**INITIAL STUDY/**
**MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**
**EA 2019-0011 (North Beale Road at Linda Avenue – Drain Improvement Project)**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Project Title:** | Environmental Assessment EA 2019-0011 (North Beale Road at Linda Avenue – Drain Improvement Project) |
| **Lead Agency Name and Address:** | County of Yuba<br>Planning Department<br>915 8th Street, Suite 123<br>Marysville, CA 95901 |
| **Project Location:** | The intersection of North Beale Road and Linda Avenue in the Linda Community |
| **Contact Person:** | Ciara Fisher, Planner II |
| **Phone Number:** | (530) 749-5470 |
| **Date Prepared** | October 2019 |

**Project Description**

The project will occur in Marysville in Yuba County at the corner of North Beale Road and Linda Avenue (Figure 1). The project site sits at an elevation of approximately 65 feet above mean sea level (msl) with a relatively flat topography and is primarily covered with ruderal grasslands (40%) and pavement (31%) with a small area (19%) of irrigated tree and lawn landscaping south of the intersection. The project is surrounded by open grasslands to the NE, residential subdivisions to the NW, commercial development to the SE and Yuba College parking lot and associated landscaping to the SW.

Yuba County has developed plans to increase the pedestrian accessibility of North Beale Road by constructing the North Beale Road Complete Streets Project. As part of this effort, the County must make drainage improvements along the corridor, adding two new storm drains that divert water from North Beale road and transmit it to the southwest corner of the intersection on North Beale Rd and Linda Ave, where the Linda drainage is located. Headwalls and wingwalls will also be installed to support the storm drains and to prevent erosion. Excavation to install these features will occur down to approximately ten feet in depth.

The installation of the culverts and the components includes the following steps:

1. Equipment will be transported to the site and located uplands of the wetlands zone.

2. There will be approximately 200 cubic yards of excavation to remove the existing headwall.

3. Two new 54" culverts, which will run from North Beal road to Linda drain, will be installed. Once the culverts have been set, 300 yards of backfill will then be installed.

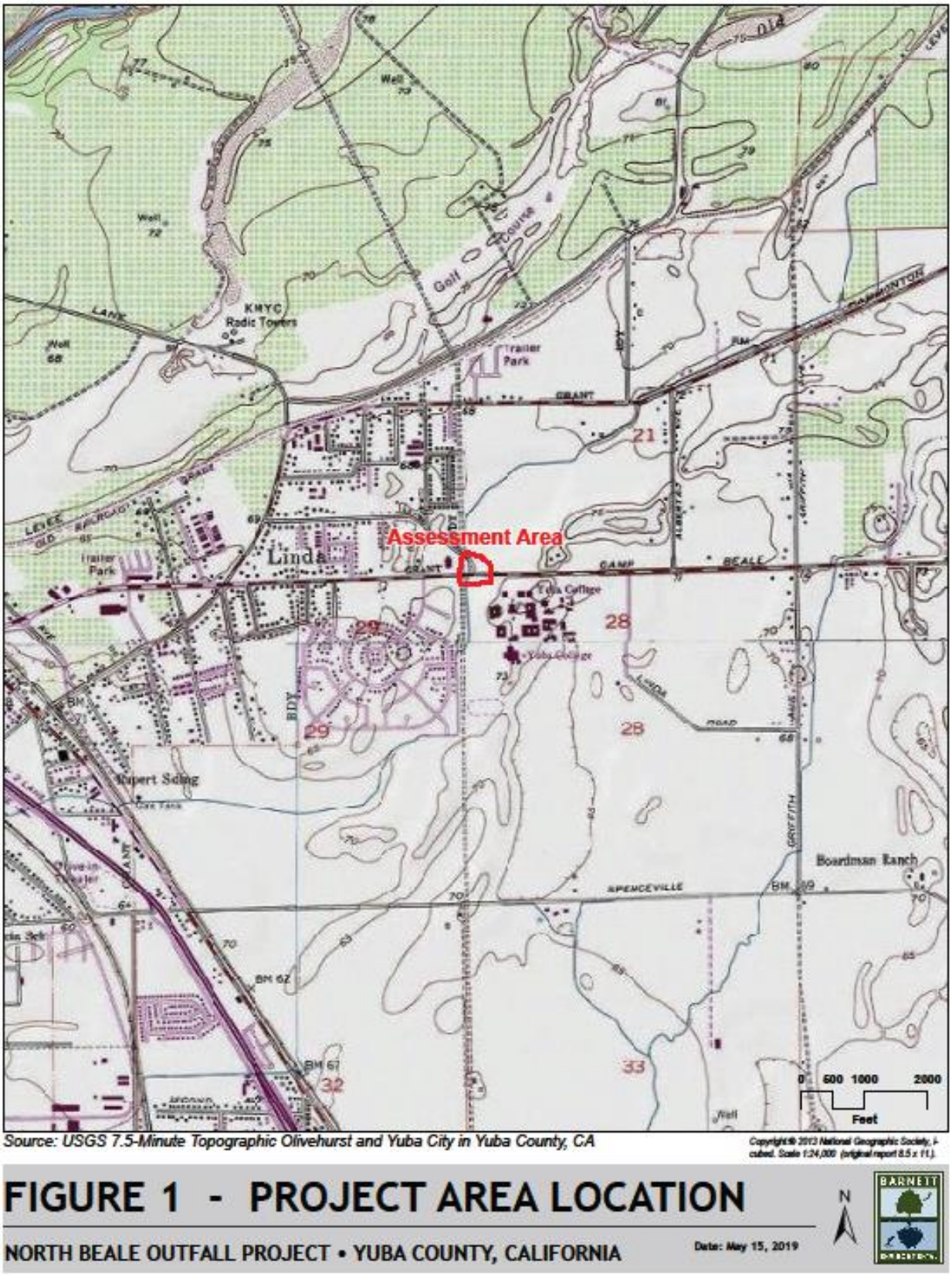
4. Fifty cubic yards of cubic concrete will be used for creating the new headwalls/wingwalls.

5. Approximately 90 cubic yards of class 1 rsp, with class 8 rsp fabric, will be installed outside each culvert.

6. Equipment will be removed, and any disturbed areas will be hydroseeded.

The project will have 1,050 square feet (.024 acres) of permanent wetlands impacts and no temporary wetlands impacts. There will be no temporary or permanent riparian impacts. In addition, there are 6,994 square feet (0.161 acres) of avoided impacts to wetlands.

**Figure 1: Project Location**



**Environmental Factors Potentially Affected**:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, as indicated by the checklist and corresponding discussion on the following pages:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ Aesthetics | ☐ Agriculture & Forestry Resources | ☒ Air Quality |
| ☒ Biological Resources | ☒ Cultural Resources | ☐ Energy |
| ☐ Geology/Soils | ☐ Greenhouse Gas Emissions | ☒ Hazards & Hazardous Materials |
| ☒ Hydrology/Water Quality | ☐ Land Use/Planning | ☐ Mineral Resources |
| ☐ Noise | ☐ Population/Housing | ☐ Public Services |
| ☐ Recreation | ☐ Transportation/Traffic | ☒ Tribal Cultural Resources |
| ☐ Utilities/Service Systems | ☐ Wildfire | ☒ Mandatory Findings of Significance |

**DETERMINATION**: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

☐ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☒ 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.

☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

☐ 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.

☐ 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.

Ciara Fisher 10/30/19

Planner's Signature Date

Ciara Fisher'

Planner II

## PURPOSE OF THIS INITIAL STUDY

This Initial Study has been prepared consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15063, to determine if the Environmental Assessment EA 2019-0011 (North Beale Road at Linda Avenue – Drain Improvement Project), as proposed, may have a significant effect upon the environment. Based upon the findings contained within this report, the Initial Study will be used in support of the preparation of a Mitigated Negative Declaration.

## 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 project-specific screening analysis).
2) All answers must take into account the whole action involved, including offsite as well as onsite, 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 Section XVII, "Earlier Analyses," 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, development code). 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) 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.

| I. AESTHETICS<br><br>Would the project: | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

**Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:**

a) *Less than Significant* – The project proposes widening shoulders, improving drainage, and installing pavement markings and striping along North Beale Road Avenue. The proposed drainage improvement project would not deviate atheistically from what currently exists on North Beale Road Avenue.

b) *Less than Significant* –There will be no substantial effects to rock outcroppings, historic buildings, or trees and the project site is not on a state scenic highway.

c) *No Impact* – As discussed in a) above, the existing visual characteristics of the project site would not be significantly altered by the project. There would be no change in the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings.

d) *No Impact* – The proposed project would be conducted during daytime hours; no nighttime construction is proposed. No temporary or permanent lighting is proposed. There would be no effect on nighttime views.

## II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY 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) prepared by the California Dept. 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: | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 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? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) | Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| 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))? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| d) | Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| 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? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

### Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:

a) *No Impact* – The proposed project is a drainage improvement project. Nearly all project activity is in the existing right-of-way and no farmland conversion would needed for this project. Therefore, no loss or conversion of farmland would result from the proposed project.

b) *No Impact* – The project area, consisting predominately of public roadways, is designated Rural Community by the Yuba County 2030 General Plan. The surrounding project zoning is "RPR" Resource Preservation and Recreation. The proposed project is consistent with the General Plan and zoning. The property is not under a Williamson Act contract, as Yuba County has not established a Williamson Act program.

c) *No Impact* – The project does not involve any activities that would result in a rezone or loss of a Timberland Preservation Zone. The long-term use of the property will remain as a road.

d) *No Impact*- As discussed in the above Environmental Setting section, the proposed project is not located in an area that contains forestland. No conversion of forests would occur because of the project.

e) *No Impact*- The project consists of a complete streets project and drainage improvements along North Beal Road at Linda Avenue. Nothing related to the project will lead to the conversion of any type of viable agricultural land.

## III. AIR QUALITY

Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations.

| Would the project: | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| c) 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 (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)? | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| e) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| f) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |

### Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:

a) *Less Than Significant Impact* – In 2010, an update to the 1994 Air Quality Attainment Plan was prepared for the Northern Sacramento Valley Air Basin (NSVAB), which includes Yuba County. The plan proposes rules and regulations that would limit the amount of certain emissions, in accordance with the 1994 State Implementation Plan (SIP). The 2010 update summarizes the feasible control measure adoption status of each air district in the NSVAB, including the Feather River Air Quality Management District (FRAQMD). The 2010 update was adopted by the FRAQMD, and development proposed by the project would be required to comply with its provisions.

The Air Quality Attainment Plan also deals with emissions from mobile sources, primarily motor vehicles and construction equipment with internal combustion engines. Data in the Plan, which was incorporated in the SIP, are based on the most currently available growth and control data. As is stated in the guidelines of FRAQMD, projects are considered to have a significant impact on air quality if they reach emission levels of at least 25 pounds per day of reactive organic gases (ROG), 25 pounds per day of nitrogen oxides (NOx), and/or 80 pounds per day for PM10. FRAQMD recommends that Type 2 District projects, like a road construction/rehabilitation project, use a District recommended land use model to calculate project related emissions.

