



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

CITY OF ROCKLIN

3970 Rocklin Road

Rocklin, California 95677

(916) 625-5160

ATTACHMENT 1

INITIAL STUDY AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

City of Rocklin Streambed Alteration Routine Maintenance Agreement

City of Rocklin

June 25, 2020

PREPARED BY:

Corinne Heisler, Environmental Services Specialist, (916) 625 5513

CONTACT INFORMATION:

This Initial Study has been prepared by the City of Rocklin, as Lead Agency, under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Any questions regarding this document should be addressed to Corinne Heisler at Corporation Yard, 4081 Rocklin Road, Rocklin, California 95677: (916) 625-5513.

APPLICANT/OWNER:

The applicant and property owner is City of Rocklin

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SECTION 1. INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose of an Initial Study

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) was enacted in 1970 for the purpose of providing decision-makers and the public with information regarding environmental effects of proposed projects; identifying means of avoiding environmental damage; and disclosing to the public the reasons behind a project's approval even if it leads to environmental damage. The City of Rocklin has determined the proposed project is subject to CEQA and no exemptions apply. Therefore, preparation of an initial study is required.

An initial study is a preliminary analysis conducted by the lead agency, in consultation with other agencies (responsible or trustee agencies, as applicable), to determine whether there is substantial evidence that a project may have a significant effect on the environment. If the initial study concludes that the project, with mitigation, may have a significant effect on the environment, an environmental impact report should be prepared; otherwise the lead agency may adopt a negative declaration or mitigated negative declaration.

This Initial Study (IS) has been prepared in accordance with CEQA (Public Resources Code §21000 et seq.), the State CEQA Guidelines (Title 14, California Code of Regulations, §15000 et seq.), and the City of Rocklin CEQA Guidelines (1981, amended July 31, 2002).

This Initial Study has been prepared to identify and assess the anticipated environmental impacts of the Rocklin Gateway project. The document relies on a combination of a previous environmental document and site-specific studies to address in detail the effects or impacts associated with the proposed project. In particular, this Initial Study assesses the extent to which the impacts of the proposed project have already been addressed in the certified Final Environmental Impact Report for the Rocklin General Plan, as adopted by the Rocklin City Council on October 9, 2012 (the "General Plan EIR").

B. Document Format

This Initial Study is organized into five sections as follows:

Section 1, Introduction: provides an overview of the project and the CEQA environmental documentation process.

Section 2, Summary Information and Determination: Required summary information, listing of environmental factors potentially affected, and lead agency determination.

Section 3, Project Description: provides a description of the project location, project background, and project components.

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Section 4, Evaluation of Environmental Impacts: provides a detailed discussion of the environmental factors that would be potentially affected by this project as indicated by the screening from the CEQA Guidelines Appendix G checklist.

Section 5, References: provides a list of reference materials used during the preparation of this Initial Study. The reference materials are available for review during normal business hours at the City of Rocklin Planning Department, 3970 Rocklin Road, Rocklin, CA, and can also be found on the City's website under Planning Department, Current Environmental Documents.

C. CEQA Process

To begin the CEQA process, the lead agency identifies a proposed project. The lead agency then prepares an initial study to identify the preliminary environmental impacts of the proposed project. This document has been prepared in accordance with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to analyze the possible environmental impacts of the project so that the public and the City of Rocklin decision-making bodies (Planning Commission, and/or City Council) can take these impacts into account when considering action on the required entitlements.

During the project approval process, persons and/or agencies may address either the Environmental Services staff or the City Council regarding the project. Public notification of agenda items for the City Council is posted 72 hours prior to the public meeting. The Council agenda can be obtained by contacting the Office of the City Clerk at City Hall, 3970 Rocklin Road, Rocklin, CA 95667 or via the internet at <http://www.rocklin.ca.us>.

Within five days of project approval, the City will file a Notice of Determination with the County Clerk. The Notice of Determination will be posted by the County Clerk within 24 hours of receipt. This begins a 30-day statute of limitations on legal challenges to the approval under CEQA. The ability to challenge the approval in court may be limited to those persons who objected to the approval of the project, and to issues that were presented to the lead agency by any person, either orally or in writing, during the public comment period.

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SECTION 2. INITIAL STUDY SUMMARY AND DETERMINATION

A. Summary Information

Project Title:

City of Rocklin Streambed Alteration Routine Maintenance Agreement

Lead Agency Name and Address:

City of Rocklin, 3970 Rocklin Road, Rocklin, CA 95677

Contact Person and Phone Number:

Corinne Heisler, Environmental Services Specialist, 916-625-5513

Project Location:

Creeks, drainage channels, and associated riparian vegetation throughout the City of Rocklin. Specific creeks include Antelope Creek, Clover Valley Creek, Pleasant Grove Creek, Secret Ravine Creek, Sucker Ravine Creek, and other unnamed tributaries. Attachment A shows a map of project locations.

Project Sponsor's Name:

The applicant and property owner is City of Rocklin.

Current General Plan Designation: Recreation Conservation (R-C)

Proposed General Plan Designation: Recreation Conservation (R-C) (no change)

Current Zoning: Open Area (OA), Planned Development Open Area (PD-OA), Open Space (OS), and Wetlands (W)

Proposed Zoning: Open Area (OA), Planned Development Open Area (PD-OA), Open Space (OS), and Wetlands (W) (no change)

Description of the Project:

The City of Rocklin proposes to enter into a 12 year (with optional 5 year extension for a total of 17 years) Streambed Alteration Agreement with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for the ongoing implementation of routine maintenance activities within jurisdictional improved and unimproved drainage channels and associated CDFW jurisdictional areas. Coverage of the City's existing routine maintenance work would transition to the new Routine Maintenance Agreement (RMA). For more detail please refer to the Project Description set forth in Section 3 of this Initial Study.

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Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:

The project sites are currently vacant and contain open space preserves, drainage channels and a variety of natural communities. The project sites are surrounded by residential and commercial development.

Other Actions Which May Be Required for Project Implementation (e.g., Permits, Financing Approval, or Participation Agreement):

- State of California Department of Fish and Wildlife Verification Request Form (VRF) will be required prior to each project during the term of the RMA.
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers — Section 404 Clean Water Act
- Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board — Section 401 Water Quality Certification

B. Environmental Factors Potentially Affected:

Those factors checked below involve impacts that are “Potentially Significant”:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Aesthetics	<input type="checkbox"/>	Agriculture/Forestry Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	Air Quality
<input type="checkbox"/>	Biological Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cultural Resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	Energy
<input type="checkbox"/>	Geology/Soils	<input type="checkbox"/>	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	<input type="checkbox"/>	Hazards & Hazardous Materials
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hydrology/Water Quality	<input type="checkbox"/>	Land Use/Planning	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mineral Resources
<input type="checkbox"/>	Noise	<input type="checkbox"/>	Population/Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>	Public Services
<input type="checkbox"/>	Recreation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tribal Cultural Resources
<input type="checkbox"/>	Utilities/Service Systems	<input type="checkbox"/>	Wildfire	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mandatory Findings of Significance
<input type="checkbox"/>	None	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	None with Mitigation Incorporated		

C. Determination:

On the basis of this Initial Study:

- ☐ I find that the proposed project WILL NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☒ I find that as originally submitted, the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment; however, revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent which will avoid these effects or mitigate these effects to a point where clearly no significant effect will occur. 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 the attached Environmental Checklist. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, to analyze 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 (MITIGATED) NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or (MITIGATED) NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Justin Nartker
Director of Public Services

Date

SECTION 3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A. Project Location

The project site is located in drainage channels located in City owned open space preserves throughout the City of Rocklin. Please see Attachment A, Project Sites and Vicinity Map.

The City of Rocklin is located approximately 25 miles northeast of Sacramento, and is within the County of Placer. Surrounding jurisdictions include: unincorporated Placer County to the north and northeast, the City of Lincoln to the northwest, the Town of Loomis to the east and southeast, and the City of Roseville to the south and southwest.

B. Description

The City of Rocklin proposed to enter into a 12 year (with optional 5 year extension for a total of 17 years) Streambed Alteration Agreement with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for the ongoing implementation of routine maintenance activities within jurisdictional improved and unimproved drainage channels and associated CDFW jurisdictional areas. Coverage of the City's existing routine maintenance work would transition to the new Routine Maintenance Agreement (RMA). The City performs routine maintenance work to maintain functional and structural integrity of their facilities with the ultimate goal of flood protection.

Routine maintenance would primarily involve the use of various types of small equipment including pickup trucks, hand tools (e.g. chainsaws, string trimmers, loppers, shovels, rakes) and may occasionally require standard construction equipment, including, but not limited to: water trucks, concrete saws, backhoes, graders and compactors. Exact methods, locations, and extent of maintenance activities would be submitted to CDFW for final approval through the Verification Request Form (VRF) process. Depending on extent and location, any given VRF maintenance project may take between 1 day and 3 months to complete. Maintenance activities would include the following:

1. Debris and obstruction removal within creeks and channels. Debris and obstructions may include trash, rubbish, beaver dams, flood-deposited woody and herbaceous vegetation and downed trees. Dead trees in danger of falling across channels or branches that obstruct water flow may also be removed.
2. Silt, sand and sediment removal within 50 feet of manmade structures. Removal may include sand, gravel and sediment that obstruct water flow, reduce channel capacity, and accelerate erosion or damage structures.
3. Vegetation control in channels. Lower branches of large trees may be trimmed or removed to provide access to channels. Vegetation on levee slopes may be cut, mowed, burned or sprayed with herbicide to conduct safety inspections. The City will cut, mow, disc, bulldoze

or spray herbicide to maintain channel capacity. Dead trees, dying trees or trees less than 4 inch DBH may be removed from channels. All non-native vegetation may be removed from channels.

4. Repair of previous erosion control work. Erosion control may include, but is not limited to, rock slope protection (RSP) and gabion sections. Repairs will not exceed 100 linear feet beyond their previous location.
5. Minor erosion control work. Work may include sloping, placement of earthen fill, or installation of RSP and gabions. Minor erosion control work will not exceed 100 linear feet in length.
6. Restoration plantings within the riparian corridor. Native trees and shrubs will be planted and competing invasive vegetation removed with the intent of improving riparian habitat within the Project area.

Routine maintenance may also include conducting minor geotechnical sampling; and other work necessary to maintain the functional and structural integrity of City of Rocklin facilities.

Verification Request Forms

Prior to any routine maintenance work the City will submit a Verification Request Form (VRF) to CDFW. Information provided in the VRF will include type of request (Routine or Urgent), location and name of watercourse, description of work activities, equipment to be used, size of impact area, known environmental concerns, and whether a temporal variance request is needed to complete work. CDFW may approve the request with additional monitoring or mitigation measures as deemed necessary. Denied requests may need alteration or separate notification under Fish and Game Code Section 1602. Emergency work is not part of the proposed RMA and will be conducted in accordance with Fish and Game Code 1610.

Project Schedule

Routine maintenance work is performed every one to five years and stream channel maintenance work will be scheduled to occur beginning August 15th and ending October 15th of any given year, unless otherwise authorized by CDFW. The RMA will be effective from 2020 to 2032, with the potential to extend to 2037.

SECTION 4. EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

A. Explanation of CEQA Streamlining and Tiering Utilized in this Initial Study

This Initial Study will evaluate this project in light of the previously approved General Plan EIR, which is hereby incorporated by reference. This document is available for review during normal business hours at the City of Rocklin Planning Department, 3970 Rocklin Road, Rocklin, CA, and can also be found on the City's website under Planning Department, Publications and Maps.

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CEQA Guidelines Section 15183 provides a means of streamlining analysis for qualifying projects. Under Section 15183, effects are not considered “peculiar to the project or the parcel” if they are addressed and mitigated by uniformly applied development policies and standards adopted by the City to substantially mitigate that effect (unless new information shows that the policy or standard will not mitigate the effect). Policies and standards have been adopted by the City to address and mitigate certain impacts of development that lend themselves to uniform mitigation measures. These policies and standards include those found in the Oak Tree Ordinance (Rocklin Municipal Code, Chapter 17.77), the Flood Ordinance (Rocklin Municipal Code, Chapter 15.16), the Grading and Erosion and Sedimentation Control Ordinance (Rocklin Municipal Code, Chapter 15.28), the Stormwater Runoff Pollution Control Ordinance (Rocklin Municipal Code, Chapter 8.30), and the Goals and Policies of the Rocklin General Plan. Where applicable, the Initial Study will state how these policies and standards apply to the project. Where the policies and standards will substantially mitigate the effects of the proposed project, the Initial Study concludes that these effects are “not peculiar to the project or the parcel” and thus need not be revisited in the text of the environmental document for the proposed project.

This Initial Study has also been prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines sections 15063 and 15168. Section 15063 sets forth the general rules for preparing Initial Studies. One of the identified functions of an Initial Study is for a lead agency to “[d]etermine, pursuant to a program EIR, tiering, or another appropriate process, which of a project’s effects were adequately examined by an earlier EIR or negative declaration... The lead agency shall then ascertain which effects, if any, should be analyzed in a later EIR or negative declaration.” (CEQA Guidelines, section 15063, subd. (b)(1)(C).). Here, the City has used this initial study to determine the extent to which the General Plan EIR has “adequately examined” the effects of the proposed project.

Section 15168 sets forth the legal requirements for preparing “program EIRs” and for reliance upon program EIRs in connection with “[s]ubsequent activities” within the approved program. (See *Citizens for Responsible Equitable Environmental Development v. City of San Diego Redevelopment Agency* (2005) 134 Cal.App.4th 598, 614-617.) The General Plan EIR was a program EIR with respect to its analysis of impacts associated with eventual buildout of future anticipated development identified by the General Plan. Subdivision (c) of section 15168 provides as follows:

- (c) Use with Later Activities. Subsequent activities in the program must be examined in light of the program EIR to determine whether an additional environmental document must be prepared.
 - (1) If a later activity would have effects that were not examined in the program EIR, a new Initial Study would need to be prepared leading to either an EIR or a Negative Declaration.

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- (2) If the agency finds that pursuant to Section 15162, no new effects could occur or no new mitigation measures would be required, the agency can approve the activity as being within the scope of the project covered by the program EIR, and no new environmental document would be required.
- (3) An agency shall incorporate feasible mitigation measures and alternatives developed in the program EIR into subsequent actions on the project.
- (4) Where the subsequent activities involve site specific operations, the agency should use a written checklist or similar device to document the evaluation of the site and the activity to determine whether the environmental effects of the operation were covered in the program EIR.

Consistent with these principles, this Initial Study serves the function of a “written checklist or similar device” documenting the extent to which the environmental effects of the proposed project “were covered in the program EIR” for the General Plan. As stated below, the City has concluded that the impacts of the proposed project are “within the scope” of the analysis in the General Plan EIR. Stated another way, these “environmental effects of the [site-specific project] were covered in the program EIR.” Where particular impacts were not thoroughly analyzed in prior documents, site-specific studies were prepared for the project with respect to impacts that were not “adequately examined” in the General Plan EIR, or were not “within the scope” of the prior analysis. These studies are hereby incorporated by reference and are available for review during normal business hours at the Rocklin Economic and Community Development Department, 3970 Rocklin Road, Rocklin, CA 95677 and can also be found on the City’s website under Planning Department, Current Environmental Documents. The specific studies are listed in Section 5, References.

The Initial Study is a public document to be used by the City decision-makers to determine whether a project may have a significant effect on the environment. If the City as lead agency, finds substantial evidence that any effects of the project were not “adequately examined” in the General Plan EIR or were not “within the scope” of the analysis in that document AND that these effects may have a significant effect on the environment if not mitigated, the City would be required to prepare an EIR with respect to such potentially significant effects. On the other hand, if the City finds that these unaddressed project impacts are not significant, a negative declaration would be appropriate. If in the course of analysis, the City identified potentially significant impacts that could be reduced to less than significant levels through mitigation measures to which the applicant agrees, the impact would be considered to be reduced to a less than significant level, and adoption of a mitigated negative declaration would be appropriate.

B. Significant Cumulative Impacts; Statement of Overriding Considerations

The Rocklin City Council has previously identified the following cumulative significant impacts as unavoidable consequences of urbanization contemplated in the Rocklin General Plan, despite the implementation of all available and feasible mitigation measures, and on that basis has adopted a statement of overriding considerations for each cumulative impact:

1. Air Quality:

Development in the City and the Sacramento Valley Air Basin as a whole will result in the following: violations of air quality standards as a result of short-term emissions from construction projects, increases in criteria air pollutants from operational air pollutants and exposure to toxic air contaminants, the generation of odors and a cumulative contribution to regional air quality impacts.

2. Aesthetics/Light and Glare:

Development in the City and the South Placer region as a whole will result in substantial degradation of the existing visual character, the creation of new sources of substantial light and glare and cumulative impacts to scenic vistas, scenic resources, existing visual character and creation of light and glare.

3. Traffic and Circulation:

Development in the City and the South Placer region as a whole will result in impacts to segments and intersections of the state/interstate highway system.

4. Noise

Development in the City and the South Placer region as a whole will result in impacts associated with exposure to surface transportation and stationary noise sources, and cumulative transportation noise impacts within the Planning area.

5. Cultural and Paleontological Resources

Development in the City and the South Placer region as a whole will result in cumulative impacts to historic character.

6. Biological Resources

Development in the City and the South Placer region as a whole will result in the loss of native oak and heritage trees, the loss of oak woodland habitat, and cumulative impacts to biological resources.

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7. Climate Change and Greenhouse Gases

Development in the City and the South Placer region as a whole will result in the generation of greenhouse gas emissions.

C. Mitigation Measures Required and Considered

It is the policy and a requirement of the City of Rocklin that all public agencies with authority to mitigate significant effects shall undertake or require the undertaking of all feasible mitigation measures specified in the prior environmental impact reports relevant to a significant effect which the project will have on the environment. Project review is limited to effects upon the environment which are peculiar to the parcel or to the project which were not addressed as significant effects in the General Plan EIR or which substantial new information shows will be more significant than described in the General Plan EIR. This Initial Study anticipates that feasible mitigation measures previously identified in the General Plan has been, or will be, implemented as set forth in that document, and evaluates this Project accordingly.

D. Evaluation of Environmental Checklist:

- 1) A brief explanation is provided for all answers except “No Impact” answers that are adequately supported by the information sources cited 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 is explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
- 2) All answers take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site elements, cumulative as well as project-level impacts, indirect as well as direct impacts, and construction as well as operational impacts.
- 3) If 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.
- 4) Answers of “Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated” describe the mitigation measures agreed to by the applicant and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level. Mitigation measures and supporting explanation from earlier EIRs or Negative Declaration may be cross-referenced and incorporated by reference.
- 5) Earlier analyses may be used where an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration, and the City intends to use tiering. All prior EIRs and Negative

Declarations and certifying resolutions are available for review at the Rocklin Economic and Community Development Department. In this case, a brief discussion will identify the following:

- a) Which effects are within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and whether such effects are addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis; and
- b) For effects that are “Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated,” the mitigation measures which are incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.

E. Environmental Checklist

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

DISCUSSION OF DETERMINATION:

Project Impacts:

Routine maintenance of drainage channels will not change the existing visual nature or character of the project site and area. No new sources of light or glare would be introduced and impacts to scenic vistas or viewsheds would not be anticipated.

Prior Environmental Analysis:

As a “program EIR” under CEQA Guidelines section 15168, the General Plan EIR analyzed the anticipated impacts that would occur to the visual character of the Planning Area as a result of

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the future urban development that was contemplated by the General Plan. When previously undeveloped land becomes developed, aesthetic impacts include changes to scenic character and new sources of light and glare (City of Rocklin General Plan Update Draft EIR, 2011, pages 4.3-1 through 4.3-18). Mitigation measures to address these impacts are incorporated into the General Plan in the Land Use and the Open Space, Conservation, and Recreation Elements, and include policies that encourage the use of design standards for unique areas and the protection of natural resources, including open space areas, natural resource areas, hilltops, waterways and oak trees, from the encroachment of incompatible land use.

