2 TRPA Compact, Code of Ordinances and Rules of Procedure

Article VI of the TRPA Rules of Procedures presents the rules governing the preparation and processing of environmental documents pursuant to Article VII of the Compact and Chapter 3 of the Revised TRPA Code of Ordinances (TRPA Code). Per the TRPA Code and Rules of Procedure, an Initial Environmental Checklist (IEC) shall be used, in conjunction with other available information, to determine whether an environmental impact statement (EIS) shall be prepared for a project or other matter. Based on the IEC, and other information known to TRPA, TRPA shall make one of the findings, as appropriate, set forth in Subsection 3.3.2 of the Code.

When completed, the IEC shall be reviewed by TRPA to determine the adequacy and objectivity of the responses. As appropriate, TRPA shall consult informally with federal, state, or local agencies with jurisdiction over the project or with special expertise on applicable environmental impacts.

1.3 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROCESS

Public disclosure and dialogue are priorities under CEQA. CEQA Guidelines Section 15073 and Section 15105(b) require that the lead agency designate a period during the Supplemental IS/MND/IEC process when the public and other agencies can provide comments on the potential impacts of the Project. As required by CEQA, this document is being made available to the public for a 30-day review and comment period from March 26, 2026, to April 27, 2026.

If you wish to send written comments (including via e-mail), they must be postmarked by April 27, 2026. Written comments should be addressed to:

Scott Cecchi
California Tahoe Conservancy
1061 Third Street
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

E-mail comments should be addressed to Scott.Cecchi@tahoe.ca.gov.

After comments are received from the public and reviewing agencies and considered by the Conservancy, the Conservancy Board may (1) adopt the Supplemental IS/MND/IEC and approve the proposed project; (2) undertake additional environmental studies; or (3) abandon the project.

Once a completed project application is submitted to TRPA, the TRPA Governing Board will consider the IS/MND/IEC, project approval, and permit issuance.

Digital copies of the Supplemental IS/MND/IEC are available on the Conservancy's website at: http://www.tahoe.ca.gov.

Copies of the document are also available for public review at the following location:

California Tahoe Conservancy
1061 Third Street
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

1.4 DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION

This Supplemental IS/MND/IEC is organized as follows:

Chapter 1: Introduction. This chapter introduces the environmental review process. It describes the purpose and organization of this document.

Chapter 2: Project Description. This chapter provides a detailed explanation of the project.

Chapter 3: Environmental Checklist. This chapter presents an analysis of a range of environmental issues identified in the CEQA Environmental Checklist (Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines) and the TRPA IEC. In addition, this section outlines the CEQA topics that were adequately assessed in the previous environmental document (the 2009 IS/ND/IEC) and are not required to be assessed further, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15163(b).

The CEQA Environmental Checklist considers, for each environmental topic that is included in detail, whether the project would result in no impact, a less-than-significant impact, a less-than-significant impact with mitigation incorporated, or a potentially significant impact. While the TRPA Initial Environmental Checklist questions for each topic are typically yes, no, no impact with mitigation, or data insufficient, for consistency between CEQA and the IEC, the CEQA significance determinations have been applied throughout. If any impacts are determined to be significant, an EIR/EIS would be required. For the Modified Project, however, the Conservancy has committed to project modifications and mitigation measures that would avoid or lessen the effects of the Modified Project to a less-than-significant level.

Chapter 4: References. This chapter lists the references used in preparation of this IS/ND/IEC.

Chapter 5: Report Preparers. This chapter lists the authors of this IS/ND/IEC.

Appendices. The appendices provide detailed technical information used in the preparation of this IS/MND/IEC.

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2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The following provides a description of the Modified Project. The Modified Project modifies the Original Project that was evaluated in the IS/ND/IEC (Conservancy 2009). The Modified Project analyzed in this Supplemental IS/MND/IEC addresses activities on the California side of the Park, the portion of the site subject to the CEQA and on land owned by the California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) and the City of South Lake Tahoe (City). The Modified Project is located in the south shore area of Lake Tahoe within portions of the City of South Lake Tahoe and El Dorado County, California (Figure 2-1).

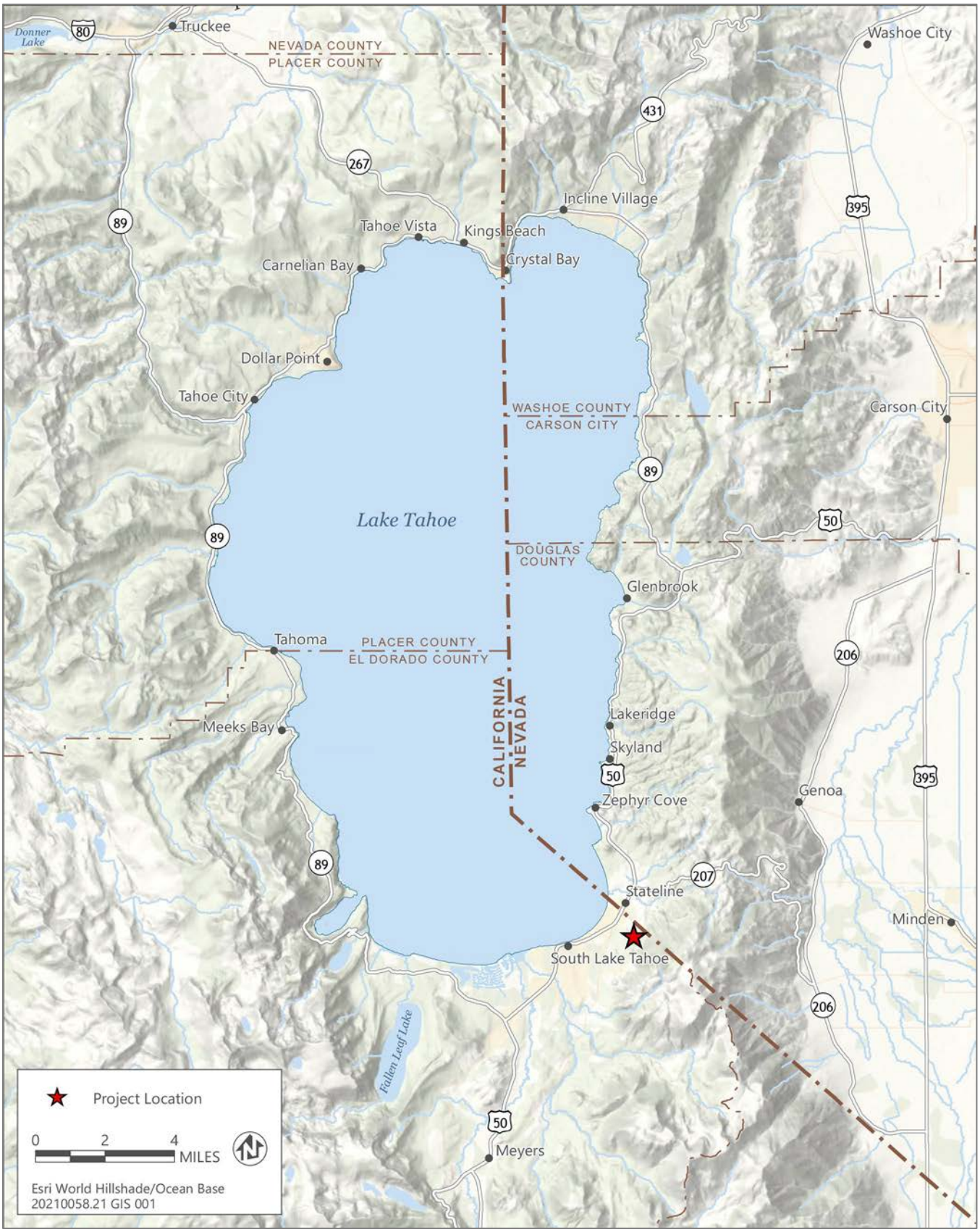
2.1 PROJECT LOCATION AND SETTING

The Park is located east of the Heavenly Village in the City of South Lake Tahoe and in unincorporated El Dorado County, and in Douglas County, Nevada. The surrounding vicinity includes the tourist core area, which consists of the Village Center commercial shopping center, Heavenly Village, the gondola base station, the casino core, hotels, motels, and residential areas. The Park provides visitors with easy access to a high-quality natural recreation experience.

Pedestrians access the Park at a variety of paved and unpaved locations near Chonokis Road, Montreal Road, Lake Parkway, and Heavenly Village Way. The primary Park entrance is located at the intersection of Montreal Road, Lake Parkway, and Heavenly Village Way where vehicle access is provided. Currently, the Park is open to vehicles during daylight hours and seasonally (spring through fall).

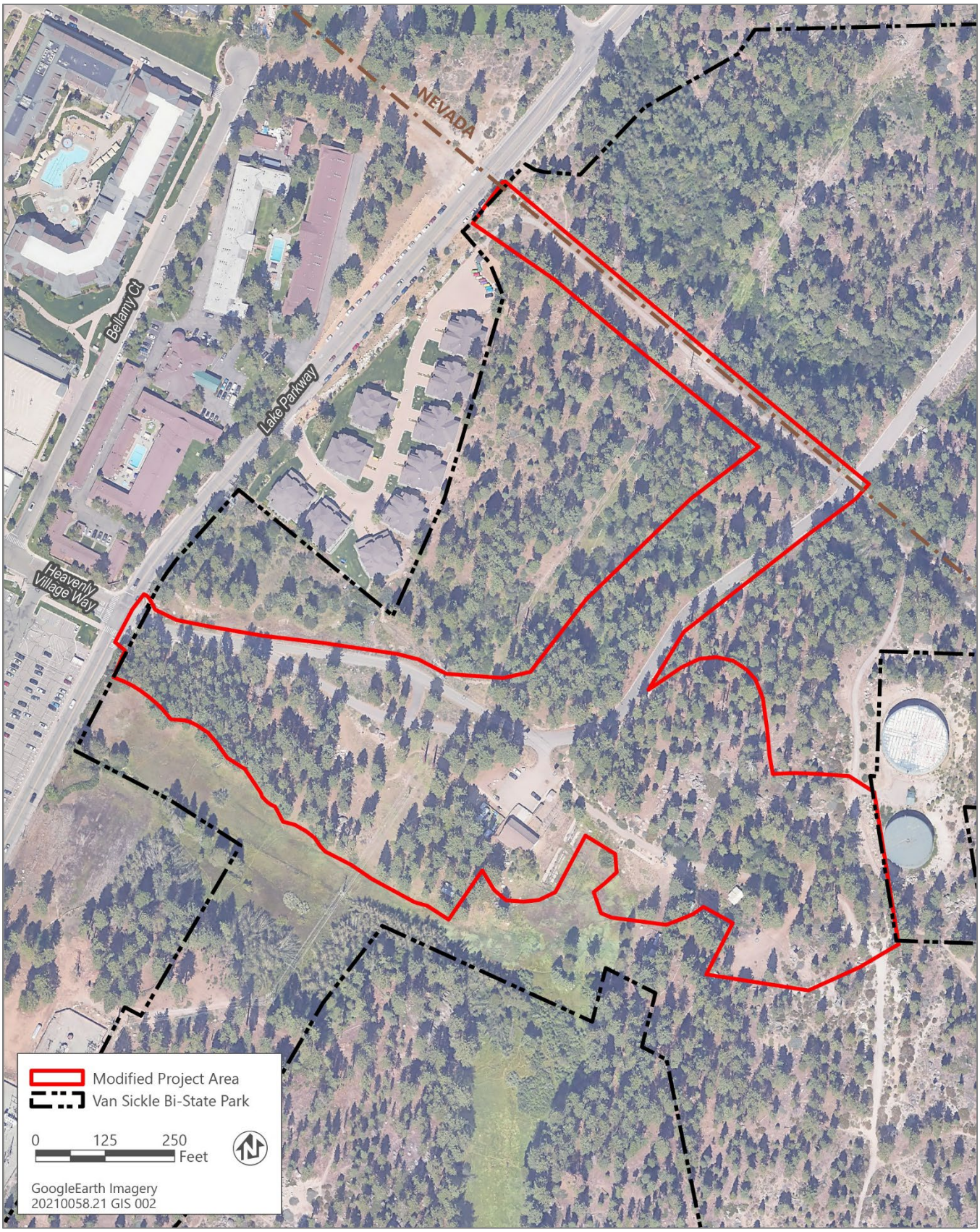
The Modified Project area is on the California side of the Park and consists of portions of five parcels owned by the Conservancy [ANs 029-260-025, 029-260-032, 029-441-003, 029-441-019, 029-441-020] and City right-of-way adjacent to the Park entrance and Lake Parkway. The area is bounded by Lake Parkway/Montreal Road to the west, the California/Nevada state line to the north, part of the Park that would include the anticipated extension of the Dennis T. Machida Memorial Greenway to the south, the South Tahoe Public Utility District (STPUD) water tanks, and the terminus of the Barn Trail intersection to the east (Figure 2-2).

The Park is managed by the Conservancy and NDSP and is open to pedestrian access year-round and vehicle use during the summer months. Restrooms are closed during the winter. Ongoing operations and maintenance (O&M) activities at the Park include seasonal snow removal from the park entrance road and the California day use area parking lot; cleaning picnic benches and signs; daily cleaning of the restrooms; and opening/closing Park gates daily. Currently O&M on the California side of the Park is handled by a site host that lives full time at the California Day Use area, Conservancy staff, and through various contracts.



Source: Adapted by Ascent in 2024.

Figure 2-1 Regional Location



Source: Provided by California Tahoe Conservancy in 2026. Adapted by Ascent in 2026.

Figure 2-2 Project Location

2.2 MODIFIED PROJECT

In addition to the goals and objectives of the Original Project, described in Section 1.1.1, the following additional objectives have been developed for the Modified Project:

- Retrofit and design Park facilities to provide equitable safety and access in compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.
- Construct multiple trail types to separate users and reduce the potential for user conflict.
- Accommodate potential future year-round vehicular access and associated Park use.
- Connect the Park to adjacent neighborhoods, schools, businesses, and pedestrian and bicycle routes.
- Develop a tree removal plan that protects Modified Project improvements from root heave, protects human health and safety, minimizes wildfire risks, and promotes forest health.
- Increase opportunities for natural and cultural resource interpretation.

The Modified Project includes components from the 2005 Master Plan, the 2019 Vision Plan, and additional elements. Modified Project elements include:

- Constructing approximately ½ mile of new 12-foot-wide Class I (paved) shared-use trail, with 2-foot-wide side shoulders and clear zones on both sides, which would connect the Park entrance to the California day-use area and onward to a new state line monument adjacent to the state line. The existing stamped concrete state line marker embedded in the existing access road would be removed.
- Grading approximately ½ mile of native-surface hiking trail to connect the Park entrance to existing trails upslope from the California day use area and various points of interest.
- Constructing three gathering areas with amenities such as pavement, covered picnic areas, interpretive elements, wayfinding signage, lighting, electric outlets, water refilling stations, garbage and recycling, and bicycle parking, charging, and repair stations.
- Siting Park amenities, such as those listed above, in locations other than gathering areas.
- Repurposing the existing site host facility at the California day-use area to create a public gathering area.
- Reconfiguring and paving the California day-use parking area to provide 15 public parking spaces and one ADA accessible parking space. This includes repurposing the four existing site host parking spaces for public use.
- Retrofitting or replacing the existing restrooms at the California day-use area to meet ADA and winter use requirements.
- Modifying existing and constructing new basins for stormwater collection and treatment and snow storage.
- Tree removal as needed to protect constructed improvements and human health and safety, minimize wildfire risks, and to promote forest health.

Modified Project improvements would be consistent with the Conservancy's *Accessibility Transition Plan and Self-Evaluation for Select Recreation Sites.*

Figure 2-3 provides a conceptual overview of the Modified Project and Project features. The Modified Project area is approximately 15 acres.



Source: Provided by California Tahoe Conservancy in 2026. Adapted by Ascent in 2026.

Figure 2-3 Site Plan

2.2.1 Additional Details: Recreational Facilities and Amenities

PARK ENTRANCE

The Modified Project would enhance the main Park entrance in several ways. A new ADA-compliant entrance plaza would be constructed near the southern corner of the Park entrance. The new entrance plaza would be focused on pedestrian safety and orientation and would be designed to encourage visitors to approach the Park from the existing sidewalk on the south side of Heavenly Village Way, and cross Montreal Road using the existing crosswalk. The entrance plaza would be accessed in three ways. A staircase and an ADA-compliant paved trail would connect the entrance plaza to the shared-use trail described below. The entrance plaza would also serve as the lower trailhead for the Barn Trail, which is also described below. Stormwater from the entrance plaza would be captured in a new adjacent basin. The existing entrance boulder, currently located on the north side of the Park entrance, would be relocated to become a central feature in the entrance plaza, providing a photo opportunity in a safer and accessible location. Several amenities would be sited in the entrance plaza such as a kiosk, benches, wayfinding signage, trash cans, interpretive features, and low-impact lighting.

The Modified Project would also enhance the main Park entrance by removing the existing sidewalk paralleling the Park entrance road and converting that area into a BMP for snow storage and water runoff. The Park entrance road may be modified with asphalt swales, drains or other improvements to convey runoff to the new adjacent BMP. These improvements would both remove impervious surfaces generating runoff and provide additional capacity to improve water quality. With implementation of the Modified Project, the existing entrance sidewalk would no longer be needed because the proposed shared-use trail and barn trail described below will provide improved ways for pedestrians to enter the Park.

MEADOW PICNIC AREA

The Modified Project would construct a new picnic area adjacent to the meadow near the main Park entrance. This picnic area would likely be surfaced with stabilized decomposed granite and could include a cultural exhibit such as a traditional Washoe Tribe structure and interpretation. Other amenities could be sited here as well. The new Class 1 shared-use trail and unpaved hiking trail would provide a pedestrian connection to the Meadow Picnic Area.

BARN PICNIC AREA

The Conservancy is proposing to repurpose the existing caretaker site in front of the Van Sickle Barn to create an all-season, accessible, central public gathering area with a variety of amenities. Proposed improvements include but are not limited to paved and unpaved areas, interpretive and cultural elements, kiosks, signage, trailheads, covered and uncovered picnic tables, benches, seating walls, low impact lighting, electrical outlets, bicycle parking facilities, rock walls, drinking water, natural play areas, stormwater and snow storage facilities, and other features. This could also potentially be a reservable or rentable space for gatherings and events.

CALIFORNIA DAY-USE AREA VICINITY IMPROVEMENTS

The Modified Project would enhance the existing California day-use area by reconfiguring and paving the existing aggregate-surfaced parking area and delineating 15 parking spaces. The existing accessible parking space would be retained, and the existing caretaker parking spaces would be repurposed for public use. The existing decomposed granite pathways on the east and south sides of the parking area would be paved and extended on the south and west sides of the parking area to meet ADA and snow removal requirements. Snow-storage areas would be created around the parking lot to better support winter snow removal operations. The existing bathrooms would be retrofitted or replaced to achieve ADA compliance and to facilitate potential all-season use.

A crosswalk, crossing the Park entrance road, would be added to connect the Class 1 trail from the California day-use area to the Class I trail that leads up to the State Line Monument Plaza, and includes related improvements to enhance pedestrian safety.

Part of the unpaved gondola access road would be improved as well to protect the California day-use area and bathrooms from uncontrolled stormwater runoff impacts. Access road improvements could include grading and paving the bottom of the access road, installing curb and gutter, and constructing another basin.

SHARED-USE TRAIL AND RELATED IMPROVEMENTS

Up to ½ mile of new Class 1 shared-use trail would connect the California day-use area to the Park entrance and up to a new state line monument. This paved trail would be up to 12 feet wide with 2-foot-wide shoulders and clear zones on both sides, and would be separated from the road. The trail shoulders and clear zones would be paved and widened in some locations to enhance safety, access, snow removal, drainage, and for ADA compliance. Existing, reconfigured, and new stormwater basins would provide snow storage to allow for snow clearing so the trail can potentially be used year-round. Amenities such as rest areas, benches, interpretive elements, and wayfinding signage, may be installed adjacent to the trail. This trail would pass through a Liberty Utilities power line easement in at least one location.

The proposed Class 1 trail would cross approximately 80 feet of SEZ near the state line. Consistent with the 2009 IS/ND/IEC and the TRPA Code, the Conservancy would utilize the Conservancy's land bank to offset SEZ disturbance at a ratio of 1.5 to 1 for this SEZ crossing. With a total trail footprint of up to 16 feet wide, SEZ disturbance near the state line is expected to total approximately 1,280 square feet, requiring approximately 1,920 square feet of SEZ restoration credit. The portion of the trail between the entrance plaza and the California day use area may encroach into the SEZ setback in some areas if necessary to achieve ADA compliance, but will not encroach into the SEZ itself.

For purposes of this Supplemental IS/MND/IEC, the entire Class I trail has been included in the environmental assessment in Section 3 of this document. However, the 2009 IS/ND/IEC assessed the inclusion of a paved, shared use trail from the entrance of the Park to the California day-use area.

Although the general location of the trail has been determined, the precise alignment would be determined based on the final design for other proposed improvements and the natural setting, with the intent of avoiding tree removal and SEZ as feasible from an engineering perspective. For this reason, a 100-foot-wide buffer corridor has been identified for this trail alignment to provide flexibility during the final design process and construction. This buffer is approximately fifty feet on either side of the proposed trail centerline depicted in Figure 2-3 and within the Modified Project boundary.

STATE LINE MONUMENT PLAZA

A new state line monument plaza would be constructed to improve safety, accessibility, wayfinding, and interpretation. The existing state line marker would be removed because it is embedded in the Park entrance road and has proven to be a safety hazard with pedestrians standing in the road to take photos. The new state line monument plaza would be paved with interpretive and wayfinding signage, have physical separation from the road and would be integrated with the Class 1 shared-use trail, reducing the potential for vehicle and pedestrian conflict. The plaza would provide space for visitors to interact with a vertical monument as well as for pedestrians or bicyclists that want to pass through on the Class 1 trail.

The plaza area would be located partially in California and partially in Nevada. The connection between the state line monument plaza and the Class 1 shared-use trail may require work in and/or grading of a portion of an existing adjacent utility access road and the associated utilities to ensure ADA compliance.

NDSP may construct the portion of the state line monument plaza that is in California, and modify the adjacent utility access road, as part of its Phase 3 project, which is discussed in Section 3.20, Cumulative Impacts. For purposes of this Supplemental IS/MND/IEC, the improvements proposed in California have been included in the Modified Project due

to their location and integration with the Class 1 shared-use trail, and the Conservancy's potential role in granting access rights for construction. It is also possible that some or all the improvements related to the state-line monument plaza in California could be constructed by the Conservancy.

BARN TRAIL

Up to ½ mile of unpaved hiking trail would connect the California day-use area to the proposed entrance plaza and to an existing hiking trail junction further upslope in the Park interior. This trail is anticipated to replace the existing sidewalk paralleling the park entrance, which would be converted to a BMP as described above, and the existing unpaved entrance trail, which would be restored. The Barn Trail would include connections to various points of interest such as gathering areas and interpretive features. This trail could vary in width from three to eight feet wide and be stabilized with decomposed granite in some sections to improve accessibility. Although the general location of the trail has been determined, the precise alignment would be determined based on the final design for other proposed improvements and the natural setting, with the intent of avoiding tree removal as feasible from an engineering perspective. For this reason, a 100-foot-wide buffer corridor has been identified for this trail alignment to provide flexibility during the final design process and construction (fifty feet on either side of the centerline).

2.2.2 Stormwater Drainage, Snow Storage, and Site Stabilization

The Conservancy would reconfigure existing stormwater collection basins and add new basins as needed for stormwater and snow storage. Following construction, all areas disturbed by the construction process will be restored to a condition equal to or superior to conditions existing prior to construction, such as by revegetating with native plant species.

2.2.3 Tree Removal

Approximately 250 trees would be removed within the footprints of the proposed improvements and in adjacent areas to improve sight lines, and thus safety, for the paved Class 1 trails. The forestry component would also involve the removal of live, dead, dying, and diseased trees on parcel 029-441-03, in the vicinity of the proposed improvements. This additional tree removal would decrease conifer densities, promote increased health and vigor of the residual tree stand, mitigate hazards to public health and safety, and reduce the risk of wildland fire within the Park and the adjacent communities. The total area for all forestry work would be less than three acres.

2.2.4 Future Operations

As mentioned in Section 2.2.1, the area where the site host resides would be repurposed to create the Barn Picnic area and the Conservancy would no longer have a site host. As noted in Section 2.1, the Park is currently open to pedestrian access year-round, and future O&M activities could open the Park to vehicular access year-round.

Currently, the Park entrance road and the California day use area parking lot are cleared of snow in the winter months. Additional future snow removal locations may include the Class 1 shared use trail, gondola access road, and paved plazas and picnic areas.

The Conservancy is exploring multiple solutions to cover future O&M needs including contracts, Conservancy and Tahoe Resource Conservation District staff, and cooperative agreements with the State of Nevada.

2.3 CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES AND TIMING

Completion of the Modified Project would occur when engineering and approvals are completed and funding is secured. Construction may occur in phases if complete funding for the entire Modified Project cannot be secured at one time. Construction personnel, vehicles, and equipment would access the Modified Project area via Chonokis Road,

Montreal Road, Heavenly Village Way, and/or Lake Parkway. Where possible, to limit new ground disturbances, construction equipment and materials staging would occur within disturbed or improved areas of the Park (including utility corridors), and areas where new permanent improvements would be constructed. Construction equipment would include many types of heavy equipment such as cranes, excavators, graders, haul trucks, compactors/rollers, bulldozers, backhoes/power augers, asphalt and concrete trucks, rollers, water trucks, and other equipment.

2.4 BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES AND PROJECT DESIGN FEATURES

2.4.1 Best Management Practices

The 2009 IS/ND/IEC identified the following best management practices (BMPs) for the Original Project:

- Protective measures for cultural resources, hazards, and vegetation, including the restoration of drainage areas and stream environment zones (SEZ).
- Cultural resources interpretation for historic structures.
- Hazard and safety BMPs including signage and barriers.
- On-site hosts residing in the Park to provide visitor information, custodial services, and security.
- Vegetation and water quality BMPs included relocating the lower part of the entrance road outside the SEZ on the California side and providing stream restoration and noxious weed removal in the entrance area.

  With the exception of the BMP regarding the on-site host (as there would be no on-site host following the completion of the Modified Project), and that the lower part of the entrance road has already been constructed as part of the Original Project, BMPs regarding relocating project improvements outside the SEZ as far as reasonably practicable and providing restoration and noxious weed removal would also be applied to the Modified Project. In addition, BMPs as required by the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and the TRPA *Handbook of Best Management Practices*, which may include erosion, sediment, and runoff control, preservation of natural/existing vegetation, and good housekeeping requirements would be included.

  In addition to removal and control of noxious weeds and installation of informational signage to encourage staying on the trails identified in Section 1.1.2, above, the following standard practices to protect natural and cultural resources would be implemented during construction of the Modified Project:

- Temporary tree protection fencing.
- Temporary stormwater quality protection measures and monitoring, which would be described in a Project Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) that would be developed for the anticipated Clean Water Act section 401 permit/in compliance with NPDES requirements.
- Post construction restoration and site clean-up, such as revegetating disturbed areas and removing temporary stormwater quality protection measures and tree protection fencing.
- In accordance with Section 23.8 of the TRPA Code, noise standards shall not apply to noise from TRPA-approved construction or maintenance projects provided such activities are limited to the hours between 8:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

2.4.2 Project Design Features

The Conservancy proposes to implement Project Design Features (PDFs) that specifically relate to environmental considerations. The PDFs would be included in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) required in association with certification of the Final IS/MND/IEC.

PDF-BIO-1: Noxious Weed Control. An Invasive Species Prevention and Management Plan will be developed by the Conservancy or the contractor and approved by TRPA to include pre-construction mapping, clean-equipment protocols, weed-free materials and any proposed noxious weed treatment. In addition, the following measures will be required:

- Hand removal of identified noxious weeds within the Modified Project area and their proper disposal;
- Monitoring of Modified Project site for two years following any abatement activities to ensure removal;
- Perform pre- and post-equipment inspection and cleaning to avoid the spread of noxious weeds.

If treating noxious weeds or invasive species includes applying pesticides:

- Avoid using pesticides marked with the US Environmental Protection Agency's bee hazard icon and use pesticides with a short residual toxicity to bees, which can be checked via the Bee Precaution Pesticide Ratings database, at https://ipm.ucanr.edu/bee-precaution-pesticide-ratings (University of California 2026).
- Avoid spraying pesticides onto any flowering plant.
- Use targeted application instead of broadcast spraying whenever possible.
- Avoid mixtures of pesticides as they are only evaluated in scenarios in which they are not mixed; thus, potentially harmful synergies are unknown.
- All pesticide applications must be conducted by a Licensed and Certified Pesticide Applicator and should be used as directed by the manufacturer.

PDF-TR-1: Construction Management and Traffic Plan. A Construction Management and Traffic Plan (CMTP) in accordance with Caltrans Transportation Management Plan (TMP) Guidelines will be developed by the contractor and approved by the City of South Lake Tahoe/TRPA to alleviate potential construction period transportation impacts. The Plan would include but not necessarily be limited to:

- name and telephone number of a contact person regarding traffic complaints or emergency situations;
- community notification procedures and contact information for local police, fire, and emergency response organizations and procedures for the continuous coordination of construction activity;
- procedures for training the flag person(s) used in implementing the plan;
- the location, times, and estimated duration of any temporary lane closures;
- developing, and once approved, managing the haul route plan and construction parking management plan;
- timing of disruptive construction activities; scheduling of deliveries, pick-ups and hauling of material during non-peak travel periods to the extent possible;
- the contractor will provide an estimate of truck volume and schedule. Areas will be designated by the City/TRPA for the staging of all trucks. All earth-moving and ready-mix trucks will be equipped with two-way radios so that the drivers at the staging areas are linked to a person controlling traffic at the project site. Trucks will follow a City-approved route to the project site.

2.5 POTENTIAL PERMITS AND APPROVALS REQUIRED

Table 2-1 below lists potential permits and approvals that could be required to implement the Modified Project following approvals by entities such as the Conservancy Board of Directors and the California Public Works Board.

Table 2-1 Potential Permits and Approvals

Permit/Approval	Agency	Purpose/Applicability
City Encroachment Permit or Easement	City of SLT	Rights to encroach in the City right-of-way at the main Park entrance
City Major Project Review	City of SLT	City of SLT major project review
EIP Permit	TRPA	Environmental Improvement Program permit
Less Than Three Acre Conversion Exemption	CAL FIRE	Conversion of Timberland to a non-timber use only, of less than three (3) acres.
Tree Removal Permit	TRPA	Permit from TRPA to Remove Trees
General Waste Discharge Requirements and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activity in the Lake Tahoe Hydrologic Unit	California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region	Regulates discharges of pollutants in storm water associated with construction activity to Waters of the U.S. in the Lake Tahoe Hydrologic Unit. Requires Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and Rain Event Action Plan (REAP).
Exemption to Waste Discharge Prohibition to SEZs	California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Lahontan Region	Permanent disturbance in SEZ. Requires restoration in an amount 1.5 times the area permanently disturbed.

Source: Compiled by Conservancy and Ascent in 2026.

3 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

This chapter of the Supplemental IS/MND/IEC assesses the environmental impacts of the Modified Project based on the environmental checklist provided in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines and TRPA's Code of Ordinances and Rules of Procedure and the TRPA IEC. In particular, the main purpose of this section is to evaluate the potential for impacts associated with implementation of the Modified Project. The environmental resources and potential environmental impacts of the Modified Project are described in the individual subsections below. As noted previously, this Supplemental IS/MND/IEC augments the previously adopted 2009 Van Sickle CA/NV Bi-State Park Initial Study/Negative Declaration/Initial Environmental Checklist to the extent necessary to address the changed conditions and circumstances of the Original Project as modified by the Modified Project elements.

Each section (3.1 through 3.19) provides a brief discussion of the rationale used to determine the significance level of the Modified Project's environmental impact for each checklist question that would result in any new or substantially more severe significant environmental impacts than those analyzed in the prior CEQA documents. For new environmental impacts that have the potential to be significant, mitigation measures are identified that would reduce the severity of the impact to a less than significant level. While the 2009 IS/ND/IEC did not include mitigation measures, where applicable to reduce impacts to a less than significant level, new mitigation measures are proposed.

The 2009 IS/ND/IEC evaluated all the potential environmental topics as required by CEQA at the time of publication, however, since that time additional topics have been added to Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines. As a supplemental document, while 2009 would be the CEQA baseline for impact analysis, this document also includes the topics that are current per the 2026 CEQA Guidelines and TRPA Code, Amended July 23, 2025.

PROJECT INFORMATION

1. **Project Title:** Van Sickle Bi-State Park Safety and Equitable Access Improvements Project

2. **Lead Agency Name and Address:** California Tahoe Conservancy, 1061 3rd Street, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

3. **Contact Person and Phone Number:** Scott Cecchi, (530) 208-8323

4. **Project Location:** South Lake Tahoe, El Dorado County, California

5. **Project Sponsor's Name and Address:** California Tahoe Conservancy, 1061 3rd Street, South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150

6. **General Plan Designation and Zoning:** As outlined in Section 1.9 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the majority of the Project area is located within TRPA Plan Area Statement (PAS) Area 080 (Kingsbury Drainage) and is designated as a Conservation Area. The parcels of the Park immediately adjacent to Montreal Road/Lake Parkway by the Park entrance were previously within the Stateline/Ski Run Community Plan area, which has since been superseded by the City of South Lake Tahoe/TRPA Tourist Core Area Plan. The Tourist Core Area Plan designates the entrance parcels as Recreation district.

7. **Description of Project:** See Section 2 of this document

8. **Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:** See Section 1.8 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC for a description of the surrounding land use.

9. **Other public agencies whose approval is required:** (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement) Tahoe Regional Planning Agency, City of South Lake Tahoe, Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, and CalFire. Approvals may also be required from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the South Tahoe Public Utility District.

10. **Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1? If so, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts on tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.?**

    A record search of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File (SLF) was requested on January 10, 2024. Negative results were returned on August 13, 2024, along with the NAHC's list of tribes in El Dorado County, which identified nine contacts across five tribes. A negative result means that no tribes have reported an area to be sacred or the presence of a tribal cultural resource. However, as part of the AB 52 Consultation process, the Conservancy formally notified the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California (Washoe Tribe) about the Modified Project on June 27, 2024. The Tribe requested to consult about the Modified Project, which occurred on October 14, 2024, and again on July 14, 2025.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages. Where noted below with a "Y" for yes, the topic with a potentially significant impact will be addressed in an environmental impact report.

N Aesthetics
N Agriculture and Forest Resources
N Air Quality
N Biological Resources
N Cultural Resources
N Energy
N Geology / Soils
N Greenhouse Gas Emissions
N Hazards / Hazardous Materials
N Hydrology / Water Quality
N Land Use / Planning
N Mineral Resources
N Noise
N Population / Housing
N Public Services
N Recreation
N Transportation
N Tribal Cultural Resources
N Utilities / Service Systems
N Wildfire
N Mandatory Findings of Significance
N None
Y None with Mitigation Incorporated

DETERMINATION (TO BE COMPLETED BY THE LEAD AGENCY)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

No I find that the proposed project could not have a significant effect on the environment, and a **NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.

Yes I find that although the proposed project COULD have a significant effect on the environment, there WILL NOT be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A **MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.

No I find that the proposed project **MAY** have a significant effect on the environment, and an **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required.

No I find that the proposed project **MAY** have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

No I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier **EIR** or **NEGATIVE DECLARATION** pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier **EIR** or **NEGATIVE DECLARATION**, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Signature Kevin Prior _____ Date 3/24/2026 _____

Printed Name Kevin Prior _____ Title Director of Lands _____

Agency California Tahoe Conservancy _____

TRPA ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION (TO BE COMPLETED BY TRPA)

On the basis of this TRPA Initial Environmental Checklist:

Yes / No a. The proposed project could not have a significant effect on the environment and a finding of no significant effect shall be prepared in accordance with TRPA's Rules of Procedures

Yes / No b. The proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, but because of the listed mitigation measures which have been added to the project, could have no significant effect on the environment and a mitigated finding of no significant effect shall be prepared in accordance with TRPA's Rules of Procedure.

Yes / No c. The proposed project may have a significant effect on the environment and an environmental impact statement shall be prepared in accordance with this chapter and TRPA's Rules of Procedures.

TRPA will sign at time of permit issuance

Signature of Evaluator _____ Date _____

Title of Evaluator_____

CEQA SECTIONS ELIMINATED FROM FURTHER ANALYSIS

As allowed under CEQA Section 15163(b), this Supplemental IS/MND/IEC need only contain the information necessary to make the previous document adequate for the project as revised. As such, certain CEQA resource topics have been eliminated from further analysis based on the nature and scope of the Modified Project. A brief summary and description of these resource topics dismissed from further review is provided below. Impact determinations from the 2009 IS/ND/IEC were also reviewed for potential applicability to the Modified Project.

However, as the TRPA Code does not allow the IEC checklist to be subject to the same conditions of supplemental review that CEQA allows, all IEC Checklist topics remain, regardless of whether the CEQA component of that environmental topic has been scoped out.

Aesthetics

All CEQA thresholds associated with CEQA Guidelines Appendix G, Aesthetics, have been scoped out. The 2009 IS/ND/IEC determined that there would be no impact on aesthetics as the Original Project would not adversely affect a scenic vista, damage scenic resources within a state scenic highway, or degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site.

Similarly, as previously assessed in Section 2.1 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, because there are no substantial changes in the environmental setting and the majority of the Modified Project is being undertaken within the boundary of the previously assessed Original Project, the Modified Project would not adversely affect a scenic vista, damage scenic resources within a state scenic highway, or degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site. For the part of the Modified Project that is outside of the area assessed in the Original Project, visual character and the conditions are similar to those previously assessed. Furthermore, the Modified Project would not create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area. Although new permanent low-impact lighting would be required for safety, this would be installed in accordance with CALGreen code requirements related to light pollution and glare reduction (see CALGreen 2025, Chapter 5, Section 5.106.8). Construction equipment and vehicles would be temporarily present within the Modified Project site. Glare from these surfaces would be minor and would not adversely affect daytime views. Once operational, the Modified Project would not include building materials or surfaces that would create substantial sources of glare. As such, detailed analysis of aesthetics is not required.

Agricultural and Forestry Resources

All agricultural resources CEQA thresholds have been scoped out. The 2009 IS/ND/IEC determined that there would be no impact to agricultural resources as the Original Project would not convert any Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, of Farmland of Statewide Importance to non-agricultural use, and would not conflict with existing zoning or agricultural land use or a Williamson Act contract, or involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of farmland, to non-agricultural use.

Similarly, as previously assessed in Section 2.2 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Modified Project would not change current land uses or convert farmland to non-agricultural uses, nor would it conflict with existing agricultural zoning regulations or Williamson Act contracts as there are no agricultural land designations present and the land is not used for agricultural use. As such, no impact on agricultural uses would occur.

However, forestry resources were officially added to the CEQA Guidelines Appendix G checklist on March 18, 2010, which amended the "Agriculture Resources" section to include "Forest Resources" (parts c, d, and e). As such, the Agriculture and Forestry Resources section below only considers forestry resources within the CEQA Analysis.

Air Quality

The Air Quality CEQA threshold relating to odors has been scoped out. The 2009 IS/ND/IEC determined that the Original Project did not include activities or uses with the potential to create objectionable odors. Similarly, although fuel and oils associated with construction equipment, as well as coatings, paints, adhesives, and caustic or acidic cleaners, could be used during the Modified Project construction process, their application would not be considered prolonged and extensive, and receptors are of sufficient distance to not find odors objectionable. As such, no impact associated with odors would occur.

Geology and Soils

All geology and soils CEQA thresholds have been scoped out. The 2009 IS/ND/IEC determined that there would be no impact on geology and soils as the Original Project would not expose people or structures to potential adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong seismic ground shaking, seismic-related ground failure including liquefaction, or landslides, nor would it result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil. Furthermore, the Original Project would not expose people or structures to potential adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong seismic ground shaking, seismic-related ground failure.

Similarly, as previously assessed in Section 2.6 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Modified Project would not expose people or structures to potential adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong seismic ground shaking, seismic-related ground failure. Additionally, the Modified Project would not be located on expansive soil, or a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse, creating substantial risks to life or property. Construction activities would be carried out in accordance with applicable standard erosion control practices required pursuant to the requirements of the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and NPDES, as applicable. Consistent with these requirements, due to Modified Project construction activities resulting in one acre or more of land disturbance, a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) would be prepared that incorporates BMPs to control erosion during the Modified Project's construction period. Any BMPs included as part of the SWPPP would thus be implemented as part of the Modified Project. Furthermore, the Modified Project would have no impact on the capability of soils to support septic or alternative wastewater systems. As such, no impact on the aforementioned topics within geology and soils would occur.

It should be noted that before 2018, the assessment of paleontological resources was included under the "Cultural Resources" category in the CEQA Appendix G Checklist. As such, the Original Project determined within the Cultural and Historical Resources section (Section 2.5) that the paleontological record search indicated that there was no potential for paleontological resources to occur with the proposed project site. As paleontological resources are now included with the Appendix G Geology and Soils section, the impact on paleontological resources is thus assessed here. Per analysis of the g (USGS 2005), the project site is underlain by Bryan Meadow Granodiorite (kbmg). Bryan Meadow Granodiorite is an igneous rock, and due to the heat and pressure involved in the formation of such rocks, any organic material is destroyed, making them devoid of paleontological resources. Thus, there would be no impact on paleontological resources.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

All hazards and hazardous material CEQA thresholds have been scoped out. The 2009 IS/ND/IEC determined that there would be no impact relative to hazards and hazardous materials, noting no part of the project included the transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials within the project area. The assessment within the 2009 IS/ND/IEC also determined that a review of human health risk from the fire retardant used in fire-fighting the Gondola Fire of 2002, indicated that human re-entry to treated areas present no significant risks. Furthermore, no schools are located within one-quarter mile of the Original Project site, there are no airports or airstrips within 2 miles, and the properties which made up the proposed Van Sickle Bi-State Park are not listed as hazardous materials sites. Finally, the 2009 IS/ND/IEC determined no impact to an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan, and that through the implementation of forest health management, and the selection of material and siting of improvements,

there would be no impact relating to exposure of people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires.

Similarly, as previously assessed in Section 2.7 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Modified Project would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials, is not within one-quarter mile of a school, or within 2 miles of an airport or airstrip. As with the Original Project, no hazardous materials would be used on-site during park operations, and no such materials are expected to be disposed off-site during normal park operations. The routine use of small quantities of potentially hazardous materials may be required during construction of the Modified Project. If needed, hazardous materials used on the Modified Project site during construction would be used, stored, and disposed of in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local requirements. During on-site grading and construction, hazardous materials such as fuel and oils associated with construction equipment, as well as coatings, paints, adhesives, and caustic or acidic cleaners, could be used, and therefore would require proper handling and management and, in some cases, disposal. The use, handling, storage, and disposal of these materials could increase the opportunity for hazardous materials releases and, subsequently, the exposure of people and the environment to hazardous materials. However, as previously discussed, all potentially hazardous materials used during construction of the Modified Project would be used and disposed of in accordance with manufacturers' specifications and instructions, thereby reducing the risk of hazardous materials use. In addition, the Modified Project would comply with all applicable federal, State, and local requirements concerning the use, storage, and management of hazardous materials. Based on the above, compliance with existing regulations would ensure the project construction activities would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment.

