Storm Water Master Plan

Draft Initial Study / Proposed Negative Declaration

Lead Agency:

City of Chico, Public Works Department

411 Main Street

Chico, CA 95928

AUGUST 2024

Prepared By:

City of Chico Department of Public Works – Engineering

Lead Consultant: Wood Rodgers, Inc.

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Each of the appendices listed below is available for review, along with the Draft IS/Proposed ND on the City of Chico's website at https://chico.ca.us/Departments/Public-Works/SewerStorm-Drain-Engineering/Storm-Water-Master-Plan-Update/index.html (Public Review Documents – Storm Water Master Plan).

Appendix A. Biological Resources Database Query Results

List of Acronyms

BCAQMD or Air District	Butte County Air Quality Management District
BMPs	Best Management Practices
CAP	Climate Action Plan
CBC	California Building Code
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
City	City of Chico
CMC	Chico Municipal Code
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CRWQCB	California Regional Water Quality Control Board
DTSC	Department of Toxic Substances Control
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FCS	Full Capture Systems
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
GHG	Greenhouse gas
ND	Negative Declaration
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
NPDES	National Pollution Discharge Elimination Permit
NSVPA	Northern Sacramento Valley Planning Area
PLU	Priority Land Use
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service

Draft Initial Study / Proposed Negative Declaration

City of Chico
Environmental Coordination and Review

I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A. Project Title: Storm Water Master Plan

B. Project Sponsor/Lead Agency: City of Chico – Public Works Engineering
PO Box 3420
Chico, CA 95927

C. City Contact: Richard Burgi, P.E.
Associate Civil Engineer
Sewer and Storm Water Division
City of Chico – Public Works Engineering
Richard.Burgi@Chicoca.gov
(530) 879-6950

D. Project Location: The proposed SWMP Planning Area is located within the City of Chico, Butte County, California (**Figure 1. Project Vicinity; Figure 2. Project Location**).

E. Project Area: The Storm Water Master Plan (SWMP) Planning Area includes the City of Chico Sphere of Influence as defined by the 2030 General Plan encompassing approximately 43.86 square miles (28,068.47 acres).

F. General Plan Designation: Very Low Density Residential, Low Density Residential, Medium Density Residential, High Density Residential, Residential Mixed Use, Neighborhood Commercial, Commercial Mixed Use, Commercial Services, Regional Commercial, Office Mixed Use, Industrial/Office Mixed Use, Manufacturing & Warehousing, Public Facilities & Services, Primary Open Space, Secondary Open Space, Special Mixed Use, and Special Planning Area (**Figure 3. General Plan Land Use Map**).

G. Zoning: Suburban Residential 3-acre min., Suburban Residential 2-acre min., Suburban Residential 1-acre min., Suburban Residential 20,000 sq. ft. min., Suburban Residential 15,000 sq. ft. min., Suburban Residential 10,000 sq. ft. min., Low Density Residential, Medium Density Residential, Medium-High Density Residential, High Density Residential, Residential Mixed Use, Office Residential, Office Commercial, Neighborhood Commercial, Community Commercial, Downtown South, Downtown North, Services Commercial, Regional Commercial, Light Manufacturing, General Manufacturing, Industrial Office Mixed-Use, Airport, Airport Public Facilities, Airport Commercial, Airport Manufacturing, Traditional Mixed Use, Special Planning Area, Secondary Open Space, and Primary Open Space.

H. Environmental Setting:
The SWMP study area includes the watersheds that drain into and cover the City of Chico Sphere of Influence. The SWMP study area include numerous streams that pose flood risks to the City and many storm drainage systems of a wide range of sizes that discharge into the various streams. The study area was divided into the following evaluation areas for the purpose of organizing analysis of the storm drainage systems by receiving waterway:

- Comanche Creek
- Little Chico Creek
- Big Chico Creek
- Lindo Channel (Upper and Lower)
- Pleasant Valley (PV) Ditch
- Shasta Union Drainage Assessment District (SUDAD) Drainage Ditch
- Sycamore Creek/Mud Creek
- Airport Area (North Chico)