The General Plan EIR concluded that, despite the goals and policies addressing visual character, views, and light and glare, significant aesthetic impacts will occur as a result of development under the General Plan and further, that these impacts cannot be reduced to a less than significant level. Specifically, the General Plan EIR found that buildout of the Rocklin General Plan will change and degrade the existing visual character, will create new sources of light and glare and will contribute to cumulative impacts to scenic vistas, scenic resources, existing visual character and creation of light and glare. Findings of fact and a statement of overriding consideration were adopted by the Rocklin City Council in regard to these cumulative impacts, which were found to be significant and unavoidable.

Mitigation Measures from Uniformly Applied Development Policies and Standards:

All applicable mitigation measures from the General Plan EIR, including the mitigation measures for aesthetic/visual impacts incorporated as goals and policies in the General Plan, will be applied to the project. These serve as uniformly applied development policies and standards and/or as conditions of approval for this project to ensure consistency with the General Plan and compliance with City rules and regulations.

Significance Conclusions:

a. Scenic Vista - No Impact. While vacant or mostly vacant areas have a natural aesthetic quality, there are no designated scenic vistas within the City of Rocklin or Planning Area. Alteration of the project site through routine maintenance of drainage channels would not change the visual quality of the project site and surrounding area. Additionally, since there are no designated scenic vistas, no impact would occur in this regard.

b. Scenic Highway – No Impact. The City of Rocklin does not contain an officially designated state scenic highway. State Route 65 (SR 65) borders the western portion of the City and is nearby the project sites, but it is not considered a scenic highway. Likewise, Interstate 80 (I-80), which is within close proximity to the project sites, traverses the eastern portion of the City but does not have a scenic designation. Therefore, the proposed project would not substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to trees, rock outcroppings, and historic

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buildings within a state scenic highway and no impacts are anticipated in association with damage to scenic resources within a state scenic highway.

c. Visual Character – *Less Than Significant Impact.* Per Public Resources Code section 21071 (a) (2), the City of Rocklin is considered to be an urbanized area because although its population is less than 100,000 persons, the population of Rocklin and not more than two contiguous incorporated cities (the cities of Roseville and Lincoln) combined equals at least 100,000 persons. The implementation of routine drainage maintenance activities is consistent with the urbanization as contemplated and analyzed for this area of Rocklin within the Rocklin General Plan.

The project consists of routine maintenance of drainage channels and would not introduce any new development to the area. The project will continue the routine channel maintenance activities which may result in the removal of trees and vegetation. Vegetation removal would be limited to only what is necessary to perform the City's routine maintenance activities and would only occur within the creeks, drainage channels, detention basins, or other waters. In addition, the City would maintain channels in such a manner that it avoids removal of trees greater than 4 inches BDH to the greatest extent feasible. Removal of mature trees will be infrequent and only when needed to ensure safe conveyance of flood flows. Vegetation control will be targeted at understory and non-native species. In most situations, vegetation control will maintain existing baseline conditions.

The project will not introduce any new development to the area and is consistent with the Recreation Conservation land use designation that was assumed in the General Plan EIR analysis. Therefore, the project would not conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality and the impact would be less than significant.

d. Light and Glare – *No Impact.* There are no specific features within the proposed project that would create sources of light and glare. The project consists of routine maintenance of stream channels and associated riparian areas which will not add any add external lighting or sources of light and glare.

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II.**AGRICULTURAL 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	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Impact for which General Plan EIR is Sufficient
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?				X	
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?				X	
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))?				X	
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				X	
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?				X	

DISCUSSION OF DETERMINATION:

Project Impacts:

There are no agricultural or forestry impacts for the project or project site due to a lack of these resources on the project site, as further discussed below.

Significance Conclusions:

a., b., and e. Conversion of Farmland, Conflict with Agricultural Zoning or Williamson Act - *No Impact*. The Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) land classifications system monitors and documents land use changes that specifically affect California's agricultural land and is administered by the California Department of Conservation (CDC). The FMMP land classification system is cited by the State CEQA Guidelines as the preferred information source for determining the agricultural significance of a property (CEQA Guidelines, Appendix G). The CDC, Division of Land Resource Protection, Placer County Important Farmland Map of 2014 designates the project site as grazing. Grazing land is land on which the existing vegetation is suited to the grazing of livestock. This category is not considered Important Farmland under the definition in CEQA of "Agricultural Land" that is afforded consideration as to its potential significance (See CEQA Section 21060.1[a]), nor is it considered prime farmland, unique farmland, or farmland of statewide importance; therefore the proposed project would not convert farmland to a non-agricultural use. Also, the project site contains no parcels that are under a Williamson Act contract. Because the project would not convert important farmland to non-agricultural uses, would not conflict with existing agricultural or forestry use zoning or Williamson Act contracts, or involve other changes that could result in the conversion of important farmlands to non-agricultural uses, there would be no agricultural use impacts.

d. and e. Rezone or Conversion of Forest Land – *No Impact*. The project site contains no parcels that are zoned as, or considered forestry lands or timberland. The project would not conflict with existing forestry use zoning or involve other changes that could result in the conversion of forest lands to non-forest uses, and there would be no impact on forestry resources.

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III. AIR QUALITY

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

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Impact for which General Plan EIR is Sufficient
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of applicable air quality plan?			X		
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?			X		
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?			X		
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?			X		

DISCUSSION OF DETERMINATION:

Project Impacts:

Air quality impacts from the proposed project will result from routine drainage channel maintenance activities associated with vegetation removal and excavation for erosion control and culvert maintenance. These air quality impacts will primarily be related to the generation of airborne dust (Particulate Matter of 10 microns in size or less (PM₁₀)).

Prior Environmental Analysis:

As a “program EIR” under CEQA Guidelines section 15168, the General Plan EIR analyzed the anticipated impacts that would occur to regional air quality as a result of the future urban development that was contemplated by the General Plan. These impacts included 8-hour ozone attainment, short-term construction emissions, operational air pollutants, increases in criteria pollutants, odors, and regional air quality impacts. (City of Rocklin General Plan Update Draft EIR, 2011, pages 4.2-1 through 4.2-43). Mitigation measures to address these impacts are incorporated into the General Plan in the Land Use, the Open Space, Conservation, and Recreation, and the Circulation Elements, and include policies that encourage a mixture of land uses, provisions for non-automotive modes of transportation, consultation with the Placer

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County Air Pollution Control District (PCAPCD), and the incorporation of stationary and mobile source control measures.

The General Plan EIR concluded that, despite these goals and policies, significant air quality impacts will occur as a result of development under the General Plan and further, that these impacts cannot be reduced to a less than significant level. Specifically, the General Plan EIR found that buildout of the Rocklin General Plan and other development within the Sacramento Valley Air Basin (SVAB) as a whole will result in the following: violations of air quality standards as a result of short-term emissions from construction projects, increases in criteria air pollutants from operational air pollutants and exposure to toxic air contaminants, the generation of odors and a cumulative contribution to regional air quality impacts. Findings of fact and a statement of overriding consideration were adopted by the Rocklin City Council in regard to these impacts, which were found to be significant and unavoidable.

Mitigation Measures from Uniformly Applied Development Policies and Standards:

All applicable mitigation measures from the General Plan EIR, including the mitigation measures for air quality impacts incorporated as goals and policies in the General Plan, will be applied to the future development. These serve as uniformly applied development policies and standards and/or as conditions of approval for this project to ensure consistency with the General Plan and compliance with City rules and regulations.

Project Level Environmental Analysis:

The proposed project is located within the Sacramento Valley Air Basin (SVAB) and is under the jurisdiction of the Placer County Air Pollution Control District (PCAPCD). The SVAB is designated nonattainment for the federal particulate matter 2.5 microns in diameter (PM_{2.5}) and the State particulate matter 10 microns in diameter (PM₁₀) standards, as well as for both the federal and State ozone standards. The federal Clean Air Act requires areas designated as federal nonattainment to prepare an air quality control plan referred to as the State Implementation Plan (SIP). The SIP contains the strategies and control measures for states to use to attain the national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS). The SIP is periodically modified to reflect the latest emissions inventories, planning documents, rules, and regulations of air basins as reported by the agencies with jurisdiction over them. In compliance with regulations, the PCAPCD periodically prepares and updates air quality plans that provide emission reduction strategies to achieve attainment of the NAAQS, including control strategies to reduce air pollutant emissions via regulations, incentive programs, public education, and partnerships with other agencies.

The current applicable air quality plan for the proposed project area is the *Sacramento Regional 8-Hour Ozone Attainment and Reasonable Further Progress Plan* (Ozone Attainment Plan), adopted September 26, 2013. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) determined

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the Plan to be adequate and made such findings effective August 25, 2014. On January 9, 2015, the USEPA approved the 2013 Ozone Attainment Plan.

The 2013 Ozone Attainment Plan demonstrates how existing and new control strategies would provide the necessary future emission reductions to meet the CAA requirements, including the NAAQS. It should be noted that in addition to strengthening the 8-hour ozone NAAQS, the USEPA also strengthened the secondary 8-hour ozone NAAQS, making the secondary standard identical to the primary standard. The SVAB remains classified as a severe nonattainment area with an attainment deadline of 2027. On October 26, 2015 the USEPA released a final implementation rule for the revised NAAQS for ozone to address the requirements for reasonable further progress, modeling and attainment demonstrations, and reasonably available control measures (RACM) and reasonably available control technology (RACT). With the publication of the new NAAQS ozone rules, areas in nonattainment must update their ozone attainment plans and submit new plans by 2020/2021.

General conformity requirements of the regional air quality plan include whether a project would cause or contribute to new violations of any NAAQS, increase the frequency or severity of an existing violation of any NAAQS, or delay timely attainment of any NAAQS. In order to evaluate ozone and other criteria air pollutant emissions and support attainment goals for those pollutants that the area is designated nonattainment, the PCAPCD has recently proposed updates to the District's recommended significance thresholds for emissions of PM₁₀, and ozone precursors – reactive organic gases (ROG) and oxides of nitrogen (NO_x).

The significance thresholds, expressed in pounds per day (lbs/day), listed in the table below are the PCAPCD's updated recommended thresholds of significance for use in the evaluation of air quality impacts associated with proposed development projects. The City of Rocklin, as lead agency, is utilizing the PCAPCD's recommended thresholds of significance for CEQA evaluation purposes. Thus, if a project's emissions exceed the PCAPCD's pollutant thresholds presented above, the project could have a significant effect on air quality, the attainment of federal and State AAQS, and could conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan.

Pollutant	Construction Threshold (lbs per day)	Operational Threshold (lbs per day)
Reactive Organic Gases (ROG)	82	82
Nitrous Oxides (NO _x)	82	82
Inhalable Particulate Matter (PM ₁₀)	82	82

During construction of the project, various types of equipment and vehicles would temporarily operate on the project site. Construction exhaust emissions would be generated from construction equipment, vegetation clearing and earth movement activities. The aforementioned activities would involve the use of diesel- and gasoline-powered equipment that would generate emissions of criteria air pollutants. Project construction activities also

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represent a source of fugitive dust, which includes particulate matter (PM) emissions. As construction of the proposed project would generate air pollutant emissions intermittently within the site and the vicinity of the site, until all activities have been completed at a project site, construction is a potential concern because the proposed project is in a non-attainment area for ozone and PM.

Significance Conclusions:

a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan – *Less Than Significant Impact*. A conflict or obstruction of implementation of an air quality plan could occur if a project generates greater emissions than what has been projected for the site in the emission inventories of the air quality plan. Emission inventories are developed based on projected increases in population, employment, regional vehicle miles traveled (VMT), and associated area sources within the region. These metrics are based on regional projections that are, in turn, based on the General Plan land use and zoning designations for the region. As emissions related to the City's creek maintenance program are existing, the continued implementation of these routine maintenance activities would not increase baseline emissions, populations, employment, regional VMT, or change land use or zoning. Therefore, there will be a less than significant impact related to a conflict or obstruction on the implementation of an air quality plan.

b. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is nonattainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard – *Less Than Significant Impact*.

The SVAB is in nonattainment status for both federal and state ozone standards, and the state PM10 standard. Construction activities would result in short-term increases in emissions from the use of heavy equipment that generate dust, exhaust, and tire-wear emissions. Ozone is not emitted directly into the environment, but is generated from complex chemical reactions between reactive organic gases (ROG) and nitrogen oxides (NOx) that occur in the presence of sunlight.

Routine maintenance activities will result in temporary incremental increases in air pollutants, such as ozone precursors and particulate matter, due to operation of gas and diesel powered equipment and minor land disturbance. These proposed maintenance activities are ongoing operations and would be periodic in nature and are not anticipated to generate large amounts of air pollutants. All routine maintenance activities would follow the Placer County APCD rules and would implement all appropriate air quality BMPs, including minimizing equipment idling time and fugitive dust control measures. Therefore, the project's construction and operational emissions would not contribute to the PCAPCD's nonattainment status of ozone and PM, operations of the project would not violate an air quality standard or contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation and construction-related and operationally-related impacts would be considered less than significant. Additionally, the project would not result in a

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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 and the impact would be considered less than significant.

c. Sensitive Receptors – *Less than Significant Impact.* Some land uses are considered more sensitive to air pollution than others, due to the types of population groups or activities involved. Heightened sensitivity may be caused by health problems, proximity to the emissions source, and/or duration of exposure to air pollutants. Children, pregnant women, the elderly, and those with existing health problems are especially vulnerable to the effects of air pollution. Accordingly, land uses that are typically considered to be sensitive receptors include residences, schools, childcare centers, playgrounds, retirement homes, convalescent homes, hospitals and medical clinics. The project involves routine maintenance activities; thus, the project would not introduce sensitive receptors to the area. The nearest existing sensitive receptors to the project site are primarily the residences located adjacent to the open space preserves where the drainage channels are located, and there may also be limited instances of other sensitive receptors as described above.

Routine maintenance activities will result in temporary incremental increases in air pollutants, such as ozone precursors and particulate matter, due to operation of gas and diesel powered equipment and minor land disturbance. These proposed maintenance activities are ongoing operations and would be periodic in nature, and are not anticipated to generate large amounts of air pollutants. All routine maintenance activities would follow the Placer County APCD rules and would implement all appropriate air quality BMPs, including minimizing equipment idling time and fugitive dust control measures. Impacts are considered less than significant due to the limited nature of the project and the short-term construction period at each project site.

e. Odors – *Less Than Significant Impact.* Odors are generally regarded as an annoyance rather than a health hazard. Due to the subjective nature of odor impacts, the number of variables that can influence the potential for an odor impact, and the variety of odor sources, quantitative methodologies to determine the presence of a significant odor impact do not exist. Certain land uses such as wastewater treatment facilities, landfills, confined animal facilities, composting operations, food manufacturing plants, refineries, and chemical plants have the potential to generate considerable odors. The proposed project does not involve such land uses nor is it located near any such land uses.

Routine maintenance activities will be temporary, minor projects located along drainage channels using standard construction equipment. Any odors or toxic air contaminants generated by the project would be limited to construction equipment and would occur at such low concentrations and for such a short duration as to be negligible. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a less than significant impact related to objectionable odors.

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IV. <u>BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES</u> Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Impact for which General Plan EIR is Sufficient
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?		X			
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?		X			
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?		X			
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?			X		
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?			X		
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?				X	

DISCUSSION OF DETERMINATION:

Project Impacts:

The proposed project will modify habitats through the removal of native and other plant material. Impacts to special status animal and plant species, riparian areas and wetlands/waters of the U.S. could occur due to their presence or potential presence on the project sites.

Prior Environmental Analysis

As a “program EIR” under CEQA Guidelines section 15168, the General Plan EIR analyzed the anticipated impacts that would occur to the biological resources of the Planning Area as a result of the future urban development that was contemplated by the General Plan. These impacts included special-status species, species of concern, non-listed species, biological communities and migratory wildlife corridors (City of Rocklin General Plan Update Draft EIR, 2011, pages 4.10-1 through 4.10-47). Mitigation measures to address these impacts are incorporated into the General Plan in the Open Space, Conservation and Recreation Element, and include policies that encourage the protection and conservation of biological resources and require compliance with rules and regulations protecting biological resources, including the City of Rocklin Oak Tree Preservation Ordinance.

The General Plan EIR concluded that, despite these goals, policies and rules and regulations protecting biological resources, significant biological resources impacts will occur as a result of development under the General Plan and further, that these impacts cannot be reduced to a less than significant level. Specifically the General Plan EIR found that buildout of the Rocklin General Plan will impact sensitive biological communities, will result in the loss of native oak and heritage trees, will result in the loss of oak woodland habitat and will contribute to cumulative impacts to biological resources. Findings of fact and a statement of overriding considerations were adopted by the Rocklin City Council in regard to these impacts, which were found to be significant and unavoidable.

Mitigation Measures from Uniformly Applied Development Policies and Standards:

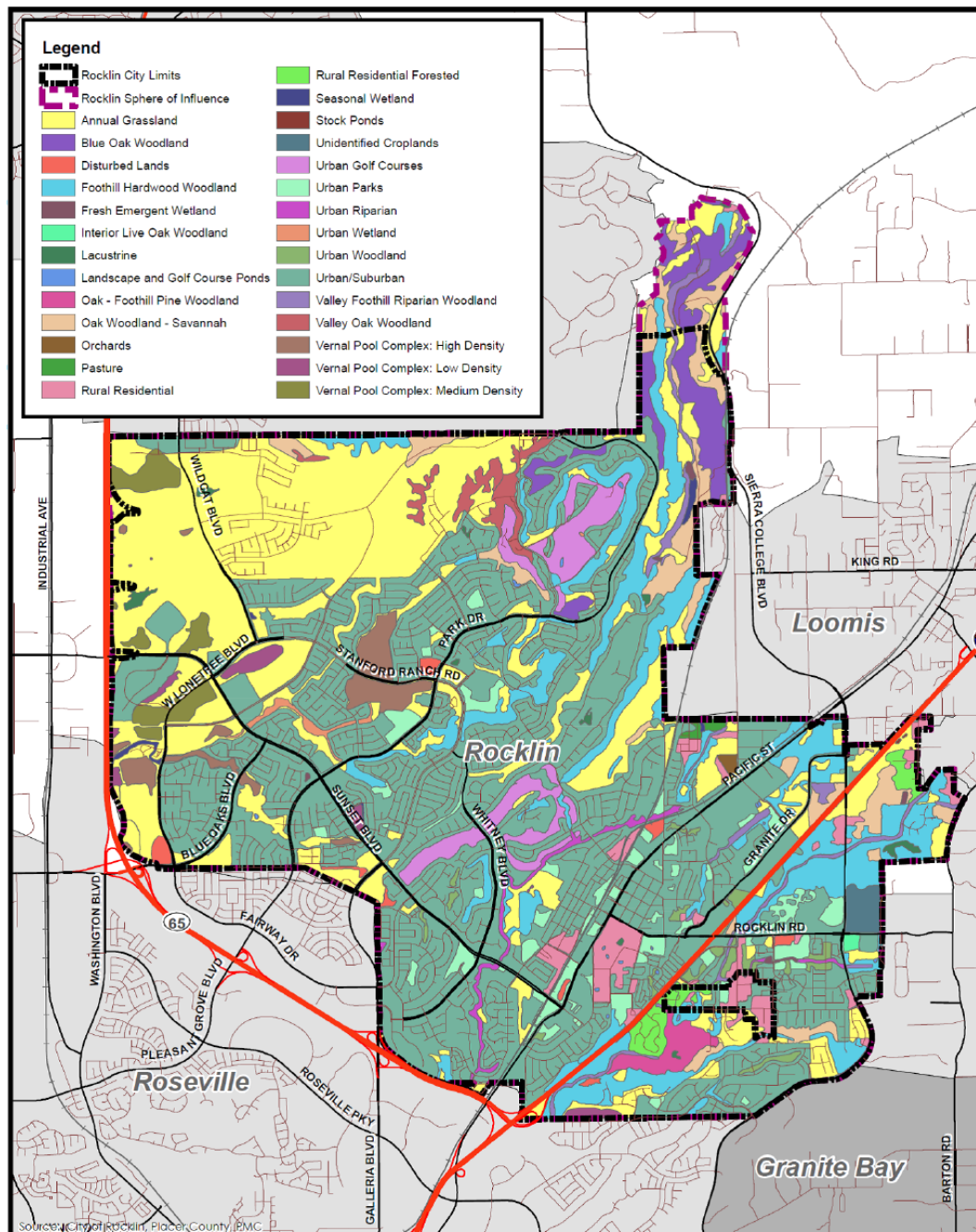
All applicable mitigation measures from the General Plan EIR, including the mitigation measures for biological resources impacts incorporated as goals and policies in the General Plan, will be applied to the project. These serve as uniformly applied development policies and standards and/or as conditions of approval for this project to ensure consistency with the General Plan and compliance with City rules and regulations.