Slow-moving construction-related traffic along local roadways could reduce optimal traffic flows and could delay emergency vehicles traveling through the Modified Project area. Modified Project construction activities could cause temporary lane closures on the Park entry road, although this is considered unlikely as most of the proposed construction is being undertaken off-road. To prevent potentially significant construction-related traffic impacts, the Modified Project's contractor would implement a construction traffic management plan, per **PDF-TR-1**, prior to the initiation of any construction activities to ensure that access for all road users is maintained near the Modified Project site or impacted to the least extent feasible. Furthermore, the Modified Project would be subject to review and approval by multiple jurisdictions to ensure that the Modified Project complies with all requirements related to emergency response. The Modified Project would be designed and maintained in accordance with applicable standards associated with vehicular access, such that interference with existing emergency response or evacuation plans would not occur. The Modified Project would not interfere with the City/County/TRPA's emergency plans and would not impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan, as part of each of those plans is to put mechanisms in place to communicate potential impacts on emergency traffic and evacuation routes. However, because there are no substantial changes in the environmental setting and the majority of the Modified Project is being undertaken within the boundary of the previously assessed Original Project, the Modified Project would adhere to the existing park emergency response and evacuation plan. Furthermore, the Modified Project would be constructed in accordance with all applicable design standards and ordinances. Continued compliance with the Park's emergency response and evacuation plan would ensure adequate access for fire and emergency responders throughout construction and operation. Therefore, the physical improvements resulting from Modified Project implementation would not impair or interfere with adopted emergency response or evacuation plans and there would be no impact.

Similar to the Original Project, the Modified Project site would be served and managed by both the Tahoe-Douglas and Lake Valley Fire Districts. Both Districts classify the fire hazard within the Modified Project area and greater Stateline-South Lake area as moderate because of moderate slopes and good defensible space. The Modified Project site is in an undeveloped and forested area, but the proposed facilities are planned for areas where the topography is fairly level and fuel loading is relatively low. Additionally, the parking lot and Class 1 trail would be paved (reducing fuel material). The Modified Project would conduct forest health activities, including construction related tree removal as well as the removal of dead or downed wood and debris to reduce fire risk. Through the implementation of forest health management, there would be no impact in relation to exposing people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires.

Hydrology and Water Quality

All hydrology and water quality CEQA thresholds have been scoped out. The 2009 IS/ND/IEC determined that there would be no impact on hydrology and water quality as the Original Project would not violate water quality standards or waste discharge requirements, nor would it deplete groundwater supplies or interfere with groundwater recharge. Furthermore, the Original Project would not substantially alter existing drainage patterns of the site or alter the course or flow of 100-year flood waters or contribute to added sources of polluted runoff or runoff water which could exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems.

Similarly, the Modified Project would comply with Lahontan RWQCB and NPDES requirements through preparing a SWPPP, which specifies BMPs and erosion control measures and would describe the site, erosion and sedimentation controls, means of waste disposal, implementation of approved local plans, control of post-construction sediment and erosion control measures, and maintenance responsibilities. These BMPs and Park design features are designed to contain stormwater on the Modified Project site such that runoff does not impact off-site drainage facilities or receiving waters. Per the BMP requirements in Chapter 60.4 of the TRPA Code, section 60.4.6 and 60.4.8, infiltration facilities shall be designed to accommodate the volume runoff from a 20-year, 1-hour storm, or in accordance with alternative BMPs approved by TRPA to meet water quality standards. (TRPA Code sections 60.4.6 and 60.4.8.) As a result, the Modified Project would not result in the production of substantial discharge wastes into surrounding surface or groundwater. Additionally, the construction of additional snow storage areas would help to recharge groundwater as the snow slowly percolates into the soil and would not create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of the existing stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff. Furthermore, existing facilities would be modified to improve water quality. As described above, stormwater conditions in the entrance area would be improved by converting paved areas into BMPs and conveying runoff from the entrance to those new BMPs. The unpaved gondola access road would be improved as well to protect the California day-use area and bathrooms from uncontrolled stormwater runoff impacts and assist in preventing erosion from occurring. As such, detailed analysis of hydrology and water quality is not required.

Land Use and Planning

All land use and planning CEQA thresholds have been scoped out. The 2009 IS/ND/IEC determined that there would be no impact on land use and planning as the Original Project would not physically divide an established community, nor would it conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect.

Similarly, the Modified Project is intended to improve, rather than impair, community connectivity and access through the establishment of new and accessible park trails. Furthermore, all future improvements to roadways and trails would be required to comply with TRPA design standards prior to implementation. As such, no impact on land use and planning would occur.

Mineral Resources and Natural Resources

All mineral resources CEQA thresholds have been scoped out. The 2009 IS/ND/IEC determined that there would be no impact on mineral and natural resources as the Original Project would not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and residents of the state.

Similarly, construction activities associated with the Modified Project would primarily occur in already disturbed areas such as roadways, parking lots, and areas of existing foot traffic where known mineral resources are not present. In addition, neither City of South Lake Tahoe nor TRPA have any Mineral Resource Zones (MRZ) that are classified as MRZ-2a or MRZ-2b (for minerals such as gold, precious-metal-bearing polymetallic sulfides, and industrial minerals such as limestone, chromite, and talc/soapstone), active mining operations or Aggregate Resource Areas within their jurisdiction (CGS 2001). Therefore, the Modified Project would not result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan. As such, no impact on mineral and natural resources would occur.

Noise

All noise CEQA thresholds have been scoped out. The 2009 IS/ND/IEC determined that there would be no impact on noise as the Original Project would not result in exposure of persons to, or generation of, noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies.

The Modified Project would not expose persons to, or generation of, excessive noise or groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels, nor would it result in a substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project. Furthermore, the Modified Project is not located near an airport or within an airport land use plan, nor is it within the vicinity of a private airstrip. However, construction-generated noise levels would fluctuate depending on the type, number, and duration of equipment used. The effects of construction noise largely depend on the type of construction activities occurring on any given day, noise levels generated by those activities, distances to noise sensitive receptors, and the ambient noise environment at nearby receptors. As equipment moves around a construction site the noise source(s) can move closer or further from the receiver, changing how noise is perceived. Moreover, while instantaneous spikes in noise may occur during construction, these are not dissimilar to spikes that occur on a regular basis from other sources (e.g., ambulance siren, airplane flying over). These instantaneous noise spikes can be considered a nuisance; however, impacts from such sources are generally more likely when they cause sleep disruption during sensitive hours. However, construction associated with the Modified Project would be short-term and intermittent and would only occur during daytime hours and not during hours when people would normally sleep. Therefore, on-site construction activities associated with the Modified Project would not result in an increase in noise that results in adverse health effects (e.g., sleep deprivation) or a substantial increase in noise during the sensitive nighttime hours of the day. In addition, the sensitive receptors are located at a distance (over 300 ft away) such that groundborne vibration would not be experienced at their property. As such, a less-than-significant impact from noise and vibration would occur.

Population and Housing

All population and housing CEQA thresholds have been scoped out. The 2009 IS/ND/IEC determined that there would be no impact on population and housing as the Original Project would not induce substantial population growth either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure).

Similarly, the Modified Project would not displace people because it would not require the removal of existing housing and does not propose changes to policies or regulations related to land use or residential zoning. Therefore, the Modified Project would not displace substantial numbers of people necessitating the construction or replacement of housing elsewhere. As such, no impact on population and housing would occur.

Utilities and Service Systems

Utilities and Service System CEQA thresholds relating to water supplies, wastewater treatment and solid waste CEQA thresholds have been scoped out. The 2009 IS/ND/IEC determined that there would be no impact on water supplies or wastewater treatment and solid waste capacity. Domestic water and solid waste demands would be relatively minimal and outlined service agreements would require compliance with all local, regional, and State water conservation policies and implementation of standard best management practices to reduce water consumption. Additionally, the Original Project would comply with all federal and state solid waste diversion, reduction, and recycling mandates, including compliance with the California Porter-Cologne Act, the California Integrated Waste Management Plan for El Dorado County, and the local City of South Lake Tahoe statues and regulations related to solid waste, and there would be no impacts.

Similarly, the Modified Project would not result in additional or expanded water, wastewater, or solid waste services as there are no Modified Project features that would lead to expanded water, wastewater, or solid waste service needs. Furthermore, the Modified Project would continue to comply with all local, regional, and State water conservation policies as well as solid waste diversion, reduction, and recycling mandates. As such, no impact on water supplies, wastewater treatment, or solid waste services would occur.

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

1. A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
2. All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
3. Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
4. "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less-Than-Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from "Earlier Analyses," as described in (5) below, may be cross-referenced).
5. Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
    a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
    b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
    c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
6. Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
7. Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
8. This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.
9. The explanation of each issue should identify:
    a) the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
    b) the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance.

3.1 AESTHETICS

CEQA INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTIONS	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
I. Aesthetics. Would the project:				
Except as provided in Public Resources Code section 21099 (where aesthetic impacts shall not be considered significant for qualifying residential, mixed-use residential, and employment centers), would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	No	No	No	Yes
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	No	No	No	Yes
c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage points.) If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	No	No	No	Yes
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	No	No	No	Yes

TRPA INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST QUESTIONS	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
18. Scenic Resources/Community Design. Would the project:				
e) Be visible from any state or federal highway, Pioneer Trail or from Lake Tahoe? (TRPA Item 18a)	No	No	No	Yes
f) Be visible from any public recreation area or TRPA designated bicycle trail? (TRPA Item 18b)	No	No	No	Yes
g) Block or modify an existing view of Lake Tahoe or other scenic vista seen from a public road or other public area? (TRPA Item 18c)	No	No	Yes	No
h) Be inconsistent with the height and design standards required by the applicable ordinance or Community Plan? (TRPA Item 18d)	No	No	No	Yes
i) Be inconsistent with the TRPA Scenic Quality Improvement Program (SQIP) or Design Review Guidelines? (TRPA Item 18e)	No	No	No	Yes

	TRPA INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST QUESTIONS	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
7. Light and Glare. Would the project:					
j)	Include new or modified sources of exterior lighting? (TRPA Item 7a)	No	No	Yes	No
k)	Create new illumination which is more substantial than other lighting, if any, within the surrounding area? (TRPA Item 7b)	No	No	Yes	No
l)	Cause light from exterior sources to be cast off-site or onto public lands? (TRPA Item 7c)	No	No	Yes	No
m)	Create new sources of glare through the siting of the improvements or through the use of reflective materials? (TRPA Item 7d)	No	No	Yes	No

3.1.1 Discussion

Section 2.1 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC discusses the affected environment and regulatory setting related to aesthetics and scenic resources of the Project site. There are no substantial changes to the setting in the aesthetics and scenic resources since preparation of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC. The modifications associated with the Modified Project would not alter the affected environment setting described in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC.

CEQA Questions 3.1.1 a) through d) were scoped out of further assessment. See *CEQA Sections Eliminated From Further Analysis*, above. The following addresses the TRPA Environmental Checklist Questions.

e) Be visible from any state or federal highway, Pioneer Trail or from Lake Tahoe? (TRPA Item 18a)

As previously assessed in Section 2.1 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Original Project would not be visible from any state or federal highway, Pioneer Trail, or from Lake Tahoe.

No Impact. Similar to the Original Project, no portion of the Modified Project can be seen from a state or federal highway. The entrance plaza would not be visible from State Highway 50 at the intersection of Heavenly Village Way and Highway 50 since the entrance area is set back and landscaped with native vegetation and hidden behind intervening development located along Heavenly Village Way. Furthermore, the Modified Project site is not within view of Pioneer Trail or Lake Tahoe. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

f) Be visible from any public recreation area or TRPA designated bicycle trail? (TRPA Item 18b)

As previously assessed in Section 2.1 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Original Project would not be visible from any public recreation area or a TRPA designated bicycle trail.

No Impact. The nearest public recreation area (other than the Park itself) is Heavenly Valley. Similar to the Original Project, no portion of the Modified Project is visible from this area. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

g) Block or modify an existing view of Lake Tahoe or other scenic vista seen from a public road or other public area? (TRPA Item 18c)

As previously assessed in Section 2.1 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Original Project would not be visible, nor would it block any views of Lake Tahoe or other scenic vistas.

Less-than-Significant Impact. Similar to the Original Project, the Modified Project would result in ground-level and low-profile improvements that, while visible from public areas within the immediate vicinity, would not block or modify an existing view of Lake Tahoe or other scenic vista. Moreover, the project is designed to enhance the public's access to and experience of scenic landscapes and features.

h) Be inconsistent with the height and design standards required by the applicable ordinance, Community Plan, or Area Plan? (TRPA Item 18d)

As previously assessed in Section 2.1 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Original Project would not result in impacts related to an inconsistency with such standards.

No Impact. Similar to the Original Project, the Modified Project would comply with all applicable design standards and ordinances related to height, community design, parking and driveway requirements, and signage as required by the City of South Lake Tahoe and TRPA. The existing parking lot would be paved, and the entrance plaza, state line monument, and picnic areas would be constructed in accordance with all applicable design standards and ordinances. There are no new buildings proposed, therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

i) Be inconsistent with the TRPA Scenic Quality Improvement Program (SQIP) or Design Review Guidelines? (TRPA Item 18e)

As previously assessed in Section 2.1 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Original Project is not within a roadway or shoreline travel route for scenic quality thresholds, therefore the TRPA SQIP is not applicable. The Original Project was determined to be consistent with the Design Review guidelines.

No Impact. Similar to the Original Project, no portion of the Modified Project is located within a roadway or shoreline travel route for scenic quality thresholds, and therefore TRPA SQIP is not applicable. The Modified Project would comply with all applicable design review guidelines. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

j-l) Include new or modified sources of exterior lighting? Create new illumination which is more substantial than other lighting, if any, within the surrounding area? Cause light from exterior sources to be cast off-site or onto public lands? (TRPA Items 7a, b, c)

Additional questions pertaining to light and glare were added to TRPA's environmental checklist after the completion of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC. The added checklist questions are analyzed below.

Less-than-Significant Impact. Minimal lighting is proposed at the barn picnic area and at the entrance plaza. All lighting would be arranged and controlled so as not to illuminate adjacent properties, in accordance with CALGreen requirements. In order to reduce direct and reflected light pollution, lighting would be equipped with shields that concentrate the illumination downward such that no direct light is cast off the site. Energy-efficient lights would be used. The candle power of the illumination at ground level would not exceed what is required for safety and security. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

m) Create new sources of glare through the siting of the improvements or through the use of reflective materials? (TRPA Item 7d)

Less-than-Significant Impact. The Modified Project would require the use of nonreflective surfaces, including new signage materials, light poles, and at the state line monument, which would reduce the potential for a new source of glare or visual contrast. In addition, all new structures would be installed in consideration of CALGreen requirements, limiting light and glare. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

3.2 AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

CEQA INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTIONS	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
II. Agriculture and Forest Resources.				
In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997, as updated) prepared by the California Department of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	No	No	No	Yes
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract?	No	No	No	Yes
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	No	No	Yes	No
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	No	No	Yes	No
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	No	No	Yes	No

3.2.1 Regulatory Setting

CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT CODE

The following California Government Code definitions are applicable to timberland and agricultural resources:

- Government Code Section 51104(g) defines "timberland production zone" (TPZ) as an area that has been zoned pursuant to section 51112 or 51113 and that is devoted to and used for growing and harvesting timber or for growing and harvesting timber and compatible uses. Compatible uses are defined under Government Code Section 51104(h) and include the construction and maintenance of electric transmission facilities.
- Government Code Section 51112 identifies situations that would warrant a decision that a parcel is not devoted to and used for growing and harvesting timber or for growing and harvesting timber and compatible uses.
- Government Code Section 51113 allows the opportunity for a landowner to petition that his or her land be zoned timberland production.
- Government Code Section 51201(c)(5) defines "prime agricultural land" as land that has returned from the production of unprocessed agricultural plant products with an annual gross value of not less than $200 per acre for 3 of the previous 5 years.

CALIFORNIA TIMBERLAND PRODUCTIVITY ACT OF 1982

The California Timberland Productivity Act of 1982 (California Government Code Sections 51100–51104) identifies the benefits of the State's timberlands and acknowledges the threat of timberland loss via land use conversions. The law identifies policies intended to preserve timberland, including maintaining an optimum amount of timberland, discouraging premature conversion, discouraging expansion of urban land uses into timberlands, and encouraging investments in timberland. The law establishes TPZ on all qualifying timberland, which is devoted to and used for growing and harvesting timber or for growing and harvesting timber and compatible uses. The law also provides that timber operations conducted in a manner consistent with forest practice rules (Z'Berg-Nejedly Forest Practices Act of 1973 [FPA]) shall not be or become restricted or prohibited because of any land use in or around the locality of those operations.

CALIFORNIA FOREST PRACTICE RULES

The California Forest Practice Rules of 2026 define the timber harvest activities that are regulated under CCR, Title 14, Division 1.5, Chapters 4, 4.5, and 10, and under the FPA, PRC, Division 4, Chapter 8. The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) is the enforcing agency responsible for ensuring that logging and other forest harvesting activities are conducted in a manner that preserves and protects fish, wildlife, forests, and streams.

Before any Timber Operations, as defined in PRC Section 4257, occur, landowners must prepare a Timber Harvest Plan (THP), which outlines the timber proposed for harvesting, the methods of harvesting, and the steps that will be taken to prevent damage to the environment. THPs are required to be prepared by Registered Professional Foresters. When a timberland owner proposes to carry out a project that would result in timberland being converted to a nontimber growing use, the owner must secure a Timberland Conversion Permit from CAL FIRE. Projects that would result in the conversion of less than 3 acres of timberland may qualify for an exemption from this provision.

Z'BERG-NEJEDLY FOREST PRACTICE ACT OF 1973

The FPA (California Public Resources Code, Sections 4511–4517) established the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, whose mandate is to protect and enhance the state's unique forest and wildland resources. This mandate is carried out through enforcement of the California Forest Practice Rules (CCR, Title 14, Chapters 4, 4.5, and 10). CAL FIRE enforces the laws that regulate logging on nonfederal lands in California. Additional rules enacted by the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection are also enforced to protect forest and wildland resources.

Z'BERG-WARREN-KEENE-COLLIER FOREST TAXATION REFORM ACT OF 1976

According to the Z'Berg-Warren-Keene-Collier Forest Taxation Reform Act (California Government Code, Article 2, Sections 51110–51119.5), enacted in 1976, counties must provide for the zoning of land used for growing and harvesting timber as TPZs. A TPZ is a 10-year restriction on the use of land and replaced the use of agricultural preserves (Williamson Act contracts) on timberland. Land use under a TPZ is restricted to growing and harvesting timber and to compatible uses approved by the County. In return, taxation of timberland under a TPZ is based only on such restrictions in use.

CAL FIRE FOREST LEGACY PROGRAM

The Forest Legacy Program protects environmentally important forest land threatened with conversion to nonforest uses. Protection of California's forests through this program ensures that they continue to provide such benefits as sustainable timber production, wildlife habitat, recreation opportunities, watershed protection, and open space. Intact forests also contribute substantially to the storage and sequestration of carbon. Under this competitive grant program, CAL FIRE purchases or accepts donations of conservation easements or fee title of productive forest lands to encourage their long-term conservation. The primary tool that CAL FIRE uses to conserve forest lands in perpetuity is permanent Working Forest Conservation Easements (WFCEs). WFCEs do more than just restrict development and conversion of a property. They protect forest values by concentrating on sustainable forest practices that provide economic value from the land and encourage long-term land stewardship.

3.2.2 Discussion

As noted previously, forestry resources were officially added to the CEQA Guidelines Appendix G checklist on March 18, 2010, which amended the "Agriculture Resources" section to include "Forest Resources" (parts c, d, and e). As this was after the 2009 IS/ND/IEC was approved, the Agriculture and Forestry Resources section below only considers forestry resources within the CEQA Analysis.

CEQA Questions 3.2.2 a) and b) were scoped out of further assessment. See *CEQA Sections Eliminated From Further Analysis*, above.

c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?

This topic was not previously assessed in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC.

Less-than-Significant Impact. A conflict with existing zoning for forest land or timberland would create a significant impact. PRC Section 12220(g) defines "Forest land" as land that can support 10 percent native tree cover of any species, including hardwoods, under natural conditions, and that allows for management of one or more forest resources, including timber, aesthetics, fish and wildlife, biodiversity, water quality, recreation, and other public benefits. PRC Section 4526 defines "Timberland" as land, other than land owned by the federal government and land designated by the board as experimental forestland, which is available for, and capable of, growing a crop of tree of any commercial species used to produce lumber and other forest products, including Christmas trees.

The Modified Project site includes multiple parcels by the Park entrance that are within the City of South Lake Tahoe that are zoned as recreation (REC). In addition, the parcel east of the California day-use area is zoned as Forest Resource (FR-160) by El Dorado County. The El Dorado County zoning ordinance (EDCZO) regulates the extent of recreation use that is allowed on FR zoned lands. As shown on Table 130.21.020 of the EDCZO, the construction and operation of hiking trails, equestrian trails, picnic areas, and resource protection and restoration (forest health) are all allowable uses within this zoning designation. Therefore, the Modified Project would not conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production. Thus, there would be a less-than-significant impact.

d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

This topic was not previously assessed in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC.

Less-than-Significant Impact. The loss of substantial forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use creates a significant impact if appropriate permits are not obtained. The Modified Project site is currently used for recreation purposes, and implementation of the Modified Project would not affect those uses. The Modified Project would include select tree thinning for forest health and tree removal for trail access, which would be consistent with the TRPA Regional Plan. Approximately 250 trees would be removed within the footprints of the proposed improvements and in adjacent areas to improve sight lines, and thus safety, for the paved Class 1 trails. The forestry component would also involve the removal of live, dead, dying, and diseased trees on parcel 029-441-03, in the vicinity of the proposed improvements.

Forest land would be converted to non-forest use only within the footprint of the proposed improvements. A Less Than Three Acre Conversion Exemption from CAL FIRE would be sought, which is applicable to a conversion of Timberland to a nontimber use of less than three (3) acres. Therefore, the impact would be less than significant.

e) Involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

This topic was not previously assessed in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC.

Less-than-Significant Impact. As previously determined in Section 2.2 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, there are no agricultural land designations present on the project site, and the land is not used for agricultural use. As such, no impact on agricultural uses would occur.

See discussion under item "d" regarding conversion of forest land to non-forest use. Impacts would be less than significant.

3.3 AIR QUALITY

CEQA INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTIONS	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
III. Air Quality.				
Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied on to make the following determinations.				
Are significance criteria established by the applicable air district available to rely on for significance determinations?		Yes		
Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	No	No	Yes	No
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	No	No	Yes	No
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	No	No	Yes	No
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	No	No	No	Yes

TRPA INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST QUESTIONS	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
2. Air Quality. Would the project cause:				
e) Substantial air pollutant emissions? (TRPA Item 2a)	No	No	Yes	No
f) Deterioration of ambient (existing) air quality? (TRPA Item 2b)	No	No	Yes	No
g) The creation of objectionable odors? (TRPA Item 2c)	No	No	Yes	No
h) Alteration of air movement, moisture or temperature, or any change in climate, either locally or regionally? (TRPA Item 2d)	No	No	Yes	No
i) Increased use of diesel fuel? (TRPA Item 2e)	No	No	Yes	No
j) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment, based on any applicable threshold of significance?	No	No	Yes	No
k) Conflict with any applicable plan, policy or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	No	No	Yes	No

3.3.1 Regulatory Setting

Since adoption of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, there have been changes to the federal, state, and local regulatory settings relating to air quality. Relevant regulations addressed in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC are incorporated by reference, and new or updated regulations adopted since the writing of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC which are applicable to the Modified Project are discussed below.

FEDERAL

In March 2025, the current administration announced that the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will undertake 31 actions, focusing primarily on reconsidering actions adopted by previous administrations, including numerous actions and regulations related to air quality and the reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (which often have the co-benefit of reducing air pollutant emissions). These include, but are not limited to, reconsideration of Air Toxics Standards that target coal-fired power plants, the revised fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$) national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS), and fuel economy standards, among others. As of this analysis, none of these regulations have been repealed or replaced with newly adopted regulations. Therefore, these regulations are discussed below.

Ambient Air Quality Standards

The 8-hour ozone NAAQS was further amended in October 2015 to lower the standard to 0.070 parts per million (ppm). Additionally, EPA amended the $PM_{2.5}$ annual arithmetic mean standard to 9 micrograms per cubic meter ($\mu g/m^3$) in 2024 (down from 12.0 $\mu g/m^3$ previously). In accordance with the requirements of Clean Air Act (CAA) Section 107(d), states were expected to submit initial recommendations of areas that do not attain this standard to the EPA by February 2025. EPA is expected to finalize area designations by February 2026 (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 51). $PM_{2.5}$ state implementation plans (SIPs) will be due 18 months after the effective date of designations, with attainment required at the end of the calendar year 6 years after designations, unless an area is reclassified to Serious - Nonattainment.

The 2022 State SIP Strategy, adopted on September 22, 2022, is the most current SIP and is a compilation of plans and regulations that govern how the state and regions will comply with the CAA requirements to attain and maintain the NAAQS for ozone and $PM_{2.5}$.

Table 3.3-1 shows the NAAQS currently in effect for each criteria pollutant.

Table 3.3-1 National and California Ambient Air Quality Standards

Pollutant	Averaging Time	California (CAAQS)[a,b]	National (NAAQS)[c] Primary[b,d]	National (NAAQS)[c] Secondary[b,e]
Ozone	1-hour	0.09 ppm (180 $\mu g/m^3$)	–[e]	Same as primary standard
	8-hour	0.070 ppm (137 $\mu g/m^3$)	0.070 ppm (147 $\mu g/m^3$)	
Carbon monoxide (CO)	1-hour	20 ppm (23 mg/m^3)	35 ppm (40 mg/m^3)	Same as primary standard
	8-hour	9 ppm[f] (10 mg/m^3)	9 ppm (10 mg/m^3)	
Nitrogen dioxide (NO_2)	Annual arithmetic mean	0.030 ppm (57 $\mu g/m^3$)	53 ppb (100 $\mu g/m^3$)	Same as primary standard
	1-hour	0.18 ppm (339 $\mu g/m^3$)	100 ppb (188 $\mu g/m^3$)	—
Sulfur dioxide (SO_2)	24-hour	0.04 ppm (105 $\mu g/m^3$)	—	—
	3-hour	—	—	0.5 ppm (1,300 $\mu g/m^3$)
	1-hour	0.25 ppm (655 $\mu g/m^3$)	75 ppb (196 $\mu g/m^3$)	—
Respirable particulate matter (PM_{10})	Annual arithmetic mean	20 $\mu g/m^3$	—	Same as primary standard
	24-hour	50 $\mu g/m^3$	150 $\mu g/m^3$	
Fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$)	Annual arithmetic mean	12 $\mu g/m^3$	9.0 $\mu g/m^3$ [g]	15.0 $\mu g/m^3$
	24-hour	—	35 $\mu g/m^3$	Same as primary standard

Pollutant	Averaging Time	California (CAAQS)[a,b]	National (NAAQS)[c] Primary[b,d]	National (NAAQS)[c] Secondary[b,e]
Lead[f]	Calendar quarter	—	1.5 µg/m^3	Same as primary standard
	30-day	1.5 µg/m^3	—	—
	Rolling 3-month	—	0.15 µg/m^3	Same as primary standard
Hydrogen sulfide	1-hour	0.03 ppm (42 µg/m^3)	No national standards	
Sulfates	24-hour	25 µg/m^3		
Vinyl chloride[f]	24-hour	0.01 ppm (26 µg/m^3)		
Visibility-reducing particulate matter	8-hour	Extinction of 0.23 per km		

Notes: µg/m^3 = micrograms per cubic meter; CAAQS = California Ambient Air Quality Standards; km = kilometers; mg/m^3 = milligrams per cubic meter; NAAQS = National Ambient Air Quality Standards; ppb = parts per billion; ppm = parts per million.

[a] California standards for ozone, carbon monoxide, SO_2 (1- and 24-hour), NO_2, particulate matter, and visibility-reducing particles are values that are not to be exceeded. All others are not to be equaled or exceeded. California ambient air quality standards are listed in the Table of Standards in Section 70200 of Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations.

[b] Concentration expressed first in units in which it was promulgated. Equivalent units given in parentheses are based on a reference temperature of 25 degrees Celsius (°C) and a reference pressure of 760 torr. Most measurements of air quality are to be corrected to a reference temperature of 25°C and a reference pressure of 760 torr; ppm in this table refers to ppm by volume, or micromoles of pollutant per mole of gas.

[c] National standards (other than the standards for ozone and particulate matter and those based on annual arithmetic means) are not to be exceeded more than once a year. The ozone standard is attained when the fourth highest 8-hour concentration in a year, averaged over 3 years, is equal to or less than the standard. The PM_{10} 24-hour standard is attained when the expected number of days per calendar year with a 24-hour average concentration above 150 µg/m^3 is equal to or less than 1. The $PM_{2.5}$ 24-hour standard is attained when 98 percent of the daily concentrations, averaged over 3 years, are equal to or less than the standard. Contact the EPA for further clarification and current federal policies.

[d] National primary standards: The levels of air quality necessary, with an adequate margin of safety, to protect public health.

[e] National secondary standards: The levels of air quality necessary to protect public welfare from any known or anticipated adverse effects of a pollutant.

[f] The California Air Resources Board has identified lead and vinyl chloride as toxic air contaminants with no threshold of exposure for adverse health effects determined. This was done to allow for the implementation of control measures at levels below the ambient concentrations specified for these pollutants, as this was the only means available at that time to regulate vinyl chloride and lead emissions. While vinyl chloride and lead have since been identified as toxic air contaminants under the Air Toxics Program CAAQS remains in force, current regulatory efforts are under CARB's Air Toxics Program.

[g] On February 7, 2024, EPA promulgated a revised primary annual $PM_{2.5}$ NAAQS, strengthening the standard from 12.0 micrograms per cubic meter (µg/m^3) to 9.0 µg/m^3. As of May 2025, EPA has not made final designation determinations for the 2024 $PM_{2.5}$ standard.

Source: CARB 2024.

California's CAA Preemption Waiver

The California Clean Air Act (CCAA) allows California to seek authorization to enforce its own standards for new nonroad engines and vehicles, despite the preemption which prohibits states from enacting emission standards for new nonroad engines and vehicles. According to the CCAA Section 209 - State Standards, EPA shall grant an authorization under Section 209(e)(2), unless the Administrator finds that California (EPA 2025a):

- was arbitrary and capricious in its finding that its standards are, in the aggregate, at least as protective of public health and welfare as applicable federal standards;
- does not need such standards to meet compelling and extraordinary conditions; or
- California's standards and accompanying enforcement procedures are not consistent with this section.

Congressional Actions

On June 12, 2025, Public Laws (PL) 119-15, 119-16, and 119-17 were signed into law. Broadly, the laws used the Congressional Review Act to nullify EPA's rules that had granted California waivers under the CAA to enforce stricter emissions standards for heavy-duty vehicles, to implement and enforce the Advanced Clean Cars II (ACC II) Program, and to implement the Low-NO_X rule that would have granted California a waiver to enforce stricter emissions standards for both on-road and non-road heavy-duty engines.

Fuel Economy and Emission Standards

In 2024, the Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards were finalized for model years (MYs) 2027 through 2031. The final rule establishes standards that would require an industry-wide fleet average of approximately 50.4 mpg in MY 2031 for passenger cars and light trucks and an industry fleet-wide average for heavy-duty pickup trucks and vans (HDPUVs) of roughly 2.851 gallons per 100 miles in MY 2035. The final CAFE standards increase at a rate of 2 percent per year for passenger cars in MYs 2027–2031 and 2 percent per year for light trucks in MYs 2029–2031. The final HDPUV fuel efficiency standards increase at a rate of 10 percent per year in MYs 2030–2032 and 8 percent per year in MYs 2033–2035 (NHTSA 2024).

EPA has established a series of increasingly strict emission standards for new light-duty vehicle engines. These standards were phased-in over four tiers. The most recent of which being the Tier 4 standards, finalized on March 20, 2024. They include a phase-in schedule from 2027 through 2033 (40 CFR Parts 85, 86, 600, 1036, 1037, 1066, and 1068).

On January 20, 2025, the President issued Executive Order (EO) 14148, revoking EO 14037 that directed the EPA and the Secretary of Transportation to consider beginning work on rulemakings to establish vehicle emissions standards and fuel economy standards for vehicles with model years 2027 and later. EO 14148 directed the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to commence review and reconsideration of all existing fuel economy standards for vehicle model years 2022 and later (NHTSA 2025). On January 30, 2026, NHTSA issued a letter to automotive manufacturers announcing its intent to reset fuel efficiency standards for heavy-duty pickups and vans. As of this analysis, no formal decision has been made regarding the resetting of these standards.

EPA established a series of increasingly strict emission standards for new non-road diesel engines. Tier 1 standards were phased in on newly manufactured equipment from 1996 through 2000 (year of manufacture), depending on the engine horsepower category (40 CFR part 89). Tier 2 standards were phased in on newly manufactured equipment from 2001 through 2006 (40 CFR part 89). Tier 3 standards were phased in on newly manufactured equipment from 2006 through 2008 (40 CFR part 89). Tier 4 standards, which require advanced emission control technology to attain them, were phased in between 2008 and 2015 (40 CFR Part 1039).

Hazardous Air Pollutants

Toxic air contaminates (TACs), or, in federal terms, hazardous air pollutants (HAPs), are a defined set of airborne pollutants that may pose a present or potential hazard to human health. A TAC is defined as an air pollutant that may cause or contribute to an increase in mortality or in serious illness, or that may pose a hazard to human health. A substance that is listed as an HAP pursuant to Subsection (b) of Section 112 of the CAA (42 USC Section 7412[b]) is considered a TAC. TACs are usually present in minute quantities in the ambient air; however, their high toxicity or health risk may pose a threat to public health even at low concentrations.

For evaluation purposes, TACs are separated into carcinogens and noncarcinogens based on the nature of the physiological effects associated with exposure to the pollutant. Carcinogens are assumed to have no safe threshold below which health impacts would not occur. This contrasts with criteria air pollutants, for which acceptable levels of exposure can be determined and for which ambient standards have been established. Cancer risk from TACs is expressed as excess cancer cases per one million exposed individuals, typically over a lifetime of exposure.

EPA regulates TACs through statutes (i.e., 42 USC Section 7412[b]) and regulations that generally require the use of the MACT or best available control technology (BACT) for toxics to limit emissions. The emissions standards enumerated above also have a measurable effect on emissions of TACs, particularly diesel PM.

TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY

Environmental Thresholds

TRPA has established thresholds that address CO, ozone, regional and sub-regional visibility, and nitrate deposition. Numerical standards have been established for each of these parameters, and management standards have been developed that are intended to assist in attaining the thresholds. The management standards include reducing PM, maintaining concentrations of oxides of nitrogen (NO_X), reducing traffic volumes on US 50, and reducing vehicle miles

traveled (VMT). In addition, the TRPA Compact between California and Nevada states that the Regional Plan shall provide for attaining and maintaining federal, state, or local air quality standards, whichever are strictest, in the respective portions of the Lake Tahoe Basin in which the standards apply.

Goals and Policies

The Lake Tahoe Regional Plan Goals and Policies are designed to achieve and maintain adopted environmental thresholds and are implemented through the TRPA Code, the Environmental Improvement Program, and the Transportation Improvement Plan. The Land Use Element of the Goals and Policies document consists of seven sub-elements, including the Air Quality Sub-element.

TRPA has authority within the Lake Tahoe Air Basin (LTAB) portion of Placer and El Dorado Counties regarding air quality. Therefore, the Air Quality Sub-element of the Goals and Policies document focuses on achieving the NAAQS and California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS), as well as special TRPA-adopted regional and sub-regional visibility standards, and on reducing the deposition of nitrate from NO_X emitted by vehicles. The Code and the Regional Transportation Plan contain specific measures designed to monitor and achieve the air quality objectives of the Regional Plan. El Dorado County Air Quality Management District (EDCAQMD) rules and regulations (discussed below) also have certain applications in the LTAB.

The LTAB's attainment designations for the NAAQS and CAAQS are provided in Table 3.3-2, below.

Table 3.3-2 Attainment Status Designations for the Lake Tahoe Air Basin

Pollutant	National Ambient Air Quality Standard	California Ambient Air Quality Standard
Ozone	Attainment	Nonattainment
Respirable particulate matter (PM_{10})	Attainment	Nonattainment
Fine particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$)	Attainment	Attainment
Carbon monoxide (CO)	Attainment	Attainment
Nitrogen dioxide (NO_2)	Unclassified/attainment	Attainment
Sulfur dioxide (SO_2)	Unclassified/attainment	Attainment
Lead (particulate)	Unclassified/attainment	Attainment
Hydrogen sulfide	No federal standard	Unclassified/attainment
Sulfates		Attainment
Visibility-reducing particles		Unclassified/attainment
Vinyl chloride		Unclassified/attainment

Source: EPA 2025b, CARB 2023.

Code of Ordinances

Applicable provisions of the TRPA Code are described below.

Chapter 33—Grading and Construction

Chapter 33 includes requirements about grading and construction activity, which include limiting grading and earth disturbance activity to the portion of the calendar year between May 1 and October 15 unless approval is granted by TRPA and TRPA-approved dust control measures are implemented.

Chapter 65.1—Air Quality Control

The provisions of Chapter 65.1 apply to direct sources of air pollution in the Region, including certain motor vehicles registered in the Region, combustion heaters installed in the Region, open burning and stationary sources of air pollution, and idling combustion engines. Provisions potentially applicable to the proposed project includes:

- Section 65.1.8, "Idling Restrictions," states that no person shall cause a combustion engine in a parked auto, truck, bus, or boat to idle for more than 30 consecutive minutes in the designated plan areas (with limited exemptions).

TRPA Standard Conditions of Approval

TRPA is committed to continuing to monitor and adaptively manage construction emissions through existing permit compliance programs. Pre-grade inspections occur for every permitted project prior to any ground-disturbing activities. These inspections verify that all required permit conditions, such as the location of staging areas and the use of approved power sources, are in place prior to intensive construction activities. In addition, compliance inspections occur throughout the period of construction activity to verify compliance with all permit requirements. These compliance inspections are a core function of TRPA and local jurisdiction building departments. If an inspection determines that a project is not in compliance with permit conditions, then enforcement actions are taken, which can include stopping activity at the construction site and monetary fines.

In addition to existing permit limits, TRPA's Standard Conditions of Approval for Grading Projects (TRPA Permit Attachment Q) include the following air quality-related measures that may be applicable to the Modified Project, which will be determined upon project review by TRPA:

- **Final Construction Plans:** Final construction plans must be submitted to and reviewed by TRPA to determine conformance with the approval. Said plans shall clearly depict the following:
  - Slope stabilization methods to stabilize all existing and proposed cut and fill slopes.
  - Areas to be revegetated, including complete specifications for such revegetation.
  - Fencing for vegetation protection.
  - Temporary and permanent erosion control devices.
  - Utility trenches.
  - Dust control measures.
  - The final plans shall contain equipment specifications necessary to establish compliance with Standard Conditions III. A-F.
- **Securities:** A security shall be posted with the TRPA to ensure compliance with all permit conditions. The security shall include an amount equal to 110 percent of the cost of the BMPs and other erosion control and water quality improvements required. For further information on the acceptable types of securities, see Attachment J.
- **Mitigation Fees:** All required air quality, water quality, and excess coverage and offsite coverage mitigation fees shall be paid to TRPA.
- **Temporary BMPs:** The following temporary BMPs are required to be installed onsite prior to any grading activity occurring:
  - Installation of temporary erosion controls.
  - Installation of vegetation protection measures.
  - Installation of construction site boundary fencing.
- **Required Inspection:** An onsite inspection by TRPA staff is required prior to any construction or grading activity occurring. TRPA staff shall determine if the onsite improvements required by Condition II (1), above, have been properly installed. No grading or construction shall be undertaken by the permittee until receipt of TRPA notification that the pre-grading/pre-activity conditions of approval have been satisfied.
- **Required Notices:** The following notices to the TRPA are required prior to any grading or construction occurring on the project site:
  - Notice for Pre-Grading Inspection: The permittee shall notify the TRPA when all onsite improvements required under Condition II(1), above, have been installed so that the required pre-grading inspection may be scheduled.

- Notice of Commencement of Construction: The permittee shall notify the TRPA at least 48 hours prior to commencement of construction or grading on the project site. Said notice shall include the date when construction will commence.

- All construction shall be accomplished in strict compliance with the plans approved by TRPA.
- The TRPA permit and the final construction drawings bearing the TRPA stamp of approval shall be present on the construction site from the time construction commences to final TRPA site inspection. The permit and plans shall be available for inspection upon request by any TRPA employee. Failure to present the TRPA permit and approved plans may result in the issuance of a Cease and Desist Order by the TRPA.
- Whenever possible, utilities shall occupy common trenches to minimize site disturbance.
- There shall be no grading or land disturbance performed with respect to the project between October 15 and May 1, except as follows:
  - The grading or land disturbance is for excavation and backfilling for a volume not in excess of three cubic yards.
  - The activity is completed within a 48-hour period.
  - The pregrade inspection is performed by TRPA staff, and the activity passes the inspection.
  - The grading/project does not represent or involve a series of excavations, which, when viewed as a whole, would exceed the provisions of this Standard Condition of Approval, and Subsection 2.3 of the TRPA Code.
  - A grading season exemption is issued by TRPA.
- Grading is prohibited any time of the year during periods of precipitation and for the resulting period of time when the site is covered with snow, or is in a saturated, muddy, or unstable condition (pursuant to Subsection 33.3.1.A of the TRPA Code.)
- Replanting of all exposed surfaces, in accordance with the revegetation and slope stabilization plan, shall be accomplished within the first growing season following disturbance, unless an approved construction/inspection schedule establishes otherwise.
- All trees and natural vegetation to remain on the site shall be fenced for protection. Scarring of trees shall be avoided and, if scarred, damaged areas shall be repaired with tree seal.
  - Fencing specified shall be at least 48 inches high and shall be constructed of metal posts and either orange construction fencing or metal mesh fencing also at least 48 inches high (Section 33.6.1). Job sites with violations of the fencing standards will be required to re-fence the job site with a high gauge metal fencing
  - No material or equipment shall enter or be placed in the areas protected by fencing or outside the construction areas without prior approval from TRPA. Fences shall not be moved without prior approval (Section 33.6).
  - To reduce soil disturbance and damage to vegetation, the area of disturbance during the construction of a structure shall be limited to the area between the footprint of the building and the public road. For the remainder of the site the disturbance areas shall not exceed 12 feet from the footprint of the structure, parking area or cut/fill slope. The approved plans should show the fencing and approved exceptions (Section 36.2).
  - Soil and construction material shall not be tracked off the construction site. Grading operations shall cease in the event that a danger of violating this condition exists. The site shall be cleaned up and road right-of-way swept clean when necessary.
  - During grading and construction, environmental protection devices such as erosion control devices, dust control, and vegetation protection barriers shall be maintained.
  - Loose soil mounds or surfaces shall be protected from wind or water erosion by being appropriately covered when construction is not in active progress or when required by TRPA.