In May 2019 a project air quality analysis was performed using the CalEEMod air quality emissions calculator to determine project daily impacts to ROG; NOx; PM10; and PM2.5. The

CalEEMod analysis was based on a 30-day project construction length, a project construction impact of 0.20 acres, and that twice-daily project watering would occur at the construction site. The resulting analysis determined that the project daily emission levels were: ROG 0.17 lbs/day; NOx 1.21 lbs/day; PM10 0.087 lbs/day; and PM2.5 0.87lbs/day. The CalEEMod emission analysis demonstrates that project related air quality emissions would not substantially add to the Air Quality Attainment Plan and FRAQMD thresholds. Therefore, impacts to air quality plans would be less than significant.

b) *Less Than Significant Impact* – The California Air Resources Board provides information on the attainment status of counties regarding ambient air quality standards for certain pollutants, as established by the federal and/or state government.

As of 2004, Yuba County is in non-attainment status for State and national (one-hour) air quality standards for ozone, and State standards for particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter ($PM_{10}$).

As discussed above in Section A, under the guidelines of FRAQMD projects are considered to have a significant impact on air quality if they reach emission levels of at least 25 pounds per day of reactive organic gases (ROG), 25 pounds per day of nitrogen oxides (NOx), and/or 80 pounds per day for $PM_{10}$. ROG and NOx are ingredients for ozone. The CalEEMod analysis shows the project is below the PM10 threshold. The proposed project does not result in any new development or have an operational emissions phase and would not contribute substantially to the existing non-attainment status for ozone and $PM_{10}$.

c) *Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated* – As previously noted, the project proposes a complete streets project and drainage improvements along North Beal Road at Linda Avenue. There is no future development associated with the project. The only air emissions associated with the project are emissions associated with project construction and idling vehicular traffic associated with construction traffic delays. The proposed project does not exceed any daily air quality thresholds. Nevertheless, Yuba County currently is in non-attainment status for State and federal (one-hour) air quality standards for ozone, and State standards for particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter ($PM_{10}$). Therefore, any pollutant contribution may be considered cumulatively considerable, especially when included with emissions from other proposed projects in the County.

The FRAQMD has a list of standard construction-phase Mitigation Measures that apply to all projects. Also, FRAQMD has established a list of Fugitive Dust Control Mitigation Measures applicable to construction activities, from its Indirect Source Review Guidelines. Based on these, the following Mitigation Measures shall be implemented.

**Mitigation Measure 3.1** The most current FRAQMD Standard Mitigation Measures applicable to construction activities shall be incorporated as part of the project.

**Mitigation Measure 3.2** To mitigate impacts of construction vehicle and equipment emissions during construction, the following Mitigation Measures shall be incorporated as part of the project and included in all construction bid documents:

1. Water inactive construction sites and exposed stockpile sites at least twice daily.

2. Pursuant to California Vehicle Code, all trucks hauling soil and other loose material to and from the construction site shall be covered or should maintain at least 6 inches of freeboard (i.e. minimum vertical distance between top of load and the trailer).
3. Any topsoil that is removed for the construction operation shall be stored on-site in piles not to exceed 4 feet in height to allow development of microorganisms prior to replacement of soil in the construction area. These topsoil piles shall be clearly marked and flagged. Topsoil piles that will not be immediately returned to use shall be revegetated with a non-persistent erosion control mixture.
4. Soil piles for backfill shall be marked and flagged separately from native topsoil stockpiles. These soil piles shall also be surrounded by filt fencing, straw wattles, or other sediment barriers or covered unless they are to be immediately used.
5. Equipment or manual watering shall be conducted on all stockpiles, dirt/gravel roads, and exposed or disturbed soil surfaces, as necessary, to reduce airborne dust.

Implementation of **MM 3.1 and 3.2** would further reduce potential pollutant emissions of the project, and further minimize any cumulative impact. Impacts after mitigation would be less than significant.

d) *Less Than Significant Impact* – The proposed project would be located in the urbanized community of Linda south of the City of Marysville. The proposed construction activities are not expected to generate substantial pollutant concentrations at a sufficient level to be noticed by any nearby residences or impact any sensitive receptors.

e) *No Impact* – The project would not allow activities that generate odors considered objectionable. Furthermore, the project is located in a rural area, and as noted above, any odors generated by the project would be temporary and consistent with odors emitted from the surrounding rural residences.

| IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES<br>**Would the project:** | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 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 Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service? | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 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 Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service? | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means? | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 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? | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| 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? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

**Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:**

a, b, c) *Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated* – Barnett Environmental prepared a Natural Environment Study for the project and below are the results of the study.

**STUDY METHODS**

Prior to our field surveys, we queried the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's *National Wetland Inventory* (NWI; Figure 2); EcoAtlas' *California Aquatic Resources Inventory* (CARI; Figure 3); NRCS *Web Soil Survey* (Figure 4); and *Hydric Soil Map Units for Yuba County, California* to determine whether any wetlands or "other waters of the U.S.," "waters of the State," or soils compatible with wetland resources had been historically recorded on or around, or are likely to

occur on the site, as defined by the 1987 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE, 1987) *Wetlands Delineation Manual* and its 2008 *Arid West Regional Supplement*.

We also assessed potentially federal and/or state jurisdictional wetlands and "other waters of the U.S." in the Study Area in accordance with the 2014 Corps Field Guide to the Identification of the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) for Non-perennial Streams in the Arid West Region of the Western United States.

To provide a vision of what potential biological resources may be present on the property, we queried the following online sources for information on the Study Area's potential plant and wildlife communities.

1. California Department of Fish & Wildlife's Natural Diversity Database (RareFind 5) for observations of special status plant and animal species within five miles of the Study Area (Figure 2),

2. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's iPac Database of federally-listed special status species in Contra Costa County,

3. The California Native Plant Society's Inventory of Rare & Endangered Plants in California.


**FIGURE 2 - NATIONAL WETLANDS INVENTORY (NWI) WETLANDS**

NORTH BEALE OUTFALL PROJECT • YUBA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Date: May 15, 2019

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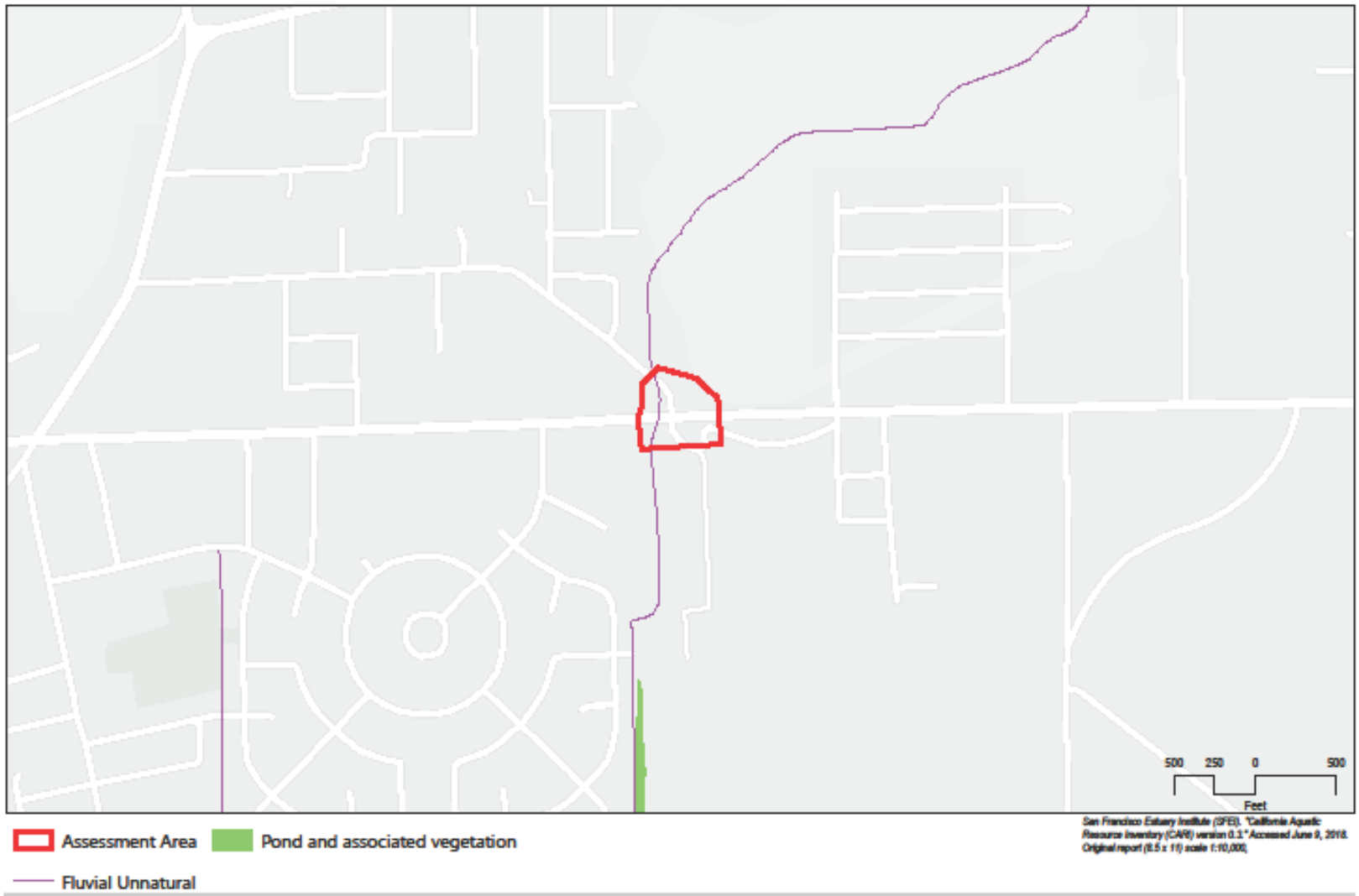


**FIGURE 3 - CALIFORNIA AQUATIC RESOURCES INVENTORY (CARI) WETLANDS**

NORTH BEALE OUTFALL PROJECT • YUBA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Date: May 15, 2019

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A Barnett Environmental biologist surveyed the Study Area on May 17, 2019 for special status plant and wildlife species and their habitats that could be supported onsite. The survey included recorded observations of: (1) dominant plant communities, (2) plant and animal species (with emphasis on rare and endangered species) observed or their sign (nests, burrows, tracks, scat) and (3) the suitability of onsite habitats and those immediately adjoining the Study Area to support special status plant or animal species. They used generalized plant community classification schemes to classify onsite habitat types (Sawyer, Keeler-Wolf, and Evens, 2009).

## EXISTING CONDITIONS

### Soils

According to Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS), the Study Area is comprised of two soil types (Figure 4), including:

1. 217—San Joaquin-Urban land complex, 0 to 1 percent slopes, comprises 87% of Study Area. This is moderately to well drained soils that are derived from mixed alluvium located on low fan terraces. The soil profile ranges from loam to clay loam and has available water holding capacity of 2.4 inches. San Joaquin-Urban land complex soils have a moderate permeability with a low runoff rate.

