INITIAL STUDY and MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

For:

BURNT RANCH ESTATES COMMUNITY
WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Prepared for:

BURNT RANCH ESTATES MUTUAL WATER COMPANY
POST OFFICE BOX 102
BURNT RANCH CA 95527

Prepared by:

TRINITY VALLEY CONSULTING ENGINEERS, INC.
POST OFFICE BOX 1567
WILLOW CREEK, CA 95573
(530) 629-3000

CEQA Lead Agency:

Trinity County
PO Box 2819
Weaverville, CA 96093

April 2024
Job No. 1754

Project Information

1. Project Title:	BURNT RANCH ESTATES COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
2. Lead Agency Name and Address	Trinity County 530 Main St, PO Box 2819 Weaverville, CA 96093
3. Contact Person, Phone Number/Email	Patrick Flynn, Environmental Compliance Specialist pflynn@trinitycounty.org/530-623-1351
4. Project Location	Burnt Ranch Estates subdivision, Pony Express Way, Burnt Ranch, CA.
5. Project Sponsor's Name	Burnt Ranch Estates Community Water Company (BREMWC)
6. General Plan Designation	RR (Rural Residential)
7. Zoning	RR (Rural Residential)
8. Description of Project	The proposed Burnt Ranch Estates Community Water System Improvement Project will mainly provide upgrades and increased capacity to the existing water treatment, storage and distribution system. The goal is to add two additional water storage tanks, replace the entire distribution system, replace all fire hydrants and replace all water meters. This project will not increase the number of water service connections. Furthermore, this project does not alter the existing water right held by the Burnt Ranch Estates Mutual Water Company BREMWC. McDonald Creek is the source of water for BREMWCO and is gathered from a dam on BREMWC property. The proposed activities do not involve disturbance of the water inlet nor the riparian corridor through which the creek flows.
9. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting	The parcels contained within the project site are developed with residential uses and are zoned Rural Residential (RR). The parcels surrounding the project are also zoned Rural Residential (RR) with some Shasta-Trinity National Forest Land.

10. Other Public Agencies Whose Approval May Be Required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement.)	• State Water Resources Control Board - Construction General Permit • Trinity County Building Permit • Trinity County Department of Transportation Encroachment Permit

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS 4
TRINITY COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM ..... **Error! Bookmark not defined.**
SECTION 1.0 - INTRODUCTION 7
SECTION 2.0 - PROJECT DESCRIPTION 10
SECTION 3.0- ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES 23
SECTION 4.0- ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST 24
I. Aesthetics 25
II. Agriculture and Forestry Resources 28
III. Air Quality 31
IV. Biological Resources 39
V. Cultural Resources 44
VI. Energy 48
VII. Geology and Soils 50
VIII. Greenhouse Gas Emissions 55
IX. Hazards and Hazardous Materials 59
X. Hydrology and Water Quality 64
XI. Land use and Planning 70
II. Mineral Resources 72
XIII. Noise 74
XIV. Population and Housing 77
XV. Public Services 79
XVI. Recreation 82
XVII. Transportation 84
XVIII. Tribal Cultural Resources 87
XIX. Utilities and Service Systems 93
XX. Wildfire 96
XXI. Mandatory Findings of Significance 99

APPENDIX

APPENDIX A: Cultural Resources Report
APPENDIX B: Biological Resources Report
APPENDIX C: Site Plans
APPENDIX D: CalEEMod Calculator
APPENDIX E: Geological Soils Report
APPENDIX F: Hazard Maps and Document Searches

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AB ..... Assembly Bill
APE ..... Area of Potential Effect
APN ..... Assessor Parcel Number
BAU ..... Business as Usual
BMP ..... Best Management Practices
BPS ..... Best Performance Standards
C-2 ..... General Commercial District
CalEEMod ..... California Emissions Estimator Model
CARB ..... California Air Resources Board
CAAQS ..... California Ambient Air Quality Standards
CDFW ..... California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEQA ..... California Environmental Quality Act
CFCs ..... Chlorofluorocarbons
C_2H_3Cl ..... Vinyl Chloride
CH_4 ..... Methane
CNDDB ..... California Department of Fish and Wildlife Natural Diversity Database
CNPS ..... California Native Plant Society
CO ..... Carbon Monoxide
CO_2e ..... Carbon Dioxide Equivalent
Cortese ..... Hazardous Waste and Substances List
County ..... County of Trinity
BREMWC ..... Burnt Ranch Estates Mutual Water Company
DTSC ..... Department of Toxic Substance Control
EIR ..... Environmental Impact Report
EOP ..... Emergency Operations Plan
GHG ..... Greenhouse Gas
GSP ..... Groundwater Sustainability Plan
GWP ..... Global Warming Potential
HC ..... Highway Commercial District
HFCs ..... Hydrofluorocarbons
H_2S ..... Hydrogen Sulfide
HUC ..... Hydrologic Unit Code
IS ..... Initial Study
MF-H ..... Multi-Family Residential – High Density
MGD ..... Million Gallons per Day
MMRP ..... Mitigation Monitoring & Reporting Program
MND ..... Mitigated Negative Declaration
MRZ ..... Mineral Resource Zone
MT CO_2e ..... Metric Tons of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent
N2O ..... Nitrous Oxide
NAAQS ..... National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAHC ..... Native American Heritage Commission
NCRWQCB ..... North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
NCUAQMD ..... North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District
ND ..... Negative Declaration
NO_2 ..... Nitrogen Dioxide
NO_X ..... Nitrogen Oxide
NRCS ..... Natural Resources Conservation Service
O3 ..... Ozone
PFCs ..... Perfluorocarbons
Pb ..... Lead
Ppb ..... Parts Per Billion
Ppm ..... Parts Per Million
QSD/QSP ..... Qualified Stormwater Developer / Qualified Stormwater Practitioner
R-1 ..... Single Family District
R1A ..... Single Family Residential – Low Density

R-2 ..... Duplex Residential District
R-3 ..... Multiple Family District
ROG..... Reactive Organic Gases
RR..... Rural Residential District
SB ..... Senate Bill
SF6 ..... Sulfur Hexafluoride
SF-L ..... Single Family Residential – Low Density
SMARA ..... Surface Mining and Reclamation Act
SO_2 ..... Sulfur Dioxide
SO_4 ..... Sulfates
SR ..... State Route
SRA ..... State Responsibility Area
State..... California
SWPPP..... Storm Water Pollution and Prevention Plan
SWRCB..... State Water Resources Control Board
TPY ..... Tons Per Year
TVCE ..... Trinity Valley Consulting Engineers, Inc.
$\mu g/m^3$..... Microgram per cubic meter
USFWS ..... U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
UST ..... Underground Storage Tanks
VMT..... Vehicle Miles Traveled

SECTION 1.0 - INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction and Regulatory Guidance

This document is an Initial Study (IS) that summarizes the technical studies prepared for the proposed Burnt Ranch Estates Community Water System Improvement Project. This document has been prepared by Trinity Valley Consulting Engineers (TVCE) on behalf of the County of Trinity (County). The County is the CEQA lead agency for this proposed project. This document has been prepared in accordance with the current California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq., and the State CEQA Guidelines. The purpose of this document is to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the proposed Burnt Ranch Estates Community Water System Improvement Project in the community of Burnt Ranch. A Mitigated Negative Declaration is attached the IS.

An Initial Study (IS) is a document prepared by a lead agency to determine whether a project may have a significant effect on the environment. In accordance with California Code of Regulations Title 14 (Chapter 3, Section 15000, et seq.)—also known as the CEQA Guidelines—Section 15064 (a)(1) states that an environmental impact report (EIR) must be prepared if there is substantial evidence in light of the whole record that the proposed Project under review may have a significant effect on the environment and should be further analyzed to determine mitigation measures or project alternatives that might avoid or reduce project impacts to less than significant levels. A negative declaration (ND) may be prepared instead if the lead agency finds that there is no substantial evidence in light of the whole record that the project may have a significant effect on the environment. An ND is a written statement describing the reasons why a proposed Project, not otherwise exempt from CEQA, would not have a significant effect on the environment and, therefore, why it would not require the preparation of an EIR (CEQA Guidelines Section 15371). According to CEQA Guidelines Section 15070, a ND or mitigated ND (MND) shall be prepared for a project subject to CEQA when either:

a. The IS shows there is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the proposed Project may have a significant effect on the environment, or

b. The IS identified potentially significant effects, but:

    i. Revisions in the project plans or proposals made by or agreed to by the applicant before the proposed MND and IS are released for public review would avoid the effects or mitigate the effects to a point where clearly no significant effects would occur and

ii. There is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the proposed Project as revised may have a significant effect on the environment.

1.2 Lead Agency

The Lead Agency is the public agency with primary responsibility for implementing a proposed project. Accordingly, the Trinity County Planning Department (County) is the CEQA Lead Agency. Although BREMWC is a public entity, it is not a community service district or governmental body, and as such, it does not meet the requirements to be a lead agency.

1.3 Purpose of the Initial Study

CEQA requires that all state and local government agencies consider the environmental consequences of projects over which they have discretionary authority before acting on those projects. An Initial Study is a public document used by the decision-making lead agency to determine whether a project may have a significant impact on the environment. If the agency finds that the proposed project may have a significant impact on the environment, but that these impacts will be reduced to a less-than-significant level through revisions to the project and/or implementation of specific mitigation measures, a Mitigated Negative Declaration shall be prepared.

This IS is a public information document that describes the proposed project, existing environmental setting at the project site, and potential environmental impacts of construction and operation of the proposed project. It is intended to inform the public and decision-makers of the proposed project's potential environmental impacts and to document the lead agency's compliance with CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines.

1.4 Review Process

This IS is being circulated for public and agency review as required by CEQA. Trinity County will circulate the IS to the State Clearinghouse of the Governor's Office of Planning and Research for distribution and a 30-day review period.

During the review period, the IS will be available on the following websites:

Governor's Office of Planning and Research: CEQAnet Web Portal
https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/

County of Trinity Website: Environmental Review
https://www.trinitycounty.org/node/2609

Supporting technical studies are available upon request and include:

- Biological Resources Report
- Cultural Resources Report (confidential and may require permission to share)
- Geological Soils Report
- CalEEMod output
- Hazard maps and search records

During the review period, written comments may be submitted to:

Patrick Flynn, Environmental Compliance Specialist
Trinity County Community Development Department
Natural Resources Division
PO Box 2819
Weaverville, CA 96093
530-623-1351
pflynn@trinitycounty.org

SECTION 2.0 - PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 Project Location and Setting

2.1.1 Regional Setting

The project area lies within Trinity County, California in the Klamath Mountain Province. This region is at the junction of the uplifted Coast Ranges, the volcanic Cascades, and the ancient volcanic roots of the Sierra Nevada. The Trinity Basin is characterized by cold, wet winters and dry summers. The Trinity watershed drains into the Klamath River, which empties into the Pacific Ocean west of Trinity County. Several plant communities are present in the region, including Klamath mixed conifer, foothill pine (gray pine), mixed chaparral, montane hardwood, montane riparian, and riverine. In general, the growing season ranges from March 1 to October 31, but may be as short as mid-June through early September in some areas. Most vegetative growth occurs during a relatively short period in late spring, ceasing as soil moisture depletes in early summer.

2.1.2 Local Setting

The Burnt Ranch Estates Community Water System Improvement Project is located within Trinity County, in the unincorporated community of Burnt Ranch. The proposed project is located in the McDonald Creek watershed, a sub-watershed of the

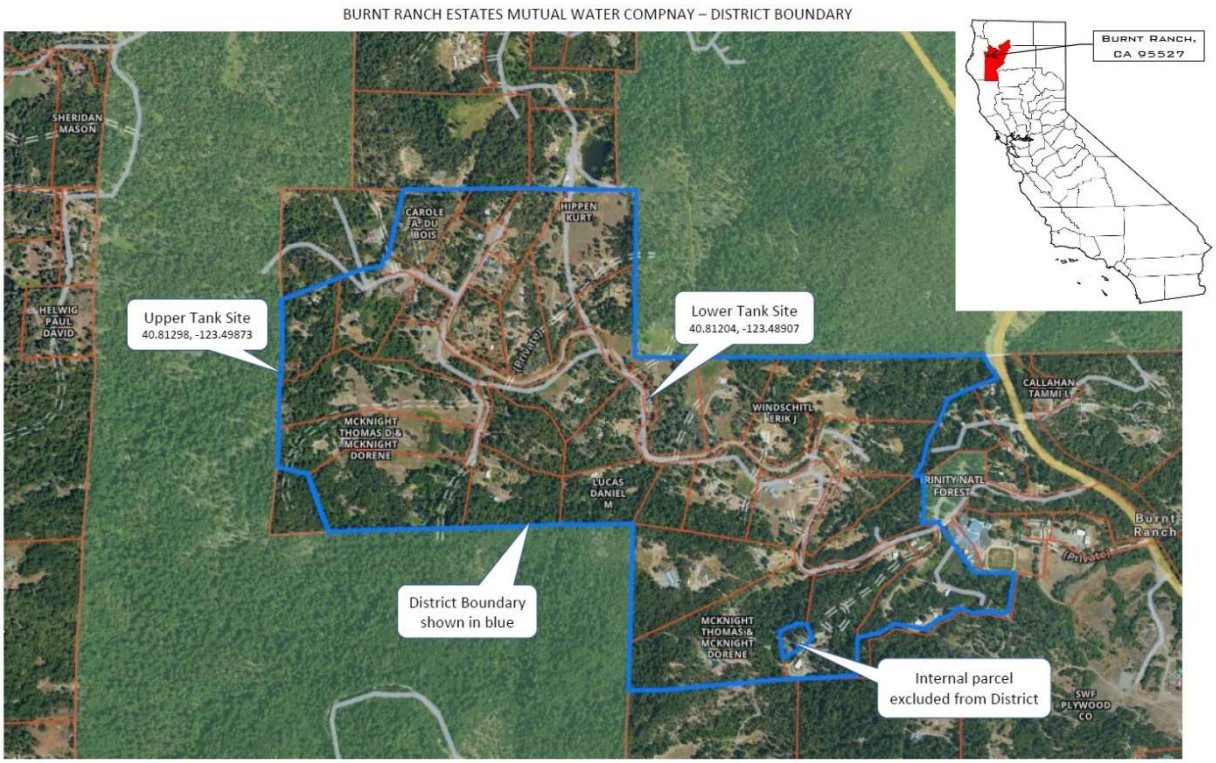


Figure 1: Location Map Showing the District and Project Boundary.

Trinity River watershed. State Route 299 (SR-299) is the primary, or arterial, routes in Burnt Ranch. This roadway serves not only community traffic but also serves an important role in the county and regional circulation pattern. The project site is located west of State Route 299 (SR-299) along Pony Express Way (see Figure 1-Project Location).

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panel 06105C0750E, the project site is not located within a special flood hazard area (FEMA, 2010). The project site is located within Zone D, which flood hazards are undetermined, but possible.

2.1.3 Project Location

The project site is located in the Burnt Ranch Estate Subdivision, a community within Burnt Ranch, Trinity County, California. The elevation of the site ranges between 1,500 and 2,000 feet above sea level. The majority of the project site has a moderate slope ranging from 0-40%. Slopes in general are from northwest to southeast.

2.1.4 Existing Facility Conditions

The existing facility site consists of several residential parcels, Trinity County Road Right of Ways, and two parcels owned by the Burnt Ranch Estates Mutual Water Company (BREMWC). The existing water system consists of a small impoundment of McDonald Creek on BREMWC property, a slow sand filtration plant, chlorine injection station, two concrete water storage tanks, several miles of aging water distribution piping, six (6) 2.5" wharf hydrants, and thirty-five (35) water meters. The existing water filtration equipment and upper water storage tank is located on Assessor Parcel Number (APN) 008-790-003-000. The existing water tanks are made from concrete masonry units (CMU – also known as cinder blocks) with metal roofs. Water filtration equipment consists of a slow sand filtration tank, also made from CMU, which feeds the upper storage tank. Additional filtration equipment and storage is located in an adjacent small stick-built storage structure.

2.1.5 Purpose and Need of Project

The Burnt Ranch Estates community has identified the need for upgrading the existing Burnt Ranch Estates Mutual Water Company (BREMWC) water system due to aging infrastructure. The BREMWC system was originally installed in 1975-1978, and serves approximately 25 parcels. The Burnt Ranch community is isolated and sound infrastructure is essential to maintain basic services, such as fire protection and running water. Additionally, BREMWC has identified funding availability from the CA State Department of Water Resources that must be spent before the end of

2026. The Proposed Project would ensure the project has CEQA coverage in order utilize the grant funding.

2.2 Proposed Uses

2.2.1 Proposed Uses

The proposed Burnt Ranch Estates Community Water System Improvement Project includes the replacement of existing water tanks with new 80,000-gallon and 40,000-gallon steel water tanks at two locations, replacement of all water distribution lines, replacement of all wharf hydrants, replacement of all water meters. This project also includes encompasses a potential future project phase involving replacement of a slow-sand filtration tank, and replacement of plastic water tanks. The project will not increase the amount of water consumption or meters, and does not involve disturbance of the existing impoundment nor the riparian corridor through which McDonald Creek flows. This project will not modify the existing water right held by BREMWC.

Initial construction of the Project is anticipated to last approximately twelve months, beginning in 2024 or early 2025, and ending late 2025 or early 2026, depending on approval timelines. This document specifically includes future project work that has not yet secured funding. This additional project work may last into the next 5 years or so, depending on timelines and availability of resources; its impacts are analyzed here. The development project will be staged in development phases such as grading, installation of new water tanks, replacement of old waterlines, and landscaping. These stages of construction will rely on work areas, equipment staging areas, material storage, temporary access roads, temporary erosion control measures, temporary utility services, stockpile management, offsite debris disposal, and other construction activities associated with a utility development project. Equipment will include excavators, skid loaders, bulldozers, backhoes, trenchers, concrete mixers, and hand tools. Generally, construction will occur between the hours of 7 am and 5 pm, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Staging areas will be located onsite, with separate staging areas for each tank installation. Although construction is not expected to generate hazardous waste, field equipment used during construction has the potential to contain various hazardous materials such as diesel fuel, hydraulic oil, grease, solvents, adhesives, paints, and other petroleum-based products.

Addition of Upper Tank

The existing main tank is located on APN 008-790-003-000. The existing tank is rectangular and is constructed of concrete blocks. It is approximately 20' x 15' and sits on a flat area cut into on a moderately steep hillside, which was excavated for construction in the mid-1970s. The plan is to extend this flat to the north by extending the excavated area into the same hillside. The area to be excavated into is part of the cut slope created during the original construction and part the native hillside. The existing slope ranges from 30-50% in steepness. The excavated material will be hauled away and disposed in a manner consistent with applicable laws. Excess fill dirt will be disposed of within the neighborhood to the degree possible, although the applicant's contract agreement with the contractor states they need to "dispose of material in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws." The area to be excavated occupies about 0.25 acres. It is presently covered with a moderately dense mixture of brush and trees. The proposed water tank will be an 80,000-gallon bolted steel tank with a concrete foundation. The existing upper tank will remain in place and will be revamped to serve as an office/chlorinator shed.



Figure 2: Proposed upper tank site.

<u>Replacement of Lower Tank</u>

The lower tank is located on APN 008-800-005-000, an approximately 0.25-acre lot owned by the BREMWC, about 1 mile from Highway 299 on Pony Express Way. Like the upper tank, the existing lower tank is comprised of concrete blocks and was constructed in the 1970s. The old tank will be removed and the new tank located on the same site. The new tank will be approximately 40,000 gallons in capacity and constructed from bolted steel with a concrete foundation. This area is naturally flat and was graded to accept the current tank in the 1970s. Very little new grading will be necessary in order to accommodate the new tank. Demolished material will be disposed of in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws. The main material is expected to be concrete from the lower tank (to be dismantled), which can be taken to the Weaverville transfer station.



Figure 3: Proposed lower tank site

Replacement of Water Lines

The length of the main water line is approximately 10,000 feet. It typically runs underneath main access roads: Horseshoe Lane, Pony Express Way, and Stage Coach Drive. These roads are County-maintained. The plan is to replace the aging water line, which is a combination of galvanized and plastic pipe, with new HDPE water lines, to the start of each domestic inlet, including shut off valves and cross connection prevention devices. Replacement of individual domestic water lines is outside the scope of this project. These will be tied into the new primary water line. Spoils will be disposed on within the project footprint to the degree possible, in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local laws. The entire primary water line runs through previously excavated soil material. New water lines will be trenched using a combination of backhoe, utility trencher, and directional boring machine. Trenches will be backfilled daily with approved backfill material. Finished trench surfaces will be installed to pre-existing conditions. Existing water mainlines will be removed where encountered or otherwise abandoned in place.



Figure 5: Typical existing fire hydrant and water meter scheduled to be replaced.

Potential Future Project

This project also contemplates water treatment upgrades at the existing treatment site. This Initial Study analyzes these impacts as part of the whole project. The existing water treatment site consists of an infiltration gallery behind an existing creek impoundment, concrete and plastic filter beds filled with sand (slow sand filtration system), tanks, chlorine injector pumps, backup generator, solar array, storage building, drain piping, and overflow piping. Upgrades will be in material only and are aimed at improving efficiency, cutting waste, and implementing new techniques. The water treatment upgrades will not expand the system's water right or appropriations.