- Only equipment of a size and type that, under prevailing site conditions, and considering the nature of the work to be performed, will do the least amount of damage to the environment shall be used.
- Limit idling time for diesel powered vehicles exceeding 10,000 GVW and self-propelled equipment exceeding 25 horsepower (hp) to no more than 15 minutes in Nevada and 5 minutes in California, or as otherwise required by state or local permits.
- Utilize existing power sources (e.g., power poles) or clean-fuel generators rather than temporary diesel power generators wherever feasible.
- No washing of vehicles or construction equipment, including cement mixers, shall be permitted anywhere on the subject property unless authorized by TRPA in writing.
- No vehicles or heavy equipment shall be allowed in any stream environment zone or wet areas, except as authorized by TRPA.
- Locate construction staging areas as far as feasible from sensitive air pollution receptors (e.g., schools or hospitals).
- All construction sites shall be winterized by October 15 to reduce the water quality impacts associated with winter weather as follows:
- For the sites that will be inactive between October 15 and May 1:
    - Temporary erosion controls shall be installed;
    - Temporary vegetation protection fencing shall be installed;
    - Disturbed areas shall be stabilized;
    - Onsite construction slash and debris shall be cleaned up and removed;
    - Where feasible, mechanical stabilization and drainage improvements shall be installed; and,
    - Spoil piles shall be removed from the site.
- For sites that will be active between October 15 and May 1, in addition to the above requirements:
    - Permanent mechanical erosion control devices shall be installed, including paving of driveway and parking areas; and
    - Parking of vehicles and storage of building materials shall be restricted to paved areas.

STATE

The State of California has adopted numerous laws addressing various aspects of air quality. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) is the primary agency, whose mission is to reduce air pollution and protect air quality. CARB establishes state regulations to reduce emissions from all major sources of emissions air pollution. Applicable regulations are discussed below.

California Clean Air Act

CARB and local air districts bear responsibility for achieving the CAAQS, which are to be achieved through district-level air quality management plans that are incorporated into the SIP. The CAAQS currently in place are shown in Table 3.3-1. In California, the EPA has delegated authority to prepare SIPs to CARB, which, in turn, has delegated that authority to individual air districts. CARB traditionally has established state air quality standards, maintaining oversight authority in air quality planning, developing programs for reducing emissions from motor vehicles, developing air emission inventories, collecting air quality and meteorological data, and approving SIPs.

The CCAA substantially adds to the authority and responsibilities of air districts. The CCAA designates air districts as lead air quality planning agencies (Health and Safety Code [HSC] Sections 40000 and 40001), requires air districts to prepare air quality plans (HSC Section 40918), and grants air districts authority to implement transportation control

measures (HSC Section 40717[a]). The CCAA also emphasizes the control of "indirect and area-wide sources" of air pollutant emissions. The CCAA gives local air pollution control districts explicit authority to regulate indirect sources of air pollution and to establish traffic control measures.

On-Road Vehicle Standards

Advanced Clean Fleets

CARB's 2022 Advanced Clean Fleets regulation was developed to reduce diesel PM through the transition of medium- and heavy-duty trucks to become fully electric by 2045. California has withdrawn its request for a waiver and authorization for the addition of the Advanced Clean Fleets regulation to its emissions control program (CARB 2025a). CARB is not enforcing the existing portions of the Advanced Clean Fleets regulation that require a federal waiver or authorization, such as the portions of the regulation that apply to high priority and drayage fleets. However, not all elements of the regulation require a federal waiver or authorization. The state and local government fleets portion of the Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation requires that, starting January 1, 2024, 50 percent of the total number of vehicles purchased for government fleets be Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs), and 100 percent of the total number of vehicle purchases for the state and local fleets be ZEVs starting January 1, 2027 (13 California Code of Regulations [CCR] Section 2013-2013.4). This portion of the Advanced Clean Fleets Regulation remains unaffected (CARB 2025a).

Low Carbon Fuel Standard

Originally mandated a statewide goal be established to reduce the carbon intensity of California's transportation fuels by at least 10 percent by 2020 (17 CCR Section 95480 et seq.). In September 2018, to help achieve SB 32's emission reduction target, the Low Carbon Fuel Standard (LCFS) regulation was amended to increase the statewide goal to a 20 percent reduction in carbon intensity of California's transportation fuels by 2030. On November 8, 2024, CARB approved amendments to the LCFS regulation to maintain momentum for global, national, and local private sector investment toward increasing cleaner fuel and transportation options for consumers, accelerating the deployment of zero-emission infrastructure and clean fuel production to support clean vehicle regulations, and keeping the state on track to meet statutorily mandated air quality and climate targets (CARB 2025b). On January 3, 2025, CARB submitted the final proposed amendments to the LCFS regulation to the Office of Administrative Law for review in accordance with Government Code Section 11349.1 (CARB 2025b). On February 18, 2025, the Office of Administrative Law issued a routine disapproval of amendments to the LCFS regulation on technical grounds, not on the merits of the regulation. CARB staff made necessary revisions and resubmitted the regulation for Office of Administrative Law approval on May 16, 2025. On June 27, 2025, the Office of Administrative Law approved this rulemaking and filed it with the Secretary of State with an effective date of July 1, 2025 (CARB 2025b).

Advanced Clean Trucks

The Advanced Clean Trucks Regulation was adopted by CARB on April 28, 2023. The Advanced Clean Trucks Regulation sets requirements for the transition of diesel trucks and vans to zero-emission trucks, which began in 2024. Per the Advanced Clean Trucks Regulation, manufacturers who certify Class 2b-8 chassis or complete vehicles with combustion engines are required to sell zero-emission trucks as an increasing percentage of their annual California sales from 2024 to 2035. By 2035, zero-emission truck/chassis sales are required to be 55 percent of Class 2b – 3 truck sales, 75 percent of Class 4 – 8 straight truck sales, and 40 percent of truck tractor sales (EPA 2024). Adopted regulations are also expected to continue to reduce formaldehyde emissions emitted by cars and light-duty trucks. As emissions are reduced, it is expected that risks associated with exposure to the emissions will also be reduced. EPA granted the waiver request for the Advanced Clean Trucks Regulation on April 6, 2023 (EPA 2023).

Off-Road and Heavy-Duty Emission Standards

EPA is taking final action to approve a revision to the California SIP submitted by CARB. This revision concerns two regulations that reduce emissions of diesel particulate PM, NO_X, and other pollutants from in-use, heavy-duty diesel-fueled trucks and buses, and drayage trucks. EPA is approving this SIP revision because the Agency has determined that the regulations are consistent with the relevant Clean Air Act requirements, policies and guidance. Final approval of the two regulations and incorporation of them into the California SIP makes them federally enforceable (40 CFR Part 52 [EPA-R09-OAR-2025-0203; FRL-12755-02-R9]).

Executive Order N-79-20

Under EO N-79-20, 100 percent of in-state sales of new passenger cars and trucks are to be zero-emission by 2035; 100 percent of in-state sales of medium- and heavy-duty trucks and busses are to be zero-emission by 2045 for all operations, where feasible, and by 2035 for drayage trucks; and 100 percent of off-road vehicles and equipment sales are to be zero-emission by 2035 where feasible.

LOCAL

El Dorado County Air Quality Management District

All projects in El Dorado County are subject to adopted EDCAQMD rules and regulations in effect at the time of construction. The following specific rules apply to construction of the project:

- EDCAQMD Rule 202, Visible Emissions. A person shall not discharge into the atmosphere from any single source of emission whatsoever any air contaminant for a period or periods aggregating more than three minutes in any one hour which is as dark or darker in shade as that designated as number 1 on the Ringelmann Chart, as published by the US Bureau of Mines.
- EDCAQMD Rule 205, Nuisance. Prohibits discharge of air contaminants or other material that 1) cause injury, detriment, nuisance, or annoyance to any considerable number of persons or to the public; 2) endanger the comfort, repose, health, or safety of any such persons or the public; or 3) cause, or have a natural tendency to cause, injury, or damage to business or property.
- EDCAQMD Rule 207, Particulate Matter. Limits particulate matter emissions in excess of 0.1 grains per cubic foot of dry exhaust gas.
- EDCAQMD Rule 215, Application of Architectural Coatings. No person shall: (i) manufacture, blend, or repackage for sale within EDCAQMD; (ii) supply, sell, or offer for sale within EDCAQMD; or (iii) solicit for application or apply within EDCAQMD, any architectural coating with a volatile organic compound (VOC) content in excess of the corresponding specified manufacturer's maximum recommendation. "Manufacturer's maximum recommendation" means the maximum recommendation for thinning that is indicated on the label or lid of the coating container.
- EDCAQMD Rule 223-1, Fugitive Dust.
    - Visible Emissions Not Allowed Beyond the Boundary Line: A person shall not cause or allow the emissions of fugitive dust from any active operation, open storage pile, or disturbed surface area (including disturbance as a result of the raising and/or keeping of animals or by vehicle use), such that the presence of such dust remains visible in the atmosphere beyond the boundary line of the emission source.
    - Visible Emissions from Active Operations: In addition to the requirements of Rule 202, Visible Emissions, a person shall not cause or allow fugitive dust generated by active operations, an open storage pile, or a disturbed surface area, such that the fugitive dust is of such opacity as to obscure an observer's view to a degree equal to or greater than does smoke as dark or darker in shade as that designated as number 2 on the Ringelmann Chart, as published by the US Bureau of Mines.
    - Concentration Limit: A person shall not cause or allow PM_{10} levels to exceed 50 micrograms per cubic meter (24-hour average) when determined, by simultaneous sampling, as the difference between upwind and downwind samples collected on high-volume particulate matter samplers or other EPA-approved equivalent method for PM_{10} monitoring.
    - Track-Out onto Paved Public Roadways: Visible roadway dust as a result of active operations, spillage from transport trucks, and the track-out of bulk material onto public paved roadways shall be minimized and removed. The track-out of bulk material onto public paved roadways as a result of operations, or erosion, shall be minimized by the use of track-out and erosion control, minimization, and preventative measures, and removed within 1 hour from adjacent streets any time track-out extends for a cumulative distance of greater

than 50 feet onto any paved public road during active operations. All visible roadway dust tracked-out upon public paved roadways as a result of active operations shall be removed at the conclusion of each workday when active operations cease, or every 24 hours for continuous operations. Wet sweeping or a High Efficiency Particulate Air filter equipped vacuum device shall be used for roadway dust removal. Any material tracked-out, or carried by erosion, and clean-up water, shall be prevented from entering waterways or storm water inlets as required to comply water quality control requirements. Minimum Dust Control Requirements: The following dust mitigation measures are to be initiated at the start and maintained throughout the duration of the construction or grading activity, including any construction or grading for road construction or maintenance.

- Unpaved areas subject to vehicle traffic must be stabilized by being kept wet, treated with a chemical dust suppressant, or covered.
- The speed of any vehicles and equipment traveling across unpaved areas must be no more than 15 mph unless the road surface and surrounding area is sufficiently stabilized to prevent vehicles and equipment traveling more than 15 mph from emitting dust exceeding Ringelmann 2 or visible emissions from crossing the project boundary line.
- Storage piles and disturbed areas not subject to vehicular traffic must be stabilized by being kept wet, treated with a chemical dust suppressant, or covered when material is not being added to or removed from the pile.
- Prior to any ground disturbance, including grading, excavating, and land clearing, sufficient water must be applied to the area to be disturbed to prevent emitting dust exceeding Ringelmann 2 and to minimize visible emissions from crossing the boundary line.
- Construction vehicles leaving the site shall be cleaned to prevent dust, silt, mud, and dirt, from being released or tracked offsite.
- When wind speeds are high enough to result in dust emissions crossing the boundary line, despite the application of dust mitigation measures, grading and earthmoving operations shall be suspended. No trucks are allowed to transport excavated material offsite unless the trucks are maintained such that no spillage can occur from holes or other openings in cargo compartments, and loads are either covered with tarps; or wetted and loaded such that the material does not touch the front, back, or sides of the cargo compartment
- at any point less than 6 inches from the top and that no point of the load extends above the top of the cargo compartment.
- Wind-Driven Fugitive Dust Control: A person shall take action(s), such as surface stabilization, establishment of a vegetative cover, or paving, to minimize wind-driven dust from inactive disturbed surface areas.

- EDCAQMD Rule 224, Cutback and Emulsified Asphalt Paving Materials. Specifies content limits for cutback asphalt.
- EDCAQMD Rule 238, Gasoline Transfer and Dispensing. Regulates the transfer of gasoline from any tank truck, trailer, or railroad tank car into any stationary storage tank or mobile fueler and from any stationary storage tank or mobile fueler into any mobile fueler or motor vehicle fuel tank.

3.3.2 Discussion

CEQA Question 3.3.2 d) was scoped out of further assessment. See *CEQA Sections Eliminated From Further Analysis*, above.

a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?

The 2009 IS/ND/IEC assessed impacts related to conflict with applicable air quality plans under Question a) of Section 2.3, "Air Quality." The analysis determined that, because development of the Original Project would implement regional planning provisions to attain air quality standards, include techniques to limit fugitive dust and equipment idling during project construction, and involve locating a recreation facility within walking and bicycling distance of the largest tourist bed base in the Tahoe Region to reduce dependence on automobiles, there would be no impacts related to conflict with an applicable air quality plan.

Less-than-Significant Impact. For the California portion of the LTAB, the applicable federal air quality maintenance plan for Lake Tahoe is the CO Maintenance Plan originally adopted in 1996 and revised in 2004 (CARB 2004). Part of the maintenance strategy involves allocation of transportation emissions budgets to the maintenance areas. The Tahoe Metropolitan Planning Organization (TMPO), in coordination with TRPA, established emission budgets for 2008 and 2018 based on the transportation conformity requirement to have two 10-year maintenance plans indicating that the area has met the NAAQS for a criteria pollutant. As the TMPO has already reached the end of its maintenance period, according to EPA guidance, conformity requirements no longer apply to actions taken after 2018 (TRPA 2014: 4). However, any transportation control measures in the maintenance plan continue past the end of the maintenance period.

The LTAB is currently in attainment for the CO NAAQS and CAAQS (EPA 2025b, CARB 2023). Because the Modified Project would not introduce significant sources of CO nor alter the growth projections of the CO Maintenance Plan, the Modified Project would not conflict with the CO Maintenance Plan. Furthermore, as discussed in impact criteria 3.3.2 b) below, neither construction nor operation of the Modified Project would exceed EDCAQMD's numerical thresholds for any criteria pollutant. Because these thresholds are developed for the purpose of attaining and maintaining the CAAQS and NAAQS, the Modified Project would thus not conflict with EDCAQMD's air quality attainment and maintenance efforts and impacts would be less than significant.

b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?

The 2009 IS/ND/IEC assessed impacts related to the Original Project's contribution of construction and operational air pollutants to the LTAB under impact question c) of Section 2.3, "Air Quality". Regarding construction emissions, the analysis determined that the mandatory adherence to relevant air district rules (i.e., relevant rules enforced by EDCAMQD, Nevada Bureau of Air Pollution Control, and Nevada Bureau of Air Quality Prevention) and the TRPA Code's required best construction practices would avoid or reduce to less than significant levels either concern. Such rules and best practices included watering and development of construction sequencing and schedules to reduce fugitive dust, and time limitations on idling construction equipment engines.

Regarding operations, impact criterion "b" of Section 2.3, "Air Quality," the 2009 IS/ND/IEC discussed the Original Project's increase in VMT (i.e., an identified project-generated increase of 472 miles, 1,528 miles less than the 2,000 VMT level which TRPA staff deemed significant) and stated that Original Project would be required to comply with the standards of TRPA Code Section 93.3.C for air quality mitigation.

For these reasons, impact question c) of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC concluded that the Original Project would have no impact related to a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant.

Less-than-Significant Impact. Regarding construction, while EDCAQMD provides numerical thresholds which may be used to assess project-related construction emissions, other air districts in the state have devised screening criteria which can be used as a preliminary assessment of whether a construction project may require a detailed assessment of the project's criteria air pollutant and precursor emissions. One such air district which provides construction emissions screening criteria for use by lead agencies is the Bay Area Air District. According to the Bay Area Air District's CEQA Guidelines, its screening criteria provide "…a conservative indication of whether implementing a proposed project could result in potentially significant criteria air pollutants and precursors impacts. If all screening criteria for criteria air pollutants and precursors are met by a proposed project, then the lead agency would not need to perform a detailed assessment of the project's criteria air pollutant and precursor emissions" (BAAQMD 2023). The Bay Area Air District's screening criteria are appropriate for use to assess the Modified Project's construction emissions because they were developed in consideration of numerical air pollutant thresholds (i.e., projects which do not exceed the screening criteria would not be expected to generate emissions in excess of the numerical thresholds of significance), that are more stringent than those recommended by EDCAQMD. Table 4-1 of the Bay Area Air District CEQA Guidelines shows that a city park, the most similar land use to that of the Modified Project, of less than 10 acres would not result in emissions exceeding BAAQMD's average daily mass emissions thresholds (BAAQMD 2023: Table 4-1). The Modified Project would primarily involve the expansion and/or enhancement of facilities that

already exist within the Modified Project area. Construction activity would occur within an approximately 6-acre area, while ground-disturbing activities would primarily be confined to the picnic areas, entrance plaza, parking lot, state line monument plaza, and along the linear paths of the proposed Class 1 and Barn trails. The Modified Project would fall below the applicable screening level size depicted in Table 4-1 of the Bay Area Air District CEQA Guidelines and, therefore, the EDCAQMD numerical thresholds for air pollutants, given that the Bay Area Air District's air quality thresholds are more stringent. Additionally, the Modified Project would be required to comply with the dust control requirements of EDCAMQD Rule 223-1 and all applicable measures required by the TRPA Standard Conditions of Approval for Grading Projects (TRPA Permit Attachment Q), which include measures such as dust control and equipment idling requirements. These measures would further minimize construction-related emissions. Impacts would be less than significant.

In terms of operations, criteria pollutant emissions related to visitor use and operations/maintenance of the Modified Project would primarily occur from passenger vehicles trips visiting the Park. Other emissions sources include equipment and vehicles used for maintenance activities (e.g., trash collection, snow removal, picnic area repairs and maintenance).

Regarding operational mobile-source emissions from visitors to the Park, the Modified Project would mostly involve the expansion and/or enhancement of facilities that already exist in the Modified Project area. The Park is currently accessible and used by visitors (year round for those on foot). While one of the goals of the Modified Project is to accommodate future year-round vehicular access to the Park, most of the Modified Project improvements are intended to improve pedestrian, bicycle, and other non-motorized access to the Park from the tourist core and adjacent neighborhoods. The improvements to the parking lot in the California day-use area will not significantly increase the amount of parking that is available. As such, the Modified Project features are not expected to generate a considerable increase in vehicle trips relative to existing conditions. It follows, then, that the Modified Project would not substantially increase VMT compared to existing conditions, as the Park provides open space access for users who would otherwise be traveling to other similar locations. Because the Modified Project would not substantially increase available parking, visitor trips, or VMT relative to existing conditions, mobile-source emissions would similarly not substantially increase compared to existing conditions.

Given the relatively few, if any, additional worker or maintenance trips that would result from the Modified Project features described above, the Modified Project would not generate considerable VMT and associated emissions related to worker and maintenance trips above existing conditions.

For these reasons, any additional operational emissions generated by the Modified Project above baseline conditions would not exceed EDCAQMD operational thresholds. Impacts would be less than significant.

Conclusion

Regarding construction emissions, the Modified Project would fall below the applicable screening level size depicted in Table 4-1 of the Bay Area Air District CEQA Guidelines and would therefore be expected to generate construction emissions below the EDCAQMD numerical thresholds for air pollutants, being that the Bay Area Air District's air quality thresholds which the screening criteria are based on are more stringent.

Regarding operations, none of the Modified Project features described would generate a considerable increase in visitor, worker, or maintenance vehicle trips relative to existing conditions and it is likely that mobile-source emissions would similarly not substantially increase compared to existing conditions.

For these reasons, the Modified Project's construction and operational emissions would not exceed EDCAQMD's numerical thresholds. Because EDCAQMD' numerical thresholds were developed to attain and maintain the NAAQS and CAAQS, which are themselves scientifically substantiated to be protective of human health, the Modified Project's non-exceedance of these thresholds would indicate that the project would not generate air pollutant emissions that would result in adverse health outcomes. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

Impact question d) of Section 2.3 "Air Quality" of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC addressed the Original Project's impacts related to the exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. The 2009 IS/ND/IEC concluded that,

because the nearest sensitive receptors to the Original Project were located near the tourist accommodation units on Montreal Road and Lakeview Parkway and thus not close enough be exposed to substantial levels of diesel fumes or dust generated by the construction activities, there would be no impact.

Less-than-Significant Impact. Construction activities related to the Modified Project would result in temporary, intermittent emissions of diesel PM from the exhaust of heavy-duty off-road diesel equipment used during activities such as site preparation, grading, paving, and facilities construction (e.g., shade structures, benches, picnic tables). On-road, diesel-powered haul trucks traveling to and from the project site during construction to deliver materials and equipment are less of a concern because they do not operate at a single location for extended periods and therefore would not expose a single receptor to excessive diesel PM emissions. Project operation would not introduce any new stationary or operational sources of TACs; therefore, construction-generated TACs comprise the bulk of this analysis.

Diesel PM was identified as a TAC by CARB in 1998. The potential cancer risk from inhaling diesel PM outweighs the potential for all other diesel PM-related health impacts (i.e., noncancer chronic risk, short-term acute risk) and health impacts from other TACs (CARB 2003: K-1). Chronic and acute exposure to noncarcinogens is expressed as a hazard index, which is the ratio of expected exposure levels to an acceptable reference exposure level.

The dose to which receptors are exposed is the primary factor used to determine health risk (i.e., potential exposure to TAC levels that exceed applicable standards). Dose is a function of the concentration of a substance in the environment and the duration of exposure to the substance. It is positively correlated with time, meaning that a longer exposure period would result in a higher exposure level for any exposed receptor. Thus, the risks estimated for an exposed individual are higher if the exposure occurs over a longer period. According to the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), health risk assessments (HRAs), which determine the exposure of sensitive receptors to TACs, should be based on a 70- or 30-year exposure period; however, such assessments should be limited to the period/duration of activities associated with the project (OEHHA 2015: 5-23, 5-24). Thus, it is important to note that the Modified Project's construction phase, and thus the exposure of receptors to construction diesel PM emissions, would be less than one year in duration.

In addition, studies show that diesel PM is highly dispersive and that concentrations of diesel PM decline with distance from the source (e.g., 500 feet from a freeway, the concentration of diesel PM decreases by 70 percent) (Roorda-Knape et al. 1999; Zhu et al. 2002, cited in CARB 2005: 9). The nearest off-site sensitive receptors include vacation rental properties to the north of the project site, with the nearest home approximately 300 feet north from the nearest point of construction. While the 70 percent reduction in diesel PM identified previously would not be fully realized in the case of the nearby residences, it would be expected that this distance would allow for some reductions to occur. Furthermore, because the properties are rented as vacation accommodations, those staying at these properties would do so for relatively short periods of time (likely only weeks at a time) and would not have prolonged exposure to construction emissions generated by the Modified Project.

Therefore, considering the highly dispersive properties of diesel PM, the relatively short period during which diesel PM-emitting construction activity would take place in the same location near the same receptors, construction-related TACs would not expose sensitive receptors to an incremental increase in cancer risk that exceeds 10 in one million or a hazard index of 1.0 or greater. Furthermore, the proposed project would be subject to TRPA Code Section 65.8.1, which limits idling for diesel engines exceeding 10,000 pounds gross vehicle weight or off-road self-propelled equipment exceeding 25 hp to no longer than 5 minutes in California. Compliance with this guidance would further reduce construction-related emissions of TACs. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

e) Substantial air pollutant emissions? (TRPA Item 2a)

As previously assessed in Section 2.3 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Original Project's impacts related to the generation of substantial pollutant concentrations were determined to have no impacts.

Less-than-Significant Impact. See question 3.3.2 b), above, for discussion of the Modified Project's potential to generate substantial air pollutant emissions. Impacts would be less than significant

f) Deterioration of ambient (existing) air quality? (TRPA Item 2b)

As previously assessed in Section 2.3 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Original Project referred the reader to see question b).

Less-than-Significant Impact. Similarly, for the Modified Project, please see question 3.3.2 b). Impacts would be less than significant.

g) The creation of objectionable odors? (TRPA Item 2c)

As previously assessed in Section 2.3 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Original Project was assessed to not include activities or uses with the potential to create objectionable odors.

Less-than-Significant Impact. Similarly, although fuel and oils associated with construction equipment, as well as coatings, paints, adhesives, and caustic or acidic cleaners, could be used during the construction process, their application would not be considered prolonged and extensive, and receptors are of sufficient distance to not find odors objectionable. As such, a less-than-significant impact associated with odors would occur.

h) Alteration of air movement, moisture or temperature, or any change in climate, either locally or regionally? (TRPA Item 2d)

As previously assessed in Section 2.3 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Original Project was deemed to not include activities or uses with the potential to alter air movement, moisture, temperature, or cause climate change, and thus no impact was determined.

Less-than-Significant Impact. The Modified Project does not propose any activities or uses with the potential to alter air movement, moisture, temperature. Please see question 3.8.2 a) for discussion regarding the Modified Project as it relates to climate change impacts. Impacts would be less than significant.

i) Increased use of diesel fuel? (TRPA Item 2e)

As previously assessed in Section 2.3 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, most construction equipment relies upon the use of diesel fuel. Compliance with TRPA Code Section 91.7 restricting vehicle idling to less than 30 minutes would reduce the use of diesel fuel and thus there would be no impacts.

Less-than-Significant Impact. Please see question 3.6.2 a) for discussion of the Modified Project's diesel fuel consumption. Impacts would be less than significant.

j) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment, based on any applicable threshold of significance?

This threshold was included in Section 2.3 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC under the Air Quality section, however, there was no TRPA threshold relating to greenhouse gases, and this threshold technically belongs to the Greenhouse Gas chapter of Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines. For ease of comparison between the 2009 IS/ND/IEC and this document, the threshold is included here, but please see the Greenhouse Gas Emissions chapter below.

As previously assessed in Section 2.3 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Original Project was determined to have no potential to generate greenhouse gases other than related to traffic. It was determined that provision of a high quality, natural recreation experience within walking distance of a lodging concentration and a major transit center specifically meets the goal of decreasing reliance on the private automobile, and that the beneficial effect was of greater importance than the minor increase in traffic that will result from some users of the facility. There 2009 IS/ND/IEC determined no impact.

Less-than-Significant Impact. Please see question 3.8.2 a) for discussion of the Modified Project's potential to generate significant GHG emissions. Impacts would be less than significant.

k) Conflict with any applicable plan, policy or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

This threshold was included in Section 2.3 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC under the Air Quality section, however, there was no TRPA threshold relating to greenhouse gases, and this threshold technically belongs to the Greenhouse Gas chapter of Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines. For ease of comparison between the 2009 IS/ND/IEC and this document, the threshold is included here, but please see the Greenhouse Gas Emissions chapter below.

As previously assessed in Section 2.3 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, at that time, no plans existed to specifically reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Original Project's no impact determination concluded the Original Project avoided significant impacts related to traffic and transportation.

Less-than-Significant Impact. Please see question 3.8.2 b) for discussion of the Modified Project's potential to conflict with applicable GHG plans. Impacts would be less than significant.

3.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

CEQA INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTIONS	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
IV. Biological Resources. Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	No	Yes	No	No
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	No	No	Yes	No
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	No	No	Yes	No
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	No	No	Yes	No
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	No	No	Yes	No
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	No	No	No	Yes

TRPA INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST QUESTIONS	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
4. Vegetation. Would the project cause:				
g) Removal of native vegetation in excess of the area utilized for the actual development permitted by the land capability/IPES system? (TRPA Item 4a)	No	No	Yes	No

	TRPA INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST QUESTIONS	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
h)	Removal of riparian vegetation or other vegetation associated with critical wildlife habitat, either through direct removal or indirect lowering of the groundwater table? (TRPA Item 4b)	No	No	Yes	No
i)	Introduction of new vegetation that will require excessive fertilizer or water, or will provide a barrier to the normal replenishment of existing species? (TRPA Item 4c)	No	No	Yes	No
j)	Change in the diversity or distribution of species, or number of any species of plants (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, micro flora and aquatic plants)? (TRPA Item 4d)	No	No	Yes	No
k)	Reduction of the numbers of any unique, rare or endangered species of plants? (TRPA Item 4e)	No	Yes	No	No
l)	Removal of stream bank and/or backshore vegetation, including woody vegetation such as willows? (TRPA Item 4f)	No	No	Yes	No
m)	Removal of any native live, dead or dying trees 30 inches or greater in diameter at breast height (dbh) within TRPA's Conservation or Recreation land use classifications? (TRPA Item 4g)	No	No	Yes	No
n)	A change in the natural functioning of an old growth ecosystem? (TRPA Item 4h)	No	No	Yes	No
5. Wildlife. Would the project cause:					
o)	Change in the diversity or distribution of species, or numbers of any species of animals (birds, land animals including reptiles, fish and shellfish, benthic organisms, insects, mammals, amphibians or microfauna)? (TRPA Item 5a)	No	No	Yes	No
p)	Reduction of the number of any unique, rare or endangered species of animals? (TRPA Item 5b)	No	Yes	No	No
q)	Introduction of new species of animals into an area, or result in a barrier to the migration or movement of animals? (TRPA Item 5c)	No	No	Yes	No
r)	Deterioration of existing fish or wildlife habitat quantity or quality? (TRPA Item 5d)	No	No	Yes	No

3.4.1 Discussion

Section 2.4 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC discusses the affected environment and regulatory setting related to biological resources of the Project site evaluated at that time, which included project elements in both Nevada and California. There are no substantial changes to the setting in the biological resources since preparation of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC. The modifications associated with the Modified Project would not alter the affected environment setting described in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC.

a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

Special-Status Wildlife

As previously assessed in Section 2.4 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Original Project determined no impact on six species designated as threatened, endangered, or other special status at that time by either the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW), or California Department of Fish and Game (now known as CDFW). The six species included North American wolverine (formerly California wolverine), Sierra Nevada red fox, spotted bat, bald eagle, American peregrine falcon, and willow flycatcher. Three species designated as candidate species by the USFWS at that time were considered to have potential habitat within the Van Sickle project area: flammulated owl, Pacific fisher, and Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog (formerly mountain yellow-legged frog); however, the Original Project also assessed no impact to these species. Other wildlife species identified as having special status and evaluated in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC for the Van Sickle project area include: American marten, Sierra Nevada mountain beaver, western gray squirrel, Douglas squirrel, American goshawk (formerly northern goshawk), white-headed woodpecker, Cooper's hawk, sharp-shinned hawk, rufous hummingbird, northern flying squirrel, Myotis bat species, and Sierra Nevada snowshoe hare. Impacts on these species were considered less than significant. For several of these wildlife species evaluated in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, their special status applied only in Nevada; or their regulatory status in California or federally has changed since completion of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC.

Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated. Per the recommendations in the Technical Assessment of Biological Resources for the Van Sickle Bi-State Park Safety and Equitable Access Improvements Project in Appendix A, the Modified project is located in an urban area that already experiences substantial human disturbance and noise. Due to existing land uses and facilities (e.g., recreation and access infrastructure) and disturbed conditions, the mixed conifer and riparian habitats in the Modified Project area are not expected to support breeding habitat suitable for any sensitive wildlife species that may be subject to protocol-level surveys. Additionally, the Modified Project area is not located within any nest buffers or disturbance/threshold zones for TRPA special interest wildlife species (i.e., American goshawk, golden eagle, peregrine falcon, osprey, bald eagle, waterfowl). Therefore, Modified Project implementation is not expected to cause a substantial direct or indirect effect on special-status wildlife species.

Mixed conifer, montane riparian, aspen, and meadow habitats in the project area provide nesting habitat for some common bird species. Nesting raptors and other birds are protected under California Fish and Game Code (FGC) and the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). Although most common bird species do not meet the definition of "special-status species" based on rarity and other factors typically considered during CEQA review, potential project-related loss of active nests is discussed here. The FGC and MBTA nest protection provisions apply to nearly all native bird species. The nesting season for most avian species in the Tahoe region is generally considered to be March 1–August 31, depending on species, snowpack, and other seasonal conditions. If nesting birds are present in the Modified Project area, construction-related vegetation removal or other ground disturbances during the nesting season could result in direct loss of active nests or disturbance to active nests from auditory and visual stimuli, potentially resulting in abandonment and loss of eggs or chicks. Therefore, Mitigation Measure MM-BIO-1 will be incorporated into the Modified Project to reduce potential impacts on nesting birds to less than significant with mitigation incorporated. Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

Special Status Plants

As previously assessed in Section 2.4 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Original Project identified one sensitive plant species, the Galena Creek Rockcress (*Arabis rigidissima var demota*), having suitable habitat in the Original Project area; however, surveys at the time determined no presence, and thus no impacts.

Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated. A preliminary list of special-status plant species known or with potential to occur in the Modified Project area was developed based on a review of the sources listed in the Technical Assessment of Biological Resources for the Van Sickle Bi-State Park Safety and Equitable Access

Improvements Project (Appendix A). Suitable habitat for eight special-status plant species was observed within the Modified Project area. Modified Project implementation could result in direct or indirect adverse effects on those special-status plant species, if present in the project area. Therefore, Mitigation Measure MM-BIO-2 will be incorporated into the Modified Project to reduce potential impacts on special-status plants to less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

Mitigation Measures

MM-BIO-1. Nesting Bird Surveys

For vegetation removal and other ground-disturbing activities scheduled to occur during the nesting season (defined as March 1 to August 31), a qualified biologist will conduct a preconstruction survey for nesting birds within seven days prior to the start of project activities that may disturb nests. If an active nest is located during pre-construction surveys, a non-disturbance buffer shall be established around the nest by a qualified biologist in consultation with CDFW and US Fish and Wildlife Service to comply with California Fish & Game Code Sections 3503 and 3503.5 and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, based on species- and site-specific factors such as the species nesting biology and sensitivity to disturbance, nest location in proximity to construction activities, and ambient noise and other disturbance levels.

MM-BIO-2. Special Status Plant Surveys

A qualified botanist will conduct protocol-level surveys for special-status plant species with the potential to occur in the Modified Project area. The survey will follow the methods in the current version of CDFW's *Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Sensitive Natural Communities* (CDFW 2018). Surveys to determine the presence or absence of special-status plant species will be conducted in suitable habitat that could be affected by the Modified Project and timed to coincide with the blooming or other appropriate phenological period of the target species (as determined by a qualified botanist).

If a special-status plant is found, the area occupied by the plant shall be avoided completely, if avoidance can be achieved in light of project layout, design, engineering considerations, and utility alignments. This may include establishing a no-disturbance buffer around the plant population and demarcation of this buffer by a qualified biologist or botanist using high-visibility flagging. The size of the buffer shall be determined by the qualified biologist or botanist and shall be large enough to avoid direct or indirect impacts on the special-status plant species.

b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

As previously assessed in Section 2.4 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Original Project determined implementation of the Original Project was not expected to have an adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans. No TRPA-designated uncommon plant communities existed within the Original Project area. In addition, the Original Project noted that construction impacts associated with the realignment and expansion of the access roadway that traverses an SEZ area within the Original Project boundary was not expected to be substantial or to create an adverse effect on the riparian habitat that exists within the area and thus there would be no impact.

Less-than-Significant Impact. The Modified Project has been designed to avoid the montane riparian and wet meadow habitat features located to the south of the entry road, and thus impacts would be less than significant. The Class I trail which will run parallel to the entrance road, traverses the SEZ area identified within the Original Project boundary, but is not expected to create an adverse effect on the riparian habitat.

c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

As previously assessed in Section 2.4 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Original Project determined the botanical survey conducted at the time found no hydrophytic vegetation. Hydrophytic vegetation is one of three required indicators that defines a federally protected wetland under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Therefore, it was determined that there were no federally protected wetlands on site and there would be no adverse effects. The 2009 IS/ND/IEC did not address state protected wetlands.

Less-than-Significant Impact. In California, aquatic resources are regulated under several federal and state laws and regulations, including the federal Clean Water Act (CWA), the State Wetland Definition and Procedures for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Material to Waters of the State (State Wetland Procedures), and California Fish and Game Code. A formal delineation of potentially jurisdictional wetlands and other waters of the US and/or state within the project area has not been conducted. However, based on the biological resources reconnaissance surveys conducted on August 7 and October 8, 2024, and October 24 and 31, 2025, potentially jurisdictional aquatic resources, consisting of wet meadow habitat, occur adjacent to the Modified Project area. A large meadow complex occurs outside of but adjacent to the Modified Project boundary, just south of the Class I shared-use trail that leads from the Park entrance to the California day-use area. This meadow complex will not be impacted by the Modified Project.

There are patches of montane riparian habitat within the Modified Project boundary. This montane riparian habitat is mapped as SEZ on Figure 2-3. The montane riparian habitat supports willow (*Salix* spp.) but is not associated with an active stream channel and does not support wetland hydrology; therefore, this montane riparian habitat would not be regulated under the CWA, the State Wetland Procedures, or the California Fish and Game Code. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?

As previously assessed in Section 2.4 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Original Project determined no mapped wildlife corridors or wildlife nursery sites. While mule deer were observed moving through the Original Project area during the spring, summer and autumn months, the Original Project area was not within the mapped migration corridor for the Carson River Deer Herd. There is one intermittent stream within the Original Project area, in Nevada, but it is not mapped as migratory fish habitat. Thus, no impacts on migrating fish or wildlife species was determined.

Less-than-Significant Impact. Similarly, the Modified Project is not within an area mapped as Critical Habitat for Threatened & Endangered Species by USFWS, nor mapped as a Natural Areas Small - California Essential Habitat Connectivity (CEHC) or Essential Connectivity Areas CEHC by CDFW. The Modified Project would not create barriers to wildlife movement through the area and would not isolate or fragment any habitat areas. Thus, less-than-significant impacts would occur.

e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

As previously assessed in Section 2.4 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Original Project determined that all trees would be removed according to the provisions set forth in the TRPA Code Chapter 71. Through compliance with TRPA standards related to the protection and preservation of trees, the Original Project was not expected to conflict with any policies or ordinances and no impacts were expected.

Less-than-Significant Impact. Per TRPA Code section 61.3.7. Old Growth Enhancement and Protection, within lands classified by TRPA as conservation or recreation land use, any live, dead, or dying tree larger than 30 inches diameter at breast height (dbh) in westside forest types shall not be cut. However, as noted under 61.3.7(A)(6), *EIP Projects*, trees larger than 30 inches dbh in the westside forest types may be removed when it is demonstrated that the removal is necessary for the activity. Approximately 40 trees greater than 30 inches in diameter at breast height (dbh)

would be removed in the footprint of the proposed improvements and where necessary for public safety. Trees greater than 30 inches dbh are considered old growth under the TRPA Code. The Modified Project has been designed to retain desirable trees, including trees larger than 30 inches dbh, and blend in with the natural environment to the largest extent feasible. There is no practical alternative that would eliminate the removal of approximately 40 trees greater than 30 inches dbh. As the Modified Project fulfils the criteria for the type of projects in several EIP Program Areas, such as Transportation, *Building and Improving of Bike and Pedestrian Paths*; and Sustainable Recreation, *Recreation Facility Improvements*, and *Building and Improving Recreational Trails*, it is thus demonstrable that tree removal would be necessary to fulfil the objectives of the Modified Project. As such, impacts associated with tree removal would be less than significant upon acquisition of the required EIP Permit from TRPA.

f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

As previously assessed in Section 2.4 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Original Project determined the project was not located within any adopted Habitat Conservation Plans or Natural Community Conservation Plans, nor are there any other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plans overlaying the area, thus no impact.

No Impact. Similarly to the Original Project, the Modified Project is not located within any adopted Habitat Conservation Plans or Natural Community Conservation Plans, nor are there any other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plans overlaying the area. However, it should be noted that the Modified Project Site will be within the California Forest Conservation Plan area, although participation in the plan will be voluntary and final details of the plan are not expected until 2027 (USFWS 2024), thus there would be no impact.

g) Removal of native vegetation in excess of the area utilized for the actual development permitted by the land capability/IPES system? (TRPA Item 4a)

As previously assessed in Section 2.4 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Original Project noted there would be no removal of native vegetation in excess of the area utilized for the actual permitted development. In addition, the Original Project included restoration of previously disturbed areas where the land coverage was relocated.

Less-than-Significant Impact. Similarly to the Original Project, in the Modified Project there would be no removal of native vegetation in excess of the area utilized for the actual permitted development. Also like the Original Project, the Modified Project includes restoration of currently disturbed areas, such as the existing trail that connects the Park entrance to the California day-use area. Impacts would be less than significant.

h) Removal of riparian vegetation or other vegetation associated with critical wildlife habitat, either through direct removal or indirect lowering of the groundwater table? (TRPA Item 4b)

As previously assessed in Section 2.4 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Original Project access roadway included two SEZ crossings to reach the Nevada trailhead area (one SEZ in California and one SEZ in Nevada, both near the state line). The SEZ in California supports willow (*Salix* spp.) but is not associated with an active stream channel. The Original Project determined no impact related to the Park entrance road crossing this SEZ, with SEZ mitigation at a ratio of 1.5 to 1.

Less-than-Significant Impact. The Modified Project's Class 1 trail would cross the same northernmost SEZ in California, adjacent to the entrance road. This SEZ crossing is approximately 80 feet in length. Consistent with the 2009 IS/ND/IEC and the TRPA Code, the Conservancy would utilize the Conservancy's land bank to offset SEZ disturbance at a ratio of 1.5 to 1 for this SEZ crossing. With a total trail width of 16 feet, SEZ disturbance near the state line in California is expected to total approximately 1,280 square feet, requiring approximately 1,920 square feet of SEZ restoration credit.

Habitats consisting of deciduous trees, wetlands, and meadows (i.e., riparian, wetland, and meadow habitats) are designated by TRPA as habitats of special significance. The TRPA threshold standard for habitats of special significance is non-degradation, and the TRPA Code of Ordinances (Code) restricts additional coverage within SEZs

and SEZ buffers. However, the TRPA Code Section 30.5.2 includes an exception for public outdoor recreation facilities (Code Section 30.5.2). As direct impacts on SEZs and/or SEZ buffers are anticipated, prior to any work in these features, the Conservancy shall acquire all applicable permits from TRPA and, if required by TRPA, would adhere to any mitigation requirements for impacts on SEZs or SEZ buffer (as prescribed by TRPA Code Section 30.5.1.B.5). As such, impacts associated with removal of riparian vegetation would be less than significant upon acquisition of the required EIP Permit from TRPA (all TRPA authorizations would be handled under a singular EIP permit).

i) Introduction of new vegetation that will require excessive fertilizer or water, or will provide a barrier to the normal replenishment of existing species? (TRPA Item 4c)

As previously assessed in Section 2.4 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the only new vegetation plantings as part of the Original Project occurred as part of restoration activities in the SEZ and upland areas associated with relocation of the roadway. None of the native species proposed for revegetation activities required long-term fertilization or irrigation after establishment.