2. 214—San Joaquin loam, 0 to 1 percent slopes, is found on the remaining 13% of Study Area. This soils series is too moderately to well drained and is derived from mixed alluvium located on low fan terraces. San Joaquin loam ranges from loam to brown clay loam and has a water holding capacity of 2.4 inches. This soils series has a low permeability, as well as, a slow run off rate.

### Hydrology

The Study Area lies within the Honcut Headwaters-Lower Feather River watershed, (HUC 18020159). The area receives water in the form of direct precipitation and run off from the surrounding landscape, primarily composed of pasture and impermeable pavement.

### Wetlands & "Other Waters of the United States"

We mapped 0.185-acre of "other waters of the U.S." including 0.179 of concrete-lined storm drain, 0.012-acre of roadside ditch, and 0.004 of North Beale Drain (Figure 5). There is 0.104-acre of concrete-lined storm drain on the north side of North Beale Road that continues to drain south of North Beale Road for an additional 0.065-acre. There are roadside ditches south of North Beale Road on both the east (0.005-acre) and west (0.007-acre) sides of Linda Ave.

Another drainage ditch (0.004-acre) occurs to the south of the North Beale Road and east of Linda Ave, just below the previously mentioned roadside ditch.

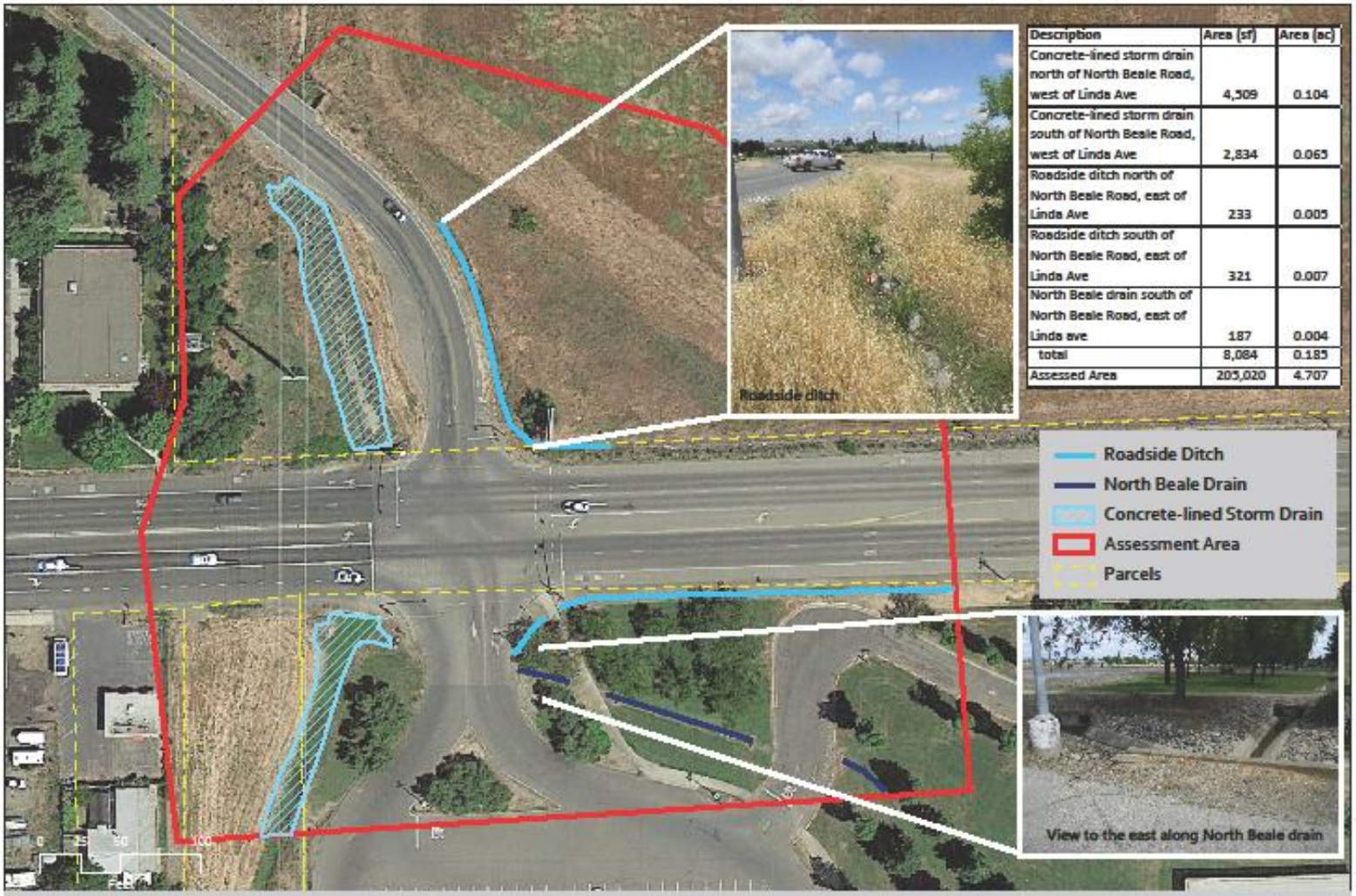
Hydrophytic vegetation occurs along the channel of the Linda Drain. South of N. Beale Road, the channel bed is covered by a dense stand of water-primrose (*Ludwigia hexapetala*, OBL) with occasional plants of cattail (*Typha* sp., OBL), Baltic rush (*Juncus balticus* subsp. *ater*, FACW),

tall flat-sedge (*Cyperus eragrostis*, FACW) and curly dock (*Rumex crispus*, FAC) along the margins. North of North Beale Road, the drain bed contains about six inches of standing water with scattered cattails. A dense thicket of Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*, FAC) occurs on the west bank of the Drain just north of the North Beale Road culvert.


**FIGURE 4 - SOILS MAP**

**NORTH BEALE OUTFALL PROJECT • YUBA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

Date: May 15, 2019


Description | Area (sf) | Area (ac)
Concrete-lined storm drain north of North Beale Road, west of Linda Ave | 4,309 | 0.104
Concrete-lined storm drain south of North Beale Road, west of Linda Ave | 2,834 | 0.065
Roadside ditch north of North Beale Road, east of Linda Ave | 233 | 0.005
Roadside ditch south of North Beale Road, east of Linda Ave | 321 | 0.007
North Beale drain south of North Beale Road, east of Linda ave | 187 | 0.004
total | 8,084 | 0.185
Assessed Area | 205,020 | 4.707
Roadside ditch
Roadside Ditch
North Beale Drain
Concrete-lined Storm Drain
Assessment Area
Parcels
View to the east along North Beale drain
FIGURE 5 - EXISTING CONDITIONS
NORTH BEALE OUTFALL PROJECT • YUBA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
Date: July 23, 2019
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BARNETT

The ordinary high-water mark (OHWM) was delineated along the steep earthen banks of the Linda Drain, at the abrupt transition to upland vegetation dominated by non-native grasses.

**Vegetation Communities**

The 4.7- acre Study Area is a highly disturbed site with mostly pavement, some ruderal grassland and occasional landscaping. Upland vegetation in the annual grassland is dominated by non-native species such as wild oats (*Avena* sp.), soft chess (*Brumus hordeaceus*) and annual barley (*Hordeum murinum* complex). Occasional blue oak (*Quercus douglasii*) and valley oak (*Q. lobata*) saplings and coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis* subsp. *consanguinea*) scrub occur in the grassland northwest of the intersection of North Beale Road and Linda Avenue.

**Wildlife**

We observed little terrestrial wildlife in the Study Area during our May 17, 2019 field survey and the current level of traffic and disturbance of the remnant habitat onsite likely precludes the presence of all but the most urban-agricultural adapted mammals, such as the Virginia opossum **(***Didelphis virginiana***)**, striped skunk **(***Mephitis mephitis***),** and northern racoon **(***Procyon lotor***).** Only one reptile species – the western fence lizard **(***Sceloporus occidentalis***)** was detected during the reconnaissance field survey, along with several bird species typical of residential areas in this region, including: mourning dove **(***Zenaida macroura***)**, Anna's hummingbird **(***Calypte anna***)**, nuttall's woodpecker **(***Dryobates nuttallii***),** black phoebe **(***Sayornis nigricans***),** western scrub-jay **(***Aphelocoma californica***),** American crow **(***Corvus brachyrhynchos***)**, common raven **(***Corvus corax***),** northern mockingbird **(***Mimus polyglottos***),** european starling **(***Sturnus vulgaris***),** and house finch **(***Haemorhous mexicanus***).**

**Special Status Species**

Special status species are those that fall into one or more of the following categories:

- Listed as endangered or threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) (50 CFR 17.11/17.12) (or formally proposed for listing) (64 FR 205, October 25, 1999; 57533-57547),
- Listed as endangered or threatened under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) (or proposed for listing) (14 California Code of Regulations [CCR] 670.5),
- Designated as rare, protected, or fully protected pursuant to California Fish and Game Code (FGC, Section 3511 [birds], 4700 [mammals], and 5050 [reptiles and amphibians]).
- Designated a Species of Concern by the California Department of Fish and Game,
- Defined as rare or endangered under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA),
- Occurring on List 1 or 2 maintained by the California Native Plant Society.

They reviewed California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB), CNPS, and iPAC databases for special status species potentially occurring within the vicinity (i.e. within a five-mile radius of the Study Area). A total of 21 species of plants and animals were considered (Table 1). While there may be a number of plant and animal species occurring within a 5-mile radius of the Study Area (Figure 6), we can better refine the list of those species with any real potential of occurring in the Study Area by filtering for relevant onsite habitats, locations, and elevations. A total of 21 species of plants and animals were considered (Table 1).