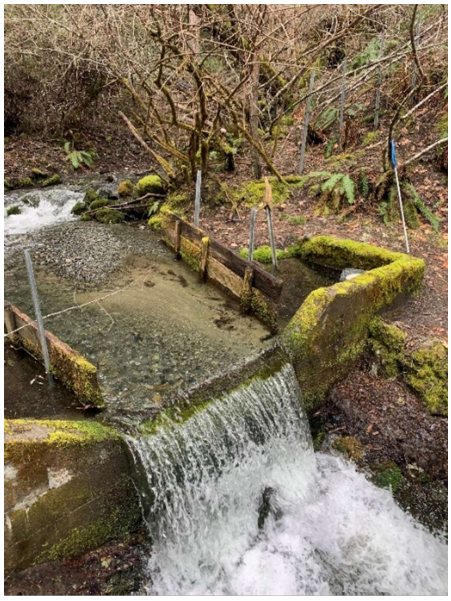


Figure 6: Existing infiltration Gallery on McDonald Creek.

Specific items being considered are the replacement of the existing slow sand filter beds, chlorine injector station, piping, infiltration gallery, and roof cover that shelters the filtration system.

Slow Sand Filtration System and Auxiliary Tanks

The slow sand filtration system consists of a concrete filter bed filled with sand. The system is augmented with three (3) 500-gallon plastic water tanks, and resembles a large, concrete, above-ground swimming pool, covered with netting and screens to keep out pests. The tank is made from concrete masonry unit (CMU) and is currently 13' x 26' (338 sq ft) in size.

The system would be replaced with new infrastructure and expanded to increase resiliency and capacity. The existing tank would be replaced with a new CMU tank of approximately equal size (only as needed). The three auxiliary tanks would be replaced with a second CMU tank of similar size to the existing tank (13' x 26'). A ramada would be constructed over both tanks for protection. The slow sand filtration system does not use chemicals.

There is a chance that the CMU tanks would be expanded in size if needed. There would be no grading required for the installation of the second tank. A graded pad exists for the system and can accommodate expansion. Disturbed area would be roughly equal to the existing slow sand filtration tank.

Chlorine Injector Pumps

The chlorine injector pumps are located inside the existing control building and add chlorine to the district's drinking water after it is filtered by the slow sand filtration system. The injector pumps are served by grid power, with a backup generator and solar array. The chlorine injector pumps may be replaced with a similar unit. The functionality would remain the same.

Storage Building

Adjacent to the slow sand filtration system is a storage building of approximately 10'x12' in size. The building may be replaced with a structure of similar size.

Drain and Overflow Piping

Drain and overflow piping as a whole is 35 ft in length and is 1" PVC. This would be replaced with similar products that do no increase the footprint of environmental impact.



Figure 7: Existing water treatment facility

Area of Disturbance

For the purposes of this document, the term "Action Area" includes the footprint or area of direct disturbance of the Project facilities will require as well as lands needed to construct the facilities.

Table 1, below, summarizes the acreages of temporary disturbances (construction corridor and staging areas) and permanent disturbances (water tanks) for the Proposed Action.

TABLE 1
ACREAGES OF PERMANENT AND TEMPORARY DISTURBANCES

Temporary Disturbance			Permanent Disturbance		
Work Item	**Jurisdiction**	**Disturbance (Ac.)**	**Work Item**	**Jurisdiction**	**Disturbance (Ac.)**
Upper Tank	Private Property	0.25	Upper Tank	Private Property	0.10
Lower Tank	Private Property	0.10	Lower Tank	Private Property	0.05
Waterlines (incl. drain and overflow)	Easements & Right-of-Way	4.00	Waterlines (incl. drain and overflow)	Easements & Right-of-Way	0.00
Staging Areas	Private Property	0.10	Staging Areas	Private Property	0.00
Slow Sand Filtration System	Private Property	0.10	Slow Sand Filtration System	Private Property	0.00 (existing disturbed area)
TOTAL:		**4.45**	**TOTAL:**		**0.15**

2.2.2 Design Criteria

The design criteria for this project are based on the latest design standards. The proposed water tank sizes are based on published standards for fire flow demands and minimum drinking water storage capacities. The main water distribution lines will be sized for a minimum of 6" to account for these flows and capacities. New water lines will be placed in existing trenches. Once placed, lines will be backfilled daily with approved backfill material, and resurfaced to existing conditions. A modified T cut is proposed to resurface the road, given it is only 1" thick chip seal. Specific criteria for resurfacing may be required by the Trinity County Department of Transportation. These requirements will be handled through an encroachment permit.

2.3 Alignment with the Trinity County General Plan

The Trinity County General Plan consists of a circulation element, housing element, land use element, Burnt Ranch planning area (among others), noise element, open space and conservation element, and safety element. Each section of the general plan is addressed below.

2.3.1 Circulation Element

Trinity County adopted a circulation element in May 2002. The following is a description of traffic patterns and how they relate to the circulation element.

Primary access to the site is from Burnt Ranch School Rd (A County-maintained road). The site is west of the SR-299. SR-299 is the primary route through Burnt Ranch. Access would occur at the intersection of SR-299 and Burnt Ranch School Road.

The project will not increase long-term traffic patterns through the site. Traffic during construction will temporarily increase to account for material deliveries, construction workers, and construction equipment.

Updates to the CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3 codified a switch from Level of Service (LOS) to Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) as the metric for transportation impact analysis. Trinity County has not developed any significance thresholds or guidance for conducting VMT analysis in CEQA documents. Section 15064.3, subdivision (b)(3) states that in the absence of existing models or methods to estimate the VMT for a particular project, a lead agency may analyze the project's VMT qualitatively. Such a qualitative analysis would evaluate factors such as the proximity to other destinations and services, availability of transit, etc.

In rural areas of counties without Metropolitan Planning Organizations (i.e., areas not near established or incorporated cities or towns), fewer options may be available for reducing VMT, and analysis methodology may be best determined on a case-by-case basis. It is noted by the Governor's Office of Planning Research in their Technical Advisory on Evaluating Transportation Impacts in CEQA, that clustered small towns and small-town main streets may have substantial VMT benefits compared to isolated rural development, similar to transit-oriented development (OPR, 2018).

2.3.2 Housing Element

Trinity County adopted a Housing Element Update for the current planning cycle (2019-2024) in April 2020. The overall goal of the County's recent Housing Element Update is the following:

> *"To provide an adequate supply of sound, affordable housing units in a safe and pleasant environment that enhance community quality of life for the present and*

future residents of Trinity County, regardless of race, age, religion, sex, marital status, ethnic background, or disabilities."

Some of the housing policies that guide the objectives and programs necessary to fulfill the County's housing goal include the following:

- Ensure there are an adequate number of housing units to meet the needs of its citizens.
- Ensure that housing is affordable to all economic segments of the community.
- Ensure that there are adequate sites and facilities available to support future housing needs.

Objective three of the Housing Element Update relates to the provision of adequate sites and services and states that the County will provide adequate sites and services for development of housing units by rezoning additional land for residential use and assisting in the expansion of water and sewer facilities. Program 3.1 states that the County will continue to monitor vacant residential land to assess the residential development potential and ensure the County is able to continue to meet its Regional Housing Need Allocation. As part of this monitoring, the County proposes to complete the following steps:

- As updates are made to the Zoning Ordinance, General Plan, or Community Plans, the County will consider the need to provide additional land for various types of residential development.
- As community plans are prepared or updated, identify vacant land that is residentially zoned or has residential potential, the Planning Department will use this information to identify lands that could support higher densities. The County will work with the landowners to rezone an adequate supply of these lands to higher-density residential uses.

The Residential zoning district will benefit from this project and therefore is consistent with the goals of the housing element.

2.3.3 Land Use Element

Trinity County adopted a Land Use Element in 1988. The overall goal of the County's Land Use Element is to designate the proposed general distribution and general location and extend of the uses of the land for housing, business, industry, open space, including agriculture, natural resources, recreation, and enjoyment of scenic beauty,

education, public buildings and grounds, solid and liquid waste disposal facilities, and other categories of public and private uses of land.

Section 2. "services" under the title "Trinity River – West of Helena (Down River)" states:

> *"In general, the existing low level of services should be maintained, although some improvement of services, such as water supply and fire protection improvements, may be desirable in some of the "village".*

The proposed project is for the replacement and minor improvements of the water supply and fire protection systems of the Burnt Ranch Estates and therefore is consistent with the land use element of the general plan.

2.3.4 Burnt Ranch Planning Area

In general, Burnt Ranch Estates is designated as Rural Residential. The proposed project does not change or alter this designation and therefore is consistent with the Burnt Ranch Planning Area. The project increases resilience of the Burnt Ranch Estates community by modernizing service infrastructure.

2.3.5 Noise Element

Trinity County adopted a Noise Element in 2003. The County's Noise Element is to provide the policy framework for addressing potential noise impacts encountered in the planning process. The purpose of the Noise Element is to minimize future noise conflicts.

The noise generated from the project construction will be transitory and limited to the time of construction. The completed project will not result in a change in noise levels as no new noise generating equipment is being proposed for this project.

2.3.6 Open Space and Conservation Element

Trinity County adopted an Open Space and Conservation Element in April 1973. In summary, the Open Space and Conservation Element states:

> "Preservation of Open Space has not been a problem in Trinity County. Timber and recreation are the major natural resources of the County and they have been protected by zoning since 1968. Agricultural-Forest Districts, Recreation Districts, and Scenic Conservation Districts were included in the ordinance at the time of its adoption. The application of the aforesaid zones has been consistently applied throughout the County since the adoption of the enabling

ordinance. The existing Trinity County General Plan includes recommendation for open areas, intensive recreation areas as well as limited recreation areas."

Trinity County defines open space land as follows:

> *"Any parcel or area of land or water which is essentially unimproved and devoted to an open space use as herein defined and which is designated on a local, regional, or state open space plan as any of the following:*
>
> *(1) Natural resource land*
> *(2) Agricultural land*
> *(3) Recreation land*
> *(4) Scenic land*
> *(5) Watershed or ground water recharge land*
> *(6) Wildlife habitat*

The proposed project is not located on these lands as defined and therefore is consistent with the Open Space Element.

2.3.7 Safety Element

Trinity County adopted Safety Element in March 2014. In summary, the Safety Element states:

> *"The Safety Element of the general plan will help to provide guidelines that promote safety to residents and visitors of Trinity County. The Safety Element is created to reduce the potential risk of death, injuries, property damage, and the economic and social disruption resulting from hazards such as fires, floods, earthquakes, landslides, and other hazards.*
>
> *Many of the topics discussed in the Safety Element overlap those that are also in the Land Use, Conservation, and Open Space Elements. This element is a mechanism for defining acceptable risk and the basis for determining the level of mitigation necessary. This element is designated not only to reduce risk, but also to minimize economic disruption and ensure the timely recovery following disasters.*
>
> *This element sets forth goals, objectives, and policies for airport safety, flood risk or dam failures, hazardous materials, seismic or geological hazards, wildfires and structures, air quality, climate change, and military operation area. With regards to wildfire, this element pays special attention to the fact that most of*

the private lands within the county, which are in the State Responsibility Area (SRA), are classified as being Very High Severity Zones on the Fire Hazard Severity Map and to the additional guidance provided in Senate Bill 1241."

The proposed project will reference this section of the Trinity County General Plan for many of the environmental checklist categories and their resulting mitigation measures.

2.4 Domestic Water

Water service is available to the Burnt Ranch Estates area from public sources operated by the Burnt Ranch Estates Mutual Water Company (BREMWC). The source of water for BREMWC is McDonald Creek, just adjacent to the Burnt Ranch Estates. This project does not propose to change the water usage or water rights for this system; it simply upgrades infrastructure.

The proposed project increases resiliency of the existing BREMWC system, and would not impact existing capacities of the existing water supply, infrastructure, or entitlements.

2.5 Domestic Wastewater / Sanitary Sewer

Wastewater services are not available in the Burnt Ranch Estates. Wastewater is achieved through private Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS). Each property owner possesses, operates, and maintains their own private system. These systems are regulated and permitted by the Trinity County Department of Environmental Health.

Based on the above description, the proposed project would not impact existing capacities of the existing OWTS or their owners.

2.6 Water Quality

Impacts to water quality associated with the project are regulated by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). The existing regulatory requirements address implementation of all applicable best practicable treatment or control (BPTC) measures and require a Construction General Permit (CGP) for projects disturbing more than one acre. This is also known as a stormwater dischargers permit. In addition, the proposed project will require a Storm Water Pollution Protection Plan (SWPPP) which outlines best management practices (BMPs) to prevent, minimize, and control the discharge of waste and other controllable water quality factors associated with site restoration/cleanup/remediation and site operations and maintenance. The SWPPP also requires oversight from a Qualified Stormwater Developer (QSD) who will be responsible for monitoring, inspections, and reporting authorized and unauthorized stormwater discharges and a Qualified Stormwater Practitioner (QSP) who will be responsible for the installation, correction, and maintenance of the systems.

SECTION 3.0- ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

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

Determination: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)
On the basis of this initial evaluation:

☐ I find that the proposed project could not have a significant effect on the environment, and a Negative Declaration will be prepared.

☑ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A Mitigated negative Declaration will be prepared.

☐ I find that the proposed project may have a significant effect on the environment, and an EIR is required.

☐ I find that the proposed project may have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An EIR is required, but it must analyze only those effects that remain to be addressed.

☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or Negative Declaration pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or Negative Declaration, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Signature: PATRICK FLYNN Date: 9/19/24
Trinity County Natural Resources Division

SECTION 4.0- ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Checklist and Evaluation of Environmental Impacts:
An explanation for all checklist responses is included (except for "No Impact" answers) and all answers take into account the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts. The explanation of each issue identifies (a) the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and (b) the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance. The following definitions are used in the Checklist:

"Potentially Significant Impact" This category is applicable if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant, and no feasible mitigation measures can be identified to reduce impacts to a less than significant level. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.

"Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated" means the development will have the potential to generate impacts which may be considered as a significant effect on the environment, although mitigation measures or changes to the development's physical or operational characteristics can reduce these impacts to levels that are less than significant.

"Less Than Significant Impact" means that the development will have the potential for impacting the environment, although this impact will be below established thresholds that are considered to be significant.

"No Impact" means the development will not have any measurable impact on the environment. This category applies when a project would not create an impact in the specific environmental issue area. "No Impact" answers do not require a detailed explanation if they are adequately supported by the information sources cited by the lead agency, which show that the impact does not apply to the specific project (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).

SUMMARY OF MITIGATION MEASURES THAT APPLY TO THIS PROJECT:

Mitigation Measure	**Intent**	**Page in Document**
AQ-1	Dust control	38
CUL-1	Cultural resources protection	46
CUL-2	Cultural resources protection	47
GEO-1	Protect paleontological resources	53
NOISE-1	Reduce noise impacts	75

I. Aesthetics Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 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

Environmental Setting:

The project proposes the addition of two new steel water tanks, and a concrete masonry unit (CMU) slow sand filtration tank.. The 80,000-gallon tank will be constructed in a generally wooded area and will not be visible except from above. Some tree removal is expected to take place to provide defensible space around the water tank. Tree removal will not make the water tank visible from anywhere in the community. The second 40,000-gallon tank will be constructed on APN: 008-800-005-000 and is visible from Pony Express Way and two existing residences. There is no anticipated tree removal for this feature of the project. The CMU tank will be constructed near the 80,000 gallon tank in an existing graded pad. The tank will not be visible from public right-of-ways.

The project site is not located along an officially designated State scenic highway. There are no designated scenic vistas in the Burnt Ranch Area.

Threshold of Significance:

This impact considers to what degree the proposed project would have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista, substantially damage scenic resources, substantially degrade the existing visual character of the area, and create a new source of substantial light.

Scenic vistas are defined as expansive views of highly valued landscapes from publicly accessible viewpoints. Scenic vistas include views of natural features such as topography, water courses, outcrops, and natural vegetation, as well as man-made scenic structures. The County has not designated specific scenic vistas in the immediate project area as a part of the General Plan.

California's Scenic Highway Program was created by the Legislature in 1963. Its purpose is to preserve and protect scenic highway corridors from changes that would diminish the aesthetic value of lands

adjacent to highways. According to Caltrans' California Scenic Highway Program and the National Scenic Byways Program, the proposed project is not located near a highway which has been listed as a State or Federal Scenic Highway or as an Eligible State Scenic Highway-Not Officially Designated (Caltrans, 2021). Additionally, the project is not located on a National Scenic Byway System route.

Impact Analysis:
Based on a field review by the Planning Department and other agency staff, information provided by the applicant, existing information available to the Planning Department, and observations made on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

(a) No Impact: Scenic vistas are defined as expansive views of highly-valued landscapes from publicly accessible viewpoints. Scenic vistas include views of natural features such as topography, watercourses, outcrops, and natural vegetation, as well as man-made scenic structures. As noted in the Threshold of Significance above, there are no designated scenic vistas in the Burnt Ranch area. Therefore, the proposed project would result in no impact on this resource. Additionally, development of the proposed project would not block or preclude views to any area containing important or what would be considered visually appealing landforms. Therefore, the proposed project would not have a significant impact on a scenic vista.

(b) No Impact:
California's Scenic Highway Program was created by State Legislature in 1963. According to Caltrans' California Scenic Highway Program, the project sit is not located near an officially designated State scenic highway (Caltrans, 2021). The project will be partially visible from SR-299, but the project will not impact visual scenic resources, including, and not limited to: trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within an officially designated State scenic highway. Therefore, the proposed project would result in no impact to this resource.

(c) Less than Significant Impact:
The existing visual quality of the project site and surrounding area is characteristic of residential areas. Existing public views of the project site consists of native vegetation, public utilities, paved and unpaved driveways, and surrounding residences. Due to the existing visual character of the surrounding land uses and public views, the proposed project will not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views and surroundings. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a less than significant impact to this resource.

(d) No Impact:
Light pollution occurs when nighttime views of the stars and sky are diminished by an over-abundance of light coming from the ground. Light pollution is a potential impact from the operation of any light source at night. Downward light shielding, lighting design, and landscaping are commonly used to reduce light pollution generated from lighting by blocking the conveyance of light upwards. The result is that the lights are not visible from above; therefore, ambient light is not added to the nighttime sky. In addition, light reflecting off surfaces during daylight hours has the potential to create a source of glare in the vicinity of the proposed project.

This project does not create new artificial lighting. In addition, the proposed water tank will be powder coated forest green with a matt finish to prevent glare and to blend the structure into the surrounding forest. Therefore, the proposed project would result in no impact to this resource.

Mitigation Measures:
Based on the above evaluation, no mitigation measures are required for the project to result in a less than significant impact.

Findings:
In the course of the above evaluation, impacts associated with this resource category were found to not be significant because of the inability of a project of this scope to create such impacts or the absence of project characteristics producing effects of this type.

II. Agriculture and Forestry Resources In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects; lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?				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 lands (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220g), timberland (as defined by PRC section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104g)?				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

Environmental Setting:

The project is located in the community of Burnt Ranch. Burnt Ranch is a rural community town surrounded by forested mountains, vast public land, and limited agricultural cropland. The proposed project is located on lands that have been designated and used for residential development since the 1980s and was logged of its timber when it was converted to a residential subdivision (The Burnt Ranch

Estates Subdivision). After being converted to residential use, there has been no agricultural or timber production associated with this development. Residential users have installed paved surfaces, buildings, and utility systems across the Burnt Ranch Estates. The surrounding areas remain agricultural timber land.

The Action Area will remove up to 10 large trees in order to establish a defensible space against wildfire. The tree removal is not considered a timber harvest and will not be sold as part of a timber sale. Any wood generated as a result will be consumed by the local community as firewood thus offsetting the need to source firewood from another location (such as the national forest).

Threshold of Significance:
This impact considers to what degree the proposed project would: change the availability or use of agriculturally important land areas designated under one or more of the programs above; cause or promote change in land zoned for those uses, particularly lands designated as Agriculture Exclusive under Williamson Act contracts; or change the availability or use of agriculturally important land areas for agricultural purposes.

Impact Analysis:
Based on a field review by the Planning Department and other agency staff, information provided by the applicant, existing information available to the Planning Department, and observations made on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

(a) No impact:
Prime Farmland within Trinity County has not yet been mapped by the California Department of Conservation's Important Farmland Series Mapping and Monitoring Program (DOC, 2022a). In addition, according to NRCS, soils contained within the project site are not considered Prime Farmland (NRCS, 2023). As such, the project will not convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Statewide Importance (Farmland), to non-agricultural uses. Therefore, the proposed project would result in no impact on this resource category.

(b) No impact:
The project site is not under a current Williamson Act contract and is not zoned for agricultural use. The project parcel's existing General Plan land use designation is Rural Residential (RR) and its existing Zoning designation is Rural Residential (RR). The proposed project would not amend the land use designation and zoning. As such, the proposed project would not create land use compatibility conflicts with an existing agricultural zone or property subject to a Williamson Act Contract. Therefore, the proposed project would result in no impact on this resource category.

(c) No impact:
The project site is not zoned forest land or timberland and is not under a current Timberland Production contract. The project parcel's existing General Plan land use designation is Rural Residential (RR) and its existing Zoning designation is Rural Residential (RR). The parcels immediately surrounding the project are designated by the County's General Plan as Resource (RE) and Rural Residential (RR) and are zoned unclassified (UNC) and Rural Residential (RR), respectively. As such, the proposed project would not conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production. Therefore, the proposed project would result in no impact on this resource category.

(d) No impact:
The project site is currently developed with established residences, water diversion structure, water treatment, water storage, water distribution, access roads, and supporting utilities. The remaining

vegetation in the Action Area primarily consists of grasses, brush, and mixed trees. The condition of the site is not typical of forest land and is not suitable for timber production. The surrounding national forest land is suitable timber production land, but this project will not affect these lands. At most, ten (10) large trees will need to be removed in the Action Area to create a defensible space around the proposed upper water tank. These trees will not be sold as part of a timber sale and will be used by the community as firewood. This firewood will be beneficial in that it will reduce the amount of firewood needing to be sourced in the National Forest. As such, the development of the project would not result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use. Therefore, the proposed project would result in no impact on this resource category.