Less-than-Significant Impact. Similarly, the only new vegetation plantings as part of the Modified Project would be to restore areas of prior disturbance such as the existing entrance trail, and potentially part of the unpaved gondola access road may see fringe plantings, if appropriate. As per the Original Project, as part of restoration activities in the northern SEZ and upland areas associated with the Class I trail, new vegetation may be planted. However, none of the species proposed for revegetation activities for the Modified Project would require long-term fertilization or irrigation after establishment. Impacts would be less than significant.

j) Change in the diversity or distribution of species, or number of any species of plants (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, micro flora and aquatic plants)? (TRPA Item 4d)

As previously assessed in Section 2.4 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Original Project was not expected to result in a change in the diversity or distribution of species, or number of species of plants within the project area, although a substantial number of conifers were removed. Their removal was not expected to change the diversity of the stand nor impact the distribution of the species. Based on the tree health report for the California side of the original Project area, the Westside forest type was visibly overstocked. Therefore, it was noted in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC that the removal of these trees could benefit the stand, by removing already stressed and diseased trees and reducing competition. The Original Project also noted noxious weeds were present and proposed a Project Design Feature for weed control.

Less-than-Significant Impact. The Modified Project includes removal of approximately 250 trees within the footprints of the proposed improvements and in adjacent areas to improve sight lines, and thus safety, for the paved Class 1 trails. The forestry component would also involve the removal of live, dead, dying, and diseased trees on parcel 029-441-03, in the vicinity of the proposed improvements. This additional tree removal would decrease conifer densities, promote increased health and vigor of the residual tree stand, mitigate hazards to public health and safety, and reduce the risk of wildland fire within the Park and the adjacent communities. The total area for all forestry work would be less than three acres. Like the Original Project, the tree removal would also likely benefit the stand, by removing already stressed and diseased trees and reducing competition. In addition, noxious weed control is a likely Modified Project activity, and as such the following Project Design Feature will be included as part of the control of noxious weeds and invasive species. Impacts would be less than significant.

PDF-BIO-1: Noxious Weed Control. An Invasive Species Prevention and Management Plan will be developed by the Conservancy or contractor and approved by TRPA to include pre-construction mapping, clean-equipment protocols, weed-free materials and any proposed noxious weed treatment. In addition, the following measures will be required:

- Hand removal of identified noxious weeds within the Modified Project area and their proper disposal;
- Monitoring of Modified Project site for two years following any abatement activities to ensure removal;
- Perform pre- and post-equipment inspection and cleaning to avoid the spread of noxious weeds.

If treating noxious weeds or invasive species includes applying pesticides:

- Avoid using pesticides marked with the US Environmental Protection Agency's bee hazard icon, and use pesticides with a short residual toxicity to bees, which can be checked via the Bee Precaution Pesticide Ratings database, at https://ipm.ucanr.edu/bee-precaution-pesticide-ratings (University of California 2026).
- Avoid spraying pesticides onto any flowering plant.
- Use targeted application instead of broadcast spraying whenever possible.
- Avoid mixtures of pesticides as they are only evaluated in scenarios in which they are not mixed; thus, potentially harmful synergies are unknown.

All pesticide applications must be conducted by a Licensed and Certified Pesticide Applicator and should be used as directed by the manufacturer.

k) Reduction of the numbers of any unique, rare or endangered species of plants? (TRPA Item 4e)

As previously assessed in Section 2.4 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Original Project identified one sensitive plant species, the Galena Creek Rockcress (*Arabis rigidissima var demota*), having suitable habitat in the Original Project area, however surveys at the time determined no presence, and thus no impacts.

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. As noted in question 3.4.1 a) above, suitable habitat for eight special-status plant species was observed within the Modified Project area. Modified Project implementation could result in direct or indirect adverse effects on those special-status plant species, if present in the project area. Therefore, **Mitigation Measure MM-BIO-2** will be incorporated into the Modified Project to reduce potential impacts on special-status plants to less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

Mitigation Measure

MM-BIO-2. Special Status Plant Surveys
See question 3.4.1 a) above.

l) Removal of stream bank and/or backshore vegetation, including woody vegetation such as willows? (TRPA Item 4f)

As previously assessed in Section 2.4 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Original Project did not include any backshore areas. As assessed in question 3.4.1 h) above, the Original Project's access roadway would cross one SEZ in California. After completion of construction, revegetation with native plants would stabilize the area impacted by culvert replacement.

Less-than-Significant Impact. As with the Original Project, the Modified Project contains no backshore vegetation. As noted in question 3.4.1 h) direct impacts on SEZs and/or SEZ buffers are anticipated, which may include removal of, or encroachment on, woody vegetation such as willows. Prior to any work in the SEZ/SEZ buffers, the Conservancy shall acquire all applicable permits from TRPA and, if required by TRPA, would adhere to any mitigation requirements for impacts on SEZs or SEZ buffer (as prescribed by TRPA Code Section 30.5.1.B.5). As such, impacts associated with removal of riparian vegetation would be less than significant upon acquisition of the mandated EIP Permit from TRPA (all TRPA authorizations would be handled under a singular EIP permit).

m) Removal of any native live, dead or dying trees 30 inches or greater in diameter at breast height (dbh) within TRPA's Conservation or Recreation land use classifications? (TRPA Item 4g)

As previously assessed in Section 2.4 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Original Project involved the removal of eight large trees over 30 inches dbh in westside forests, specifically for the modifications to the access road. The Original Project determined the proposed removal of 11 large trees was consistent with the management prescription to be applied to

the property and would achieve ecosystem management goals, consistent with the findings required for the ordinance exception. Impacts were determined to be less than significant.

Less-than-Significant Impact. As noted in question 3.4.1 e), approximately 40 trees greater than 30 inches dbh would be removed. Trees greater than 30 inches dbh are considered old growth under the TRPA Code. The Modified Project has been designed to retain desirable trees, including trees larger than 30 inches dbh, and blend in with the natural environment to the largest extent feasible. There is no practical alternative that would eliminate the removal of approximately 40 trees greater than 30 inches dbh. As noted under TRPA Code Section 61.3.7(A)(6), *EIP Projects*, trees larger than 30 inches dbh in the westside forest types may be removed when it is demonstrated that the removal is necessary for the activity. Impacts associated with tree removal would be less than significant upon acquisition of the required EIP Permit from TRPA.

n) A change in the natural functioning of an old growth ecosystem? (TRPA Item 4h)

As previously assessed in Section 2.4 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Original Project noted that while individual large trees are documented within the project area, no late seral/old growth ecosystems, as defined by TRPA, exist, and thus there would be no impacts.

Less-than-Significant Impact. While the Modified Project would require the removal of approximately 250 trees, including approximately 40 trees greater than 30 inches dbh, some of which may be in areas mapped as Late Seral Forested Areas (TRPA 2026), i.e. old growth forest, their removal would not result in a change to the natural functioning of any old growth ecosystem as the removal would likely help achieve forest management goals to increase forest health and resilience and would not constitute a change in their natural functioning. Thus, impacts would be less than significant.

o) Change in the diversity or distribution of species, or numbers of any species of animals (birds, land animals including reptiles, fish and shellfish, benthic organisms, insects, mammals, amphibians or microfauna)? (TRPA Item 5a)

This topic was not previously assessed in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC.

Less-than-Significant Impact. As this question is similar in nature to questions 3.4.1 a) and 3.4.1 d), please see those sections above.

p) Reduction of the number of any unique, rare or endangered species of animals? (TRPA Item 5b)

This topic was not previously assessed in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC.

Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated. As this question is similar in nature to question 3.4.1 a), please see the relevant section above.

Mitigation Measures

MM-BIO-1. Nesting Bird Surveys and MM-BIO-2. Special Status Plant Surveys

See question 3.4.1 a) above.

q) Introduction of new species of animals into an area, or result in a barrier to the migration or movement of animals? (TRPA Item 5c)

This topic was not previously assessed in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC.

Less-than-Significant Impact. The Modified Project would not introduce new species of animals into the area as there are no features which would enable this to occur. Please see question 3.1.4 d) with regard to result in a barrier to the migration or movement of animals. Impacts would be less than significant.

r) Deterioration of existing fish or wildlife habitat quantity or quality? (TRPA Item 5d)

This topic was not previously assessed in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC.

Less-than-Significant Impact. As noted in question 3.1.4 d), there is one intermittent stream that was indicated within the Original Project area, however, it is not within the Modified Project area. The Modified Project would mostly involve the expansion and/or enhancement of recreation facilities that already exist in the Modified Project area and so would not deteriorate existing fish or wildlife habitat. As such, impacts would be less than significant.

3.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

CEQA INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTIONS	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
V. Cultural Resources. Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?	No	No	Yes	No
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?	No	Yes	No	No
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	No	No	Yes	No

TRPA INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST QUESTIONS	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
20. Archaeological/Historical.				
d) Will the proposal result in an alteration of or adverse physical or aesthetic effect to a significant archaeological or historical site, structure, object or building? (TRPA Item 20a)	No	No	Yes	No
e) Is the proposed project located on a property with any known cultural, historical, and/or archaeological resources, including resources on TRPA or other regulatory official maps or records? (TRPA Item 20b)	No	Yes	No	No
f) Is the property associated with any historically significant events and/or sites or persons? (TRPA Item 20c)	No	No	Yes	No
g) Does the proposal have the potential to cause a physical change which would affect unique ethnic cultural values? (TRPA Item 20d)	No	Yes	No	No
h) Will the proposal restrict historic or pre-historic religious or sacred uses within the potential impact area? (TRPA Item 20e)	No	Yes	No	No

3.5.1 Discussion

Section 2.5 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC discusses the affected environment and regulatory setting related to the cultural resources of the project site. There are no substantial changes to the setting in the cultural and historical since preparation of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC. However, modifications associated with the Modified Project would alter the affected environment setting described in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC.

In 2005, Susan Lindström prepared a cultural inventory in support of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC. This effort included a pedestrian survey of approximately 570 acres of the park (Lindström 2005). On October 20, 2025, as part of the Modified Project, a records search of the Modified Project site and a 0.25-mile radius was conducted at the North Central Information Center (NCIC), at California State University Sacramento (NCIC File No.: ELD-25-90). The results of the NCIC records search revealed that 11 cultural resources studies have been conducted within the Modified Project site. In addition, the results of the records search revealed three previous cultural resources within the Modified Project area: P-09-003257, P-09-003258, and P-09-003259.

P-09-003257 is the Van Sickle Equestrian Complex, a series of 12 structures that include 1 barn, 1 log cabin, and 10 housekeeping cottages (Lindström 2005). The Lakeside Riding Stable (barn) has been recommended eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR). The Lakeside Log Cabin was recommended not eligible for the NRHR, but eligible for the CRHR; similarly, the housekeeping cottage was recommended not eligible for the NRHR, but eligible for the CRHR by Lindstrom and Marvin (2000). P-09-003258 is a pre-1949 utility line marked by sawn poles and an access road. This resource was recommended not eligible for the NRHR and CRHR by Lindström (2005). P-09-003259 is a dirt road that was noted to appear on aerial photos in the 1940s. This road was recommended not eligible for the NRHR and CRHR by Lindström (2005). P-09-003258 and P-09-003259 were recommended not eligible for the NRHP and CRHR and are not considered historical resources as defined in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5. Therefore P-09-003258 and P-09-003259 will not be discussed further.

A pedestrian survey of the Modified Project site was conducted on September 21, 2024, and on October 23, 2025 (Ascent 2026). P-09-003257 was confirmed to still be present within the Modified Project area as part of the pedestrian survey. No new built environment features were identified as a result of the pedestrian survey. However, one new site (Site VS-4) was encountered during the 2025 pedestrian survey. Site VS-4 is a bedrock milling site that consists of a single rock outcrop containing one milling slick and two mortars. VS-4 was not evaluated for the CRHR; however it will be assumed eligible for the purposes of this IS/MND/IEC because VS-4 is in proximity to areas where ground disturbance activities are proposed. One portion of the Modified Project area was not covered by these pedestrian surveys due to snow coverage; the ground was not visible (Ascent 2026).

a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?

The 2009 IS/ND/IEC determined that there would be no impact on historical resources because the Original Project would not result in the alteration of, or adverse physical or aesthetic effects to, any of the significant archaeological or historical sites structures, objects, and/or buildings found on the project site. No active use of the structures in the historic complex (P-09-003257) was proposed.

Less-than-Significant Impact. Similarly, no new built environment (historical) resources were identified at the Modified Project site as a result of the 2024 and 2025 pedestrian survey (Ascent 2026). The Modified Project would not alter or cause adverse physical or aesthetic effects to the Van Sickle Equestrian historic complex (P-09-003257) as the construction activities are in the vicinity of the complex is limited to paving the existing parking lot, creating new snow-storage areas, and installing picnic tables and shade structures. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?

The 2009 IS/ND/IEC did not specifically address impacts on archaeological resources pursuant to Section 15064.5. However, the 2009 IS/ND/IEC did not identify archaeological sites.

Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated. Although the NCIC records searches did not reveal any previously identified archaeological resources, the results of the pedestrian survey resulted in the identification of one archaeological site (Ascent 2026). Site VS-4 is a bedrock milling site that is in proximity to areas with proposed ground disturbing activities. In addition, Modified Project-related ground-disturbing activities could result in discovery or damage of, yet undiscovered archaeological resources as defined in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5. Therefore, this impact would be potentially significant.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation Measure MM-CR-1 Conduct Archaeological Resources Surveys and Avoid Archaeological Resources

Prior to the start of construction, a member of the Washoe Tribe, or their designee, and a qualified archeologist who meets the U.S. Secretary of the Interior Professional Qualifications Standards for Archaeology shall perform archeological resources surveys for any portion of the Modified Project site not yet surveyed (e.g., areas previously covered in snow at the time of 2025 pedestrian surveys). The Conservancy shall be responsible for ensuring that archeological resources surveys have been conducted for the entire Modified Project area. For the purposes of this mitigation measure, any archaeological resources discovered during such surveys shall be assumed to be unique archaeological resources or historical resources as defined by State CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 and will be recorded by a qualified archaeologist on a California Department of Parks and Recreation DPR 523 primary form or equivalent documentation. Each such resource will be indicated, such as via a GPS device, through Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) mapping, with flagging tape, safety fencing, and/or signage designating it as an ESA to ensure that construction crews and heavy equipment will not intrude on these sites during construction. If an archaeological resource is determined by the Washoe Tribe to be a Washoe Tribe cultural resource, the Tribe shall determine appropriate actions necessary to protect the resource. At the discretion of the Conservancy, or of the Washoe Tribe if the resource is a tribal cultural resource, monitoring may be done in lieu of or in addition to marking. If it is determined that the Modified Project cannot avoid impacts on one or more of the sites, then the Conservancy shall work with a qualified archaeologist, or the Washoe Tribe if the resource is a tribal cultural resource, to identify appropriate actions which may include avoidance by preservation-in-place, interpretation, or an excavation plan.

Mitigation Measure MM-CR-2 Establish a No-Disturbance Buffer for Known Archeological Resources

Prior to the initiation of ground-disturbing activities, an ESA shall be established around Site VS-4 using fencing, staking, or other appropriate markers as determined by the Washoe Tribe or a qualified archaeologist. Once installed, the fencing or markers shall be periodically inspected by the Conservancy and/or the Washoe Tribe to ensure they remain intact and undisturbed. These measures will ensure continued avoidance of Site VS-4 during all Modified Project-related activities. The fencing or markers shall remain in place until project work in the vicinity of the resource is complete, and removal shall be overseen by the Conservancy and/or the Washoe Tribe.

Mitigation Measure MM-CR-3 Halt Ground Disturbance Upon Discovery of Subsurface Archaeological Features

If archaeological materials (e.g., locally darkened soils [i.e., midden], stone tools, chipped stone, baked clay, or concentrations of shell, bone, charcoal, glass, metal, or ceramics) are inadvertently discovered during ground-disturbing activities, the contractor shall cease all work within 100 feet (30.5 meters) of the find and the Conservancy shall immediately retain the services of a qualified professional archaeologist. Because the archaeological materials may also be tribal cultural resources, the Conservancy will also implement MM-TCR-3 upon discovery. At that time, the Conservancy shall coordinate any necessary investigation of the site with the archaeologist as needed to evaluate the significance of the resource per PRC Sections 5024.1 and 21083.2(g) and provide proper management recommendations. Possible management recommendations for significant resources could include resource avoidance or data recovery excavations. The Conservancy shall implement any measures deemed necessary by the archeologist and/or the Washoe Tribe for the protection of the cultural resources. The Conservancy shall instruct the contractor to not to resume work in the area of the discovery until directed to do so.

Significance after Mitigation

Implementation of Mitigation Measure MM-CR-1, MM-CR-2, and MM-CR-3 would reduce impacts on archaeological resources by requiring surveys of areas that were not surveyed due to Modified Project site conditions (e.g., snow), by establishing an ESA around the unevaluated archaeological resource (Site VS-4) located in proximity to proposed ground disturbing activities, by requiring that steps be taken in the event that archaeological resources are encountered during Modified Project construction. Therefore, with the implementation of Mitigation Measures MM-CR-1, MM-CR-2, and MM-CR-3 impacts on archaeological resources would be less than significant.

c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?

The 2009 IS/ND/IEC determined that there would be no impact to human remains project because no human interments are known to be located within the project site.

Less-than-Significant Impact. Similarly, based on the NCIC results and pedestrian survey, no evidence suggests that any precontact or historic era marked or un-marked human interments are present within or in the immediate vicinity of the project site (Ascent 2026). However, the location of grave sites and Native American remains can occur outside of identified cemeteries or burial sites. Therefore, there is a possibility that unmarked, previously unknown Native American or other graves could be present within the Modified Project area and could be uncovered by Modified Project-related construction activities.

California law recognizes the need to protect Native American human burials, skeletal remains, and items associated with Native American burials from vandalism and inadvertent destruction. The procedures for the treatment of Native American human remains, and discovery of any human remains, are contained in California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 and PRC Section 5097.

These statutes require that, if human remains are discovered, potentially damaging ground-disturbing activities in the area of the remains shall be halted immediately, and the El Dorado County coroner shall be notified immediately. If the remains are determined by the coroner to be Native American, the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) shall be notified within 24 hours, and the guidelines of NAHC shall be adhered to in the treatment and disposition of the remains. Following the coroner's findings, the NAHC-designated most likely descendants and the landowner shall determine the ultimate treatment and disposition of the remains and take appropriate steps to ensure that additional human interments, if present, are not disturbed. The responsibilities for acting upon notification of a discovery of Native American human remains are identified in PRC Section 5097.94.

Compliance with California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 and PRC Section 5097, would provide an opportunity to avoid or minimize the disturbance of human remains, and to appropriately treat any remains that are discovered. Therefore, this impact would be less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

d) Will the proposal result in an alteration of or adverse physical or aesthetic effect to a significant archaeological or historical site, structure, object or building? (TRPA Item 20a)

The 2009 IS/ND/IEC determined that the Original Project would not result in an alteration of, or adverse physical or aesthetic effect to, a significant archaeological or historical site, structure, object or building.

Less-than-Significant Impact. Similarly, as noted under the discussion in question 3.5 a), no new built environment (historical) resources were identified at the Modified Project site as a result of the 2024 and 2025 pedestrian survey (Ascent 2026). The Modified Project would not alter or cause adverse physical or aesthetic effects to P-09-003257 (historic complex). Therefore, this impact would be less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

e) Is the proposed project located on a property with any known cultural, historical, and/or archaeological resources, including resources on TRPA or other regulatory official maps or records? (TRPA Item 20b)

The 2009 IS/ND/IEC did not specifically discuss this impact. However, the 2009 IS/ND/IEC referred to the discussion of historical resources and the discussion of physical or aesthetics adverse effects to a significant archaeological or historical site, structure, object or building. The 2009 IS/ND/IEC discussion of historical resources determined that the Original Project is subject to a variance for historically significant structures and districts pursuant to chapter 27 and 29 of the TRPA Code, which would result in no impact. Similarly, 2009 IS/ND/IEC determined that the project would not result to alteration of, or adverse physical or aesthetic effect to, a significant archaeological or historical site, structure, object or building.

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. Similarly, no new built environment (historical) resources were identified at the Modified Project site as a result of the 2024 and 2025 pedestrian survey (Ascent 2026). In addition, the Modified Project is not within a property that contains resources on TRPA or other regulatory official maps and

records. However, the Modified Project area includes a known site, Site VS-4. The impact of the Modified Project on this site is less than significant with the incorporation of Mitigation Measure MM-CR-2, which establishes an ESA and ensures avoidance during all Modified Project-related activities.

Mitigation Measure

See Mitigation Measure MM-CR-2.

f) Is the property associated with any historically significant events and/or sites or persons? (TRPA Item 20c)

The 2009 IS/ND/IEC determined that the Original Project is not associated with any historically significant events and/or sites or persons.

Less-than-Significant Impact. As this question is similar in nature to question 3.5.1 a), please see the relevant section above. Impacts would be less than significant.

g) Does the proposal have the potential to cause a physical change which would affect unique ethnic cultural values? (TRPA Item 20d)

The 2009 IS/ND/IEC determined that the Original Project would result in no impact on unique ethnic cultural values because the project did not identify unique ethnic cultural values as a result of the cultural resources investigation.

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. The pedestrian survey resulted in the identification of one archaeological site, Site VS-4, which is a bedrock milling site (Ascent 2026). The bedrock milling site is in close proximity to areas where the proposed project ground disturbing activities, which could result in a potentially significant impact. However, with incorporation of Mitigation Measure MM-CR-2, this impact would be less than significant by establishing an ESA and ensuring no physical change to the site.

Mitigation Measure

See Mitigation Measure MM-CR-2.

h) Will the proposal restrict historic or pre-historic religious or sacred uses within the potential impact area? (TRPA Item 20e)

The 2009 IS/ND/IEC did not specifically discuss this impact.

Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated. As this question is similar in nature to question 3.5.1 g), please see the relevant section above. Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

Mitigation Measure

See Mitigation Measure MM-CR-2.

3.6 ENERGY

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
VI. Energy. Would the project:				
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	No	No	Yes	No
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	No	No	Yes	No

TRPA INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST QUESTIONS	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
15. Energy. Would the project cause:				
c) Use of substantial amounts of fuel or energy? (TRPA Item 15a)	No	No	Yes	No
d) Substantial increase in demand upon existing sources of energy, or require the development of new sources of energy? (TRPA Item 15b)	No	No	Yes	No

3.6.1 Regulatory Setting

FEDERAL REGULATIONS

The Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975 established nationwide fuel economy standards to conserve oil. Under this act, the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration (NHTSA) is responsible for revising fuel economy standards and establishing new vehicle economy standards. The CAFE program was established to determine vehicle manufacturers' compliance with the government's fuel economy standards. Three Energy Policy Acts have been passed, in 1992, 2005, and 2007, to reduce dependence on foreign petroleum, provide tax incentives for the development of alternative fuels, and support energy conservation. In 2024, the Corporate Average CAFE standards were finalized for MYs 2027 through 2031. The final rule establishes standards that require an industry-wide fleet average of approximately 49 mpg for passenger cars and light trucks. The final rule establishes standards that would require an industry-wide fleet average of approximately 50.4 mpg in MY 2031 for passenger cars and light trucks and an industry fleet-wide average for HDPUVs of roughly 2.851 gallons per 100 miles in MY 2035. The final CAFE standards increase at a rate of 2 percent per year for passenger cars in MYs 2027–2031 and 2 percent per year for light trucks in MYs 2029–2031. The final HDPUV fuel efficiency standards increase at a rate of 10 percent per year in MYs 2030–2032 and 8 percent per year in MYs 2033–2035 (NHTSA 2024).

STATE REGULATIONS

See Section 3.8, "Greenhouse Gas Emissions," for a detailed summary of relevant statewide regulations that pertain to GHG emissions, which are directly correlated with energy consumption.

Integrated Energy Policy Report

Senate Bill (SB) 1389 (Chapter 568, Statutes of 2002) required CEC to "conduct assessments and forecasts of all aspects of energy industry supply, production, transportation, delivery and distribution, demand, and prices. The Energy Commission shall use these assessments and forecasts to develop energy policies that conserve resources, protect the environment, ensure energy reliability, enhance the state's economy, and protect public health and safety" (PRC Section 25301[a]). This work culminated in the Integrated Energy Policy Report (IEPR). CEC adopts an IEPR every 2 years and an update every other year. The 2024 IEPR Update. The 2024 IEPR Update provides a summary of priority energy issues currently facing the state and outlines strategies and recommendations to further the state's goal of ensuring reliable, affordable, and environmentally responsible energy sources. The report contains an assessment of major energy trends and issues in California's electricity, natural gas, and transportation fuel sectors. The report provides policy recommendations to conserve resources; protect the environment; ensure reliable, secure, and diverse energy supplies; enhance the state's economy; and protect public health and safety. Topics covered in the 2024 IEPR Update include the accelerated connection of clean energy, the California Energy Demand Forecast, the potential growth of hydrogen in the state, and updates to issues, such as energy efficiency, gas utility decarbonization, and the Clean Transportation Program (CEC 2024).

LOCAL

El Dorado County General Plan

The El Dorado County General Plan includes the following objectives and policies applicable to the energy efficiency of new development and reducing community-wide energy consumption in El Dorado County:

- Objective 5.6.2: Encourage Energy-Efficient Development - Encourage development of energy-efficient buildings, subdivisions, development, and landscape designs.
- Policy 5.6.2.1: Require energy conserving landscaping plans for all projects requiring design review or other discretionary approval.

3.6.2 Discussion

At the time the 2009 IS/ND/IEC was certified (i.e., April of 2009), the State CEQA Guidelines did not identify energy as a resource area in Appendix G. Thus, the 2009 IS/ND/IEC did not provide an environmental or regulatory setting to characterize energy impacts. Some topics related to energy were discussed as part of Section 2.15, "Utilities and Service Systems," of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC. However, these impact discussions focused primarily on the Original Project's potential to increase energy demand from utility providers or to require new or substantially altered power systems to meet a project-generated increase in energy demand.

The California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) adopted revisions to the CEQA Guidelines that became effective on December 28, 2018. These revisions included the addition of energy as a separate subsection within Appendix G, and the incorporation of language from Appendix F of the CEQA Guidelines into the new subsection's sample questions.

a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?

This impact was not assessed in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC.

Less-than-Significant Impact. The Modified Project would increase energy consumption for temporary construction activities related to vehicle use and material transport. However, construction activities would be temporary and would not increase long-term energy or fuel demand. Construction activities would consume the necessary amount of fuel/energy to complete work in an efficient and timely manner.

The Modified Project would not increase the use of electricity or natural gas during operations above baseline conditions. As discussed in Section 3.3, "Air Quality," the Modified Project would primarily involve expansion and/or improvement of the Park's existing facilities. The Modified Project includes some additional lighting and EV charging which would require electricity usage, but it is likely that this usage would be offset by the elimination of the site host position, hence there would be electrical savings from not having to power the RV/trailer.

The Park is currently accessible and in-use by visitors year round (though vehicular access is currently closed in winter months) and none of the Modified Project features described would generate a considerable increase in vehicle trips relative to existing conditions. In addition, the Modified Project would not substantially increase VMT compared to existing conditions, as the Park provides open space access for users who would otherwise be traveling to other similar locations. Similarly, implementation of the Modified Project would not require additional workers or maintenance activities that would generate considerable VMT and associated emissions related to worker and maintenance trips above existing conditions.

The Modified Project would be utilized by existing visitors to the Park and thus would not result in substantial increased fuel use as a result of increased vehicle-based visitation to the Park. Because the Modified Project would provide a high-quality public access and recreation resource for the region and would not increase electrical demand, natural gas use, or substantial new vehicles trips above baseline conditions, energy used during construction and operation would not be considered wasteful or inefficient. Impacts would be less than significant.

b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency

This impact was not assessed in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC.

Less-than-Significant Impact. As GHG emissions are an inherent result of the generation and consumption of fossil fuel related energy, key GHG reduction actions that reduce fossil fuel–related energy consumption, implement all-electric development, increase renewable energy generation, and improve energy efficiency are also inherently energy-related.

The 2022 Scoping Plan outlines the State's path toward achieving the legislatively mandated GHG reduction targets codified by SB 32 and AB 1279. Appendix D, "Local Actions," of the state's 2022 Scoping Plan provides lead agencies with guidance for the necessary project design features (or mitigation measures) needed in new development to further the state's long-term energy goals to reduce GHGs consistent with the reduction targets of AB 1279 (CARB 2022). These design features include the elimination of on-site natural gas infrastructure and increasing VMT efficiency. The Modified Project does not propose any buildings, nor would it introduce any new natural gas infrastructure. Thus, the Modified Project would not have the potential to conflict with the 2022 Scoping Plan's building electrification goals. The Modified Project would reconfigure existing parking (i.e., 10 public spaces, one accessible parking space, and four site-host parking spaces) into 15 public spaces and one ADA compliant space, resulting in a net increase of 1 parking space. Regarding operational transportation energy, the Modified Project would mostly involve the expansion and/or enhancement of facilities which already exist and are currently in use. None of the proposed expansions or improvements within the Modified Project area would generate a considerable increase in vehicle trips relative to existing conditions. As discussed in Section 3.16, "Transportation", the Modified Project would not generate substantial VMT and thus would not consume a considerable amount of energy for transportation purposes during operation.

For these reasons, the Modified project would not conflict with the 2022 Scoping Plan and impacts would be less than significant.

c) Use of substantial amounts of fuel or energy? (TRPA Item 15a)

As previously determined in Section 2.15 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Original Project would not result in the use of substantial amounts of fuel or energy and no impacts would occur.

Less-than-Significant Impact. As this question is similar in nature to question 3.6.2 a), please see the relevant section above with regard to use of fuel or energy. Impacts would be less than significant.

d) Substantial increase in demand upon existing sources of energy, or require the development of new sources of energy? (TRPA Item 15b)

As previously determined in Section 2.15 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Original Project would not include any infrastructure connections to energy sources, other than electrical, which would be used for minimal security lighting and site host accommodations. The Original Project, therefore, would not result in a substantial increase in demand upon existing sources of energy or require new sources of energy and there would be no impact.

Less-than-Significant Impact. Additional site lighting would be installed as part of the Modified Project. However, it is likely that the additional electricity use required by additional lighting would be offset by the elimination of the site host position, hence there would be electrical savings. Because the Modified Project would not substantially increase electrical demand, natural gas use, or substantial new vehicles trips above baseline conditions, as discussed under question 3.6.2 a), the Modified Project would not result in increased energy demand that would be considered substantial or require the development of new energy sources, and impacts would be less than significant.

3.7 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

CEQA INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTIONS	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
VII. Geology and Soils. Would the project:				
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? (Refer to California Geological Survey Special Publication 42.)	No	No	No	Yes
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	No	No	No	Yes
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	No	No	No	Yes
iv) Landslides?	No	No	No	Yes
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	No	No	No	Yes
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?	No	No	No	Yes
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994, as updated), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	No	No	No	Yes
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	No	No	No	Yes
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	No	No	No	Yes

TRPA INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST QUESTIONS	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
1. Land. Would the project cause:				
g) Compaction or covering of the soil beyond the limits allowed in the land capability or Individual Parcel Evaluation System (IPES)? (TRPA Item 1a)	No	No	Yes	No
h) A change in the topography or ground surface relief features of site inconsistent with the natural surrounding conditions? (TRPA Item 1b)	No	No	Yes	No
i) Unstable soil conditions during or after completion of the proposal? (TRPA Item 1c)	No	No	Yes	No
j) Changes in the undisturbed soil or native geologic substructures or grading in excess of 5 feet? (TRPA Item 1d)	No	No	Yes	No
k) The continuation of or increase in wind or water erosion of soils, either on or off the site? (TRPA Item 1e)	No	No	Yes	No
l) Changes in deposition or erosion of beach sand, or changes in siltation, deposition or erosion, including natural littoral processes, which may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed of a lake? (TRPA Item 1f)	No	No	No	Yes
m) Exposure of people or property to geologic hazards such as earthquakes, landslides, backshore erosion, avalanches, mud slides, ground failure, or similar hazards? (TRPA Item 1g)	No	No	Yes	No

3.7.1 Discussion

Section 2.6 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC discusses the affected environment and regulatory setting related to the geologic, soil, and seismic characteristics of the Original Project site. There are no substantial changes to the setting in the geologic, soils, and seismic conditions of the site since preparation of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC. The modifications associated with the Modified Project would not alter the affected environment setting described in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC.

CEQA questions 3.7.1 a) through f) were scoped out of further assessment. See *CEQA Sections Eliminated From Further Analysis*, above.

g) Compaction or covering of the soil beyond the limits allowed in the land capability or Individual Parcel Evaluation System (IPES)? (TRPA Item 1a)

As previously determined in Section 2.6 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, land coverage would be relocated throughout the Original Project area consistent with Section 20.5.C of the TRPA Code. The proposed relocation of SEZ land coverage was determined to provide significant improvements to a disturbed yet undeveloped area of SEZ for an overall net benefit not only for soils and SEZ, but also riparian vegetation. Furthermore, the Original Project had proposed to employ all appropriate BMPs including those necessary to reduce and eliminate erosion along the access road. Based on the analysis of an alternative access alignment, evaluated against the proposed alignment which would take place along most of the existing access road, it was the opinion of both TRPA and the Lahontan RWQCB that the proposed alignment, and therefore the proposed relocation of SEZ land coverage, provided less environmental risk.

As required by the TRPA Code, the Conservancy would mitigate for excess land coverage in land capability class 1a, 1b and 2 in accordance with TRPA Code Section 20.5 by reducing coverage on-site, off-site, or by submitting an excess coverage mitigation fee based on the excess land coverage fee formula. For additional land coverage (supported by the findings for additional coverage in sensitive lands and SEZ for outdoor public recreation facilities) the square footage would be mitigated at 1.5 times the amount of land coverage over the allowed on 1a and 2 land capability classes and 1.5 times the amount for all additional land coverage in 1b lands. It was determined that the Original Project would fulfill this requirement; therefore, the impact would be less than significant.

Less-than-Significant Impact. Similar to the Original Project, the Modified Project would employ all appropriate BMPs including those necessary to reduce and eliminate erosion along the Class I trail and improvement areas. The Modified Project would also improve part of the unpaved gondola access road to alleviate runoff associated with existing conditions. In addition, per TRPA Code Section 30.5:

> land coverage and disturbance for public outdoor recreation facilities, including public recreation projects on public lands, private recreation projects through use of public lands, and private recreational projects on private lands that are depicted or provided for on a public agency's recreational plan, may be permitted in Land Capability Districts 1a, 1c, 2, or 3 provided impacts of the coverage and disturbance are fully mitigated through means including, but not limited to, application of best management practices; and restoration, in accordance with subsection 30.5.3, of land in Land Capability Districts 1a, 1c, 2, 3, and 1b (SEZ) in the amount of 1.5 times the area of land in such districts covered or disturbed for the project beyond that permitted by the coefficients in Table 30.4.1- 1.

The Conservancy would thus mitigate for excess land coverage in land capability class 1b in accordance with TRPA Code Section 30.5. The square footage would be mitigated at 1.5 times the amount of land coverage over the allowed in each of the land capability classes. With a total trail footprint of 16 feet wide, SEZ disturbance near the state line is expected to total approximately 1,280 square feet, requiring approximately 1,920 square feet of SEZ restoration credit. Therefore, similar to the Original Project, with adherence to the requirements set forth in TRPA Code Section 30.5, impacts would be less than significant. Full details of the SEZ restoration credit will be determined once detailed design has been undertaken, and in consultation with TRPA.

h) A change in the topography or ground surface relief features of site inconsistent with the natural surrounding conditions? (TRPA Item 1b)

As previously assessed in Section 2.6 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Original Project would not result in a change in the topography or ground surface relief features of the site inconsistent with the natural surrounding conditions.

Less-than-Significant Impact. Similar to the Original Project, the Modified Project will not result in a change in the topography or ground surface that is inconsistent with the natural surrounding conditions. The Barn Trail and the proposed Class 1 trail, which terminates at the state line monument, are designed to minimize grading, where feasible. Additionally, the Modified Project would require minimal grading around the entrance plaza, as well as the barn and meadow picnic areas. The Modified Project is designed to "fit" into the surrounding natural features in order to highlight the natural setting.

The proposed snow and stormwater storage areas would be excavated and installed adjacent to the parking lot and Park entrance, provided by a small detention basin in an area previously graded. Therefore, the Modified Project would result in minor changes in the topography or ground surface relief features. Thus, impacts would be less than significant.

i) Unstable soil conditions during or after completion of the proposal? (TRPA Item 1c)

As previously assessed in Section 2.6 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Original Project would be located primarily on lands with a moderate land capability and grading for the roadway would meet applicable roadway design standards. Therefore, the Original Project would not result in unstable soil conditions during or after completion of the project.

Less-than-Significant Impact. Similarly, the Modified Project is located primarily on lands with a moderate land capability. Grading and paving for all improvements, including proposed Class 1 trail, parking lot, entrance plaza, and

state line monument plaza, would meet all applicable design standards. The Barn Trail would be graded and stabilized for future use. Thus, the Modified Project is not expected to result in unstable soil conditions. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

j) Changes in the undisturbed soil or native geologic substructures or grading in excess of 5 feet? (TRPA Item 1d)

As determined in Section 2.6 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC the Original Project would not result in changes in undisturbed soil or native geologic substructures or grading in excess of five feet. Based on site observations, the Original Project would involve the removal of natural features, such as rock outcroppings. In the event that such native geologic substructures are encountered, the removal would involve best management practices intended to conserve the substructures, where feasible.

Less-than-Significant Impact. Similarly, the Modified Project would not involve the removal of natural features and would limit excavation in excess of 5 feet, where feasible. To achieve ADA compliance related to slope standards being less than 5 percent (1:20 ratio), on the Class 1 trail there may be a few locations where excavation in excess of 5 feet is required, per analysis undertaken in the Conservancy's Draft ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan. If so, CTC will seek the appropriate Soils Hydrology approval or exemption from TRPA. Additionally, the Modified Project does not include the construction or demolition of any buildings or facilities (other than shade structures); however, it would include paving the Class 1 trail and the existing parking lot. The proposed stormwater basins and snow storage areas would be as deep as required to provide the desired storage, which may result in excavation deeper than 5 feet. Again, if such excavation depths are required, CTC will seek Soils Hydrology approval or exemption from TRPA. As with the Original Project, in the unlikely event that native geologic substructures are encountered, the removal would involve best management practices intended to conserve the substructures, where feasible. Therefore, the Modified Project would not be expected to interfere with groundwater or result in changes in undisturbed soil or native geologic substructures. The Modified Project would limit grading in excess of 5 feet to areas necessary for compliance with ADA requirements, and to adequately provide snow and stormwater storage. Impacts would be less than significant.

k) The continuation of or increase in wind or water erosion of soils, either on or off the site? (TRPA Item 1e)

As previously assessed in Section 2.6 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Original Project's facilities would be located in a forested area, well below the tree canopy, and would not be constructed in sensitive drainage or SEZ areas with the exception of the access road and parking areas, which would include BMPs to maintain the natural drainage. Thus, the Original Project was not expected to increase wind or water erosion of soils on- or off-site.

Less-than-Significant Impact. The modifications associated with the Modified Project would not significantly alter the environmental setting described in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC. Because there are no substantial changes to the proposed land uses, and the majority of the Modified Project is being undertaken within the boundary of the previously assessed Original Project, increased impacts from wind or water erosion of soils are not expected to occur. Furthermore, the Modified Project does not propose any new facilities which could be affected by wind erosion. In addition, the Modified Project would install new BMPs such as stormwater and snow storage areas, stormwater conveyance infrastructure, and pavement. Part of the unpaved gondola access road would be improved as well to protect the California day-use area and bathrooms from uncontrolled stormwater runoff impacts, which would reduce potential flooding and water erosion impacts. Therefore, the Modified Project would not cause a continuation of or increase in wind or water erosion of soils, either on- or off-site. Thus, impacts would be less than significant.

l) Changes in deposition or erosion of beach sand, or changes in siltation, deposition or erosion, including natural littoral processes, which may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed of a lake? (TRPA Item 1f)

As previously assessed in Section 2.6 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the project boundary is not located within a shorezone or natural river or stream channel. Therefore, the Original Project was not expected to result in changes in deposition or erosion of beach sand, or changes in siltation, deposition, or erosion, including natural littoral processes, which may modify the channel of a river or stream or bed of a lake.

No Impact. The majority of the Modified Project is being undertaken within the boundary of the previously assessed Original Project, which is not located within a shorezone or natural river or stream channel. Additionally, the part of the Modified Project that is outside of the area of the assessment of the Original Project, is also not located within a shorezone or natural river or stream channel. Therefore, the implementation of the Modified Project would not result in changes in deposition or erosion of beach sand, or changes in siltation, deposition, or erosion, including natural littoral processes, which may modify the channel of a river or stream or bed of a lake. Therefore, there would be no impact.

m) Exposure of people or property to geologic hazards such as earthquakes, landslides, backshore erosion, avalanches, mud slides, ground failure, or similar hazards? (TRPA Item 1g)

As previously assessed in Section 2.6 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Original Project determined that the project site was not located in an area that has the potential to be exposed to significant earthquakes, landslides, backshore erosion, avalanches, mudslides, or ground failure.

Less-than-Significant Impact. The modifications associated with the Modified Project would not significantly alter the affected environment setting described in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC. Because there are no substantial changes to the proposed land uses, and the majority of the Modified Project is being undertaken within the boundary of the previously assessed Original Project, impacts related to geologic hazards such as earthquakes, landslides, backshore erosion, avalanches, mud slides, ground failure, or similar hazards, are not expected to occur. The Modified Project site would remain open year-round, including during winter months, which could be affected by flooding and snow accumulation. However, the Modified Project would construct new stormwater basins and provide snow storage to allow for snow clearing, further improving public safety and accessibility. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

3.8 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

CEQA INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTIONS	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
VIII. Greenhouse Gas Emissions. Would the project:				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	No	No	Yes	No
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	No	No	Yes	No

TRPA INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST QUESTION	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
2. Air Quality. Would the project cause:				
c) Alteration of air movement, moisture or temperature, or any change in climate, either locally or regionally? (TRPA Item 2d)	No	No	Yes	No

Since certification of 2009 IS/ND/IEC, increased awareness of GHG emissions and their role in global climate change has resulted in promulgation of laws and regulations designed to curb emissions and reduce the inherently cumulative effect of GHG emissions. At the time the 2009 IS/ND/IEC was certified (i.e., April of 2009), the State CEQA Guidelines did not identify GHG emissions and climate change as a resource area in Appendix G. Thus, the 2009 IS/ND/IEC did not provide an environmental or regulatory setting to characterize GHG-related impacts. However, in December 2009, the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) amended Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines to include project-level analysis of GHG emissions.

This section presents a summary of the current state of climate change science and GHG emissions sources in California, a summary of applicable regulations, and a qualitative analysis of GHG emissions that would result from construction and operation of the Modified Project and an analysis of the Modified Project's potential to conflict with an applicable GHG reduction plan.