**Table 1: Special Status Species with Potential to Occur in the Study Area**

| Species | Federal | State | CNPS | Habitat | Potential for Occurrence | Rationale for Assessing Potential of Occurrence |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Plants** | | | | | | |
| **Ferris' milk-vetch** *Astragalus tener var. ferrisiae* | No | No | 1B Rare | Meadows and seeps, valley and foothill grassland. Sub-alkaline flats on overflow land in the Central Valley; usually seen in dry, adobe soil 13-263ft.in elevation. | None | The Study Area does not contain alkaline or adobe soils or overflows that provide habitat for this species There are three CNDDB records of this species within 3 miles west of the Study Area. Additionally, this species was not observed during the May 2019 field survey. |
| **Dwarf downingia** *Downingia pusilla* | No | No | 1B Rare | Legenere is associated with smaller, densely vegetated vernal pools ranging in depth from 1.5 to 15 inches. It is found at elevations of 3 - 2,900 feet and known from a variety of geological landforms and at least five soil profiles. | None | There are no vernal pools within the Study Area. The Study Area offers limited seasonal wetland habitat conditions. According to CNDDB, there are two recorded occurrences within five miles with the nearest occurrence 3.8 miles east of the Study Area. This species was not observed during the May 2019 filed survey. |
| **Legenere** *Legenere limosa* | No | No | 1B Rare | Legenere is associated with smaller, densely vegetated vernal pools ranging in depth from 1.5 to 15 inches. It is found at elevations of 3 - 2,900 feet and known from a variety of geological landforms and at least five soil profiles. | None | There are no vernal pools within the Study Area. The Study Area offers limited seasonal wetland habitat conditions. According to CNDDB, there are two recorded occurrences within five miles with the nearest occurrence 3.8 miles east of the Study Area. This species was not observed during the May 2019 filed survey. |
| **Hartweg's golden sunburst** *Pseudobahia bahiifolia* | FE | CE | S2 Imper-iled | Occurs along the eastern side of the Central Valley and the lower central Sierra Nevada foothills. It grows in grassland and oak wood- land habitat. It prefers heavy clay soils, particularly along the tops of Mima mounds | None | The Study Area does not contain heavy clay soils and/or mima mounds. There are no CNDDB occurrences of this species within five miles of the Study Area and this species was not observed during the May 2019 field survey. |

| Species | Federal | State | CNPS | Habitat | Potential for Occurrence | Rationale for Assessing Potential of Occurrence |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Insects** | | | | | | |
| **Valley elderberry longhorn beetle** *Desmocerus californicus dimorphus* | FE | None | None | Occurs only in the Central Valley of California, commonly in riparian scrub in association with blue elderberry (Sambucus mexicana). They lay eggs in elderberries 2-8 inches in diameter; some preference shown for "stressed" elderberries. | None | Neither riparian scrub nor blue elderberry stands (host plant) exist within the Study Area. There are three documented CNDDB occurrences within five miles of the Study Area with the nearest occurrence one mile east of the Study Area. No blue elderberries were found during the May 2019 field survey. |
| **Invertebrates** | | | | | | |
| **Vernal pool fairy shrimp** *Branchinecta lynchi* | FT | None | NA | Valley & foothill grassland of the Central Valley, Central Coast mountains, and South Coast mountains. Inhabit astatic rain-filled pools in small, clear-water sandstone-depression pools, grassed swale, earth slump, or basalt-flow depression pools. | None | There are no vernal pools that exist within the Study Area. Additionally, there are no CNDDB documented occurrences within five miles of the Study Area. This species was also not observed during the May 2019 filed survey. |
| **Vernal pool tadpole shrimp** *Lepidurus packardi* | FE | None | NA | Inhabits vernal pools and swales in valley & foothill grasslands of Sacramento Valley containing clear to highly turbid water. Commonly found in grass-bottomed swales of unplowed grasslands. Some pools are mud-bottomed and highly turbid. | None | The Study Area provides limited seasonal low flow wetland habitat. There are six CNDDB recorded occurrences from 0.75 miles to 5 miles south of the Study Area. However, there are no vernal pools that exist within the Study Area. Additionally, this species was not observed during the May 2019 filed survey. |
| **Conservancy fairy shrimp** *Branchinecta conservatio* | FE | - | - | Endemic to the grasslands of the northern two-thirds of the Central Valley in large pools or swales. | None | The Study Area lacks suitable habitat like large cool-water vernal pools. Additionally, the Study Area is highly disturbed and routinely disked. This species was not observed during the March 2019 site visit nor are there any documented CNDDB occurrences within five miles of the Study Area. |

| Species | Federal | State | CNPS | Habitat | Potential for Occurrence | Rationale for Assessing Potential of Occurrence |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Fish** | | | | | | |
| **Delta smelt** *Hypomesus transpacificus* | FE | None | NA | Native to the San Francisco Bay Delta including small inlets, bays and their immediate tributaries The delta smelt is endemic to the Sacramento–San Joaquin River Delta in California, where it is distributed from the Suisun Bay upstream through the Delta in Contra Costa, Sacramento, San Joaquin, and Solano Counties. | None | The Linda drain is located in Yuba County and is not connected to the SF bay delta system, well beyond title influence. Additionally, there are no documented CNDDB occurrences with-in five miles of the Study Area. |
| **Amphibians** | | | | | | |
| **California red legged frog** *Rana draytonii* | FT | No | NA | Lowlands and foothills in or near permanent sources of deep water with dense, shrubby or emergent riparian vegetation. This includes wetlands, marshes, natural ponds, artificial flowing waters such as diversion canals and artificial standing waters. | Very low | The Study Area provides limited seasonal wetland habitat that does not persist and is not more than 6 inches deep during the spring months. There are no CNDDB records of RLF's within 5 miles of the Study Area. Addition- ally, this species was not observed during the May 2019 field survey. |
| **Reptiles** | | | | | | |
| **Western pond turtle** *Actinemys marmorata* | No | CSC | NA | Ponds, marshes, rivers, streams and irrigation ditches, canals, usually with aquatic vegetation, and rocks or logs for basking. Typically, below 6000 ft elevation. | Very low | The Study Area contains a drainage ditch that provides limited suitable habitat for western pond turtles. Deep water does not persist in the canal. The only western pond turtle locations are associated with the Feather and Yuba rivers 2-4.5 miles east of the Study Area. There is a single CNDDB occurrence 4.5 miles east of the Study Area. This species was not observed during the May 2019 field survey. |

| Species | Federal | State | CNPS | Habitat | Potential for Occurrence | Rationale for Assessing Potential of Occurrence |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Reptiles** | | | | | | |
| **Giant garter snake** *Thamnophis gigas* | FT | CT | NA | Prefers freshwater marshes and low gradient streams. Has adapted to drainage canals and irrigation ditches. | Low | There is a seasonal drainage canal through Study Area. This canal and adjacent grassy habitat could support a giant garter snake. There are no CNDDB occurrences within five miles of the Study Area. This species was not observed during the May 2019 field survey. |
| **Birds** | | | | | | |
| **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** *Coccyzus americanus* | FT | CT | NA | Western yellow-billed cuckoos require large blocks of riparian habitat for nesting, including stands of willows and cottonwoods. | None | The Study Area does not contain suitable habitat of dense contiguous stands of willows or riparian habitat. Additionally, there are no documented CNDDB occurrences within five miles of the Study Area. This species was not observed during the May 2019 field survey. |
| **Swainson's hawk** *Buteo swainsoni* | No | CT | NA | Grasslands with scattered trees, juniper-sage flats, riparian areas, savannahs, & agricultural or ranch lands with groves or lines of trees | Very low | The Study Area provides limited foraging habitat and very limited trees suitable for nesting or roosting. The Study Area and surrounding area are also subject to constant human disturbance. There are three CNDDB recorded occurrence within five miles of the Study Area with the nearest occurrence 2.5 miles west. No Swainson's hawks were observed during the May 2019 filed survey. |

| Species | Federal | State | CNPS | Habitat | Potential for Occurrence | Rationale for Assessing Potential of Occurrence |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Birds** | | | | | | |
| **Tricolored blackbird** *Agelaius tricolor* | No | CT | | Inhabits Freshwater marshes<br><br>Swamps and other wetlands<br><br>Highly colonial species, Requires open water, protected nesting substrate, and foraging area with insect prey. | Very low | The Study Area provides limited seasonal wetland habitat; however, open water is not present and there is tule or cattail desirable vegetation. There are six documented CNDDB occurrences within five miles of the Study Area with the nearest occurrence two miles northwest. However, this species was not observed during the May 2019 field survey. |
| **Bank swallow** *Riparia riparia* | No | ST | NA | Bank Swallows live in low areas along rivers, streams, ocean coasts, and reservoirs. Their territories usually include vertical cliffs or banks where they nest in colonies of 10 to 2,000 nests. | None | There are no open bodies of water within the Study Area. Likewise, there are no exposed stream banks or soft muddy roadcuts that could support a nesting colony of bank swallows. There are three CNDDB occurrences within five miles of the Study Area with the nearest occurrence 3.7 miles southwest. This species was not observed during the May 2019 field survey. |
| **Song sparrow ("Modesto" population)** *Melospiza melodia* | No | SSC | NA | Song Sparrows are found in an enormous variety of open habitats, grasslands, desert scrub and have an affinity for emergent freshwater marshes dominated by tules (Scirpus spp.) and cattails (Typha spp.) as well as riparian willow (Salix spp.) thickets. | Very low | The Study Area contains limited elements of habitats that could support song sparrows. There are no trees or shrubs along the drainage canal or mature stands of tule or cattails that could provide nesting opportunities for song sparrows. There are two CNDDB documented occurrences within five miles of the Study Area with the nearest occurrence 1.8 miles west. This species was not observed during the May 2019 field survey. |

| Species | Federal | State | CNPS | Habitat | Potential for Occurrence | Rationale for Assessing Potential of Occurrence |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Birds** | | | | | | |
| **White-tailed kite** *Elanus leucurus* | No | FP | NA | Rolling foothills and valley margins with scattered oaks & river bottomlands or marshes next to deciduous woodland. Open grasslands, meadows, or marshes for foraging close to isolated, dense-topped trees for nesting and perching. | Very low | The Study Area provides limited foraging habitat and very limited trees suitable for nesting or roosting. The Study Area and surrounding area are also subject to constant human disturbance. There is a single CNDDB occurrence three miles south of the Study Area. No white-tailed kites were observed during the May 2019 filed survey. |
| **Least bell's vireo** *Vireo bellii pusillus* | FE | SE | NA | Riparian forest,-scrub-woodland. Open grasslands, meadows, or marshes for foraging. Prefers isolated, dense canopy for nesting and perching. Nests placed along margins of bushes or on twigs projecting into pathways, usually willow, Baccharis, mesquite. | None | There is no suitable riparian forest habitat to support this species within the Study Area. There are no CNDDB records for this species occurring within five miles of the Study Area. Additionally, this species was not observed during the May 2019 field survey. |

Special Status Species Codes:

Federal: FE = Federal Endangered; FT = Federal Threatened

State: CSC = California Species of Concern; CE = California Endangered; CFP = California Fully Protected; CT = California Threatened

CNPS: 1B = Rare or threatened in CA and elsewhere; 2B = Rare, threatened, or Endangered in CA, but more common elsewhere

Potential for Occurrence Codes:

| | |
|---|---|
| None: | No suitable habitat for the special status species within the Study Area |
| Very Low: | Either the special status species is known to occur within five miles but no suitable habitat exists in the Study Area, or the Study Area provides suitable habitat but the species is not known to occur within a five-mile radius. |
| Low: | Marginally suitable habitat exists in the Study Area and the special status species occurs within 5 miles, but surrounding urban land use conditions and regularity of human activity make it unlikely that the species occurs in the |
| Moderate: | The special status species is known to occur within a five-mile radius and the Study Area contains suitable habitat, however surrounding urban land use conditions and onsite disturbance reduce the likelihood of occurrence. |
| High: | The Study area provides suitable habitat and there is either documentation of species occurrence within a five-mile radius or evidence gathered by a professional surveyor during an onsite field assessment. |
| Present: | Species known to occur within the Study Area |