(e) No impact:
Developing the property for uses consistent with the Housing Element and Community Plan would not be expected to result in the conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or forest land to a non-forest uses. Therefore, the proposed project would result in no impact on this resource category.

Mitigation Measure:
Based on the above evaluation, no mitigation measures are required for the project to result in a less than significant impact.

Findings:
In the course of the above evaluation, impacts associated with this resource category were found to not be significant because of the inability of a project of this scope to create such impacts or the absence of project characteristics producing effects of this type.

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 determinations. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the 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

Environmental Setting:

The project is located in Trinity County, which is a part of the North Coast Air Basin (NCAB). The NCAB extends for 250 miles from Sonoma County in the south to the Oregon border. The climate of NCAB is influenced by two major topographic units: the Klamath Mountains and the Coast Range provinces. The climate is moderate with the predominant weather factor being moist air masses from the ocean. Average annual rainfall in the area is approximately 50 to 60 inches with the majority falling between October and April. Predominant wind direction is typically from the northwest during summer months and from the southwest during winter storm events.

Project activities are subject to the authority of the North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District (NCUAQMD) and the California Air Resources Board (CARB). The NCUAQMD is listed as "attainment" or "unclassified" for all the federal and state ambient air quality in Trinity County. The only exception is for 24-hour particulate (PM10) standards in Humboldt County (which is not a part of the project area). Due to the large size of the NCUAQMD, it is well understood that particulate matter can travel from other areas into Humboldt County (such as from Trinity County) and affect air quality. In the NCUAQMD, particulate matter has been determined to be primarily from vehicles, with the largest source of fugitive emissions from vehicular traffic on unpaved roads.

The project site is located 750 feet west of the SR-299 corridor and surrounding land uses primarily consist of residential development. Burnt Ranch Elementary School is located adjacent to the project site. Sensitive receptors (i.e., children, senior citizens, and acutely or chronically ill people) are more susceptible to the effect of air pollution than the general population. Land uses that are considered sensitive receptors typically include residences, schools, parks, childcare centers, hospitals, convalescent homes, and retirement homes. The nearest known sensitive receptors to the proposed project are several adjacent residences (>50 ft. from the project site). Additional sensitive receptors in the community of Burnt Ranch include, but are not limited to, Burnt Ranch Elementary School (100 ft.). Criteria air pollutants are regulated by the NCUAQMD, CARB, and the Environmental Protection Agency

(EPA). Exposure to criteria air pollutants can cause a myriad of adverse health effects in humans. Human health effects of criteria air pollutants are summarized below in Table 2.

TABLE 2
CRITERIA AIR POLLUTANTS SUMMARY OF COMMON SOURCES AND EFFECTS

Pollutant	Major Sources	Human Health Effects
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	An odorless, colorless gas formed when carbon in fuel is not burned completely; a component of motor vehicle exhaust (CAPCOA, 2011).	Reduces the ability of blood to deliver oxygen to vital tissues, affecting the cardiovascular and nervous system. Impairs vision, causes dizziness, and can lead to unconsciousness or death (CAPCOA, 2011).
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2)	A reddish-brown gas formed during fuel combustion for motor vehicles and industrial sources. Sources include motor vehicles, electric utilities, and other sources that burn fuel (CAPCOA, 2011).	A respiratory irritant; aggravates lung and heart problems. A precursor to ozone. Contributes to global warming and nutrient overloading which deteriorates water quality. Causes brown discoloration of the atmosphere (CAPCOA, 2011).
Ozone (O3)	A colorless or bluish gas (smog) formed by a chemical reaction between reactive organic gases (ROGs) and nitrous oxides (NOx) in the presence of sunlight. Common sources of these precursor pollutants include motor vehicle exhaust, industrial emissions, gasoline storage and transport, solvents, paints, and landfills (CAPCOA, 2011).	Irritates and causes inflammation of the mucous membranes and lung airways; causes wheezing, coughing, and pain when inhaling deeply; decreases lung capacity; aggravates lung and heart problems. Damages plants; reduces crop yield (CAPCOA, 2011).
Particulate Matter (PM10 & PM2.5)	Produced by power plants, chemical plants, unpaved roads and parking lots, wood-burning stoves and fireplaces, automobiles, and others (CAPCOA, 2011).	Increased respiratory symptoms, such as irritation of the airways, coughing, or difficulty breathing; asthma; chronic bronchitis; irregular heartbeat; non-fatal heart attacks; and premature death in people with heart or lung disease. Impairs visibility (CAPCOA, 2011).
Sulfur Dioxide (SO2)	A colorless gas formed when fuel containing sulfur is burned and when gasoline is extracted from oil. Examples are petroleum refineries, cement manufacturing, metal processing facilities, locomotives, and ships (CAPCOA, 2011).	Respiratory irritant. Aggravates lung and heart problems. In the presence of moisture and oxygen, sulfur dioxide converts to sulfuric acid which can damage marble, iron and steel. Damages crops and natural vegetation. Impairs visibility. Precursor to acid rain (CAPCOA, 2011).
Hydrogen Sulfide (H_2S)	A colorless gas with the odor of rotten eggs. The most common sources of H_2S emissions are oil and natural gas extraction and processing, and natural emissions from geothermal fields. It is also formed during bacterial	Can induce tearing of the eyes and symptoms related to overstimulation of the sense of smell, including headache, nausea, or vomiting. A few studies suggest that asthmatics may be at increased risk of

	decomposition of human and animal wastes and is present in emissions from sewage treatment facilities and landfills. Industrial sources include petrochemical plants, coke oven plants, and kraft paper mills (CARB, 2020a).	exacerbation of their asthma symptoms (CARB, 2020a).
Lead	Metallic element emitted from metal refineries, smelters, battery manufacturers, iron and steel producers, use of leaded fuels by racing and aircraft industries (CARB, 2020b).	Anemia, high blood pressure, brain and kidney damage, neurological disorders, cancer, lowered IQ. Affects animals, plants, and aquatic ecosystems (CARB, 2020b).
Sulfate	A sub-fraction of ambient particulate matter. Emissions of sulfur-containing compounds occur primarily from the combustion of petroleum-derived fuels (e.g., gasoline and diesel fuel) that contain sulfur. A small amount of sulfate is directly emitted from combustion of sulfur-containing fuels, but most ambient sulfate is formed in the atmosphere (CARB, 2020c).	Much like health effects of PM2.5, sulfate can cause reduced lung function, aggravated asthmatic symptoms, and increased risk of emergency department visits, hospitalizations, and death in people who have chronic heart or lung diseases (CARB, 2020c).
Vinyl Chloride	A colorless gas with a mild, sweet odor. Most vinyl chloride is used in the process of making polyvinyl chloride (PVC) plastic and vinyl products, thus may be emitted from industrial processes. Vinyl chloride has been detected near landfills, sewage treatment plants, and hazardous waste sites, due to microbial breakdown of chlorinated solvents (CARB, 2020d).	Short-term exposure to high levels (10 ppm or above) of vinyl chloride in air causes central nervous system effects, such as dizziness, drowsiness, and headaches. The primary non-cancer health effect of long-term exposure to vinyl chloride through inhalation or oral exposure is liver damage. Inhalation exposure to vinyl chloride has been shown to increase the risk of angiosarcoma, a rare form of liver cancer in humans (CARB, 2020d).
Visibility Reducing Particles	These particles vary greatly in shape, size, and chemical composition, and come from a variety of natural and manmade sources. Some haze-causing particles are directly emitted to the air such as windblown dust and soot. Others are formed in the air from the chemical transformation of gaseous pollutants (e.g., sulfates, nitrates, organic carbon particles) which are the major constituents of fine PM. These fine particles, caused largely by combustion of fuel, can travel hundreds of miles causing visibility impairment (CARB, 2020e).	Haze not only impacts visibility, but some haze-causing pollutants have been linked to serious health problems and environmental damage as well. Exposure to particles up to 2.5 (PM2.5) and 10 microns (PM10) in diameter in the ambient air can contribute to a broad range of adverse health effects, including premature death, hospitalizations and emergency department visits for worsened heart and lung diseases (CARB, 2020e).

Threshold of Significance:

This Initial Study considers to what degree the proposed project would: interfere with air quality objectives established by the NCUAQMD, CARB, and EPA; contribute pollutants that would violate an existing or projected air quality standard; produce pollutants that would in part contribute to cumulative effects of non-quality standard; produce pollutant loading near sensitive receptors that would cause locally significant air quality impacts; or release odors that would affect a number of receptors.

The NCUAQMD has not adopted any CEQA significance thresholds for analyzing air quality impacts from land use projects. In the absence of adopted thresholds for use in the NCUAQMD, the District recommends the use of thresholds adopted by other air districts in the State. The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) to the south has adopted CEQA significance thresholds and screening criteria for criteria air pollutants. The BAAQMD developed screening criteria to provide lead agencies and project applicants with a conservative indication of whether the land use project could result in potentially significant air quality impacts. If a project falls below the screening criteria, then the project would not result in the generation of criteria air pollutants and/or precursors that exceed the thresholds of significance, and the lead agency or applicant would not need to perform a detailed air quality assessment of their project's air pollutant emissions (BAAQMD, 2017).

Impact Analysis:
Based on a field review by the Planning Department and other agency staff, information provided by the applicant, existing information available to the Planning Department, and observations made on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

(a) No impact:
The NCUAQMD prepared a Draft Particulate Matter Attainment Plan in May 1995, which is only applicable to portions of the District which are nonattainment for PM10 (e.g., Humboldt County; NCUAQMD, 1995). Since Trinity County is in attainment or unclassified for all federal and state ambient air quality standards, including the standards for particulate matter, the project is not subject to the NCUAQMD Attainment Plan (NCUAQMD, 2022). As such, the proposed project would not conflict or obstruct implementation of an applicable air quality plan. Therefore, the proposed project would result in no impact on this resource category.

(b) No impact:
As noted above, the proposed project is located in Trinity County, which is in attainment or unclassified for all federal and state ambient air quality standards, including the standards for particulate matter (NCUAQMD, 2022). As such, the proposed project would not 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. Therefore, the proposed project would result in no impact on this resource category.

(c) Less-than-significant impact with mitigation incorporated:
This discussion addresses whether the proposed project would expose sensitive receptors to substantial concentrations of criteria air pollutants or toxic air contaminants including asbestos, fugitive dust (PM10 and PM2.5) from construction activity, and diesel particulate matter (DPM) from construction equipment and vehicle traffic.

High concentrations of criteria air pollutants and toxic air contaminants can result in adverse health effects to humans. Some population groups are considered more sensitive to air pollution than others; in particular, children, elderly, and acutely or chronically ill persons, especially those with

cardiorespiratory diseases such as asthma and bronchitis. Land uses that generally house more sensitive people include residences, schools, parks, childcare centers, hospitals, convalescent homes, and retirement homes. The nearest known potential sensitive receptors to the proposed project are several adjacent residences (>50 ft. from the project site). Additional sensitive receptors in the community of Burnt Ranch include, but are not limited to Burnt Ranch Elementary School (100 ft.).

The NCUAQMD has not adopted guidance for health risk assessments or health risk significance thresholds. However, on the NCUAQMD's website, the District recommends the use of the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA) guidance document entitled "Health Risk Assessment for Proposed Land Use Projects" to assist lead agencies with the requirements of CEQA when projects may involve exposure to toxic air contaminants. The document primarily focuses on addressing long-term public health risk impacts from and to proposed land use projects. The document does not provide guidance on how risk assessments for construction projects should be addressed in CEQA (CAPCOA, 2009).

Air quality issues occur when sources of air pollutants and sensitive receptors are located near one another. As discussed in the CAPCOA guidance document (2009, pg. 4), there are basically two types of land use projects that have the potential to cause long-term public health risk impacts:

- Land use projects with toxic emissions that impact receptors. Examples of these types of projects include combustion-related power plants, gasoline dispensing facilities, asphalt batch plants, warehouse distribution centers, and quarry operations.

- Land use projects that will place receptors in the vicinity of existing toxic sources. This would occur when residential, commercial, or institutional developments are proposed to be located in the vicinity of existing toxic emission sources such as stationary sources, high traffic roads, freeways, rail yards, and ports.

The following analysis evaluates whether the project would result in construction- or operational related impacts to sensitive receptors.

Construction

Criteria Air Pollutants. Construction of the proposed water system upgrades will include site preparation, grading, water tank construction, trenching, and waterline installation, all of which include activities and equipment which may result in the emission of criteria air pollutants. The BAAQMD has developed project screening criteria to provide lead agencies and project applicants with a conservative indication of whether a project could result in potentially significant impacts related to criteria air pollutant emissions. Projects below the applicable screening criteria would not exceed thresholds for criteria air pollutants established by the BAAQMD for land-use projects, other than permitted stationary sources. BAAQMD screening criteria include an "General light industrial" category which is compared to the construction of the proposed project for the purpose of this analysis. Because the project proposes installation of two water storage tanks and replacement of existing waterlines, which is significantly smaller in size than the BAAQMD screening project, construction of the proposed project is not expected to expose sensitive receptors to substantial concentrations of criteria air pollutants.

Asbestos. The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS, 2011) has published mapping identifying areas that are known to contain naturally occurring asbestos (NOA). The California Department of Conservation (DOC, 2000) has also published mapping of areas more likely to contain naturally occurring asbestos. These mapping sources indicate that there are several locations within Trinity County that are known

to contain NOA. The project site is located near the SR-299 corridor in the community of Burnt Ranch and is not identified as an area that is known to contain or likely to contain NOA. The closest areas containing NOA are located over 40 miles from the project site (USGS, 2011 and DOC, 2000). As such, the project site is not known to contain NOA that could be released during construction activities such as site preparation, grading, and trenching.

Diesel Particulate Matter. The use of diesel-powered equipment during construction activity would generate DPM, which is a known carcinogen. The majority of heavy diesel equipment used during construction activity would occur during grading of the project site. As noted in the Environmental Setting, the project site was cleared of vegetation and graded prior to receipt of the application for the General Plan/Zoning Map Amendment. Since much of the site preparation and grading has already occurred for the project, this would substantially reduce the amount of DPM that would be generated by construction activity.

Exhaust fumes from construction equipment will be isolated to areas immediately surrounding the sources and will dissipate rapidly. Residents and other sensitive receptors located within the vicinity of the project site would be exposed to construction contaminants only for the duration of construction activity. These brief exposure periods would substantially limit exposure to hazardous emissions. In addition, any relevant vehicle or equipment use associated with construction of the project will be subject to CARB standards. The CARB In-Use-Off-Road Diesel Vehicle Regulation applies to certain offroad diesel engines, vehicles, or equipment greater than 25 horsepower. The regulations: 1) imposes limits on idling, requires a written idling policy, and requires a disclosure when selling vehicles; 2) requires all vehicles to be reported to CARB (using the Diesel Off-Road Online Reporting System, DOORS) and labeled; 3) restricts the adding of older vehicles into fleets starting on January 1, 2014; and 4) requires fleets to reduce their emissions by retiring, replacing, or repowering older engines, or installing Verified Diesel Emission Control Strategies, VDECS (i.e., exhaust retrofits). The requirements and compliance dates of the Off-Road regulation vary by fleet size, as defined by the regulation.

Due to the relatively short duration of construction activity requiring heavy diesel equipment (intermittently over approximately twelve months), the low density of sensitive receptors adjacent to the project site, and in compliance with CARB regulations, construction of the proposed project would not be expected to expose sensitive receptors to substantial concentrations of DPM.

Fugitive Dust. Fugitive dust has the potential to be generated during construction from activities including site preparation, grading, and trenching. Fugitive dust generated from construction activity can result in nuisances and localized health impacts. The NCAUQMD Regulation 1 prohibits nuisance dust generation, such as that generated by construction activity. The following standard conditions for controlling dust emissions during construction will be required as Mitigation Measure AQ-1 to reduce impacts from fugitive dust generation.

- All active construction areas (e.g., parking areas, staging areas, soil piles, graded areas, and unpaved access roads) shall be watered a minimum of two times per day during the dry season.
- Hydroseed or apply non-toxic soil stabilizers to inactive construction areas.
- Dust-generating activities shall be limited during periods of high winds (over 15 mph).
- Suspend excavation and grading activity when winds exceed 25 mph.

- All haul trucks transporting soil, sand, or other loose material, likely to give rise to airborne dust, shall be covered.

- All vehicle speeds shall be limited to 15 miles per hour within the construction area.

- Promptly remove earth or other tracked-out material from paved streets onto which earth, or other material has been transported by trucking or earth-moving equipment.

- Conduct digging, backfilling, and paving of utility trenches in such a manner as to minimize the creation of airborne dust.

- Pave the backfilled trenches as soon as practicable after backfilling of the trenches.

With the incorporation of Mitigation Measure AQ-1, the limited duration of construction activities, and the distance of the project site from known sensitive receptors, the proposed project will not expose sensitive receptors to substantial concentrations of fugitive dust.

Therefore, the proposed project's construction activity would result in a less-than-significant impact with mitigation incorporated.

Operation

A water storage and distribution system is not a type of land use that would generally be considered to emit toxic emissions that would expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. As previously noted, these types of land uses typically include combustion-related power plants, gasoline dispensing facilities, asphalt batch plants, warehouse distribution centers, and quarry operations. However, the proposed project does have the potential to result in the emissions of criteria air pollutants, which would be primarily from vehicle traffic. In addition, as a residential development, the project itself is a sensitive receptor.

Criteria Air Pollutants. As noted above, the BAAQMD has developed project screening criteria to provide lead agencies and project applicants with a conservative indication of whether a project could result in potentially significant impacts related to criteria air pollutant emissions. Projects below the applicable screening criteria would not exceed thresholds for criteria air pollutants established by the BAAQMD for land-use projects, other than permitted stationary sources. BAAQMD screening criteria include an "general light industrial" category which is compared to the operation of the proposed project for the purpose of this analysis.

Toxic Air Contaminants. As noted above, as water storage and distribution development, the project itself is a sensitive receptor. There are no land uses within 1,000 feet of the project site that produce significant quantities of toxic air contaminants that would expose customers, employees, etc. to substantial pollutant concentrations (i.e., stationary sources, high traffic roads, freeways, rail yards, and ports). Vehicle traffic on SR-299 is relatively low compared to the thresholds recommended by CAPCOA (2009) for siting of new sensitive land uses (e.g., rural roads with a traffic volume of 50,000 vehicles per day). The most recent data indicates that SR-299 carries an annual average daily traffic volume of 10,700 vehicles per day in the area of the project (Caltrans, 2022b). Therefore, operation of the proposed project would not expose the future residents to substantial quantities of toxic air contaminants, and the project would result in a less-than-significant impact.

Conclusion

Based on the project location, project design, implementation of Mitigation Measure AQ-1, and compliance with existing regulatory requirements, the proposed project will not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations during either construction or operation.

(d) Less than significant impact:
With regard to objectionable odors, the proposed project does not include any construction techniques or other activities that will result in excess or permanent odors that could reasonably be considered objectionable by the general public. Some temporary odors associated with construction-related materials may be present at the project site during construction activities. Materials that may result in excess odors will be stored away from the general public. Therefore, the project will not impact this resource.

Mitigation Measures:
Based on the above evaluation, in order for the proposed project to result in a less-than-significant impact, the following mitigation measure shall be implemented during construction.

AQ-1: The following standard conditions for controlling dust emissions during construction will be required as to reduce impacts from fugitive dust generation:

- All active construction areas (e.g., parking areas, staging areas, soil piles, graded areas, and unpaved access roads) shall be watered a minimum of two times per day during the dry season.
- Hydroseed or apply non-toxic soil stabilizers to inactive construction areas. · Dust-generating activities shall be limited during periods of high winds (over 15 mph).
- Suspend excavation and grading activity when winds exceed 25 mph.
- All haul trucks transporting soil, sand, or other loose material, likely to give rise to airborne dust, shall be covered.
- All vehicle speeds shall be limited to 15 miles per hour within the construction area.
- Promptly remove earth or other tracked-out material from paved streets onto which earth, or other material has been transported by trucking or earth-moving equipment.
- Conduct digging, backfilling, and paving of utility trenches in such a manner as to minimize the creation of airborne dust.
- Pave the backfilled trenches as soon as practicable after backfilling of the trenches.

Findings:
With the implementation of the mitigation measures identified, the proposed project will have a less-than-significant impact to this resource category.

IV. Biological Resources Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modification, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the CDFW or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)?			X	
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the CDFW or FWS?				X
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on 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

Environmental Setting:

Rob Meade and Mikayla Loucks conducted a biological assessment, habitat evaluation and special status species survey in April, 2023. The results of the evaluation and survey are attached to this Initial Study (Appendix B). In addition to analyzing potential effects of the project to biological resources, Appendix B provides a description of habitat at the project site, results of the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) query, and potential project effects on special status species, riparian habitat, and wetlands. As outlined by the Biological Assessment, the project site and immediate surroundings does not contain any onsite streams, lakes, ponds, wetlands, vernal pools, wet meadows, or perennially wet areas. Land uses in the vicinity of the project parcel are primarily residential and commercial developments. There are no managed reserves or wildlife areas in the vicinity.

A wildlife evaluation was conducted to determine if habitat potentially capable of supporting endangered, threatened, proposed, or candidate species is present, or may be present, in the study area. The wildlife evaluation was conducted in two stages. First, historical occurrence databases were

queried to identify federally listed, proposed, and candidate animal species previously reported in the vicinity of the study area, and/or potentially affected by construction within this project. These records include CNDDB records (CDFW, 2023), and critical habitat GIS data maintained by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS, 2023) and USFWS (USFWS, 2023), all listed above. The second stage of the project consisted of a habitat and species study within and just beyond the bounds of the imprint of the study area. Based on the results of the records review and this field evaluation, the potential for federally listed, proposed, and candidate animal species to utilize habitats in the study area was determined to be minimal. A field study was completed on April 22, 2023, by Robert Meade and Mikayla Loucks. A species list of candidate animal species to utilize habitats in the study area is included in the biological assessment.