3.8.1 Regulatory Setting

FEDERAL

In *Massachusetts et al. v. Environmental Protection Agency et al.*, 549 U.S. 497 (2007), the Supreme Court of the US ruled that CO_2 is an air pollutant as defined under the CAA and that the EPA has the authority to regulate GHG emissions. In 2010, EPA began to address GHG emissions from stationary sources through its New Source Review permitting program, including operating permits for "major sources" issued under Title V of the CAA. On July 29, 2025, EPA announced a proposal to rescind the Endangerment Finding and repeal all GHG emission standards for light-duty, medium-duty, and heavy-duty vehicles and engines pursuant to CAA Section 202(a). As of writing this technical report, EPA has not adopted this proposal.

Fuel Economy Standards

As described above, fuel economy standards are regulated at the federal level through the CAFE Standards. For a detailed discussion of the CAFE standards, see the "Fuel Economy and Emission Standards" section under Section 3.3, "Air Quality."

Congressional Actions

As discussed above, Congress signed PL 119-15, PL 119-16, and PL 119-17 on June 12, 2025. These laws used the Congressional Review Act to nullify California's waivers under the CAA for the Advances Clean Trucks, ACC II, and Low-NO_X regulations. See Section 3.3, "Air Quality," for detailed discussion of these congressional actions.

TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY

Environmental Thresholds

As prescribed by the TRPA Compact, TRPA adopted environmental thresholds in 1982 covering nine resources or topics including air quality, which included a VMT-based standard. TRPA has not specifically identified any goals, policies, or environmental thresholds directly related to GHG emissions or climate change. In 2021, the nitrate deposition threshold was replaced with a new mobility-related threshold under a new threshold category, Transportation and Sustainable Communities (TRPA 2025):

- TSC1: Reduce Annual Daily Average VMT Per Capita by 6.8 percent from 12.48, the 2018 baseline, to 11.63 in 2045.

The new VMT threshold sets forth an efficiency based VMT standard that better aligns with identified polices goals and affords consistency with California and Nevada state policies with respect to greenhouse gas emissions reduction and aligns with and is responsive to meaningful change in the regional land use and the transportation system. Analysis of the proposed project's potential impacts related to VMT is provided in Section 3.16, "Transportation/Traffic and Circulation."

STATE

Plans, policies, regulations, and laws established by the state agencies are generally presented in the order they were established.

Statewide GHG Emission Targets and Climate Change Scoping Plan

Reducing GHG emissions in California has been the focus of the state government for approximately two decades. GHG emission targets established by the State legislature include reducing statewide GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020 (AB 32 of 2006) and reducing them to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 (SB 32 of 2016). Executive Order S-3-05 calls for statewide GHG emissions to be reduced to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. This target was superseded by AB 1279, which codifies a goal to reduce anthropogenic emissions by 85 percent below 1990 levels and achieve net zero emissions by 2045. These targets are in line with the scientifically established levels needed in the U.S. to limit the rise in global temperature to no more than 2 degrees Celsius, the warming threshold at which major climate disruptions, such as super droughts and rising sea levels, are projected; these targets also pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius (United Nations 2015).

CARB adopted the 2022 Scoping Plan on December 16, 2022, which traces the State's the pathway to achieve its carbon neutrality and an 85 percent reduction in 1990 emissions goal by 2045 using a combined top-down, bottom-up approach under various scenarios. It identifies the reductions needed by each GHG emission sector (e.g., transportation [including off-road mobile source emissions], industry, electricity generation, agriculture, commercial and residential, pollutants with high global warming potential, and recycling and waste) to achieve these goals (CARB 2022).

Transportation-Related Standards and Regulations

As part of its Advanced Clean Cars program, CARB established more stringent GHG emission standards and fuel efficiency standards for fossil fuel–powered on-road vehicles than EPA. The program's initial goal requiring ZEV regulation (i.e., battery, fuel cell, and plug-in hybrid EVs to account for up to 15 percent of California's new vehicle sales by 2025 was

supersede by Executive Order N-79-20, which directed the state to scale out the sales of internal combustion engines to 100 percent ZEV sales by 2035. AB 1493 of 2002 (known as Pavley I, Chapter 200, Statutes of 2002) provided the nation's first GHG standards for automobiles. AB 1493 required CARB to adopt vehicle standards that lowered GHG emissions from new light-duty autos to the maximum extent feasible beginning in 2009. Additional strengthening of the Pavley standards (referred to as the ACC Program's Low Emission Vehicle III Regulation) was adopted for vehicle model years 2017–2025 in 2012 (13 CCR Section 1900 et seq.). The ACC II Program was adopted by CARB in August 2022 and provides the regulatory framework for ensuring the sales requirement goal of Executive Order N-79-20 to ultimately reach 100 percent ZEV sales in the state by 2035. As noted above, PL 119-16 retroactively revoked the State's waiver issued by EPA under the CAA to implement the Advanced Clean Cars II program.

SB 375 provides a new planning process that integrates regional transportation, land use, GHG reduction, and housing planning. It requires regional transportation plans (RTPs) to incorporate a sustainable communities strategy (SCS) that demonstrates how the region would achieve regional GHG emission reduction targets for passenger vehicles set by CARB.

In September 2018, to help achieve SB 32's emission reduction target, the LCFS regulation was amended to increase the statewide goal to a 20 percent reduction in carbon intensity of California's transportation fuels by 2030. On November 8, 2024, CARB approved amendments to the LCFS regulation to maintain momentum for global, national, and local private sector investment toward increasing cleaner fuel and transportation options for consumers, accelerating the deployment of zero-emission infrastructure and clean fuel production to support clean vehicle regulations, and keeping the state on track to meet statutorily mandated air quality and climate targets (CARB 2025). On June 27, 2025, the Office of Administrative Law approved this rulemaking and filed it with the Secretary of State with an effective date of July 1, 2025 (CARB 2025).

Executive Order B-48-18, signed into law in January 2018, requires all State entities to work with the private sector to have at least 5 million ZEVs on the road by 2030, as well as 200 hydrogen-fueling stations and 250,000 EV-charging stations installed by 2025. It specifies that 10,000 of these charging stations must be direct-current fast chargers.

LOCAL

El Dorado County Air Quality Management District

While EDCAQMD provides guidance for assessing impacts related to air quality within its jurisdiction, EDCAQMD currently does not have recommended GHG thresholds or guidance based on the statewide GHG targets mandated by SB 32 and AB 1279. Also, at the time of writing this Draft EIR, El Dorado County does not have an adopted Climate Action Plan (CAP) consistent with State CEQA Guidelines Section 15185.5(b).

El Dorado County General Plan

The El Dorado County General Plan does not specifically include policies or goals to reduce GHG emissions. However, the General Plan provides countywide goals and policies aimed at improving energy efficiency, transportation efficiency, and reducing air emissions, all of which would reduce or sequester GHGs.

3.8.2 Discussion

The issue of global climate change is inherently cumulative, as the GHG emissions of individual projects cannot be shown to have any material effect on global climate. Thus, the project's impact on climate change is addressed as a cumulative impact.

State CEQA Guidelines Section 15064 and relevant portions of Appendix G recommend that a lead agency consider a project's consistency with relevant, adopted plans, and discuss any inconsistencies with applicable regional plans, including plans to reduce GHG emissions. Under Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, implementing a project would result in a cumulatively considerable contribution to climate change if it would:

- generate GHG emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment, or (evaluated as Impact 3.7-1)
- conflict with any applicable plan, policy or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHGs (evaluated as Impact 3.7-2).

In California, some counties, cities, and air districts have developed guidance and thresholds for determining the significance of GHG emissions that occur within their jurisdiction. El Dorado County is the CEQA lead agency for the project and is, therefore, responsible for determining whether an impact would be considered significant.

As identified above, EDCAQMD currently does not have recommended GHG thresholds, guidance based on the statewide GHG targets mandated by SB 32 and AB 1279, nor does El Dorado County have an adopted CAP consistent with State CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5(b). Thus, no applicable local plan relating to the regulation of GHGs is available to evaluate GHGs associated with the project.

State CEQA Guidelines Appendix G is a sample initial study checklist that includes a number of factual inquiries related to climate change, as well as additional environmental topics. Lead agencies are not required to rely on the Appendix G inquires when selecting thresholds of significance. (*Save Cuyama Valley v. County of Santa Barbara* [2013] 213 Cal. App.4th 1059, 1068). Rather, with few exceptions, "CEQA grants agencies discretion to develop their own thresholds of significance" (*Save Cuyama Valley v. County of Santa Barbara* 2013).

Because California's legislative mandate to reduce total projected GHG emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2020 has been achieved, the focus is now on reducing emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels by the year 2030 (SB 32), on reducing emissions to 85 percent below anthropogenic 1990 levels by 2045 (AB 1279), and on achieving net-zero emissions by 2045 (AB 1279). To achieve these targets, future development must be planned and implemented in the most GHG-efficient manner possible.

Courts have ruled that although there are various potential thresholds and methodologies for evaluating project-level GHG emissions consistent with CEQA, use of statewide emission reduction goals is a permissible criterion of significance so long as substantial evidence and reasoned explanation are provided to close the analytical gap between the level of effort required at one scale (state level) and the level of effort required at another scale (e.g., a project level). The plan to achieve these statewide emission reduction goals is the 2022 Scoping Plan. Comparing a project to the 2022 Scoping Plan can demonstrate whether a project is consistent with or conflicts with statewide reduction targets and goals.

The 2022 Scoping Plan assesses progress toward the state's statutory 2030 target and outlines scenarios for achieving statewide carbon neutrality by 2045 and identifies key GHG-emitting sectors (i.e., building energy, transportation energy) on which local development should focus to reduce project-level GHG emissions. Appendix D of the 2022 Scoping Plan identifies three priority GHG reduction strategies that local jurisdictions can address at the project level: 1) building decarbonization, 2) VMT reductions, and 3) the electrification of the mobile sector (CARB 2022).

Because EDCAQMD currently does not recommend GHG thresholds or guidance based on the statewide GHG target mandated by SB 32 or AB 1279, nor has the County adopted a CAP consistent with State CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.5(b), thresholds from other air districts may be used to assess project related GHG impacts. The Bay Area Air District recommends project-level GHG thresholds which mirror the priority reduction strategies detailed in Appendix D of the 2022 Scoping Plan. Because the Bay Area Air District's thresholds were explicitly developed to align with the 2022 Scoping Plan's GHG reduction strategies and goals, the determination of whether the Modified Project would conflict with the Bay Area Air District's thresholds can also serve as an analysis of the project's consistency with the 2022 Scoping Plan. The Bay Area Air District's CEQA Guidelines recommend that, either as a project design feature or recommended mitigation, projects include the following measures to be consistent with the GHG reduction goals codified by SB 32 and AB 1279 (BAAQMD 2023):

- the elimination of on-site natural gas infrastructure to power appliances;
- the installation of EV charging stations meeting the Tier 2 requirements of the most recent version of Part 6 of the Title 24 California Building Code, CALGreen Code;
- no impacts from the unnecessary, wasteful, or inefficient use of energy resources; and

- achievement of the VMT reductions established by the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (formerly Governor's Office of Planning and Research) for residential (15 percent from a regional average), commercial (15 percent from a regional average), and retail projects (no net increase from a regional average).

a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?

The 2009 IS/ND/IEC addressed the Original Project's potential to emit significant GHG emissions under question h) of section 2.3, "Air Quality." The analysis determined that there was no potential for the Original Project to generate GHGs other than those related to traffic and, because the Original Project would provide high quality recreation within walking distance of lodging and transit, the Original Project would decrease reliance on the private automobile. Thus, the 2009 IS/ND/IEC concluded no impact would occur.

Less-than-Significant Impact. Modified Project operations and maintenance activities would involve the use of small machinery and hand tools as necessary, per existing operations and maintenance activities. None of these activities would generate significant GHG emissions. As noted above, the Bay Area Air District recommends that projects incorporate several project design features (i.e., no natural gas infrastructure and VMT reductions consistent with the targets of SB 743) to avoid GHG emissions during a project's operational phase. Notably, the Modified Project would not support any natural gas infrastructure and would reconfigure existing parking (i.e., 10 public spaces, one accessible parking space, and four site-host parking spaces) into 15 public spaces and one ADA compliant space, resulting in a net increase of just 1 parking space. Regarding operational mobile-sources, the Modified Project would mostly involve the expansion and/or enhancement of facilities which already exist within the Modified Project area. The Park is currently accessible and in-use by visitors and none of the Modified Project features described would generate a considerable increase in vehicle trips relative to existing conditions. The Modified Project would not substantially increase VMT compared to existing conditions, as the Park provides open space access for users who would otherwise be traveling to other similar locations. Additionally, given the relatively few, if any, additional worker or maintenance trips that would result from the Modified Project features described above, implementation of the Modified Project would not generate considerable VMT and associated emissions related to worker and maintenance trips above existing conditions. Lastly, as identified in impact question 3.16 b) in Section 3.16, "Transportation/Traffic and Circulation," it is highly likely the Modified Project would not generate trips in excess of 110 trips per day and would therefore be screened from further transportation-related impacts per OPR guidance (OPR 2018).

The Bay Area Air District has not developed any construction-related thresholds for GHG emissions. Due to the Modified Project's relatively small size (construction activity would occur within an approximately 6-acre area) and lack of a construction threshold, potential Modified Project emissions have not been quantified. Construction activities associated with implementation of the Modified Project would result in GHG emissions generated by the use of equipment, construction worker commutes to and from the project site, and materials hauling trips. Construction personnel would be minimal due to the small project size and would therefore not create significant GHG emissions from worker commutes. GHG emissions associated with construction equipment would be limited, as the small scale and minimal intensity (e.g., no large-scale grading or excavation activities) of the proposed construction phase would not be expected to generate substantial GHG emissions.

Given the small size of the Modified Project and relatively minor proposed construction and operational activities, impacts related to Modified Project-generated GHG emissions would be less than significant.

b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

The 2009 IS/ND/IEC addressed the Original Project's potential to conflict with a GHG reduction plan under question i) of section 2.3, "Air Quality." The analysis identified that, at the time, no plans existed to specifically reduce GHG emissions. However, the analysis determined that the project would avoid significant transportation impacts and would thus align with existing (at the time) plans which address traffic generation, a major factor in the generation of GHG emissions. Thus, the 2009 IS/ND/IEC concluded no impact would occur.

Less-than-Significant Impact. As discussed above, Appendix D of the 2022 Scoping Plan identifies three priority GHG reduction strategies (i.e., building decarbonization, VMT reduction, and electrification of the mobile sector) that local governments should implement at the project level to support the GHG reduction targets codified by SB 32 and AB 1279. The Bay Area Air District's recommended project design features to avoid operational GHG emissions are identical to these Appendix D priority reduction strategies (along with the inclusion of the requirement that a project have no impacts from the unnecessary, wasteful, or inefficient use of energy resources). Because the Modified Project would align with the project design features identified in the Bay Area Air District's CEQA Guidelines, as discussed above in question 3.8.2 d), the Modified Project would also be consistent with project-level priority reduction strategy guidance provided to lead agencies in Appendix D of the 2022 Scoping Plan. Therefore, this impact would be less than significant.

c) Alteration of air movement, moisture or temperature, or any change in climate, either locally or regionally? (TRPA Item 2d)

The 2009 IS/ND/IEC concluded that because the Original Project did not include activities or uses that would alter air movement, moisture, temperature, or cause climate change, there would be no impact.

Less-than-Significant Impact. As discussed in questions 3.8.2 a) and 3.8.2 b), above, the Modified Project would not generate GHG emissions that would directly or indirectly have a significant impact on the environment or conflict with the state's efforts to achieve the GHG reduction targets codified by SB 32 and AB 1279. Therefore, the Modified Project would have a less significant impact related to climate change. Please see question 3.3.2 g) for discussion regarding the Modified Project as it relates to air impacts.

3.9 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

CEQA INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTIONS	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
IX. Hazards and Hazardous Materials. Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	No	No	No	Yes
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and/or accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	No	No	No	Yes
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	No	No	No	Yes
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	No	No	No	Yes
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	No	No	No	Yes
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	No	No	No	Yes
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires?	No	No	No	Yes

TRPA INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST QUESTIONS	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
10. Risk of Upset. Would the project:				
h) Involve a risk of an explosion or the release of hazardous substances including, but not limited to, oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation in the event of an accident or upset conditions? (TRPA Item 10a)	No	No	Yes	No
i) Involve possible interference with an emergency evacuation plan? (TRPA Item 10b)	No	No	No	Yes

TRPA INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST QUESTIONS	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
17. Human Health. Would the project cause:				
j) Creation of any health hazard or potential health hazard (excluding mental health)? (TRPA Item 17a)	No	No	No	Yes
k) Exposure of people to potential health hazards? (TRPA Item 17b)	No	No	No	Yes

3.9.1 Discussion

Section 2.7 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC discusses the affected environment and regulatory setting related to the hazards and hazardous materials that may occur or exist on the Original Project site. There are no substantial changes to the setting in the hazards and hazardous materials chapter since preparation of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC. The modifications associated with the Modified Project would not alter the environment setting described in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC.

CEQA questions 3.9.1 a) through g) were scoped out of further assessment. See *CEQA Sections Eliminated From Further Analysis*, above.

h) Involve a risk of an explosion or the release of hazardous substances including, but not limited to, oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation in the event of an accident or upset conditions? (TRPA Item 10a)

As previously assessed in Section 2.7 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Original Project would not involve hazardous substances that may involve the risk of an explosion or release of a hazardous substance or the use of any potentially contaminating materials as part of their operations.

Less-than-Significant Impact. Construction of the Modified Project would include paving approximately 0.4 miles of Class 1 trail and the parking lot at the California day-use area, grading the Barn Trail and other improvements. Therefore, the Modified Project would involve the use of construction equipment that typically uses small amounts of hazardous materials such as oils, fuels, and other potentially hazardous substances. TRPA would require the Modified Project contractor to employ BMPs for spill control and prevention. Consistent with current practices, limited quantities of hazardous materials would be used and stored on the Modified Project site following construction, maintenance, landscaping, cleaning, and repair activities. The Modified Project would comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws pertaining to the handling, transport, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials, including California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal-OSHA) requirements which would mitigate the risk of release of hazardous substances in the event of an accident or upset conditions. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

i) Involve possible interference with an emergency evacuation plan? (TRPA Item 10b)

No Impact. Slow-moving construction-related traffic along local roadways could reduce optimal traffic flows and could delay emergency vehicles traveling through the Modified Project area. Modified Project construction activities could cause temporary lane closures on the Park entry road, although this is considered unlikely as most of the proposed construction is being undertaken off-road. To prevent potentially significant construction-related traffic impacts, the Modified Project's contractor would implement a construction traffic management plan, per **PDF-TR-1**, prior to the initiation of any construction activities to ensure that access for all road users is maintained near the Modified Project site or impacted to the least extent feasible. Furthermore, the Modified Project would be subject to review and approval by multiple jurisdictions to ensure that the Modified Project complies with all requirements related to emergency response. The Modified Project would be designed and maintained in accordance with applicable standards associated with vehicular access, such that interference with existing emergency response or

evacuation plans would not occur. The Modified Project would not interfere with the City/County/TRPA's emergency plans and would not impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan, as part of each of those plans is to put mechanisms in place to communicate potential impacts on emergency traffic and evacuation routes. However, because there are no substantial changes in the environmental setting and the majority of the Modified Project is being undertaken within the boundary of the previously assessed Original Project, the Modified Project would adhere to the existing park emergency response and evacuation plan. Furthermore, the Modified Project would be constructed in accordance with all applicable design standards and ordinances. Continued compliance with the Park's emergency response and evacuation plan would ensure adequate access for fire and emergency responders throughout construction and operation. Therefore, the physical improvements resulting from Modified Project implementation would not impair or interfere with adopted emergency response or evacuation plans and there would be no impact.

j) Creation of any health hazard or potential health hazard (excluding mental health)? (TRPA Item 10c)

TRPA's environmental checklist question "j" was added to the TRPA environmental checklist after the completion of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC. The added checklist question is analyzed below.

No Impact. As discussed in item "h," above, hazardous substances typically used in construction would be used in the Modified Project. Additionally, hazardous material used in landscaping and maintenance would be stored on site. The Modified Project would comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws pertaining to the handling, transport, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials, including Cal-OSHA requirements; therefore, these materials would not create any health hazard or potential health hazard. Therefore, no impacts are expected.

k) Exposure of people to potential health hazards? (TRPA Item 10d)

TRPA's environmental checklist question "k" was added to the TRPA environmental checklist after the completion of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC. The added checklist question is analyzed below.

No Impact. As this question is similar in nature to question 3.8.1 j), please see the relevant section above.

3.10 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

CEQA INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTIONS	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
X. Hydrology and Water Quality. Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?	No	No	No	Yes
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	No	No	No	Yes
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:	No	No	No	Yes
i) Result in substantial on- or offsite erosion or siltation;	No	No	No	Yes
ii) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;	No	No	No	Yes
iii) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	No	No	No	Yes
iv) Impede or redirect flood flows?	No	No	No	Yes
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	No	No	No	Yes
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	No	No	No	Yes

TRPA INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST QUESTIONS	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
3. Water Quality. Would the project cause:				
f) Changes in currents, or the course or direction of water movements? (TRPA Item 3a)	No	No	Yes	No
g) Changes in absorption rates, drainage patterns, or the rate and amount of surface water runoff so that a 20 yr. 1 hr. storm runoff (approximately 1 inch per hour) cannot be contained on the site? (TRPA Item 3b)	No	No	Yes	No

	TRPA INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST QUESTIONS	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
h)	Alterations to the course or flow of 100-yearflood waters? (TRPA Item 3c)	No	No	Yes	No
i)	Change in the amount of surface water in any water body? (TRPA Item 3d)	No	No	Yes	No
j)	Discharge into surface waters, or in any alteration of surface water quality, including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity? (TRPA Item 3e)	No	No	Yes	No
k)	Alteration of the direction or rate of flow of groundwater? (TRPA Item 3f)	No	No	Yes	No
l)	Change in the quantity of groundwater, either through direct additions or withdrawals, or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavations? (TRPA Item 3g)	No	No	Yes	No
m)	Substantial reduction in the amount of water otherwise available for public water supplies? (TRPA Item 3h)	No	No	Yes	No
n)	Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding and/or wave action from 100-year storm occurrence or seiches? (TRPA Item 3i)	No	No	No	Yes
o)	The potential discharge of contaminants to the groundwater or any alteration of groundwater quality? (TRPA Item 3j)	No	No	Yes	No
p)	Is the project located within 600 feet of a drinking water source? (TRPA Item 3k)	No	No	No	Yes

3.10.1 Discussion

Section 2.8 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC discusses the affected environment and regulatory setting related to hydrology and water quality on the Project site. There are no substantial changes to the setting in the hydrology or water quality conditions since preparation of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC. The modifications associated with the Modified Project would not alter the affected environment setting described in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC.

CEQA questions 3.10.1 a) through e) were scoped out of further assessment. See *CEQA Sections Eliminated From Further Analysis*, above.

f and g) Changes in currents, or the course or direction of water movements? Changes in absorption rates, drainage patterns, or the rate and amount of surface water runoff so that a 20 yr. 1 hr. storm runoff (approximately 1 inch per hour) cannot be contained on the site? (TRPA Item 3a and TRPA Item 3b)

As determined in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, pre-development and post-development drainage and stormwater conveyance would be similar under the Original Project. The proposed improvements as part of the Original Project would mitigate any increased runoff flows and improve the quality of storm water runoff prior to discharge into Lake Tahoe. This would be achieved through the restoration of the SEZ at the park entrance, and the installation of road

ditches and appropriately sized culverts to convey storm water to treatment basins to meet the design storm peak flows. Therefore, the Original Project would not result in changes to absorption rates, drainage patterns, or the rate and amount of surface water runoff.

Less-than-Significant Impact. The Modified Project would not result in substantial changes in the environmental setting, and the majority of the Modified Project is being undertaken within the boundary of the previously assessed Original Project. Similarly, the Modified Project would comply with the RWQCB and NPDES regulations by requiring a subsequent preparation of a SWPPP, which would include implementation of approved local plans, control of post-construction sediment and erosion control measures. Additionally, the Modified Project will increase stormwater storage at several locations in the Modified Project area to capture and/or treat stormwater from the proposed improvements. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

h) Alterations to the course or flow of 100-year flood waters? (TRPA Item 3c)

As determined in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Original Project would include grading and construction associated with the roadway alignment, which crosses an SEZ with portions within the designated 100-year flood hazard area. However, implementation of BMPs during construction would minimize impacts on these sensitive areas. Therefore, the Original Project would not alter the course or flow of 100-year flood waters.

Less-than-Significant Impact. Similar to the Original Project, the Modified Project proposes up to ½ mile of new Class 1 shared-use trail, which would connect the California day-use area to the Park entrance and up to the new state line monument. From the California day-use area to the state line monument, the Class 1 trail would run parallel to the roadway alignment, which briefly crosses an SEZ area. Similarly, the Modified Project would comply with the RWQCB and NPDES regulations by requiring a subsequent preparation of a SWPPP, which would require implementation of BMPs during construction to minimize impacts through these sensitive areas. Therefore, the Modified Project would not alter the course or flow of 100-year flood waters and impacts would be less than significant.

i and j) Change in the amount of surface water in any water body? Discharge into surface waters, or in any alteration of surface water quality, including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity? (TRPA Item 3d and TRPA Item 3e)

As determined in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, once the SEZ restoration was completed and the TRPA BMP measures were in place, the Original Project would decrease the post-development off-site runoff through roadway improvements and restoration. Furthermore, the Original Project would not create discharge into surface waters, in such a way that would alter surface water quality temperature, dissolved oxygen levels, or turbidity. Additionally, preparation of a SWPPP and implementation of BMPs during construction and operation would improve overall surface runoff. Therefore, the Original Project would not substantially impact surface waters.

Less-than-Significant Impact. The Modified Project would not result in substantial changes in the environmental setting, and the majority of the Modified Project is being undertaken within the boundary of the previously assessed Original Project. Similarly, the Modified Project would comply with the RWQCB and NPDES requirements which would require the subsequent preparation of a SWPPP. The SWPPP would include erosion and sedimentation controls, means of waste disposal, implementation of approved local plans, control of post-construction sediment and erosion control measures, and maintenance responsibilities. As a result, the Modified Project would not result in the production of discharge wastes into surrounding surface waters. Additionally, the Modified Project would increase stormwater storage at several locations throughout the Park to capture and/or treat stormwater from the proposed improvements. and the improvements to the unpaved gondola access road would further assist in uncontrolled stormwater runoff impacts. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

k) Alteration of the direction or rate of flow of groundwater? (TRPA Item 3f)

As determined in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the proposed roadway and development of recreation amenities as part of the Original Project would not involve excavation deeper than 5 feet or alter the direction and rate of flow of groundwater.

Less-than-Significant Impact. Similarly, based on the modified Project recreation uses, little domestic water use for the Modified Project would be expected and construction and operation would comply with applicable TRPA Ordinances that prohibit excavation deeper than 5 feet due to the potential for groundwater interception or interference, unless approved by TRPA. Per the TRPA code section 33.3.6, excavation in excess of 5 feet in depth or where there exists a reasonable possibility of interference or interception of a water table is prohibited unless special findings are made. One of the special findings is that a soils/hydrologic report is reviewed and approved by TRPA. Thus, a soils/hydrologic report may be required in accordance with TRPA permitting procedures, should it be determined that excavation would intercept groundwater. The need for a soils/hydrologic report will be determined at detailed design phase. Furthermore, the majority of the Modified Project area would remain unpaved and feature characteristics that allow for the slow percolation of rainwater and sufficient groundwater recharge. In addition, the snow and stormwater storage areas would also allow for the slow percolation of water into the underlying groundwater, but not at a rate that would alter the direction or rate of flow. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

l) Change in the quantity of groundwater, either through direct additions or withdrawals, or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavations? (TRPA Item 3g)

As determined in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Original Project would not excavate, withdraw, or intercept groundwater from an aquifer. Upon project completion and utility installations, the water supply for domestic and fire protection water services would be provided by South Tahoe Public Utility District (STPUD) for the California side of the project area. Additionally, STPUD would not withdraw water from an aquifer. Therefore, the Original Project would not change the quantity of groundwater.

Less-than-Significant Impact. Similarly, the Modified Project would not result in substantial changes in the environmental setting, and the majority of the Modified Project is being undertaken within the boundary of the previously assessed Original Project. Continued compliance with applicable TRPA Code requirements would ensure that the Modified Project would not exceed excavation deeper than 5 feet, unless required for ADA compliance or for snow and stormwater storage and undertaken in accordance with TRPA code section 33.3.6, and no new facilities or new water uses are proposed. Additionally, preparation of a SWPPP and implementation of BMPs during construction and operation would ensure no groundwater impacts. Therefore, the Modified Project would not result in a change in groundwater quantity or quality, either through direct additions or withdrawals, or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavations. Impacts would be less than significant.

m) Substantial reduction in the amount of water otherwise available for public water supplies? (TRPA Item 3h)

As determined in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Original Project would utilize water supply from STPUD. Based on the size and number of recreation users expected to visit the site, the overall proposed uses are not expected to use a substantial amount of domestic or fire protection water supply. Therefore, the Original Project would not reduce the amount of water otherwise available for public water supplies.

Less-than-Significant Impact. Similarly, as previously assessed in Section 2.8 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, because there are no substantial changes in the environmental setting and the Modified Project does not propose improvements to the site not previously analyzed that would result in a significant influx of visitors, the Modified Project would not result in the reduction of additional water otherwise available for public water supplies. Impacts would be less than significant.

n) Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding and/or wave action from 100-year storm occurrence or seiches? (TRPA Item 3i)

As determined in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Original Project site would be located inland, away from Lake Tahoe by over half a mile at approximately 300 feet above lake level. At this distance, seiche waves are not expected to occur. Additionally, the majority of the site recreation facilities are located outside of the flood zone. Therefore, people or property would not be exposed to a water-related hazard.

No Impact. Similarly, as previously assessed in Section 2.8 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, because there are no substantial changes in the environmental setting and the Modified Project does not propose to move the Modified Project site boundary closer to a flood zone or downslope from where previously assessed, no impacts are expected.

o) The potential discharge of contaminants to the groundwater or any alteration of groundwater quality? (TRPA Item 3j)

As determined in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Original Project does not involve the use of any potential contaminants that may discharge into the groundwater and alter groundwater quality, thus there would be no impact.

Less-than-Significant Impact. During on-site grading and construction for the Modified Project, hazardous materials such as fuel and oils associated with construction equipment, as well as coatings, paints, adhesives, and caustic or acidic cleaners could be used, and therefore, would require proper handling and management and, in some cases, disposal. However, these substances would be used and disposed of in accordance with manufacturers' specifications and instructions, thereby reducing the risk of hazardous materials use. In addition, the Modified Project would comply with all applicable federal, State, and local requirements concerning the use, storage, and management of hazardous materials, and thus would not result in the discharge of contaminants to groundwater. Through adherence to regulations, and use of construction and operational BMPs, impacts would be less than significant.

p) Is the project located within 600 feet of a drinking water source? (TRPA Item 3k)

TRPA's environmental checklist questions "p" was added to the TRPA environmental checklist after the completion of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC. The added checklist question is analyzed below.

No Impact. The Modified Project site is not located within 600 feet of a drinking water source. The nearest drinking water source is Lake Tahoe located approximately 0.7 miles west of the project site, thus there would be no impact.

3.11 LAND USE AND PLANNING

CEQA INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTIONS	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
XI. Land Use and Planning. Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	No	No	No	Yes
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	No	No	No	Yes

TRPA INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST QUESTIONS	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
8. Land Use. Would the project:				
c) Include uses which are not listed as permissible uses in the applicable Plan Area Statement, adopted Community Plan, or Master Plan? (TRPA Item 8a)	No	No	No	Yes
d) Expand or intensify an existing non-conforming use? (TRPA Item 8b)	No	No	No	Yes

3.11.1 Discussion

Section 2.9 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC discusses the affected environment and regulatory setting related to land uses of the Original Project site. There are no substantial changes to the proposed facilities or recreation land uses since preparation of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC. The modifications associated with the Modified Project would not alter the affected environment setting described in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC.

CEQA questions 3.11.1 a) and b) were scoped out of further assessment. See *CEQA Sections Eliminated From Further Analysis*, above.

c) Include uses which are not listed as permissible uses in the applicable Plan Area Statement, adopted Community Plan, or Master Plan? (TRPA Item 8a)

As previously assessed in Section 2.9 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Original Project would not include proposed uses that are not permissible in the applicable plan area statements and adopted community plan. Proposed land uses and facilities all fit within the permissible uses listed in PAS 080: Kingsbury Drainage and Stateline/Ski Run Community Plan District 4a.

No Impact. Similarly, as previously assessed in Section 2.9 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, because there are no substantial changes in the environmental setting and the Modified Project does not propose a significant change in facilities or recreation land uses previously assessed, the Modified Project does not include uses that are not permissible in the applicable plan area statements and adopted community plan. There would be no impact.

d) Expand or intensify an existing non-conforming use? (TRPA Item 8b)

As previously assessed in Section 2.9 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Original Project would not include nonconforming uses, and all proposed park uses, including the development of the gateway entrance signage, entrance and access roadway, day-use areas/trailhead, parking area, and multi-use trail are listed as permissible uses.

No Impact. Similarly, as previously assessed in Section 2.9 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, because there are no substantial changes in the environmental setting and the Modified Project does not propose a significant change in facilities or recreation land uses previously assessed, the Modified Project does not include nonconforming uses. here would be no impact.

3.12 MINERAL RESOURCES AND NATURAL RESOURCES

CEQA INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTIONS	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
XII. Mineral Resources. Would the project:				
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	No	No	No	Yes
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?	No	No	No	Yes

TRPA INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST QUESTIONS	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
9. Natural Resources. Would the project cause:				
c) A substantial increase in the rate of use of any natural resources? (TRPA Item 9a)	No	No	No	Yes
d) Substantial depletion of any non-renewable natural resource? (TRPA Item 9b)	No	No	No	Yes

3.12.1 Discussion

Section 2.10 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC discusses the affected environment and regulatory setting related to mineral resources at the Project site. It was determined that there are no known mineral resources likely to occur within the project area. There are no substantial changes to the proposed facilities or land uses since preparation of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC. The modifications associated with the Modified Project would not significantly alter the affected environment setting described in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC.

CEQA questions 3.12.1 a) and b) were scoped out of further assessment. See *CEQA Sections Eliminated From Further Analysis*, above.

c) A substantial increase in the rate of use of any natural resources?

As previously assessed in Section 2.10 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Original Project would not result in a substantial increase in the rate of use of any natural resources.

No Impact. Similarly, as previously assessed in Section 2.10 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, because there are no substantial changes in the environmental setting and the Modified Project does not propose a significant change in facilities or recreation land uses previously assessed, the Modified Project would not result in a substantial increase in the rate of use of any natural resources. Furthermore, neither City of South Lake Tahoe nor TRPA have any Mineral Resource Zones that are classified as MRZ-2a or MRZ-2b (for minerals such as gold, precious-metal-bearing polymetallic sulfides, and industrial minerals such as limestone, chromite, and talc/soapstone), active mining operations or Aggregate Resource Areas within their jurisdiction (CGS 2001). There would be no impact.

d) Substantial depletion of any non-renewable natural resource?

As previously assessed in Section 2.10 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Original Project would not result in substantial depletion of any non-renewable natural resources, nor would there be a substantial increase in the rate of use of any natural resources, through build-out of the project area.

No Impact. Similarly, as previously assessed in Section 2.10 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, because there are no non-renewable natural resources proposed for use as part of the Modified Project, the Modified Project would not result in the depletion of any non-renewable natural resources. There would be no impact.

3.13 NOISE

CEQA INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTIONS	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
XIII. Noise. Would the project result in:				
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or in other applicable local, state, or federal standards?	No	No	No	Yes
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	No	No	No	Yes
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	No	No	No	Yes

TRPA INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST QUESTIONS	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
6. Noise. Would the project cause:				
d) Increases in existing Community Noise Equivalency Levels (CNEL) beyond those permitted in the applicable Plan Area Statement, Community Plan or Master Plan? (TRPA Item 6a)	No	No	Yes	No
e) Exposure of people to severe noise levels? (TRPA Item 6b)	No	No	Yes	No
f) Single event noise levels greater than those set forth in the TRPA Noise Environmental Threshold? (TRPA Item 6c)	No	No	Yes	No
g) The placement of residential or tourist accommodation uses in areas where the existing CNEL exceeds 60 dBA or is otherwise incompatible? (TRPA Item 6d)	No	No	No	Yes
h) The placement of uses that would generate an incompatible noise level in close proximity to existing residential or tourist accommodation uses? (TRPA Item 6e)	No	No	No	Yes
i) Exposure of existing structures to levels of ground vibration that could result in structural damage? (TRPA Item 6f)	No	No	No	Yes

3.13.1 Discussion

Section 2.11 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC discusses the affected environment and regulatory setting related to noise at the Original Project site. There are no substantial changes to the proposed facilities or recreation land uses since preparation of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC. The modifications associated with the Modified Project would not alter the affected environment setting described in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC.

CEQA questions 3.13.1 a) through c) were scoped out of further assessment. See *CEQA Sections Eliminated From Further Analysis*, above.

d) Increases in existing Community Noise Equivalency Levels (CNEL) beyond those permitted in the applicable Plan Area Statement, Community Plan or Master Plan? (TRPA Item 6a)

As previously assessed in Section 2.10 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Original Project noted the CNEL threshold for noise within PAS 080 is 50 dBA. As noted within the 2009 IS/ND/IEC assessment, CNEL is a weighted average measured over a 24 hour period with the nighttime hours weighted more heavily, with construction and park operations limited to daylight hours. The 2009 IS/ND/IEC also noted the TRPA Code of Ordinances allows a temporary noise increase to occur with TRPA-approved activities, provided construction noise is limited to the hours specified in the permit. In terms of operations, the 2009 IS/ND/IEC determined that noise levels associated with additional people and additional trips could contribute to an increase in the overall ambient noise level, however the increase was expected to be negligible considering how many visitors will visit the park by foot or bicycles and the fact that CNEL is measured as a 24 hour average measurement.

Less-than-Significant Impact. As part of the Modified Project, a TRPA EIP Permit would be required. Similarly to the Original Project, per the TRPA Code of Ordinances, a temporary noise increase would be permissible provided construction noise is limited to the hours specified in the permit. While there would be a temporary noise increase during the daytime, as construction would be undertaken during daytime hours, construction-generated noise levels would fluctuate depending on the type, number, and duration of equipment used. The effects of construction noise largely depend on the type of construction activities occurring on any given day, noise levels generated by those activities, distances to noise sensitive receptors, and the ambient noise environment at nearby receptors. Construction would be short-term and intermittent and would only occur during daytime hours; and thus, disturbances during hours when people would normally sleep would be minimal. Therefore, construction activities associated with the Modified Project would not result in an increase in noise that results in adverse health effects (e.g., sleep deprivation) or a substantial increase in noise during the sensitive nighttime hours of the day. As such, a less-than-significant impact would occur during construction.

In terms of operational noise impacts, potential changes in noise levels would be primarily associated with reductions or increases in the volume of vehicle traffic, and to a lesser degree, noise associated with visitors and gatherings/events in the Park. The Park is already accessible year-round, with winter-time visitors arriving on foot or by bicycle having parked outside the Park on local roads or at a nearby parking garage. By allowing year-round vehicular access, there may be a negligible increase in vehicular noise in the Park that is partially offset by a negligible decrease in noise levels experienced at residences proximate to the Park. As the small increase in visitors expected to visit during winter would be able to park within the Park, it would thus reduce noise levels associated with parking vehicles on local streets, or from conversations as people walk past local residences. Furthermore, the opening of the Park for year-round access would not generate substantial noise levels outside of daytime hours, as the Park would still be closed to the public during nighttime. To facilitate future winter access, some additional areas would need to be plowed, with snow removal work likely to occur at night to avoid congestion on local roads and for safety to avoid potential snowplow/automobile conflict. However, the baseline conditions already include noise associated with plowing the access road and parking lot, thus the additional areas that may need plowing would not constitute a significant increase in noise. In addition, the Modified Project does not propose new recreation features or activities that are expected to generate substantial increases in existing CNEL that would exceed those permitted in the applicable PAS. Use of the enhanced California day use area or the new picnic areas could contribute to an increase

in the overall ambient noise level, but the increase is expected to be minimal considering gatherings/events would generally be during daytime hours and sporadic in terms of number and duration, and the fact that CNEL is measured over a 24 hour period. As such, a less-than-significant impact would occur from Park operations.

e) Exposure of people to severe noise levels? (TRPA Item 6b)

This topic was not previously assessed in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC.

Less-than-Significant Impact. As this question is similar in nature to question 3.12.1 d), please see the section above.

f) Single event noise levels greater than those set forth in the TRPA Noise Environmental Threshold? (TRPA Item 6c)

As previously assessed in Section 2.10 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Original Project determined that as a Bi-State Park development, the Original Project does not propose recreation features or activities expected to generate substantial single-event noise levels greater than those set forth in the TRPA noise environmental thresholds.

Less-than-Significant Impact. While there would be a temporary noise increase during the daytime, as construction would be undertaken during daytime hours, construction-generated noise levels would fluctuate depending on the type, number, and duration of equipment used. The effects of construction noise largely depend on the type of construction activities occurring on any given day, noise levels generated by those activities, distances to noise sensitive receptors, and the ambient noise environment at nearby receptors. Construction would be short-term and intermittent and would only occur during daytime hours. It is thus unlikely that a single event noise level greater than those set forth in the TRPA Noise Environmental Threshold would occur. In addition, the Modified Project does not propose new recreation features or require new operational/maintenance activities that are expected to generate substantial single-event noise levels greater than the TRPA Noise Environmental Threshold. Impacts would be less than significant.

g) The placement of residential or tourist accommodation uses in areas where the existing CNEL exceeds 60 dBA or is otherwise incompatible? (TRPA Item 6d)

This topic was not previously assessed in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC.

No Impact. No residential or tourist accommodation is proposed as part of the Modified Project, thus there would be no impact.

h) The placement of uses that would generate an incompatible noise level in close proximity to existing residential or tourist accommodation uses? (TRPA Item 6e)

This topic was not previously assessed in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC.

No Impact. The Modified Project would be consistent with the existing land use and zoning and would be undertaken within the boundary of the existing Park. Thus, there would be no uses that would generate an incompatible noise level in close proximity to existing residential or tourist accommodation.

i) Exposure of existing structures to levels of ground vibration that could result in structural damage? (TRPA Item 6f)

This topic was not previously assessed in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC.

No Impact. Vibration sensitive receptors, such as residential dwellings, are located at a distance such that groundborne vibration associated with the Modified Project would not be experienced at their property. As such, there would be no impact.