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Project-Level Environmental Analysis:

A. Biological Communities

The City of Rocklin supports a mixture of foothill woodland, riparian and annual grassland as seen in the figure below. The project sites will occur within special status communities including riparian habitat and wetlands.



B. Special-Status Plant and Animal Species

Special-status plant and animal species are those that have been afforded special recognition by federal, State, or local resources or organizations. Listed and special-status species are of relatively limited distribution and may require specialized habitat conditions.

The California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB), USFWS species lists, the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) database and other literature resources were consulted regarding special-status species that have been identified within the Rocklin and Roseville USGS quadrangles which includes the project area and the surrounding quadrangles including Auburn, Citrus Heights, Clarksville, Folsom, Gold Hill, Lincoln, Pilot Hill, Pleasant Grove, Rio Linda, and Sheridan. Attachment B contains a table showing special status species that have been recorded in the project areas or adjacent quadrangles as well as the determination of their potential to occur in or near the project site.

Recorded occurrences for fifty six special status species were found within the 12 quadrangle area, thirty five of those have the potential to occur within or near the project sites.

Plants

Based on literature review it has been determined that eleven special status species with a CNPS rank of 1 or 2 have the potential to occur in or near the project sites. These plants are Ahart's Dwarf Rush (*Juncus leiospermus* var. *ahartii*), Big-Scale Balsamroot (*Balsamorhiza macrolepis*), Boggs Lake Hedge-Hyssop (*Gratiola heterosepala*), Dwarf Downingia (*Downingia pusilla*), Hispid Salty Bird's-Beak (*Chloropyron molle* ssp. *hispidum*), Legenere (*Legenere limosa*), Northern California Black Walnut (*Juglans hindsii*), Pincushion Navarretia (*Navarretia myersii* ssp. *myersii*), Red Bluff Dwarf Rush (*Juncus leiospermus* var. *leiospermus*), Sacramento Orcutt Grass (*Orcuttia viscida*), and Sanford's arrowhead (*Sagittaria sanfordii*).

Ahart's Dwarf Rush, Boggs Lake Hedge-Hyssop, Dwarf Downingia, Legenere, Pincushion Navarretia, Red Bluff Dwarf Rush, and Sacramento Orcutt Grass occur in vernal pools and seasonally mesic locations within valley and foothill grasslands. Routine maintenance activities discussed in this document (including potential staging areas and access routes) will not take place within vernal pools or mesic spots within grasslands that remain inundated for a period of 2 months or longer and no impacts to the species are anticipated. To completely avoid potential maintenance related impacts to these species, Mitigation Measures IV.-1, IV.-2, and IV.-3 will be implemented.

Big-Scale Balsamroot is found in chaparral, cismontane woodland, valley grassland, and foothill grassland from 148-5,100 feet above sea level. This species typically blooms from March through June. Potentially suitable grassland habitat is present within the City and routine

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maintenance work may occur in these habitats. To avoid and minimize potential maintenance related impacts to the species, Mitigation Measures IV.-1 and IV.-3 will be implemented.

Hispid Salty Bird's-Beak is found in alkaline soils in meadows, seeps, playas, valley grassland, and foothill grassland habitats up to 509 feet above sea level. This species typically blooms June through September. Potentially suitable alkaline soils are present within the City and routine maintenance work may occur in these habitats. To avoid and minimize potential maintenance related impacts to the species, Mitigation Measures IV.-1 and IV.-3 will be implemented.

Northern California Black Walnut is found in riparian forest and riparian woodland up to 1,444 feet above sea level. This species typically blooms April through May. Potentially suitable riparian habitat is present within the City and routine maintenance work may occur in these habitats. To avoid and minimize potential maintenance related impacts to the species, Mitigation Measures IV.-1 and IV.-3 will be implemented.

Sanford's arrowhead is found in freshwater marshes, swamps, ponds, and ditches from 0 to 2,150 feet above sea level. The species generally blooms May through October. Potentially suitable stream channel and freshwater marsh habitat is present within the City. Routine maintenance work may occur in habitats known to be suitable for Sanford's arrowhead. To avoid and minimize potential maintenance related impacts to the species, Mitigation Measures IV.-1 and IV.-3 will be implemented.

Amphibians

Based on literature review it has been determined that three special status amphibian species have the potential to occur in or near the project sites. Those species are California Red-Legged Frog (*Rana draytonii*), Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog (*Rana boylei*), and Western Spadefoot (*Spea hammondi*).

California Red-Legged Frog (CRLF) and Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog (FYLF) are found in foothill riparian habitats and potentially suitable habitat is present within the City. Routine maintenance work may occur in potentially suitable habitats for these species. To avoid and minimize potential maintenance related impacts to the species, Mitigation Measures IV.-1 and IV-10 will be implemented.

Western Spadefoot is found within grassland and valley foothill hardwood woodland communities and requires vernal, shallow, temporary pools formed by heavy winter rains for reproduction. Breeds late winter-March. Potential vernal pool breeding habitat and adjacent grassland dispersal habitat is present within the City. Routine maintenance work will not occur in vernal pool breeding habitat for Western spadefoot but may occur in adjacent grassland dispersal habitat. To avoid and minimize potential maintenance related impacts to the species, Mitigation Measures IV.-1, IV.-2, and IV-10 will be implemented.

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Birds

Based on literature review it has been determined that thirteen special status bird species have the potential to occur in or near the project sites. Those species are California Black Rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus*), Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*), Burrowing Owl (*Athene cunicularia*), Grasshopper Sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*), Loggerhead Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus*), Northern Harrier (*Circus hudsonius*), Purple Martin (*Progne subis*), Song Sparrow ("Modesto" Population) (*Melospiza melodia*), Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*), Tricolored Blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*), White-Tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*), Yellow Warbler (*Setophaga petechia*), Yellow-Breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*), and Yellow-Headed Blackbird (*Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus*).

Migratory birds and other birds of prey, protected under 50 CFR 10 of the MBTA and/or Section 3503 of the California Fish and Game Code, have the potential to nest in the trees within the riparian woodland and within the annual grassland. Migratory birds and other birds of prey have a high potential to nest within the City during the nesting season (February 1st – September 1st). Routine maintenance work may affect suitable habitat. To avoid and minimize potential maintenance related impacts to migratory birds and raptors, Mitigation Measures IV.-1, IV.-5, IV.-8, and IV.-10 will be implemented.

Burrowing Owl is found in arid, open areas with sparse vegetation cover such as deserts, abandoned agricultural areas, grasslands, and disturbed open habitats. Typically the species occupies old small mammal burrows, but has been known to utilize pipes, culverts and nest boxes when preferred burrows are absent. The City does contain potentially suitable grassland and shrub dominated habitat for the species in open space corridors throughout the City as well as in undeveloped grasslands. Routine maintenance work will predominantly occur within forested riparian areas that do not provide suitable habitat for the species; however, maintenance and/or restoration work may be conducted in adjacent floodplain areas which may provide potentially suitable habitat for burrowing owl. To avoid and minimize potential maintenance related impacts to the species, Mitigation Measures IV.-1, IV.-5, and IV.-6 will be implemented.

Fish

Based on literature review it has been determined that one special status fish species has the potential to occur in or near the project sites, Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*). Within City boundaries, Secret Ravine has been designated as steelhead critical habitat by USFWS. Steelhead is considered to have a high potential of occurring within this creek and is considered absent from other watercourses within the City. Routine maintenance activities may occur within Secret Ravine, to avoid and minimize potential impacts to steelhead, Mitigation Measures IV.-1 and IV.-4 will be implemented.

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Invertebrates

Based on literature review it has been determined that three special status invertebrate species have the potential to occur in or near the project sites. Those species are Conservancy Fairy Shrimp (*Branchinecta conservatio*), Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*), and Vernal Pool Tadpole Shrimp (*Lepidurus packardii*). These species are all found within vernal pool habitat and potentially suitable vernal pool habitat is present within the City. Routine maintenance activities discussed in this document will not occur within vernal pools and no impact to the species is anticipated. To completely avoid potential maintenance related impacts to the species, Mitigation Measures IV.-1 and IV.-2 will be implemented.

Insects

Based on literature review it has been determined that only one special status invertebrate species has the potential to occur in or near the project sites, Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*).

Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle (VELB) are found exclusively in elderberry shrubs as host plants. Elderberry shrubs occurs in moist valley oak woodlands associated with riparian corridors and are present in riparian corridors throughout the City. Routine maintenance work may occur in riparian corridors and adjacent floodplains with elderberry shrubs, habitat for VELB. To avoid and minimize potential maintenance related impacts to the species, Mitigation Measures IV.-1 and IV.-7 will be implemented.

Mammals

Based on literature review it has been determined that three special status mammal species have the potential to occur in or near the project sites, American Badger (*Taxidea taxus*), Pallid Bat (*Antrozous pallidus*) and Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*).

American Badger is found in all habitats throughout the state, most abundant in drier open stages of most shrub, forest, and herbaceous habitats. Young are born in burrows dug in relatively dry, often sandy soil, usually in areas with sparse overstory cover. Potentially suitable grassland habitat is present within the City but not within creeks or wetland areas where maintenance activities will occur. To avoid and minimize potential maintenance related impacts to the species, Mitigation Measure IV.-1 will be implemented.

Bats have a high potential to roost in bridges and other structures within the City. Routine maintenance work may affect structures occupied by bats. To avoid and minimize potential maintenance related impacts to bats, Mitigation Measures IV.-1 and IV.-9 will be implemented

Reptiles

Based on literature review it has been determined that only one special status reptile species has the potential to occur in or near the project sites, Western Pond Turtle (*Emys marmorata*).

The western pond turtle is a fully aquatic turtle, inhabiting ponds, marshes, rivers, streams and irrigation ditches with aquatic vegetation. The species requires suitable basking sites such as logs, rocks and exposed banks and associated upland habitat consisting of sandy banks or grassy open fields for reproduction. The western pond turtle is known to hibernate underwater beneath a muddy bottom in colder climates, and reproduce from March to August. Potentially suitable aquatic habitat for western pond turtle habitat is present within the watercourses within the City. Routine maintenance work may occur in habitats known to be suitable for western pond turtle. To avoid and minimize potential maintenance related impacts to the species, IV.-1, IV.-4, and IV.-10 will be implemented.

Significance Conclusions:

a., b., and c. Effect on Protected Species, Riparian Habitat, and Wetlands– *Less Than Significant With Mitigation.* The project sites are located in undeveloped open space preserves surrounded by residential and commercial development. The project sites contain suitable habitat for the species listed above and there is the potential for several species to occur within the project sites.

Waters of the U.S. including creeks and wetlands occur in the Project area. Project channel maintenance activities will result in temporary impacts in the identified creeks. No permanent impacts to waters of the U.S are anticipated as the result of channel maintenance activities.

To address the project's potential impacts to protected species and habitats, the following mitigation measures, agreed to by the applicant, are being applied to the project:

IV.-1 Prior to beginning any maintenance work under the RMA, the City supervisors and staff who would be completing the work must be trained by qualified personnel to identify and avoid harm to sensitive resources, special status species and their habitats.

The City shall conduct an education program for all persons employed or otherwise working on the project site prior to performing any work on-site. The program shall consist of a presentation from a qualified biologist that includes a discussion of the biology of the habitats and species that may occur during routine maintenance. The biologist shall also include as part of the education program information about the distribution and habitat needs of any special-status species that may be present, legal protections for those species, penalties for violations and project-specific protective measures. Interpretation shall be provided for non-English speaking workers, and the same instruction shall be provided for any new workers prior to their performing work on-site. Permittee shall prepare and distribute wallet-sized cards or a fact

sheet that contains this information for workers to carry on-site. Upon completion of the education program, employees shall sign a form stating they attended the program and understand all protection measures.

IV.-2 The City shall not conduct routine maintenance activities within vernal pools or playas that seasonally remain inundated for periods of 2 months or longer. Temporary impact areas, including access routes and staging areas, will also be positioned outside of vernal pools and playas. If maintenance work or associated temporary impact areas are close to one of these habitats (<20 feet), the boundary of the work area in proximity to the sensitive habitat must be marked with ESA high visibility orange fencing to prevent maintenance equipment or personnel from entering the protected habitat.

IV.-3 Prior to routine maintenance within rare plant habitat, pre-maintenance rare plant surveys may be required. If it is determined that there is a potential for rare plants to occur, maintenance areas would be surveyed for rare plants by a City appointed biologist during the appropriate bloom periods. If additional species of rare plant are discovered within the City, surveys may be required during their appropriate bloom period as well. Survey results will be submitted to CDFW as an attachment to the VRFs. Rare plant populations discovered onsite will be protected in place with orange ESA fencing.

IV.-4 Construction activities shall occur between August 15 and October 15 to the extent possible to avoid nesting and breeding seasons of special status species. Work performed in Secret Ravine Creek that involves earth moving, silt, sand, and sediment removal, water diversion, or similar activities will be limited to the period between June 1 and September 30 to avoid impacts to Steelhead. Construction activities will also be timed with awareness of precipitation forecasts and likely increases in stream flow. Construction activities within the stream zone shall cease until all reasonable erosion control measures, inside and outside of the stream zone, have been implemented prior to all storm events. Revegetation, restoration and erosion control work is not confined to this time period. In addition, work within the bed, bank or channel of any stream shall be restricted to periods of dry weather (with less than a 50% chance of rain). All erosion control measures shall be initiated prior to all storm events. Revegetation, restoration and erosion control work is not confined to this work period. The City shall monitor the National Weather Service (NWS) 72-hr forecast to monitor forecasted rain events. If emergency maintenance is required, seasonal limitations do not apply. Emergency maintenance is defined as immediate emergency work necessary to protect life or property, or to restore public service facilities necessary to maintain service. The City will notify CDFW within 14 days of beginning emergency maintenance work.

IV. -5 The City shall attempt to time the removal of potential nesting habitat for raptors and migratory birds to avoid the nesting season (February 1 through September 15).

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If tree and vegetation removal and/or project grading or construction activities would occur during the nesting season for raptors and migratory birds (February 1- September 15), the City shall hire a qualified biologist to conduct pre-construction surveys no more than 3 days prior to initiation of tree and vegetation removal activities. The survey shall cover all areas of suitable nesting habitat within 0.25 mile of project activity and shall be valid for one construction season. Prior to the start of tree and vegetation removal activities, documentation of the survey shall be provided to the City of Rocklin Public Services Department and if the survey results are negative, no further mitigation is required and necessary tree and vegetation removal may proceed. If there is a break in construction activities of more than 3 days, then subsequent surveys shall be conducted.

If the survey results are positive or a nest is discovered during work, impacts shall be avoided by the establishment of appropriate buffers. Raptor nests will be avoided whenever possible, even if the nest is not in use at the time. The biologist shall consult with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and the City to determine the size of an appropriate buffer area. Monitoring of the nest by a qualified biologist shall be required if the CDFW determines that the activity has the potential to adversely affect an active nest.

If construction activities are scheduled to occur during the non-breeding season (September 16 - January), a survey is not required and no further studies are necessary.

IV.-6 If maintenance activities are planned in suitable burrowing owl habitat, qualified biologists approved by CDFW will conduct a take avoidance survey for burrowing owl following the methodology described in the Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (CDFW 2012) within 1-2 weeks of the start of construction. If burrowing owls or signs of burrowing owl presence such as whitewash, feathers, animal dung, etc. are not detected, no further mitigation will be required. If burrowing owls are observed within 500 feet of the maintenance area, the City will develop an Impact Assessment consistent with the Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (CDFW 2012) and submit the Impact Assessment to CDFW prior to maintenance work. The Final avoidance and mitigation measures will be determined in coordination with CDFW but the Impact Assessment will at a minimum include the following mitigation measure:

Occupied burrows will not be disturbed. If occupied burrows are found, the biologist will consult with CDFW to determine appropriate no-work buffer widths. The City will not disturb identified burrowing owl burrows until the qualified biologist verifies it has been cleared and approved by CDFW.

IV.-7 The City shall implement the following avoidance measures during construction activities.

- 1. The area around the elderberry shrub to be avoided during maintenance activities will be fenced and/or flagged as close to construction limits as feasible.*

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2. *Where feasible, ground disturbing activities will not encroach within 20 feet from the dripline of an elderberry shrub.*
3. *A qualified biologist will provide training for all contractors, work crews, and any onsite personnel on the status of the VELB, its host plant and habitat, the need to avoid damaging the elderberry shrub, and the possible penalties for noncompliance.*
4. *A qualified biologist will monitor the work area at project appropriate intervals to assure that all avoidance and minimization measures are implemented.*
5. *As feasible, all activities that could occur within 165 feet of an elderberry shrub will be conducted outside of the flight season of the VELB (March - July).*
6. *Trimming, if required (unlikely due to the declining health of the elderberry shrub) will occur between November and February and will avoid the removal of any branches or stems that are ≥ 1 inch in diameter. Measures to address regular and/or large scale maintenance (trimming), if necessary, should be established in consultation with the USFWS.*
7. *Herbicides will not be used within the drip-line of the elderberry shrub. Insecticides will not be used within 30 meters (98 feet) of an elderberry shrub. All chemicals will be applied using a backpack sprayer or similar direct application method.*
8. *Mechanical weed removal within the drip-line of the shrub will be limited to the season when adults are not active (August - February) and will avoid damaging the elderberry shrub.*

IV.-8 Swallow nest removal should occur during the non-nesting season (September 1st – January 31st) after the young of the year have fledged and no nesting activity is observed. Swallow nests will not be removed until they have been inspected by a qualified biologist and determined to be inactive. During the nesting season, the City may discourage swallow nest construction by removing partially completed nests that are less than 1/3rd complete. After a nest is more than 1/3rd complete, it cannot be disturbed until a qualified biologist has determined that all nestlings have fledged and are foraging independently.

IV.-9 Structures will be assessed for bat occupation prior to initiation of work. The City must coordinate with CDFW prior to conducting maintenance work on bridges or structures occupied by bats. If a structure occupied by bats must be maintained, bats will be excluded prior to the pupping season (April 15th – August 31st). Bat exclusion must be conducted under the supervision of a qualified bat biologist experienced in bat exclusion. If no alternative roosting habitat (e.g. other bridges or structures) is available within 1000 feet of the maintenance area, temporary bat accommodations may be required.

IV.-10. If work is performed during the breeding season for California Red-Legged Frog (January-July), Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog (March-May), Western Spadefoot (January-March), or Western Pond Turtle (March-August) then a pre-activity survey will be conducted for that species. If the results of the survey are positive then CDFW will be consulted and measures to avoid or protect the species will be implemented prior to initiation of the work.

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Surveys will be conducted by a qualified biologist with professional experience and knowledge in special status species identification, ecology, and habitat requirements.

If required by CDFW, species specific surveys for other special status species will be performed during the appropriate nesting or breeding seasons prior to commencing work. If additional species are discovered within the City during the term of this routine maintenance agreement, surveys may be required during their appropriate nesting or breeding period as well.

IV.-11 City will create or purchase compensatory mitigation for permanent impacts to jurisdictional features. Mitigation will be created by the City within City owned open space or purchased from a CDFW approved mitigation bank at a minimum 3:1 ratio (or a combination of restoration and mitigation credits). Permanent impacts are defined as actions that result in a permanent modification to wetlands, stream channels, or riparian habitats (e.g. new impervious cover, rock lining, and placement of fill). Mitigation will be calculated based on the area of impact.