A botanical evaluation was conducted to determine if habitat potentially capable of supporting federally listed, proposed, or candidate plant species exists in the study area. The botanical evaluation was completed in two stages. First, historical occurrence databases were queried to identify state or federally listed, proposed, and candidate species previously reported in the vicinity of the study area, and/or species that could potentially be affected by the construction within this project. These records included the USFWS species list for the quadrangle, CNDDB records (CDFW, 2023), and critical habitat geographic information system (GIS) data maintained by the USFWS (USFWS, 2023). The second stage of the study consisted of a field visit and survey of the natural environment in and near the project footprint. The survey generally followed the CDFW Protocol for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Natural Communities, 2009. Botanical threatened and endangered species (TES) were the most likely life forms to be discovered on or near the parcel.

The Action Area is located in the community of Burnt Ranch between Ironside Mountain and Hennessey Ridge. The site is entirely upland habitat without any surface water onsite. The Action Area consists of two water tank sites (upper tank and lower tank). The upper tank site is approximately 0.25 acres and the lower tank site is approximately 0.13 acres. The upper tank site will be cleared and graded to accommodate a new 80,000-gallon water tank. The 40,000-gallon lower tank site is largely void of vegetation and will be constructed in the same footprint as the existing water tank. Soil disturbance will be minimal at this location. The remainder of the project is to replace existing waterline in previously disturbed areas. Replaced waterlines will be located in the existing paved roads and their shoulders.

Like much of California, the Burnt Ranch community experiences a Mediterranean climate. Warm, dry summers are followed by cool, moist winters. Summer temperatures often reach above 90 degrees Fahrenheit, and the humidity is generally low. Winter temperatures are often below 40 degrees Fahrenheit during the day and dip down into the teens at night. On average, the site receives approximately 40-50 inches of precipitation in the form of rainfall yearly, most of which occurs between October and April.

The Oak Woodlands Conservation: Environmental Quality Senate Bill (PRC 21083.4) was passed in 2004. The goal of the regulation is no net loss of oak woodland. An oak is defined as any Quercus species that is 5 inches diameter at breast height (DBH) or larger. The 5 inches or greater oaks must comprise 10% or more of the vegetation assemblage to qualify as oak woodland. As a result of this regulation, the County acting as a CEQA lead agency must determine whether a project will result in a significant impact, or loss of oak woodlands. This law requires that significant impacts be mitigated to maintain the natural oak woodland extent and habitat function.

Threshold of Significance:
This Initial Study considers whether the planned project would result in a significant adverse direct or indirect effects to: individuals of any plant or animal species (including fish) listed as rare, threatened, or endangered by the federal or state government, or effects on the habitat of such species; more than an incidental and minor area of riparian habitat or other sensitive habitat (including wetlands) types identified under federal, state, or local policies; more than an incidental and minor area or wetland identified under federal, or state criteria; key habitat areas that provide for continuity of movement for resident or migratory fish or wildlife; other biological resources identified in planning policies adopted by Trinity County.

A significant impact is defined as a project that has the potential to result in a "taking" of a species listed, or proposed for listing, or a candidate for listing under the state and/or federal Endangered Species Act, or protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, or otherwise considered to have a special status in local plans, or to substantially modify the habitat for such species.

Examples of areas where impacts are presumed to be significant include:

- Direct removal of riparian vegetation.
- Disruption of riparian wildlife habitat, particularly animal dispersal corridors and/or understory vegetation.
- Intrusion within the upland edge of the riparian canopy (generally within 50 feet in urbanized areas and within 100 feet in rural areas and along major rivers), leading to potential disruption or animal migration, breeding, etc. through increased noise, light and glare, and human and domestic animal intrusion.
- Disruption of a substantial amount of adjacent upland vegetation where such vegetation plays a critical role in supporting riparian dependent wildlife species (i.e., amphibians), or where such vegetation aids in stabilizing steep slopes adjacent to the riparian corridor, which reduces erosion and sedimentation potential.
- Construction activity that disrupts critical time periods (nesting, breeding) for fish and other wildlife species.
- Removal or severe disturbance to native grassland, 1/4 acre or greater, would be considered significant. Removal or severe disturbance to a patch or patches of native grassland less than 1/4 acre, which are not clearly isolated and are a part of a significant native grassland or an integral component of a larger ecosystem, would also be considered significant.
- Result in a net loss of important wetland area or wetland habitat value, either through direct or indirect impacts to wetland vegetation, degradation of water quality, or threaten the continuity of wetland-dependent animal or plant species.
- Substantially interrupt wildlife access, use, and dispersal in wetland areas and between contiguous habitats through riparian areas.
- Diminish hydrological conditions, such as the quantity and quality of fun-off, of wetland systems.
- Reduce or eliminate species diversity or abundance.
- Reduce or eliminate quantity or quality of nesting areas.
- Limit reproductive capacity through losses of individuals or habitat.
- Fragment, eliminate, or otherwise disrupt foraging areas and/or access to food sources.
- Limit or fragment range and movement (geographic distribution or animals and/or seed dispersal routes).
- Interfere with natural processes, such as fire or flooding, upon which the habitat depends.

Examples of areas where impacts are presumed to be insignificant include:

- Individuals or stands of non-native trees if not used by important animal species, such as raptors or other nesting migratory birds.
- Areas of historical disturbance, such as intensive agriculture or mining.
- Small pockets of habitats already significantly fragmented or isolated, and degraded or disturbed.
- Areas of primarily ruderal vegetation resulting from pre-existing man-made disturbance.

Impact Analysis:

Based on a staff review of the provided biological assessment and existing information available to the Community Development Dept, and observations made on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

(a) Less than significant:
Substantial suitable habitat for special status plant species is not located within portions of the project area that will be disturbed by construction. No special status species were detected during the focused botanical survey (Appendix B); therefore, the proposed project is not expected to result in any impacts to special status plants and impact will be less than significant.

(b) No Impact:
According to the Biological Assessment in Appendix B, there are no riparian habitats or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the CDFW or FWS located within the project or in an area potentially affected by the project.

(c) No impact**:**
According to the Biological Assessment in Appendix B, there are no jurisdictional wetlands located within the project or in an area potentially affected by the project.

(d) Less than significant impact**:**
The proposed project will not interfere with the movement of any native or migratory fish or wildlife species including wildlife corridors and was determined to be a less than significant impact to this resource category.

(e) No impact:
The proposed project will not conflict with any local policies, ordinances, or recommendations to protect biological resources, such as those contained in the Trinity County Open Space Element of the General Plan (1973).

(f) No impact:
The project area is not subject to the provisions of a Habitat Conservation Plan, therefore, there is no impact to this resource category.

Based on the results of a biological assessment and focused botanical surveys, the proposed project will have less than a significant impact on biological resources.

Mitigation Measures:

Based on the above evaluation, no mitigation measures are required for the project to result in a less than significant impact.

Findings:
In the course of the above evaluation, impacts associated with this resource category were found to not be significant because of the inability of a project of this scope to create such impacts or the absence of project characteristics producing effects of this type.

V. Cultural Resources Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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		

Archaeological and other resources can be damaged through uncontrolled public disclosure. Archeological site locations and culturally sensitive information is considered confidential and public access to such information is restricted by State and federal law; therefore, this information has been redacted for use in this Initial Study. Professionally qualified individuals, as determined by the California Office of Historic Preservation, may contact the lead agency in order to inquire about its availability.

Information regarding the location, character, or ownership of a historic resource is exempt from the Freedom of Information Act pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 470w-3 (National Historic Preservation Act) and 16 U.S.C. § 470hh (Archaeological Resources Protection Act) and California State Government Code, Section 6254.10.

Environmental Setting:
The project location was subject to a cultural resources investigation by William Rich and Associates pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800, implementing Section 106, as well as, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The investigation was designed to ensure known cultural resources were accounted for and to employ methods to identify any new cultural resources that are present. This was accomplished by completing a records search at the Northeast Center of the California Historical Resources Information System (NEIC) (No. D21-109) for the project area and a surrounding 0.5-mile radius buffer. William Rich and Associates also corresponded with the Native American Heritage Commission and local Native American Tribes. William Rich also visited the Trinity County Historical Society and Museum and spoke with several individuals with expertise in the Burnt Ranch area history. An intensive field survey of the entire project area was completed on June 8, 2023.

Consultation was undertaken with the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) regarding sacred tribal lands listings for the project site. An information request letter was delivered to the NAHC on June 20, 2023. The NAHC has not responded as of the writing of this report. A preliminary tribal notification, for their opportunity to provide comment on the project, was initiated by William Rich and Associates on June 20, 2023 with the Nor-Rel-Muk Nation, the Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation, Tsnungwe Council, Wintu Tribe of Northern California, the Wintu Tribe of Northern California, and the Wintu Educational and Cultural Council. The Nor-Rel-Muk Nation responded on June 29, 2023 indicating they could provide certified monitors should they be needed. No other responses were received from these entities.

Trinity County initiated formal AB 52 proceedings on July 10, 2024 with a 14-day deadline of July 24, 2024. One response was received, from the chairman of the Tsnungwe Tribe, who offered support for the project. The response is included as an attachment to Appendix A.

The cultural resources investigation conducted by William Rich and Associates can be found in Appendix A of this document.

The survey reports and resource records on file at the NEIC indicate that no cultural resources are known within the project area; however, within 0.5 miles, previous survey efforts have identified five historic period cultural resources. A review of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), California Register of Historic Resources (CRHR), California Historic Landmarks, California Inventory of Historic Resources, Historic Properties Directory and Archaeological Determinations of eligibility yielded no findings for the project area or the surrounding search buffer.

Threshold of Significance:
This Initial Study considers to what degree the proposed project would cause physical changes in the significance of known or newly identified historical resources, unique archaeological sites that contain important information, tribal cultural resources, paleontological resources or human burial locations.

The threshold of significance for this project to cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource is defined by CEQA Guidelines section 15064.5(b).

The threshold of significance for this project to cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource is identified in detail in Public Resource Code Section 21083.2.

The threshold of significance for projects that disturb any human remains is classified as disturbance of any (all or in part) human remains.

Impact Analysis:
Based on a field review by the Planning Department and other agency staff, information provided by the applicant, existing information available to the Planning Department, and observations made on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

(a) Less than significant with mitigation incorporated:
According to the Cultural Resources Investigation, the project site is not associated with any historically significant individuals or events (NRHP Criterion A or B: CRHR Criterion 1 or 2) and no evidence suggests it involves the work of a master, or the earliest or best examples of its kind (NHRP Criterion C; CRHR Criterion 3). The Cultural Resources Investigation concluded that no significant historical resources for the purposes of CEQA (Section 15064.5(a)) were identified within the proposed project area; additionally, tribal cultural resources (PRC 21074) do not appear to be present (WRA, 2021). Although the discovery of historical resources during construction is not anticipated, the Investigation recommended the incorporation of inadvertent discovery protocols to ensure that potential impacts to inadvertently discovered resources are eliminated or reduced to less-than-significant levels (WRA, 2023). This recommendation is incorporated as Mitigation Measure CUL-1. With the incorporation of Mitigation Measure CUL-1, the proposed project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a less-than-significant impact with mitigation incorporated.

(b) Less than significant with mitigation incorporated:

Currently there are no recorded archaeological sites within the project vicinity. The project is located in a previously disturbed environment due to the recent grading activities and historic mining operations. The Cultural Resources Investigation concluded that no significant historical or archeological resources for the purposes of CEQA (Section 15064.5(a)) were identified within the proposed project area; additionally, tribal cultural resources (PRC 21074) do not appear to be present. Although the discovery of cultural resources during construction is not anticipated, the Investigation recommended the incorporation of inadvertent discovery protocols to ensure that potential impacts to inadvertently discovered cultural resources are eliminated or reduced to less-than-significant levels (WRA, 2023). This recommendation is incorporated as Mitigation Measure CUL-1. With the incorporation of Mitigation Measure CUL-1, the proposed project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Section 15064.5. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a less-than-significant impact with mitigation incorporated.

(c) Less than significant with mitigation incorporated:
No formal cemeteries or other places of human internment are anticipated to exist on the project site due to its history of disturbance, including mining and grading. No evidence of any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries were observed during the pedestrian survey conducted by WRA. However, there is a possibility that human remains and historic burial sites could exist in the area and may be uncovered during project development. As such, if human remains are discovered during project construction, work will stop at the discovery location, within 20 meters (66 feet), and any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie human remains (Public Resources Code, Section 7050.5). The Trinity County Coroner will be contacted to determine if the cause of death must be investigated. If the Coroner determines that the remains are of Native American origin, it will be necessary to comply with state laws relating to the disposition of Native American burials, which fall within the jurisdiction of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC; Public Resources Code, Section 5097). The Coroner will contact the NAHC. The descendants, or most likely descendants, of the deceased will be contacted and work will not resume until they have made a recommendation to the landowner or the person responsible for the excavation work for means of treatment and disposition, with appropriate dignity, of the human remains and any associated grave goods, as provided in Public Resources Code, Section 5097.98. Work may resume if the NAHC is unable to identify a descendant or the descendant failed to make a recommendation.

To prevent potential impacts to unknown human remains at the project site, the above inadvertent discovery protocol is included as Mitigation Measure CUL-2. With the proposed mitigation measure, the project will not disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a less-than-significant impact with mitigation incorporated.

Mitigation Measures:
Based on the above evaluation, in order to ensure the proposed project will result in a less-than-significant impact, the following mitigation measures shall be implemented.

CUL-1: If cultural resources are encountered during construction activities, all onsite work shall cease in the immediate area and within a 50-foot buffer of the discovery location. A qualified archaeologist will be retained to evaluate and assess the significance of the discovery, and develop and implement an avoidance or mitigation plan, as appropriate. For discoveries known or likely to be associated with Native American heritage (prehistoric sites and select historic period sites), the tribes listed in Section 4.3 or those on file with the County should also be contacted immediately to evaluate the discovery and, in consultation with the project proponent, the County, and consulting archaeologist, develop a treatment plan in any instance where significant impacts cannot be avoided. Prehistoric materials

which could be encountered include obsidian and chert debitage or formal tools, grinding implements, (e.g., pestles, handstones, bowl mortars, slabs), locally darkened midden, deposits of shell, faunal remains, and human burials. Historic archaeological discoveries may include early-20th century mining equipment, building foundations, structural remains, or concentrations of artifacts made of glass, ceramics, metal, or other materials found in buried pits, wells or privies.

CUL-2: If human remains are discovered during project construction, work will stop at the discovery location, within 20 meters (66 feet), and any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie human remains (Public Resources Code, Section 7050.5). The Trinity County Coroner will be contacted to determine if the cause of death must be investigated. If the Coroner determines that the remains are of Native American origin, it will be necessary to comply with state laws relating to the disposition of Native American burials, which fall within the jurisdiction of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC; Public Resources Code, Section 5097). The Coroner will contact the NAHC. The descendants, or most likely descendants, of the deceased will be contacted and work will not resume until they have made a recommendation to the landowner or the person responsible for the excavation work for means of treatment and disposition, with appropriate dignity, of the human remains and any associated grave goods, as provided in Public Resources Code, Section 5097.98. Work may resume if the NAHC is unable to identify a descendant or the descendant failed to make a recommendation.

Findings:
With the implementation of the mitigation measures identified, the proposed project will have a less-than-significant impact to this resource category.

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

Environmental Setting:

In Trinity County, electrical energy is used as a transportation fuel, lighting, and HVAC energy in homes, businesses, industries, and agriculture. Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) serves the Burnt Ranch Community.

Threshold of Significance:

This Initial Study considers if the proposed project will result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation and if it conflicts with any state or local plan for renewable energy or efficiencies.

The following includes an analysis of environmental parameters related to Energy based on Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines. The discussion not only includes the areas for which there is potential for environmental impacts but also provides justification for the conclusions that either no impacts, less than significant impacts, or less than significant impacts with mitigation could occur.

Impact Analysis:

Based on a field review by the Planning Department and other agency staff, information provided by the applicant, existing information available to the Planning Department, and observations made on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

(a) Less than significant impact:

During construction of the proposed project, energy would be consumed in the form of petroleum-based fuels used to power construction vehicles, equipment, portable generators, construction worker travel, delivery trucks. Construction activities will likely consist of site preparations, grading, trenching, paving, and building construction. There are no unusual project characteristics that would need construction equipment or practices that would be less energy efficient than at comparable construction sites in the region or state. Construction activity would be temporary and fuel consumption would cease once construction ends. Further, various equipment would be supplied by onsite generators, and would not require permanent connectors to or otherwise burden local utilities. Due to the temporary nature of construction activities, the fuel and energy needed during project construction would not be considered a wasteful or inefficient use of energy. Therefore, it is expected that construction energy consumption would be comparable to other similar construction projects and is not considered to be inefficient, wasteful, or unnecessary.

Energy use during long term operation of the project will remain at pre-project levels. There will be no impact on long term energy use from the proposed project. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a less than significant impact on this resource category.

(**b)** No impact:
There are no local plans for renewable energy or energy efficiency. California passed AB 32 which requires local governments to take an active role in addressing climate change and reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions using methods such as energy efficiency in new development. As noted above, the proposed project would consistent with other residential construction and developments in the County. It has been determined that the proposed project would not conflict or obstruct a state plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency. Therefore, the proposed project would result in no impact in this resource category.

Mitigation Measures:
Based on the above evaluation, no mitigation measures are required for the project to result in a less than significant impact.

Findings:
In the course of the above evaluation, impacts associated with this resource category were found to not be significant because of the inability of a project of this scope to create such impacts or the absence of project characteristics producing effects of this type.

VII. Geology and Soils Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:			X	
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area 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 18-1-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 geologic feature?			X	

Environmental Setting:

Trinity County has historically experienced very low levels of seismicity and has a relatively low seismic risk compared to the rest of California. Trinity County was not determined to be affected by existing Earthquake Fault Zones under the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act and does not have a relatively high potential for ground rupture (Trinity County, 2014). Burnt Ranch is in a region of low historic seismicity and little-known quaternary faulting. However, the region may be subjected to low to moderate levels of ground shaking from nearby or distant earthquake.

The potential for liquefaction, which is the loss of soil strength due to seismic forces, is dependent on soil types and density, depth to groundwater, and the duration and intensity of ground shaking. Although no specific liquefaction hazard areas have been identified in the county, this potential is recognized where unconsolidated sediments and a high-water table coincide. According to the United States Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service soil survey in Trinity County, liquefaction risk in the Project area is low (USGS, 2023).

Subsidence occurs when a large land area settles due to over-saturation or extensive withdrawal of ground water, oil, or natural gas. These areas are typically composed of open-textured soils that become saturated. These areas are high in silt or clay content. The Project site is comprised of Urban Land -Xeralfs Complex with 5-30% slopes. It is moderately well drained with a low risk of subsidence. According to the United States Geological Survey, the Project site is not located within an area that has experienced subsidence (USGS, 2023).

There are no dams or levees within the vicinity of the Project that would cause inundation of the site during failure of a dam or levee. The impoundment structure on McDonald Creek is extremely small and only impounds 1-2 feet of water, therefore it will not cause inundation during a failure. In addition, the Project site lies approximately 2,600 feet west of the nearest flood zone.

Threshold of Significance:
This Initial Study considers project-related effects that could involve: damage to project as a result of fault movement along a fault zoned by the State under the Alquist-Priolo Act, or other known faults, strong seismic ground shaking secondary seismic effects (including liquefaction), or landslides; excessive soil erosion resulting from project; project-derived instability of earth materials that could subsequently fail, damaging structures or environmental resources on proposed development; location of project elements on expansive soils that may be damaging to existing structures; have soils inadequate of supporting septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems; directly or indirectly destroy unique paleontological resource or unique geologic features.

A geological soils report has been prepared for this project and can be found in appendix E.

Impact Analysis:
Based on a field review by the Planning Department and other agency staff, information provided by the applicant, existing information available to the Planning Department, and observations made on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

(a) Less than significant impact:
This site is located in a region of low seismicity, where there is low potential for strong ground shaking and liquefaction during large earthquakes. However, the project as proposed will not exacerbate regional seismicity or other geologic thresholds of significance. The exposure to strong ground shaking at the site is no greater at this site than elsewhere in the region. The proposed infrastructure upgrade calls for the construction of a maximum 90-unit multiple family residential build with a three-story limit. It is not likely that the construction activities would pose a danger to people or property if not properly built and seismically restrained per the California Building Code.

i. Less than significant impact:
The project area was reviewed for the presence of active earthquake faults. There are no known active faults that cross the project area, and the site is not within an Alquist-Priolo Fault Zone. Faults in the project vicinity represent geologic contacts formed millions of years ago, and are currently inactive. Based on the absence of known active faults, fault rupture hazard for the community of Burnt Ranch is less than significant. The nearest

known active fault is located approximately 10 miles west of the project. Based on this existing information, there will be no impact to the project components from impacts related to surface fault rupture.

ii. Less than significant impact:
The project site has the potential to experience a seismic event of magnitude seven or greater during its lifetime at which time the project would be subject to varying degrees of seismically induced shaking. Historic seismology and paleo seismic studies in the area suggest there are 6 distinct sources of damaging earthquakes in the North Coast region (Delngler et al., 1992). Seismic effects produced by large earthquakes from more distant sources are likely to be significantly less severe, but may still impact the site. Standard design, engineering, and construction practices meeting current California Building Codes will provide adequate protection for buildings, pipelines, and other facilities anticipated for the project. The implementation of these standard practices will allow the project to have a less than significant impact.

iii. Less than significant impact:
Based on the soils report and as evident by the development in the area, the proposed project site does not have known liquefiable soils. Standard design, engineering, and construction practices meeting current California Building Codes will provide adequate protection for buildings, pipelines, and other facilities anticipated for the project. The implementation of these standard practices will allow the project to have a less than significant impact.

iv. Less than significant impact:
New tanks will be located on flat terrain by utilizing graded flats used for existing tanks, or by grading new areas as needed and in compliance with local code. No evidence or documentation of recent landslides ware observed at the proposed site. It appears that the project is feasible from a geologic and geotechnical standpoint, as long as the geologic limitations are considered in project design. Standard design, engineering, and construction practices meeting current California Building Codes will provide adequate protection for buildings, pipelines, and other facilities anticipated for the project. The implementation of these standard practices will allow the project to have a less than significant impact.