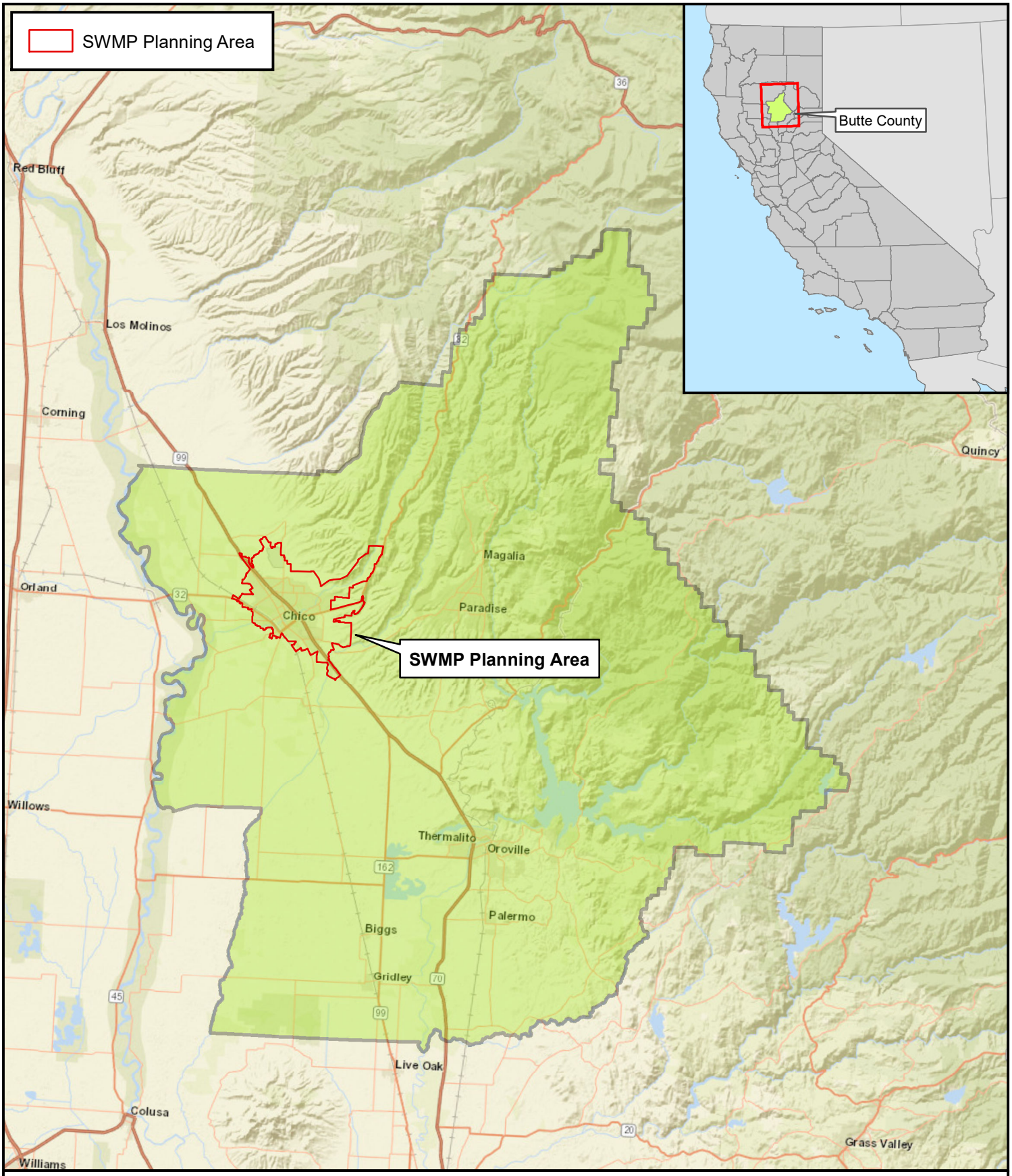

FIGURE 1

PROJECT VICINITY

STORM WATER MASTER PLAN

CITY OF CHICO

BUTTE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

OCTOBER 2022

0 2.5 5 10

Miles

NORTH

WOOD RODGERS

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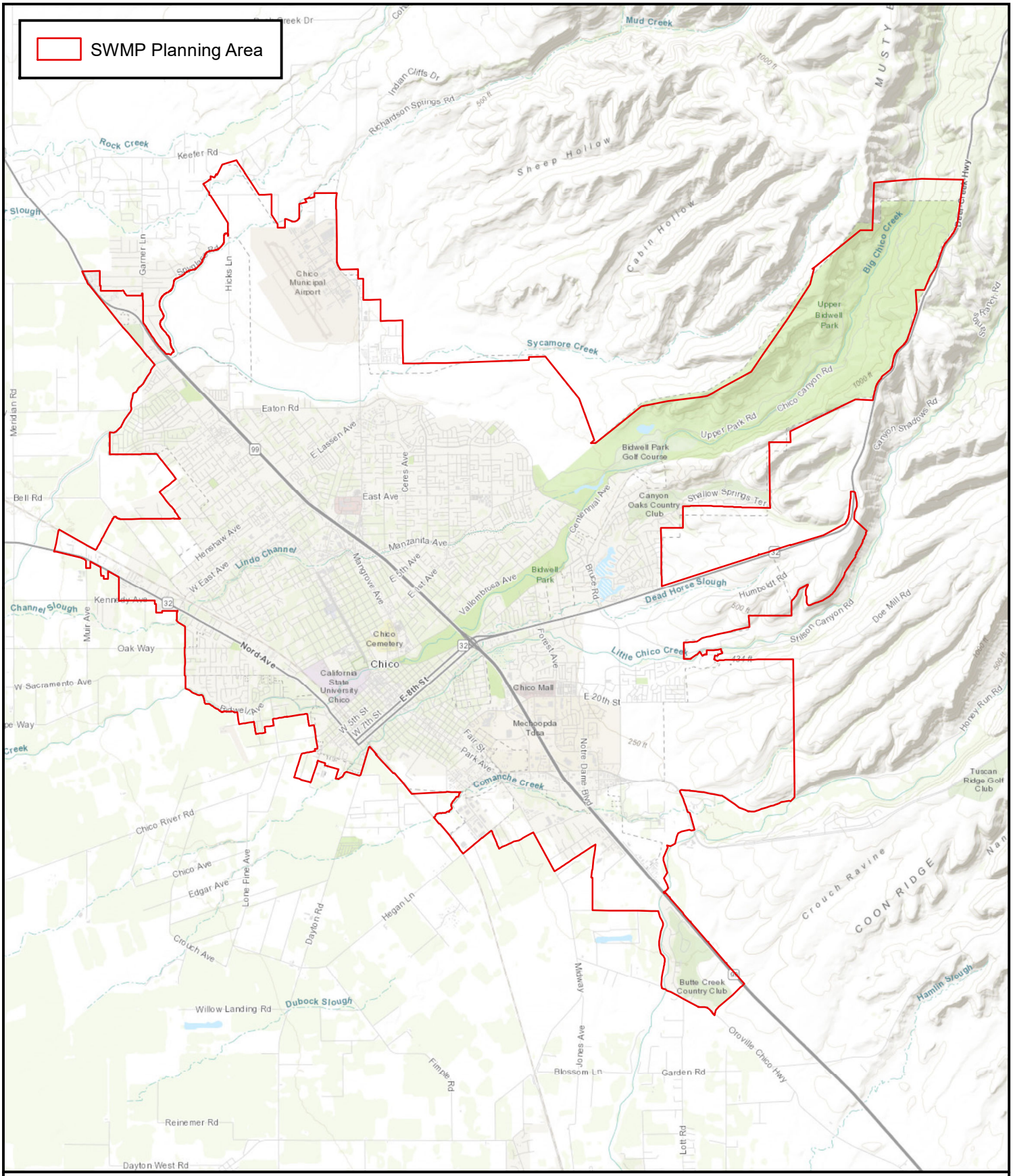


FIGURE 2
PROJECT LOCATION
STORM WATER MASTER PLAN
CITY OF CHICO
BUTTE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
OCTOBER 2022

0 0.5 1 2
Miles

NORTH

WOOD RODGERS

GENERAL PLAN LAND USE

STORM WATER MASTER PLAN

CITY OF CHICO, CA

DECEMBER 2023

NORTH

0 2,500 5,000 10,000

Feet

City Limits

City Sphere of Influence

Zoning:

RS-3	Suburban Residential 3 acre min.
RS-2	Suburban Residential 2 acre min.
RS-1	Suburban Residential 1 acre min.
RS-20	Suburban Residential 20,000 sq ft min.
R1-15	Low Density Residential 15,000 sq ft min.
R1-10	Low Density Residential 10,000 sq ft min.
R1	Low Density Residential
R2	Medium Density Residential
R3	Medium-High Density Residential
R4	High Density Residential
RMU	Residential Mixed Use
OR	Office Residential
OC	Office Commercial
CN	Neighborhood Commercial
CC	Community Commercial
DS	Downtown South
DN	Downtown North
CS	Services Commercial
CR	Regional Commercial
ML	Light Manufacturing
MG	General Manufacturing
IOMU	Industrial Office Mixed-Use
A	Airport
AP	Airport Public Facilities
AC	Airport Commercial
AM	Airport Manufacturing
TND	Traditional Mixed Use
SPA	Special Planning Area
PQ	Public/Quasi Public Facilities