3.14 POPULATION AND HOUSING

CEQA INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTIONS	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
XIV. Population and Housing. Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	No	No	No	Yes
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	No	No	No	Yes

TRPA INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST QUESTIONS	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
11.Population. Would the project:				
c) Alter the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population planned for the Region? (TRPA Item 11a)	No	No	No	Yes
d) Include or result in the temporary or permanent displacement of residents? (TRPA Item 11b)	No	No	Yes	No
12. Housing. Would the project:				
e) Affect existing housing, or create a demand for additional housing? (TRPA Item 12a) To determine if the proposal will affect existing housing or create a demand for additional housing, please answer the following questions:	No	No	Yes	No
(1) Will the proposal decrease the amount of housing in the Tahoe Region? (TRPA Item 12a.1)	No	No	Yes	No
(2) Will the proposal decrease the amount of housing in the Tahoe Region historically or currently being rented at rates affordable by lower and very-low-income households? (TRPA Item 12a.2)	No	No	Yes	No
f) Will the proposal result in the loss of housing for lower-income and very-low-income households? (TRPA Item 12b)	No	No	Yes	No

3.14.1 Discussion

Section 2.12 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC discusses the affected environment and regulatory setting related to population and housing for the Original Project site. There are no substantial changes to the setting in the population and

housing chapter since preparation of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC. The modifications associated with the Modified Project would not alter the affected environment setting described in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC.

CEQA questions 3.14.1 a) and b) were scoped out of further assessment. See *CEQA Sections Eliminated From Further Analysis*, above.

c) Alter the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population planned for the Region? (TRPA Item 11a)

As previously assessed in Section 2.12 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Original Project would not alter the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population.

No Impact. As assessed in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, South Lake Tahoe's population has grown at a slow but steady rate for the last 25 years. This resident population increase and the recreation need identified in regional planning documents provide the reasoning that drives the community's need for additional access to recreation facilities.

The Modified Project would not result in substantial changes in the environmental setting, nor would it result in population growth. The Modified Project proposes additional recreational opportunities to accommodate demand from a growing population, including an ADA-compliant paved Class I trail and parking lot, picnic and rest areas, and extending vehicular access to be year-round. Therefore, the Modified Project would accommodate existing and projected population growth and not alter the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population planned for the region. Therefore, there would be no impacts.

d-f) Include or result in the temporary or permanent displacement of residents? Affect existing housing, or create a demand for additional housing? (1) Will the proposal decrease the amount of housing in the Tahoe Region? (2) Will the proposal decrease the amount of housing in the Tahoe Region historically or currently being rented at rates affordable by lower and very-low-income households? Will the proposal result in the loss of housing for lower-income and very-low-income households? (TRPA Item 11b; TRPA Item 12a; TRPA Item 12a.1; TRPA Item 12a.2; and TRPA Item 12b)

As previously assessed in Section 2.12 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Original Project would not result in the temporary or permanent displacement of residents, nor would it affect existing housing or create a demand for additional housing. There is one existing residential caretaker unit located adjacent to the Van Sickle barn complex.

Less-than-Significant Impact. Similarly, the Modified Project site contains public service and recreation uses. Apart from the site host, who resides in a Recreational Vehicle (RV) fifth wheel/trailer next to the California day-use area, no residences are located in the Modified Project area. While the Modified Project would remove the site host position, the removal of the site host does not constitute a displacement of residents as the trailer is not classed as a residence per El Dorado County Ordinance 130.52.030 (Revised 1/08/2021), which only allows temporary use of an RV under limited circumstances which don't apply to the Modified Project. The Modified Project proposes to repurpose the existing site host trailer pad to create an all-season, accessible, central public gathering area with a variety of amenities. As a result, the implementation of the Modified Project would provide an additional amenity to the surrounding residential neighborhoods and tourist accommodation units. Therefore, except for the elimination of the site host position, implementation of the Modified Project would not result in the temporary or permanent displacement of people, create a demand for additional housing, or result in the loss of housing for lower-income and very-low-income households. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

3.15 PUBLIC SERVICES

CEQA INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST QUESTIONS	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
XV. Public Services. Would the project:				
a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
Fire protection?	No	No	Yes	No
Police protection?	No	No	Yes	No
Schools?	No	No	No	Yes
Parks?	No	No	Yes	No
Other public facilities?	No	No	Yes	No

TRPA INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST QUESTIONS	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
14. Public Services.				
Will the proposal have an unplanned effect upon, or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas?				
b) Fire protection? (TRPA Item 14a)	No	No	Yes	No
c) Police protection? (TRPA Item 14b)	No	No	Yes	No
d) Schools? (TRPA Item 14c)	No	No	No	Yes
e) Parks or other recreational facilities? (TRPA Item 14d)	No	No	Yes	No
f) Maintenance of public facilities, including roads? (TRPA Item 14e)	No	No	Yes	No
g) Other governmental services? (TRPA Item 14f)	No	No	Yes	No

3.15.1 Discussion

Section 2.13 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC discusses the affected environment and regulatory setting related to public services for the Project site. There are no substantial changes to the setting in the public services chapter since preparation of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC. The modifications associated with the Modified Project would not alter the affected environment setting described in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC.

a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:

As previously assessed in Section 2.13 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Original Project would not have an impact in relation to public services for the project area, including fire protection, police protection, schools, park and recreation facilities, and other related public facilities.

Fire protection?

The 2009 IS/ND/IEC determined that based on the Original Project facilities, adequate fire protection services were available to address the needs of the proposed Park development and no impact would occur.

Less-than-Significant Impact. Similarly, the Modified Project would include adequate primary emergency fire access via the existing access roads. As with the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Lake Valley Fire Protection District, City of South Lake Tahoe Fire Department, and the Tahoe-Douglas Fire Protection District would continue to provide primary fire protection to the Modified Project site. As mentioned previously, approximately 250 trees would be removed within the footprints of the proposed improvements, which would also include the removal of live, dead, dying, and diseased trees. This additional tree removal would decrease conifer densities, promote increased health and vigor of the residual tree stand, mitigate hazards to public health and safety, and reduce the risk of wildland fire within the Park and the adjacent communities. Furthermore, the local fire jurisdictions (LVFPD and TDFPD) would review all site plans prior to construction. Therefore, the Modified project would not generate the need for a new fire station or additional fire personnel, and impacts would be less than significant.

Police protection?

The 2009 IS/ND/IEC determined that the two police stations nearest the project site would provide adequate police protection for the Original Project and would not be expected to result in adverse physical impacts on police protection services and no impact would occur.

Less-than-Significant Impact. Similarly, the Modified Project would not result in substantial changes in the environmental setting, nor would it result in population growth. Therefore, an increase in the demand for police protection services is not expected to occur. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

Schools?

As assessed in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Lake Tahoe Unified School District (LTUSD) provides school service to the California side of the project, and the Douglas County School District (DCSD) covers the Nevada side of the project. Neither District operates a school within the project area, thus it was determined the Original Project would not generate the need to provide school facilities and no impact would occur.

No Impact. Since there are no substantial changes to the proposed land uses, and the majority of the Modified Project is being undertaken within the boundary of the previously assessed Original Project, the Modified Project would not have any impact on school services and no impacts would occur.

Parks?

As assessed in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Original Project would provide a facility that addresses the demand for increased access to public recreation in the South Lake Tahoe/Stateline community. Therefore, the Original Project would accommodate existing and projected population growth in the community rather than create a need for additional facilities, and no impact would occur.

Less-than-Significant Impact. Similar to the Original Project, the Modified Project would provide park improvements, including additional picnic areas and an ADA-compliant paved trailhead and parking lot, that addresses the demand for increased access to public recreation in the South Lake Tahoe community. Therefore, the Modified Project would accommodate existing and projected population growth in the community rather than create a need for additional park facilities. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

Other public facilities?

The 2009 IS/ND/IEC determined that the Original Project would not result in impacts related to other public facilities or government services. Physical impacts on public services are usually associated with population growth, which increases the demand for public services and facilities, and thus no impacts would occur.

Less-than-Significant Impact. Similarly, the Modified Project is growth accommodating rather than growth-inducing as it provides additional public recreation opportunities for the community but doesn't involve the development of new housing or create employment-generating uses. Because there are no substantial changes to the proposed land uses, and the majority of the Modified Project is being undertaken within the boundary of the previously assessed Original Project, impacts related to other public facilities or government services are not expected to occur. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

Will the proposal have an unplanned effect upon, or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas?

b) Fire protection? (TRPA Item 14a)

This impact was not assessed in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC.

Less-than-Significant Impact. As this question is similar in nature to question 3.14.1 a), please see the section above. Impacts would be less than significant.

c) Police protection? (TRPA Item 14b)

This impact was not assessed in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC.

Less-than-Significant Impact. As this question is similar in nature to question 3.14.1 a), please see the section above. Impacts would be less than significant.

d) Schools? (TRPA Item 14c)

This impact was not assessed in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC.

No Impact. As this question is similar in nature to question 3.14.1 a), please see the section above. There would be no impacts.

e) Parks or other recreational facilities? (TRPA Item 14d)

This impact was not assessed in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC.

Less than Significant. As this question is similar in nature to question 3.14.1 a), please see the section above. Impacts would be less than significant.

f) Maintenance of public facilities, including roads? (TRPA Item 14e)

As previously assessed in Section 2.13 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Original Project would require minimal maintenance of public facilities, including public roadways, based on the projected level of vehicular access to the park. Thus, no impacts would occur.

Less than Significant. The Modified Project could result in an incremental increase in the maintenance needs of Park facilities, due to the potential increased public access and usage during the winter months. However, this increase, if any, is not an unplanned effect of the Modified Project. The improvements associated with the Modified Project are designed to accommodate year-round use, including the new stormwater and snow storage basins, retrofitted restrooms, and paved parking lot and plaza/picnic areas, which will serve to minimize any increase in maintenance needs related to Park operations. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

g) Other governmental services? (TRPA Item 14f)

The 2009 IS/ND/IEC determined the Original Project would not result in impacts related to other public facilities or government services. Physical impacts on public services are usually associated with population growth, which increase the demand for public services and facilities. The Original Project was considered to be growth accommodating rather than growth-inducing because it provides an additional public recreation facility for the community. Thus, no impacts would occur.

Less than Significant. As this question is similar in nature to question 3.14.1 a), please see the section above. Impacts would be less than significant.

3.16 RECREATION

CEQA CHECKLIST ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
XVI. Recreation. Would the project:				
a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	No	No	Yes	No
b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	No	No	Yes	No

TRPA INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST QUESTIONS	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
19. Recreation. Would the project:				
c) Create additional demand for recreation facilities? (TRPA Item 19a)	No	No	Yes	No
d) Create additional recreation capacity? (TRPA Item 19b)	No	No	Yes	No
e) Have the potential to create conflicts between recreation uses, either existing or proposed? (TRPA Item 19c)	No	No	Yes	No
f) Result in a decrease or loss of public access to any lake, waterway, or public lands? (TRPA Item 19d)	No	No	Yes	No

3.16.1 Discussion

Section 2.14 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC discusses the affected environment and regulatory setting related to recreation for the Project site. There are no substantial changes to the setting in the recreation chapter since preparation of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC. The modifications associated with the Modified Project would not alter the affected environment setting described in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC.

a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?

The 2009 IS/ND/IEC determined that the Original Project would not increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities. The project would instead enhance recreational and interpretive opportunities within the site and provide an opportunity for residents and visitors to enjoy existing recreation and scenic resources within walking distance to an urban and commercial area, and there would be no impacts.

Less-than-Significant Impact. Similarly, the Modified Project would provide an enhanced recreational resource in the community which has the potential to alleviate demand on, and physical deterioration of, recreational facilities in the

wider vicinity. Physical impacts on recreational facilities are typically associated with an increase in population and growth in an area. The Modified Project would be growth accommodating rather than growth-inducing as it would provide additional public recreation opportunities for the community but would not involve the development of new housing or create employment-generating uses. Because there are no substantial changes to the proposed recreational land uses, and the majority of the Modified Project is being undertaken within the boundary of the previously assessed Original Project, impacts related to existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities are not expected to occur. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

b-d) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment? Create additional demand for recreation facilities? Create additional recreation capacity? (TRPA Item 19a and TRPA Item 19b)

As assessed in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Original Project specifically addresses the need to create additional, and improve existing, recreational facilities in the South Lake Tahoe community. Therefore, the project would not create additional demand for, or require the expansion of, recreation facilities that may impact the environment, and there would be no impacts.

Less-than-Significant Impact. Similarly, because there are no substantial changes to the proposed recreational land uses, the Modified Project would be growth accommodating rather than growth-inducing, and the majority of the Modified Project is being undertaken within the boundary of the previously assessed Original Project, the Modified Project would not require the expansion of recreation facilities that may impact the environment. Additionally, the Modified Project would increase the public's accessibility to recreational opportunities and further accommodate the local community and visitors rather than create the demand for additional recreation facilities. Furthermore, per the 2019 Van Sickle Bi-State Park Vision Plan Update, "…access to backcountry trails (either for hiking or mountain biking) was seen as the most valuable existing amenity. Sixty percent of respondents also identified more trails and access to backcountry as desirable future amenities." The Modified Project thus helps to provide more trails and greater access to backcountry trails as requested by visitors to the Park. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

e) Have the potential to create conflicts between recreation uses, either existing or proposed? (TRPA Item 19c)

As assessed in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Original Project would maximize the recreation uses and minimize conflicts through thoughtful park design and the separation of uses. Therefore, the project would not have the potential to create conflicts among proposed recreation users and there would be no impacts.

Less-than-Significant Impact. Similarly, the Modified Project would continue to provide multi-use (pedestrians, cyclists, and equestrians) trail systems. The Modified Project proposes extending the Barn Trail from the park entrance to the California day-use area and east towards the water towers and constructing and paving the ADA-compliant Class 1 trail for improved pedestrian safety and accessibility between the Park entrance and the state line monument plaza. Additionally, picnic and rest areas would be provided within the park. Therefore, the Modified Project would reduce the potential to create conflict between recreation uses. Thus, impacts would be less than significant.

f) Result in a decrease or loss of public access to any lake, waterway, or public lands? (TRPA Item 19d)

As determined in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Original Project would not result in decrease or loss of public access to any lake, waterway, or public lands and there would be no impact.

Less-than-Significant Impact. The Modified Project may increase public access to public lands by accommodating potential year-round vehicle use (currently open during summer months) in the Park and would not result in a decrease or loss of access. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

3.17 TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC AND CIRCULATION

CEQA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST QUESTIONS	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
XVII. Transportation/Traffic. Would the project:				
a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities?	No	No	Yes	No
b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	No	No	Yes	No
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	No	No	Yes	No
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	No	No	Yes	No

TRPA INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST QUESTIONS	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
13. Transportation/Circulation. Would the project cause:				
e) Generation of 100 or more new Daily Vehicle Trip Ends (DVTE)? (TRPA Item 13a)	No	No	Yes	No
f) Changes to existing parking facilities, or demand for new parking? (TRPA Item 13b)	No	No	Yes	No
g) Substantial impact upon existing transportation systems, including highway, transit, bicycle or pedestrian facilities? (TRPA Item 13c)	No	No	Yes	No
h) Alterations to present patterns of circulation or movement of people and/or goods? (TRPA Item 13d)	No	No	No	Yes
i) Alterations to waterborne, rail or air traffic? (TRPA Item 13e)	No	No	No	Yes
j) Increase in traffic hazards to motor vehicles, bicyclists, or pedestrians? (TRPA Item 13f)	No	No	Yes	No

3.17.1 Discussion

Section 2.16 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC discusses the affected environment and regulatory setting related to traffic and transportation for the Original Project site. There are no substantial changes to the setting in the traffic and transportation chapter since preparation of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC; however, since 2018, Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) has replaced Level of Service (LOS) as the key CEQA metric for determining transportation impacts. The modifications associated with the Modified Project would not alter the affected environment setting described in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC.

a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities?

The 2009 IS/ND/IEC determined that the Original Project was consistent with policies, plans, and programs that support alternative modes of transportation, noting the location of the Park is within easy walking and biking distance of high density pedestrian activity and its on-site access trail support the use of alternative transportation and that no impact would occur.

Less-than-Significant Impact. Similarly, as the Original Project was consistent with policies, plans, and programs that support alternative modes of transportation, and the Modified Project is a modification to the Original Project that was foreseen through the 2005 Master Plan, 2009 IS/ND/IEC and 2019 Vision Plan, the Modified Project would also be consistent. The Modified Project is consistent with the Conservancy's ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan (2018) as it would facilitate greater pedestrian, bicycle and ADA access to the Park. As such, impacts would be less than significant.

b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?

This topic was not previously assessed in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC as the CEQA Guidelines were updated in 2018 with VMT replacing LOS analysis.

Less-than-Significant Impact. Per CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3(b)(1), "Generally, projects within one-half mile of either an existing major transit stop or a stop along an existing high quality transit corridor should be presumed to cause a less than significant transportation impact. Projects that decrease vehicle miles traveled in the project area compared to existing conditions should be presumed to have a less than significant transportation impact." The Modified Project site is within 0.5-miles of the Stateline Transit Center, thus should be presumed to have a less-than-significant impact. One of the Original Project's purpose and need goals was to "provide recreation facilities close to the urban casino core of Lake Tahoe where local residents and visitors can enjoy the outdoor environment without having to drive from their accommodations." As such, it can be reasonably inferred that the Modified Project would provide greater recreational opportunities to a wider variety of people, which further expands on the Original Project's purpose and need. The Park is not the primary attraction for visitors to the south shore area, as it is likely people would visit the Park if they are already in the area as opposed to specifically visiting South Lake Tahoe because of the Park, and the small increase in parking spaces (one more than existing) would not lead to significant new trip generation. In addition, the Park is currently accessible on foot year-round, and it is highly likely the Modified Project would not generate additional trips in excess of 110 trips per day, given the traffic analysis undertaken in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC and the fact that the highest trip-generating activity is accessing hiking trails, and typically winter sees far-fewer hikers. Thus, there would be no conflict with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b), and impacts would be less than significant.

c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

The 2009 IS/ND/IEC determined that the Original Project would have no impact on increasing traffic hazards. As noted in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, all facilities were planned to meet design standards for grade, width, sight distance, surfacing and other features to avoid creating hazards.

Less-than-Significant Impact. The Modified Project is partly being implemented to provide equitable safety and ADA access to the Park. Existing elements, such as the existing state line marker, would be removed because it is embedded in the Park entrance road and has proven to be a safety hazard with pedestrians standing in the road to take photos. A new state line monument plaza would be constructed to improve safety. In addition, some tree removal is proposed as it would help improve sight lines of the Class I trail. There are no features of the project that would substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature or incompatible uses, especially given that a considerable amount of the Modified Project is being constructed off-road; thus, impacts would be less than significant.

d) Result in inadequate emergency access?

The 2009 IS/ND/IEC determined that the Original Project included provisions to maintain emergency access at all times during construction, noting that temporary traffic control may be needed along Heavenly Village Way or Montreal Road. The Original Project also noted construction BMPs may involve a traffic control plan for TRPA and the City of South Lake Tahoe and that the Conservancy would also notify local residents and businesses regarding construction traffic detours/potential congestion. The implementation of BMPs was selected to ensure that emergency access was not compromised, and no impact was determined.

Less-than-Significant Impact. As identified previously, to prevent potentially significant construction-related traffic impacts, including hindering emergency access, the Modified Project's contractor would implement a construction traffic management plan, per **PDF-TR-1**, prior to the initiation of any construction activities to ensure that access for all road users is maintained near the Modified Project site or impacted to the least extent feasible. In addition, most of the proposed Modified Project construction is being undertaken off-road, thus this wouldn't have an impact, or result in emergency access. Impacts would be less than significant.

e) Generation of 100 or more new Daily Vehicle Trip Ends (DVTE)? (TRPA Item 13a)

The 2009 IS/ND/IEC determined that the Original Project would generate a total of 188 DVTE and 29 one-way peak hour vehicle trips (12 inbound and 17 outbound). According to the TRPA Code, a minor increase in trip generation is an increase of more than 100, but not more than 200 daily vehicle trips, thus a less-than-significant impact was determined.

Less-than-Significant Impact. Since the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the TRPA Code has been updated in line with VMT (TRPA 2025). Per TRPA Code 65.2.3(D)(3), bicycle, pedestrian, and transit projects are screened from further transportation analysis. In addition, as this question is similar in nature to question 3.16.1 b), please see the relevant section above. Impacts would be less than significant.

f) Changes to existing parking facilities, or demand for new parking? (TRPA Item 13b)

The 2009 IS/ND/IEC determined that the Original Project was not expected to result in inadequate parking capacity, with parking demand on the California side of the Park expected to be met through 14 spaces in the day-use area. The Original project noted the peak demand of the proposed uses was based upon the number of persons expected to use the park facilities, the travel modes to the site, and the vehicle occupancies. Given the limited park development proposed, and the proximity of the Park to lodging, transit, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, these spaces are expected to meet the recreational user demand.

Less-than-Significant Impact. The Modified Project would provide an additional five parking spaces (four repurposed spaces and one additional space gained by reconfiguring the parking lot). For the reasons specified in the Original Project, i.e., proximity of the Park to lodging, transit, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and the fact the Modified Project (upon construction completion) would provide even greater pedestrian and bicycle access, it is logical to conclude that changes to existing parking facilities would be less than significant.

g) Substantial impact upon existing transportation systems, including highway, transit, bicycle or pedestrian facilities? (TRPA Item 13c)

The 2009 IS/ND/IEC determined that the Original Project would enhance bicycle and pedestrian opportunities within the surrounding area and that there would be no impact.

Less-than-Significant Impact. The Modified Project would create a greater opportunity for pedestrians and bicyclists to safely access the Park. The Modified Project also supports future trail connections such as the Dennis T. Machida Memorial Greenway (Greenway) shared use trail and an existing connection to the Tahoe Rim Trail. Potential year-round use of the park could generate demand for additional public transit, but as the park users in winter would be substantially fewer than summer, this additional demand is likely to be able to use the existing transit network, without generating a substantial impact. Thus, there would be less-than-significant impacts upon existing transportation systems, including highway, transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities.

h) Alterations to present patterns of circulation or movement of people and/or goods? (TRPA Item 13d)

The 2009 IS/ND/IEC determined that the Original Project would not alter existing circulation patterns or movement of people, but would enhance pedestrian activity in the Heavenly Village/Crescent V Shopping Center area. The Original Project determined no impacts and that Park development would offer pedestrians a new destination with high quality natural and cultural values in contrast to the urban character in the rest of the Stateline area.

No Impact. The Modified Project would create greater opportunity for pedestrians and bicyclists to safely access the Park, and allow for a future connection to the Greenway, and thus would have a beneficial impact on the movement of people. Similarly to the Original Project, the Modified Project would offer pedestrians and cyclists a better Park experience. There would be no impact on present patterns of circulation or movement of people and/or goods.

i) Alterations to waterborne, rail or air traffic? (TRPA Item 13e)

The 2009 IS/ND/IEC determined that the Original Project would have no impact on waterborne, rail, or air traffic as there are no marinas, airports or railway stations near the Original Project area.

No Impact. Similarly to the Original Project, there would be no impact on waterborne, rail, or air traffic as there are no marinas, airports, or railway stations near the Modified Project area.

j) Increase in traffic hazards to motor vehicles, bicyclists, or pedestrians? (TRPA Item 13f)

The 2009 IS/ND/IEC determined that the Original Project would have no impact as although the Original Project included new facilities for motor vehicles, bicyclists and pedestrians, all facilities were planned to meet design standards for grade, width, sight distance, surfacing and other features to avoid creating hazards.

Less-than-Significant Impact. As this question is similar in nature to question 3.16.1 c), please see the relevant section above.

3.18 TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

CEQA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST QUESTIONS	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
XVIII. Tribal Cultural Resources.				
Has a California Native American Tribe requested consultation in accordance with Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1(b)?		Yes		
Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
a) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k)?	No	No	Yes	No
b) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe?	No	Yes	No	No

3.18.1 Discussion

AB 52, signed by the California governor in September 2014, establishes a new class of resources under CEQA: "Tribal cultural resources" defined in PRC Section 21074. It requires lead agencies undertaking CEQA review, upon written request of a California Native American tribe, to begin consultation after the lead agency determines that the application for the project is complete, before a notice of preparation (NOP) of an EIR or notice of intent (NOI) to adopt a negative declaration or mitigated negative declaration is issued. AB 52 also required revision to CEQA Appendix G, the environmental checklist, to address tribal cultural resources.

The NOI for the 2009 IS/ND/IEC was issued before AB 52 went into effect on July 1, 2015. Because the NOI was released before AB 52 went into effect, the 2009 IS/ND/IEC was not required to address impacts on Tribal cultural resources.

This section focuses on the contemporary tribal communities and tribal cultural resources as they pertain to AB 52. This section analyzes and evaluates the potential impacts of the project on Tribal cultural resources, both identified and undiscovered. Tribal cultural resources, as defined by AB 52, Statutes of 2014, in PRC Section 21074, are sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places and objects, with cultural value to a Tribe. A Tribal cultural landscape is defined as a geographic area (including both cultural and natural resources and the wildlife therein), associated with a historic event, activity, or person or exhibiting other cultural or aesthetic values.

Pursuant to PRC Sections 21080.3.1, 21080.3.2, and 21082.3, lead agencies undertaking CEQA review must, upon written request of a California Native American Tribe, begin consultation before the release of an EIR, negative declaration, or mitigated negative declaration.

In June and July of 2024, the Conservancy sent notification letters that the project was being addressed under CEQA, as required by PRC 21080.3.1, to the Native American tribes that had previously requested such notifications.

The Conservancy formally notified the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California (Tribe) about the Modified Project on June 27, 2024. The Washoe Tribe requested consultation under AB 52. As part of the AB 52 consultation process, the Conservancy met with the Washoe Tribe on October 14, 2024. The meeting resulted in an agreement that the Washoe Tribe would participate in and/or conduct a survey of the project site, and that any findings would be documented in the cultural resources memorandum. In addition, the Tribe requested to be involved in the development of interpretive elements, and that a Tribal monitor would be present during ground-disturbing activities to identify and protect any previously unrecorded tribal cultural resources. A representative of the Tribe conducted a pedestrian survey on October 10, 2024, and on July 14, 2025, with Conservancy staff. As a result of the pedestrian survey conducted by the Washoe Tribe, a bedrock milling feature was identified (see Section 3.5, "Cultural Resources"), and the Washoe Tribe requested additional coordination if the Conservancy decided to locate a picnic area near the cultural resource. Subsequently, Conservancy staff decided to relocate the Meadow Picnic Area further away from the cultural resource.

On July 17, 2024, notifications were sent to the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians and the United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria. The Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians and the United Auburn Indian Community) did not request consultation under AB 52.

Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:

a) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k)?

This topic was not previously assessed in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC.

No Impact. No CRHR listed or eligible sites, features, places, or cultural landscapes are located within the project site. Similarly, no sites, features, places, or cultural landscapes that are listed in a local register of historical resources are located within the project site. Therefore, there would be no impact.

b) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe?

This topic was not previously assessed in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC.

Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated. As described in Section 3.5, "Cultural Resources," one new site (Site VS-4), a bedrock milling site, was encountered during survey. Site VS-4 was not evaluated for the CRHR; however it will be assumed to be a tribal cultural resource for the purposes of this IS/MND/IEC. The Conservancy sent AB 52 notifications letters to three tribes, and the Washoe Tribe requested consultation. Consultation resulted in the request for tribal monitoring and for the Washoe Tribe to be involved in the development of interpretive elements related to Site VS-4. In addition, there is potential for ground disturbance activities during project construction to encounter previously undiscovered Tribal cultural resources. These activities could damage or destroy Tribal cultural resources, and this would be a potentially significant impact.

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation Measure MM-TCR-1: Install Interpretative Panel(s)

Prior to project operation, the Conservancy shall develop and install an interpretive panel(s) to convey information about the cultural, historical, and/or archaeological context of the project area. The interpretive panel(s) shall be designed in consultation with the Washoe Tribe. Panel content shall acknowledge the Washoe Tribe's history and affirm the park as part of the Tribe's ancestral and present-day homelands. The location, design, and installation of the interpretive panel(s) shall be coordinated with the Conservancy and Washoe Tribe to ensure protection and respectful interpretation of Tribal cultural resources and raise awareness through the inclusion of the Washoe language.

Mitigation Measure MM-TCR-2: Retain a Tribal Monitor for Ground Disturbance Activities

The Conservancy shall contact the Washoe Tribe at least one month prior to project ground-disturbing activities to retain the services of the Washoe Tribe, or its designee, for Tribal monitoring during ground-disturbing activities. The duration of the construction schedule and Tribal Monitoring shall be determined at this time. The Conservancy shall contact the tribal representative a minimum of 7 days before beginning earthwork or other ground-disturbing activities. The tribal monitor will be invited to be present on-site during all construction phases that involve ground-disturbing activities, including tree removal, boring, excavation, drilling, and trenching. In the event the Tribal Monitor does not report to the job site at the scheduled time after receiving proper notice, activities may proceed without monitoring, and construction workers shall comply with MM-CR-3 and MM-TCR-3 if any potential resources are observed.

Should the tribal monitor be present the Conservancy may request copies of complete daily monitoring logs from the Tribal Historical Preservation Office that provide details on each day's activities, including construction activities, locations, soil, and any cultural materials identified. However, it will be at the discretion of the Tribal Historic Preservation Office to determine what information related to cultural materials from the daily logs may be shared. The on-site monitoring shall end when the site grading and excavation activities are completed or when the Washoe Tribe has indicated, in writing, that the site has a low potential for affecting Tribal cultural resources.

Mitigation Measure MM-TCR-3: Unanticipated Discovery of Tribal Cultural Resources

During ground-disturbing construction activities, if any suspected Tribal Cultural resources or resources of cultural significance to the Washoe Tribe, including but not limited to features, anthropogenic/cultural soils, cultural belongings or objects (artifacts), shell, bone, shaped stones or bone, or ash/charcoal deposits are discovered by any person during construction activities including ground disturbing activities, all work shall pause immediately within 100 feet of the find, or an agreed-upon distance based on the project area and nature of the find. Work shall cease in and within the immediate vicinity of the find regardless of whether the construction is being actively monitored by a Tribal Monitor, cultural resources specialist, or professional archaeologist who meets the secretary of the Interior's professional qualifications. The Conservancy shall implement any measures deemed necessary by the Washoe Tribe for the protection of the tribal cultural resource, with preservation in place being the preferred treatment. The contractor shall not resume work in the area of the discovery until directed to do so by the Conservancy, in coordination with the Washoe Tribe.

Significance after Mitigation

Implementation of Mitigation Measures MM-TCR-1, MM-TCR -2, and MM-TCR-3, would reduce impacts associated with Tribal cultural resources to a less-than-significant level by requiring the installation of an interpretive panel that acknowledges the Washoe Tribe's history and ancestral homelands, requiring a Tribal monitor, and by requiring the appropriate treatment and proper care of significant Tribal cultural resources, in the case of a discovery.

3.19 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

CEQA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST QUESTIONS	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
XIX. Utilities and Service Systems. Would the project:				
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunication facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	No	No	Yes	No
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	No	No	No	Yes
c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand, in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	No	No	No	Yes
d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	No	No	No	Yes
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	No	No	No	Yes

TRPA INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST QUESTIONS	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
16. Utilities.				
Except for planned improvements, will the proposal result in a need for new systems, or substantial alterations to the following utilities:				
f) Power or natural gas? (TRPA Item 16a)	No	No	Yes	No
g) Communication systems? (TRPA Item 16b)	No	No	Yes	No
h) Utilize additional water which amount will exceed the maximum permitted capacity of the service provider? (TRPA Item 16c)	No	No	Yes	No
i) Utilize additional sewage treatment capacity which amount will exceed the maximum permitted capacity of the sewage treatment provider? (TRPA Item 16d)	No	No	Yes	No

	TRPA INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST QUESTIONS	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
j)	Stormwater drainage? (TRPA Item 16e)	No	No	Yes	No
k)	Solid waste and disposal? (TRPA Item 16f)	No	No	No	Yes

3.19.1 Discussion

Section 3.15 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC discusses the affected environment and regulatory setting related to utilities and service systems for the Project site. There are no substantial changes to the setting in the utilities and service systems chapter since preparation of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC. The modifications associated with the Project would not alter the affected environment setting described in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC.

CEQA questions 3.19.1 b) through e) were scoped out of further assessment. See *CEQA Sections Eliminated From Further Analysis*, above.

a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunication facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?

As determined in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the project site is located in an area with minimal existing public drainage facilities, therefore, new storm drainage facilities would be installed to meet all required detention and retention requirements, and to re-route flows in a manner to support SEZ restoration/enhancement and improve water quality. However, no public storm drainage conveyance systems would be affected, and the Original Project would not require the construction of new off-site storm drainage facilities.

Additionally, no new or expanded water, wastewater treatment, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunication facilities would be constructed or relocated as a result of project implementation.

Less-than-Significant Impact. The Modified Project would not result in substantial changes in the environmental setting, and the majority of the Modified Project is being undertaken within the boundary of the previously assessed Original Project. Additionally, the Modified Project would construct new stormwater and snow storage basins, which would reduce potential flooding and water erosion impacts. Similarly, the Modified Project would comply with the RWQCB and NPDES regulations by requiring a subsequent preparation of a SWPPP, which would include implementation of approved local plans, and BMPs related to the control of post-construction sediment and erosion control measures.

The proposed Class 1 trail would pass through a Liberty Utilities power line easement in at least one location. Liberty Utilities has agreed this is permissible and would not require the relocation of its electric power facilities. In addition, construction of the state line monument plaza and its connection to the Class 1 trail in California will require work in the STPUD utility access road. To the extent feasible, the trail connection and plaza will be designed to avoid any impacts to STPUD's utilities in the vicinity of the access road. If it is not possible to avoid all impacts, the design and all construction work will be done in coordination with STPUD and will comply with all applicable permitting requirements. Any necessary alterations would not be substantial, and impacts would be less than significant.

Except for planned improvements, will the proposal result in a need for new systems, or substantial alterations to the following utilities:

f and g) Power or natural gas? Communication systems? (TRPA Item 16a and TRPA Item 16b)

As assessed in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Original Project would not include the addition of new communication systems, power or natural gas services or any alterations to existing systems. Therefore, the Original Project would not result in new or expanded communication systems or power or natural gas services to adequately serve the project.

Less-than-Significant Impact. Similarly, the Modified Project would not increase the number of visitors and would not include the construction of new facilities requiring additional gas or communication systems. Additional site lighting would be installed as part of the Modified Project. However, it is likely that the additional electricity use required would be offset by the elimination of the site host position, hence there would be electrical savings from not having to power the RV/trailer. Please see also response to CEQA questions 3.19.1 a) regarding the Liberty Utilities power line easement.

Additionally, the Modified Project does not include growth-inducing factors that would necessitate new or expanded facilities. Therefore, there would be a less-than-significant impact.

h and i) Utilize additional water which amount will exceed the maximum permitted capacity of the service provider? Utilize additional sewage treatment capacity which amount will exceed the maximum permitted capacity of the sewage treatment provider? (TRPA Item 16c and (TRPA Item 16d)

As assessed in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, domestic service to the California portion of the park is currently provided by STPUD through an existing 2-inch service off Montreal Avenue, and fire protection would be provided by Edgewood Water Company via a 10-inch main line connected to the Edgewood Water Company water tanks. Domestic water demands would be relatively minimal and expected to be approximately 1,750 gallons per day. In addition to outlined service agreements with both water suppliers, the Conservancy CTC would comply with all local, regional, and State water conservation policies and would implement standard best management practices to reduce water consumption. Therefore, the construction of these new water supply facilities would be very minimal.

Less-than-Significant Impact. The Modified Project does not propose the addition of new water or sewage uses and the change in estimated water use would be negligible. Similarly, the Conservancy would continue to be required to comply with all local, regional, and State water conservation policies and would implement standard best management practices to reduce water consumption. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

j) Stormwater drainage? (TRPA Item 16e)

As assessed in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Original Project is located in an area with minimal existing public drainage facilities, therefore, new storm drainage facilities would be installed to meet all required detention and retention requirements and to re-route flows in a manner to support SEZ restoration/enhancement and improve water quality. No public storm drainage conveyance systems would be affected, and the Original Project would not require the construction of new off-site storm drainage facilities. There would be no impact.

Less-than-Significant Impact. As this question is similar in nature to question 3.19.1 a), please see the section above. Impacts would be less than significant.

k) Solid waste and disposal? (TRPA Item 16f)

As assessed in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Conservancy would coordinate solid waste removal for the California day-use facilities through an operations agreement. All solid waste would be transported outside the Lake Tahoe Basin and hauled to transfer stations that move the refuse and solid waste to Lockwood Regional Landfill, located in Storey County, Nevada. The Original Project would generate a minimal amount of additional solid waste through the Park facilities. During construction and operation of the Original Project, restroom facilities would comply with all federal and state solid waste diversion, reduction, and recycling mandates, including compliance with the California Porter-

Cologne Act, the California Integrated Waste Management Plan for El Dorado County, and the local City of South Lake Tahoe statues and regulations related to solid waste. Therefore, the Original Project would not result in new or expanded services needed to adequately serve the project.

No Impact. The Modified Project is not expected to significantly increase the number of visitors and does not include the construction of new solid waste and disposal facilities. Additionally, the Modified Project does not include growth-inducing factors that would necessitate new or expanded facilities. As a result, no changes in solid waste and disposal are expected. Nonetheless, the Modified Project would continue to comply with all federal and state solid waste diversion, reduction, and recycling mandates. Therefore, there would be no impact.

3.20 WILDFIRE

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
XX. Wildfire.				
Is the project located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as high fire hazard severity zones?		Yes		
If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:				
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	No	No	Yes	No
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	No	No	Yes	No
c) Require the installation of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	No	No	Yes	No
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	No	No	Yes	No

3.20.1 Regulatory Setting

EXECUTIVE ORDER B-52-18

On May 10, 2018, in response to the changing environmental conditions and the increased risk to California's citizens, California Governor Brown issued EO B-52-18 to support the state's resilience to wildfire and other climate impacts; to address extensive tree mortality; increase forests' capacity for carbon capture; and to improve forest and forest fire management. EO B-52-18 requires the California Natural Resources Agency, in coordination with other agencies including the State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection, CAL FIRE, to increase the pace and scale of fire fuel treatments on state and private lands. Moreover, EO B-52-18 calls for doubling the land actively managed through vegetation thinning, prescribed burning, and restoration from 250,000 to 500,000 acres per year to reduce wildfire risk. In order to support these efforts, a May 11, 2018, budget revision committed $96 million in additional state funds.

SENATE BILL 1260

On February 15, 2018, Governor Brown signed Senate Bill (SB) 1260 (Chapter 624, Statutes of 2018), which aims to help protect California communities from catastrophic wildfire by improving forest management practices to reduce the risk of wildfires in light of the changing climate. It recognizes that prescribed burning is an important tool to help mitigate and prevent the impacts of wildfire and includes provisions that encourage more frequent use of prescribed burns in managing California's forest lands. SB 1260 also includes provisions for the State Board of Forestry and Fire

Protection's Vegetation Treatment Program PEIR, when certified, to serve as the programmatic environmental document for future prescribed burns in the Sierra-Cascade, central coast, and north coast regions of the state.

PUBLIC RESOURCES CODE

CAL FIRE is required by law to map areas of significant fire hazards based on fuels, terrain, weather, and other relevant factors (PRC Sections 4201-4204; Government Code Sections 51175–51189). Factors that increase an area's susceptibility to fire hazards include slope, vegetation type and condition, and atmospheric conditions. CAL FIRE has identified two types of wildland fire risk areas: (1) wildland areas that may contain substantial forest fire risks and hazards; and (2) very high fire hazard risk zones.

PRC section 4291 gives CAL FIRE the authority to enforce 100 feet of defensible space around all buildings and structures on SRA lands. PRC sections 4790 through 4799.04 provide the regulatory authority for CAL FIRE to administer the California Forest Improvement Program. PRC sections 4113 and 4125 give CAL FIRE the responsibility to prevent and extinguish wildland fires in SRAs. The PRC also includes fire safety statutes that restrict the use of equipment that may produce a spark, flame, or fire; requires the use of spark arrestors on construction equipment with internal combustion engines; specifies requirements for the safe use of gasoline-powered tools in fire hazard areas; and specifies fire suppression equipment that must be provided for various types of work in fire-prone areas.

New development located in SRAs are subject to the following requirements:

- Defensible space of 100 feet around all buildings and structures (PRC section 4291; CCR, title 14, section 1299.03)
- Provision of adequate emergency access and egress (PRC sections 4290 and 4291; CCR, title 14, sections 1273.01–1273.09)
- Emergency water requirements (CCR, title 14, sections 1275.01–1275.04)

CAL FIRE

CAL FIRE is dedicated to the fire protection and stewardship of over 31 million acres of the state's privately owned wildlands. In addition, CAL FIRE provides emergency services in 36 of the state's 58 counties via contracts with local governments. PRC section 4291 gives CAL FIRE the authority to enforce 100 feet of defensible space around all buildings and structures on nonfederal SRA lands, or non-federal forest-covered lands, brush-covered lands, grass-covered lands, or any land that is covered with flammable material. PRC sections 4790 through 4799.04 provide the regulatory authority for CAL FIRE to administer the California Forest Improvement Program. PRC sections 4113 and 4125 give CAL FIRE the responsibility for preventing and extinguishing wildland fires in the SRA (PRC sections 4113 and 4125). The PRC, beginning with Section 4427, includes fire safety statutes that restrict the use of equipment that may produce a spark, flame, or fire; require the use of spark arrestors on construction equipment with internal combustion engines; specify requirements for the safe use of gasoline-powered tools in fire hazard areas; and specify fire suppression equipment that must be provided on site for various types of work in fire-prone areas.

2024 STRATEGIC FIRE PLAN FOR CALIFORNIA

The 2024 Strategic Plan prepared by CAL FIRE and the California Natural Resources Agency lays out central goals for reducing and preventing the impacts of fire in the state. The goals are meant to establish, through local, state, federal, and private partnerships, a natural environment that is more resilient and human-made assets that are more resistant to the occurrence and effects of wildland fire. The goals of the 2024 Strategic Plan include: improving core capabilities; enhancing internal operations; ensuring health and safety; and building an engaged, motivated, and innovative workforce.

In addition to the 2024 Strategic Plan, individual CAL FIRE units develop fire plans, which are major strategic documents that establish a set of tools for each CAL FIRE unit for its local area. Updated annually, unit fire plans identify wildfire protection areas, initial attack success, assets and infrastructure at risk, prefire management

strategies, and accountability within their unit's geographical boundaries. The unit fire plan identifies strategic areas for prefire planning and fuel treatment as defined by the people who live and work locally. The plans include contributions from local collaborators and stakeholders and are aligned with other plans for the area.

CALIFORNIA FIRE CODE

The California Fire Code (CFC) is contained within CCR, title 24. The CFC establishes requirements for development design to safeguard public health, safety, and general welfare from the hazards of fire. This includes standards on building design, materials, fire flow, and other suppression provisions. The CFC also regulates the use, handling, and storage requirements for hazardous materials at fixed facilities. The CFC and the California Building Code use a hazard classification system to determine what protective measures are required to protect life and provide fire safety. These measures may include applying construction standards, requiring separation between structures and property lines, and using specialized equipment. To ensure that these safety measures are met, the CFC employs a permit system based on hazard classification. The CFC is updated every three years. Chapter 23 of the CFC provides specific standards for the construction and operation of motor fuel dispensing facilities that includes emergency shut-off systems, leak detection, secondary containment, and fuel delivery nozzle design requirements that includes vapor recovery to avoid fire hazards.

