



State of California - Department of Fish and Wildlife
**2024 ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT FILING FEE
CASH RECEIPT**
DFW 753.5a (REV. 01/01/24) Previously DFG 753.5a

RECEIPT NUMBER:
39-08072024-267

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NUMBER (If applicable)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE. TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY.

LEAD AGENCY SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS	LEAD AGENCY EMAIL	DATE 08/07/2024
COUNTY/STATE AGENCY OF FILING SAN JOAQUIN	DOCUMENT NUMBER 39-08072024-267	

PROJECT TITLE

FOOTHILL LANDFILL LEACHATE BASIN PROJECT

PROJECT APPLICANT NAME SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS	PROJECT APPLICANT EMAIL	PHONE NUMBER (209) 468-3000
PROJECT APPLICANT ADDRESS 1810 EAST HAZELTON AVE	CITY STOCKTON	STATE CA
		ZIP CODE 95205

PROJECT APPLICANT (Check appropriate box)

☒ Local Public Agency ☐ School District ☐ Other Special District ☐ State Agency ☐ Private Entity

CHECK APPLICABLE FEES:

☐ Environmental Impact Report (EIR)	\$4,051.25	\$ _____
☐ Mitigated/Negative Declaration (MND)(ND)	\$2,916.75	\$ _____
☐ Certified Regulatory Program (CRP) document - payment due directly to CDFW	\$1,377.25	\$ _____

☒ Exempt from fee

☒ Notice of Exemption (attach)

☐ CDFW No Effect Determination (attach)

☐ Fee previously paid (attach previously issued cash receipt copy)

☐ Water Right Application or Petition Fee (State Water Resources Control Board only)	\$850.00	\$ _____
☒ County documentary handling fee		\$ _____ \$50.00
☐ Other		\$ _____

PAYMENT METHOD:

☐ Cash ☒ Credit ☐ Check ☐ Other

TOTAL RECEIVED \$ _____ \$50.00

SIGNATURE

X *Samantha Landrum*

AGENCY OF FILING PRINTED NAME AND TITLE

Samantha E. Treat-Landrum ,Deputy



Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk

County of: San Joaquin

44 North San Joaquin Street, Suite 260

Stockton, CA 95202

From: (Public Agency): County of San Joaquin, Public Works
1810 East Hazelton
Stockton, CA 95205

(Address)

Project Title: Foothill Landfill Leachate Basin Project

Project Applicant: San Joaquin County Department of Public Works

Project Location - Specific: The approximately Project site is located on the eastern side of the Foothill Sanitary Landfill (FSLF) located at 6484 North Waverly Road in Linden, California.

Project Location - City: Linden Project Location - County: San Joaquin

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The Project includes the implementation of a new leachate management strategy at the FSLF and the construction of associated infrastructure. The Project includes construction of a consolidated leachate collection header, a leachate storage basin, a pump station, a recirculation line, and improvements to the existing truck fill station. All new infrastructure will connect to existing facilities and will occur in previously disturbed areas. The Project is needed because recent storms have resulted in excessive amounts of leachate that cannot be recirculated due to the limited capacity of the existing pumping and storage facilities.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: San Joaquin County Department of Public Works

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: San Joaquin County Department of Public Works

Exempt Status: (check one):

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- ☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- ☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: §15301 - Existing Facilities (Class 1)
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The Project qualifies for a categorical exemption under Section 15301, Existing Facilities (Class 1). The Project is consistent with the Class 1 exemption because the Project involves the implementation of a new leachate management strategy and construction of associated infrastructure which will not change the primary function or expand the capacity of the FSLF. In addition, the Project would not trigger any exceptions to the use of a categorical exemption as described in Section 15300.2 of the State CEQA Guidelines.

Lead Agency

Contact Person: Mark Houghton

Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (209) 953-7316

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature: [Signature] Date: 8/6/2024 Title: Senior Planner

Signed by Lead Agency ■ Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.

Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

Filed Doc #: **39-08072024-267**
08/07/2024 11:49:22 AM

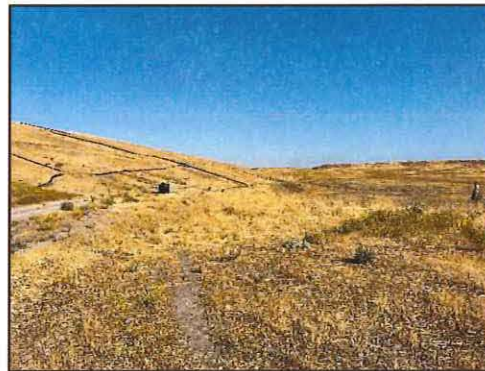
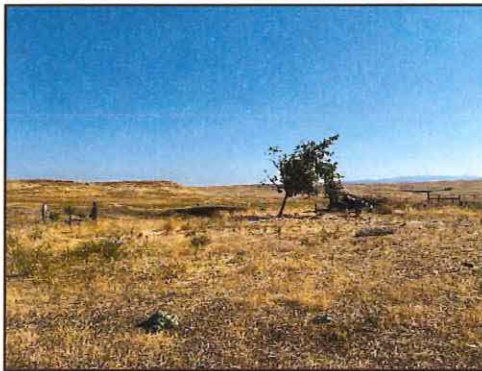
Steve J. Bestolarides
San Joaquin County Clerk



CEQA Categorical Exemption Analysis

Foothill Landfill Leachate Basin Project

San Joaquin County, California



Prepared for:

County of San Joaquin
Department of Public Works
1810 East Hazelton
Stockton, CA 95205

Attn: Mark Houghton, P.E.

mhoughton@sjgov.org

June 2024

Prepared by:

WRA, Inc.
2169 G East Francisco Boulevard
San Rafael, CA 94901

WRA# 26261-3

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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

AMM	Avoidance and Minimization Measure
BAAQMD	Bay Area Air Quality Management District
BMP	Best Management Practice
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
County	County of San Joaquin
FSLF	Foothill Sanitary Landfill
HDPE	High Density Polyethylene
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan



1.0 PROJECT INFORMATION

1.1 Project Title

Foothill Landfill Leachate Basin Project (Project)

1.2 Lead Agency Name and Address

County of San Joaquin Department of Public Works
1810 East Hazelton
Stockton, CA 95205

1.3 Lead Agency Contact Information

Mark Houghton
Engineer, County of San Joaquin Department of Public Works
(209) 953-7316
mhoughton@sjgov.org

1.4 Project Location

The Project site is located at the San Joaquin County Foothill Sanitary Landfill (FSLF) located at 6484 North Waverly Road in Linden, California. The total FSLF property consists of 800 acres comprised of Assessor's Parcel Numbers 093-043-01 and 093-044-02, although only 674 acres are approved for the disposal of wastes. The Project site includes an approximately 4-acre area on the eastern side of the existing FSLF Module 1 (Appendix A, Drawing No. G02).

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 Background and Purpose

The FSLF is owned by the County of San Joaquin (County) and operated under contract by Foothill Inc. The landfill has been receiving waste since opening in 1966, primarily serving the northern San Joaquin County area. The landfill is permitted as a Class III, nonhazardous municipal solid waste landfill under Solid Waste Facility Permit 39-AA-0004 and Waste Discharge Requirement R5-2015-0058 issued by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). Historically, FSLF leachate management has consisted of pumping leachate from the landfill sumps into two existing 10,000 gallon tanks and then recirculating the leachate back into the landfill, a method which facilitated both "disposal" and enhanced landfill gas production. Leachate has been hauled offsite for disposal when necessary. However, precipitation from strong storms in recent years has created excessive amounts of leachate in the lined units that cannot be recirculated due to the limited capacity of existing pumping and storage facilities. The County's attempt at pumping the leachate from the tanks and hauling it by truck to an offsite location also proved very slow and inefficient. Therefore, the County is implementing a new leachate storage and disposal strategy at an existing landfill facility.