SOURCES:
Land Use Data: City of Chico Specific Zoning District Standards

https://chico.ca.us/sites/main/files/file-attachments/citywebmap_zoning20170901aug2017.pdf?1594054713

WOOD RODGERS

I. Project Description:

The City of Chico Storm Water Master Plan (SWMP) proposes drainage facilities and other stormwater improvements expected to be used by both private development and public works projects in order to meet the City's goals for effectively routing stormwater and minimizing flooding within the project limits while meeting storm water quality requirements and objectives (see full SWMP document at City of Chico website: https://chico.ca.us/Departments/Public-Works/SewerStorm-Drain-Engineering/Storm-Water-Master-Plan-Update/index.html). The purpose of the SWMP is to improve existing storm drainage and to provide drainage facilities that can accommodate future development. The types of proposed improvements in the SWMP include (**Figure 4. Capital Improvement Projects**):

1. Improvements to existing stormwater pipes, gutters, and drainage inlets (increasing capacity where appropriate);
2. Placement of new stormwater pipes;
3. Installation of a pump station;
4. Construction of peak flow attenuation and infiltration facilities such as detention and retention basins;
5. Bank and bed stream stabilization;
6. Upgrading or construction of storm drainage facilities to improve water quality.

The SWMP initial focus is on improvements to the existing stormwater facilities to alleviate deficiencies that have been identified by City staff based on observed flooding and through a review of the 10-year and 100-year storm model results (Figure 4).

These types of improvements form the basis of the evaluation of environmental impacts of the SWMP. The specific size and design of individual facilities would vary. Each project would adhere to standards, performance criteria, and design criteria consistent with the SWMP and the City of Chico General Plan. The performance criteria used to develop project recommendations to alleviate known deficiencies was to provide a substantial reduction in the depth and/or duration of flooding without causing a significant increase in flooding elsewhere. Projects to accommodate future development would be designed to meet requirements in the CMC.

1. <u>Improvements to Existing Stormwater Pipes, Gutters, and Drainage Inlets</u>
   At numerous locations within the City of Chico, existing storm water facilities have been identified as being inadequate to provide a minimum recommended level of service during selected design storm events. These locations will be evaluated for a variety of solutions to reduce flooding on roadways and adjacent properties. Improvements may include replacing existing storm drain pipes, improving curb and gutter systems, adding or upgrading drainage inlets, and constructing storm water detention systems.