(b) Less than significant impact:
Construction of the proposed project would result in surface and subsurface disturbances. Onsite fill soils may be susceptible to erosion by storm water runoff that occurs during intense rainfall. Erosion controls including placement of straw bale sediment barriers, silt fences, straw fiber rolls, stockpile covers, and other Best Management Practices (BMPs) are required by permitting agencies and adopted as commonly used on construction projects of this magnitude. Furthermore, a project of this size will be subject to a county grading permit and a State Construction General Permit (CGP). These permits will incorporate BMPs. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a less than significant impact.

(c) Less than significant impact:
Portions of the proposed project are not located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project. The project site is moderately steep. According to the site soils report, liquefaction of soil is not considered potentially significant in the Burnt Ranch Plan Area (Soils Report, 2023).

(d) Less than significant impact:
Expansive soils are those that undergo a change in volume when exposed to fluctuation in moisture, causing shrinking when dry and swelling when moist. Such a change in volume can distort structural elements and damage structures. Typically, soils with high clay content are most susceptible. Based on the mapped geology and general nature of the site soil conditions, the soils are not considered to be expansive. As such, the proposed project will not be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code, creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a less than significant impact on this resource category.

(e) No impact:
The project does not require the construction of new septic tanks or leach fields. Therefore, the proposed project would result in no impact on this resource category.

(f) Less than significant impact:
Paleontological resources are classified as nonrenewable scientific resources, such as vertebrate, invertebrate, and plat fossils. The entire property exhibits evidence of ground disturbance from past grading, and mineral mining. Due to the surface disturbances of the site, the presence of unique paleontological resources or unique geologic features is unlikely.

Ground disturbing activities associated with the proposed project has the potential to result in the accidental damage of previously undiscovered paleontological resources if such exist at the project site. As such, if a paleontological discovery is made during construction, the contractor shall immediately cease all work activities within 100 feet of the discovery and immediately contact the County. A qualified paleontologist shall be retained to observe all subsequent grading and excavation activities. The paleontologist shall establish procedures for resource surveillance and establish, in cooperation with the project developer, procedures for temporarily halting or redirecting work to permit sampling, identification, and evaluation of fossils. If major resources are discovered that require temporarily halting or redirection of work, the paleontologist shall report such findings to the County. The paleontologist shall determine appropriate actions, in cooperation with the applicant and County that ensure proper explorations and/or salvage. Excavated finds shall first be offered to a state-designated repository such as the museum of Paleontology, University of California, Berkeley, or California Academy of Sciences. Otherwise, the finds shall be offered to the County for purposes of public education and interpretive displays. The paleontologist shall submit a follow up report to the County that shall include the period of inspection, an analysis of the fossils found, and the present repository of fossils. To prevent potential impacts to unknown resources at the project site, an inadvertent discovery protocol is included in the Mitigation Measures.

With the proposed mitigation measures, the project will not disturb and unique paleontological resources or unique geologic reassures. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated.

Mitigation Measures:
GEO-1: If paleontological resources are encountered during construction activities, all onsite work shall cease in the immediate area and within a 50-foot buffer of the discovery location. A qualified archaeologist will be retained to evaluate and assess the significance of the discovery, and develop and implement an avoidance or mitigation plan, as appropriate. For discoveries known or likely to be associated with Native American heritage (prehistoric sites and select historic period sites), mitigation measure CUL-1 would apply.

Findings: In the course of the above evaluation, impacts associated with this resource category were found to not be significant because of the inability of a project of this scope to create such impacts or the absence of project characteristics producing effects of this type.

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

Environmental Setting:

Greenhouse gases (GHGs) are gases in the atmosphere that absorb and emit radiation. The greenhouse effect traps heat in the troposphere through a three-fold process, summarized as follows: short-wave radiation emitted by the sun is absorbed by the Earth; the Earth emits a portion of this energy in the form of longwave (thermal) radiation, and GHGs in the upper atmosphere absorb and emit this longwave radiation into space and toward the Earth. This "trapping" of the longwave radiation emitted back toward the Earth is the underlying process of the greenhouse effect. Other than water vapor, the primary GHGs contributing to global climate change include the following gases:

- Carbon dioxide (CO_2), primarily a byproduct of fossil fuel combustion in stationary and mobile sources.
- Nitrous oxide (N_2O), a byproduct of fuel combustion and also associated with agricultural operations such as the fertilization of crops;
- Methane (CH_4), commonly created by off-gassing from agricultural practices (e.g., livestock), wastewater treatment, and landfill operations;
- Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), which were used as refrigerants, propellants, and cleaning solvents, although their production has been mostly prohibited by international treaty;
- Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), which are now widely used as a substitute for chlorofluorocarbons in refrigeration and cooling;
- Perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulfur hexafluoride (SF6) emissions, which are commonly created by industries such as aluminum production and semiconductor manufacturing.

Global climate change is not confined to a particular project area and is generally accepted as the consequence of GHG emissions from global industrialization over the last 200 years. A typical project, even a very large one, does not generate enough GHG emissions on its own to influence global climate change significantly; hence, the issue of global climate change is, by definition, a cumulative environmental impact.

California passed Assembly Bill 32 (Global Warming Solutions Act) in 2006, mandating a reduction in GHG emissions and Senate Bill 97 in 2007, evaluating and addressing GHG under CEQA. On April 13, 2009, the Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) submitted to the Secretary for Natural Resources its proposed amendments to the state CEQA Guidelines for GHG emissions, as required by Senate Bill 97 {Chapter 185, 2007} and they became effective March 18, 2010. As a result of these revisions to the CEQA Guidelines, lead agencies are obligated to determine whether a project's GHG emissions significantly affect the environment and to impose feasible mitigation to eliminate or substantially lessen any such significant effects. A lead agency is not responsible for wholly eliminating

all GHG emissions from a project; the CEQA standard is to mitigate to a level that is "less-than-significant" or, in the case of cumulative impacts, less than cumulatively considerable (SMAQMD, 2018).

The Global Warming Solutions Act (AB 32) also directed CARB to develop the Climate Change Scoping Plan (Scoping Plan), which outlines a set of actions to achieve the AB 32 goal of reducing GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, and to maintain such reductions thereafter. CARB approved the Scoping Plan in 2008 and first updated it in May 2014. The second update in November 2017 also address the actions necessary to achieve the further GHG emissions reduction goal of reducing GHG emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030, as described in Senate Bill 32 (SB 32). In addition, the 2017 Scoping Plan looks forward to the reduction goal of reducing emissions 80 percent under 1990 levels by 2050, as described in Executive Order S-3-05 (EO-S-3-05; CARB, 2017). According to CARB, in 2019, emissions from GHG emitting activities statewide were 418.2 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (MMTCO2e), 7.2 MMTCO2e lower than 2018 levels and almost 13 MMTCO2e below the 2020 GHG limit of 431 MMTCO2e (CARB, 2021).

In Trinity County, energy is used as a transportation fuel, electrical lighting, and HVAC energy in homes, businesses, industries, and agriculture.

This project is located in a developed community. The project seeks to make improvements to existing facilities. These improvements will not increase or decrease long term emission. Emissions will be temporarily increased during construction.

Threshold of Significance:
This IS considers to what degree the proposed project would generate GHG emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant effect on the environment; or conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHGs.

There are several unique challenges to analyzing GHG emissions and climate change, largely because of the global nature of climate change. Most environmental analyses examine the "project specific" impacts that a particular project is likely to generate. With regard to global warming however, it is generally accepted that while the magnitude of global warming effects is substantial, the contribution of an individual project is so small, that direct project specific impacts are highly unlikely.

The project site is located in the North Coast Air Basin and is under the jurisdiction of the NCUAQMD. Neither Trinity County nor the NCUAQMD have adopted quantitative thresholds for determining the significance of GHG emissions from land use projects. In addition, Trinity County does not have an adopted Climate Action Plan. In the absence of quantitative thresholds or a Climate Action Plan, the NCUAQMD recommends the use of thresholds and guidance provided by other air districts in the State.

In the North Coast Air Basin, the closest air district to the proposed project that has adopted GHG significance thresholds is the Mendocino County Air Quality Management District (MCAQMD). MCAQMD has adopted an operational emissions threshold of 1,100 metric tons of CO2e per year (MTCO2e/year; MCAQMD, 2010). This threshold is also recommended for use by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD, 2017) and the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD). The SMAQMD recommends use of this threshold for analyzing GHG emissions from construction activity. This threshold was developed to ensure at least 90 percent of new GHG emissions would be reviewed and assessed for mitigation, thereby contributing to GHG emissions reduction goals of AB 32, SB 32, the Scoping Plan, and Executive Orders (SMAQMD, 2018). As such, this threshold has been adopted for use in the North Coast Air Basin and is one of the most

used thresholds in the State for analyzing the potential impacts of construction and operational GHG emissions. For the reasons noted above, the threshold of 1,100 MTCO2e/year is used to evaluate the proposed project's construction and operational GHG emissions. If the threshold is exceeded, then the project would have a cumulatively considerable contribution to a significant cumulative environmental impact and would conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purposes of reducing GHG emissions.

Impact Analysis:
The following includes an analysis of environmental parameters related to Greenhouse Gas Emissions based on Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines. The discussion not only includes the areas for which there is potential for environmental impacts but also provides justification for the conclusions that either no impacts, less than significant impacts, or less than significant impacts with mitigation could occur.

Based on a field review by the Planning Department and other agency staff, information provided by the applicant, existing information available to the Planning Department, and observations made on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

(a) Less than significant impact:
Both construction and operation GHG emissions for the proposed project were estimated by Environmental Permitting Specialists using the California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod), which is a statewide land-use emissions computer model designed to provide a uniform platform for government agencies to quantify potential criteria for air pollutants and GHG emissions associated with both construction and operations from a verity of land use projects. The model applies inherent default values for various land uses, including trip generation rates, vehicle mix, trip length, average speed, etc. It is estimated from CalEEMod that the construction project would produce below the threshold of significance of 1,100 CO2e MT/yr as defined above.

As noted above, neither the NCUAQMD nor Trinity County has established thresholds of significance for evaluating a project's GHG emissions. Since there are no applicable thresholds for projects in the Air District or Trinity County, the NCUAQMD recommends the use of thresholds and guidance provided by other air districts in the State such as the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD). The BAAQMD has developed project screening criteria to provide lead agencies and project applicants with a conservative indication of whether a project could result in potentially significant impacts related to greenhouse gas emissions. Projects below the applicable screening criteria would not exceed the 1,100 metric tons (MT) of CO_2e ($MTCO_2e$) per year GHG threshold established by the BAAQMD for land use projects. Based on the discussion above, the development of the project would have a less than significant impact on this resource category.

(b) Less than significant impact:
A GHG impact would be considered significant if GHG emissions from the proposed project would conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation for the purpose of reducing GHG emissions. To date, a Climate Action Plan has not been adopted by Trinity County. For the proposed project, it was analyzed whether the emissions obstruct compliance with the GHG emissions reduction goals in Assembly Bill (AB32), Senate Bill 32 (SB32), Executive Order S-3-05 (EO S-3-05), and the Trinity County 2016 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

The proposed project is subject to many state regulations applicable to project design, construction, and operation that would reduce GHG emissions, increase energy efficiency, and provide compliance with the California Air Resources Board (CARB) Climate Change Scoping Plan (CARB, 2017). The State

of California has the most progressive GHG regulatory requirements in the United States, with laws and regulations requiring reductions that affect project emissions. Legal mandates to reduce GHG emissions from the energy production sector that will serve the proposed project would also reduce project-related GHG emissions from power consumption. Legal mandates to reduce per capita water consumption and impose waste management standards to reduce methane and other GHGs from solid wastes are all examples of mandates that reduce GHGs.

GHG emissions from the proposed construction project is below the threshold of significance. As such, construction emissions from the proposed project would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures:
Based on the above evaluation, no mitigation measures are required for the project to result in a less than significant impact.

Findings:
In the course of the above evaluation, impacts associated with this resource category were found to not be significant because of the inability of a project of this scope to create such impacts or the absence of project characteristics producing effects of this type.

IX. Hazards and Hazardous Materials Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?			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 § 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?			X	X
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has 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 wild land fires?			X	

Environmental Setting:
Hazards are those physical safety factors that can cause injury or death, and while by themselves in isolation may not pose a significant safety hazard to the public, when combined with the development of projects can exacerbate hazardous conditions. Hazardous materials are typically chemicals or processes that are used or generated by a project that could pose harm to people, working at the site or on adjacent areas. Many of these chemicals can cause hazardous conditions to occur should they be improperly disposed of or accidentally spilled as part of project development or operations. Hazardous materials are also those listed as hazardous pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.

Lists of hazardous materials are maintained by federal and State agencies and are available for public review. The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) maintains a database of hazardous materials as well as radiological materials as part of its RCRAInfo database (USEPA, 2023). The State of California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) maintains a list of hazardous substances and contaminated sites as part of its Envirostor database (DTSC, 2023), as well as other hazardous and

waste sites being overseen by the various SWRCB which are inventoried in their Geotracker database (SWRCB, 2023). These databases are available to the public for review. No hazardous facilities or sites have been documented to be present at the project site or in the adjacent area.

The State of California DTSC is the administering agency and the Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA) for Trinity County with responsibility for regulating hazardous materials handlers, hazardous waste generators, underground storage tank facilities, above-ground storage tanks, and stationary sources handling regulated substances. A Hazardous Materials Business Plan (HMBP) is required of businesses in Trinity County that handle, use, generate, or store hazardous materials. The primary purpose of this plan is to provide readily available information regarding the location, type, and health risks of hazardous materials to emergency response personnel, authorized government officials, and the public. Large cases of hazardous materials contamination or violations are referred to the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB) and the DTSC.

Under Government Code Section 65962.5, both the DTSC and the SWRCB are required to maintain lists of sites known to have hazardous substances present in the environment. Both agencies maintain up-to-date lists on their websites. A search of the DTSC and SWRCB lists identified no open cases of hazardous waste violations within one mile of the project site. The EPA maintains the Enforcement and Compliance History Online (ECHO) program. The ECHO website provides environmental regulatory compliance and enforcement information for approximately 800,000 regulated facilities nationwide. The ECHO website includes environmental permit, inspection, violation, enforcement action, and penalty information about EPA-regulated facilities. Facilities included on the site are Clean Air Act (CAA) stationary sources; Clean Water Act (CWA) facilities with direct discharge permits, under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System; generators and handlers of hazardous waste, regulated under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA); and public drinking water systems, regulated under the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). ECHO also includes information about EPA cases under other environmental statutes. When available, information is provided on surrounding demographics, and ECHO includes other EPA environmental data sets to provide additional context for analyses, such as Toxics Release Inventory data. According to the ECHO program, the project site is not listed as having a hazardous materials violation.

Land uses that are considered sensitive receptors typically include residences, schools, parks, childcare centers, hospitals, convalescent homes, and retirement homes. Sensitive receptors in the community of Burnt Ranch include, but are not limited to, residences (>50 ft. from the project site), and Burnt Ranch Elementary School (100 ft.).

Trinity County operates five general aviation airports (Hayfork, Hyampom, Ruth, Trinity Center, and Weaverville). The Hyampom Airport is located approximately 12.5 miles from the project site. The Hyampom Airport is included in the Trinity County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan.

The project site is located within the boundaries of the Burnt Ranch / Hawkins Bar Volunteer Fire Department, which provides fire, medical, rescue, and safety services to the community of Burnt Ranch and surrounding areas. The community of Burnt Ranch does not have an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. The community of Burnt Ranch is also recognized as a State Responsibility Area (SRA), in which the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE) provides fire suppression and prevention services (CALFIRE, 2023). CALFIRE designates lands in three general classifications, “Moderate”, “High” and “Very High” Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ). CALFIRE designates the project site as part of a designated “Very High” FHSZ (CALFIRE, 2023).

Threshold of Significance:
This is considers project-related effects that could involve: creation of a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials; creation of 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; hazardous emissions or handling of hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one quarter mile of an existing or proposed school; location on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code § 65962.5; for a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, creation of a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area; impairment or physical interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan; and exposure of people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wild land fires.

Impact Analysis:
Based on a field review by the Planning Department and other agency staff, information provided by the applicant, existing information available to the Planning Department, and observations made on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

(a) Less than significant**:**
The project will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. All hazardous or regulated materials that are used on site during construction activities will be properly stored and secured, to prevent access by the general public. No hazardous materials will be disposed of at the project site. Procedures will be followed when handling or storing hazardous materials, and all job site employees will be trained in the proper usage and storage of hazardous materials. During the operation of the proposed project, cleaning and landscaping products may be used at the project site that contain toxic substances. However, these products are typically low in concentration and used in small quantities that would not pose a significant risk to humans or the environment during transport to and from and use at the project site. In addition, small quantities of commercially available hazardous materials such as petrochemical cleaning products, herbicides, and pesticides may be sold at the grocery store facility. Because the products are commercially available and will be sold in small quantities, the risk of the proposed project to cause a significant hazard to the public or the environment is negligible. As such, the proposed project will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a less-than-significant impact on this resource category.

(b) Less than significant:
The proposed project will not create significant risk to the public or environments through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous material. The proposed project does not include the use of regulated materials during construction, such as petroleum hydrocarbons, fuels, and lubricants for the use of heavy equipment. However, the construction contractor is responsible for developing and implementing a SWPPP, which will also include a spill plan to address the accidental release of pollutants. As part of the spill plan implementation, absorbent materials will be stored on site and all jobsite employees will be properly trained to deal with hazardous material spills in the event of an accidental release. During the operation of the proposed project, cleaning and landscaping products may be used at the project site that contain toxic substances. However, these products are typically low in concentration and used in small quantities that would not pose a significant risk to humans or the environment during transport to and from and use at the project site. In addition, small quantities of commercially available hazardous materials such

as petrochemical cleaning products, herbicides, and pesticides may be sold at the grocery store facility. The retail and distribution of such products are not expected to create upset and accident conditions. Standard precautionary and housekeeping measures will be practiced throughout the deliver, handling, and stocking of such products. As such, the proposed project will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a less-than-significant impact on this resource category.

(c) No impact:
The project site is not located within one-quarter mile of a school; therefore, the proposed project will not emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school.

(d) No impact:
Pursuant to 3 CCR Section 8102, a hazardous materials record search was completed for the proposed premises. According to the DTSC Envirostor database, the project site is not identified as containing hazardous materials contamination or the storage of hazardous materials (DTSC). Furthermore, according to SWRCB Geotracker database, there are no contaminated storage tank sites located within the project vicinity (SWRCB).

Based on the above analysis, the proposed project will not be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a no impact on this resource category.

(e) Less than significant:
There are no airports located near the project site (Trinity County, 2009). Therefore, the proposed project would result in no impact on this resource category.

(f) Less than significant:
The community of Burnt Ranch does not have an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. However, the proposed project is not of the nature to physically interfere with emergency response or emergency evacuation. Furthermore, the project site's proximity to SR-299 provides adequate access and response to the site in an emergency situation. The project has been reviewed by the Hawkins Bar Fire District at the request of the applicant for compatibility with emergency access requirements, which did not express concerns with the proposed project according to the applicant. The Hawkins Bar Fire District did not respond to a request for formal comment, but staff has little concern about fire danger with regard to the proposed project, because the project inherently increases fire resilience by improving access to firefighting infrastructure. Therefore, the proposed project would not impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a less-than-significant impact on this resource category.

(g) Less than significant:
The project site is located along the SR-299 and surrounded by residential development. As noted in the Setting, CALFIRE designates the project site as a "High" FHSZ (CALFIRE, 2023a). However, the project site does not exhibit topography, vegetation patterns, or other factors (e.g., fuels, aspect, etc.) that would expose people or structures to a significant risk of wildland fires. The project site's proximity to SR-299 provides adequate access and response to the site in an emergency situation. Furthermore, the proposed project is consistent with the surrounding land uses and would not

introduce or exacerbate wildfire risks. The Hawkins Bar Fire District was solicited for comment, but did not respond to formal comment request. The project applicant has expressed that they are in contact with the Hawkins Bar fire chief, who has told the applicant that they will support the project. Staff is unconcerned with the fire safety of the project, as it does not appear to create any new fire hazards. The project consists of a retrofit of rural mutual water company infrastructure and inherently increases fire safety by providing more resilient infrastructure.

Due to the site characteristics, the nature of the proposed project, existing development surrounding the project site, and site accessibility in an emergency situation, the proposed project will not expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a less-than-significant impact on this resource category.

Mitigation Measures:
Based on the above evaluation, no mitigation measures are required for the project to result in a less than significant impact.

Findings:
In the course of the above evaluation, impacts associated with this resource category were found to not be significant because of the inability of a project of this scope to create such impacts or the absence of project characteristics producing effects of this type.

X. Hydrology and Water Quality Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water 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 a 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

Environmental Setting:

The Burnt Ranch Estate Mutual Water Company (BREMWC) provides water to the Burnt Ranch Estates located in Trinity County west of the City of Redding, in northern California. BREMWC sources its water from the McDonald Creek in Burnt Ranch. Properties are served by privately owned and maintained Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS) that are typically permitted by the Trinity County Department of Environmental Health.