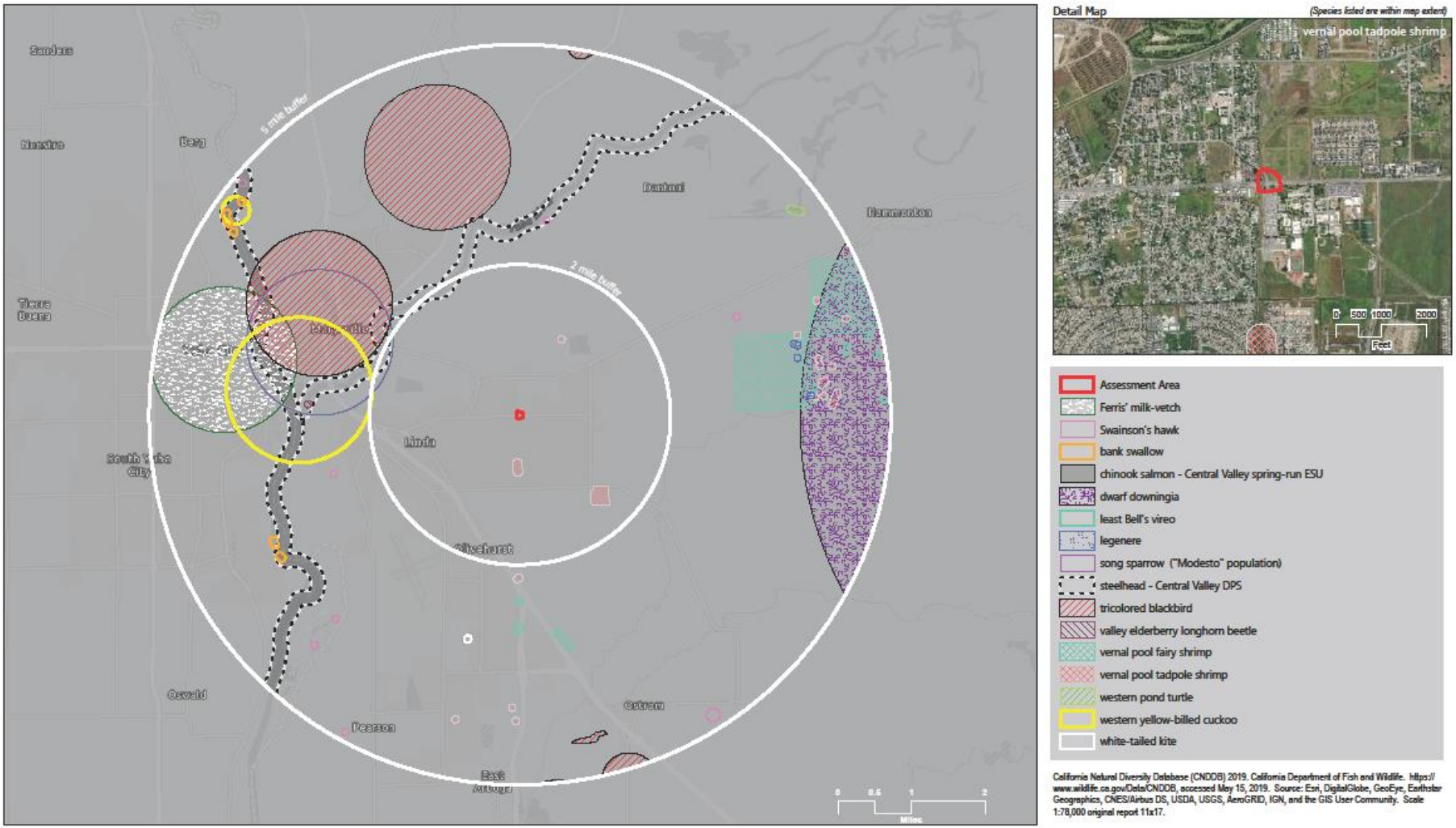


**FIGURE 6 - CALIFORNIA NATIONAL DIVERSITY DATABASE (CNDDB) RECORDED SPECIES OBSERVATIONS WITHIN FIVE MILES OF THE PROJECT AREA**

**NORTH BEALE OUTFALL PROJECT • YUBA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA**

Date: May 15, 2019

## CRITICAL HABITAT FOR SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES

The Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) requires the federal government to designate critical habitat for any listed species. Critical habitat is defined as: (1) specific areas within the geographical area occupied by the species at the time of listing, if they contain physical or biological features essential to conservation, and those features may require special management considerations or protection; and (2) specific areas outside the geographical area occupied by the species if the agency determines that the area itself is essential for conservation. There is no designated critical habitat within 5 miles of the Study Area.

### Special Status Wildlife

There are three federally listed animal species have the potential to occur but are not known to occur within the Study Area (Table 2). These include:

**1. California red-legged frog** (*Rana draytonii)* – California red-legged frog is a federally threatened species. This species typically inhabits lowlands and foothills in or near permanent sources of deep water with dense, shrubby or emergent riparian vegetation. This includes wetlands, marshes, natural ponds, artificial flowing waters such as diversion canals and artificial standing waters behind dams and impoundments. The Study Area contains suitable wetland habitat and this species has a very low potential to inhabit the drainage channel. However, the habitat within the Study Area does not provide a permanent source of deep cool water required for egg development. The drainage ditch was only 6 inches deep during the May 2019 field survey and no California red-legged frogs or any other frogs were found. Additionally, there are no documented CNDDB occurrences within five miles of the Study Area (Figure 6). Therefore, this project has a very low potential to affect the California red legged frog.

**2. Giant garter snake** (*Thamnophis gigas)* – Giant garter snake is both a federal and state listed threatened species. This species inhabits agricultural wetlands and other waterways such as irrigation and drainage canals, sloughs, ponds, small lakes, low gradient streams, and adjacent uplands in the Central Valley. Giant garter snakes require enough water to provide food and cover during the active season, which is early-spring through mid-fall. Wetland plants such as cattails and bulrushes are utilized for cover and foraging. Grassy banks and openings in vegetation are for sunning. Giant garter snakes primarily feed on small fish, tadpoles, and frogs, which require more sustainable water to exist through the summer months and therefore are indicators of more sustainable wetland conditions needed to also support the giant garter snake. The habitat along the wetland drainage within the Study Area provide marginal suitable habitat for the giant garter snake. Although no garter snakes were found during the May 2019 field survey, this project has a low potential to impact habitat for this species.

**3. White-tailed kite** (*Elanus leucurus*) – The white-tailed kite is a California fully protected species. They are found along rolling foothills and valley margins with scattered oaks & river bottomlands or marshes next to deciduous woodland. They use open grasslands, meadows, or marshes for foraging and utilize isolated stands of densely grouped tree-tops for nesting and perching. The habitat within the Study Area does provide potential foraging habitat for white tailed kites; however no white tailed-kites were found during the May 2019 field survey. The

closet CNDDB recorded occurrences is located three miles south of the Study Area (Figure 6). There are very limited trees located southeast on the Yuba college campus and northwest adjacent to a residence. Combined with the surrounding land use and constant human disturbance, there is a very low potential for a white-tailed kites to nest within the Study Area. Therefore, this project has a very low potential to affect the White-tailed kite.

**California (State) Listed Species**

State listed species are plants and animals that are legally protected under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). There are two species has the potential to occur, but is not known to occur within the Study Area or surrounding vicinity:

**1. Swainson's hawk** (*Buteo swainsoni*) – The Swainson's hawk is a California threatened species that is a long- distance migrator that nests in the Central Valley from March 1 to September 15 and over-winters in Mexico or South America. This hawk forages almost exclusively in agricultural row-crops and grasslands. Its favored prey is voles and small rodents that are more readily available in suitable densities on agricultural lands. Unlike some other local raptors, urban areas or dense vegetation do not provide suitable foraging habitat for this hawk. Sacramento, Yolo, and San Joaquin Counties support most of the Central Valley Swainson's hawk breeding population. Swainson's hawks have a very low potential to occur given their nesting and foraging grassland and oak woodland habitat requirements and that no Swainson's hawks were observed onsite during the May 2019 field survey of the Assessment. There are three documented CNDDB Swainson's hawk occurrences within a five-mile radius, with the nearest occurrence 2.5 miles west of the Study Area (Figure 6).

**California (State) Species of Concern**

In addition to California rare, threatened, and fully protected species, the CDFW has also identified California Species of Concern (CSC), which could be a species, subspecies, or distinct population of an animal native to California that:

- Is extirpated from the State or, in the case of birds, in its primary seasonal or breeding role;
- Is listed as Federally-, but not State-, threatened or endangered;
- Meets the State definition of threatened or endangered, but has not formally been listed;
- Is experiencing, or formerly experienced, serious (noncyclical) population declines or range retractions (not reversed) that, if continued or resumed, could qualify it for State threatened or endangered status; or
- Is part of naturally small populations exhibiting high susceptibility to risk from an factor(s), that if realized, could lead to declines that would qualify it for State threatened or endangered status.

A single species of special concern has the potential to occur onsite: western spadefoot toad (*Spea hammondii*), has the potential to occur but is not known to occur within the Study Area (Table 2).

**1. Western pond turtle** (Actinemys marmorata) – Western pond turtles are a California species of concern. They found in permanent and intermittent waters of rivers, creeks, small lakes and ponds, marshes, irrigation ditches and reservoirs. Turtles bask on land or near water on logs, branches or boulders. Terrestrial habitat may be just as important as aquatic habitat for this species. Females emigrate from their aquatic habitat to an upland location between May and August to nest and deposit eggs. Nests are typically located on sandy banks near water, forest habitats or in fields with sunny spots up to a few hundred feet from water. There is a very low potential for occurrence for this species due to the marginal drainage suitable habitat within the Study Area. Additionally, there is a single documented CNDDB occurrences 4.5 miles west of the Study Area. No western pond turtles were found during the May 2019 field survey. Therefore, this project has a very low potential to affect the western pond turtle.

**2. Song sparrow ("Modesto" population**; *Melospiza melodia*) – Song sparrows are California species of sSpecial concern. They are found in a wide variety of open habitats, grasslands, desert scrub and have an affinity for emergent freshwater marshes dominated by tules (*Scirpus spp*.) and cattails (*Typha spp.*). This species as a very low potential to occur given the drainage channel does provide a source of wetland habitat but lacks substantial stands of tules or cattails for nesting and cover required for song sparrows. Additionally, there are two documented CNDDB occurrences within five miles of the Study Area with the nearest occurrrence 1.8 miles. Furthermore, no song sparrows were observed during the May 2019 field survey which is well within the nesting season. Therefore, this project has a very low potential to impact this species.

**3. Tri-colored blackbird** (*Agelaius tricolor*) – The tri-colored blackbird is listed as a California threatened species. This species inhabits freshwater marshes swamps and other wetlands. They are a highly colonial species and typically require open water, surrounded by protected nesting vegetation such as dense stands of cattails and bulrush. Although the Linda drainage ditch provides wetland conditions, it lacks open water and dense stands of marsh vegetation suitable for nesting. Also due to the colonial behavior of tri-colored blackbird, the drainage within the Study Area has a very low potential to attract and support this species. No tri-colored blackbirds were observed during the May 2019 field survey. The project has very low potential to impact this species.

## Effects of the Proposed Action

### Effects of Proposed Action on Wetlands and "Other Waters of the U.S."

The following discussion of wetlands and "other waters of the US" impacts and mitigation measures reflect recommended mitigation under NWP 14 Linear Transportation Projects General guidelines. The Study Area supports 0.185-acre of wetlands and "other waters of the U.S." Activities that affect this area would require a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers pursuant to Section 404 of the federal Clean Water Act. The project would also need to obtain a Water Quality Certification from the Regional Water Quality Control Board pursuant to Section 401 of the federal Clean Act Water Act.