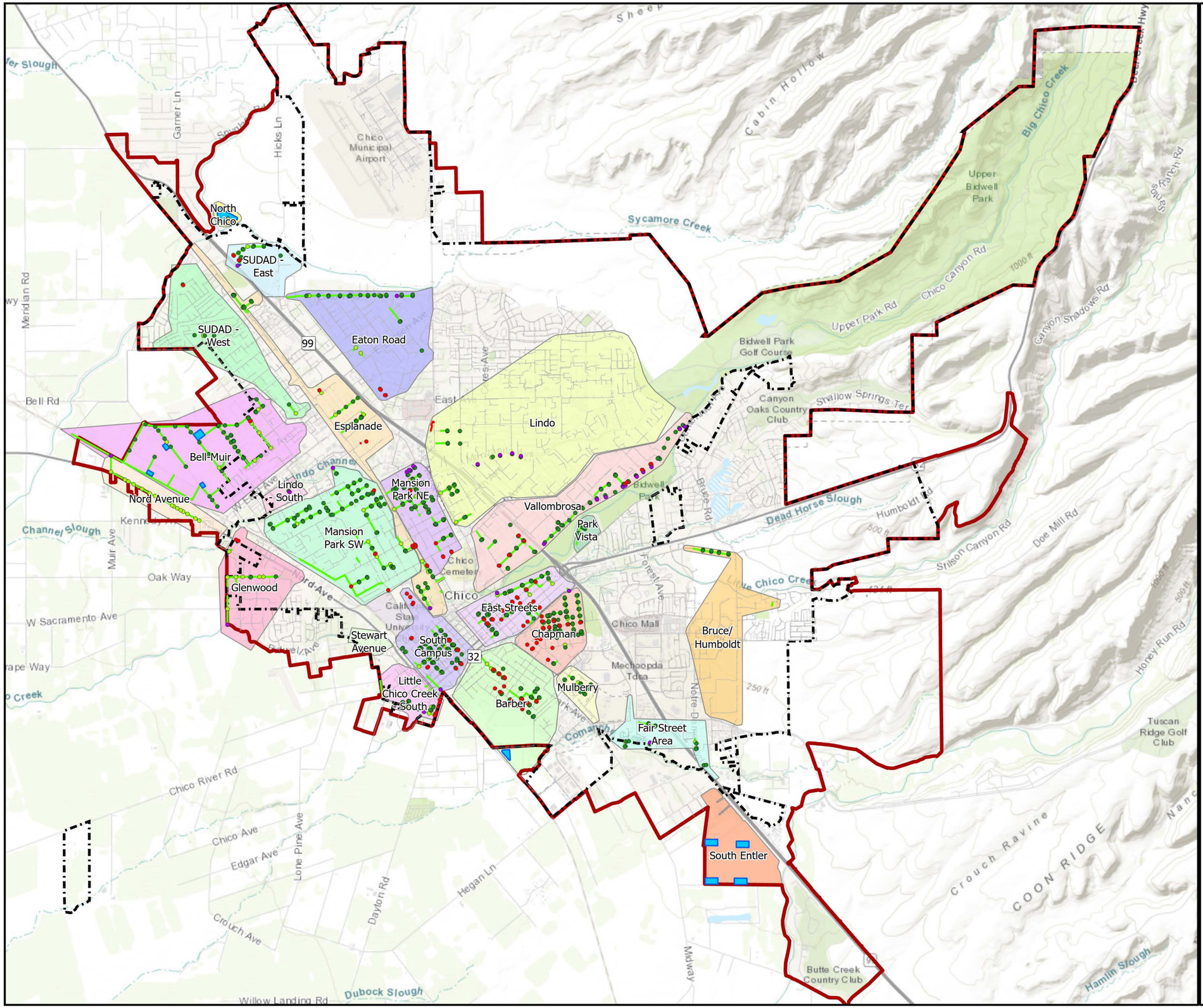
2. <u>Placement of New Stormwater Pipes and Open Channels</u>
   In locations where storm water is conveyed only through surface facilities (such as roadside ditches, gutters, or natural swales) and where those facilities are currently inadequate, the SWMP will evaluate potential improvements that may include construction of new underground storm drain pipes and associated gutters and inlets where appropriate. New open channel conveyance may be used to serve areas of new development where necessary due to grade constraints.

STORM DRAIN CIP GROUPINGS

STORM WATER MASTER PLAN

CITY OF CHICO

MAY 2024



NORTH

0 2,500 5,000 10,000

Feet

- Proposed Manhole
- Proposed Drop Inlet
- Proposed Outfall
- Remove/ Replace Inadequate Drop Inlet
- Proposed Pump
- Proposed Pipe
- Remove/ Replace Inadequate Pipe
- Existing Pipe
- Proposed Detention Basin
- City Limits
- Sphere of Influence

Project Groups

- Barber
- Bell-Muir
- Bruce/ Humboldt
- Chapman
- East Streets
- Eaton Road
- Esplanade
- Fair Street Area
- Glenwood
- Lindo
- Lindo - South
- Little Chico Creek - South
- Mansion Park NE
- Mansion Park SW
- Mulberry
- Nord Avenue
- North Chico
- Park Vista
- SUDAD - East
- SUDAD - West
- South Campus
- Stewart Avenue
- South Entler
- Vallombrosa

NOTES:

1. Barber Yard Basin and Outlet are shown, but associated costs for these facilities are not included in the SWMP planning costs.

2. Basins proposed to accommodate future development are conceptual. Alternative configurations of regional basins, and/or project-specific basins, could be constructed in order to meet the objective of the SWMP.

WOOD RODGERS

3. Installation of Pump Stations or Increasing Pump Station Capacity
   Pump stations are typically sited at locations where ground elevations are below the design high water surface elevation in the receiving channel. These facilities typically consist of an intake/diversion structure, a wet well, multiple pumps, manual/automatic controls, an emergency generator, and an outfall structure. No existing City-operated storm water pump stations were identified. One new pump station is recommended in the SWMP to drain a detention basin that would be required to serve new development in the North Chico Special Planning Area.