2.2 Project Components

The Project will include the construction of the following components:

- Consolidated leachate collection header,
- Leachate storage basin,
- Leachate pump station,
- Recirculation line, and

The Project will also include adaptation of the existing Truck fill station and flare condensate destruction system. Schematic Project plans are shown in Appendix A, Drawing No. G03. These plans are not the final design plans, but rather a generalized representation of the proposed infrastructure elements.

2.2.1 Leachate Collection Header

The existing sumps are connected to multiple outlet pipes which direct leachate back onto/into the landfill or to the leachate/condensate tanks. The pumping is controlled by a level sensor in the sump; however, this system fails if moisture in the cell continually increases until it reaches the point of saturation. The proposed system will eliminate this problem by pumping all leachate directly to the new storage basin. The sump pumps will then run continuously on automatic mode without any manipulation or adjustment, which will provide the most reliable means of ensuring long-term compliance with leachate depth limits.

2.2.2 Leachate Storage Basin

The Project will include construction of leachate storage basin which will be the primary disposal method for leachate. The basin will be designed as an approximately 1.5 acre lined area with an average depth of approximately 12 feet. The side slopes will transition from a 3:1 (Horizontal to Vertical) slope to the floor which will slope at a minimum of one percent from north to south. The impoundment will have a low point for leachate pumping on the southern floor underlain by a leak detection and lysimeter sump (Geo-Logic Associates 2024).

The floor liner system and side slopes liner system of the impoundment will consist of the following components from top to bottom:

- Primary 60-mil high density polyethylene (HDPE) geomembrane,
- Geocomposite,
- Secondary 60-mil HDPE geomembrane,
- Prepared foundation layer (One foot for floor and six inches for side slopes), and
- Subgrade or engineered fill (Geo-Logic Associates 2024).

2.2.3 Leachate Pump Station

A leachate pump station will be constructed to efficiently distribute the leachate stored in the basin. The pump station will have the ability to move the leachate to three different destinations depending on operational needs. Most often, the leachate would be pumped into the recirculation line, but capacity would also be provided to pump leachate into the existing tanks or to the truck fill station for onsite disposal or dust control use. The new pump station will be constructed within the storage basin.

2.2.4 Recirculation Line

The current system includes three pipelines (one at each sump) that recirculate leachate back into the landfill modules. The Project will eliminate the extra lines and consolidate all leachate pumping into the single line currently connected to Sump 1. Operations staff will relocate the discharge point as needed to balance the moisture levels in the landfill modules. The recirculation line will be constructed along or under the existing road on the western side of the Project site.

2.2.5 Flare and Fill Station

The existing fill station has limited functionality due to low pumping and fill capacity. To encourage the efficient use of leachate for dust control will require increasing the pipe and pump capacity or including a fixed overhead tank so that water trucks can be filled efficiently. In some cases, it might be desirable to pump into the existing tanks for ultimate disposal via the flare. Normally the flare system is utilized for condensate destruction, but the Project will allow for leachate or condensate to be incinerated by the flare.

2.3 Existing Biological Resources Conditions

WRA, Inc. biologist Katie Tyree conducted a field survey of the Project site on September 14, 2023. The Project site is covered primarily with non-native grassland with some native species. One special-status species, hogwallow starfish (*Hesperovax caulescens*) is present within the Project site buffer on the south side of the proposed leachate storage basin (Figure 1). The Hogwallow starfish present in the Project site is part of a population that extends east outside of Project activities within the non-native grassland community. Hogwallow starfish is given a California Rare Plant Rank of 4.2, which means the species is moderately threatened in California (California Native Plant Society "California Rare Plant Ranks"). Project activities will avoid and minimize potential impacts to hogwallow starfish individuals by implementing the Avoidance and Minimization Measure (AMM) described below.

AMM-1: Hogwallow Starfish

No more than seven days prior to construction activities at the Project site, a qualified biologist will conduct a field survey of the Project site to identify hogwallow starfish individuals. If individuals are found, the biologist will flag species so that they are avoided during Project activities.