**Effects of Proposed Action on Special Status Plants**

The four plant species described in (Table 1) require very specific habitat conditions, which do not exist within the Study Area. In addition, none of those plants were found during the May 2019 field survey, which is within the blooming period of all four. Therefore, the Linda Drain reconstruction project will have no effect on rare or special status plants.

**Effects of Proposed Action on Wildlife and Habitat**

No significant impacts on wildlife or their habitats are anticipated from the proposed drainage improvement project. No special status plant or wildlife species were observed during the May 2019 site survey and high human disturbance would preclude adverse impacts to most native plant or wildlife species.

Since, however, there is a slight possibility of the presence of California red-legged frog, giant garter snake, western pond turtle Swainson's hawk, tricolored blackbirds, song sparrows, and white-tailed kites we are proposing the following mitigation measures:

California Red-Legged Frog

There are no CNDDB occurrence or designated critical habitat for California red-legged frog. Additionally, this species was not observed during the May 2019 field survey. This species is known to occur along the coastal ranges or in the foothills.

**Mitigation Measure 4.1** A pre-construction survey could be conducted, along with raptor nest and reptile surveys, two weeks prior to the proposed disturbance, to ensure no California red-legged frogs would be adversely affected.

Giant Garter Snake

No giant garter snakes were observed May 2019 survey and they are normally active at this time and below ground. A CNDDB search has revealed no recorded occurrences of giant garter snakes within a five-mile radius of the Study Area. In order to ensure that impacts to the giant garter snake do not occur, the following measures shall be implemented:

**Mitigation Measure 4.2**

1) Construction shall be restricted to occur between May 1 and October 1 to ensure that any snakes in the vicinity are restricted to the immediate environs of the adjacent perennial waterway; or, if construction occurs between October 2 and April 30, construction activities shall not take place within 200 feet of the perennial waterway.

2) Construction shall not occur within 10 to 15 feet of the nearby watercourse during May 1 to October 1. A qualified biologist shall stake or otherwise mark the restriction limits of the "no disturbance" zone prior to construction.

Western Pond Turtle

No western pond turtle were observed during the May 2019. The CNDDB record search revealed a single recorded occurrence of this species 4.5 miles of the Study Area.

**Mitigation Measure 4.3** A pre-construction survey will be conducted by a qualified biologist at least 15 days prior to construction. The biologist will survey all active work areas during the morning hours following any measurable precipitation events. Once the biologist has confirmed the absences of western pond turtle within the Project Area than construction will commence. If a western pond turtle is found within the Study Area than the California Department of Fish and Wildlife will be contacted and proper mitigation measures will be put into action.

Swainson's hawk

No Swainson's hawks were observed during the field survey conducted in May 2019. A focused survey during the hawk's breeding period would reveal its presence or absence within the Study Area. The CNDDB results in Figure 6 show that there have been eight documented occurrences of Swainson's hawk within a five-mile radius of the Study Area with the nearest occurrence 2.5 miles west.

**Mitigation Measure 4.4** Prior to issuance of a grading permit for development:

1. A pre-construction nesting bird survey shall be conducted on-site within 15 days prior to construction if construction associated with the project would commence between March 1st and September 1st ("the nesting season"). If disturbance associated with the project would occur outside of the nesting season, no surveys shall be required.
2. If Swainson's hawk are identified as nesting on the project site, a non-disturbance buffer of 75-feet shall be established or as otherwise prescribed by a qualified ornithologist. The buffer shall be demarcated with painted orange lath or via the installation of orange construction fencing. Disturbance within the buffer shall be postponed until a qualified ornithologist has determined that the young have attained sufficient flight skills to leave the area or that the nesting cycle has otherwise completed.
3. If the proposed project requires a loss of potential foraging habitat than the project proponent shall be responsible for mitigating on the project site at a ratio of 1:1 if the project is within a mile, 0.5:1 ratio if the project is within a half-mile, 0.75:1 ratio if the project is within five miles, and 0.5:1 ratio if the project is within ten miles, per the CDFW's 1994 Guidance on Swainson's Hawk Mitigation.

Special Status Bird Species, Nesting Raptors, and Migratory Bird

No special status bird species were observed during the May 2019 field survey. However, according to CNDDB there are six occurrences of tricolored blackbirds, two occurrences of song sparrows, and a single occurrence of white-tailed kite within five miles of the Study Area. Additionally, the Study Area does provide marginal suitable riparian habitat for raptors and other

migratory birds. Therefore, the following measures to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds and raptors include:

**Mitigation Measure 4.5**

1. If any site disturbance or construction activity for any phase of development begins outside the February 1 to August 31 breeding season, a preconstruction survey for active nests shall not be required.
2. If any site disturbance or construction activity for any phase of development is scheduled to begin between February 1 and August 31, a qualified biologist shall conduct a preconstruction survey for active tree nests and ground nests from publicly accessible areas within 14 days prior to site disturbance for any phase of development. The survey area shall cover the construction site and a 100-foot radius surrounding the construction site. The preconstruction survey shall be submitted to the County of Yuba for review. If no nesting migratory birds are found, then further mitigation measures are not necessary.
3. If an active nest of a migratory bird, or other CDFW-protected bird is discovered that may be adversely affected by any site disturbance, or an injured or killed bird is found, the project applicant shall immediately:
    - Stop all work within a 100-foot radius of the discovery.
    - Notify the Yuba County Community Development Department.
    - Do not resume work within the 100-foot radius until authorized by the biologist.
    - The biologist shall establish a minimum 100-foot Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) around the nest. The ESA may be reduced if the biologist determines that a smaller ESA would still adequately protect the active nest. Further work may not occur within the ESA until the biologist determines that the nest is no longer active.

**Conclusions & Recommendations**

The Study Area contains approximately 0.185 acre of "other waters of the United States" and potential waters of the State. Activities that affect this area would require a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers pursuant to Section 404 of the federal Clean Water Act. The project would also need to obtain a Water Quality Certification from the Regional Water Quality Control Board pursuant to Section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act.

The California Natural Diversity Database (Rarefind) contains no records of any species of special concern within the Linda Drain Improvement Study Area. While the species listed in Table 1 may occur within the vicinity of the Study Area, only seven special status animal species have the very low to low potential to occur within onsite habitats, elevation, or nearby (within five miles) observations.

We would therefore recommend pre-construction surveys for the (1) western pond turtle; (2) CRLF during their November–April breeding period and FYLF during their April–July season; (3) giant garter snake; (4) Swainson's hawk; (5) tricolored blackbird; (6) song sparrow; and (7) white-tailed kite to definitively conclude the presence or absence of these species within the Study Area. Therefore, the project is deemed less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

d) *Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated* –The proposed project could affect wildlife nursery sites, but will not affect any migration patterns of any migratory fish or other species as North Beale Road is an existing road and the project is replacing an existing bridge. Aforementioned mitigation measures would ensure that impacts to nursery sites are mitigated to a less than significant level.

e) *No Impact* –There would be no conflicts with General Plan policies regarding Mitigation of biological resources. The County has no ordinances explicitly protecting biological resources.

f) *No Impact* – No habitat conservation plans or similar plans currently apply to the project site. Both Yuba and Sutter Counties recently ended participation in a joint Yuba-Sutter Natural Community Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan (NCCP/HCP). The project site was not located within the proposed boundaries of the former plan and no conservation strategies have been proposed to date which would be in conflict with the project.

| V. CULTURAL RESOURCES<br><br>**Would the project:** | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in 15064.5? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to 15064.5? | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |

**Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:**

a) *Less Than Significant* – A previous Archaeological Survey Report (ASR) and Historic Property Survey Report (HPSR) were conducted for the EA 2015-0012, North Beale Road Improvement Project, by LSA Associates, Inc. in August 2015. The ASR searched State and other databases at the North Central Information Center for historic site survey that included the project site, a pedestrian field survey was conducted, and various Native America groups and the Native American Heritage Society were contacted to identify potential historic sites or cultural issues of concern.

Additionally, it was determined that nothing associated with the project was eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) and that the project does not appear to be a historical resource for the purposes of CEQA.

b) *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – Archaeological resources may exist on the project site, therefore undiscovered resources may be unearthed during project construction.

The following project mitigation measure shall ensure all project impacts to cultural resources are less than significant:

**Mitigation Measure 5.1** If previously unidentified cultural materials are unearthed during construction, it is Caltrans' policy that work be halted in that area until a qualified archaeologist can assess the significance of the find. Additional archaeological surveying will be needed if Project limits are extended beyond the present survey project limits.

**Mitigation Measure 5.2** If human remains are discovered during Project activities, all activities in the vicinity of the find will be stopped and the Yuba County Sheriff–Coroner's Office shall be notified. If the coroner determines that the remains may be those of a Native American, the coroner will contact the NAHC. Treatment of the remains shall be conducted in

accordance with further direction of the NAHC-designated Most Likely Descendent and landowner as appropriate.

c) *No Impact* – No known record exists of any paleontological resources on the project site and no known unique geological features were identified or are known to exist on the project site.

d) *Less Than Significant Impact* – There are no known burial sites within the project site. If human remains are unearthed during construction, the provisions of California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 shall apply. Under this section, no further disturbance of the remains shall occur until the County Coroner has made the necessary findings as to origin, pursuant to California Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. If the remains are determined to be Native American, the County Coroner shall contact the Native American Heritage Commission within 24 hours.

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

## DISCUSSION/CONCLUSION/MITIGATION:

a)-b) *Less Than Significant* – The proposed project is a drainage improvement project would not impact energy resources and conflict with local plans for energy.

| VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS<br><br>Would the project: | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| a) Expose people or structures to 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 Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42. | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| ii) Strong seismic ground shaking? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| iii) Seismic related ground failure, including liquefaction? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| iv) Landslides? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| 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? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Section 1803.5.3 to 1808.6 of the 2010 California Building Code, creating substantial risks to life or property? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

## Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:

a

i) *Less Than Significant*- Yuba County 2030 General Plan describes the potential for seismic activity potential within Yuba County as being relatively low and it is not located within a highly active fault zone. No Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones are located within the County. The faults that are located within Yuba County are primarily inactive and consist of the Foothills Fault System, running south-southeastward near Loma Rica, Browns Valley and Smartsville. Faults within the Foothill Fault System include Prairie Creek Fault Zone, the Spenceville Fault, and the Swain Ravine Fault. The project area is not known to be prone to liquefaction as well.

ii) *Less Than Significant* – Within Yuba County, the Swain Ravine Lineament of the Foothills Fault system is considered a continuation of the Cleveland Hill Fault, the source of the 1975 Oroville earthquake. The Foothill Fault System has not yet been classified as active, and special seismic zoning was determined not to be necessary by the California Division of Mines and Geology. While special seismic zoning was not determined to be necessary, the Foothill Fault system is considered capable of seismic activity. In addition, the County may experience ground shaking from faults outside the County.