The project site is located in the McDonald Creek Watershed in the Middle Trinity Hydrologic Area, Trinity River Hydrologic Unit, Klamath River Basin, North Coast Region. The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (NCRWQCB) adopts and implements the Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) for the North Coast Region, which identifies beneficial uses and recognizes water quality

problems unique to the region. The Middle Trinity River has been listed as impaired for sedimentation and siltation (SWRCB, 2023).

Groundwater basins identified by the Department of Water Resources (DWR) in the Trinity River hydrologic unit are Hayfork Valley, Hoopa Valley, Hyampom Valley, and Wilson Point Area. The aforementioned groundwater basins are not identified as being at risk of overdraft or requiring the implementation of sustainable groundwater management (DWR, 2023). Furthermore, the project site is not located in one of the aforementioned groundwater basins.

Flood zones are geographic areas that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has defined according to varying levels of flood risk. These zones are depicted on a community's Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). Each flood zone reflects the anticipated type of flooding in the area. The project site is located approximately 0.56 miles northeast of Weaver Creek, a tributary to the Trinity River. The project site is located outside of a regulated flood hazard zone.

The community of Burnt Ranch is located approximately 34 miles from the Pacific Ocean. The community of Burnt Ranch is not an area that is subject to tsunamis or seiches.

Per the attached Biological Assessment (attachment B), the project site and immediate surroundings does not contain any onsite, lakes, ponds, wetlands, vernal pools, wet meadows, or perennially wet areas.

Threshold of Significance:

This initial study considers to what degree the proposed project would involve: potential discharges, including sediment, that would violate Basin Plan standards or Waste Discharging Requirements associated with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits; substantial change in groundwater movement, potential uses, or quality; substantial increase in siltation or erosion from concentrated runoff; Substantial increase in runoff with the potential for localized flooding; substantial increase in runoff that would cause drainage problems, or a runoff increase that could carry pollutants to surface waters; substantial degradation of water quality; project-related effects with a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)-designated 100-year flood hazard area; project facilities that would affect flood flows or be affected by flood flows; project related effects that would involve flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam; project-related effects that would result in inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow.

On September 16, 2014, Governor Jerry Brown signed into law a three-bill legislative package, composed of AB 1739 (Dickinson), SB 1168 (Pavley), and SB 1319 (Pavley), collectively known as the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA). SGMA requires governments and water agencies of high and medium priority basins to halt overdraft and bring groundwater basins into balanced levels of pumping and recharge. Under SGMA, these basins should reach sustainability within 20 years of implementing their sustainability plans. For critically over drafted basins, that will be 2040. For the remaining high and medium priority basins, 2042 is the deadline. The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) prioritizes groundwater basins in accordance with the provisions of California Water Code Section 10933(b). California's Groundwater (Bulletin 118) published by DWR is the State's official publication on the occurrence and nature of groundwater in California. The publication defines the boundaries and describes the hydrologic characteristics of California's groundwater basins. The project site is not located in a groundwater basin identified by the DWR. However, the nearest groundwater basin to project site is the Hoopa Valley Groundwater Basin (1-007), approximately 40 miles northwest of the project site (DWR, 2023). DWR has identified the Hoopa Valley Groundwater Basin as a "very low" priority groundwater basin and not at risk of critical overdraft (DWR, 2023).

Trinity County has identified Critical Water Resource Overlay Zones (CWR Zone) throughout the County. The CWR Zone is defined in County regulations as "an area where development may have a detrimental impact on water resources such as those resulting from extractions of ground and/or surface waters, which would be beyond the capability of the resource, or by contamination of ground or surface waters." The proposed project is not located within a CWR Zone designation (Trinity County, 2023).

Impact Analysis:
Based on a field review by the Planning Department and other agency staff, information provided by the applicant, existing information available to the Planning Department, and observations made on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made**:**

(a) Less than significant:
Construction of the project would require the temporary use and transport of paints, fuels, oils, solvents, and other chemicals used during construction activities. Additionally, the construction of the proposed project would require a total soil disturbance of approximately 4.5 acres and stockpiling of cut/fill material. Because this is a linear utility project, the proposed construction activities will require compliance with the SWRCB Construction General Permit (CGP) for linear utility projects. The Construction General Permit (CGP) requires the development of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) by a certified Qualified SWPPP Developer (QSD) and incorporate current best management practices (BMPs) for construction, including site housekeeping practices, erosion control, hazardous material storage, inspections, maintenance, worker training in pollution prevention measures, and secondary containment of paints, fuels, oils, solvents to prevent pollutants from being carried off site via runoff.

Wastewater services are provided to individual parcels in the service area by privately owned Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS) that are permitted by the Trinity County Department of Environmental Health. The project does not involve repair, maintenance, or replacement of wastewater treatment facilities including Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (OWTS).

The operation of the proposed project will result in a slight increase in impervious surfaces with the addition of two water tanks. The upper tank site will add approximately 800 square feet and the lower tank site will add approximately 300 square feet of impervious surfaces. The CMU tank will be constructed in an existing disturbed area and will not add measurable impervious surfaces. The resulting stormwater runoff is immeasurably small when compared to the total Burnt Ranch Estates Subdivision developed in the 1980s. The proposed development will incorporate drainage inlets that will capture and convey stormwater runoff. The runoff will be directed to existing drainage facilities or to an onsite stormwater detention and infiltration basin if necessary. If necessary, the capacity of proposed detention basin will be designed to keep post-project runoff below the pre-project condition.

In compliance with the CGP, implementation of a SWPPP and BMPs, and construction of the proposed onsite stormwater detention and infiltration basin, the proposed project will not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a less-than-significant impact on this resource category.

(b) No Impact:

Because the project relies on the BREMWC surface water diversion, it is not expected that construction activities or the installation of the proposed development will affect groundwater recharge, alter the rate of flow of groundwater, or cause depletion of groundwater supplies, therefore, the project will not result in a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level. Furthermore, the project does not anticipate the need to drill a new ground water well, but rather rely on the BREMWC to provide domestic water to the site. This will further mitigate the impact to this resource.

(c) Less-than-significant impact:

i. Less-than-significant impact:
Per the attached Biological Assessment (Appendix B), the project site and immediate surroundings do not contain any onsite streams, lakes, ponds, wetlands, vernal pools, wet meadows, or perennially wet areas. As such, the project would not require the alteration of the course of a stream or river.

Construction of the proposed project would require grading of approximately 4.5 acres of stockpiling of cut/fill material. Because the proposed project requires the ground disturbance of more than one-acre, proposed construction activities will require compliance with the SWRCB CGP. The CGP will require the development of a SWPPP by a certified QSD and the incorporation of current BMPs for construction and erosion control. In compliance with the CGP and implementation of a SWPPP and BMPs, construction of the proposed project would not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or offsite.

Consistent with SWRCB stormwater management regulations, it is anticipated that stormwater runoff from structures and paved surfaces will be conveyed through surface flow, drainage inlets, and piping to onsite stormwater detention and infiltration features that meet SWRCB design storm requirements. With the proposed onsite drainage facilities, operation of the project would not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or offsite. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a less-than-significant impact on this resource category.

ii. Less-than-significant impact:
Per the attached Biological Assessment (Appendix B), the project site and immediate surroundings do not contain any onsite streams, lakes, ponds, wetlands, vernal pools, wet meadows, or perennially wet areas. As such, the project would not require the alteration of the course of a stream or river. The proposed project will result in an increase in impervious surfaces with the addition of buildings and paved surfaces, which has the potential to increase the rate or amount of surface runoff. Consistent with SWRCB stormwater management regulations, it is anticipated that stormwater runoff from structures and paved surfaces will be conveyed through surface flow, drainage inlets, and piping to onsite stormwater detention and infiltration features that meet SWRCB design storm requirements. With the proposed onsite drainage facilities, operation of the project would not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site in a manner that would result in flooding on- or offsite. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a less-than-significant impact on this resource category.

iii. Less-than-significant impact:
Per the attached Biological Assessment (Appendix A), the project site and immediate surroundings do not contain any onsite streams, lakes, ponds, wetlands, vernal pools, wet

meadows, or perennially wet areas. As such, the project would not require the alteration of the course of a stream or river. The proposed project will result in an increase in impervious surfaces with the addition of buildings and paved surfaces, which has the potential to increase the rate or amount of surface runoff. Consistent with SWRCB stormwater management regulations, it is anticipated that stormwater runoff from structures and paved surfaces will be conveyed through surface flow, drainage inlets, and piping to onsite stormwater detention and infiltration features that meet SWRCB design storm requirements. The proposed onsite drainage facilities will ensure that the increased stormwater runoff from the project is managed onsite and would not create or contribute runoff that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a less-than-significant impact on this resource category.

iv. Less-than-significant impact:

Per the attached Biological Assessment (Appendix B), the project site and immediate surroundings do not contain any onsite streams, lakes, ponds, wetlands, vernal pools, wet meadows, or perennially wet areas. As such, the project would not require the alteration of the course of a stream or river. According to FEMA FIRM Panel 06105C1035F, the project site is not located within a special flood hazard area (FEMA, 2016). The project site is located within Zone X, which is an area of minimal flood hazard. Therefore, the project does not involve the placement of any structures within a 100-year flood hazard area that would impede or redirect flood flows.

The Bureau of Reclamation manages and operates three dams on the Trinity River: the Lewiston Dam (located below the Trinity Dam in Lewiston), the Trinity Dam, and the Buckhorn Dam (located on Grass Valley Creek 20 miles from Redding). None of the project components involve work on a levee or dam and none of the project construction activities increase the risk of dam or levee failure. However, the dam failure risk is low and the project site is not located in the potential inundation area for flooding that could occur from dam failure on the Trinity River. Based on the analysis above, the proposed project would result in a less-than-significant impact on this resource category.

(d) No impact:

There are no enclosed bodies of water located in the immediate vicinity of the proposed project that would put the project at risk due to a seiche. The proposed project is also located at an elevation and sufficiently inland that would preclude it from risk of tsunami. The potential risk of injury or damage involving a mudflow is not considered likely based on the distance to any possible volcanic activity. Thus, the potential impacts associated with mudflows or debris avalanches would be less significant.

In addition, the community of Burnt Ranch is located approximately 34 miles from the Pacific Ocean and is not an area that is subject to tsunamis or seiches.

Based on the analysis above, the proposed project would result in a less-than-significant impact on this resource category.

(e) No Impact:

Refer to impact discussions under subsections a) and b) above. In addition, there are no groundwater management plans for the Action Area. Based on this analysis, the proposed project would result in no impact.

Mitigation Measures:
Based on the above evaluation, no mitigation measures are required for the project to result in a less than significant impact.

Findings:
In the course of the above evaluation, impacts associated with this resource category were found to not be significant because of the inability of a project of this scope to create such impacts or the absence of project characteristics producing effects of this type.

XI. Land use and Planning Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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

Environmental Setting:
The Project is located within Trinity County, in the unincorporated community of Burnt Ranch. Primary access to the site is from State Route 299 (SR-299). The project site is within a portion of Township 5N, Range 6E, Section 15 & 14, Mount Diablo Base Meridian (MDBM).

As described in Section 1 of this IS, the project is consistence with existing land uses. The land encompassing the project area has been previously developed with single family residences, utilities and access roads. The project is for the replacement of aging waterlines, meters, valves, fire hydrants, filter systems, and the expansion of water storage tanks to better serve the needs of the existing Burnt Ranch Community. No new water rights or entitlements are being contemplated by this project. The proposed development is consistent with the surround use designations.

Threshold of Significance:
This Initial Study considers to what degree the proposed project would: divide and established community or conflict with existing land uses within the project's vicinity, such as commercial establishments; conflict with Trinity County Zoning designation, policies, and zoning ordinance; conflict with applicable environmental plans and protection measures enforced by regulatory agencies that have jurisdiction over the project, such as sensitive species and biologically significant habitats.

The Trinity County General Plan (General Plan) provides detailed land use designation and zoning for the Burnt Ranch planning area, which includes the project site. The General Plan encourages adequate water supply is provided for future development and beneficial uses.

Impact Analysis:
Based on a field review by the Planning Department and other agency staff, information provided by the applicant, existing information available to the Planning Department, and observations made on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

(a) <u>No impact:</u>
The proposed project does not contemplate any physical changes, such as the construction of new high-volume road of rail facility, and would therefore not physically divide the established community. Therefore, the proposed project would result in no impact to this resource category.

(b) <u>Less than significant:</u>
The County's General Plan serves as the overall guiding policy document for land use and development. The subject property is designated in the General Plan as Rural Residential and is zoned Rural Residential. The parcels immediately surrounding the project are designated by the County's General Plan as Rural Residential and are zoned as Rural Residential. The project does not intend to change

these designations. Therefore, the proposed project would result in no impact to this resource category.

Mitigation Measures:
Based on the above evaluation, no mitigation measures are required for the project to result in a less than significant impact.

Findings:
In the course of the above evaluation, impacts associated with this resource category were found to not be significant because of the inability of a project of this scope to create such impacts or the absence of project characteristics producing effects of this type.

II. Mineral Resources Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?				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

Environmental Setting:

The proposed project is located in the community of Burnt Ranch. Historically, mining has played a major role in the development and economy of the greater Trinity County region. Extensive remnants and examples of early mining activity, principally gold mining, occur throughout the region. Ditches, pits, tunnels, cabins, trails, equipment, and other artifacts can be readily seen outside of developed areas. To this day, mining activities continue throughout the County. Current mining activity in the area consists of recreational gold mining.

A mineral resource is a land on which known deposits of commercially viable mineral or aggregate deposits exist. The designation is applied to sites determined by the California Geological Survey as being a resource of regional significance and is intended to help maintain any quarrying operations and protect them from the encroachment of incompatible uses.

Thresholds of Significance:

This Initial Study considers to what degree the proposed project would interfere with the extraction of commodity materials or otherwise cause any short-term or long-term decrease in the availability of mineral resources that would otherwise be available for construction or other consumptive uses.

The California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA) was intended to protect the State's need for a continuing supply of mineral resources, while protecting public an environmental health. SMARA requires that all cities incorporate into their general plans mapped mineral resource designations approved by the State Mining and Geology Board. The State Geologist classifies land in California based on availability of mineral resources. Because available aggregate construction material is limited, five designations have been established for the classification of sand, gravel and crushed rock resources: Scientific Resource, Mineral Resource Zone 1, Mineral Resources Zone 2, and Mineral Resource Zone 3, and Mineral Resource Zone 4.

According to SMARA the closest active mine is the McKnight Gravel Bar (91-12-0040). McKnight Bar is a gravel bar skimming and pitting operation. Humboldt County is listed as the lead agency. McKnight Bar is located 9.9 miles northwest of the project site.

According the Mindat.org, The closest know mine was the historic Burnt Ranch Placer Mine which extracted mainly placer over a century ago. No large-scale mining operations near the project site are in existence today.

Impact Analysis:

(a-b) No impact:
The proposed project is located in the community of Burnt Ranch. There are no known deposits of commercially viable mineral or aggregate on the project site. As such, the proposed project will not 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 and would not result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site. Therefore, the proposed project would result in no impact on this resource category.

Mitigation Measures:
Based on the above evaluation, no mitigation measures are required for the project to result in a less than significant impact.

Findings:
In the course of the above evaluation, impacts associated with this resource category were found to not be significant because of the inability of a project of this scope to create such impacts or the absence of project characteristics producing effects of this type.

XIII. Noise Would the project result in:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 applicable standards of other agencies?		X		
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?			X	
c) For a project 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

Environmental Setting:
Noise impacts are those that exceed general plan or other local ordinances developed to provide reasonable control of noise to residences, parks, open spaces, and other specific designated sites. Noise can be generated by a number of sources, including mobile sources such as automobiles, trucks, and airplanes, and stationary sources such as construction sites, machinery, and industrial operations. Noise is the quintessential local environmental impact. It does not travel well, has no staying power beyond that of its source, and it does not accumulate in the environment. Nonetheless, prolonged noise exposure is a serious threat to human health, resulting in high stress levels and impaired hearing.

Trinity County has not adopted a Noise Ordinance. However, the Trinity County General Plan Noise Element provides guidelines and direction for noise sources and attenuation requirements for various uses (Trinity County, 2003). Projects proposed for development within the County will be evaluated to determine potential conformance with the Noise Element and if necessary, specific conditions of approval will be placed on projects. The Noise Element refers to the A-Weighted Sound Level (dBA). A-weighted de-emphasizes the very low and very high frequencies of sound in a manner similar to the human ear. Most community noise standards utilize A-weighting, as it provides a high degree of correlation with human annoyance and health effects.

The Noise Element identifies all residential uses, schools, medical facilities, churches, and libraries to be noise-sensitive land uses (i.e., sensitive receptors; Trinity County, 2003). Sensitive noise conditions are typically at night and measured as indoor levels in decibels (dB). The nearest known potential sensitive receptors to the proposed project include adjacent residences (>50 ft. from the project site), and Burnt Ranch Elementary School (100 ft.).

In the vicinity of the project, ambient noise generation sources are varied and consist of residential activities on surrounding properties and vehicle traffic along SR-299 (800 feet to the east of the project). The Hyampom Airport is located approximately 12.5 miles from the project site. In the Trinity County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan, the project site is not within a Compatibility Zone

(Primary Traffic Pattern). Compatibility Zones will not be impacted by this project (Trinity County, 2009).

Threshold of Significance:

This Initial Study considers whether the proposed project would produce sound-pressure levels in excess of County noise standards; long-term ground vibrations and low-frequency sound that would interfere with normal activities and which is not currently present in the project area; a substantial increase in ambient short-term or long-term sound pressure levels; changes in noise levels that are related to the project area; exposure of persons within two miles of an airstrip to excessive noise levels; or exposure of people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels.

Impact Analysis:

Based on a field review by the Planning Department and other agency staff, information provided by the applicant, existing information available to the Planning Department, and observations made on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

(a) Less-than-significant impact with mitigation incorporated:

As noted in the Environmental Setting, the Noise Element of the Trinity County General Plan identifies all residential uses, schools, medical facilities, churches, and libraries to be noise-sensitive land uses (i.e., sensitive receptors; Trinity County, 2003). The nearest known sensitive receptors to the proposed project include adjacent residences (>50 ft. from the project site), and Burnt Ranch Elementary School (100 ft.).

Construction

Construction activities generally are temporary and have a short duration, resulting in periodic increases in the ambient noise environment. Construction of the proposed project would occur over approximately twelve months, beginning in 2024 and ending in 2025. Work would include site preparation, grading, building construction, paving, trenching, and architectural coating. Equipment will likely include excavators, skid loaders, dumptrucks, backhoes, trenchers, concrete mixers, and hand tools. Staging areas will be located onsite. Ground-borne noise and other types of construction-related noise impacts typically occur during the demolition and grading construction phases. These phases of construction have the potential to create the highest levels of noise.

Activities and equipment involved in the construction of the proposed project would generate maximum noise levels, ranging from 85 to 89 dBA at a distance of 50 ft. (FHWA, 2006). These noise levels have the potential to cause significant impacts to sensitive receptors surrounding the project site without mitigation. To mitigate the noise impacts from short-term construction activities, Mitigation Measure NOISE-1 will be required for the project, which limits construction activities to the hours between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, and between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays. Construction activity will not occur on Sundays or holidays. With implementation of Mitigation Measure NOISE-1, impacts to nearby sensitive receptors from construction activities would be less than significant.

Operation

Noise impacts during operation of the proposed project will primarily originate from residential-related traffic to and from the proposed multi-family housing, and secondarily from traffic noise on SR-299 (750 feet to the west of the project). Residential traffic could result in a minor increase in onsite noise above levels existing without the project but would be similar to that of other multi-family residential or commercial development in the Weaverville area. Therefore, operational noise from the

proposed project would be similar to the existing baseline noise environment and is not expected to significantly exceed either the existing ambient noise levels (e.g., traffic on SR-299) or applicable County noise standards.

Conclusion
With implementation of Mitigation Measure NOISE-1, the proposed project will not result in the 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 applicable standards of other agencies. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a less-than-significant impact with mitigation incorporated.

(b) Less than significant impact:
The proposed project's construction activity has the potential to result in minor groundborne vibration and noise. The closest land uses potentially impacted by groundborne vibration and noise are surrounding commercial and residential uses directly adjacent to the project site. Ground vibrations from construction activities do not often reach the levels that can damage structures. Pile-driving generates the highest levels of vibration; however, pile-driving will not occur during construction of the proposed project. Construction activities will occur for a short duration and during daytime hours and will not result in groundborne noise levels that are excessive. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a less-than-significant impact.

c) No impact:
The project site is located approximately 12.5 miles from the Hyampom Airport. Additionally, the proposed project is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip. As such, the project would not expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels due to the proximity to a private or public airport. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a less-than-significant impact on this resource category.

Based on the discussion above and by incorporating the mitigation measure below, the proposed project will not result in substantial adverse impacts in regard to noise.

Mitigation Measures:
Based on the above evaluation, in order for the proposed project to result in a less-than-significant impact, the following mitigation measure shall be implemented.

NOISE-1: The following measure will be implemented during construction activities to reduce noise levels:

- Construction activities shall be restricted to the hours between 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, and between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Saturdays.
- Construction activity will not occur on Sundays or holidays.

Findings:
With the implementation of the mitigation measures identified the proposed project will have a less than significant impact to this resource category.

XIV. Population and Housing Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Induce substantial population growth in an area, either directly (e.g.; by proposing new homes and / or businesses) or indirectly (e.g.; through extension of road or other infrastructure)?				X
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing housing or people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				X

Environmental Setting:
Trinity County has a population of approximately 16,112 persons based on the 2020 US Census Data. The median household income is $40,846 per year (US Census, 2023). Housing throughout the project area is primarily individual residences multiple, family residences, and commercial development.

Thresholds of Significance:
This Initial Study considers to what degree the proposed project would result in, or contribute to, population growth, displacement of housing units, demolition or removal of existing housing units, or any project-related displacement of people from occupied housing.