If individual special status species cannot be avoided by Project activities, a qualified biologist will harvest seeds or propagules from at least 50 percent of plants within areas of impact. As the blooming period for hogwallow starfish is from March to June, seed collection will occur between June to July. Harvested seed or propagules will be stored for reintroduction into the Project site after construction is finished. A qualified biologist will reintroduce the seed and/or propagules during the first autumn following completion of construction activities.

2.4 Project Work

Construction is anticipated to begin in September 2024 and be completed by December 2024. Access to the Project site will be provided via North Waverly Road.

2.4.1 Best Management Practices

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The Project will implement standard BMPs pertaining to the accidental discovery of buried archaeological resources or human remains during construction activities. BMPs include:

- If buried materials are encountered, all soil disturbing work will be halted at the location of any discovery until a qualified archaeologist completes a significance evaluation of the find(s) pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.
- As promulgated in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15064.5(e), if human remains are encountered, excavation or disturbance of the location must be halted in the vicinity of the find, and the county coroner contacted. If the coroner determines that the remains are Native American, the coroner will contact the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). The NAHC will identify the person or persons believed to be the most likely descended from the deceased Native American. The most likely descendant will make recommendations regarding the treatment of the remains with appropriate dignity.

EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL

Because the Project will disturb over one acre of land, the Project must comply with requirements of the Construction General Permit, which mandates the preparation and implementation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). Prior to construction activities, the Project contractor will prepare a SWPP which will contain BMPs to reduce erosion and sediment runoff on the Project site. These measures will be implemented throughout construction activities on the Project site as specified in the SWPPP. Measures may include, but are not limited to:

- Covering exposed soils with straw mulch, wood mulch, erosion control blankets, or plastic covers.
- Implementing earth dikes, drainage swales, or ditches to convey surface runoff from the Project site.
- Installing temporary silt fencing, check dams, or sediment traps.
- Utilizing fiber rolls to reduce the velocity of surface water runoff and filter sediment out of surface water runoff.
- Constructing a temporary sandbag perimeter around the Project site.
- Covering all stockpiles overnight and covering vehicles transporting soil on- or off-site.