Mitigation sites will be monitored for a period of 5 years. A mitigation site will be deemed successful if it meets success standards for plant survivability and non-native cover. If success criteria are not met, corrective actions including supplemental planting, watering, or weeding may be required. Success criteria will be determined in consultation with CDFW during the preparation of a Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) that will be prepared and submitted to CDFW for review within 180 days following the adoption of the RMA. If maintenance activities result in a permanent impact requiring mitigation before the HMMP is approved by CDFW, the City will purchase compensatory mitigation from a CDFW approved mitigation bank at a 3:1 ratio.

The following tasks may be implemented as compensatory mitigation for permanent impacts associated with routine maintenance tasks.

Adopt-a-Creek Program: The City would partner with nonprofits, businesses and residents to perform trash and invasive species removals and restoration activities through the City's Adopt-a-Creek program. Creek restoration activities may consist of trash abatement, invasive plant removal, and plantings of local native species.

Creek Restoration and Erosion Repair Projects: The City would restore locations with existing bank erosion or scour problems to improve riparian habitat value and water quality. Restoration activities would likely involve the following steps: removal of non-native vegetation; re-grading eroded, scoured, or undercut portions of the creek to more stable and natural topography; and bio-stabilization of the restoration area to prevent future erosion. Bio-stabilization would involve installing biodegradable geotextile fabric and native riparian vegetation to stabilize the restoration area and provide long term riparian habitat

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Invasive Species Removal: The City would remove nonnative vegetation and install native vegetation either by applying a native seed mix or installing container plants.

Implementation of the above measures will reduce impacts to special-status species to a less than significant level.

d. Fish and Wildlife Movement – Less than Significant Impact. The Project’s routine maintenance activities could temporarily disrupt movement of native wildlife species that occur in or adjacent to the project sites. Although construction disturbance may temporarily hinder wildlife movements within the project area, the impact is less than significant due to its short-term nature.

e. Local Policies/Ordinances – Less than Significant with Mitigation. The City of Rocklin General Plan policies OCR-42 and OCR-43 require all projects to mitigate for the loss of oak trees and the impacts to oak woodland that result from development. To comply with these policies, the City of Rocklin relies on the Oak Tree Preservation Ordinance and the Oak Tree Preservation Guidelines to determine project impacts and appropriate mitigation for the removal of and construction within the dripline of native oak trees with a trunk diameter of 6 inches or more at 4.5 feet above ground level. Seven oak species and five hybrids between these species are defined as “native oaks” by the City. Per the City’s oak tree ordinance, the diameter at breast height (DBH) of a multiple trunk tree is the measurement of the largest trunk only, and heritage trees are defined as native oak trees with a trunk diameter of 24 inches or more.

The City of Rocklin commissioned the firm of Phytosphere Research to evaluate, characterize, and make recommendations on the City’s urban forest, and from that effort, a 2006 report titled “Planning for the Future of Rocklin’s Urban Forest” was produced. One of the findings of this report was that the City’s overall tree canopy cover has increased from 11% in 1952 to 18% in 2003 (a 63% increase) due to the protection of existing oaks and growth of both new and existing trees. This finding supports the City’s on-going practice of requiring mitigation for oak tree removal through its Oak Tree Preservation Ordinance as being an effective way to maintain or even increase urban forest canopy.

To ensure compliance with City of Rocklin General Plan policies OCR-42 and OCR-43 and to compensate for the removal of the oak trees on the project site, the following mitigation measure is being applied to the project:

IV.-12 Prior to maintenance activities, the City shall identify oak trees greater than 6 inches DBH that must be removed. The City will mitigate the loss of identified trees through on-site planting in any of the City’s designated open space preserves in a 1:1 ratio.

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Implementation of the above measure will ensure compliance with City of Rocklin General Plan policies OCR-42 and OCR-43 and reduce impacts related to oak tree removal to a less than significant level.

There are no facts or circumstances presented by the proposed project which create conflicts with other local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources.

f. Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Communities Conservation Plan – *No Impact* The project would not conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Conservation Community Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state Habitat Conservation Plan because the site is not subject to any such plan; therefore there is no impact related to a conflict with a habitat conservation plan or natural communities conservation plan.

V. <u>CULTURAL RESOURCES</u> Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Impact for which General Plan EIR is Sufficient
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?		X			
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?		X			
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?		X			

DISCUSSION OF DETERMINATION:

Project Impacts:

The proposed project could affect known or unknown/undiscovered historical, archaeological sites and/or human remains as development occurs.

Prior Environmental Analysis:

As a “program EIR” under CEQA Guidelines section 15168, the General Plan EIR analyzed the anticipated impacts that would occur to historical and cultural (including human remains) within the Planning area as a result of the future urban development that was contemplated by the General Plan. These impacts included potential destruction or damage to any historical and cultural resources (City of Rocklin General Plan Update Draft EIR, 2011, pages 4.8-1 through 4.8-

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21). Mitigation measures to address these impacts are incorporated into the General Plan in the Land Use and Open Space, Recreation and Conservation Elements, and include goals and policies that encourage the preservation and protection of historical and cultural resources and the proper treatment and handling of such resources when they are discovered.

The General Plan EIR concluded that despite these goals and policies, significant cultural resources impacts will occur as a result of development under the General Plan and further, that these impacts cannot be reduced to a less than significant level. Specifically, the General Plan EIR found that buildout of the Rocklin General Plan will contribute to cumulative impacts to historic character. Findings of fact and a statement of overriding considerations were adopted by the Rocklin City Council in regard to these impacts, which were found to be significant and unavoidable.

Mitigation Measures from Uniformly Applied Development Policies and Standards:

Historically significant structures and sites as well as the potential for the discovery of unknown archaeological or paleontological resources as a result of development activities are discussed in the Rocklin General Plan. Policies and mitigation measures have been included in the General Plan to encourage the preservation of historically significant known and unknown areas.

All applicable mitigation measures from the General Plan EIR, including the mitigation measures for cultural resources impacts incorporated as goals and policies in the General Plan, will be applied to the project. These serve as uniformly applied development policies and standards and/or as conditions of approval for this project to ensure consistency with the General Plan and compliance with City rules and regulations.

Significance Conclusions:

a. and b. Historic and Archaeological Resources – *Less than Significant with Mitigation.* CEQA Statutes Section 21084.1 identifies historic resources as those listed in or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historic Resources, based on a range of criteria, including association with events or patterns of events that have made significant contributions to broad patterns of historical development in the United States or California, including local, regional, or specific cultural patterns (California Register Criterion 1), structures which are directly associated with important persons in the history of the state or country (Criterion 2), which embody the distinctive characteristics of type, period, or other aesthetic importance (Criterion 3), or which have the potential to reveal important information about the prehistory or history of the state or the nation (such as archaeological sites) (Criterion 4).

In addition to meeting at least one of the above criteria, the structure must typically be over 50 years old (a state guideline rather than a statutory requirement) and have retained historic integrity sufficient to be clearly evident as a historic resource through a combination of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association with historic patterns.

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The definition of “integrity” in this context is based on criteria established by the National Register of Historic Places.

Some routine maintenance activities have the potential to impact archaeological or historic resources. Activities that take place above or on the ground surface do not have the potential to harm these resources; however, activities that require below ground (any type of excavation or earth movement) do have the ability to harm historical or archaeological resources.

Above Ground (no excavation) Maintenance Activities consist of the following: removing debris, modern trash, downed trees (grinding of tree stumps is permitted; root ball removal is prohibited), beaver dams, woody and herbaceous vegetation and branches obstructing channels or streams; mowing or cutting weeds, grasses, shrubs and woody undergrowth; removing or replacing manhole covers, and above ground utilities; dewatering waterways; and washing, painting, and cleaning bridges, culverts, and miscellaneous structures.

Below Ground Maintenance Activities consist of the following: mechanically (including the use of backhoes, excavators, dump trucks, skip loaders, front loaders, bulldozers, etc.) altering vegetation, the ground surface, or dirt such as removing deposited sediment, repairing and/or maintaining erosion control, or channel alignment maintenance, etc.; removing standing dead or living trees in danger of falling in or across streams (including root ball removal); removal or replacement of culverts, inlets, and other miscellaneous structures; collecting core samples; and installation of rock slope projection armoring, rock gabions, and/or sacked concrete/rocks.

As noted above, the project site may contain unknown/undiscovered cultural resources.

To address the project’s potential impact of the discovery of unknown archaeological resources, the following mitigation measures are being applied to the project:

V.-1 If an inadvertent discovery of cultural materials (e.g., unusual amounts of shell, charcoal, animal bone, bottle glass, ceramics, burned soil, structure/building remains) or tribal cultural resources is made during project-related construction activities, ground disturbances in the area of the find shall be halted and a qualified professional archaeologist, the Environmental Services Manager and the Native American Heritage Commission shall be notified regarding the discovery. The archaeologist shall determine whether the resource is potentially significant as per CEQA (i.e., whether it is a historical resource, a unique archaeological resource, a unique paleontological resource, or a tribal cultural resource) and shall develop specific measures to ensure preservation of the resource or to mitigate impacts to the resource if it cannot feasibly be preserved in light of costs, logistics, technological considerations, the location of the find, and the extent to which avoidance and/or preservation of the find is consistent or inconsistent with the design and objectives of the project. Specific measures for significant or potentially significant resources would include, but are not necessarily limited to, preservation in place, in-field documentation, archival research, subsurface testing, and excavation. The specific type of measure necessary would be determined according to evidence indicating degrees of resource integrity, spatial and temporal extent, and cultural associations, and would be developed in a

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manner consistent with CEQA guidelines for preserving or otherwise mitigating impacts to archaeological and cultural artifacts and tribal cultural resources.

In the event of the accidental discovery or recognition of any human remains, there shall be no further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent human remains, until compliance with the provisions of Sections 15064.5 (e)(1) and (2) of the CEQA Guidelines, as well as Public Resources Code Section 5097.98, has occurred. If any human remains are discovered, all work shall stop in the immediate vicinity of the find and the County Coroner shall be notified, according to Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code. The City's Environmental Services Manager shall also be notified. If the remains are Native American, the Coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission, which in turn will inform a most likely descendant. The descendant will then recommend to the landowner appropriate disposition of the remains and any grave goods, and the landowner shall comply with the requirements of AB2641 (2006).

The applicant is agreeable to the above mitigation measure; implementation of the above measure will reduce impacts to known and unknown/ undiscovered cultural resources to a less than significant level.

c. Human Remains – Less Than Significant With Mitigation. No evidence of human remains is known to exist at the project site. However, in the event that during construction activities, human remains of Native American origin are discovered on the site during project demolition, it would be necessary to comply with state laws relating to the disposition of Native American burials, which fall under the jurisdiction of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) (Public Resources Code Section 5097). In addition, State law (CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 and the Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5) requires that the Mitigation Measure V.-1 be implemented should human remains be discovered; implementation of Mitigation Measure V.-1 will reduce impacts regarding the discovery of human remains to a less than significant level.

VI. <u>ENERGY</u>					
Would the project:					
	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Impact for which General Plan EIR is Sufficient
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?			X		
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?				X	

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DISCUSSION OF DETERMINATION:

Project Impacts:

The proposed project would be anticipated to use energy resources during project implementation, but such use would not be in a wasteful or inefficient manner, nor would such use conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency.

Prior Environmental Analysis:

As a “program EIR” under CEQA Guidelines section 15168, the General Plan EIR analyzed the anticipated impacts that would occur related to the cumulative demand for electrical and natural gas services as a result of the future urban development that was contemplated by the General Plan. These impacts included a an increased demand for electrical and natural gas services, energy consumption impacts, and a cumulative increase in demand for electrical and natural gas services and associated infrastructure and increased infrastructure expansions to serve future development (City of Rocklin General Plan Update Draft EIR, 2011, pages 4.13-1 through 4.13-34, pages 4.13-23 through 4.13-32 and pages 5.0-47 through 5.0-48). Mitigation measures to address these impacts are incorporated into the General Plan in the Public Services and Facilities and Open Space, Conservation and Recreation Elements, and include goals and policies that encourage coordination with utility service providers and energy and resource conservation. The analysis found that while development and buildout of the General Plan can result in energy consumption impacts, these impacts would be reduced to a less than significant level through the application of California Building Energy Efficiency Standards (Title 24), through the application of development standards contained in the City’s Improvement Standards and Standard Specifications and in the Rocklin Municipal Code, through the application of General Plan goals and policies that would reduce energy consumption, and through compliance with local, state and federal standards related to energy consumption.

Mitigation Measures from Uniformly Applied Development Policies and Standards:

The consumption of energy as a result of development activities is discussed in the Rocklin General Plan. Policies and mitigation measures have been included in the General Plan that encourage coordination with utility service providers and the conservation of energy and resources.

All applicable mitigation measures from the General Plan EIR, including the mitigation measures for greenhouse gas emissions impacts incorporated as goals and policies in the General Plan, will be applied to the project. These serve as uniformly applied development policies and standards and/or as conditions of approval for this project to ensure consistency with the General Plan and compliance with City rules and regulations.

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Significance Conclusions:

a. Wasteful, Inefficient or Unnecessary Consumption of Energy Resources – *Less Than Significant Impact*. The project consists of routine maintenance activities and will not result in any new development or structures which would create new energy consumption. The project would use energy resources for the operation of vehicles and equipment associated with the construction of the project but only for short periods. Therefore, the project would be expected to result in a less than significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient or unnecessary consumption of energy resources during project construction or operation.

b. Conflict or Obstruct with State or Local Plan – *Less Than Significant Impact*. The project site is not part of a state or local plan for renewable energy and the project itself does not conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for energy efficiency. Therefore, the project would have a less than significant impact with regard to conflicting with or obstructing a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency.

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VII. <u>GEOLOGY AND SOILS</u> Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Impact for which General Plan EIR is Sufficient
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving: i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone 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.			X		
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?			X		
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?			X		
iv) Landslides?			X		
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?			X		
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?			X		
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table I8-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?			X		
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?				X	
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geological feature?			X		

DISCUSSION OF DETERMINATION:

Project Impacts:

Branches of the Foothill Fault system, which are not included on the Alquist-Priolo maps, pass through or near the City of Rocklin and could pose a seismic hazard to the area including ground shaking, seismic ground failure, and landslides. The proposed project will involve clearing and grading of the site, which could render the site susceptible to a temporary increase in erosion from the grading activities.

Prior Environmental Analysis:

As a “program EIR” under CEQA Guidelines section 15168, the General Plan EIR analyzed the anticipated impacts of local soils and geology on development that would occur as a result of the future urban development that was contemplated by the General Plan. These impacts included seismic hazards such as groundshaking and liquefaction, erosion, soil stability, and wastewater conflicts (City of Rocklin General Plan Update Draft EIR, 2011 pages 4.6-1 through 4.6-27). The analysis found that while development and buildout of the General Plan can result in geological impacts, these impacts would be reduced to a less than significant level through the application of development standards contained in the City’s Improvement Standards and Standard Specifications and in the Rocklin Municipal Code, the application of General Plan goals and policies that would assist in minimizing or avoiding geologic hazards and compliance with local, state and federal standards related to geologic conditions.

These goals, policies and standards include, but are not limited to, erosion control measures in the City’s Improvement Standards and Standard Specifications, the City’s Grading and Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance, the City’s Stormwater Runoff Pollution Control Ordinance, and goals and policies in the General Plan Community Safety Element requiring soils and geotechnical reports for all new development, enforcement of the building code, and limiting development of severe slopes.

Mitigation Measures from Uniformly Applied Development Policies and Standards:

All applicable mitigation measures from the General Plan EIR, including the mitigation measures for geology and soils impacts incorporated as goals and policies in the Rocklin General Plan will be applied to the project. These serve as uniformly applied development policies and standards and/or as conditions of approval for this project to ensure consistency with the General Plan and compliance with City ordinances, rules and regulations.

In addition, the project would be subject to the provisions of the City’s Grading and Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance. Chapter 15.28 of the Rocklin Municipal Code, Grading and Erosion Sediment Control, regulates grading activity on all property within the City of Rocklin to

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safeguard life, limb, health, property, and public welfare; to avoid pollution of watercourses with nutrients, sediments, or other earthen materials generated or caused by surface runoff on or across the permit area; to comply with the City's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit issued by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board; and to ensure that the intended use of a graded site is consistent with the City of Rocklin General Plan, provisions of the California Building Standards Code as adopted by the City relating to grading activities, City of Rocklin improvement standards, and any applicable specific plans or other land use entitlements. This chapter (15.28) also establishes rules and regulations to control grading and erosion control activities, including fills and embankments; establishes the administrative procedure for issuance of permits; and provides for approval of plans and inspection of grading construction and erosion control plans for all graded sites.

Significance Conclusions:

a., i. and ii. Fault Rupture, Ground Shaking – *Less than Significant Impact.* The City of Rocklin is located in an area known to be subject to seismic hazards, but it is not near any designated Alquist-Priolo active earthquake faults. The Foothill Fault System has been identified in previous environmental studies as potentially posing a seismic hazard to the area; however, the Foothill Fault system is located near Folsom Lake, and not within the boundaries of the City of Rocklin. There are, however, two known and five inferred inactive faults within the City of Rocklin. Existing building code requirements are considered adequate to reduce potential seismic hazards related to the construction of the proposed project to a less than significant level.

a., iii. and iv. Liquefaction, Landslides – *Less than Significant Impact.* The site does not contain significant grade differences and therefore, does not possess the slope/geological conditions that involve landslide hazards. The potential for liquefaction due to earthquakes and groundshaking is considered minimal due to the site specific characteristics that exist in Rocklin; Rocklin is located over a stable granite bedrock formation and much of the area is covered by volcanic mud (not unconsolidated soils which have liquefaction tendencies). The application of seismic safety and construction and design standards contained in the City's Improvement Standards and Standard Specifications and in the Rocklin Municipal Code, the application of General Plan goals and policies that would assist in minimizing or avoiding geologic hazards, and compliance with local, state and federal standards related to geologic conditions would reduce the potential impact from liquefaction to a less than significant level.

b. Soil Erosion – *Less Than Significant Impact.* Standard erosion control measures are required by Chapter 15.28 of the Municipal Code, including revegetation and slope standards. An erosion and sediment control plan will be required for applicable maintenance activities. The erosion and sediment control plan are reviewed against the Placer County Stormwater Management Manual and the Regional Water Quality Control Board's Erosion and Sediment Control Field Manual. The erosion and sediment control plan includes the implementation of Best Management Practices/Best Available Technology (BMPs/BATs) to control construction site

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runoff. The project will also be required to comply with the City's Grading and Erosion and Sedimentation Control Ordinance (Rocklin Municipal Code, Chapter 15.28), and the Stormwater Runoff Pollution Control Ordinance (Rocklin Municipal Code, Chapter 8.30). The application of standard erosion control measures to the proposed project, as well as compliance with the above noted Ordinances, would reduce potential erosion-related impacts to a less than significant level for on-site grading.

c. and d. Unstable and Expansive Soil – *Less Than Significant Impact*. The project will be primarily located within drainage channels where soils are generally unstable due to high moisture content however, the project does not involve construction of any structures that would be affected by unstable or expansive soils. Therefore, impacts associated with unstable soil or geologic conditions would be reduced to a less than significant level.

e. Inadequate Soils for Disposal - *No Impact*. This project consists of routine maintenance of drainage channels and will not generate any wastewater requiring disposal systems. Septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems would not be necessary; therefore there are no impacts associated with the disposal of wastewater.

f. Paleontological Resource and Unique Geological Feature – *Less Than Significant Impact*. The project site and project area are not known or considered likely to contain a unique paleontological resource or a unique geological feature; therefore direct or indirect impacts to these resources would be less than significant.

VIII. <u>GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS</u> Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Impact for which General Plan EIR is Sufficient
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?			X		
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?			X		

DISCUSSION OF DETERMINATION:

Project Impacts:

An individual project, even a very large project, does not in itself generate enough greenhouse gas emissions to measurably influence global climate change. Global climate change is therefore by definition a cumulative impact. A project contributes to this potential cumulative impact through its cumulative incremental contribution combined with the emissions of all other sources of greenhouse gases (GHG).