TAHOE REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY

Regional Plan for the Lake Tahoe Basin

The TRPA's Regional Plan lists the following policy that is applicable to the Modified Project: Chapter 2, Land Use Element, Natural Hazards, Policy 3: Inform residents and visitors of the wildfire hazard associated with occupancy in the Basin. Encourage use of fire-resistant materials and fire preventative techniques when constructing structures, especially in the highest fire hazard areas. Manage forest fuels to be consistent with state laws and other goals and policies of this plan.

Fuels Reduction and Forest Restoration Plan

In response to public concern over hazardous fuel conditions, local jurisdictions completed Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) in 2004 (updated in 2025) to identify and prioritize hazardous fuel reduction projects in and adjacent to their communities over a ten-year period. Regulatory agencies in the Basin, including the TRPA, Lahontan RWQCB, and CAL FIRE, have cooperatively modified regulations and ordinances to facilitate hazardous fuel removal projects. The Fuels Reduction and Forest Restoration Plan was drafted upon previous efforts and synthesizes the CWPPs for the seven fire protection districts to identify Basin-wide fuel reduction needs and the resources needed to implement a Basin-wide hazardous fuels reduction Plan. Fuels reduction and forest health projects are designed to change vegetation conditions to modify fire behavior and reduce the potential for high-intensity wildfire by altering three primary fuel conditions as necessary: surface fuels, ladder fuels, and tree density. The primary management objective in the wildland urban interface (WUI) would be fuel hazard reduction to protect communities from wildfire, with forest structure and wildlife habitat as secondary objectives. Outside of the WUI, forest structure and wildlife habitat would be the primary management objectives.

Tahoe-Douglas & Lake Valley Fire Protection District

Both local fire districts are responsible for reviewing all project site plans for compliance with fire code requirements for emergency response, primary and secondary ingress and egress, and fire flow capacity standards. Based on each district's interlocal agreement with the State Fire Marshall, plans will need to also be reviewed at a state level. Site plan review by the local fire districts will include review for compliance with fire code related measures such as fire flow, hydrant spacing, appropriately sized roadway widths for ingress, egress, turning radii standards, and roadway design standards related to grade, weight bearing loads, and bump-out lanes for emergency access.

3.20.2 Discussion

At the time the 2009 IS/ND/IEC was certified (i.e., April of 2009), the State CEQA Guidelines did not identify wildfire as a resource area in Appendix G. Thus, the 2009 IS/ND/IEC did not provide an environmental or regulatory setting to characterize wildfire impacts. The California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) adopted revisions to the CEQA Guidelines that became effective on December 28, 2018. These revisions included the addition of wildfire as a separate subsection within Appendix G.

CAL FIRE identifies Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZs) at the local, state, and federal level, all of which cover fire-prone areas in the state regardless of land ownership or responsibility. According to mapping conducted by CAL FIRE the project site is located within a very high FHSZ split between Local Responsibility Area (LRA), State Responsibility Area (SRA), and federal (U.S. Forest Service) lands (CAL FIRE 2026a). The incorporated jurisdictional portion of the project site is served by El Dorado County's Lake Valley Fire Protection District (El Dorado County 2002).

The WUI is the zone of transition between unoccupied land and human development. It is the line, area, or zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels. Communities adjacent to and surrounded by wildland are at varying degrees of risk from wildfires. The Modified Project is located within an area where the predominant WUI classifications are high (CAL FIRE 2026b). This means that there are residences in the project vicinity that could be exposed to fire risk.

a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

This impact was not assessed in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC.

Less-than-Significant Impact. The Modified Project would be designed in accordance to state and local fire and emergency access requirements, which includes site plan review by Tahoe-Douglas & Lake Valley Fire Protection District, ensuring that the Modified Project would not impair an adopted emergency response plan or evacuation procedures in the project area. However, as identified previously in Section 3.16.1 d), to prevent potentially significant construction-related traffic impacts, including hindering emergency access, the Modified Project's contractor would implement a construction traffic management plan, per **PDF-TR-1**, prior to the initiation of any construction activities to ensure that access for all road users is maintained near the Modified Project site or impacted to the least extent feasible. In addition, most of the proposed Modified Project construction is being undertaken off-road. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?

This impact was not assessed in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC.

Less-than-Significant Impact. Although the Modified Project site is located within a very high FHSZ, fire risk within the Modified Project area would generally be lower than the wider area due to the generally flat terrain and the inclusion of proposed tree thinning, thereby reducing potential fuel and ignition sources. Modified Project-related construction and maintenance activities would be limited in duration and the only activities that could produce a spark, fire, or flames would be from equipment and vehicles. The Modified Project would not result in the construction or operation of project components that would affect wind direction or speed. Therefore, the Modified Project would not exacerbate wildfire risks due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors. Thus, impacts would be less than significant.

c) Require the installation of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?

This impact was not assessed in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC.

Less-than-Significant Impact. The Modified Project would not result in activities that would exacerbate fire risk, and no new construction or expansion of electrical infrastructure would occur. The Modified Project would be subject to

local and state requirements related to construction activities and ensuring proper defensible space protocols and distances to address fire hazards. Additionally, select tree thinning would further reduce fire fuel and mitigate the risk of wildland fire within the Park and the adjacent communities. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?

This impact was not assessed in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC.

Less-than-Significant Impact. Construction and operation of the Modified Project would not expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes because Modified Project elements would not substantially alter existing gradients or topography to the extent that structures or residents in the Modified Project area would be impacted following a wildfire. The existing topography of the Modified Project area is relatively flat and is not susceptible to landslides. As discussed in more detail in Section 3.7, "Geology and Soils," the Modified Project is located primarily on lands with a moderate land capability. Both the proposed Class 1 trail, and the parking lot would be graded and paved and would meet all applicable design standards. The Barn Trail would be graded and stabilized and the proposed improvements to stormwater drainage would further mitigate any increased runoff flows. Additionally, given the moderate grade of the Modified Project area, implementation of the Modified Project would not result in post-fire slope instability or substantial runoff. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

3.21 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS AND MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

CEQA ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST QUESTIONS	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
XIX. Mandatory Findings of Significance.				
a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of an endangered, rare, or threatened species, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	No	Yes	No	No
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)	No	Yes	No	No
c) Does the project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	No	No	Yes	No

TRPA INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST QUESTIONS	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
21. Findings of Significance. (TRPA Item 21)				
d) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California or Nevada history or prehistory? (TRPA Item 21a)	No	Yes	No	No
e) Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of long-term, environmental goals? (A short-term impact on the environment is one which occurs in a relatively brief, definitive period of time, while long-term impacts will endure well into the future.) (TRPA Item 21b)	No	No	Yes	No

	TRPA INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST QUESTIONS	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less-Than-Significant Impact	No Impact
f)	Does the project have impacts which are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project may impact on two or more separate resources where the impact on each resource is relatively small, but where the effect of the total of those impacts on the environmental is significant?) (TRPA Item 21c)	No	Yes	No	No
g)	Does the project have environmental impacts which will cause substantial adverse effects on human being, either directly or indirectly? (TRPA Item 21d)	No	No	Yes	No

3.21.1 Discussion

Section 15130(a) of the State CEQA Guidelines requires a discussion of the cumulative impacts of a project when the project's incremental effect is cumulatively considerable. The goal of such an exercise is twofold: first, to determine whether the overall long-term impacts of all such projects would be cumulatively significant; and second, to determine whether the incremental contribution to any such cumulatively significant impacts by the project would be "cumulatively considerable" (and thus significant). (See State CEQA Guidelines Sections 15130[a]–[b], Section 15355[b], Section 15064[h], and Section 15065[c]; and *Communities for a Better Environment v. California Resources Agency* [2002] 103 Cal. App. 4th 98, 120.) In other words, the required analysis intends first to create a broad context in which to assess cumulative impacts, viewed on a geographic scale beyond the project site itself, and then to determine whether the project's incremental contribution to any significant cumulative impacts from all projects is itself significant (i.e., "cumulatively considerable").

Cumulative impacts are defined in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15355 as "two or more individual effects which, when considered together, are considerable or which compound or increase other environmental impacts." A cumulative impact is "the change in the environment which results from the incremental impact of the project when added to other closely related past, present, and reasonably foreseeable probable future projects. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant projects taking place over a period of time" (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15355[b]).

Consistent with State CEQA Guidelines Section 15130, the discussion of cumulative impacts in this IS/MND/IEC focuses on significant and potentially significant cumulative impacts. Section 15130(b) of the State CEQA Guidelines provides, in part, the following:

> "[t]he discussion of cumulative impacts shall reflect the severity of the impacts and their likelihood of occurrence, but the discussion need not provide as great detail as is provided for the effects attributable to the project alone. The discussion should be guided by the standards of practicality and reasonableness, and should focus on the cumulative impact to which the identified other projects contribute rather than the attributes of other projects which do not contribute to the cumulative impact."

A proposed project is considered to have a significant cumulative effect if:

- the cumulative effects of development without the project are not significant and the project's additional impact is substantial enough, when added to the cumulative effects, to result in a significant impact; or
- the cumulative effects of development without the project are already significant and the project contributes measurably to the effect.

The term "measurably" is subject to interpretation. The standards used herein to determine measurability are that the impact must be noticeable to a reasonable person or must exceed an established threshold of significance.

Table 3.21-1 includes a list of present and reasonably foreseeable future projects within the vicinity of the Modified Project area. A list of past projects was not included in Table 3.21-1 because the environmental effects of these actions are already considered as part of the existing baseline cumulative condition. Table 3.21-1 includes projects for which a development application has been submitted or is anticipated to be submitted within the near future and projects that have the possibility of interacting with the Van Sickle Bi-State Park Safety and Equitable Access Improvements Project to generate a cumulative impact.

Table 3.21-1 Cumulative Projects List

Project Name	Location	Description	Project Status
Van Sickle Bi-State Park, Phase 3	Van Sickle Bi-State Park (NV side)	NDSP's proposed Phase 3 improvements for the Nevada side of the Park include: 1. New Visitor Center at the Nevada Day Use Area. The Visitor Center will include a gift shop, interpretation space, customer service desk, public restrooms, and Park and regional offices for NDSP. 2. A maintenance shop and two duplex units to provide housing for Park employees. 3. A new pedestrian state line monument plaza and removal of the existing stamped concrete state line marker in the Park entrance road. This may include modifying or rebuilding a portion of the existing utility access road on the California side of the state line. See the description of the State Line Monument Plaza in Section 2.2.1 for more details on the monument plaza. 4. New paved trail connection from the new state line monument to the Nevada day-use area. 5. Expanded parking to accommodate additional visitors and new facilities. 6. Winter snow storage to accommodate year-round vehicle access.	Construction expected to start in 2026
Dennis T. Machida Memorial Greenway Phase 3 Class 1 trail Project	Van Sickle Bi-State Park (CA side)	The Conservancy's Greenway trail is designed to connect to the Modified Project at a new intersection with the Park entrance trail, on the north side of the meadow, near the Meadow Picnic Area. The northernmost section of the Greenway Phase 3 project, which begins at Chonokis Road and is also known as the Greenway - Van Sickle Connector, will be constructed in conjunction with the Modified Project.	Construction expected to start in 2030 onwards
Stateline to Van Sickle Multi-Use Path	Lake Parkway, City of South Lake Tahoe	The Tahoe Transportation District (TTD) proposes to connect the new Park Class 1 trails to the South Lake Tahoe tourist core area at Bellamy Court by constructing a new bridge over Lake Parkway with paved trails on both sides (EIP project #03.02.02.0122). This bridge was originally described in TTD's approved US 50/South Shore Community Revitalization Project (US 50/SSCRP). The Conservancy owns the land upon which TTD has proposed to construct some of these improvements.	2026 – 2032
Gondola Vista Residential Accessory Structure and Street Frontage Improvements Project	Gondola Vista, City of South Lake Tahoe	The Gondola Vista Development Company has proposed to construct sidewalks and a surface level Lake Parkway crossing just west of the Park as part of the Gondola Vista Residential Accessory Structure and Street Frontage Improvements Project	Unknown

Project Name	Location	Description	Project Status
Stateline Complete Streets	City of South Lake Tahoe	The project seeks to rehabilitate Stateline Avenue and adjacent streets to provide safer pedestrian and bike access, lake access, and improved stormwater infrastructure. Informal dirt parking on shoulders and lack of sidewalk creates conflicts with pedestrians. Informal dirt parking also generates sediment that runs off directly to the lake. The project looks to replace existing failing pipe with a new stormwater system that includes treatment while simultaneously addressing the unsecured shoulders. Constructing pedestrian and bike enhancements for the major tourist area is supported by The Tourist Core Area Plan. The project will be designed to connect to Park Avenue and Lakeshore Boulevard paths.	2034-2036

Source: Compiled by Ascent 2026.

a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of an endangered, rare, or threatened species, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

As determined in Section 2.17 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Original Project determined that due to the proximity to an urbanized area and existing disturbance within the Original Project site from undesignated trail use and unimproved maintenance roadways, the Original Project was not expected to: reduce the habitat of fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, or reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal. The Original Project would result in the removal of existing trees on the site. However, it was determined that all applicable regulations, plans, and standards, such as TRPA Code Section 71.2.A, would be followed in the removal of the trees. The Original Project would result in a moderate amount of excavation activities that could unearth historic, archaeological or paleontological resources. However, it was determined that if buried resources are discovered, the NDSP and the Conservancy would implement procedures outlined in the Cultural Resources Chapter of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC to ensure that all potential impacts are less than significant.

Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated. Similarly to the Original Project and as described in the Technical Assessment of Biological Resources for the Van Sickle Bi-State Park Safety and Equitable Access Improvements Project (Appendix A), the Modified Project is located in an urban area that already experiences substantial human disturbance and noise. Due to existing land uses (e.g., recreation and access infrastructure) and disturbed conditions, the mixed conifer and riparian habitats in the Modified Project area are not expected to support breeding habitat suitable for any sensitive fish or wildlife species. The Modified Project is not within an area mapped as Critical Habitat for Threatened & Endangered Species by USFWS, nor mapped as a Natural Areas Small - California Essential Habitat Connectivity (CEHC) or Essential Connectivity Areas CEHC by CDFW. The Modified Project would not create barriers to wildlife movement through the area and would not isolate or fragment any habitat areas or cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels. With incorporation of Mitigation Measures MM-BIO-1 and MM-BIO-2 and PDF-BIO-1, potential impacts on special-status wildlife and plants would be reduced to less than significant.

In terms of impacts on important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory, no new built environment (historical) resources were identified at the Modified Project site as a result of the 2024 and 2025 pedestrian survey and the Modified Project would not alter or cause adverse physical or aesthetic effects to the historic complex. However, the results of the pedestrian survey resulted in the identification of one archaeological site. Implementation of Mitigation Measure MM-CR-1, MM-CR-2, and MM-CR-3 would reduce impacts on archaeological resources by requiring surveys of areas that were not surveyed due to Modified Project site conditions (e.g., snow), by establishing an ESA around the unevaluated archaeological resource located in proximity to proposed ground disturbing activities, by requiring that steps be taken in the event that archaeological resources are encountered during Modified Project construction. Therefore, with the implementation of Mitigation Measures MM-CR-1, MM-CR-2, and MM-CR-3 impacts on impacts on archaeological resources would be less than significant. In

addition, there is potential for ground disturbance activities during project construction to encounter previously undiscovered Tribal cultural resources. Implementation of Mitigation Measures MM-TCR-1, MM-TCR -2, and MM-TCR-3, would reduce impacts associated with Tribal cultural resources to a less-than-significant level by requiring the installation of an interpretive panel that acknowledges the Washoe Tribe's history and ancestral homelands, requiring a Tribal monitor, and by requiring the appropriate treatment and proper care of significant Tribal cultural resources, in the case of a discovery.

Mitigation Measures and Project Design Features

MM-BIO-1 and MM-BIO-2; MM-CR-1, MM-CR-2, and MM-CR-3; MM-TCR-1, MM-TCR -2, and MM-TCR-3; and PDF-BIO-1.

b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)

As determined in Section 2.17 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Original Project noted that since the Original Project was not expected to have significant effects, i.e., it was a negative declaration, it would thus not contribute to significant cumulative effects. In addition, environmental issues specific to site conditions, such as site soils, sensitive land capability, and biological resources (e.g., tree removal) were not expected to have cumulative effects. Furthermore, the Original Project was not growth-inducing and not expected to contribute to population growth. As discussed in each individual section of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, all Original Project impacts were identified as either less than significant or no impact. Therefore, Original Project effects would not be cumulatively considerable under CEQA.

Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated. The following section contains a discussion of the cumulative effects anticipated from implementation of the Modified Project, together with related projects and planned development in the vicinity of the Park, for each of the environmental issue areas evaluated in this IS/MND/IEC. The analysis conforms with Section 15130(b) of the State CEQA Guidelines which specifies that the "discussion of cumulative impacts shall reflect the severity of the impacts and their likelihood of occurrence, but the discussion need not provide as great detail as is provided for the effects attributable to the project alone. The discussion should be guided by the standards of practicality and reasonableness, and should focus on the cumulative impact to which the identified other projects contribute rather than the attributes of other projects which do not contribute to the cumulative impact."

When considered in relation to other reasonably foreseeable projects, cumulative impacts on some resources have the potential to be significant and more severe than those caused by the Modified Project alone. For purposes of this IS/MND/IEC, the Modified Project would result in a significant cumulative effect if:

- the cumulative effects of related projects (past, current, and probable future projects) are not significant and the incremental impact of implementing the project is substantial enough, when added to the cumulative effects of related projects, to result in a new cumulatively significant impact; or
- the cumulative effects of related projects (past, current, and probable future projects) are already significant and implementation of the project makes a considerable contribution to the effect. The standards used herein to determine a considerable contribution are that either the impact must be substantial or must exceed an established threshold of significance.

This cumulative analysis assumes that all mitigation measures identified in Chapter 3 to mitigate Modified Project impacts are adopted and implemented, and all elements of the design-build performance criteria and BMPs that would minimize environmental effects are implemented. The analysis herein analyzes whether, after implementation of Modified Project-specific mitigation and performance criteria that minimize environmental effects, the residual impacts of the Modified Project would cause a cumulatively significant impact or would contribute considerably to existing/anticipated (without the Modified Project) cumulatively significant effects. If the Modified Project would so contribute, additional mitigation would be recommended where feasible; however, because all impacts are determined to be less than significant with the previously identified mitigation measures, no additional mitigation is recommended.

Aesthetics

As described in Section 3, "CEQA Sections Eliminated From Further Analysis" all the thresholds adopted from Appendix G related to aesthetics were determined to not warrant a detailed evaluation in this IS/MND/IEC. Therefore, the project's incremental contribution to the less-than-significant aesthetic cumulative effects would not be cumulatively considerable. This impact would be less than significant.

Agriculture and Forestry Resources

As described in Section 3, "CEQA Sections Eliminated From Further Analysis," all the questions adopted from Appendix G related to agricultural resources were determined to not warrant a detailed evaluation in this IS/MND/IEC. Therefore, the project's incremental contribution to the less-than-significant agricultural resources cumulative effects would not be cumulatively considerable. This impact would be less than significant.

In terms of forestry resources, as described in Section 3.2.2, all the questions adopted from Appendix G related to forestry resources were determined to result in a less-than-significant impact. Therefore, the project's incremental contribution to the less-than-significant forestry resources cumulative effects would not be cumulatively considerable. This impact would be less than significant.

Air Quality

As described in Section 3, "CEQA Sections Eliminated From Further Analysis," the questions adopted from Appendix G related to odors was determined to not warrant a detailed evaluation in this IS/MND/IEC. Therefore, the project's incremental contribution to the less-than-significant odors cumulative effects would not be cumulatively considerable. This impact would be less than significant.

As described in Section 3.3.2, all the questions adopted from Appendix G related to air quality were determined to result in a less-than-significant impact. Therefore, the project's incremental contribution to the less-than-significant air quality cumulative effects would not be cumulatively considerable. This impact would be less than significant.

Biological Resources

As described in Section 3.4.1, all the questions adopted from Appendix G related to biological resources were determined to result in a less-than-significant impact, with the exception of question 3.4.1a) have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species. Therefore, the project's incremental contribution to the less-than-significant biological resources cumulative effects would not be cumulatively considerable for all questions except 3.4.1a). This impact would be less than significant.

In terms of question 3.4.1a), while development of the Modified Project would result in potentially significant impacts on special-status wildlife or plant species, these potential impacts would be mitigated to less-than-significant levels with implementation of Mitigation Measures MM-BIO-1 and MM-BIO-2. Implementation of these mitigation measures would ensure no significant impacts would occur to onsite special-status species. Therefore, with regulatory compliance and implementation of Mitigation Measures MM-BIO-1 and MM-BIO-2, the Modified Project's incremental contribution to the significant cumulative effects to biological resources would not be cumulatively considerable. This impact would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

Cultural Resources

As described in Section 3.5.1, all the threshold questions adopted from Appendix G related to cultural resources were determined to result in a less-than-significant impact, with the exception of question 3.5.1b) cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5. Therefore, the project's incremental contribution to the less-than-significant cultural resources cumulative effects would not be cumulatively considerable for all questions except 3.5.1b). This impact would be less than significant.

In terms of question 3.5.1b), while development of the Modified Project would result in potentially significant impacts on archaeological resources, these potential impacts would be mitigated to less-than-significant levels with implementation of Mitigation Measures MM-CR-1, MM-CR-2 and MM-CR-3. Implementation of these mitigation

measures would ensure no significant impacts would occur to archeological resources. Therefore, with regulatory compliance and implementation of Mitigation Measures MM-CR-1, MM-CR-2 and MM-CR-3, the Modified Project's incremental contribution to the significant cumulative effects to archeological resources would not be cumulatively considerable. This impact would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

Energy

As described in Section 3.6.2, all the questions adopted from Appendix G related to energy were determined to result in a less-than-significant impact. Therefore, the project's incremental contribution to the less-than-significant energy cumulative effects would not be cumulatively considerable. This impact would be less than significant.

Geology and Soils

As described in Section 3, "CEQA Sections Eliminated From Further Analysis" all the questions adopted from Appendix G related to geology and soils were determined to not warrant a detailed evaluation in this IS/MND/IEC. Therefore, the project's incremental contribution to the less-than-significant geology and soils cumulative effects would not be cumulatively considerable. This impact would be less than significant.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

As described in Section 3.8.2, all the questions adopted from Appendix G related to greenhouse gas emissions were determined to result in a less-than-significant impact. Therefore, the project's incremental contribution to the less-than-significant greenhouse gas emissions cumulative effects would not be cumulatively considerable. This impact would be less than significant.

Hazards and Hazardous Materials

As described in Section 3, "CEQA Sections Eliminated From Further Analysis" all the questions adopted from Appendix G related to hazards and hazardous materials were determined to not warrant a detailed evaluation in this IS/MND/IEC. Therefore, the project's incremental contribution to the less-than-significant hazards and hazardous materials cumulative effects would not be cumulatively considerable. This impact would be less than significant.

Hydrology and Water Quality

As described in Section 3, "CEQA Sections Eliminated From Further Analysis" all the questions adopted from Appendix G related to hydrology and water quality were determined to not warrant a detailed evaluation in this IS/MND/IEC. Therefore, the project's incremental contribution to the less-than-significant hydrology and water quality cumulative effects would not be cumulatively considerable. This impact would be less than significant.

Land Use and Planning

As described in Section 3, "CEQA Sections Eliminated From Further Analysis" all the questions adopted from Appendix G related to land use and planning were determined to not warrant a detailed evaluation in this IS/MND/IEC. Therefore, the project's incremental contribution to the less-than-significant land use and planning cumulative effects would not be cumulatively considerable. This impact would be less than significant.

Mineral Resources and Natural Resources

As described in Section 3, "CEQA Sections Eliminated From Further Analysis" all the questions adopted from Appendix G related to mineral resources and natural resources were determined to not warrant a detailed evaluation in this IS/MND/IEC. Therefore, the project's incremental contribution to the less-than-significant mineral resources and natural resources cumulative effects would not be cumulatively considerable. This impact would be less than significant.

Noise

As described in Section 3, "CEQA Sections Eliminated From Further Analysis" all the questions adopted from Appendix G related to noise were determined to not warrant a detailed evaluation in this IS/MND/IEC. Therefore, the project's incremental contribution to the less-than-significant noise cumulative effects would not be cumulatively considerable. This impact would be less than significant.

Population and Housing

As described in Section 3, "CEQA Sections Eliminated From Further Analysis" all the questions adopted from Appendix G related to population and housing were determined to not warrant a detailed evaluation in this IS/MND/IEC. Therefore, the project's incremental contribution to the less-than-significant population and housing cumulative effects would not be cumulatively considerable. This impact would be less than significant.

Public Services

As described in Section 3.14.1, all the questions adopted from Appendix G related to public services were determined to result in a less-than-significant impact. Therefore, the project's incremental contribution to the less-than-significant public services cumulative effects would not be cumulatively considerable. This impact would be less than significant.

Recreation

As described in Section 3.15.1, all the questions adopted from Appendix G related to recreation were determined to result in a less-than-significant impact. Therefore, the project's incremental contribution to the less-than-significant recreation cumulative effects would not be cumulatively considerable. This impact would be less than significant.

Transportation/Traffic and Circulation

As described in Section 3.16.1, all the questions adopted from Appendix G related to transportation, traffic and circulation were determined to result in a less-than-significant impact. Therefore, the project's incremental contribution to the less-than-significant transportation, traffic and circulation cumulative effects would not be cumulatively considerable. This impact would be less than significant.

Tribal Cultural Resources

As described in Section 3.17.1, all the questions adopted from Appendix G related to tribal cultural resources were determined to result in a less-than-significant impact, with the exception of question 3.17.1b) regarding the significance of a tribal cultural resource pursuant to PRC 5024.1. Therefore, the project's incremental contribution to the less-than-significant tribal cultural resources cumulative effects would not be cumulatively considerable for all questions except 3.17.1b). This impact would be less than significant.

In terms of question 3.17.1b), while development of the Modified Project would result in potentially significant impacts on a tribal cultural resource, these potential impacts would be mitigated to less-than-significant levels with implementation of Mitigation Measures MM-TCR-1, MM-TCR-2 and MM-TCR-3. Implementation of these mitigation measures would ensure no significant impacts would occur to tribal cultural resources. Therefore, with regulatory compliance and implementation of Mitigation Measures MM-TCR-1, MM-TCR-2 and MM-TCR-3, the Modified Project's incremental contribution to the significant cumulative effects to tribal cultural resources would not be cumulatively considerable. This impact would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

Utilities and Service Systems

As described in Section 3, "CEQA Sections Eliminated From Further Analysis" the questions adopted from Appendix G related to water supplies, wastewater treatment and solid waste were determined to not warrant a detailed evaluation in this IS/MND/IEC. Therefore, the project's incremental contribution to the less-than-significant water supplies, wastewater treatment and solid waste cumulative effects would not be cumulatively considerable. This impact would be less than significant.

As described in Section 3.18.1, the question adopted from Appendix G related to relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunication facilities was determined to result in a less-than-significant impact. Therefore, the project's incremental contribution to the less-than-significant utilities and service systems cumulative effects would not be cumulatively considerable. This impact would be less than significant.

Wildfire

As described in Section 3.19.2, all the questions adopted from Appendix G related to wildfire were determined to result in a less-than-significant impact. Therefore, the project's incremental contribution to the less-than-significant wildfire cumulative effects would not be cumulatively considerable. This impact would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures

MM-BIO-1 and MM-BIO-2; MM-CR-1, MM-CR-2, and MM-CR-3; MM-TCR-1, MM-TCR -2, and MM-TCR-3.

c) Does the project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

As determined in in Section 2.17 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Original Project does not involve any activities during construction or operations that are expected to cause adverse effects on human beings. Temporary adverse effects, such as increased air emission levels during construction could be reduced to a less than significant level through the implementation of BMPs. Therefore, the Original Project was not expected to have the potential to directly or indirectly cause any adverse effects on human beings, and thus there would be no impact.

Less-than-Significant Impact. Similarly, the Modified Project does not involve any activities during construction or operations that are expected to cause adverse effects on human beings, as the intent of the Modified Project is to provide safe and equitable access to the Park. In addition, as noted with the Original Project, the use of BMPs, (and in the case of the Modified Project mitigation measures and project design features), would help minimize temporary construction related impacts. As such, impacts would be less than significant.

d) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California or Nevada history or prehistory? (TRPA Item 21a)

This impact was not assessed in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC.

Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated. The Modified Project is not being constructed in Nevada, thus would have a less-than-significant impact on the environment, flora and fauna and history and prehistory of Nevada. With respect to California, as this question is similar in nature to question 3.20.1 a), please see the section above. Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

e) Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of long-term, environmental goals? (A short-term impact on the environment is one which occurs in a relatively brief, definitive period of time, while long-term impacts will endure well into the future.) (TRPA Item 21b)

As determined in in Section 2.17 of the 2009 IS/ND/IEC, the Original Project does not have the potential to achieve short-term environmental goals at the disadvantage of long-term environmental goals. The Original Project would achieve and maintain long-term environmental goals by providing a recreational amenity within the South Lake Tahoe and Stateline community, as supported by NDSP park planning documents, TRPA Regional Plan documents, and the Conservancy's program guidelines. There would be no impact.

Less-than-Significant Impact. As the Modified Project builds on the progress made by the Original Project, and the intent of the Modified Project is to provide safe and equitable access to the Park, the Modified Project would also not have the potential to achieve short-term environmental goals at the disadvantage of long-term environmental goals, and is equally supported by NDSP park planning documents, TRPA Regional Plan documents, and the Conservancy's program guidelines. Impacts would be less than significant.

f) Does the project have impacts which are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project may impact on two or more separate resources where the impact on each resource is relatively small, but where the effect of the total of those impacts on the environmental is significant?) (TRPA Item 21c)

Less-than-Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated. As this question is similar in nature to question 3.20.1 b), please see the section above. Impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

g) Does the project have environmental impacts which will cause substantial adverse effects on human being, either directly or indirectly? (TRPA Item 21d)

This impact was not assessed in the 2009 IS/ND/IEC.

Less-than-Significant Impact. As this question is similar in nature to question 3.20.1 c), please see the section above. Impacts would be less than significant.

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Appendix A

Technical Assessment of Biological Resources for the Van Sickle Bi-State Park Safety and Equitable Access Improvements Project

Memo

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Date: March 19, 2026

To: Scott Cecchi, Project Manager, California Tahoe Conservancy

From: Joshua Boldt, Senior Botanist
Steve Henderson, Senior Wildlife Biologist

Subject: Technical Assessment of Biological Resources for the Van Sickle Bi-State Park Safety and Equitable Access Improvements Project

INTRODUCTION

This memorandum presents the results of a biological resources technical assessment for the Van Sickle Bi-State Park (park) Safety and Equitable Access Improvements Project (Modified Project), which includes modifications to the original Van Sickle Bi-State Park project evaluated in the Van Sickle CA/NV Bi-State Park Initial Study/Negative Declaration/Expanded Initial Environmental Checklist (IS/ND/IEC) (Conservancy 2009). Previously completed protocol-level surveys conducted for American goshawk, California spotted owl, Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog, and rare plants for the 2009 IS/ND/IEC have expired. The primary purpose of this assessment is to: 1) summarize information for existing biological resources within and in the vicinity of the Modified Project, 2) identify whether some of the previously completed protocol-level surveys would need to be repeated prior to environmental review or project construction, and 3) determine whether surveys for other species or resources would be needed. This memorandum is also intended to support the forthcoming preparation of required California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA) environmental review documentation as well as any other regulatory compliance efforts that may be needed to proceed with the proposed project. Conclusions about impact significance are provided in the CEQA document.

In December 2024, an initial biological resources technical memorandum was prepared for the original proposed project and submitted to the California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy), based on surveys conducted within the original project footprint. Following submittal of the 2024 memorandum, the project footprint was revised and expanded, and additional reconnaissance-level biological surveys were conducted in October 2025 to address the modified and newly included areas. The combined survey extent – encompassing both the original project footprint surveyed in 2024 and the additional areas surveyed in 2025 – is referred to herein as the Study Area.

Subsequently, the project was further refined, resulting in the current Modified Project Area, which is entirely within, but not identical to, the Study Area. The Study Area includes adjacent lands outside the Modified Project Area to provide environmental context and support a comprehensive characterization of biological resources. However, consistent with CEQA requirements, the impact analysis presented in this technical memorandum is limited to activities and potential effects within the Modified Project Area.

DATA SOURCES

The information and analysis presented in this memorandum is focused on special-status species, wildlife habitats, vegetation communities, and potentially jurisdictional waters of the US and of the state that occur or have the potential to occur within or adjacent to the Modified Project Area. The results of the assessment are based upon literature review and database queries as well as reconnaissance-level surveys conducted within the Study Area. The sources of reference data reviewed for this evaluation included the following:

- Van Sickle CA/NV Bi-State Park IS/ND/IEC (California Tahoe Conservancy 2009);
- South Lake Tahoe USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle;
- Google Earth aerial photographs of the project area (Google Earth 2025);
- US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) System (USFWS 2025a) (see Attachment A);
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) list of special-status species occurrences within the South Lake Tahoe and seven surrounding USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangles (Echo Lake, Emerald Bay, Freel Peak, Glenbrook, Meeks Bay, Minden, and Woodfords) (CDFW 2025a) (see Attachment A);
- California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants known to occur within the South Lake Tahoe and seven surrounding USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangles (CNPS 2025a) (see Attachment A);
- GIS occurrence data for TRPA special interest wildlife and sensitive plant species (TRPA 2025);
- National Wetlands Inventory (USFWS 2025b);
- US Geological Survey (USGS) National Hydrography Dataset (USGS 2025); and
- Western Monarch and Milkweed Occurrence Database (WMMOD 2018)

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

Prior to conducting the field survey, available information regarding biological resources in the vicinity of the Study Area was gathered and reviewed, including information on special-status plant and wildlife species with the potential to occur in the vicinity of the Study Area. Queries of the CNDDB, CNPS, and USFWS IPaC databases were conducted prior to the surveys. Lists of special-status plant and wildlife species with the potential to occur in the Study Area were developed based on the review of existing information, as identified above. These lists were used to focus the area of investigation on the special-status species and associated habitats with the potential to be present within the Study Area.

Biological resources within the Study Area were evaluated through field reconnaissance and habitat assessment surveys conducted on August 7 and October 8, 2024; and October 24 and 31, 2025. The surveys were conducted by walking the Study Area and recording existing habitat types, plants, and wildlife species within this area. Plant communities and wildlife habitats were identified using aerial photo interpretation and field reconnaissance. Prior to the field surveys, special-status species characteristics and habitat requirements were reviewed to aid in field recognition of suitable habitats. During the surveys, habitats were evaluated for their potential to support special-status species and the presence of any other biologically sensitive resources such as wetlands, riparian habitat, or drainages. While a formal aquatic resources delineation was not conducted, potential wetlands and other waters of the US and state were noted within the Study Area based on field observations and aerial photography interpretation. No focused or protocol-level surveys for special-status species were conducted.

EXISTING CONDITIONS

WILDLIFE HABITATS

Sierran Mixed Conifer Forest

Sierran mixed conifer forest is the most prevalent habitat type throughout much of the Study Area. Jeffrey pine (*Pinus jeffreyi*) is the dominant species found in varying densities in the upper canopy layer of this habitat type, with white fir (*Abies concolor*) also occurring. The understory consists of a variety of shrubs, grasses, and forbs, including green-leaf manzanita (*Arctostaphylos patula*), mountain whitethorn (*Ceanothus cordulatus*), Sierra chinquapin (*Chrysolepis sempervirens*), and tobacco brush (*Ceanothus velutinus*). Big sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*), antelope bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*), and rubber rabbitbrush (*Ericameria nauseosa*) are found in openings in the forest.

Montane Riparian Scrub

Patches of montane riparian habitat exist within the overall Sierran mixed conifer habitat and within and adjacent to the meadow complex (described below). Montane riparian habitat is composed of broad-leafed deciduous trees and shrubs. This habitat type is dominated by willow, specifically Scouler's willow (*Salix scouleriana*), Lemmon's willow (*Salix lemmonii*), and mountain alder (*Alnus incana*), with interior rose (*Rosa woodsii*) and currant (*Ribes* sp.) occurring in the shrub layer. A variety of grasses and forbs are found in the understory, including blue wildrye (*Elymus glaucus*), meadow barley (*Hordeum brachyantherum*), thimbleberry (*Rubus parviflorus*), rushes (*Juncus* spp.), and sedges (*Carex* spp.). This habitat occurs in discontinuous patches along the existing roadway and in areas with a higher water table as well as in patches within the wet meadow and as a narrow strip adjacent to the intermittent channel.

Perennial Grassland Meadow

A large meadow complex occurs just south of the existing entry road to the park (within the Study Area but outside the Modified Project Area). This meadow is a mosaic of wetland (described below) and upland habitats. Perennial grassland habitat in the project area is dominated by perennial grasses such as Idaho bentgrass (*Agrostis idahoensis*) and slender wheatgrass (*Elymus trachycaulus*) and dry sedges (*Carex* spp.). This habitat occurs in the drier portions of meadow.

Wet Meadow

Wet meadows at all elevations generally have a simple structure consisting of a layer of herbaceous plants. Shrub or tree layers are usually absent or very sparse; however, they can be an important feature of the meadow edge. Wet meadow habitat type within the Study Area is characterized by sedges (*Carex* spp.), rushes (*Juncus* spp.) tufted hair grass (*Deschampsia caespitosa)*. Shrubs and small trees including Lemmon's willow and aspen (*Populus tremuloides*) occur in patches along the wetland edge and along the intermittent creek channel that flows through the meadow complex. This habitat type occurs within the Study Area but outside the Modified Project Area.

ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

STATE AND FEDERAL PROTECTED AQUATIC RESOURCES

Analysis

In California, aquatic resources are regulated under several federal and state laws and regulations, including the federal Clean Water Act (CWA), the State Wetland Definition and Procedures for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Material to Waters of the State (State Wetland Procedures), and California Fish and Game Code.

A formal delineation of potentially jurisdictional wetlands and other waters of the US and/or state within the Study Area has not been conducted. However, based on the reconnaissance surveys, potentially jurisdictional aquatic resources occur within the Study Area, but outside the Modified Project Area. Potentially jurisdictional aquatic resources within the Study Area comprise areas of montane riparian and wet meadow habitat. These areas support several hydrophytic plant species, including Scouler's willow (wetland indicator status FAC[1]), Lemmon's willow (FACW), mountain alder (FACW), meadow barley (FACW), tufted hairgrass (FACW), rushes (FACW-OBL), and sedges (FACW-OBL).

CLEAN WATER ACT ANALYSIS

The montane riparian and wet meadow habitat features in the Study Area support a predominance of hydrophytic species and may meet the CWA criteria of a wetland, depending on site-specific soils and hydrologic conditions. Under the CWA, wetlands must typically exhibit three parameters: (1) wetland hydrology, (2) hydrophytic vegetation, and (3) hydric soils to meet the federal definition of a wetland. As noted, montane riparian and wet meadow habitats in the Study Area support a predominance of hydrophytic species, although scientific data on the soil and hydrology of these features was not collected during the reconnaissance survey. However, easily observable evidence of wetland hydrology was investigated. The current definition of waters of the United States requires that jurisdictional wetlands be adjacent to and have a continuous surface connection with a water of the United States.

For the features north of the existing entry road (within the Modified Project Area), no obvious indications of adjacency or continuous surface connections to waters of the US were observed during the reconnaissance survey, and no evidence of wetland hydrology was observed. Therefore, these features would not be regulated under the Clean Water Act.

The wet meadow and montane riparian features south of the existing entry road (outside of the Modified Project Area) are drained by an intermittent channel that flows through the meadow complex and drains off the site to the west. This channel may provide adjacency to a downstream water of the United States; therefore, the wet meadow and montane riparian features south of the existing entry road (outside of the Modified Project Area) may be regulated under the Clean Water Act. These features are not expected to be impacted by the Modified Project.

[1] Wetland indicator status denotes the probability of a species occurring in wetland habitats. OBL = Obligate wetland plant – almost always occurs in wetlands under natural conditions (>99% probability). FACW = Facultative wetland plant – usually occurs in wetlands, but occasionally found in non-wetlands (67%-99% probability). FAC = Facultative plant – equally likely to occur in wetlands and non-wetlands (34%-66% probability).

STATE WETLAND PROCEDURES ANALYSIS

These features may qualify as waters of the state and be regulated by the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Lahontan RWQCB) under the State Wetland Procedures, The State Water Resources Control Board has adopted the following definition of wetlands:

> *An area is wetland if, under normal circumstances, (1) the area has continuous or recurrent saturation of the upper substrate caused by groundwater or shallow surface water or both; (2) the duration of such saturation is sufficient to cause anaerobic conditions in the upper substrate; and (3) the area's vegetation is dominated by hydrophytes or the area lacks vegetation.*

Unlike the current definition of waters of the US, the State Wetland Procedures do not require adjacency or a continuous surface connection for a wetland feature to be considered jurisdictional. The montane riparian and wet meadow habitat features in the Study Area support a predominance of hydrophytic species, although scientific data on the soil and hydrology of these features were not collected during the reconnaissance survey. However, easily observable evidence of wetland hydrology was investigated. For the features north of the existing entry road (within the Modified Project Area), no evidence of wetland hydrology was observed. Therefore, these features would not be regulated under the State Wetland Procedures, However, the wet meadow and montane riparian features south of the existing entry road (outside of the Modified Project Area) did exhibit secondary indicators of wetland hydrology (i.e., saturation visible on aerial imagery) and could potentially support hydric soils. Therefore, the wet meadow and montane riparian features south of the existing entry road may be regulated by the RWQCB under the State Wetland Procedures. These features are not expected to be impacted by the Modified Project.

FISH AND GAME CODE SECTION 1600 ANALYSIS

Pursuant to Division 2, Chapter 6, Section 1600 et seq. of the FGC, CDFW regulates all diversions, obstructions, or changes to the natural flow or bed, channel or bank of any river, stream, or lake that supports fish or wildlife. In addition, CDFW has authority under FGC 1600 et seq. over wetland and riparian habitats associated with lakes and streams. The montane riparian habitats north of the existing entry road (within the Modified Project Area) are not associated with any lakes or streams. Therefore, these features would not be regulated FGC Section 1600 et seq. The montane riparian and wet meadow habitats south of the existing entry road (outside of the Modified Project Area) are associated with an intermittent stream channel. Therefore, it is likely that these features would be regulated FGC Section 1600 et seq. These features are not expected to be impacted by the Modified Project.

Recommendations

As currently designed, the Modified Project would not have any impacts to potentially jurisdictional aquatic resources. As described above, the montane riparian habitat features north of the existing entry road (within the Modified Project Area) would not be regulated under the CWA, State Wetland Procedures, or Fish and Game Code 1600 et seq. The montane riparian and wet meadow habitats south of the existing entry road (outside of the Modified Project Area) are likely to be regulated under the CWA, State Wetland Procedures, and FGC Section 1600 et seq.