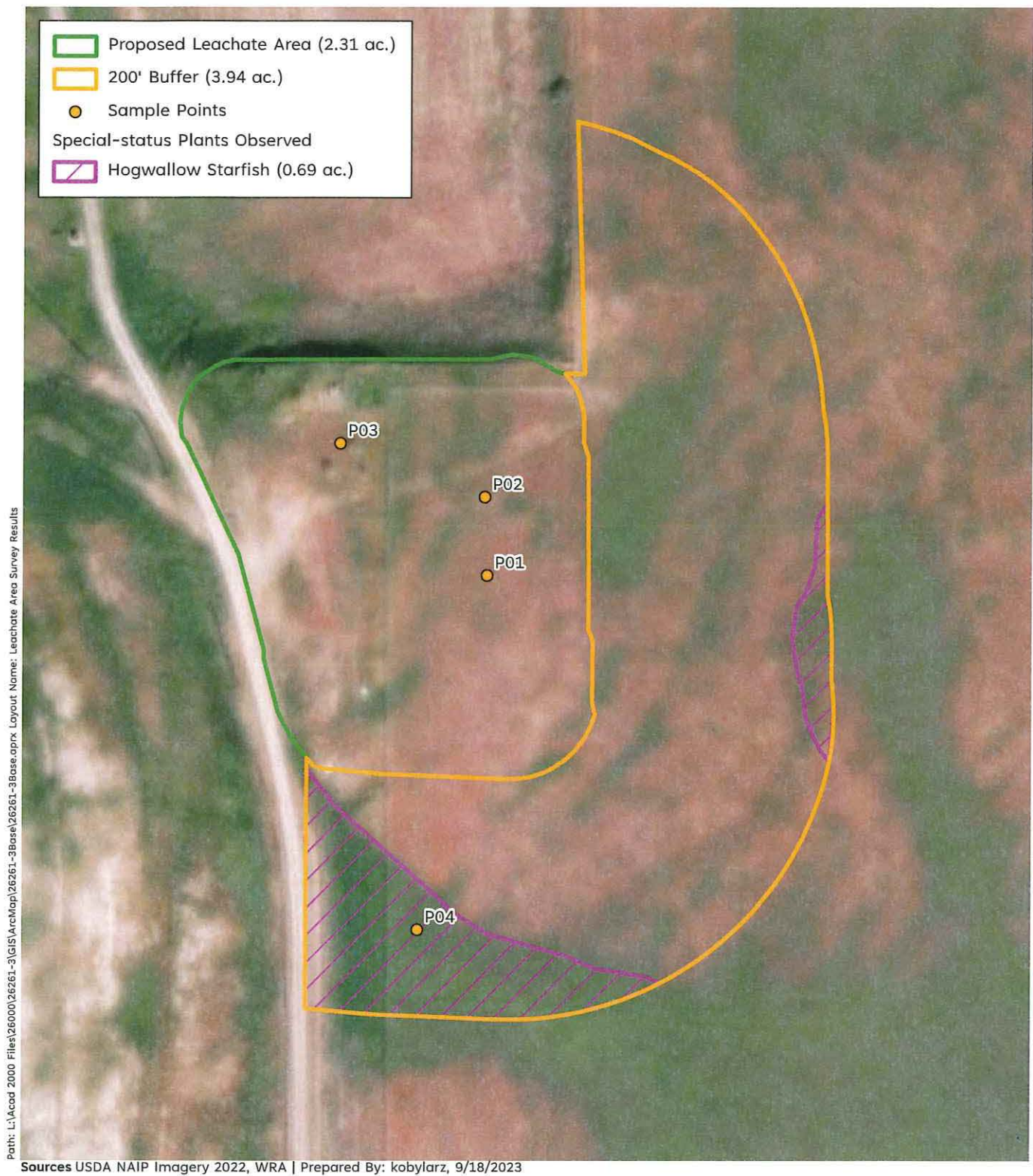
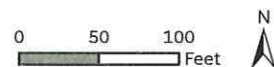


Figure 1. Leachate Basin Area Survey Results

Foothill Landfill Leachate Basin Project
San Joaquin County, California



3.0 RATIONALE FOR THE SECTION 15303 AND SECTION 15306 CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION

The Project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act per Section 21000-2177, Public Resources Code; Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Section 15000-15387, California Code of Regulations in accordance with §15301 (Class 1 – Existing Facilities). A Class 1 exemption applies to the Project because the Project involves construction of infrastructure to support the current functioning of the FSLF which will connect to existing structures. The complete description of the exemptions as stated in the CEQA Guidelines is provided in Section 4, Exemption Language.

3.1 Categorical Exemption Applicability

The Project qualifies for an exemption under Class 1, which applies to “the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use.” The Project is consistent with the Class 1 exemption because the Project involves implementation of a new leachate management strategy and the construction of associated infrastructure which will not change the primary function or expand the capacity of the FSLF. The new infrastructure will connect to existing facilities and be constructed adjacent to the existing landfill. As such, the use of the undeveloped area adjacent to landfill Module 1 for the leachate basin qualifies as a negligible expansion of the existing landfill use.

3.2 15300.2. Exceptions

Even if a project is ordinarily exempt under the potential categorical exemption, CEQA Guidelines Section 15300.2 and Public Resource Code Section 21084 provide specific instances where exceptions to the otherwise applicable exemptions apply. The exceptions and response to each exception are as follows:

1. **Cumulative Impact:** The exemption is inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive programs of the same type and in the same place over time is significant.

Response: The Project site is located on the FSLF parcel in a remote area of San Joaquin County and would not be situated in an area with other ongoing projects. No other projects in the immediate vicinity are planned to undergo construction concurrently with the Project. The Project will not result in significant cumulative impacts due to successive programs of the same type. The Project is not precluded from being categorically exempt per this exception.