Area- and mobile-source emissions of greenhouse gases would be generated by the construction and operation of the proposed project. Individual projects can contribute to greenhouse gas emission reductions by incorporating features that reduce vehicle emissions and maximize energy-efficiency.

Greenhouse Gas Setting

Gases that trap heat in the atmosphere are referred to as greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions because they capture heat radiated from the sun as it is reflected back into the atmosphere, similar to a greenhouse. The accumulation of GHG emissions has been implicated as a driving force for Global Climate change. Definitions of climate change vary between and across regulatory authorities and the scientific community, but in general can be described as the changing of the earth's climate caused by natural fluctuations and the impact of human activities that alter the composition of the global atmosphere.

Emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) contributing to global climate change are attributable in large part to human activities associated with the industrial/manufacturing, utility, transportation, residential and agricultural sectors. Therefore, the cumulative global emission of GHGs contributing to global climate change can be attributed to every nation, region, city

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and virtually every individual on Earth. A project's GHG emissions are at a micro-scale relative to global emissions, but could result in a cumulatively considerable incremental contribution to a significant cumulative macro-scale impact

The major concern is that increases in GHG emissions are causing Global Climate Change. Global Climate Change is a change in the average weather on earth that can be measured by wind patterns, storms, precipitation, and temperature. Although there is disagreement as to the speed of global warming and the extent of the impacts attributable to human activities, the vast majority of the scientific community now agrees that there is a direct link between increased GHG emissions and long term global temperature increases. Potential global warming impacts in California may include, but are not limited to, loss in snow pack, sea level rise, more extreme heat days per year, more high ozone days, more large forest fires, more drought years, impacts to agriculture, changes in disease vectors, and changes in habitat and biodiversity. In California, GHGs are defined to include carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), nitrogen trifluoride (NF₃), and hydrofluorocarbons. To account for the warming potential of GHGs, GHG emissions are quantified and reported as CO₂ equivalents (CO₂e).

An individual project, even a very large project, does not in itself generate enough greenhouse gas emissions to measurably influence global climate change. Global climate change is therefore by definition a cumulative impact. A project contributes to this potential cumulative impact through its cumulative incremental contribution combined with the emissions of all other sources of greenhouse gases (GHG). In assessing cumulative impacts, it must be determined if a project's incremental effect is "cumulatively considerable" (CEQA Guidelines Sections 15064 (h)(1) and 15130). To make this determination, the incremental impacts of the project must be compared to with the effects of past, current and probable future projects. To gather sufficient information on a global scale of all past, current, and probable future projects to make this determination is a difficult, if not impossible, task.

Regulatory Framework

In September 2006, then Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed AB 32, the California Climate Solutions Act of 2006. AB 32 requires that statewide GHG emissions be reduced to 1990 levels by the year 2020. AB 32 delegated the authority for its implementation to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and directs CARB to enforce the statewide cap. In accordance with AB 32, CARB prepared the *Climate Change Scoping Plan* (Scoping Plan) for California, which was approved in 2008. The Scoping Plan provides the outline for actions to reduce California's GHG emissions. Based on the reduction goals called for in the 2008 Scoping Plan, a 29 percent reduction in GHG levels relative to a Business As Usual (BAU) scenario would be required to meet 1990 levels by 2020. The BAU condition is project and site specific and varies. The BAU scenario is based on what could or would occur on a particular site in the year 2020 without implementation of a proposed project or consideration of any State regulation emission

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reductions or voluntary GHG reduction measures. The CARB, per the 2008 Scoping Plan, explicitly recommends that local governments utilize a 15 percent GHG reduction below “today’s” levels by 2020 to ensure that community emissions match the State’s reduction target, where today’s levels would be considered 2010 BAU levels.

In 2011, the baseline or BAU level for the Scoping Plan was revised to account for the economic downturn and State regulation emission reductions (i.e., Pavley, Low Carbon Fuel Standard [LCFS], and Renewable Portfolio Standard [RPS]). Accordingly, the Scoping Plan emission reduction target from BAU levels required to meet 1990 levels by 2020 was modified from 29 percent to 21.7 percent where the BAU level is based on 2010 levels singularly, or 16 percent where the BAU level is based on 2010 levels and includes State regulation emission reductions noted above. The amended Scoping Plan was re-approved August 24, 2011.

The Scoping Plan must be updated every five years. The *First Update to the Climate Change Scoping Plan* (Scoping Plan Update) was approved by CARB on May 22, 2014 and builds upon the initial Scoping Plan with new strategies and recommendations. The Scoping Plan Update highlights the State’s progress towards the 2020 GHG emission reduction goals defined in the original Scoping Plan and evaluates how to align the State’s longer-term GHG reduction strategies with other State policy priorities for water, waste, natural resources, clean energy, transportation and land use. According to the Scoping Plan Update, the State is on track to meet the 2020 GHG goal and has created a framework for ongoing climate action that could be built upon to maintain and continue economic sector-specific reductions beyond 2020, on the path to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050, as required by AB 32.

On October 13, 2016 the Placer County Air Pollution Control District (PCAPCD) adopted GHG emissions thresholds to help the district attain the GHG reduction goals established by AB 32 and SB 32. The updated thresholds specify a bright-line threshold for GHG emissions during construction activity of 10,000 MTCO₂e/yr. For operational emissions, the updated thresholds begin with a screening emission level of 1,100 MT CO₂e/yr. Any project below the 1,100 MT CO₂e/yr threshold is judged by the PCAPCD as having a less than significant impact on GHG emissions within the District and thus would not conflict with any state or regional GHG emissions reduction goals. Projects that would result in emissions above the 1,100 MT CO₂e/yr threshold would not necessarily result in substantial impacts, if certain efficiency thresholds are met. The efficiency thresholds, which are based on service populations and square footage, are presented in the PCAPCD GHG Operational Thresholds of Significance table below.

PCAPCD GHG OPERATIONAL THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE			
Efficiency Thresholds			
Residential (MT CO ₂ e/capita)		Non-Residential (MT CO ₂ e/1,000 sf)	
Urban	Rural	Urban	Rural
4.5	5.5	26.5	27.3
Source: Placer County Air Pollution Control District, Placer County Air Pollution Control District Policy Review of Land Use Projects Under CEQA, October 13, 2016.			
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Projects that fall below the 1,100 MT CO₂e/yr threshold or meet the efficiency thresholds are considered to be in keeping with statewide GHG emissions reduction targets, which would ensure that the proposed project would not inhibit the State’s achievement of GHG emissions reductions. Thus, projects which involve emissions below the 1,100 MT CO₂e/yr threshold or below the efficiency thresholds presented in the PCAPCD GHG Operational Thresholds of Significance table above are considered to result in less-than-significant impacts in regards GHG emissions within the District and would not conflict with any state or regional GHG emissions reduction goals. Finally, the PCAPCD has also established a Bright Line Cap, which shall be the maximum limit for any proposed project. The Bright Line Cap is 10,000 MT CO₂e/yr for all types of projects.

Significance Conclusions:

a. and b. Generate Greenhouse Gas and Conflict with Greenhouse Gas Plan – *Less Than Significant Impact*. Although the Proposed Project would contribute to GHG levels during implementation, routine maintenance activities would only have short-term, negligible GHG emissions as a result of the construction equipment and worker vehicles. Furthermore, related emissions would not be new, but rather a continuation of the City’s ongoing creek maintenance program, and therefore part of existing baseline inventories. Worker vehicles would be limited to the minimum necessary, which would have a less-than-significant impact to generation of GHG emissions in the region. In addition, the City has not adopted a Climate Action Plan, nor any specific mandatory GHG reductions measures, other than enforcing and supporting the policies set forth in the General Plan, such as the circulation Element which helps reduce congestion and encourages non-motorized transportation. Therefore, the Proposed Project’s contribution to global climate change through GHG emissions would be considered less than significant.

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IX. <u>HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS</u> Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Impact for which General Plan EIR is Sufficient
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?			X		
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.			X		
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?			X		
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?				X	
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?				X	
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?			X		
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?			X		

DISCUSSION OF DETERMINATION:

Project Impacts:

As discussed below, compliance with the mitigation measures incorporated into the General Plan goals and policies and applicable City Code and compliance with applicable Federal, State and local laws and regulations would reduce impacts related to hazards and hazardous materials to a less-than-significant level.

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Prior Environmental Analysis:

As a “program EIR” under CEQA Guidelines section 15168, the General Plan EIR analyzed the anticipated human health and hazards impacts that would occur as a result of the future urban development that was contemplated by the General Plan. These impacts included wildland fire hazards, transportation, use and disposal of hazardous materials, and emergency response and evacuation plans (City of Rocklin General Plan Update Draft EIR, 2011 pages 4.7-1 through 4.7-30). The analysis found that while development and buildout of the Rocklin General Plan can introduce a variety of human health and hazards impacts, these impacts would be reduced to a less than significant level through the application of development standards in the Rocklin Municipal Code, the application of General Plan goals and policies that would assist in minimizing or avoiding hazardous conditions, and compliance with local, state and federal standards related to hazards and hazardous materials.

These goals, policies and standards include, but are not limited to, Chapter 2.32 of the Rocklin Municipal Code which requires the preparation and maintenance of an emergency operations plan, preventative measures in the City’s Improvement Standards and Standard Specifications, compliance with local, state and federal standards related to hazards and hazardous materials and goals and policies in the General Plan Community Safety and Open Space, Conservation and Recreation Elements requiring coordination with emergency management agencies, annexation into fee districts for fire prevention/suppression and medical response, incorporation of fuel modification/fire hazard reduction planning, and requirements for site-specific hazard investigations and risk analysis.

Mitigation Measures from Uniformly Applied Development Policies and Standards:

All applicable mitigation measures from the General Plan EIR, including the mitigation measures for human health and hazards impacts incorporated as goals and policies in the General Plan and the City’s Improvement Standards, will be applied to the project. These serve as uniformly applied development policies and standards and/or as conditions of approval for this project to ensure consistency with the General Plan and compliance with the Rocklin Municipal Code and other City rules and regulations.

In addition, Chapter 2.32 of the Rocklin Municipal Code requires the development of emergency procedures in the City through the Emergency Operations Plan. The Emergency Operations Plan provides a framework to guide the City’s efforts to mitigate and prepare for, respond to, and recover from major emergencies or disasters. To implement the Emergency Operations Plan, the City has established a Disaster Council, which is responsible for reviewing and recommending emergency operations plans for adoption by the City Council. The Disaster Council plans for the protection of persons and property in the event of fires, floods, storms, epidemic, riot, earthquake and other disasters.

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Significance Conclusion:

a. and b. Transport, Use or Disposal of Hazardous Materials, Release of Hazardous Materials – *Less than Significant.* Construction and maintenance activities would use hazardous materials, including fuels (gasoline and diesel), oils and lubricants; paints and paint thinners; glues; cleaners (which could include solvents and corrosives in addition to soaps and detergents), and fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides and landscaping equipment. While these products noted above may contain known hazardous materials, the volume of material would not create a significant hazard to the public through routine transport, use, or disposal and would not result in a reasonably foreseeable upset and accident condition involving the release of hazardous materials. Compliance with various Federal, State, and local laws and regulations (including but not limited to Titles 8 and 22 of the Code of California Regulations, Uniform Fire Code, and Chapter 6.95 of the California Health and Safety Code) addressing hazardous materials management and environmental protection would be required to ensure that there is not a significant hazardous materials impact associated with the construction, operation and maintenance of the proposed project.

c. Hazardous Emissions Near Schools – *Less Than Significant Impact.* Routine maintenance activities may occur within one-quarter mile of local schools. As mentioned above, the project would involve the short-term handling of hazardous materials during construction. Handling and storage of hazardous materials during construction would comply with all applicable local, state, and federal standards. Therefore impacts from hazardous emissions near schools would be less than significant.

d. Hazardous Site List – *No Impact.* The project site is not on the list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. Government Code 65962.5 is known as the Cortese List. The Cortese database identifies public drinking water wells with detectable levels of contamination, hazardous substance sites selected for remedial action, sites with known toxic material identified through the abandoned site assessment program, sites with Underground Storage Tanks (USTs) having a reportable release and all solid waste disposal facilities from which there is known migration. The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) EnviroStor database and State Water Resources Control Board GeoTracker database were searched on January 21, 2020 and no open hazardous sites were identified on the project site.

e. Airport Hazards and Noise – *No Impact.* The project is not located within an airport land use plan, or within two miles of a public airport or public use airport; therefore there is no public or private airport hazard impact.

f. Emergency Response Plan – *Less than Significant Impact.* The City's existing street system, particularly arterial and collector streets, function as emergency evacuation routes. The will not impair or physically interfere with the street system emergency evacuation route or impede an

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emergency evacuation plan. Therefore a less than significant impact on emergency routes/plans would be anticipated.

g. Wildland Fires – Less Than Significant Impact. The project is required to comply with California Building and Fire Code regulations regarding fire prevention and suppression. Routine channel maintenance activities will not expose people or structures to the risk of wildland fire; therefore there is no impact.

X.	<u>HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY</u> Would the project:	Potential y Significant t Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Impact for which General Plan EIR is Sufficient
a)	Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?			X		
b)	Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?				X	
c)	Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:			X		
	i) Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?			X		
	ii) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on-or offsite;				X	
	iii) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or			X		
	iv) Impede or redirect flood flows?				X	
d)	In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?				X	
e)	Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?			X		

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DISCUSSION OF DETERMINATION:

Project Impacts:

The proposed project would involve grading activities that would remove vegetation and expose soil to wind and water erosion and potentially impact water quality. Waterways in the Rocklin area have the potential to flood and expose people or structures to flooding however routine maintenance activities involved in this project are expected to reduce flood risk.

Prior Environmental Analysis:

As a “program EIR” under CEQA Guidelines section 15168, the General Plan EIR analyzed the anticipated hydrology and water quality impacts that would occur as a result of the future urban development that was contemplated by the General Plan. These impacts included water quality, ground water quality and supply, drainage, flooding, risks of seiche, tsunami and mudflow (City of Rocklin General Plan Update Draft EIR, 2011, pages 4.9-1 through 4.9-37). The analysis found that while development and buildout of the General Plan can result in hydrology and water quality impacts, these impacts would be reduced to a less than significant level through the application of development standards contained in the City’s Improvement Standards and Standard Specifications and in the Rocklin Municipal Code, the application of General Plan goals and policies related to hydrology, flooding and water quality, and compliance with local, state, and federal water quality standards and floodplain development requirements.

These goals, policies and standards include, but are not limited to, flood prevention and drainage requirements in the City’s Improvement Standards and Standard Specifications, the City’s Grading and Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance, the Stormwater Runoff Pollution Control Ordinance, the State Water Resources Control Board General Construction Activity Storm Water Permit requirements, and goals and policies in the General Plan Open Space, Conservation and Recreation and Safety Elements requiring the protection of new and existing development from flood and drainage hazards, the prevention of storm drainage run-off in excess of pre-development levels, the development and application of erosion control plans and best management practices, the annexation of new development into existing drainage maintenance districts where warranted, and consultation with the Placer County Flood Control and Water Conservation District and other appropriate entities.

Mitigation Measures from Uniformly Applied Development Policies and Standards:

All applicable mitigation measures from the General Plan EIR as well as relevant standards from the City’s Improvement Standards for hydrology and water quality impacts will be applied to the project. These serve as uniformly applied development policies and standards and/or as

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conditions of approval for this project to ensure consistency with the General Plan and compliance with the Rocklin Municipal Code and other City rules and regulations.

The project would be subject to the provisions of the City's Grading and Erosion and Sediment Control Ordinance. Chapter 15.28 of the Rocklin Municipal Code, Grading and Erosion Sediment Control, regulates grading activity on all property within the City of Rocklin to safeguard life, limb, health, property, and public welfare; to avoid pollution of watercourses with nutrients, sediments, or other earthen materials generated or caused by surface runoff on or across the permit area; to comply with the City's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit issued by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board; and to ensure that the intended use of a graded site is consistent with the City of Rocklin General Plan, provisions of the California Building Standards Code as adopted by the City relating to grading activities, City of Rocklin improvement standards, and any applicable specific plans or other land use entitlements. This chapter (15.28) also establishes rules and regulations to control grading and erosion control activities, including fills and embankments; establishes the administrative procedure for issuance of permits; and provides for approval of plans and inspection of grading construction and erosion control plans for all graded sites. Chapter 8.30 of the Rocklin Municipal Code, Stormwater Runoff Pollution Control Ordinance, prohibits the discharge of any materials or pollutants that cause or contribute to a violation of applicable water quality standards, other than stormwater, into the municipal storm drain system or watercourse. Discharges from specified activities that do not cause or contribute to the violation of plan standards, such as landscape irrigation, lawn watering, and flows from fire suppression activities, are exempt from this prohibition.

The project would also be subject to the City's Flood Hazard Area Ordinance and City General Plan policies related to floodplain protection and encroachment; these tools are designed to minimize public and private losses due to flood conditions by having legally enforceable regulations that are applied uniformly throughout the City to all publicly and privately owned land within flood prone or flood related erosion areas, they allow the City to protect regulatory floodplains from encroachment by development that would impede flood flows or pose a hazard to occupants, and they ensure that regulatory floodplains, based on the most current information, are not adversely affected by new development, both upstream and downstream.

In addition, the project would be required to prepare an erosion and sediment control plan through the application of the City's Improvement Standards and Standard Specifications that are a part of the City's development review process.

Significance Conclusions:

a., c. and e. Water Quality Standards and Groundwater Management– *Less than Significant Impact.* The proposed project will be required to comply, as applicable, with the City's Phase II MS4 NPDES permit, the USACE Section 404 Nationwide 3 Maintenance Permit, the City's

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Grading and Erosion and Sedimentation Control Ordinance (Rocklin Municipal Code, Chapter 15.28), and the Stormwater Runoff Pollution Control Ordinance (Rocklin Municipal Code, Chapter 8.30) and the conditions of the CDFW RMA. Therefore, violations of water quality standards or waste discharge requirements are not anticipated.

To address the potential for polluted water runoff during project construction, the project would be required to prepare an erosion and sediment control plan. The erosion and sediment control plan are reviewed against the Placer County Stormwater Management Manual and the Regional Water Quality Control Board's Erosion and Sediment Control Field Manual. The erosion and sediment control plan includes the implementation of Best Management Practices/Best Available Technology (BMPs/BATs) to control construction site runoff. The project will also be required to comply with the City's Grading and Erosion and Sedimentation Control Ordinance (Rocklin Municipal Code, Chapter 15.28), and the Stormwater Runoff Pollution Control Ordinance (Rocklin Municipal Code, Chapter 8.30), which includes the preparation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The proposed project would not alter the course of a stream or a river.

The proposed project would not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area in the long term. Routine channel maintenance involves the removal/displacement of silt, sand, or sediment in the vicinity of man-made facilities, or structures which cause an obstruction of the channel's flow. As a part of the proposed project, temporary stream diversions may be required, which may result in increased erosion and a corresponding increase in siltation within the water. However, any increase in flow velocities due to stream diversions would be temporary. The project consists of maintenance in the creek channel to preserve the existing drainage patterns and waterway flows. Substantial erosion, siltation or flooding, on- or off-site, substantial additional sources of polluted runoff or the impediment or re-direction of flood flows would not be anticipated to occur.

Therefore, violations of water quality standards or waste discharge requirements would not occur, surface or groundwater quality would not be substantially degraded, and conflicts with or obstruction of a water quality control plan would not occur, and the impact would be less than significant.

b. Groundwater Management– No Impact. The project will not require a domestic water supply and will not use wells or groundwater; therefore existing groundwater resources will not be depleted. The project site itself is not a substantial recharge area because of its smaller size in comparison to the overall groundwater recharge area. Therefore, groundwater quality would not be substantially degraded or supplies decreased and conflicts with, obstruction of or impediment of a sustainable groundwater management plan would not occur, and no impact would occur.