However, if project plans are modified and direct impacts to these features are anticipated, prior to any work in potentially jurisdictional aquatic resources, the Conservancy, as project proponent, shall conduct a formal aquatic resources delineation and acquire all applicable wetland and waters permits and, if required by US Army Corps of Engineers, Lahontan RWQCB, and/or CDFW, would adhere to any compensatory mitigation requirements for impacts to wetlands. For wetlands that are jurisdictional under the Clean Water Act, this would be a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit. For wetlands that are jurisdictional under the State Wetland Procedures, this would be a Waste Discharge Requirements permit or a permit to comply with Section 401 of the Clean Water Act from the Lahontan RWQCB. For features regulated under FGC Section 1600 et seq., this would be a Streambed Alteration Agreement from CDFW.

SENSITIVE NATURAL COMMUNITIES AND HABITATS

Analysis

Sensitive habitats include those that are of special concern to resource agencies or are afforded specific consideration through the TRPA Goals and Policies and TRPA Code, CDFW's Sensitive Natural Communities List, Section 404 of the CWA, and other applicable regulations. Sensitive habitats may be of special concern to these agencies and conservation organizations for a variety of reasons, including their locally or regionally declining status, or because they provide important habitat to common and special-status species. Sensitive natural communities are those native plant communities defined by CDFW as having limited distribution statewide or within a county or region and that are often vulnerable to environmental effects of projects (CDFW 2025b). These communities may or may not contain special-status plants or their habitat. CDFW designates sensitive natural communities based on their state rarity and threat ranking using NatureServe's Heritage Methodology. Natural communities with rarity ranks of S1 to S3, where S1 is critically imperiled, S2 is imperiled, and S3 is vulnerable, are considered sensitive natural communities to be addressed in the environmental review processes of CEQA and its equivalents (CDFW 2024). Many riparian plant communities qualify as sensitive natural communities based on the plant associations therein.

Sensitive natural communities are generally identified at the alliance level of vegetation classification hierarchy using the Manual of California Vegetation (CNPS 2025b). The Study Area contains montane riparian and wet meadow habitat (only montane riparian habitat occurs within the Modified Project Area). Scouler's willow, Lemmon's willow, mountain alder, interior rose, and currant were observed in the Study Area in montane riparian habitat, and sedges and rushes were observed in the wet meadow features. Areas dominated by these species may be considered sensitive natural communities if the species assemblage, percent cover, and patch size are sufficient to meet membership rules and sensitive natural community requirements.

Habitats consisting of deciduous trees, wetlands, and meadows (i.e., riparian, wetland, and meadow habitats) are designated by TRPA as habitats of special significance. The TRPA threshold standard for habitats of special significance is nondegradation. Additionally, most wetland and riparian habitats in the Tahoe Basin are also designated as stream environment zone (SEZ), which is a land designation unique to the Lake Tahoe Basin that includes lands that owe their physical and biological characteristics to the presents of surface water or shallow groundwater. SEZs provide a variety of critical functions in the Tahoe Basin, including water quality maintenance through nutrient cycling and sediment retention, flood attenuation, infiltration and groundwater recharge, open space, scenic and recreational enjoyment, wildlife habitat, and wildfire abatement. The TRPA threshold standard for SEZs is to preserve SEZ function, restore all undeveloped SEZ, restore 25 percent of disturbed SEZ, increase SEZ function by 5 percent, and restore wetlands.

A Land Capability Classification was conducted in June 2003 for the previous Van Sickle CA/NV Bi-State Park project. This classification was verified by TRPA in October 2003. This classification shows portions of SEZs or SEZ buffers within the Modified Project Area. The TRPA Code of Ordinances (Code) restricts additional coverage within SEZs and SEZ buffers. However, the Code includes an exception for public outdoor recreation facilities (Code Section 30.5.2).

Recommendations

A qualified biologist should conduct a survey following CDFW's *Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Sensitive Natural Communities* prior to project construction (CDFW 2018). Any sensitive natural communities that may be present within the Modified Project Area) would be mapped by a qualified biologist during this survey.

In addition, if direct impacts to SEZs or SEZ buffers are anticipated, prior to any work in these features, the Conservancy shall acquire all applicable permits from TRPA and, if required by TRPA, would adhere to any mitigation requirements for impacts to SEZs or SEZ buffer (as prescribed by TRPA Code Section 30.5.1.B.5).

SPECIAL-STATUS PLANTS

Analysis

Special-status plant species are defined here as:

- plants listed or proposed for listing as threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act (50 Code of Federal regulations 17.12);
- plants that are candidates for possible future listing as threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act;
- plants listed or proposed for listing by the State of California as threatened or endangered under the California Endangered Species Act (14 California Code of Regulations 670.2);
- plants listed as rare or endangered under the California Native Plant Protection Act (California Fish and Game Code, Section 1900 et seq.);
- plants that meet the definitions of rare and endangered under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). CEQA Section 15380 provides that a plant or animal species may be treated as "rare or endangered" even if not on one of the official lists (State CEQA Guidelines, Section 15380); and
- plants considered to be "rare, threatened or endangered in California" according to the California Rare Plant Rank 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B, 3, and 4 (CNPS 2025a).

A preliminary list of special-status plant species known or with potential to occur in the Study Area was developed based on a review of the sources listed at the beginning of this chapter. Suitable habitat for eight special-status plant species was observed within the Study Area. Project implementation could result in direct or indirect adverse effects on those special-status plant species, if present in the Modified Project Area.

Recommendations

Special-status plant surveys conducted in the project area in 2002 and 2003 are no longer valid. Therefore, a qualified botanist should conduct protocol-level surveys for special-status plant species with the potential to occur in the Study Area. The survey will follow the methods in the current version of CDFW's *Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Sensitive Natural Communities* (CDFW 2018). Surveys to determine the presence or absence of special-status plant species will be conducted in suitable habitat that could be affected by the Modified Project and timed to coincide with the blooming or other appropriate phenological period of the target species (as determined by a qualified botanist).

SPECIAL-STATUS WILDLIFE

Analysis

Special-status wildlife species are defined here as:

- animal species listed or proposed for listing as threatened or endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA; 50 CFR 17.11 for listed animals, and various notices in the Federal Register for proposed species) or candidates for possible future listing as threatened or endangered under ESA (75 CFR 69222);
- species listed or candidates for listing by the State of California as threatened or endangered under CESA (14 Cal. Code Regs., Section 670.5);
- animals fully protected under the California Fish and Game Code (FGC) (Section 3511 for birds, Section 4700 for mammals, Section 5050 for reptiles and amphibians, and Section 5515 for fish);
- species designated as a sensitive, special interest, or threshold species by TRPA (TRPA Code Chapters 61, 62, and 63);
- animals identified by CDFW as species of special concern;
- species considered locally significant, that is, a species that is not rare from a statewide perspective but is rare or uncommon in a local context such as within a county or region (CEQA Section 15125 (c)) or is so designated in local or regional plans, policies, or ordinances (CEQA Guidelines, Appendix G); or
- species that otherwise meets the definition of rare or endangered under CEQA Guidelines Section 15380.

The Modified Project is located in an urban area that already experiences substantial human disturbance and noise. Due to existing land uses (e.g., recreation and access infrastructure), disturbances within and adjacent to the Study Area, and the biophysical conditions of habitats, the mixed conifer, riparian, and meadow habitats in the Study Area are not expected to support breeding habitat suitable for any sensitive wildlife species that may be subject to protocol-level surveys. Additionally, the Study Area is not located within any nest buffers or disturbance/threshold zones for TRPA special interest wildlife species (i.e., American goshawk, golden eagle, peregrine falcon, osprey, bald eagle, waterfowl). Therefore, Modified Project implementation is not expected to cause a substantial direct or indirect effect on special-status wildlife species.

Recommendations

Because the Study Area is not expected to support breeding occurrences of any special-status wildlife species or result in substantial direct or indirect effects on these species, no additional focused or protocol-level surveys for special-status wildlife are recommended.

NESTING MIGRATORY BIRDS

Analysis

Mixed conifer, montane riparian, aspen, and meadow habitats in the Study Area provide nesting habitat for some common bird species. Nesting raptors and other birds are protected under California Fish and Game Code and the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act. The nesting season for most avian species in the Tahoe region is generally considered to be March 1–August 31, depending on species, snowpack, and other seasonal conditions. If nesting

birds are present in the Study Area, construction-related vegetation removal or other ground disturbances during the nesting season could result in direct loss of active nests or disturbance to active nests from auditory and visual stimuli, potentially resulting in abandonment and loss of eggs or chicks.

Recommendations

For vegetation removal and other ground-disturbing activities scheduled to occur during the nesting season (defined here as March 1 to August 31, except where otherwise specified for select species), we recommend that a qualified biologist conduct a preconstruction survey for nesting birds within two weeks prior to the start of Modified Project activities that may disturb nests. If active nests are found, we recommend identifying and implementing an appropriate no-disturbance buffer and limited operating period based on species- and site-specific factors such as the species nesting biology and sensitivity to disturbance, nest location in proximity to construction activities, and ambient noise and other disturbance levels.

REFERENCES

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WMMOD. *See* Western Monarch and Milkweed Occurrence Database.

Attachment A

Special-Status Species Database
Search Results

IPaC resource list

This report is an automatically generated list of species and other resources such as critical habitat (collectively referred to as *trust resources*) under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) jurisdiction that are known or expected to be on or near the project area referenced below. The list may also include trust resources that occur outside of the project area, but that could potentially be directly or indirectly affected by activities in the project area. However, determining the likelihood and extent of effects a project may have on trust resources typically requires gathering additional site-specific (e.g., vegetation/species surveys) and project-specific (e.g., magnitude and timing of proposed activities) information.

Below is a summary of the project information you provided and contact information for the USFWS office(s) with jurisdiction in the defined project area. Please read the introduction to each section that follows (Endangered Species, Migratory Birds, USFWS Facilities, and NWI Wetlands) for additional information applicable to the trust resources addressed in that section.

Location

California and Nevada



Local office

Reno Fish And Wildlife Office

(775) 861-6300
(775) 861-6301

1340 Financial Boulevard, Suite 234
Reno, NV 89502-7147

Endangered species

This resource list is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an analysis of project level impacts.

The primary information used to generate this list is the known or expected range of each species. Additional areas of influence (AOI) for species are also considered. An AOI includes areas outside of the species range if the species could be indirectly affected by activities in that area (e.g., placing a dam upstream of a fish population even if that fish does not occur at the dam site, may indirectly impact the species by reducing or eliminating water flow downstream). Because species can move, and site conditions can change, the species on this list are not guaranteed to be found on or near the project area. To fully determine any potential effects to species, additional site-specific and project-specific information is often required.

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act **requires** Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of such proposed action" for any project that is conducted, permitted, funded, or licensed by any Federal agency. A letter from the local office and a species list which fulfills this requirement can **only** be obtained by requesting an official species list from either the Regulatory Review section in IPaC (see directions below) or from the local field office directly.

For project evaluations that require USFWS concurrence/review, please return to the IPaC website and request an official species list by doing the following:

1. Draw the project location and click CONTINUE.
2. Click DEFINE PROJECT.
3. Log in (if directed to do so).
4. Provide a name and description for your project.
5. Click REQUEST SPECIES LIST.

Listed species[1] and their critical habitats are managed by the Ecological Services Program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the fisheries division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Fisheries[2]).

Species and critical habitats under the sole responsibility of NOAA Fisheries are **not** shown on this list. Please contact NOAA Fisheries for species under their jurisdiction.

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1. Species listed under the Endangered Species Act are threatened or endangered; IPaC also shows species that are candidates, or proposed, for listing. See the listing status page for more information. IPaC only shows species that are regulated by USFWS (see FAQ).
2. NOAA Fisheries, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

The following species are potentially affected by activities in this location:

Mammals

NAME	STATUS
Gray Wolf Canis lupus There is **final** critical habitat for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4488	Endangered
Sierra Nevada Red Fox Vulpes vulpes necator No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4252	Endangered

Birds

NAME	STATUS
California Spotted Owl Strix occidentalis occidentalis No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7266	Proposed Threatened

Reptiles

NAME	STATUS
Northwestern Pond Turtle Actinemys marmorata Wherever found No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1111	Proposed Threatened

Amphibians

NAME	STATUS
Sierra Nevada Yellow-legged Frog Rana sierrae Wherever found There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9529	Endangered

Fishes

NAME	STATUS
Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Oncorhynchus clarkii henshawi Wherever found No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3964	Threatened

Insects

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly Danaus plexippus Wherever found There is **proposed** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Proposed Threatened

Critical habitats

Potential effects to critical habitat(s) in this location must be analyzed along with the endangered species themselves.

There are no critical habitats at this location.

You are still required to determine if your project(s) may have effects on all above listed species.

Bald & Golden Eagles

Bald and Golden Eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act [2] and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) [1]. Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to Bald or Golden Eagles, or their nests, should follow appropriate regulations and implement required avoidance and minimization measures, as described in the various links on this page.

The data in this location indicates that no eagles have been observed in this area. This does not mean eagles are not present in your project area, especially if the area is difficult to survey. Please review the 'Steps to Take When No Results Are Returned' section of the Supplemental Information on Migratory Birds and Eagles document to determine if your project is in a poorly surveyed area. If it is, you may need to rely on other resources to determine if eagles may be present (e.g. your local FWS field office, state surveys, your own surveys).

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds
- Nationwide avoidance and minimization measures for birds https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action

Bald and Golden Eagle information is not available at this time

Bald & Golden Eagles FAQs

What does IPaC use to generate the potential presence of bald and golden eagles in my specified location?

The potential for eagle presence is derived from data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are an eagle (Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act requirements may apply).

Proper interpretation and use of your eagle report
On the graphs provided, please look carefully at the survey effort (indicated by the black vertical line) and for the existence of the "no data" indicator (a red horizontal line). A high survey effort is the key component. If the survey effort is high, then the probability of presence score can be viewed as more dependable. In contrast, a low survey effort line or no data line (red horizontal) means a lack of data and, therefore, a lack of certainty about presence of the species. This list is not perfect; it is simply a starting point for identifying what birds have the potential to be in your project area, when they might be there, and if they might be breeding (which means nests might be present). The list and associated information help you know what to look for to confirm presence and helps guide you in knowing when to implement avoidance and minimization measures to eliminate or reduce potential impacts from your project activities or get the appropriate permits should presence be confirmed.

How do I know if eagles are breeding, wintering, or migrating in my area?

To see what part of a particular bird's range your project area falls within (i.e. breeding, wintering, migrating, or resident), you may query your location using the RAIL Tool and view the range maps provided for birds in your area at the bottom of the profiles provided for each bird in your results. If an eagle on your IPaC migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it (indicated by yellow vertical bars on the phenology graph in your “IPaC PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY” at the top of your results list), there may be nests present at some point within the timeframe specified. If "Breeds elsewhere" is indicated, then the bird likely does not breed in your project area.

Interpreting the Probability of Presence Graphs

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:
The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.

To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is 0.25/0.25 = 1; at week 20 it is 0.05/0.25 = 0.2.

The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

Breeding Season ()
Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

Survey Effort ()
Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

No Data ()
A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

Survey Timeframe
Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.

Migratory birds

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) [1] prohibits the take (including killing, capturing, selling, trading, and transport) of protected migratory bird species without prior authorization by the Department of Interior U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).

1. The Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918.
2. The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940.

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Management https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds
- Nationwide avoidance and minimization measures for birds
- Supplemental Information for Migratory Birds and Eagles in IPaC https://www.fws.gov/media/supplemental-information-migratory-birds-and-bald-and-golden-eagles-may-occur-project-action

Migratory bird information is not available at this time

Migratory Bird FAQs

Tell me more about avoidance and minimization measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds.

Nationwide Avoidance & Minimization Measures for Birds describes measures that can help avoid and minimize impacts to all birds at any location year-round. When birds may be breeding in the area, identifying the locations of any active nests and avoiding their destruction is one of the most effective ways to minimize impacts. To see when birds are most likely to occur and breed in your project area, view the Probability of Presence Summary. Additional measures or permits may be advisable depending on the type of activity you are conducting and the type of infrastructure or bird species present on your project site.

What does IPaC use to generate the list of migratory birds that potentially occur in my specified location?

The Migratory Bird Resource List is comprised of Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) and other species that may warrant special attention in your project location, such as those listed under the Endangered Species Act or the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and those species marked as “Vulnerable”. See the FAQ “What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?” for more information on the levels of concern covered in the IPaC migratory bird species list.

The migratory bird list generated for your project is derived from data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) with which your project intersects. These species have been identified as warranting special attention because they are BCC species in that area, an eagle (Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act requirements may apply), or a species that has a particular vulnerability to offshore activities or development.

Again, the Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in your project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in your project area. To get a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, and to verify survey effort when no results present, please visit the Rapid Avian Information Locator (RAIL) Tool.

Why are subspecies showing up on my list?

Subspecies profiles are included on the list of species present in your project area because observations in the AKN for **the species** are being detected. If the species are present, that means that the subspecies may also be present. If a subspecies shows up on your list, you may need to rely on other resources to determine if that subspecies may be present (e.g. your local FWS field office, state surveys, your own surveys).

What does IPaC use to generate the probability of presence graphs for the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?

The probability of presence graphs associated with your migratory bird list are based on data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). This data is derived from a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets.

Probability of presence data is continuously being updated as new and better information becomes available. To learn more about how the probability of presence graphs are produced and how to interpret them, go to the Probability of Presence Summary and then click on the "Tell me about these graphs" link.

How do I know if a bird is breeding, wintering, or migrating in my area?

To see what part of a particular bird's range your project area falls within (i.e. breeding, wintering, migrating, or resident), you may query your location using the RAIL Tool and view the range maps provided for birds in your area at the bottom of the profiles provided for each bird in your results. If a bird on your IPaC migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it (indicated by yellow vertical bars on the phenology graph in your “IPaC PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY” at the top of your results list), there may be nests present at some point within the timeframe specified. If "Breeds elsewhere" is indicated, then the bird likely does not breed in your project area.

What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?

Migratory birds delivered through IPaC fall into the following distinct categories of concern:

1. "BCC Rangewide" birds are Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) that are of concern throughout their range anywhere within the USA (including Hawaii, the Pacific Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands);
2. "BCC - BCR" birds are BCCs that are of concern only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA; and
3. "Non-BCC - Vulnerable" birds are not BCC species in your project area, but appear on your list either because of the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act requirements (for eagles) or (for non-eagles) potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities (e.g. offshore energy development or longline fishing).

Although it is important to avoid and minimize impacts to all birds, efforts should be made, in particular, to avoid and minimize impacts to the birds on this list, especially BCC species. For more information on avoidance and minimization measures you can implement to help avoid and minimize migratory bird impacts, please see the FAQ “Tell me more about avoidance and minimization measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds”.

Details about birds that are potentially affected by offshore projects

For additional details about the relative occurrence and abundance of both individual bird species and groups of bird species within your project area off the Atlantic Coast, please visit the Northeast Ocean Data Portal. The Portal also offers data and information about other taxa besides birds that may be helpful to you in your project review. Alternately, you may download the bird model results files underlying the portal maps through the NOAA NCCOS Integrative Statistical Modeling and Predictive Mapping of Marine Bird Distributions and Abundance on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf project webpage.

Proper interpretation and use of your migratory bird report

The migratory bird list generated is not a list of all birds in your project area, only a subset of birds of priority concern. To learn more about how your list is generated and see options for identifying what other birds may be in your project area, please see the FAQ "What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location". Please be aware this report provides the "probability of presence" of birds within the 10 km grid cell(s) that overlap your project; not your exact project footprint. On the graphs provided, please look carefully at the survey effort (indicated by the black vertical line) and for the existence of the "no data" indicator (a red horizontal line). A high survey effort is the key component. If the survey effort is high, then the

probability of presence score can be viewed as more dependable. In contrast, a low survey effort bar or no data bar means a lack of data and, therefore, a lack of certainty about presence of the species. This list does not represent all birds present in your project area. It is simply a starting point for identifying what birds of concern have the potential to be in your project area, when they might be there, and if they might be breeding (which means nests might be present). The list and associated information help you know what to look for to confirm presence and helps guide implementation of avoidance and minimization measures to eliminate or reduce potential impacts from your project activities, should presence be confirmed. To learn more about avoidance and minimization measures, visit the FAQ "Tell me about avoidance and minimization measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds".

Interpreting the Probability of Presence Graphs
Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:
The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.

To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is 0.25/0.25 = 1; at week 20 it is 0.05/0.25 = 0.2.

The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

Breeding Season ()
Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

Survey Effort ()
Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps.

No Data ()
A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

Survey Timeframe
Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.

Facilities

National Wildlife Refuge lands

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the National Wildlife Refuge system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

There are no refuge lands at this location.

Fish hatcheries

There are no fish hatcheries at this location.

Wetlands in the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)

Impacts to NWI wetlands and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District.

Please note that the NWI data being shown may be out of date. We are currently working to update our NWI data set. We recommend you verify these results with a site visit to determine the actual extent of wetlands on site.

This location overlaps the following wetlands:

FRESHWATER EMERGENT
WETLAND
PEM1B

PEM1A

FRESHWATER
FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND
PSS1B

RIVERINE
R4SBA

A full description for each wetland code can be found at the National Wetlands Inventory website

NOTE: This initial screening does **not** replace an on-site delineation to determine whether wetlands occur. Additional information on the NWI data is provided below.

Data limitations

The Service's objective of mapping wetlands and deepwater habitats is to produce reconnaissance level information on the location, type and size of these resources. The maps are prepared from the analysis of high altitude imagery. Wetlands are identified based on vegetation, visible hydrology and geography. A margin of error is inherent in the use of imagery; thus, detailed on-the-ground inspection of any particular site may result in revision of the wetland boundaries or classification established through image analysis.

The accuracy of image interpretation depends on the quality of the imagery, the experience of the image analysts, the amount and quality of the collateral data and the amount of ground truth verification work conducted. Metadata should be consulted to determine the date of the source imagery used and any mapping problems.

Wetlands or other mapped features may have changed since the date of the imagery or field work. There may be occasional differences in polygon boundaries or classifications between the information depicted on the map and the actual conditions on site.

Data exclusions

Certain wetland habitats are excluded from the National mapping program because of the limitations of aerial imagery as the primary data source used to detect wetlands. These habitats include seagrasses or submerged aquatic vegetation that are found in the intertidal and subtidal zones of estuaries and nearshore coastal waters. Some deepwater reef communities (coral or tuberficid worm reefs) have also been excluded from the inventory. These habitats, because of their depth, go undetected by aerial imagery.

Data precautions

Federal, state, and local regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands may define and describe wetlands in a different manner than that used in this inventory. There is no attempt, in either the design or products of this inventory, to define the limits of proprietary jurisdiction of any Federal, state, or local government or to establish the geographical scope of the regulatory programs of government agencies. Persons intending to engage in activities involving modifications within or adjacent to wetland areas should seek the advice of appropriate Federal, state, or local agencies concerning specified agency regulatory programs and proprietary jurisdictions that may affect such activities.

CNPS Rare Plant Inventory

California Native Plant Society

Search Results

45 matches found. Click on scientific name for details

Search Criteria: , 9-Quad include [3811987:3811978:3811977:3811988:3911918:3812081:3912011:3812071]

▲ SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FAMILY	LIFEFORM	BLOOMING PERIOD	FED LIST	STATE LIST	CA RARE PLANT RANK	GENERAL HABITATS	MICROHABITATS	LOWEST ELEVATION (FT)	HIGHEST ELEVATION (FT)	CA ENDEMIC	DATE ADDED	PHOTO
Arabis rigidissima var. *demota*	Galena Creek rockcress	Brassicaceae	perennial herb	Jul-Aug	None	None	1B.2	Broadleafed upland forest, Upper montane coniferous forest	Rocky	7400	8400		1994-01-01	No Photo Available
Astragalus austiniae	Austin's astragalus	Fabaceae	perennial herb	(May)Jul-Sep	None	None	1B.3	Alpine boulder and rock field, Subalpine coniferous forest	Rocky	8005	9745		2013-12-04	 © 2017 John Doyen
Boechera tularensis	Tulare rockcress	Brassicaceae	perennial herb	(May)Jun-Jul(Aug)	None	None	1B.3	Subalpine coniferous forest, Upper montane coniferous forest	Roadsides (sometimes), Rocky, Slopes	5990	10990	Yes	2011-07-05	No Photo Available

Bolandra californica	Sierra bolandra	Saxifragaceae	perennial herb	Jun-Jul	None	None	4.3	Lower montane coniferous forest, Upper montane coniferous forest	Mesic, Rocky	3200	8040	Yes	1974-01-01	No Photo Available
Botrychium ascendens	upswept moonwort	Ophioglossaceae	perennial rhizomatous herb	(Jun)Jul-Aug	None	None	2B.2	Lower montane coniferous forest, Meadows and seeps	Mesic	3660	9990		1994-01-01	 © 2005 Steve Matson
Botrychium crenulatum	scalloped moonwort	Ophioglossaceae	perennial rhizomatous herb	Jun-Sep	None	None	2B.2	Bogs and fens, Lower montane coniferous forest, Marshes and swamps (freshwater), Meadows and seeps, Upper montane coniferous forest		4160	10760		1984-01-01	 © 2016 Steve Matson

Botrychium minganense	Mingan moonwort	Ophioglossaceae	perennial rhizomatous herb	Jul-Sep(Oct)	None	None	4.2	Bogs and fens, Lower montane coniferous forest, Meadows and seeps (edges), Upper montane coniferous forest	Mesic	3905	10795	1994-01-01	 © 2011 Aaron E. Sims
Brasenia schreberi	watershield	Cabombaceae	perennial rhizomatous herb (aquatic)	Jun-Sep	None	None	2B.3	Marshes and swamps (freshwater)		0	7220	2010-10-27	 ©2014 Kirsten Bovee
Bruchia bolanderi	Bolander's bruchia	Bruchianceae	moss		None	None	4.2	Lower montane coniferous forest, Meadows and seeps, Upper montane coniferous forest		5580	9185	2001-01-01	 ©2021 Scot Loring
Carex davyi	Davy's sedge	Cyperaceae	perennial herb	May-Aug	None	None	1B.3	Subalpine coniferous forest, Upper montane coniferous forest		4920	10500	1974-01-01	No Photo Available

Carex hystericina	porcupine sedge	Cyperaceae	perennial rhizomatous herb	May-Jun	None	None	2B.1	Marshes and swamps (streambanks)	2000	7875		1994-01-01	 ©2014 Robert E. Preston, Ph.D.
Carex limosa	mud sedge	Cyperaceae	perennial rhizomatous herb	Jun-Aug	None	None	2B.2	Bogs and fens, Lower montane coniferous forest, Marshes and swamps, Meadows and seeps, Upper montane coniferous forest	3935	8860		1994-01-01	 Steve Matson 2009
Carex tahoensis	Tahoe sedge	Cyperaceae	perennial rhizomatous herb	Jul-Aug	None	None	4.3	Alpine boulder and rock field, Subalpine coniferous forest (rocky)	9300	12500		2001-01-01	No Photo Available
Chaenactis douglasii var. *alpina*	alpine dusty maidens	Asteraceae	perennial herb	Jul-Sep	None	None	2B.3	Alpine boulder and rock field (granitic)	9400	11155		1994-01-01	 © 2008 Steve Matson
Clarkia virgata	Sierra clarkia	Onagraceae	annual herb	May-Aug	None	None	4.3	Cismontane woodland, Lower montane coniferous forest	1310	5510	Yes	1974-01-01	No Photo Available

Claytonia megarhiza	fell-fields claytonia	Montiaceae	perennial herb	Jul-Sep	None	None	2B.3	Alpine boulder and rock field, Subalpine coniferous forest (gravelly, rocky)		8530	11590		1980-01-01	No Photo Available
Draba asterophora var. *asterophora*	Tahoe draba	Brassicaceae	perennial herb	Jul-Aug(Sep)	None	None	1B.2	Alpine boulder and rock field, Subalpine coniferous forest		8205	11500		1974-01-01	No Photo Available
Draba asterophora var. *macrocarpa*	Cup Lake draba	Brassicaceae	perennial herb	Jul-Aug(Sep)	None	None	1B.1	Subalpine coniferous forest (rocky)		8205	9235	Yes	1974-01-01	No Photo Available
Elodium blandowii	Blandow's bog moss	Helodiaceae	moss		None	None	2B.2	Meadows and seeps, Subalpine coniferous forest		6110	8860		2001-01-01	 © 2013 Scot Loring
Epilobium howellii	subalpine fireweed	Onagraceae	perennial stoloniferous herb	Jul-Aug	None	None	4.3	Meadows and seeps, Subalpine coniferous forest	Mesic	6560	10235	Yes	1994-01-01	No Photo Available
Epilobium palustre	marsh willowherb	Onagraceae	perennial rhizomatous herb	Jul-Sep	None	None	2B.3	Bogs and fens, Meadows and seeps (mesic)		4215	7695		2001-01-01	No Photo Available

Eriastrum sparsiflorum	few-flowered eriastrum	Polemoniaceae	annual herb	May-Sep	None	None	4.3	Chaparral, Cismontane woodland, Great Basin scrub, Joshua tree "woodland", Mojavean desert scrub, Pinyon and juniper woodland	Granitic, Openings (usually), Sandy	3525	5610		2012-09-04	No Photo Available
Erigeron miser	starved daisy	Asteraceae	perennial herb	Jun-Oct	None	None	1B.3	Upper montane coniferous forest (rocky)		6035	8595	Yes	1974-01-01	No Photo Available
Eriogonum luteolum var. *saltuarium*	Jack's wild buckwheat	Polygonaceae	annual herb	Jul-Sep	None	None	1B.2	Great Basin scrub, Upper montane coniferous forest	Granitic, Sandy	5580	7875	Yes	2008-08-04	No Photo Available
Eriophorum gracile	slender cottongrass	Cyperaceae	perennial rhizomatous herb (emergent)	May-Sep	None	None	4.3	Bogs and fens, Meadows and seeps, Upper montane coniferous forest	Acidic	4200	9515		2006-10-31	 ©2011 Steven Perry
Erythranthe carsonensis	Carson Valley monkeyflower	Phrymaceae	annual herb	Apr-Jun	None	None	1B.1	Great Basin scrub (openings)	Granitic	4855	4855		2013-06-19	 Steve Matson, 2013

Fritillaria pinetorum	pine fritillary	Liliaceae	perennial bulbiferous herb	May-Jul(Sep)	None	None	4.3	Chaparral, Lower montane coniferous forest, Pinyon and juniper woodland, Subalpine coniferous forest, Upper montane coniferous forest	Granitic (sometimes), Metamorphic (sometimes)	5695	10825	Yes	2001-01-01	 © 2008 Steve Matson
Glyceria grandis	American manna grass	Poaceae	perennial rhizomatous herb	Jun-Aug	None	None	2B.3	Bogs and fens, Marshes and swamps (lake margins, streambanks), Meadows and seeps		50	6495		1974-01-01	 ©2004 Dean Wm. Taylor
Jensia yosemitana	Yosemite tarplant	Asteraceae	annual herb	(Apr)May-Jul	None	None	3.2	Lower montane coniferous forest, Meadows and seeps		3935	7545	Yes	1994-01-01	No Photo Available
Juncus hemiendytus var. *abjectus*	Center Basin rush	Juncaceae	annual herb	May-Jun(Jul)	None	None	4.3	Meadows and seeps, Subalpine coniferous forest	Mesic	4595	11155		1974-01-01	 ©2008 Steve Matson

Lewisia longipetala	long-petaled lewisia	Montiaceae	perennial herb	Jul-Aug(Sep)	None	None	1B.3	Alpine boulder and rock field, Subalpine coniferous forest (mesic, rocky)	Granitic	8205	9595	Yes	1974-01-01	 © 2009 Gary A. Monroe
Meesia triquetra	three-ranked hump moss	Meesiaceae	moss	Jul	None	None	4.2	Bogs and fens, Meadows and seeps, Subalpine coniferous forest, Upper montane coniferous forest (mesic)		4265	9690		2001-01-01	 Steve Matson 2008
Meesia uliginosa	broad-nerved hump moss	Meesiaceae	moss	Jul-Oct	None	None	2B.2	Bogs and fens, Meadows and seeps, Subalpine coniferous forest, Upper montane coniferous forest		3970	9200		2001-01-01	 ©2013 Scot Loring
Oreocarya crymophila	subalpine oreocarya	Boraginaceae	perennial herb	Jul-Aug	None	None	1B.3	Subalpine coniferous forest (rocky, volcanic)		8530	10500	Yes	1974-01-01	No Photo Available

Peltigera gowardii	western waterfan lichen	Peltigeraceae	foliose lichen (aquatic)		None	None	4.2	Riparian forest		3495	8595		2014-03-01	 © 2021 Scot Loring
Phacelia stebbinsii	Stebbins' phacelia	Hydrophyllaceae	annual herb	May-Jul	None	None	1B.2	Cismontane woodland, Lower montane coniferous forest, Meadows and seeps		2000	6595	Yes	1974-01-01	No Photo Available
Piperia colemanii	Coleman's rein orchid	Orchidaceae	perennial herb	Jun-Aug	None	None	4.3	Chaparral, Lower montane coniferous forest	Sandy (often)	3935	7545	Yes	2001-01-01	 © 2005 Dean Wm. Taylor
Potamogeton robbinsii	Robbins' pondweed	Potamogetonaceae	perennial rhizomatous herb (aquatic)	Jul-Aug	None	None	2B.3	Marshes and swamps (lakes, deep water)		5020	10825		1994-01-01	 ©2014 Dana York
Rorippa subumbellata	Tahoe yellow cress	Brassicaceae	perennial rhizomatous herb	May-Sep	None	CE	1B.1	Lower montane coniferous forest, Meadows and seeps	Decomposed granitic	6200	6250		1974-01-01	No Photo Available
Schoenoplectus subterminalis	water bulrush	Cyperaceae	perennial rhizomatous herb (aquatic)	Jun-Aug(Sep)	None	None	2B.3	Bogs and fens, Marshes and swamps (montane lake margins)		2460	7380		1980-01-01	 Dean Wm. Taylor (1996)

Scutellaria galericulata	marsh skullcap	Lamiaceae	perennial rhizomatous herb	Jun-Sep	None	None	2B.2	Lower montane coniferous forest, Marshes and swamps, Meadows and seeps (mesic)		0	6890	1994-01-01	 © 2021 Scot Loring
Stuckenia filiformis ssp. *alpina*	northern slender pondweed	Potamogetonaceae	perennial rhizomatous herb (aquatic)	May-Jul	None	None	2B.2	Marshes and swamps (shallow freshwater)		985	7055	1994-01-01	 Dana York (2016)
Tonestus eximius	Tahoe tonestus	Asteraceae	perennial rhizomatous herb	Jul-Aug	None	None	4.3	Subalpine coniferous forest (granitic)		8205	10825	1974-01-01	No Photo Available
Utricularia minor	lesser bladderwort	Lentibulariaceae	perennial stoloniferous herb (carnivorous) (aquatic)	(May-Jun)Jul-Aug	None	None	4.2	Bogs and fens, Marshes and swamps (shallow freshwater)		2625	9515	2001-01-01	 Barry Rice 2009
Viola purpurea ssp. *aurea*	golden violet	Violaceae	perennial herb	Apr-Jun	None	None	2B.2	Great Basin scrub, Pinyon and juniper woodland	Sandy	3280	8205	1994-01-01	No Photo Available

Showing 1 to 45 of 45 entries

Go to top

Suggested Citation:

California Native Plant Society, Rare Plant Program. 2026. Rare Plant Inventory (online edition, v9.5.1). Website https://www.rareplants.cnps.org [accessed 15 January 2026].

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Selected Elements by Scientific Name

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

California Natural Diversity Database

Query Criteria: Quad IS (South Lake Tahoe (3811988) OR Minden (3811987) OR Freel Peak (3811978) OR Woodfords (3811977) OR Glenbrook (3911918) OR Emerald Bay (3812081) OR Meeks Bay (3912011) OR Echo Lake (3812071))

Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
Accipiter striatus sharp-shinned hawk	ABNKC12020	None	None	G5	S4	WL
Ambystoma macrodactylum sigillatum southern long-toed salamander	AAAAA01085	None	None	G5T4	S2	SSC
Aplodontia rufa californica Sierra Nevada mountain beaver	AMAFA01013	None	None	G5T3T4	S2S3	SSC
Arabis rigidissima var. demota Galena Creek rockcress	PDBRA061R1	None	None	G3T3Q	S1	1B.2
Asio otus long-eared owl	ABNSB13010	None	None	G5	S3?	SSC
Astragalus austiniae Austin's astragalus	PDFAB0F120	None	None	G2G3	S2S3	1B.3
Astur atricapillus American goshawk	ABNKC12061	None	None	G5	S3	SSC
Boechera tularensis Tulare rockcress	PDBRA40130	None	None	G3	S3	1B.3
Bombus morrisoni Morrison bumble bee	IIHYM24460	None	None	G3	S1S2	
Bombus occidentalis western bumble bee	IIHYM24252	None	Candidate Endangered	G3	S1	
Bombus pensylvanicus American bumble bee	IIHYM24260	None	None	G3G4	S2	
Botrychium ascendens upswept moonwort	PPOPH010S0	None	None	G4	S3	2B.2
Botrychium crenulatum scalloped moonwort	PPOPH010L0	None	None	G4	S3	2B.2
Botrychium minganense Mingan moonwort	PPOPH010R0	None	None	G5	S4	4.2
Brasenia schreberi watershield	PDCAB01010	None	None	G5	S3	2B.3
Bruchia bolanderi Bolander's bruchia	NBMUS13010	None	None	G3	S3	4.2
Capnia lacustra Lake Tahoe benthic stonefly	IIPLE03200	None	None	G1	S1	
Carex davyi Davy's sedge	PMCYP033H0	None	None	G3	S3	1B.3
Carex hystericina porcupine sedge	PMCYP036D0	None	None	G5	S2	2B.1

Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
Carex limosa mud sedge	PMCYP037K0	None	None	G5	S3	2B.2
Chaenactis douglasii var. alpina alpine dusty maidens	PDAST20065	None	None	G5T5	S2	2B.3
Claytonia megarhiza fell-fields claytonia	PDPOR030A0	None	None	G5	S2	2B.3
Cypseloides niger black swift	ABNUA01010	None	None	G4	S3	SSC
Desmona bethula amphibious caddisfly	IITRI77010	None	None	G2G3	S2S3	
Draba asterophora var. asterophora Tahoe draba	PDBRA110D1	None	None	G2T2?	S2?	1B.2
Draba asterophora var. macrocarpa Cup Lake draba	PDBRA110D2	None	None	G2T1	S1	1B.1
Elodium blandowii Blandow's bog moss	NBMUS3C011	None	None	G4	S2	2B.2
Empidonax traillii willow flycatcher	ABPAE33040	None	Endangered	G5	S3	
Epilobium howellii subalpine fireweed	PDONA06180	None	None	G4	S4	4.3
Epilobium palustre marsh willowherb	PDONA060R0	None	None	G5	S2	2B.3
Erethizon dorsatum North American porcupine	AMAFJ01010	None	None	G5	S3	
Erigeron miser starved daisy	PDAST3M2K0	None	None	G3?	S3?	1B.3
Eriogonum luteolum var. saltuarium Jack's wild buckwheat	PDPGN083S4	None	None	G5T1	S1	1B.2
Erythranthe carsonensis Carson Valley monkeyflower	PDPHR01020	None	None	G2	S1	1B.1
Fen Fen	CTT51200CA	None	None	G2	S1.2	
Glyceria grandis American manna grass	PMPOA2Y080	None	None	G5	S3	2B.3
Gulo gulo wolverine	AMAJF03010	Threatened	Threatened	G4	S1	FP
Haliaeetus leucocephalus bald eagle	ABNKC10010	Delisted	Endangered	G5	S3	FP
Helisoma newberryi Great Basin rams-horn	IMGASM6020	None	None	G1	S1S2	
Lepus americanus tahoensis Sierra Nevada snowshoe hare	AMAEB03012	None	None	G5T3T4Q	S2	SSC

Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
Lepus townsendii townsendii western white-tailed jackrabbit	AMAEB03041	None	None	G5T5	S3?	SSC
Lewisia longipetala long-petaled lewisia	PDPOR040K0	None	None	G2	S2	1B.3
Lithobates pipiens northern leopard frog	AAABH01170	None	None	G5	S2	SSC
Martes caurina sierrae Sierra marten	AMAJF01014	None	None	G4G5T3	S3	
Meesia triquetra three-ranked hump moss	NBMUS4L020	None	None	G5	S4	4.2
Meesia uliginosa broad-nerved hump moss	NBMUS4L030	None	None	G5	S3	2B.2
Myotis thysanodes fringed myotis	AMACC01090	None	None	G4	S3	
Myotis volans long-legged myotis	AMACC01110	None	None	G4G5	S3	
Ochotona princeps schisticeps gray-headed pika	AMAEA0102L	None	None	G5T4	S2S4	
Oncorhynchus henshawi henshawi Lahontan cutthroat trout	AFCHA02081	Threatened	None	GNRT3	S2	SSC
Oreocarya crymophila subalpine oreocarya	PDBOR0A0R0	None	None	G3	S3	1B.3
Pandion haliaetus osprey	ABNKC01010	None	None	G5	S4	WL
Pantosteus lahontan Lahontan mountain sucker	AFCJC02330	None	None	GNR	S2	SSC
Pekania pennanti Fisher	AMAJF01020	None	None	G5	S2S3	SSC
Peltigera gowardii western waterfan lichen	NLVER00460	None	None	G3G4	S3	4.2
Phacelia stebbinsii Stebbins' phacelia	PDHYD0C4D0	None	None	G3	S3	1B.2
Picoides arcticus black-backed woodpecker	ABNYF07090	None	None	G5	S2	
Potamogeton robbinsii Robbins' pondweed	PMPOT030Z0	None	None	G5	S3	2B.3
Prosopium williamsoni mountain whitefish	AFCHA03060	None	None	G5	S3	SSC
Rana sierrae Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog	AAABH01340	Endangered	Threatened	G2	S2	WL
Riparia riparia bank swallow	ABPAU08010	None	Threatened	G5	S3	

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Rorippa subumbellata Tahoe yellow cress	PDBRA270M0	None	Endangered	G1	S1	1B.1
Schoenoplectus subterminalis water bulrush	PMCYP0Q1G0	None	None	G5	S3	2B.3
Scutellaria galericulata marsh skullcap	PDLAM1U0J0	None	None	G5	S2	2B.2
Siphateles bicolor pectinifer Lahontan Lake tui chub	AFCJB1303P	None	None	G4T3	S1S2	SSC
Speyeria nokomis carsonensis Carson Valley silverspot	IILEPJ6056	None	None	G3T1T2	S1	
Sphagnum Bog Sphagnum Bog	CTT51110CA	None	None	G3	S1.2	
Stuckenia filiformis ssp. alpina northern slender pondweed	PMPOT03091	None	None	G5T5	S2S3	2B.2
Stygobromus lacicolus Lake Tahoe amphipod	ICMAL05970	None	None	G1	S1	
Stygobromus tahoensis Lake Tahoe stygobromid	ICMAL05A70	None	None	G1	S1	
Taxidea taxus American badger	AMAJF04010	None	None	G5	S3	SSC
Viola purpurea ssp. aurea golden violet	PDVIO04420	None	None	G3	S2S3	2B.2
Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus yellow-headed blackbird	ABPBXB3010	None	None	G5	S3	SSC

Record Count: 73