2. **Significant Effect:** A categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity when there is reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.

Response: There are no unusual circumstances associated with the Project that would result in a significant effect on the environment. The Project includes standard BMPs pertaining to the accidental discovery of unknown archaeological resources on the Project site. The Project will also be required to prepare and implement a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan in accordance with the Construction General Permit requirements, which would contain BMPs for control of erosion and sediment runoff.



One special-status species, hogwallow starfish, is present near the Project site on the south side of the proposed leachate storage basin. As shown in Figure 1, hogwallow starfish is not present within the proposed Project work area, but within a 200 foot buffer surrounding the leachate storage basin area. AMM-1, as described above in Section 2.3, will be implemented to ensure that this species is not impacted by Project construction activities. With implementation of AMM-1 and BMPs as part of the Project design, the Project will not result in a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances. The Project is not precluded from being categorically exempt per this exception.

3. **Scenic Highways:** A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project that may result in damage to scenic resources, but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway that has been officially designated as a State Scenic Highway.

Response: There are no officially designated State Scenic Highways within the vicinity of the Project site. The nearest officially designated State Scenic Highway to the Project Area is State Route (SR) 49, which runs approximately 17.5 miles east of the Project site (Caltrans 2024). Project activities will not cause damage to any scenic resources that are visible from SR 49. Therefore, the Project will not result in a significant effect to scenic resources within a highway that has been officially designated as a State Scenic Highway. The Project is not precluded from being categorically exempt per this exception.

4. **Hazardous Waste Sites:** A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site that is included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the Government Code.

Response: A search of the “Envirostor” database compiled by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control and the “Geotracker” compiled by the State Water Resources Control Board indicated that the Project site is not located on a site that is included on any list compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 (Department of Toxic Substances Control 2024) (State Water Resources Control Board 2024). These resources also indicated that there are no listed sites within 1,000 feet of the Project site. The Project is not precluded from being categorically exempt per this exception.

5. **Historical Resources:** A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

Response: A Historic Property Inventory Report was prepared by Holman & Associates Archaeological Consultants in 2017 for a previous project at the FSLF. The Report included archival research at the Central California Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System, California State University Stanislaus, files and literature on file, Native American contact, and a field survey. The site of this past project included the southern portion of the FSLF and did not include the Project site. However, the historical records search included the past project site and a one-half mile radius around it; therefore, it can be used to identify historic properties within the Project site area. The records search revealed that there were no archaeological resources or historic properties found within the search radius, and that two previous surveys were reported for the search radius. Therefore, the Project would not impact any known historical resources since there are none documented within the Project site or immediate vicinity.



Although there are no known historical or archaeological resources within the Project site, the Project will include ground-disturbing activities, such as grading and excavation, that may result in the discovery of unknown archaeological resources. As described in Section 3, Project Description, the Project will implement BMPs pertaining to the accidental discovery of unknown archaeological resources during Project construction. These BMPs will ensure that the Project would not damage any potential archaeological resources, which may include historical resources, within the Project site. As such, the Project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource. The Project is not precluded from being categorically exempt per this exception.

4.0 EXEMPTION LANGUAGE

4.1 Section 15301. Existing Facilities

Class 1 consists of the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use. The types of “existing facilities” itemized below are not intended to be all-inclusive of the types of projects which might fall within Class 1. The key consideration is whether the project involves negligible or no expansion of use.