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d. Release of Pollutants in Flood Hazard, Tsunami or Seiche Zones – *Less Than Significant Impact*. The proposed project is located within FEMA designated 100 year flood zones. However, as routine maintenance, the proposed project will not introduce additional sources of pollution which would be released in the event of a flood. The project site is not located within the potential inundation area of any dam or levee failure, nor is the project site located sufficiently near any significant bodies of water or steep hillsides to be at risk from inundation by a tsunami seiche. Therefore the proposed project does not risk release of pollutants due to project inundation in flood hazard, tsunami or seiche zones and a less than significant impact would be anticipated.

XI. <u>LAND USE AND PLANNING</u> Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Impact for which General Plan EIR is Sufficient
a) Physically divide an established community?				X	
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?				X	

DISCUSSION OF DETERMINATION:

Project Impacts:

Approval of the project would allow routine maintenance of the creek channel and associated riparian areas. The project sites are designated Recreation-Conservation on the General Plan land use map and are zoned Open Area (OA), Planned Development Open Area (PD-OA), Open Space (OS), and Wetlands (W). This project will not change land use or zoning of the project sites. As discussed below, land use impacts are not anticipated.

Prior Environmental Analysis:

As a “program EIR” under CEQA Guidelines section 15168, the General Plan EIR analyzed the anticipated impacts on land use as a result of the future urban development that was contemplated by the General Plan. These impacts included dividing an established community and potential conflicts with established land uses within and adjacent to the City (City of Rocklin General Plan Update Draft EIR, 2011, pages 4.1-1 through 4.1-38). The analysis found that while development and buildout of the General Plan can result in land use impacts, these impacts

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would be reduced to a less than significant level through the application of General Plan goals and policies that would assist in minimizing or avoiding land use impacts.

These goals and policies include, but are not limited to goals and policies in the General Plan Land Use Element requiring buffering of land uses, reviewing development proposals for compatibility issues, establishing and maintaining development standards and encouraging communication between adjacent jurisdictions.

Mitigation Measures from Uniformly Applied Development Policies and Standards:

All applicable mitigation measures from the General Plan EIR, including the mitigation measures for impacts to land use incorporated as goals and policies in the Rocklin General Plan, will be applied to the project. These serve as uniformly applied development policies and standards and/or as conditions of approval for this project to ensure consistency with the General Plan and compliance with City rules and regulations.

Significance Conclusions:

a. Division of Community – *No Impact*. The proposed project consists of routine maintenance activities and would not physically divide an established community. Therefore there is no division of community impact.

b. Plan, Policy or Regulation Conflict – *No Impact*. The proposed project is consistent with the project site's existing land use and zoning designations. Since the proposed project consists of routine maintenance, no new activities or uses would be added which could conflict with any land use plans, policies, or regulations therefore there will be no impacts related to conflicts with land use plans, policies or regulations adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect.

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XII. <u>MINERAL RESOURCES</u> Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Impact for which General Plan EIR is Sufficient
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?				X	
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?				X	

DISCUSSION OF DETERMINATION:

Project Impacts:

As discussed below, no impact is anticipated because the project site does not contain known mineral resources.

Significance Conclusions:

a. and b. Mineral Resources – No Impact. The Rocklin General Plan and associated EIR analyzed the potential for “productive resources” such as, but not limited to, granite and gravel (City of Rocklin General Plan Update Draft EIR, 2011, pages 4.6-4 through 4.6-5 and 4.6-17). The City of Rocklin has no mineral resources as classified by the State Geologist. The City has no known or suspected mineral resources that would be of value to the region and to residents of the state. The project site is not delineated in the Rocklin General Plan or any other plans as a mineral resource recovery site. Mineral resources of the project site have not changed with the passage of time since the General Plan EIR was adopted. Based on this discussion, the project is not anticipated to have a mineral resources impact.

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XIII. <u>NOISE</u> Would the project result in:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Impact for which General Plan EIR is Sufficient
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or in other applicable local, state, or federal standards?			X		
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?			X		
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				X	

DISCUSSION OF DETERMINATION:

Project Impacts:

As discussed below, development of the proposed project will result in an increase in short-term noise impacts from construction activities. Compliance with the mitigation measures incorporated into the General Plan goals and policies, and the City of Rocklin Construction Noise Guidelines would reduce construction noise related impacts to a less-than-significant level. As also discussed below, development and operation of the proposed project would not result in an exceedance of City noise level standards.

Prior Environmental Analysis:

As a “program EIR” under CEQA Guidelines section 15168, the General Plan EIR analyzed the anticipated impacts of noise associated with the future urban development that was contemplated by the General Plan. These impacts included construction noise, traffic noise, operational noise, groundborne vibration, and overall increased in noise resulting from implementation of the General Plan Update (City of Rocklin General Plan Update Draft EIR, 2011, pages 4.5-1 through 4.5-48).

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Mitigation measures to address these impacts are incorporated into the General Plan in the Noise Element, which includes policies that require acoustical analyses to determine noise compatibility between land uses, application of stationary and mobile noise source sound limits/design standards, restriction of development of noise-sensitive land uses unless effective noise mitigations are incorporated into projects, and mitigation of noise levels to ensure that the noise level design standards of the Noise Element are not exceeded.

The General Plan EIR concluded that, despite these goals and policies, significant noise impacts will occur as a result of development under the General Plan and further, that these impacts cannot be reduced to a less than significant level. Specifically, the General Plan EIR found that buildout of the Rocklin General Plan will result in exposure of persons to, or generation of, noise levels in excess of applicable noise standards, will result in exposure to surface transportation noise sources and stationary noise sources in excess of applicable noise standards and will contribute to cumulative transportation noise impacts within the Planning Area. Findings of fact and a statement of overriding consideration were adopted by the Rocklin City Council in regard to these impacts, which were found to be significant and unavoidable.

Mitigation Measures from Uniformly Applied Development Policies and Standards:

All applicable mitigation measures from the General Plan EIR, including the mitigation measures for impacts associated with noise incorporated as goals and policies in the Rocklin General Plan, will be applied to the project. These serve as uniformly applied development policies and standards and/or as conditions of approval for this project to ensure consistency with the General Plan and compliance with City rules and regulations.

Significance Conclusions:

a. and b. Generation of Noise or Vibration – *Less than Significant Impact.* The primary goal for the City of Rocklin General Plan with respect to noise is: “To protect City residents from the harmful and annoying effects of exposure to excessive noise”. To implement that goal, the City has adopted Noise Compatibility Guidelines prepared by the State Office of Noise Control. The objective of the Noise Compatibility Guidelines is to assure that consideration is given to the sensitivity to noise of a proposed land use in relation to the noise environment in which it is proposed to be located.

Potential noise impacts from the project include short-term construction noise impacts. The City has adopted standard conditions for project approvals which address short-term impacts. These include limiting traffic speeds to 25 mph and keeping equipment in clean and tuned condition. The proposed project would be subject to these standard conditions. The proposed project would also be subject to the City of Rocklin Construction Noise Guidelines, including restricting construction-related noise generating activities within or near residential areas to between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on weekdays, and between 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on

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weekends to the satisfaction of the City Engineer or Building Official. Therefore, impacts associated with substantial temporary increases in the ambient noise environment or generation of excessive groundborne noise levels during construction would be less than significant.

Project construction includes activities, such as operation of large pieces of equipment (e.g., heavy trucks) which may result in the periodic, temporary generation of ground-borne vibration. Given the nature of any potential ground-borne vibration and given that any impacts would be temporary and periodic, potential impacts are less than significant.

c. Public and Private Airport Noise – No Impact. The City of Rocklin, including the project sites, is not located within an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public or private airport, and is therefore not subject to excessive aircraft noise related to airport operations. Therefore, there is no airport related noise impact.

XIV. <u>POPULATION AND HOUSING</u> Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Impact for which General Plan EIR is Sufficient
a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure.)				X	
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				X	

DISCUSSION OF DETERMINATION:

Project Impacts:

The proposed project will consist of routine maintenance of existing creek channels and riparian areas which will not induce population growth or displace people or housing.

Prior Environmental Analysis:

As a “program EIR” under CEQA Guidelines section 15168, the General Plan EIR analyzed the

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anticipated population and housing impacts that would occur as a result of the future urban development that was contemplated by the General Plan. These impacts included population growth and availability of housing opportunities (City of Rocklin General Plan Update Draft EIR, 2011, pages 4.11-1 through 4.11-13). The analysis found that while development and buildout of the General Plan can result in population and housing impacts, implementation of the General Plan would not contribute to a significant generation of growth that would substantially exceed any established growth projections nor would it displace substantial numbers of housing units or people. Moreover, the project will not construct off-site infrastructure that would induce substantial development, unplanned or otherwise. As such, population and housing impacts were determined to be less than significant.

Significance Conclusions:

a., b. Population Growth and Displacement of People or Housing – *No Impact*. The proposed project will consist of routine maintenance of existing creek channels and riparian areas. Routine channel maintenance activities would maintain the existing drainage features and would not directly or indirectly induce population growth, displace existing people or house, or necessitate the development of housing elsewhere. Therefore, there will be no impact significant to populations and housing.

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XV. <u>PUBLIC SERVICES</u>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Impact for which General Plan EIR is Sufficient
a) Would the project result in 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:					
Fire protection?				X	
Police protection?				X	
Schools?				X	
Parks?				X	
Other public facilities?				X	

DISCUSSION OF DETERMINATION:

Project Impacts:

The proposed project consists of maintenance of existing drainage channels and would not create a need for the provision of new and/or expanded public services or facilities, therefore there would be no impact related to public services.

Prior Environmental Analysis:

As a “program EIR” under CEQA Guidelines section 15168, the General Plan EIR analyzed the anticipated impacts on the demand for fire and police protection and school and recreation facilities as a result of the future urban development that was contemplated by the General Plan. These impacts included increased demand for fire, police and school services, provision of adequate fire flow, and increased demand for parks and recreation (City of Rocklin General Plan Update Draft EIR, 2011, pages 4.12-1 through 4.12-45). The analysis found that while development and buildout of the General Plan can result in public services and facilities impacts, these impacts would be reduced to a less than significant level through compliance

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with state and local standards related to the provision of public services and facilities and through the application of General Plan goals and policies that would assist in minimizing or avoiding impacts to public services and facilities.

These goals, policies and standards include, but are not limited to the California Fire Code, the California Health and Safety Code, Chapters 8.12 and 8.20 of the Rocklin Municipal Code, and goals and policies in the General Plan Community Safety and Public Services and Facilities Elements requiring studies of infrastructure and public facility needs, proportional share participation in the financial costs of public services and facilities, coordination of private development projects with public facilities and services needed to serve the project, maintaining inter-jurisdictional cooperation and coordination and requiring certain types of development that may generate higher demand or special needs to mitigate the demands/needs.

Mitigation Measures from Uniformly Applied Development Policies and Standards:

All applicable mitigation measures from the General Plan EIR, including the mitigation measures for impacts to public services incorporated as goals and policies in the Rocklin General Plan, will be applied to the project. These serve as uniformly applied development policies and standards and/or as conditions of approval for the project to ensure consistency with the General Plan and compliance with City rules and regulations.

California Fire Code, the California Health and Safety Code, Chapters 8.12 and 8.20 of the Rocklin Municipal Code, and goals and policies in the General Plan Community Safety and Public Services and Facilities Elements require studies of infrastructure and public facility needs, proportional share participation in the financial costs of public services and facilities, coordination of private development projects with public facilities and services needed to serve the project, maintaining inter-jurisdictional cooperation and coordination and requirements for certain types of development that may generate higher demand or special needs to mitigate the demands/needs.

Significance Conclusions:

a. Public Utilities – *No Impact*. The proposed project involves routine maintenance of drainage channels. The project would not include construction of any habitable structures or other structures which would require public services or impact the service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives of any service providers. Routine channel maintenance activities would not result in a need for additional public services or new public facilities. Therefore no impact related to public services would result from the proposed project.

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XVI. <u>RECREATION</u>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Impact for which General Plan EIR is Sufficient
a) Would the project 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?				X	
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?				X	

DISCUSSION OF DETERMINATION:

Project Impacts:

The proposed project consists of routine maintenance of drainage channels and would not be anticipated to increase the use of, or demand for, recreational facilities.

Prior Environmental Analysis:

As a “program EIR” under CEQA Guidelines section 15168, the General Plan EIR analyzed the anticipated impacts on the demand for recreation facilities as a result of the future urban development that was contemplated by the General Plan. These impacts included increased demand for parks and recreation (City of Rocklin General Plan Update Draft EIR, 2011, pages 4.12-30 through 4.12-45). The analysis found that while development and buildout of the General Plan can result in recreation facilities impacts, these impacts would be reduced to a less than significant level through the application of General Plan goals and policies that would assist in minimizing or avoiding impacts to recreation facilities. The General Plan has established a parkland standard of five acres per 1,000 population, and has adopted goals and policies to insure that this standard is met. These goals and policies call for the provision of new park and recreational facilities as needed by new development through parkland dedication and the payment of park and recreation fees. These programs and practices are recognized in the General Plan Open Space, Conservation and Recreation Element, which mitigates these impacts to a less than significant level.

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Mitigation Measures from Uniformly Applied Development Policies and Standards:

All applicable mitigation measures from the General Plan EIR, including the mitigation measures for impacts to recreation incorporated as goals and policies in the Rocklin General Plan, will be applied to the project. These serve as uniformly applied development policies and standards and/or as conditions of approval for this project to ensure consistency with the General Plan and compliance with City rules and regulations.

Significance Conclusions:

a. and b. Increase Park Usage and Construction or Expansion of Recreational Facilities – No Impact. The proposed project consists of routine maintenance of existing drainage facilities and will not increase human presence in the area. The project would not increase the use of existing recreational facilities therefore there will be no impact related to recreational facilities.

XVII.	<u>TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC</u> Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Impact for which General Plan EIR is Sufficient
a)	Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities?				X	
b)	Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?				X	
c)	Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?				X	
d)	Result in inadequate emergency access?			X		

DISCUSSION OF DETERMINATION:

Project Impacts:

As discussed below, the proposed project is not anticipated to cause increases in traffic because the project consists entirely of maintenance activities and no new development will occur from this project.

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Prior Environmental Review:

As a “program EIR” under CEQA Guidelines section 15168, the General Plan EIR analyzed the anticipated impacts on transportation that would occur as a result of the future urban development that was contemplated by the General Plan. These impacts included signalized intersections in Rocklin, Loomis, Roseville, Lincoln and Placer County, state/interstate highway segments and intersections, transit service, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and conflicts with at-grade railways (City of Rocklin General Plan Update Draft EIR, 2011, pages 4.4-1 through 4.4-98).

Mitigation measures to address these impacts are incorporated into the General Plan in the Circulation Element, and include policies that require the monitoring of traffic on City streets to determine improvements needed to maintain an acceptable level of service, updating the City’s Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and traffic impact fees, providing for inflationary adjustments to the City’s traffic impact fees, maintaining a minimum level of service (LOS) of “C” for all signalized intersections during the PM peak period on an average weekday, maintaining street design standards, and interconnecting traffic signals and consideration of the use of roundabouts where financially feasible and warranted to provide flexibility in controlling traffic movements at intersections.

The General Plan EIR concluded that, despite these goals and policies, significant transportation impacts will occur as a result of development under the General Plan and further, that these impacts cannot be reduced to a less than significant level. Specifically, the General Plan EIR found that buildout of the Rocklin General Plan will result in increased traffic volumes at state/interstate highway intersections and impacts to state/interstate highway segments. Findings of fact and a statement of overriding consideration were adopted by the Rocklin City Council in regard to these impacts, which were found to be significant and unavoidable.

Mitigation Measures from Uniformly Applied Development Policies and Standards:

All applicable policies and standards, including the mitigation measures addressing impacts of urban development under the General Plan on utility and service systems incorporated as goals and policies in the General Plan, will be applied to the project. These serve as uniformly applied development policies and standards and/or as conditions of approval for the project to ensure consistency with the General Plan and compliance with City rules and regulations.

Significance Conclusions:

a. Conflict with Program, Plan, Ordinance or Policy Addressing the Circulation System – *Less than Significant Impact*. This project consists of routine maintenance of drainage channels and is not a new development or growth inducing project. This project does not contain any activities that would conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation, therefore there will be no impact.

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b. Conflicts or Inconsistency with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3 (b) – *Less Than Significant Impact*. Senate Bill 743 (SB-743), signed by Governor Brown on September 27, 2013, created a process to change the way transportation impacts are analyzed under CEQA by moving away from the more traditional traffic flow and delay metric of Level of Service (LOS) to an alternative metric known as Vehicle Miles of Travel (VMT). VMT is a transportation performance metric that is used as an input to air quality and noise analyses. VMT not only addresses the number of trips generated by a given land use, but also the length of those trips. By doing so, the placement of a given land use in proximity to complementary land uses, and available transit, walking and bicycling facilities are all considered. VMT can also be used to quantify the effects of proposed changes to a roadway network, transportation demand strategies, and investments in non-auto travel modes. VMT may be expressed in absolute numbers of as “per capita” ratios, such as VMT per person, household, dwelling unit, employee, or service population (persons plus employees). The requirement to incorporate VMT as a metric in CEQA documents became effective on December 28, 2018 with the addition of section 15064.3 to the CEQA Guidelines. Per section 15064.3 (c), the provisions of section 15064.3 shall apply statewide, beginning on July 1, 2020. The proposed project will not alter the number of trips

c. Hazards Due to Geometry or Incompatible Uses – *No Impact*. The proposed project will not alter the geometry of the existing roadways, result in the development of new roadways, or introduce new uses to the roadways therefore there will be no impact.

d. Emergency Access – *Less than Significant Impact*. The proposed project could require temporary lane closures and one-way traffic control. The project will maintain access to all residential properties and businesses during project implementation. Construction activities will be coordinated with local schools, law enforcement, and emergency services as required. Through this coordination, impacts to emergency access will be less than significant.

XVIII <u>TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES</u>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Impact for which General Plan EIR is Sufficient
<p>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:</p> <p>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</p>		X			
<p>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 for 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.</p>		X			

DISCUSSION OF DETERMINATION

Project Impacts:

The project site has the potential to contain resources that are listed with the California Register of Historical Resources or that have could be determined by the lead agency to have significance to a California Native American Tribe.

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Prior Environmental Analysis:

As a “program EIR” under CEQA Guidelines section 15168, the General Plan EIR analyzed the anticipated impacts that would occur to historical, cultural and paleontological resources within the Planning area as a result of the future urban development that was contemplated by the General Plan. These impacts included potential destruction or damage to any historical, cultural, and paleontological resources (City of Rocklin General Plan Update Draft EIR, 2011, pages 4.8-1 through 4.8-21). Mitigation measures to address these impacts are incorporated into the General Plan in the Land Use and Open Space, Recreation and Conservation Elements, and include goals and policies that encourage the preservation and protection of historical, cultural and paleontological resources and the proper treatment and handling of such resources when they are discovered. Additional analysis specific to Tribal Cultural resources was not done.

The General Plan EIR concluded that despite these goals and policies, significant cultural resources impacts will occur as a result of development under the General Plan and further, that these impacts cannot be reduced to a less than significant level. Specifically, the General Plan EIR found that buildout of the Rocklin General Plan will contribute to cumulative impacts to historic character. Findings of fact and a statement of overriding considerations were adopted by the Rocklin City Council in regard to these impacts, which were found to be significant and unavoidable.

Mitigation Measures from Uniformly Applied Development Policies and Standards:

Historically significant structures and sites as well as the potential for the discovery of unknown archaeological or paleontological resources as a result of development activities are discussed in the Rocklin General Plan. Policies and mitigation measures have been included in the General Plan to encourage the preservation of historically significant known and unknown areas.

All applicable mitigation measures from the General Plan EIR, including the mitigation measures for cultural resources impacts incorporated as goals and policies in the General Plan, will be applied to the project. These serve as uniformly applied development policies and standards and/or as conditions of approval for this project to ensure consistency with the General Plan and compliance with City rules and regulations.