Pursuant to state housing element law (Government Code section 65584, et seq.), the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) is required to provide the determination of Trinity County's existing and projected housing need and a Regional Housing Need Assessment (RHNA) Plan to countywide regions not represented by council of governments. This document outlines the need for only two new housing units in the region. It is our opinion that this is grossly underestimated and is in need of review. The RHNA was not considered consistent with the observed needs of the community and therefore was not used as a quantitative measure in this analysis.

Trinity County has not set a quantitative threshold of significance for increasing population. It is expected that housing must be developed in order to accommodate the ever-growing human population. With the growing population, it is expected that governmental planning of such developments must account for higher densities to meet the demand on an environmental scale. This project proposes to develop at higher density in an effort to reduce the footprint single family residences have on the landscape.

Impact Analysis: Based on a field review by the Planning Department and other agency staff, information provided by the applicant, existing information available to the Planning Department, and observations made on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

(a) No Impact:
The proposed project will not create new housing or promote new housing. The Burnt Ranch Estates Mutual Water Company has zero allocations of new water meters. All lots have been developed within the project area. Therefore, there would be no impact to this resource category.

(b) No impact:
The project does not propose displacing existing housing and would not necessitate the construction of replacement housing elsewhere, therefore, there would not be an impact.

Mitigation Measures:
Based on the above evaluation, no mitigation measures are required for the project to result in a less than significant impact.

Findings:
In the course of the above evaluation, impacts associated with this resource category were found to not be significant because of the inability of a project of this scope to create such impacts or the absence of project characteristics producing effects of this type.

XV. Public Services Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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:				X
a) Fire Protection?				X
b) Police protection?				X
c) Schools?				X
d) Parks?				X
c) Other public facilities?				X

Environmental Setting:
Burnt Ranch has existing public services available to accommodate residential, commercial, and industrial development. Below is a list of facilities and districts that would serve the project site.

Fire protection in Burnt Ranch is provided by the Hawkins Bar Fire Department and the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE).

Law enforcement services in Burnt Ranch are provided by the Trinity County Sheriff's department.

There is one public K-8 school located in Burnt Ranch (Burnt Ranch Elementary School District).

Parks and recreational facilities within Burnt Ranch include public hiking trails across public lands.

Medical services are available at the Trinity Hospital and Trinity Community Health Clinic in Weaverville. The proposed project will not tax these facilities as the development will not increase population.

Thresholds of Significance:
This Initial Study considers to what degree the proposed project would result in any changes in existing fire or police protection service levels, or a perceived need for such changes, as well as any substantial changes in the need for, or use of, schools, parks, or other public facilities. The threshold of significance would be if the project results in a significant impact to these resource categories.

Impact Analysis:
Based on a field review by the Planning Department and other agency staff, information provided by the applicant, existing information available to the Planning Department, and observations made on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

(a) No Impact:
The proposed project is located in the community of Burnt Ranch and is accessed by way of SR-299 and Pony Express Way. Fire protection in Burnt Ranch is provided by the Hawkins Bar Fire Department and CALFIRE. The project proposes no new housing units. The proposed project will replace existing fire suppression systems with new and more capable systems. The project is not expected to increase the demand for fire protection services. The project will not result in an increase in population and would have no impact on the provision of fire protection services. As such, the proposed project does not require new or physically altered governmental facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for fire protection. Therefore, the proposed project would result in no impact on this resource category.

(b) No Impact:
The proposed project is located in the community of Burnt Ranch and is accessed by way of SR-299 and Pony Express Way. While the proposed project may require police response in the case of an emergency, the project is not expected to increase the demand for police protection services. The project will not result in the increase in population and would have no impact on the provision of police protection services. As such, the proposed project does not require new or physically altered governmental facilities in order to maintain acceptable service rations. Response times, or other performance objectives for police protection. Therefore, the proposed project would result in no impact on this resource category.

(c) No Impact:
The proposed project is located within the Burnt Ranch Unified School District. There is one public K-8 school (Burnt Ranch Elementary) located in Burnt Ranch. The project will not result in the increase in population and would have no impact on the provision of public education services. The proposed project is not expected to result in an increase in the number of school-age children within the school district. As such, the proposed project does not require new or physically altered governmental facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for schools. Therefore, the proposed project would result in no impact on this resource category.

(d) No impact:
There are no parks or recreational facilities within Burnt Ranch. The project will not result in the substantial increase in population and would have a limited impact on the provision of parks and recreational services. As such, the proposed project does not require new or physically altered governmental facilities in order to maintain acceptable service rations, response times, or other performance objectives for parks. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on this resource category.

(e) No impact:
The project will not result in the substantial increase in population and would have a limited impact on the provision of public facilities. Therefore, the proposed project will have a less than significant impact on this resource category.

Mitigation Measures:
Based on the above evaluation, no mitigation measures are required for the project to result in a less than significant impact.

Findings:
In the course of the above evaluation, impacts associated with this resource category were found to not be significant because of the inability of a project of this scope to create such impacts or the absence of project characteristics producing effects of this type.

XVI. Recreation	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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

Environmental Setting:
Existing recreational opportunities in Trinity County range from traditional active sports such as softball and soccer to passive recreation such as nature observation, hiking, biking, fishing, hunting, horseback riding, and simply spending time outdoors. The project site is located from recreation areas as indicated below: Pacific Ocean (< 34 mile), Trinity Lake (<60.0miles), Trinity Alps Wilderness (<10.0 miles), and the Trinity River (<1.0miles). In addition, the Burnt Ranch Community has an extensive trail system for enjoyment.

Threshold of Significance:
This Initial Study considers to what degree any aspect of the proposed project would be related to demand for recreational facilities or increase use of existing recreational areas such that those areas are physically degraded, including secondary effects such as degradation through over-use of environmentally sensitive areas.

Impact Analysis:
Based on a field review by the Planning Department and other agency staff, information provided by the applicant, existing information available to the Planning Department, and observations made on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

(a) No Impact:
The project proposes the replacement and improvements ton an existing community water system. The project does would not result in a substantial increase in population growth. As such, the proposed project is not of the nature to increase the use of recreational facilities in the Burnt Ranch area such that substantial physical deterioration of these facilities would occur or be accelerated. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on this resource category.

(b) No impact:
The proposed project would not include the development of recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities, which might have an adverse physical effort on the environment. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on this resource category.

Mitigation Measures:
Based on the above evaluation, no mitigation measures are required for the project to result in no impact.

Findings:
In the course of the above evaluation, impacts associated with this resource category were found to not be significant because of the inability of a project of this scope to create such impacts or the absence of project characteristics producing effects of this type.

XVII. Transportation Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 geometric design features (e.g.; sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g.; farm equipment)?			X	
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?			X	

Environmental Setting:

SR-299: SR-299 runs east-west through the central portion of Trinity County, entering over Buckhorn Summit from Redding to the east and crossing into Humboldt County near Salyer and Willow Creek on the west. SR-299 links the communities of Lewiston, Douglas City, Weaverville, Junction City, Big Bar, Burnt Ranch, and Salyer, as well as several smaller communities. SR-299 carries a variety of traffic including local (intra-regional), recreational, commuter, and commercial traffic. SR-299 has been classified as a Forest Service National Scenic Byway and is heavily utilized for access to and along the Trinity River. It is also an important inter-regional route (for both auto and truck traffic) between the Sacramento Valley and the North Coast (KD and Associates, 2019).

Caltrans collects and publishes traffic volume data for its facilities. The most recent data indicates that SR-299 carries an annual average daily traffic (AADT) volume of 10,700 vehicles per day (VPD) in the area of the project. Trucks comprise 2%-3% of the daily volume (KD and Associates, 2019).

County LOS standards: Trinity County has identified criteria for determining the significance of vehicular traffic impacts. A traffic impact is considered to be significant under Trinity County guidelines if the project causes an intersection to change from Level of Service (LOS) D to LOS E.

Transit Service: Public transit services are provided by the County Department of Transportation through Trinity Transit, which provides daily bus service between destinations such as Arcata, Willow Creek, Burnt Ranch, and Weaverville. The closest bus stop is located at the Burnt Ranch Post Office approximately 2 miles from the project site.

Pedestrian Facilities: There are currently no sidewalks in or around the project site.

Bicycle Facilities: The Trinity County General Plan (2002) outlines the location and nature of existing bicycle facilities in Trinity County. Bicycle facilities are categorized within three classifications:

- Class I Bikeway: trails or paths that are separated from automobile traffic
- Class II Bikeway: bicycle lanes that are on street but delineated by striping
- Class III Bikeway: bicycle routes where bicycles and automobiles share the road

There are currently no striped bicycle lanes on or around the project site.

Furthermore, Trinity County Planning and Public Works Departments have not required a traffic study to be conducted as part of this project.

Threshold of Significance:
This Initial Study considers to what degree any aspect of the proposed project would conflict with a program plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, transit, roadway, and bicycle/ pedestrian facilities. Also, the Initial Study considers if the project would conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3. Finally, this Initial Study considers if the project would substantially increase hazards due to design features or result in inadequate emergency access.

Impact Analysis:

(a,c,d) Less than significant impact:
The proposed project may result in temporary lane closures or delays in traffic during construction. However, these changes in traffic patterns are short-lived and temporary. The Trinity County Planning and Public Works Departments have not required a traffic study to be conducted as part of this project. However, the applicant will be responsible for obtaining an encroachment permit from Trinity County and following the conditions of that permit, and any potential impacts to traffic patterns will be considered less than significant.

The proposed project will temporarily increase traffic volumes and the number of trips on local roadways during construction. The project will not increase long tern traffic volumes. The project has been reviewed by Trinity County Department of Transportation (County DOT), and conditioned to ensure it will comply with County Road standards and will not increase hazards due to a geometric design feature. The proposed project does not include geometric design features that will substantially increase hazards. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a less than significant impact on the resource category.

The proposed project will be accessed by way of SR-299 and Pony Express Way during construction and operation. Construction of the project would temporarily generate additional traffic on the existing area roadway network. These vehicle trips would include construction workers traveling to the site and delivery trips associated with construction equipment and materials. Delivery of construction materials to the site would likely require oversize vehicles that may travel at slower speeds than existing traffic.

As the proposed project includes improvements within the County Right-of-Way, the proposed project will require an encroachment permit from the County. The encroachment permit applications may require preparation of traffic control plans for work that would block the public right-of-way, and plans for re-routing of vehicles, bicycles, and pedestrians, as needed. Implementation of traffic controls would be required in accordance with State standards, and contractors would be required to adhere to approved traffic control plans, which would minimize conflicts relate to emergency access and circulation. Contractors would be required to have ready at all times the means necessary to accommodate access by emergency vehicles, such as plating over excavations, and travel lane closures would be managed such as keeping one travel lane open at all times to allow alternating traffic flow in both directions along affected roadways. Through compliance with State requirements, construction activities would not result in inadequate emergency access.

The project has been reviewed by County DOT, and the Hawkins Bar Fire Department, and will be designed to meet emergency access standards. As such, all proposed drive aisles onsite have been designed consistent with County and Fire Code design standards for emergency access and would adequately accommodate the onsite maneuvering of emergency vehicles. In compliance with State and local standards, the project site will be designed for adequate emergency access. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a less than significant impact on this resource category. An County road encroachment permit will be secured by the applicant for the project. Trinity County DOT may stipulate additional requirements through their permit.

(b) Less than significant impact:
Updates to the CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3 codified a switch from Level of Service (LOS) to VMT as the metric for transportation impact analysis. Trinity County has not developed any significance thresholds or guidance for conducting VMT analysis in CEQA documents. Section 15064.3, subdivision (b)(3) states that in the absence of existing models or methods to estimate the VMT for a particular project, a lead agency may analyze the project's VMT qualitatively. Such a qualitative analysis would evaluate factors such as the proximity to other destinations and services, availability of transit, etc.

In rural areas of counties without Metropolitan Planning Organizations (i.e., areas not near established or incorporated cities or towns), fewer options may be available for reducing VMT, and analysis methodology may be best determined on a case-by-case basis. It is noted by the Governor's Office of Planning Research in their Technical Advisory on Evaluating Transportation Impacts in CEQA, that clustered small towns and small-town main streets may have substantial VMT benefits compared to isolated rural development, similar to transit-oriented development (OPR, 2018).

Section 15064.3, subdivision (b)(1) states that projects within one-half mile of either an existing major transit stop or a stop along an existing high-quality transit corridor should be presumed to cause a less than-significant transportation impact. As noted above, the proposed project is located with 800 feet of SR-299, which is the primary transit corridor in Trinity County. The proposed project is located within one mile of a bus stop served by Trinity Transit, which is managed by the Trinity County Department of Transportation. Trinity Transit is the primary public transportation service in Trinity County and provides services between the communities of Douglas City, Hayfork, Junction City, Lewiston, Redding, Weaverville, and Willow Creek. Trinity Transit regional services connect with neighboring transit systems including Redding Area Bus Authority in Redding and Redwood Transit System and Klamath-Trinity Non-Emergency Transportation in Willow Creek (Trinity Transit, 2023). The closest bus stops to the project site are located on both sides of SR-299 at the Burnt Ranch Post Office.

In summary, based on the project location and design, the proposed project would not conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b). Therefore, the proposed project would result in a less-than-significant impact on this resource category.

Mitigation Measures:
Based on the above evaluation, no mitigation measures are required for the project to result in a less than significant impact.

Findings:
In the course of the above evaluation, impacts associated with this resource category were found to not be significant because of the inability of a project of this scope to create such impacts or the absence of project characteristics producing effects of this type.

XVIII. Tribal Cultural Resources	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code (PRC) § 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American Tribe, and that is:				
a) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in PRC section 5020.1(k), or		X		
b) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of PRC § 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of PRC § 5024.01, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American Tribe.		X		

Archaeological and other resources can be damaged through uncontrolled public disclosure. Archeological site locations and culturally sensitive information is considered confidential and public access to such information is restricted by State and federal law; therefore, this information has been redacted for use in this Initial Study. Professionally qualified individuals, as determined by the California Office of Historic Preservation, may contact the lead agency in order to inquire about its availability.

Information regarding the location, character, or ownership of a historic resource is exempt from the Freedom of Information Act pursuant to 16 U.S.C. 470w-3 (National Historic Preservation Act) and 16 U.S.C. § 470hh (Archaeological Resources Protection Act) and California State Government Code, Section 6254.10.

Environmental Setting:
The proposed project is located on lands that have been designated and used for residential development since the 1980s. Paved surfaces, buildings, and utility systems have been installed across the project landscape and surrounding areas.

The project site is located in the community of Burnt Ranch along the State Route 299 (SR-299). The project area is located within the ancestral territory of the Wintu Native Americans. Closely related to the Nomlaki and Patwin to the south, the Chimariko to the west and the Hupa to the northwest, the Wintu people lived along the Trinity River, where plentiful natural resources supported their way of life. Bark from forest trees and rushes along the streams made good roofing materials for homes. Local

sedges and willows were crafted into tightly woven baskets. Villages frequently contained a scattering of bark houses, ranging from four to five in smaller groups, or several dozen in larger villages. Each house was shared by a single family that ranged in numbers of three to about seven. Larger villages, those with 12 to 15 houses, typically had an earthen lodge.

The project location was subject to a Cultural Resources Investigation by William Rich and Associates (WRA, 2023). The goal of the Investigation was to document the presence of historical resources or tribal cultural resources within the proposed project area, pursuant to Section 15064.5 of CEQA, and Public Resources Code (PRC) 21074. This was accomplished by completing a records search at the Northeast Center of the California Historical Resources Information System (NEIC; No. D21-109) for the project area and a surrounding 0.5-mile radius buffer. William Rich and Associates also corresponded with the Native American Heritage Commission and local Native American Tribes. William Rich visited the Trinity County Historical Society and Museum and spoke with several individuals with expertise in Weaverville area history. An intensive field survey of the entire project area was completed on June 20, 2023. The majority of the project area consists of previously developed landscapes. The field survey relied on a thorough ethnographic literature review and analysis of historic maps and historic air photo imagery to develop a historic context (WRA, 2021).

The survey reports and resource records on file at the NEIC indicated that no cultural resources are known within the project area; however, within 0.5 miles, previous survey efforts have identified five historic period cultural resources. A review of the NRHP, CRHR, California Historic Landmarks, California Inventory of Historic Resources, Historic Properties Directory and Archaeological Determinations of eligibility yielded no findings for the project area or the surrounding search buffer. The Cultural Resources Investigation concluded that no significant historical or archaeological resources for the purposes of CEQA (Section 15064.5(a)) were identified within the proposed project area; additionally, tribal cultural resources (PRC 21074) do not appear to be present (WRA, 2023).

Requests for Tribal consultation pursuant to AB 52 and SB 18 was initiated on 6/20/2023 with the Nor-Rel-Muk Nation, the Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation, Tsnungwe Council, Wintu Tribe of Northern California, the Wintu Tribe of Northern California, and the Wintu Educational and Cultural Council. The Nor-Rel-Muk Nation responded on June 29, 2023 indicating they could provide certified monitors should they be needed. No other responses were received from these entities requesting consultation under the provisions of AB 52 and SB 18 within the required time period.

Threshold of Significance:

This Initial Study considers to what degree the proposed project would cause physical changes in known or designated historical resources, or in their physical surroundings, in a manner that would impair their significance; physical changes in archaeological sites that represent important or unique archaeological or historical information; destroy unique paleontological resource site or unique geological features; or disturbance of human burial locations.

Based on the results of previous survey work within the general region (e.g., Jensen 1993; Johnson and Theodoratus 1984), the range of potentially present Native American site types for the area included the following:

- Surface scatters of lithic artifacts and debitage, often but not always associated with dark brown to black “midden” deposits, resulting from village encampments. Typically, such sites are located adjacent or close to permanent surface water sources.

- Surface scatters of lithic artifacts and debitage without associated middens, resulting from short-term occupation and/or specialized economic activities.
- Bedrock milling stations, including both mortar holes and metate slicks, located in areas where bedrock is exposed, particularly along stream channels.
- Petroglyphs, especially "pitted" or "cupped" bedrock outcrops.
- Isolated finds of aboriginal artifacts and flakes.

Assembly Bill (AB) 52 was enacted on July 1, 2015 and establishes that "a project with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment" (Public Resources Code Section 21084.2). It further states that the lead agency shall establish measures to avoid impacts that would alter the significant characteristics of a tribal cultural resource when feasible (PRC Section 21084.3).

Public Resources Code Section 21074 (a)(1)(A) and (B) defines tribal cultural resources as "sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe" and meets either of the following criteria:

- 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
- 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 these criteria, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

AB 52 also establishes a formal consultation process for California cities, counties, and tribes regarding tribal cultural resources. Under AB 52, lead agencies are required to "begin consultation with a California Native American tribe that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the proposed project." Native American tribes to be included in the process are those that have requested notice of projects proposed within the jurisdiction of the lead agency.

The purpose of the consultation is to determine whether a proposed project may result in a significant impact to tribal cultural resources that may be undocumented or known only to the tribe and its members. As set forth in PRC Section 21080.3.1(b), the law requires:

"Prior to the release of a negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration, or environmental impact report for a project, the lead agency shall begin consultation with a California Native American tribe that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the proposed project if: (1) the California Native American tribe requested to the lead agency, in writing, to be informed by the lead agency through formal notification of proposed projects in the geographic area that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the tribe, and (2) the California Native American tribe responds, in writing, within 30 days of receipt of the formal notification, and requests the consultation."

Impact Analysis:
Based on a field review by the Planning Department and other agency staff, information provided by the applicant, existing information available to the Planning Department, and observations made on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

(a) Less than significant with mitigation incorporated:
The entire property exhibits evidence of ground disturbance from past grading, residential and commercial construction, and demolition. No evidence of any tribal cultural resources was observed during the pedestrian survey conducted in June 2023 by William Rich and Associates.

Consultation was undertaken with the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) regarding sacred tribal lands listings for the project site. An information request letter was delivered to the NAHC on June 20, 2023. The NAHC has not responded as of the writing of this report. A tribal notification for their opportunity to request tribal consultation, pursuant to AB 52, was initiated by William Rich and Associates on June 20, 2023 with the Nor-Rel-Muk Nation, the Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation, Tsnungwe Council, Wintu Tribe of Northern California, the Wintu Tribe of Northern California, and the Wintu Educational and Cultural Council. The Nor-Rel-Muk Nation responded on June 29, 2023 indicating they could provide certified monitors should they be needed. No other responses were received from these entities requesting consultation under the provisions of AB 52 and SB 18 within the required time period.

The cultural resources investigation conducted by William Rich and Associates can be found in Appendix A of this document

However, there remains the possibility that tribal cultural resources could exist in the area and may be uncovered during project development. Therefore, if cultural or archaeological resources, such as chipped or ground stone, or bone are discovered during ground-disturbance activities, work shall be stopped within 50 feet of the discovery, as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA; January 1999 Revised Guidelines, Title 14 California Code of Regulations [CCR] 15064.5 (f)). Work near the cultural or archaeological find shall not resume until a professional archaeologist, who meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines, has evaluated the material and offered recommendations for further action. For discoveries known or likely to be associated with Native American heritage (prehistoric sites and select historic period sites), the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) for the Nor-Rel-Muk Nation, the Wintu Educational and Cultural Council, the Round Valley Reservation/Covelo Indian Tribe, and the Redding Rancheria shall be contacted immediately to evaluate the discovery and in consultation with the project proponent, the County, and professional archaeologist, develop a treatment plan in any instance where significant impacts cannot be avoided.