Examples include but are not limited to:

- (a) Interior or exterior alterations involving such things as interior partitions, plumbing, and electrical conveyances;
- (b) Existing facilities of both investor and publicly owned utilities used to provide electric power, natural gas, sewerage, or other public utility services;
- (c) Existing highways and streets, sidewalks, gutters, bicycle and pedestrian trails, and similar facilities (this includes road grading for the purpose of public safety), and other alterations such as the addition of bicycle facilities, including but not limited to bicycle parking, bicycle-share facilities and bicycle lanes, transit improvements such as bus lanes, pedestrian crossings, street trees, and other similar alterations that do not create additional automobile lanes);
- (d) Restoration or rehabilitation of deteriorated or damaged structures, facilities, or mechanical equipment to meet current standards of public health and safety, unless it is determined that the damage was substantial and resulted from an environmental hazard such as earthquake, landslide, or flood;
- (e) Additions to existing structures provided that the addition will not result in an increase of more than:
 - (1) 50 percent of the floor area of the structures before the addition, or 2,500 square feet, whichever is less; or
 - (2) 10,000 square feet if:
 - (A) The project is in an area where all public services and facilities are available to allow for maximum development permissible in the General Plan and
 - (B) The area in which the project is located is not environmentally sensitive.

- (f) Addition of safety or health protection devices for use during construction of or in conjunction with existing structures, facilities, or mechanical equipment, or topographical features including navigational devices;
- (g) New copy on existing on and off-premise signs;
- (h) Maintenance of existing landscaping, native growth, and water supply reservoirs (excluding the use of pesticides, as defined in Section 12753, Division 7, Chapter 2, Food and Agricultural Code);
- (i) Maintenance of fish screens, fish ladders, wildlife habitat areas, artificial wildlife waterway devices, streamflows, springs and waterholes, and stream channels (clearing of debris) to protect fish and wildlife resources;
- (j) Fish stocking by the California Department of Fish and Game;
- (k) Division of existing multiple family or single-family residences into common-interest ownership and subdivision of existing commercial or industrial buildings, where no physical changes occur which are not otherwise exempt;
- (l) Demolition and removal of individual small structures listed in this subdivision:
 - (1) One single-family residence. In urbanized areas, up to three single-family residences may be demolished under this exemption.
 - (2) A duplex or similar multifamily residential structure. In urbanized areas, this exemption applies to duplexes and similar structures where not more than six dwelling units will be demolished.
 - (3) A store, motel, office, restaurant, or similar small commercial structure if designed for an occupant load of 30 persons or less. In urbanized areas, the exemption also applies to the demolition of up to three such commercial buildings on sites zoned for such use.
 - (4) Accessory (appurtenant) structures including garages, carports, patios, swimming pools, and fences.
- (m) Minor repairs and alterations to existing dams and appurtenant structures under the supervision of the Department of Water Resources.
- (n) Conversion of a single family residence to office use.
- (o) Installation, in an existing facility occupied by a medical waste generator, of a steam sterilization unit for the treatment of medical waste generated by that facility provided that the unit is installed and operated in accordance with the Medical Waste Management Act (Section 117600, et seq., of the Health and Safety Code) and accepts no offsite waste.
- (p) Use of a single-family residence as a small family day care home, as defined in Section 1596.78 of the Health and Safety Code.

5.0 REFERENCES

California Natural Plant Society. *California Rare Plant Ranks*. Accessed May 23, 2024 at <https://www.cnps.org/rare-plants/california-rare-plant-ranks>.

Caltrans. (2018). California State Scenic Highway System Map. Accessed May 21, 2024 at <https://caltrans.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=465dfd3d807c46cc8e8057116f1aaca>.

Department of Toxic Substances Control. (2024). EnviroStor. Accessed May 21, 2024 at <https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/>.

Geo-Logic Associates. (2024, March). Design Basis Analysis, Calaveras Surface Impoundment, Foothill Sanitary Landfill. Submitted to the County of San Joaquin Department of Public Works, Solid Wast Division. Geo-Logic Associates: Grass Valley.

Holman & Associates Archaeological Consultants. (2017, October). Historic Properties Inventory for the San Joaquin County Foothill Sanitary Landfill Module 2B Expansion Project Area, San Joaquin County, California. Prepared for WRA, Inc. Holman & Associates: San Francisco.

State Water Resources Control Board. (2024). GeoTracker. Accessed May 21, 2024 at <https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/>.



APPENDIX A. PROJECT PLAN SHEETS