Significance Conclusions:

a. Tribal Cultural Resources –*Less Than Significant with Mitigation.* Per Assembly Bill 52 (AB-52, Gatto 2014), as of July 1, 2015 Public Resources Code Sections 21080.3.1 and 21080.3 require public agencies to consult with the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) and Native American tribes for the purpose of mitigating impacts to tribal cultural resources; that consultation process is described in part below:

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Within 14 days of determining that an application for a project is complete or a decision by a public agency to undertake a project, the lead agency shall provide formal notification to the designated contact of, or a tribal representative of, traditionally and culturally affiliated California Native American tribes that have requested notice, which shall be accomplished by means of at least one written notification that includes a brief description of the proposed project and its location, the lead agency contact information, and a notification that the California Native American tribe has 30 days to request consultation pursuant to this section (Public Resources Code Section 21080.1 (d))

As of the writing of this document, the United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC), the Lone Band of Miwok Indians (IBMI) and the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians (TMDCI) are the only tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area that have requested notification. Consistent with Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 21080.3.1 (d) and per AB-52, the City of Rocklin provided formal notification of the Secret Ravine Community project and the opportunity to consult on it to the designated contacts of the UAIC, IBMI and TMDCI in a letter received by those organizations on April 19, 2019, April 22, 2018 and April 22, 2018, respectively. The IBMI and TMDCI had 30 days to request consultation on the project pursuant to AB-52 and they did not respond prior to May 23 2018, the end of the 30-day periods. The UAIC had until May 20, 2019, the end of the 30-day period, and responded in an email received by the City of Rocklin on May 22, 2019 to request AB-52 consultation. The City coordinated and engaged in a site visit with the UAIC, the property owner, and the relevant consultants for the project. To address potential impacts to tribal cultural resources, the following mitigation measure, is being applied to the project:

XVIII.-1 Prior to conducting routine maintenance activities the City will generate a list of proposed maintenance sites. The list will be sent to UAIC representatives for a 10 business day review period.

If requested by UAIC the City will implement the following Native American monitoring

- Tribal Monitors from culturally affiliated Native American Tribes will be invited to monitor ground disturbing vegetation removal, grading or other ground-disturbing activities in the project area to determine the presence or absence of any cultural resources. Mowing, spraying, or other non-ground disturbing vegetation removal does not require a Tribal Monitor. Native American Representatives, acting as a representative of their Tribal government, shall be consulted before any cultural studies or ground-disturbing activities begin.*
- Native American Representatives and Tribal Monitors have the authority to identify sites or objects of significance to Native Americans and to request that work be stopped, diverted or slowed if such sites or objects are identified within the direct impact area.*

Only a Native American Representative can recommend appropriate treatment of such sites or objects.

XVIII.-2 A cultural resources awareness brochure and training program for all personnel involved in project implementation will be developed in coordination with interested Native American Tribes. The brochure will be distributed and the training will be conducted in coordination with qualified cultural resources specialists and Native American Representatives and Tribal Monitors from culturally affiliated Native American Tribes before any ground disturbing stages of project implementation and construction activities begin on the project site. The program will include relevant information regarding sensitive tribal cultural resources, including applicable regulations, protocols for avoidance, and consequences of violating State laws and regulations. The worker cultural resources awareness program will also describe appropriate avoidance and minimization measures for resources that have the potential to be located on the project site and will outline what to do and whom to contact if any potential archaeological resources or artifacts are encountered. The program will also underscore the requirement for confidentiality and culturally appropriate treatment of any finding of significance to Native Americans and behaviors, consistent with Native American Tribal values.

The City is agreeable to the above mitigation measure; implementation of the above measure will reduce impacts to tribal cultural resources to a less than significant level.

Given that the IBMI and TMDCI did not submit a formal request for consultation on the proposed project within the required 30 day period, that the above mitigation measure requires the City of Rocklin to notify the UAIC regarding the treatment and disposition of identified tribal cultural resources prior to commencing any maintenance activities, and that no other tribes have submitted a formal request to receive notification from the City of Rocklin pursuant to PRC Section 21080.3.1, the project is not anticipated to cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a Tribal Cultural Resource as defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074. Therefore, the project's impact on tribal cultural resources is considered less than significant with mitigation. As such, the City of Rocklin has complied with AB-52 and may proceed with the CEQA process for this project per PRC Section 21082.3 (d) (3).

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XIX. <u>UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS</u> Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Impact for which General Plan EIR is Sufficient
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunication facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?				X	
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?				X	
c) 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?				X	
d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?				X	
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?				X	

DISCUSSION OF DETERMINATION:

Project Impacts:

The proposed project consists of routine drainage channel maintenance and will not require the use of any utility or service systems.

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Prior Environmental Review:

As a “program EIR” under CEQA Guidelines section 15168, the General Plan EIR analyzed the anticipated impacts on utilities and service systems that would occur as a result of the future urban development that was contemplated by the General Plan. These impacts included increased generation of wastewater flow, provision of adequate wastewater treatment, increased demand for solid waste disposal, and increased demand for energy and communication services (City of Rocklin General Plan Update Draft EIR, 2011, pages 4.13-1 through 4.13-34). The analysis found that while development and buildout of the General Plan can result in utilities and service system impacts, these impacts would be reduced to a less than significant level through the application of General Plan goals and policies that would assist in minimizing or avoiding impacts to utilities and service systems.

These goals and policies include, but are not limited to, requiring studies of infrastructure needs, proportional share participation in the financial costs of public services and facilities, coordination of private development projects with public facilities and services needed to serve the project and encouraging energy conservation in new developments.

Mitigation Measures from Uniformly Applied Development Policies and Standards:

All applicable policies and standards, including the mitigation measures addressing impacts of urban development under the General Plan on utility and service systems incorporated as goals and policies in the General Plan, will be applied to the project. These serve as uniformly applied development policies and standards and/or as conditions of approval for this project to ensure consistency with the General Plan and compliance with City rules and regulations.

Significance Conclusions:

a., b., and c. Relocation, New or Expanded Utilities – *Less than Significant Impact.* The proposed project consists entirely of maintenance of existing drainage facilities. The project will not require the use of any utilities and will not require the relocation of any existing utility lines. Therefore, the project will have no impact to utilities or service systems.

d. and e. Solid Waste – *Less than Significant Impact.* Solid waste generated by the project would be limited to debris from the proposed maintenance activities. The proposed project will comply with all Federal, State, and local regulations regarding trash and waste and other nuisance-related issues as may be applicable. Solid waste disposal would occur at permitted landfills. The project does not include any unusual elements that would generate solid waste in excess of State and local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals, and the project would comply with solid waste regulations therefore the impact would be less than significant.

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XX. WILDFIRE If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:					
	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Impact for which General Plan EIR is Sufficient
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				X	
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?				X	
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?				X	
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?				X	

DISCUSSION OF DETERMINATION:

Project Impacts:

The proposed routine maintenance of drainage channels will not increase the need for fire and emergency responses to the project site. There are no locations in Rocklin that are classified as very high fire hazard severity zones

Prior Environmental Review:

As a “program EIR” under CEQA Guidelines section 15168, the General Plan EIR analyzed the anticipated impacts of wildland fires that would occur as a result of the future urban development that was contemplated by the General Plan. These impacts included exposure of people or structures to significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, impairment or interference with implementation of emergency response and evacuation plans

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and cumulative hazard impacts (City of Rocklin General Plan Update Draft EIR, 2011, pages 4.7-20 through 4.7-28). The analysis found that while development and buildout of the General Plan can result in wildland fire and emergency response impacts, these impacts would be reduced to a less than significant level through the application of General Plan goals and policies that would assist in minimizing or avoiding impacts to utilities and service systems.

These goals and policies include, but are not limited to, maintaining emergency operations plans, coordination with emergency management agencies, annexation into financing districts for fire prevention/suppression and emergency response, incorporation of fuel modification/fire hazard reduction planning, and maintaining interjurisdictional cooperation and coordination.

Mitigation Measures from Uniformly Applied Development Policies and Standards:

All applicable policies and standards, including the mitigation measures addressing impacts of urban development under the General Plan on wildland fire and emergency response incorporated as goals and policies in the General Plan, will be applied to the project. These serve as uniformly applied development policies and standards and/or as conditions of approval for this project to ensure consistency with the General Plan and compliance with City rules and regulations.

Significance Conclusions:

a., b., c., and d. Emergency Response and Fire Risk – *No Impact.* The project occurs in existing drainage channels and implementation of the project does not include any features that would substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. The streets adjacent to the project site serve as emergency evacuation corridors and would provide direct fire vehicle access to the site. Therefore, there will be no impact to an adopted emergency response or emergency evacuation plan.

The project occurs within drainage channels which are not an area where an exacerbation of fire risk would occur due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors. Therefore, the project will not exacerbate wildfire risk and there will be no impact.

The project will not introduce additional people or structures to the area. Maintenance of the drainage channels will include activities which will prevent and reduce erosion on associated slopes as well as increase channel drainage capacity which will decrease flooding. Therefore there will be no impacts from downslope or downstream flooding or landslides that would result from runoff, post-fire instability or drainage changes and the project will not expose people or structures to significant risks.

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XXI. <u>MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE</u>	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Impact for which General Plan EIR is Sufficient
a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of an endangered, rare or threatened species or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?		X			
b) Does the project have impacts that are 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 probably future projects)?			X		
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?			X		

DISCUSSION OF DETERMINATION:

Project Impacts:

The preceding analysis demonstrates that these effects will not occur as a consequence of the project. The routine maintenance of drainage channels throughout the City would be consistent with the Rocklin General Plan and the Rocklin General Plan EIR.

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Significance Conclusions:

a. Degradation of Environment Quality – *Less than Significant with Mitigation.* The project site is vacant and is partly surrounded by disturbed and developed land. Based on the project location and the application of mitigation measures for potential biological resources and cultural resources impacts as discussed above, the proposed project does not have the potential to: substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of an endangered, rare or threatened species, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory. Although the proposed project could cause a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because of the application of the recommended mitigation measures and the City's uniformly applied development policies and standards that will reduce the potential impacts to a less than significant level. Therefore, the project would have less than significant impacts.

b. Cumulatively Considerable Impacts – *Less than Significant.* Development in the South Placer region as a whole will contribute to regional air pollutant emissions, thereby delaying attainment of Federal and State air quality standards, regardless of development activity in the City of Rocklin and application of mitigation measures. As a result of this potential degradation of the quality of the environment, the General Plan EIR, which assumed the development of the proposed project site, determined that there would be significant and unavoidable cumulative air quality impacts. Development of the proposed project represents conversion of the same land area that was analyzed in the General Plan EIR, and the proposed project represents the development of a retail commercial project at this location which was analyzed in the General Plan EIR. In addition, the project-specific air quality analysis discussed above demonstrated that the proposed project would have a less than significant cumulative air quality and greenhouse gas emissions impact. Therefore, the project would have less than significant impacts.

Development in the City and the South Placer region as a whole will alter viewsheds as mixed urban development occurs on vacant land. In addition, new development will also generate new sources of light and glare; as a result, the General Plan EIR determined that there would be significant and unavoidable cumulative aesthetic impacts. Development of the proposed project represents conversion of the same vacant land area that was analyzed in the General Plan EIR. Therefore, the project would have less than significant impacts.

Development in the City and the South Placer region as a whole will result in cumulative, long-term impacts on biological resources (vegetation and wildlife), due to the introduction of domestic landscaping, homes, paved surfaces, and the relatively constant presence of people and pets, all of which negatively impact vegetation and wildlife habitat. As a result, the General Plan EIR, which assumed the development of the proposed project site, determined that there would be significant and unavoidable cumulative biological resource impacts, both at a project-

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specific Rocklin General Plan buildout level as it relates to biological resources solely within the City of Rocklin, as well as in the context of a cumulative contribution from Rocklin General Plan buildout as it relates to biological resources in the region. Development of the proposed project represents conversion of the same vacant land area that was analyzed in the General Plan EIR. Therefore, the project would have less than significant impacts.

Development in the City and the South Placer region as a whole will result in significant noise impacts as a result of the introduction of new noise sources and additional traffic and people. As a result, the General Plan EIR, which assumed the development of the proposed project site, determined that there would be significant and unavoidable cumulative noise impacts. Development of the proposed project represents conversion of the same land area that was analyzed in the General Plan EIR, but the proposed project represents less vehicle trip generation than that which was analyzed in the General Plan EIR. In addition, the project-specific noise analysis discussed above demonstrated that the proposed project, with the application of project-specific mitigation measures, would have a less than significant cumulative noise impact. Therefore, the project would have less than significant impacts.

Development in the City and the South Placer region as a whole will result in significant transportation/traffic impacts as a result of the creation of additional housing, employment and purchasing opportunities which generate vehicle trips. As a result, the General Plan EIR, which assumed the development of the proposed project site, determined that there would be significant and unavoidable cumulative transportation/traffic impacts. Development of the proposed project represents conversion of the same land area that was analyzed in the General Plan EIR, and the proposed project represents the development of a retail commercial project at this location which was analyzed in the General Plan EIR. Therefore, the project would have less than significant impacts.

The approval of the proposed project would not result in any new impacts that are limited, but cumulatively considerable, that are not already disclosed in the previously prepared environmental documents cited in this report. Therefore, the project would have less than significant impacts.

c. Adverse Effects to Humans – *Less than Significant Impact* The project will not result in substantial direct or indirect adverse effect from noise during construction and implementation, nor would it result in impact to air quality, water quality, utilities, or public services. Therefore the project would not cause substantial adverse effects on human beings. Therefore, the project would have less than significant impacts.

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Section 5. References

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CNDDDB. 2020. California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDDB) GIS database, Sacramento, CA. (accessed April 2020).

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Attachments

Attachment A – Project Vicinity Map

Attachment B – Special Status Species

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MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

CITY OF ROCKLIN STREAMBED ALTERATION ROUTINE MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT

Project Name and Description

The City of Rocklin Streambed Alteration Routine Maintenance Agreement Project proposes for the City of Rocklin to enter into a 12 year (with optional 5 year extension for a total of 17 years) Streambed Alteration Agreement with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) for the ongoing implementation of routine maintenance activities within jurisdictional improved and unimproved drainage channels and associated CDFW jurisdictional areas. Coverage of the City's existing routine maintenance work would transition to the new Routine Maintenance Agreement (RMA). For more detail please refer to the Project Description set forth in Section 3 of this Initial Study.

Project Location

The project site is located in drainage channels located in City owned open space preserves throughout the City of Rocklin. A map of the Project Sites is included in Attachment A.

Project Proponent's Name

The applicant and property owner is City of Rocklin.

Basis for Mitigated Negative Declaration Determination

The City of Rocklin finds that as originally submitted the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment. However, revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent, which will avoid these effects or mitigate these effects to a point where clearly no significant effect will occur. Therefore a MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION has been prepared. The Initial Study supporting the finding stated above and describing the mitigation measures including in the project is incorporated herein by this reference. This determination is based upon the criteria of the Guidelines of the State Secretary of Resources Section 15064 – Determining the Significance of the Environmental Effects Caused by a Project, Section 15065 – Mandatory Findings of Significance, and 15070 – Decision to Prepare a Negative Declaration or Mitigated Negative Declaration, and the mitigation measures described in the Mitigation Monitoring Plan for this Project.

Date Circulated for Review: _____

Date Adopted: _____

Signature: _____

Justin Nartker, Director of Public Services

MITIGATION MONITORING PROGRAM
CITY OF ROCKLIN STREAMBED ALTERATION ROUTINE MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA, Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq., as amended by Chapter 1232) requires all lead agencies before approving a proposed project to adopt a reporting and monitoring program for adopted or required changes to mitigate or avoid significant environmental effects. The reporting or monitoring program shall be designed to ensure compliance during project implementation as required by AB 3180 (Cortese) effective on January 1, 1989 and Public Resources Code Section 21081.6. This law requires the lead agency responsible for the certification of an environmental impact report or adoption of a mitigated negative declaration to prepare and approve a program to both monitor all mitigation measures and prepare and approve a report on the progress of the implementation of those measures.

The responsibility for monitoring assignments is based upon the expertise or authority of the person(s) assigned to monitor the specific activity. The City of Rocklin Community Development Director or his designee shall monitor to assure compliance and timely monitoring and reporting of all aspects of the mitigation monitoring program.

The Mitigation Monitoring Plan identifies the mitigation measures associated with the project and identifies the monitoring activities required to ensure their implementation through the use of a table format. The columns identify Mitigation Measure, Implementation and Monitoring responsibilities. Implementation responsibility is when the project through the development stages is checked to ensure that the measures are included prior to the actual construction of the project such as: Final Map (FM), Improvement Plans (IP), and Building Permits (BP). Monitoring responsibility identifies the department responsible for monitoring the mitigation implementation such as: Community Development (CDD), Public Services (PS), Community Facilities (CFD), Police (PD), and Fire Departments (FD).

The following table presents the Mitigation Monitoring Plan with the Mitigation Measures, Implementation, and Monitoring responsibilities. After the table is a general Mitigation Monitoring Report Form, which will be used as the principal reporting form for this, monitoring program. Each mitigation measure will be listed on the form and provided to the responsible department.

Revisions in the project plans and/or proposal have been made and/or agreed to by the applicant prior to this Negative Declaration being released for public review which will avoid the effects or mitigate those effects to a point where clearly no significant effects will occur. There is no substantial evidence before the City of Rocklin that the project as revised may have a significant effect on the environment, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines, Section 15070. These mitigation measures are as follows:

MITIGATION MEASURE:

IV.-1 Prior to beginning any maintenance work under the RMA, the City supervisors and staff who would be completing the work must be trained by qualified personnel to identify and avoid harm to sensitive resources, special status species and their habitats.

The City shall conduct an education program for all persons employed or otherwise working on the project site prior to performing any work on-site. The program shall consist of a presentation from a qualified biologist that includes a discussion of the biology of the habitats and species that may occur during routine maintenance. The biologist shall also include as part of the education program information about the distribution and habitat needs of any special-status species that may be present, legal protections for those species, penalties for violations and project-specific protective measures. Interpretation shall be provided for non-English speaking workers, and the same instruction shall be provided for any new workers prior to their performing work on-site. Permittee shall prepare and distribute wallet-sized cards or a fact sheet that contains this information for workers to carry on-site. Upon completion of the education program, employees shall sign a form stating they attended the program and understand all protection measures.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Prior to beginning any maintenance work, all City supervisors and staff who will work on the maintenance projects will be trained to identify and avoid harm to sensitive resources, special status species, and their habitats as described in the above mitigation measure. A copy of all signed attendance forms will be kept on file with the Public Services Department

RESPONSIBILITY

Public Services Department

MITIGATION MEASURE:

IV.-2 The City shall not conduct routine maintenance activities within vernal pools or playas that seasonally remain inundated for periods of 2 months or longer. Temporary impact areas, including access routes and staging areas, will also be positioned outside of vernal pools and playas. If maintenance work or associated temporary impact areas are close to one of these habitats (<20 feet), the boundary of the work area in proximity to the sensitive habitat must be marked with ESA high visibility orange fencing to prevent maintenance equipment or personnel from entering the protected habitat.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Prior to commencing work within 20 feet of vernal pools, ESA high visibility orange fencing will be installed to mark the sensitive as described in the above mitigation measure.

RESPONSIBILITY

Public Services Department

MITIGATION MEASURE:

IV.-3 Prior to routine maintenance within rare plant habitat, pre-maintenance rare plant surveys may be required. If it is determined that there is a potential for rare plants to occur, maintenance areas would be surveyed for rare plants by a City appointed biologist during the appropriate bloom periods. If additional species of rare plant are discovered within the City, surveys may be required during their appropriate bloom period as well. Survey results will be submitted to CDFW as an attachment to the VRFs. Rare plant populations discovered onsite will be protected in place with orange ESA fencing.

IMPLEMENTATION:

During the annual bloom periods for rare plant species, a City appointed biologist will conduct surveys for rare plant species in identified maintenance areas for that year. Survey results will be submitted to CDFW with each VRF. Identified rare plant species in the maintenance areas will be protected in place with ESA fencing.