If Archaeological features or materials are unearthed pursuant to §15064.5 during any phase of project activity, all work in the immediate vicinity of the find shall halt until the significance of the resource has been evaluated. Any mitigation measures that may be deemed necessary shall be implemented by a qualified archaeologist prior to resumption of construction activities to the satisfaction of NAHC. The Applicant will provide the opportunity for Native American monitors to participate in the identification, evaluation, and mitigation of effects upon, any Native American human remains or cultural resources inadvertently exposed during the proposed construction. Consultation with personnel designated by the NAHC would be acceptable. Should tribal representatives agree to consult on any such discoveries, the costs incurred are the responsibility of Applicant. If human remains are exposed by project related activity, the Applicant shall comply with California State Health and Safety Code, Section 7050.5, which states that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made the necessary findings as to the origin and the disposition pursuant to California Public Resources Code, Section 5097.98.

To prevent potential impacts to unknown tribal cultural resources at the project site, an inadvertent discovery protocol is required by law, as stated above, for all discoveries to ensure the project will not

cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a less than significant impact.

(b) Less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated:
As discussed above, the entire property exhibits evidence of ground disturbance from past, grading, residential and commercial construction, and demolition. No evidence of any tribal cultural resource was observed during the pedestrian survey conducted.

As noted above, an information request letter was delivered to the NAHC. The NAHC responded with a letter indicating that a search of their Sacred Lands files returned negative results. As such, the proposed project would not cause a substantial adverse change in a significant of a tribal cultural resource. A request for tribal consultation, pursuant to AB 52, was initiated with the Nor-Rel-Muk Nation, the Wintu Educational and Cultural Council, the Round Valley Reservation/Covelo Indian Tribe, and the Redding Rancheria. No responses were received from these entities requesting consultation under the provisions of AB 52. As such, the proposed project would not cause a substantial adverse change in a significance of a known tribal cultural resource.

However, there remains the possibility that tribal cultural resources could exist in the area and may be uncovered during project development. Therefore, if cultural or archaeological resources, such as chipped or ground stone, or bone are discovered during ground-disturbance activities, work shall be stopped within 50 feet of the discovery, as required by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA; January 1999 Revised Guidelines, Title 14 California Code of Regulations [CCR] 15064.5 (f)). Work near the cultural or archaeological find shall not resume until a professional archaeologist, who meets the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines, has evaluated the material and offered recommendations for further action. For discoveries known or likely to be associated with Native American heritage (prehistoric sites and select historic period sites), the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) for the Nor-Rel-Muk Nation, the Wintu Educational and Cultural Council, the Round Valley Reservation/Covelo Indian Tribe, and the Redding Rancheria shall be contacted immediately to evaluate the discovery and in consultation with the project proponent, the County, and professional archaeologist, develop a treatment plan in any instance where significant impacts cannot be avoided.

To prevent potential impacts to unknown tribal cultural resources at the project site, an inadvertent discovery protocol is required by law, as stated above, for all discoveries to ensure the project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a less than significant impact.

Mitigation Measures: Based on the above evaluation, in order for the proposed project to result in a less-than-significant impact, the following mitigation measure shall be implemented:

CUL-1: If cultural resources are encountered during construction activities, all onsite work shall cease in the immediate area and within a 50-foot buffer of the discovery location. A qualified archaeologist will be retained to evaluate and assess the significance of the discovery, and develop and implement an avoidance or mitigation plan, as appropriate. For discoveries known or likely to be associated with Native American heritage (prehistoric sites and select historic period sites), the tribes listed in Section 4.3 or those on file with the County should also be contacted immediately to evaluate the discovery and, in consultation with the project proponent, the County, and consulting archaeologist, develop a treatment plan in any instance where significant impacts cannot be avoided. Prehistoric materials which could be encountered include obsidian and chert debitage or formal tools, grinding implements, (e.g., pestles, handstones, bowl mortars, slabs), locally darkened midden, deposits of shell, faunal remains, and human burials. Historic archaeological discoveries may include early-20th century

mining equipment, building foundations, structural remains, or concentrations of artifacts made of glass, ceramics, metal or other materials found in buried pits, wells or privies.
Findings: In the course of the above evaluation, impacts associated with this resource category were found to not be significant because of the inability of a project of this scope to create such impacts or the absence of project characteristics producing effects of this type.

XIX. Utilities and Service Systems Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications 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's projected demand 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

Environmental Setting:
The Burnt Ranch Estates Mutual Water Company (BREMWC) provides water treatment services for users within the service boundary in the community of Burnt Ranch Estates. Electricity to the Burnt Ranch area is provided by Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E). Solid waste services in Burnt Ranch are provided by the Trinity County Solid Waste Department (TCSWD) and private waste haulers. Waste generated by members of the Burnt Ranch community and surrounding lands are taken to the Burnt Ranch Transfer Station-approximately 2 miles from the project site. According to the trinity County Solid Waste Department, solid waste is then transferred to the Anderson Landfill located in Shasta County. Natural gas services are unavailable throughout Trinity County, necessitating the use of onsite sources (e.g., propane tanks).

Thresholds of Significance:
This Initial Study considers impacts of the proposed project as follows: (a) require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded utility infrastructure, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects; (b) have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years; (c) result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments; (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; or (e) result is the violation of any federal, state, or local solid waste regulations.

Impact Analysis:
Based on a field review by the Planning Department and other agency staff, information provided by the applicant, existing information available to the Planning Department, and observations made on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

(a) Less than Significant:
Water service will continue to be provided to the proposed project by BREMWC, which has indicated that there is sufficient capacity to serve the proposed project. As such, there is sufficient water supplies for the proposed project into the reasonably foreseeable future while maintaining water supply and service for existing customers. The proposed project does not expand water usage or entitlements. Post project water consumption will remain the same. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a less-than-significant impact on this resource category.

The proposed project provides no change to the existing privately owned wastewater treatment systems. Therefore, the proposed project would result in no impact on this resource category.

(b) Less than significant:
The proposed project will not result in a significant change in withdrawal rates of surface water from the current water sources, which would be well within allowable limits. Existing water sources will continue to be used as the primary source for the community water system. This project does not increase water usage or expand entitlements.

(c) No impact:
Existing wastewater treatment facilities are located on individual privately held parcels, and will not be affected by the proposed project. Therefore, the proposed project would result in no impact on this resource category.

(d) Less that significant impact:
All waste generated during project construction will be disposed of at a licensed facility with sufficient landfill capacity, in accordance with all federal, state and county requirements.

Ongoing solid waste produced by the project will be taken to the Burnt Ranch Transfer Station before being transported to the Anderson Landfill, Inc., a solid waste landfill facility in Shasta County. The Anderson Landfill has the existing capacity of 10,409,132 cubic yards and is permitted to receive a maximum of 1,850 tons of solid waste per day (CalRecycle, 2019). The Burnt Ranch Transfer Station and the Anderson Landfill have sufficient capacity to accommodate the solid waste generated by the proposed project.

State law (SB 1018) mandates recycling for all businesses that generate four or more cubic yards. The proposed project would be required to provide adequate areas for collecting and loading recyclable materials where solid waste is collected. The collection areas are required to be shown on construction drawings and installed before permits are issued by the County Building Department.

In compliance with State or local regulations, the proposed project would not 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. Based on the above description, the proposed project would result in a less-than-significant impact to this resource category.

(e) No impact:
All waste generated during project construction will be disposed of in accordance with all federal, state and county requirements.

The completed project would generate solid waste during construction and operational activities, requiring the implementation of waste reduction and recycling measures. The County regulates and operates programs that promote the proper disposal of solid waste, including those created by the proposed project. As noted above, the proposed project would be required to provide adequate areas for collecting and loading recyclable materials where solid waste is collected, pursuant to SB 1018. Trinity County Department of Environmental Health has indicated that the proposed project will be required to prepare waste facilities and separate waste facilities storage for organic waste to meet mandatory organic waste diversion criteria.

In compliance with State or local regulations, the proposed project will comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statues and regulations related to solid waste. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a less-than-significant impact on this resource category.

Mitigation Measures:
Based on the above evaluation, no mitigation measures are required for the project to result in a less-than-significant impact on Utilities and Service Systems.

Findings:
In the course of the above evaluation, impacts associated with this resource category were found to not be significant because of the inability of a project of this scope to create such impacts or the absence of project characteristics producing effects of this type.

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 Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?			X	
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risk, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or uncontrolled spread of wildfire?			X	
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel brakes, 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

Environmental Setting:
Weather throughout the greater Trinity County region is generally warm and dry with occasional thunderstorms occurring in the summer. Average daily high temperatures in the region during the summer range between 85-93 degrees with the highs above 100. Average relative humidity daily minimums are 19% to 12% with single-digit relative humidity a couple of days most summers. Typical gradient winds are west to east. Diurnal winds upslope and up-canyon occur during the afternoon hours with downslope winds occurring during the night. Precipitation during the summer averages less than two inches for the months of June, July, and August combined (CALFIRE, 2023).

The community of Burnt Ranch is also recognized as a State responsibility Area (SRA), in which the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CALFIRE) Shasta-Trinity Battalion 6 provides fire suppression and prevention services. Battalion 6 consists of three Schedule B stations, one conservation camp, and one lookout. Weaverville Station 60 has one Type III Schedule B engine (CALFIRE, 2018). CALFIRE designates lands in three general classification, “Moderate”, “High”, and “Very High” Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ). CALFIRE assigns FHSZ based on existing vegetation, topography, weather, crown fire potential, ember production and movement, and the likelihood of a site to burn over a 30–50 year time period. CALFIRE delineates the project site as part of a designated “High” FHSZ (CALFIRE, 2021a).

The project site is located within the boundaries of the Hawkins Bar Volunteer Fire District, which provides fire, medical, rescue, and safety services to the community of Burnt Ranch and surrounding areas. The Fire District has one Type I engine, one Type II engine, and one water tender.

The Trinity County Fire Safe Ordinance (County Code Chapter 8.30) requires the design and construction of structures, subdivisions, and other developments in Trinity County to provide for basic emergency access, signing and building numbering, private water supply reserves for emergency use, vegetation modification, and perimeter wildfire protection measures. The community of Burnt Ranch does not have an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.

The Trinity County Office of Emergency Services (OES) administers the County's Emergency Operations Plan (Trinity County, 2019) to respond to major emergencies and disasters. The Emergency Operations Plan identifies a broad range of potential hazards and a response plan for each. The Trinity County Sheriff's Department, California Highway Patrol, and other cooperating law enforcement agencies have primary responsibility for evacuations. These agencies work with the County OES, and with responding fire department personnel who assess fire behavior and spread, which ultimately influence evacuation decisions. As of this time CALFIRE, Trinity County Fire Council, Trinity County OES, Trinity County Sheriff's Department, and others have not adopted a comprehensive emergency evacuation plan applicable to this area.

All evacuations in the County follow pre-planned procedures to determine the best plan for the type of emergency. The designated County emergency evacuation and law enforcement coordinator is the sheriff. The evacuation coordinator is assisted by other law enforcement and support agencies in emergency events. Law enforcement agencies, highway/street departments, and public and private transportation providers would conduct evacuation operations. Activities would include law enforcement traffic control, barricades, signal control, and intersection monitoring downstream of the evacuation area, all with the objective of avoiding or minimizing potential backups and evacuation delays.

Threshold of Significance:

This IS considers to what degree the proposed project would impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan; exacerbate wildfire risk, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or uncontrolled spread of wildfire; require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel brakes, 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; or 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.

Impact Analysis:

Based on a field review by the Planning Department and other agency staff, information provided by the applicant, existing information available to the Planning Department, and observations made on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

(a) Less than significant impact:

The community of Burnt Ranch does not have an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. However, the proposed project is not of the nature to physically interfere with emergency response nor emergency evacuation. Furthermore, the project site's proximity to SR-299 provides access and response to the site in an emergency situation. The project has been reviewed by County DOT, and the Hawkins Bar Volunteer Fire District, and will be designed to meet emergency access standards. As such, all proposed drive aisles onsite have been designed consistent with County and Fire Code design standards for emergency access and would adequately accommodate the onsite maneuvering of emergency vehicles. Therefore, the proposed project would not substantially impair

an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a less-than-significant impact on this resource category.

(b) Less than significant impact:
CALFIRE delineates the project site as part of a designated "High" FHSZ (CALFIRE, 2021a). The project site is located along the SR-299 commercial corridor in the community of Burnt Ranch, contains minimal vegetation, and is surrounded by residential uses. The project site has moderate to minimal slopes across the site. Therefore, the project site does not exhibit topography, vegetation patterns, or other factors (e.g. fuels, aspect, etc.) that would expose people or structures to a significant risk of wildland fires. Furthermore, the proposed project is consistent with the surrounding land uses and would not introduce incompatible uses that would exacerbate wildfire risks. Therefore, the project would not, 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. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a less than significant impact on this resource category.

(c) Less than significant impact:
The project site is located along the SR-299 corridor in the community of Burnt Ranch and is within the vicinity of existing water, wastewater, stormwater, electrical, and telecommunication facilities available to service the project. The proposed project proposes the replacement of existing water systems and upgrades to existing facilities and will improve fire response. The proposed project does not 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. Therefore, the proposed project would result in a less than significant impact on this resource category. The project applicant contacted the Hawkins Bar Fire Chief, who expressed that they did not have any concerns with the project. The Hawkins Bar Fire District did not respond to a request for formal comment. Staff has little concern about fire danger as a result of the proposed project, since it increases the resilience of the water system, inherently increasing fire safety.

(d) No impact:
The project site is moderately flat with a southeast aspect. During the construction of the proposed project, the project site will be regraded to a more uniform elevation with minimal slopes across the site. Therefore, the project will not exhibit slopes that have the potential to result in significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landsides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes. In addition, the project will be permitted under the Construction General Permit and is required to develop a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) that implements Best Management Practices (BMPs). Therefore, the proposed project would result in no impact on this resource category.

Mitigation Measures:
Based on the above evaluation, no mitigation measures are required for the project to result in a less-than-significant impact on wildfire.

Findings:
In the course of the above evaluation, impacts associated with this resource category were found to not be significant because of the inability of a project of this scope to create such impacts or the absence of project characteristics producing effects of this type.

XXI. Mandatory Findings of Significance	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history of prehistory?		X		
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects).		X		
c) Does the project have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?		X		

Impact Analysis:
Based on a field review by the Planning Department and other agency staff, information provided by the applicant, existing information available to the Planning Department, and observations made on the project site and in the vicinity, the following findings can be made:

(a) Less than significant with mitigation incorporated**:**
As discussed in this report above and listed environmental checklist, the project will not have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, or reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or eliminate important examples of a major periods of California history or prehistory.

This Project builds on current efforts by Applicant to advance cleaner modern infrastructure. As discussed in the project description the underlying purpose and goal of the Project is to provide reliable storage of drinking water, improve efficiency, and ensure a long-term availability.

The project does not contemplate removal or burning of significant amounts of trees that sequester carbon that would otherwise be in the atmosphere.

Also as discussed above, the project will not have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable, and will not have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly. The project as defined will not result in growth inducing impacts.

All impacts to the environment, including impacts to habitat for fish and wildlife species, fish and wildlife populations, plant and animal communities, rare and endangered plants and animal species, and historical and prehistorical resources were evaluated as part of the analysis in this document. Where impacts were determined to be potentially significant, mitigation measures have been imposed to reduce those impacts to less-than-significant levels. In other instances, the project design and compliance with existing laws and regulations would reduce impacts of the project to less-than-significant levels. Therefore, the proposed project as designed, mitigated, conditioned, and in compliance with existing regulatory requirements, would not substantially degrade the quality of the environment and impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

(b) Less than significant with mitigation incorporated:
As discussed throughout this document, implementation of the proposed project has the potential to result in impacts to the environment that are individually limited, but are not cumulatively considerable, including impacts to Air Quality (Section III), Biological Resources (Section IV), Cultural Resources (Section V), Geology and Soils (Section VII), Noise (Section XIII), and Tribal Cultural Resources (Section XVIII). In most instances where the project has the potential to result in individually limited significant impacts to the environment (including the resources listed above), mitigation measures have been imposed to reduce the potential effects to less-than-significant levels. In other instances, the project location, design, proposed conditions of approval, and compliance with existing laws and regulations would reduce impacts of the project to less-than-significant levels. Therefore, the proposed project would not contribute to environmental effects that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable, and impacts would be less than significant.

(c) Less than significant with mitigation incorporated**:**
The potential for the proposed project to result in environmental effects that could adversely affect human beings, either directly or indirectly, has been discussed throughout this document. In instances where the proposed project has the potential to result in direct or indirect adverse effects to human beings, including impacts to air quality, cultural resources, and noise, mitigation measures have been applied to reduce the impact to below a level of significance. In other instances, the project location, design, proposed conditions of approval, and compliance with existing laws and regulations would reduce impacts of the projects to less-than-significant levels. Therefore, the proposed project would not have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

References

The following documents were used in the preparation of this Initial Study. The documents are available for review at the Trinity County Planning Department during regular business hours.

Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD). 2017.California Environmental Quality Act Air Quality Guidelines

California Air Pollution Control Officer's Association (CAPCOA). 2009. Health Risk Assessments for Proposed Land Use Projects.

California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA). 2011. Health Effects.

California Air Resources Board (CARB). 2017. 2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan. The Strategy for achieving California's 2030 greenhouse gas reduction target.

California Air Resources Board (CARB). 2018. 8th Edition, California Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory. 2000-2026. Greenhouse Gas Emissions for 2000 to 2016, Trends of Emissions and Other Indicators. Executive Summary.

California Air Resources Board (CARB).
- 2023a. Hydrogen Sulfide & Health
- 2023b. Lead & Health.
- 2023c. Sulfate & Health.
- 2023d. Vinyl Chloride & Health.
- 2023e. Visibility Reducing Particles & Health

California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod).2023. https://www.caleemod.com/

California Department of Transportation (CalTrans).2023. California State Scenic Highway List.

(CalRecycle). 2019. Anderson Landfill, Inc.- Facility Detail.

California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection (CALFIRE). 2018. Shasta-Trinity Unit 2019 Strategic Fire Plan.

California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection (CALFIRE). 2023a. FHSZ Viewer.

California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection (CALFIRE). 2023b. SRA Viewer.

California Department of Conservation (DOC) – Division of Mines and Geology. 2000. A General Location Guide for Ultramafic Rocks in California – Areas More Likely to Contain Naturally Occurring Asbestos

California Department of Conservation (DOC) – Division of Mines and Geology. 2010. California Geologic Survey – Geologic Map of California.

California Department of Conservation (DOC) – Division of Land Resource Protection.2023. California Important Farmland Finder.

California Department of Conservation (DOC) – Interactive Web Map.2023. https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/mineralresources/

California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC).2023.Envirostor database. https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public

California Department of Water Resources (DWR). 2013. Sustainable Groundwater Management Act 019 Basin Prioritization

California Surface Mining and Reclamation (SMARA). 2023. Interactive Map. https://www.conservation.ca.gov/dmr/SMARA%20Mines/Pages/SMARA%20Administration%20Units.aspx

Churchill, R. K., and R. L. Hill. (Churchill). 2000. A General Location Guide for Ultramafic Rocks in California—Areas More Likely to Contain Naturally Occurring Asbestos. California Department of Conservation. 2000.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). 2016. FEMA Map Service Center, Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panel No. 06105C1035F, Effective on 07/20/2016.

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). 2006. Construction Noise Handbook-Construction Equipment Noise Levels and Ranges.

Google Earth Pro. (Google).2023.

Irwin, William. (Irwin) 2022. Geologic Map of the Hennessy Peak 7.5x7.5 Quadrangle, Trinity County, California.

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS). 2024. Web Soil Survey. Custom Soils Report. Included as Appendix G.

North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District (NCUAQMD). 1995. Particulate Matter (PM10) Attainment Plan – Draft Report

North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District (NCUAQMD). 2023. NCUAQMD Website – General Air Quality Information in the North Coast and Air Quality Planning & CEQA. Available at: www.ncuaqmd.org

State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB).2023. Final California Integrated Report (303(d) List/305(b) List/305(b) Report) – Trinity River HU, Middle HA.

State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). 2023. Geotracker – Viewer. https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/

Trinity County. 1990. Burnt Ranch Community Plan. Revised 12/11/01

Trinity County. 2002a. Trinity County General Plan – Circulation Element.

Trinity County. 1988. Trinity County General Plan – Land Use Element.

Trinity County. 2014. Trinity County General Plan – Safety Element.

Trinity County. 2003. Trinity County General Plan – Noise Element.

Trinity County. 1973. Trinity County General Plan – Open Space Element.

Trinity County. 2009. Trinity County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan

Trinity County. 2017. Trinity County Regional Transportation Plan.

Trinity County. 2019. Trinity County Code, Title 17, Zoning.

Trinity County. 2019. Trinity County Emergency Operations Plan

Trinity County. 2023. 2019-2024 Housing Element Update, Certification Draft. Adopted April 1, 2020.

Trinity County Regional Housing Need Assessment (RHNA). 2018 -2024.

Trinity Transit. 2020. Trinity Transit Website. Available at: https://www.trinitytransit.org.
United States Census Bureau (U.S. Census). 2023. Burnt Ranch CDP, California – Profile of General Population and Housing Characteristics: 2020.

United States Census Bureau (U.S. Census). 2022. Average Household Size of Occupied Housing Units by Tenure – Burnt Ranch CDP, California

United States Census Bureau (U.S. Census). 2022. American Community Survey – Burnt Ranch CDP, California – Average Household Size of Occupied Housing Units by Tenure.

United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).2023. RCRAInfo database.

United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS).2023. National Wetlands Inventory. https://www.fws.gov/program/national-wetlands-inventory/wetlands-mapper

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). 2011. Reported Historic Asbestos Mines, Historic Asbestos Prospects, and Other Natural Occurrences of Asbestos in California.

Appendix A
Cultural Resource Report

Appendix B
Biological Resource Report

Appendix C
Site Plans

Appendix D
CalEEMod Calculator

Appendix E
Geological Soils Report

Appendix F
Hazard Maps and Document Searches