The complete street and drainage improvements will be constructed to meet all applicable State of California seismic building codes and design as applicable to the project.

iii) *No Impact* – Ground failures, such as differential compaction, seismic settlement and liquefaction, occur mainly in areas that have fine-grained soils and clay. The proposed project would not result in any people or new structures in the project area.

iv) *No Impact* – Landslides are most likely to form when the ground is sloped. The project site has flat topography and no steep slopes (defined as slopes exceeding 60 percent grade). The proposed project would not result in any new structures in the project area.

b) *Less Than Significant Impact* –As part of the construction process, projects are required to submit plans for the disposition of surface runoff and erosion control to the County's Public Works Department. In addition, the Feather River Air Quality Management District has standard Mitigation Measures that address earth-disturbing activities. Mitigation Measures in the Air Quality section have incorporated these measures.

c) *No Impact* – The proposed project would not be subject to significant hazards associated with landslides, lateral spreading, liquefaction, or collapse. Activities that would cause subsidence include groundwater pumping and natural gas extraction. There are a number of wells in the project vicinity that are used to supply water for agricultural and residential uses. These wells will continue to be used in the future. However, the project would not result in an increased demand for water. Water usage associated with the proposed project would not significantly draw down aquifers in the area to a level that would cause subsidence.

d) *No Impact* – Expansive soils could cause damage to structures; however, there are no structures associated with the proposed project.

e) *No Impact* – The project does not propose any residential uses and would not generate any wastewater. No septic systems are proposed.

| VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMMISSIONS<br>**Would the project:** | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

**Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:**

a*) Less Than Significant*- Global Warming is a public health and environmental concern around the world. The predominant opinion within the scientific community is that global warming is currently occurring, and that it is being caused and/or accelerated by human activities, primarily the generation of "greenhouse gases" (GHG).

In 2006, the California State Legislature adopted AB32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in California. Greenhouse gases, as defined under AB32, include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydro-fluorocarbons, perfluorcarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride. AB 32 requires that the state's GHG emission be reduced to 1990 levels by 2020.

In 2008, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) adopted the Scoping Plan for AB32. The Scoping Plan identifies specific measures to reduce GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, and requires ARB and other state agencies to develop and enforce regulations and other initiatives for reducing GHGs. The Scoping Plan also recommends, but does not require, an emissions reduction goal for local governments of 15% below "current" emissions to be achieved by 2020 (per Scoping Plan current is a point in time between 2005 and 2008). The Scoping Plan also recognized that Senate Bill 375 Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008 (SB 375) is the main action required to obtain the necessary reductions from the land use and transportation sectors in order to achieve the 2020 emissions reduction goals of AB 32.

SB 375 complements AB 32 by reducing GHG emission reductions from the State's transportation sector through land use planning strategies with the goal of more economic and environmentally sustainable (i.e., fewer vehicle miles travelled) communities. SB 375 requires that the ARB establish GHG emission reduction targets for 2020 and 2035 for each of the state's 18 metropolitan planning organizations (MPO). Each MPO must then prepare a plan called a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) that demonstrates how the region will meet its SB 375 GHG reduction target through integrated land use, housing, and transportation planning.

The Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), the MPO for Yuba County, adopted an SCS for the entire SACOG region as part of the 2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) on April 19, 2012. THE GHG reduction target for the SACOG area is 7 percent per capita by 2020 and 16 percent per capita by 2035 using 2055 levels as the baseline. Further information regarding SACOG's MTP/SCS and climate change can be found at http://www.sacog.org/2035/.

While AB32 and SB375 target specific types of emissions from specific sectors, and ARBs Scoping Plan outlines a set of actions designed to reduce overall GHG emissions it does not provide a GHG significance threshold for individual projects. Air districts around the state have begun articulating region-specific emissions reduction targets to identify the level at which a project may have the potential to conflict with statewide efforts to reduce GHG emissions (establish thresholds). To date, the Feather River Air Quality Management District (FRAQMD) has not adopted a significance threshold for analyzing project generated emissions from plans or development projects or a methodology for analyzing impacts. Rather FRAQMD recommends that local agencies utilize information from the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA), Attorney General's Office, Cool California, or the California Natural Resource Agency websites when developing GHG evaluations through CEQA.

GHGs are emitted as a result of activities in residential/commercial buildings when electricity and natural gas are used as energy sources. New California buildings must be designed to meet the building energy efficiency standards of Title 24, also known as the California Building Standards Code. Title 24 Part 6 regulates energy uses including space heating and cooling, hot water heating, ventilation, and hard-wired lighting that are intended to help reduce energy consumption and therefore GHG emissions. Replacing an existing bridge will not create any new sources of GHG outside of the small emission that would take place during project construction that are within the limits allowed in the Yuba County 2030 General Plan.

Therefore a complete streets and drainage improvement project on an existing road would likely not generate significant GHG emissions that would result in a cumulatively considerable contribution to climate change impacts.

b) *No Impact*- Yuba County is currently preparing a Resource Efficiency Plan that will address Greenhouse Gas emissions; however there is not a plan in place at this time. The project is consistent with the Air Quality & Climate Change policies within the Public Health & Safety Section of the 2030 General Plan therefore, the project does not conflict with any applicable plan, policy or regulation.

| IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS<br><br>**Would the project:** | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials? | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| b) 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? | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school? | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 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? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| 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 for people residing or working in the project area? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

**Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:**

a) *Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated* – The project consists of a drain improvement project at North Beale Road at Linda Avenue. Construction equipment typically uses only a minor amount of hazardous materials, primarily motor vehicle fuels and oils. Because of their limited quantity, these materials would present a minor hazard, and only if spillage occurs. Standard spill prevention and control measures will be maintained by the contractor. Use of these materials would cease once project construction is completed.

**Mitigation Measure 8.1 Construction Measures**:

Construction specifications shall include the following measures to reduce potential impacts in the project area associated with accidental spills of pollutants (e.g., fuel, oil, grease):

- A site-specific prevention plan shall be implemented for potentially hazardous materials. The plan shall include the proper handling and storage of all potentially hazardous materials, as well as the proper procedures for cleaning up and reporting any spills. If necessary, containment berms shall be constructed to prevent spilled materials from reaching surface water features.

- Equipment and hazardous materials shall be stored a minimum of 50 feet away from surface water features.

- Vehicles and equipment used during construction shall receive proper and timely maintenance to reduce the potential for mechanical breakdowns leading to a spill of materials. Maintenance and fueling shall be conducted in an area at least 50 feet away from Deep Ravine # 1 or within an adequate fueling containment area.

b) *Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated* – As noted in a) above, only a limited amount of hazardous materials would be used by construction equipment during road construction. Spills of these materials could potentially occur, and MM 8.1 would ensure that impacts from spills would be limited and not a significant risk to the environment.

c) *Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated* – There are two schools located near the project site. As discussed in sections a) hazardous materials associated with the proposed project could present a significant hazard. Mitigation measures MM 8.1 would ensure that project impacts to hazardous materials would be less than significant.

d) *Less than Signifigant* – RMA Group conducted an Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) on June 2, 2014. RMA's study consisted of a review of records pe11aining to environmental conditions of the study area and selected adjacent parcels; site reconnaissance; interviews with current property owners, local government officials, and others familiar with the study area; and compilation of data and conclusions into a report, in accordance with the ASTM International (ASTM) method standard, *E1527-05, Standard Practice for Environmental Site Assessments: Phase I Environmental Site Assessment Process*.

RMA determined that nine nearby prope11ies are known to have contaminated sites, regulated landfill sites, underground-tank sites, or hazardous-waste generators, but the project site is not identified on the list. Site reconnaissance performed by RMA, also, confi1med that hazardous substances and petroleum products were not observed. Interview sources confirmed the above mentioned lack of hazardous material sites on the project area. As a result, RMA determined that the ESA revealed no evidence of recognized environmental conditions", under *ASTM El527-05*, in connection with the project site with the exceptions listed above.

e) *No Impact* – The project is located east of the Yuba County Airport which has a Land Use Compatibility Plan that was adopted on March 17, 2011. The project is proposing a complete

streets project along an existing stretch of road and does not have a land-use element that is inconsistent with the Yuba County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan.

f) *No Impact* – There are no private airstrips located near the project site. Therefore, the project will not have any potential safety impacts related to private airstrips.

g) *No Impact* – The County is currently developing a Pre-Disaster Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan (MHMP), in accordance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000, to develop activities and procedures to reduce the risk of loss of life and property damage resulting from natural and man-made hazards and disasters. The 2030 General Plan contains safety and seismic safety policies. The project is not expected to have an impact on any of the County's emergency response plans or policies. The project does not propose any development that would have to evacuate and would not interfere with an emergency evacuation of the area.

h) *No Impact* – The project does not propose any development; therefore, it would not expose people or structures to wildland fires. All heavy equipment used during the construction of the project will be mandated to possess fire extinguishers and all construction personal training to use the fire extinguishers.

| X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY<br>**Would the project:** | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements? | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| e) 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? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map? (Source: | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

## Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:

a) *Less Than Significant with Mitigation* – The project may result in ground disturbance equal to or greater than one acre in size and would then be within the jurisdiction of the Central Valley

Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), which develops and enforces water quality objectives and implementation plans that safeguard the quality of water resources in its region. Prior to construction of a project greater than one acre, the RWQCB requires a project applicant to file for a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit. The General Permit process requires the project applicant to 1) notify the State, 2) prepare and implement a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), and 3) to monitor the effectiveness of the plan.

The following mitigation shall be incorporated into the project's construction activities and stormwater runoff design to offset the potential for siltation (erosion) and other potential water quality impacts.

**Mitigation Measure 9.1** Prior to the County's approval of a grading plan or site improvement plans, the project applicant shall obtain from the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board a National Pollution Discharge Elimination (NPDES) Permit for the disturbance of over one acre. Further, approval of a General Construction Storm Water Permit (Order No. 99-08-DWQ) is required along with a Small Construction Storm Water Permit. The permitting process also requires that a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) be prepared prior to construction activities. The SWPPP is used to identify potential construction pollutants that may be generated at the site including sediment, earthen material, chemicals, and building materials. The SWPPP also describes best management practices that will be employed to eliminate or reduce such pollutants from entering surface waters.

b) *No Impact* – The project will not affect groundwater supplies or interfere with any groundwater recharge. There is not a development component to the project.

c) *Less than Significant* – The proposed construction plan would not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area. The natural drainage pattern of the area will be enhanced, but not altered in terms of changing drainage channels/paths.