RESPONSIBILITY

Public Services Department

MITIGATION MEASURE:

IV.-4 Construction activities shall occur between August 15 and October 15 to the extent possible to avoid nesting and breeding seasons of special status species. Work performed in Secret Ravine Creek that involves earth moving, silt, sand, and sediment removal, water diversion, or similar activities will be limited to the period between June 1 and September 30 to avoid impacts to Steelhead. Construction activities will also be timed with awareness of precipitation forecasts and likely increases in stream flow. Construction activities within the stream zone shall cease until all reasonable erosion control measures, inside and outside of the stream zone, have been implemented prior to all storm events. Revegetation, restoration and erosion control work is not confined to this time period. In addition, work within the bed, bank or channel of any stream shall be restricted to periods of dry weather (with less than a 50% chance of rain). All erosion control measures shall be initiated prior to all storm events. Revegetation, restoration and erosion control work is not confined to this work period. The City shall monitor the National Weather Service (NWS) 72-hr forecast to monitor forecasted rain events. If emergency maintenance is required, seasonal limitations do not apply. Emergency maintenance is defined as immediate emergency work necessary to protect life or property, or to restore public service facilities necessary to maintain service. The City will notify CDFW within 14 days of beginning emergency maintenance work.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Maintenance work will be scheduled to occur between August 15 and October 15. Work performed in Secret Ravine Creek that involves earth moving, silt, sand, and sediment removal, water diversion, or similar activities will be limited to the period between June 1 and September 30. The National Weather Service 72-hr forecast will be monitored by the City and no work shall be done when the chance of rain is greater than 50% except in emergency situations.

RESPONSIBILITY

Public Services Department

MITIGATION MEASURE:

IV. -5 The City shall attempt to time the removal of potential nesting habitat for raptors and migratory birds to avoid the nesting season (February 1 through September 15).

If tree and vegetation removal and/or project grading or construction activities would occur during the nesting season for raptors and migratory birds (February 1- September 15), the City shall hire a qualified biologist to conduct pre-construction surveys no more than 3 days prior to initiation of tree and vegetation removal activities. The survey shall cover all areas of suitable nesting habitat within 0.25 mile of project activity and shall be valid for one construction season. Prior to the start of tree and vegetation removal activities, documentation of the survey shall be provided to the City of Rocklin Public Services Department and if the survey results are negative, no further mitigation is required and necessary tree and vegetation removal may proceed. If there is a break in construction activities of more than 3 days, then subsequent surveys shall be conducted.

If the survey results are positive or a nest is discovered during work, impacts shall be avoided by the establishment of appropriate buffers. Raptor nests will be avoided whenever possible, even if the nest is not in use at the time. The biologist shall consult with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and the City to determine the size of an appropriate buffer area. Monitoring of the nest by a qualified biologist shall be required if the CDFW determines that the activity has the potential to adversely affect an active nest.

If construction activities are scheduled to occur during the non-breeding season (September 16 - January), a survey is not required and no further studies are necessary.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Prior to the start of maintenance work between February 1 and September 15, a survey for nesting raptors and migratory birds will be conducted. If the survey results are negative, no further mitigation is required. If the survey results are positive, the City will consult with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife as detailed above.

RESPONSIBILITY

Public Services Department

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

MITIGATION MEASURE:

IV.-6 If maintenance activities are planned in suitable burrowing owl habitat, qualified biologists approved by CDFW will conduct a take avoidance survey for burrowing owl following the methodology described in the Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (CDFW 2012) within 1-2 weeks of the start of construction. If burrowing owls or signs of burrowing owl presence such as whitewash, feathers, animal dung, etc. are not detected, no further mitigation will be required. If burrowing owls are observed within 500 feet of the maintenance area, the City will develop an Impact Assessment consistent with the Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (CDFW 2012) and submit the Impact Assessment to CDFW prior to maintenance work. The Final avoidance and mitigation measures will be determined in coordination with CDFW but the Impact Assessment will at a minimum include the following mitigation measure:

Occupied burrows will not be disturbed. If occupied burrows are found, the biologist will consult with CDFW to determine appropriate no-work buffer widths. The City will not disturb identified burrowing owl burrows until the qualified biologist verifies it has been cleared and approved by CDFW.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Prior to the start of maintenance work in suitable burrowing owl habitat, a qualified biologist will conduct a habitat assessment level survey for burrowing owl. If the survey results are negative, no further mitigation is required. If the survey results are positive, the City will consult with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife as detailed above.

RESPONSIBILITY

Public Services Department
California Department of Fish and Wildlife

MITIGATION MEASURE:

IV.-7 The City shall implement the following avoidance measures during construction activities.

- 1. The area around the elderberry shrub to be avoided during maintenance activities will be fenced and/or flagged as close to construction limits as feasible.*
- 2. Where feasible, ground disturbing activities will not encroach within 20 feet from the dripline of an elderberry shrub.*
- 3. A qualified biologist will provide training for all contractors, work crews, and any onsite personnel on the status of the VELB, its host plant and habitat, the need to avoid damaging the elderberry shrub, and the possible penalties for noncompliance.*
- 4. A qualified biologist will monitor the work area at project appropriate intervals to assure that all avoidance and minimization measures are implemented.*
- 5. As feasible, all activities that could occur within 165 feet of an elderberry shrub will be conducted outside of the flight season of the VELB (March - July).*
- 6. Trimming, if required (unlikely due to the declining health of the elderberry shrub) will occur between November and February and will avoid the removal of any branches or stems that are ≥ 1 inch in diameter. Measures to address regular and/or large scale maintenance (trimming), if necessary, should be established in consultation with the USFWS.*
- 7. Herbicides will not be used within the drip-line of the elderberry shrub. Insecticides will not be used within 30 meters (98 feet) of an elderberry shrub. All chemicals will be applied using a backpack sprayer or similar direct application method.*
- 8. Mechanical weed removal within the drip-line of the shrub will be limited to the season when adults are not active (August - February) and will avoid damaging the elderberry shrub.*

IMPLEMENTATION:

Prior to any maintenance activities, the City shall follow and comply with all procedures as specifically noted in the mitigation measure.

RESPONSIBILITY

Public Services Department

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

MITIGATION MEASURE:

IV.-8 Swallow nest removal should occur during the non-nesting season (September 1st – January 31st) after the young of the year have fledged and no nesting activity is observed. Swallow nests will not be removed until they have been inspected by a qualified biologist and determined to be inactive. During the nesting season, the City may discourage swallow nest construction by removing partially completed nests that are less than 1/3rd complete. After a nest is more than 1/3rd complete, it cannot be disturbed until a qualified biologist has determined that all nestlings have fledged and are foraging independently.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Swallow nest removal shall primarily occur during the non-nesting season. If any nests are observed, the City shall follow and comply with all procedures as specifically noted in the mitigation measure

RESPONSIBILITY

Public Services Department

MITIGATION MEASURE:

IV.-9 Structures will be assessed for bat occupation prior to initiation of work. The City must coordinate with CDFW prior to conducting maintenance work on bridges or structures occupied by bats. If a structure occupied by bats must be maintained, bats will be excluded prior to the pupping season (April 15th – August 31st). Bat exclusion must be conducted under the supervision of a qualified bat biologist experienced in bat exclusion. If no alternative roosting habitat (e.g. other bridges or structures) is available within 1000 feet of the maintenance area, temporary bat accommodations may be required.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Prior to beginning maintenance activities, any structures within the project area will be assessed for bat occupation. If bats are found to be occupying a structure within the project area, the City will coordinate with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife as detailed above.

RESPONSIBILITY

Public Services Department

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

MITIGATION MEASURE:

IV.-10. If work is performed during the breeding season for California Red-Legged Frog (January-July), Foothill Yellow-Legged Frog (March-May), Western Spadefoot (January-March), or Western Pond Turtle (March-August) then a pre-activity survey will be conducted for that species. If the results of the survey are positive then CDFW will be consulted and measures to avoid or protect the species will be implemented prior to initiation of the work. Surveys will be conducted by a qualified biologist with professional experience and knowledge in special status species identification, ecology, and habitat requirements.

If required by CDFW, species specific surveys for other special status species will be performed during the appropriate nesting or breeding seasons prior to commencing work. If additional species are discovered within the City during the term of this routine maintenance agreement, surveys may be required during their appropriate nesting or breeding period as well.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Prior to beginning maintenance activities during designated breeding seasons, a City appointed biologist will conduct pre-activity surveys for appropriate species. Other required species specific surveys that are required by CDFW will be conducted during the appropriate nesting or breeding season. Survey results will be submitted to CDFW with each VRF and if survey results are positive, the City will coordinate with CDFW as detailed above.

RESPONSIBILITY

Public Services Department
California Department of Fish and Wildlife

MITIGATION MEASURE:

IV.-11 City will create or purchase compensatory mitigation for permanent impacts to jurisdictional features. Mitigation will be created by the City within City owned open space or purchased from a CDFW approved mitigation bank at a minimum 3:1 ratio (or a combination of restoration and mitigation credits). Permanent impacts are defined as actions that result in a permanent modification to wetlands, stream channels, or riparian habitats (e.g. new impervious cover, rock lining, and placement of fill). Mitigation will be calculated based on the area of impact.

Mitigation sites will be monitored for a period of 5 years. A mitigation site will be deemed successful if it meets success standards for plant survivability and non-native cover. If success criteria are not met, corrective actions including supplemental planting, watering, or weeding may be required. Success criteria will be determined in consultation with CDFW during the preparation of a Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (HMMP) that will be prepared and submitted to CDFW for review within 180 days following the adoption of the RMA. If maintenance activities result in a permanent impact requiring mitigation before the HMMP is approved by CDFW, the City will purchase compensatory mitigation from a CDFW approved mitigation bank at a 3:1 ratio.

The following tasks may be implemented as compensatory mitigation for permanent impacts associated with routine maintenance tasks.

Adopt-a-Creek Program: The City would partner with nonprofits, businesses and residents to perform trash and invasive species removals and restoration activities through the City's Adopt-a-Creek program. Creek restoration activities may consist of trash abatement, invasive plant removal, and plantings of local native species.

Creek Restoration and Erosion Repair Projects: The City would restore locations with existing bank erosion or scour problems to improve riparian habitat value and water quality. Restoration activities would likely involve the following steps: removal of non-native vegetation; re-grading eroded, scoured, or undercut portions of the creek to more stable and natural topography; and bio-stabilization of the restoration area to prevent future erosion. Bio-stabilization would involve installing biodegradable geotextile fabric and native riparian vegetation to stabilize the restoration area and provide long term riparian habitat

Invasive Species Removal: The City would remove nonnative vegetation and install native vegetation either by applying a native seed mix or installing container plants.

IMPLEMENTATION:

If permanent impact to jurisdictional features occur, the City shall follow and comply with all procedures as specifically noted in the mitigation measure.

RESPONSIBILITY

Public Services Department, California Department of Fish and Wildlife

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Mitigated Negative Declaration/Mitigation Monitoring Program

Reso No.

MITIGATION MEASURE:

IV.-11 Prior to maintenance activities, the City shall identify oak trees greater than 6 inches DBH that must be removed. The City will mitigate the loss of identified trees through on-site planting in any of the City's designated open space preserves in a 1:1 ratio.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Prior to beginning any maintenance activities, the City shall identify oak trees greater than 6 inches DBH that must be removed and submit a plan detailing the locations and timeline for on-site planting to CDFW with each VRF.

RESPONSIBILITY

Public Services Department

MITIGATION MEASURE:

V.-1 If an inadvertent discovery of cultural materials (e.g., unusual amounts of shell, charcoal, animal bone, bottle glass, ceramics, burned soil, structure/building remains) or tribal cultural resources is made during project-related construction activities, ground disturbances in the area of the find shall be halted and a qualified professional archaeologist, the Environmental Services Manager and the Native American Heritage Commission shall be notified regarding the discovery. The archaeologist shall determine whether the resource is potentially significant as per CEQA (i.e., whether it is a historical resource, a unique archaeological resource, a unique paleontological resource, or a tribal cultural resource) and shall develop specific measures to ensure preservation of the resource or to mitigate impacts to the resource if it cannot feasibly be preserved in light of costs, logistics, technological considerations, the location of the find, and the extent to which avoidance and/or preservation of the find is consistent or inconsistent with the design and objectives of the project. Specific measures for significant or potentially significant resources would include, but are not necessarily limited to, preservation in place, in-field documentation, archival research, subsurface testing, and excavation. The specific type of measure necessary would be determined according to evidence indicating degrees of resource integrity, spatial and temporal extent, and cultural associations, and would be developed in a manner consistent with CEQA guidelines for preserving or otherwise mitigating impacts to archaeological and cultural artifacts and tribal cultural resources.

In the event of the accidental discovery or recognition of any human remains, there shall be no further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent human remains, until compliance with the provisions of Sections 15064.5 (e)(1) and (2) of the CEQA Guidelines, as well as Public Resources Code Section 5097.98, has occurred. If any human remains are discovered, all work shall stop in the immediate vicinity of the find and the County Coroner shall be notified, according to Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code. The City's Environmental Services Manager shall also be notified. If the remains are Native American, the Coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission, which in turn will inform a most likely descendant. The descendant will then recommend to the landowner appropriate disposition of the remains and any grave goods, and the landowner shall comply with the requirements of AB2641 (2006).

IMPLEMENTATION:

If evidence of undocumented cultural resources is discovered during grading or construction operations, ground disturbance in the area shall be halted and a qualified professional archaeologist, and the Native American Heritage Commission shall be notified regarding the discovery. Other procedures as specifically noted in the mitigation measure shall also be followed and complied with.

RESPONSIBILITY

Public Services Department

MITIGATION MEASURE:

XVIII.-1 Prior to conducting routine maintenance activities the City will generate a list of proposed maintenance sites. The list will be sent to UAIC representatives for a 10 business day review period.

If requested by UAIC the City will implement the following Native American monitoring

- Native American Monitors from culturally affiliated Native American Tribes will be invited to monitor ground disturbing vegetation removal, grading or other ground-disturbing activities in the project area to determine the presence or absence of any cultural resources. Mowing, spraying, or other non-ground disturbing vegetation removal does not require a Native American monitor. Native American Representatives, acting as a representative of their Tribal government, shall be consulted before any cultural studies or ground-disturbing activities begin.*
- Native American Representatives and Native American Monitors have the authority to identify sites or objects of significance to Native Americans and to request that work be stopped, diverted or slowed if such sites or objects are identified within the direct impact area. Only a Native American Representative can recommend appropriate treatment of such sites or objects.*

IMPLEMENTATION:

Prior to conducting routine maintenance activities the City will generate a list of proposed maintenance sites which will be sent to UAIC representatives for review. If monitoring is requested, the procedures noted in the mitigation measure shall be followed.

RESPONSIBILITY

Public Services Department

MITIGATION MEASURE:

XVIII.-2 A cultural resources awareness brochure and training program for all personnel involved in project implementation will be developed in coordination with interested Native American Tribes. The brochure will be distributed and the training will be conducted in coordination with qualified cultural resources specialists and Native American Representatives and Monitors from culturally affiliated Native American Tribes before any ground disturbing stages of project implementation and construction activities begin on the project site. The program will include relevant information regarding sensitive tribal cultural resources, including applicable regulations, protocols for avoidance, and consequences of violating State laws and regulations. The worker cultural resources awareness program will also describe appropriate avoidance and minimization measures for resources that have the potential to be located on the project site and will outline what to do and whom to contact if any potential archaeological resources or artifacts are encountered. The program will also underscore the requirement for confidentiality and culturally appropriate treatment of any finding of significance to Native Americans and behaviors, consistent with Native American Tribal values.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Prior to beginning any maintenance work, all City staff who will be involved with project implementation will be given a cultural awareness brochure and training as described in the above mitigation measure. A copy of all signed attendance forms will be kept on file with the Public Services Department

RESPONSIBILITY

Public Services Department

MITIGATION MONITORING REPORT FORMS

Project Title:

Mitigation Measures:

Completion Date: (Insert date or time period that mitigation measures were completed)

Responsible Person:

(Insert name and title)

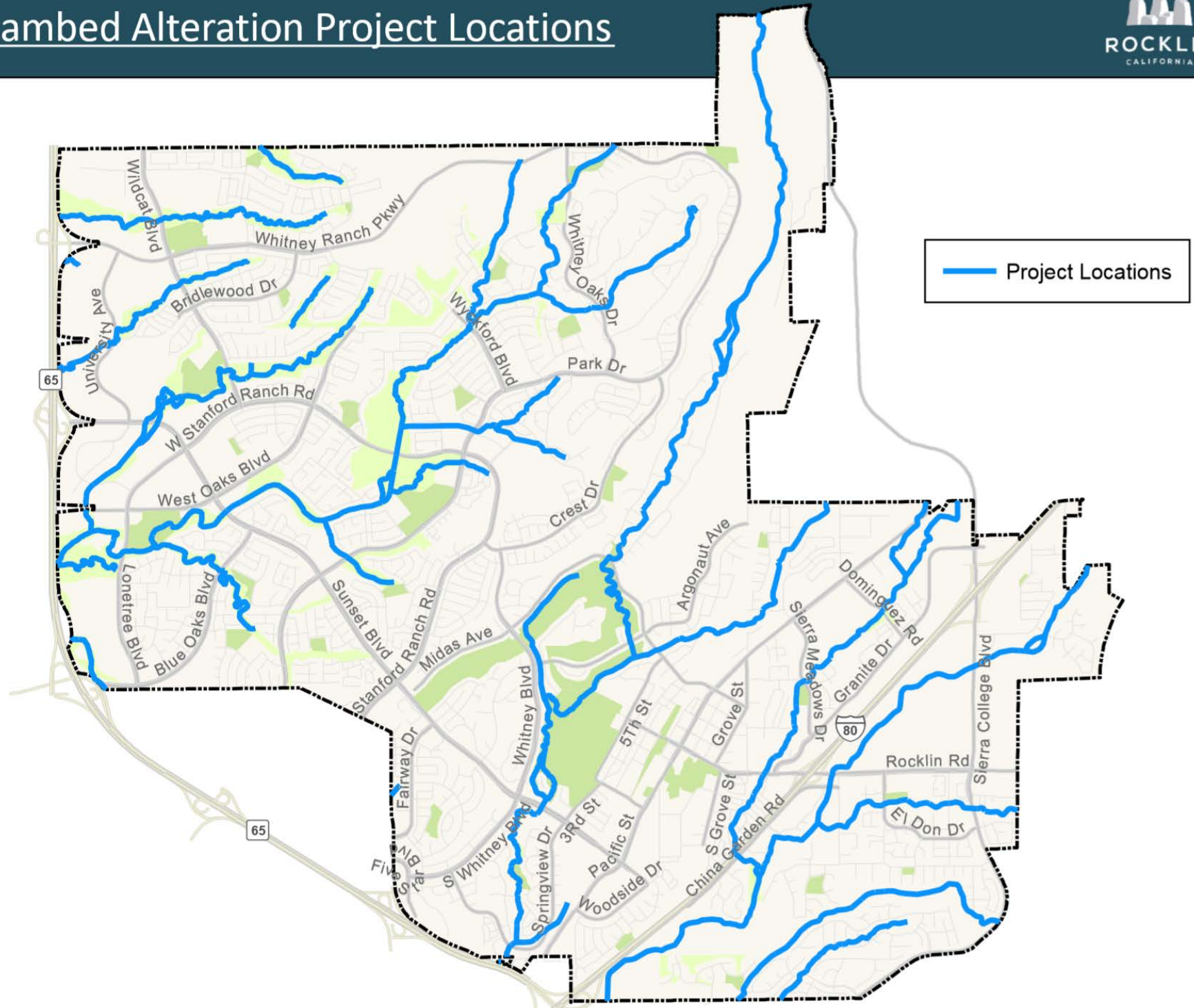
Monitoring/Reporting:

Community Development Director

Effectiveness Comments:

ATTACHMENT A – PROJECT VICINITY MAP

Streambed Alteration Project Locations



Attachment B

Special Status Species