The project sponsor is also required to file a NPDES General Construction Storm Water Permit. The NPDES General Construction Permit process requires the project sponsor to 1) notify the State, 2) prepare and implement a SWPPP, and 3) monitor the effectiveness of the plan. The SWPPP identifies pollutants that may be generated at the construction site, including sediment, earthen material, chemicals, and building materials. The SWPPP also describes best management practices that a project will employ to eliminate or reduce contamination of surface waters. Implementation of the conditions of the NPDES General Construction Permit, if required, would control potential erosion problems.

d) *No Impact* – As stated above, the proposed project would not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site. No future development such as the construction or structures or houses is proposed; however a small increase in impervious surfaces would occur. Therefore, flooding is unlikely to be generated by the additional impervious surfaces.

e) *No Impact* – As noted in d) above, the proposed project would not generate higher runoff rates.

f) *No Impact* – The project would not have any effect on water quality other than those impacts discussed above.

g-h) *No Impact* – The project is not located within a 1 00-year flood plain, as mapped by the Federal Emergency management Agency (FEMA).

i) *Less Than Significant* –The project site is located outside of the floodplain.

j) *No Impact* – Seiche and tsunami hazards occur only in areas adjacent to a large body of water. The project site is not located in such an area. There are no steep slopes in the project area; the landslide potential of the project site is minimal and the mudflow hazard is minimal.

| XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING<br><br>Would the project: | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| a) Physically divide an established community? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

**Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation**

a) *No Impact* – The project site consists of roadway rehabilitation and drainage improvements and is located in a rurall area and there would be no change in land use. The project would not physically divide an established community.

b) *No Impact* – The Yuba County General Plan designates the project site as site as Valley Neighborhood. The project site is surrounded "NMX" Neighborhood Mix Use and meets all the requirements and intents for this zone. No rezoning to accommodate the project is required. The project is consistent with the current General Plan policies and zoning designations.

c) *No Impact* – As discussed in the Biological Resources section, no habitat conservation plans or similar plans currently apply to the project site. Both Yuba and Sutter Counties recently ended participation in a joint Yuba-Sutter Natural Community Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan (NCCP/HCP). The project site was not located within the proposed boundaries of the former plan and no conservation strategies have been proposed to date which would be in conflict with the project.

| XII. MINERAL RESOURCES<br><br>Would the project: | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 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? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| 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? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

**Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:**

a)-b) *No Impact* – Exhibit GS-5, Mineral Resource Locations, of the Yuba County 2030 General Plan Geology and Soils Background Report, identify known and expected mineral resources within Yuba County, respectively. The project site is not located with an active mining area or a mineral resource zone in Exhibit GS-5. The project is expected to have no impact on mineral resources.

| XIII. NOISE<br><br>Would the project result in: | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| a) 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? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| 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 expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

**Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:**

a) *Less Than Significant* – The Yuba County 2030 General Plan contains recommended ambient allowable noise level objectives. The plan recommends a maximum allowable ambient noise level of 50 dB in both daytime and evening hours. Temporary construction noise associated with project construction would be minimal and be conducted solely during daylight hours. During construction, noise levels are expected to remain well below these thresholds of significance. After construction is complete, noise levels will drop to existing levels.

b) *No Impact* – Primary sources of groundborne vibrations include heavy vehicle traffic on roadways and railroad traffic. There are no railroad tracks near the project site. Traffic on roadways in the area would include very few heavy vehicles, as no land uses that may require them are in the vicinity.

c) *No Impact* – The only noise generated by the project would be during the construction phase; there would be no permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity.

d) *Less Than Significant* – Construction activities associated with the project may cause a temporary increase in noise levels in the vicinity. However, these noise levels would be temporary and would cease once construction activities end. In addition, the temporary construction noise associated with grading activities would be similar to noise generated by other rural residential activities. There are few residences on the surrounding parcels and construction noise is expected to have little impact on these parcels. The County noise ordinance requires that both agriculture and low- density residential zones not exceed an ambient noise level of 50 decibels from 10:00 pm to 7:00 am. This would further reduce construction noise impacts on the few residences adjacent to the project site, particularly at nighttime when residents are most sensitive to noise.

e) *No Impact* – The nearest airport to the project site is the BAFB Airport which is 2.5 miles away. The existing and future land use will not change as a result of this project and the project would not expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels.

c) *No Impact* – The project site is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip.

| XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING<br><br>Would the project: | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| a) Induce substantial 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)? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

**Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:**

a) *No Impact* – The project does not include the construction of homes or any infrastructure that would be required to foster population growth near the project area; therefore, there would be no increase in population.

b-c) *No Impact* – The project does not include the demolition of any housing; therefore it would not displace any housing or people and would not require the construction of replacement housing.

| XV. PUBLIC SERVICES<br><br>Would the project result in: | | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, 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**:** | | | | | |
| a) | Fire protection? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) | Police protection? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) | Schools? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| d) | Parks? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| e) | Other public facilities? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

**Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:**

a) *No Impact* – The proposed project does not include the construction of any housing or land uses that would require a change or increase in fire protection. There would be no impact on fire protection services.

b) *No Impact* – The Yuba County Sheriff's Department would continue to provide law enforcement services to the project site and the California Highway Patrol will respond in the event of a vehicle accident. The proposed project does not include the construction of any housing or land uses that would result in a change or increase in the demand for law enforcement.

c) *No Impact* – The proposed project does not include the construction of any housing and would not generate any students. The project would not increase the demand on school districts.

d) *No Impact* – The proposed project does not include the construction of housing and would not generate an increased demand for parks.

e) *No Impact* – Other public facilities that are typically affected by development projects include the Yuba County Library and County roads. However, since there is no development proposed by the project, there would be no increased demand for these services. The temporary traffic generated by construction activities would not generate any additional roadway maintenance.

| XVI. RECREATION<br><br>Would the project: | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 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? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

**Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:**

a-b) *No Impact* – The proposed project does not include the construction of any housing and therefore would not increase the demand for parks or recreational facilities. The project also does not include the construction of any new recreational facilities.

| XVII. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC<br><br>Would the project: | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| e) Result in inadequate emergency access? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| f) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

**Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:**

*a) Less Than Significant* – The proposed project would generate a temporary increase in traffic during construction. It is expected that the roadway can accommodate the temporary increase in traffic during construction. The project would not significantly increase traffic in the area. However, there could be upwards to a fifteen-minute traffic delay during construction activities.

b) *Less Than Significant* – Level of service (LOS) is a qualitative measure of traffic conditions on a given road segment or intersection. LOS ratings are from A to F, with A being the best condition. According to the Yuba County General Plan, the minimum acceptable LOS for County roads is D. According to the Yuba County 2030 General Plan, North Beale Road and Linda Avenue is classified as having a Level of Service "C" which is an acceptable minimum level of service for a Yuba County Road. North Beale Road is able to accommodate the additional temporary increase in traffic during construction while maintaining a Level of Service

"D". Temporary traffic associated with project construction will only be temporary and will not result in any permanent change to the current "C" LOS rating for North Beale Road.

c) *No Impact* – As noted in the Hazards and Hazardous Materials section, the project site is not located within a safety or over-flight zone of any public or public-use airport. Therefore, the project would have no influence on flight patterns.

d) *Less Than Significant* – North Beale Road and Linda Avenue are existing roads that currently provides access to the project site. North Beale Road and Linda Avenue are used by the surrounding community and for traffic traveling within the community of Linda. North Beale Road would be used by construction equipment accessing the project site; however, there would be no substantial increase in hazards due to this temporary use of the road.

e) *No Impact* – Emergency access to the project site would be via North Beale Road. There would be no change in emergency access as a result of the project.

f) *No Impact* – The County has not adopted alternative transportation plans for this area of Yuba County.

| XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES<br><br>Would the project: | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| a) 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: | | | | |
| i) 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), or | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| ii) 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. | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |

**Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:**

a) (i-ii) *Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated* – The County had previously started the formal consultation process on August 2015 as formal notification was provided to the Native American Heritage Society, including all project information documents. The County received a response from the Native American Heritage Society requesting copies of any cultural resource surveys and/or cultural resource assessments performed as part of the project and a copy of the environmental document. They determined that there were two recorded pre-historic sites or historic properties between Avondale Avenue and Griffith Avenue on North Beale Road. As a result an Extended Phase 1 presence/absence study was conducted for the project which did not yield any evidence of deposits associated with the two resources. An Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) Action Plan was established to protect these two archaeological cultural resources.

With mitigation measures **Mitigation Measure 5.1 and Mitigation Measure 5.2** in the event of the accidental discovery or recognition of tribal cultural resources and human remains in the project area the impact upon tribal cultural resources would be less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated.

| XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS<br><br>**Would the project:** | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which 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? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

**Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:**

a) *No Impact* – The project does not propose the construction of any structures that would generate wastewater.

b) *No Impact* – The project does not require the use of water or wastewater treatment facilities.

c) *Less Than Significant* – As discussed in the Hydrology and Water Quality section, there would be little increase in impervious surfaces as a result of the project; therefore, the project would minimally increase runoff.

d) *Less Than Significant* – As discussed earlier, there is no need for a water supply at the proposed project site.

e) *No Impact* – The project does not require the use of water or wastewater treatment facilities.

f-g) *No Impact* – The project is not anticipated to result in the generation of any solid waste.

| XX. WILDFIRE<br><br>**Would the project:** | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| 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? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| c) Require the installation or maintenance 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? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including down slope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |

**DISCUSSION/CONCLUSION/MITIGATION:**

a-d) *Less than Significant* – The is a drainage improvement project that will add two new storm drains that divert water from North Beale road and transmit it to the southwest corner of the intersection on North Beale Rd and Linda Ave, where the Linda drainage is located. This will improve drainage infrastructures for emergency services. During project construction, local residents and construction employees would still be able to utilize nearby Hammonton Smartsville Road and Alberta Avenue. Project related impacts to the adopted emergency response plan and emergency evacuation plan would be less than significant.

**XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE**

NOTE: If there are significant environmental impacts which cannot be mitigated and no feasible project alternatives are available, then complete the mandatory findings of significance and attach to this initial study as an appendix. This is the first step for starting the environmental impact report (EIR) process.

| **Does the project:** | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| a) Have the potential to 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, 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 history or prehistory? | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| b) 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)? | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| c) Have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly? | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |

**Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:**

a) *Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated* – As discussed in the Biological and Cultural Resources sections, construction associated with the project could potentially have impacts on cultural resources, and to small animal and bird species as discussed in both sections. Proposed mitigation measures would lessen the impact this project would have on both biological and cultural resources.

b) *Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated* – Construction of the project, in combination with other proposed projects in the adjacent area, may contribute to air quality impacts that are cumulatively considerable. However, when compared with the thresholds in the Air Quality section, the project would not have a cumulatively significant impact on air quality.

The project is consistent with the Yuba County 2030 General Plan land use designation for the project site and the zoning for the project site. With the identified Mitigation Measures **Mitigation Measure 3.1** and **Mitigation Measure 3.2** in place, cumulative impacts would be

less than significant. No other cumulative impacts associated with this project have been identified.

c) *Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated* – Due to the nature and size of the proposed project, no substantial adverse effects on humans are expected. The project would not emit substantial amounts of air pollutants, including hazardous materials. The project would not expose residents to flooding. The one potential human health effects identified as a result of project implementation were minor construction-related impacts, mainly dust that could affect the few scattered residences near the project site. These effects are temporary in nature and subject to Feather River Air Quality Management District's Standard Mitigation Measures that would reduce these emissions to a level that would not be considered a significant impact.

**REFERENCES**


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9. North Beale Road at Linda Avenue Wetlands and Biological Resources Assessment, September 2019. Barnett Environmental.
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