4. Construction of Peak Attenuation Facilities such as Detention Basins
   Peak flow attenuation facilities are commonly used to temporarily detain storm water runoff so that downstream flows are lower than they would be without the facilities. Typically, peak attenuation facilities would include detention basins or swales. Detention basins include excavated basins, basins formed by embankments, and underground chambers. The discharge rate is controlled by the size of the outlet conduit or controls, such and orifices, weirs or pumps connected to the conduit. The SWMP update would evaluate existing locations in the SWMP Planning Area where additional storm water storage is needed to attenuate peak flows and will propose appropriate additional facilities to meet current storm water and flood risk reduction goals. Additional detention and retention basins may be used to accommodate areas of new development. The SWMP also includes sedimentation basins to manage runoff from agricultural areas where sediment impacts the City's storm drainage system.

5. Bank Stabilization
   In order to reduce erosion along the banks of natural water ways in the SWMP Planning Area, the SWMP update may propose bank stabilization methods including: improvements at discharge points or storm water outfalls, bank stabilization improvements at bridges or diversion structures where erosion or scour is occurring, channel revegetation, and routine maintenance of natural waterways and major storm water facilities in the SWMP Planning Area.

6. Upgrading or Construction of Storm Drainage Facilities to Improve Water Quality
   A program level Environmental Impact Report for the 1997 Storm Drainage Master Plan Addendum was approved in 2000. Since then, there have been substantial changes in the regulatory requirements for storm water treatment. The SWMP update will provide an outline of all current water quality regulatory requirements and recommendations for how the City can satisfy the requirements and meet storm water quality goals. Best Management Practices will be integrated into all storm water improvement projects to control, prevent, and reduce urban contaminants and solid waste conveyed into receiving waters. Part of these improvements includes the installation of trash capture devices consistent with State Water Resources Control Board Statewide Trash Amendments.

No Project Alternative

Should the City decide to not adopt the SWMP, there would be no comprehensive direction for improving stormwater drainage in and around the City of Chico. Regardless of whether the SWMP is adopted, the baseline information developed for the SWMP will be available to inform the City's future decisions related to drainage, flood control and storm water quality improvements. The baseline information developed for the SWMP includes drainage system mapping and modeling, updated stream system modeling, and identification of deficiencies within the storm drainage system and identification of locations where levees along streams have insufficient freeboard to meet state and federal requirements. If no plan is implemented, existing deficiencies would remain unless independent projects are advanced by the City individually. New and redevelopment projects would be able to use the information developed for the SWMP to evaluate potential mitigation measures. However, CEQA for new and redevelopment projects would not rely on a programmatic evaluation of stormwater improvements and any such projects would require individual environmental review.

J. Public Agency Approvals:
The SWMP must be adopted by the City of Chico City Council.

K. Native American Tribal Consultation: Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1? If so, has consultation begun?

☐ **Yes** ☒ **No**

L. Prepared By:

Tracy R. Bettencourt
Senior Planner, AICP
City of Chico – Public Works - Engineering
PO Box 3420, Chico, CA 95927
Tracy.Bettencourt@Chicoca.gov
(530) 879-6903

Andrew Dellas, MS, PWS
Senior Biologist/Environmental Planner
Wood Rodgers, Inc.
3301 C Street, Bldg. 100-B
Sacramento, CA 95816
(916) 341-7760

II. ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below could be potentially affected by this project, but, due to the inclusion of specific mitigation measures, will result in impacts that are "Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated," as indicated by the environmental checklist on the following pages.

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

III. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

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

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

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

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

☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there WILL NOT be a significant effect in this case because all potentially significant effects have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards and 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. No further study is required.

Tracy R Bettencourt — 9/5/2024

Signature **Date**

Tracy R. Bettencourt, Senior Planner, City of Chico Public Works - Engineering

Printed Name (for Brenden Vieg, Community Development Director)

IV. EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

- Responses to the following questions and related discussion indicate if the proposed project will have or potentially have a significant adverse impact on the environment.

- A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by referenced information sources. A "No Impact' answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g. the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors or general standards.

- All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.

- Once it has been determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there is at least one "Potentially Significant Impact" entry when the determination is made an EIR is required.

- Negative Declaration: "Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated" applies when the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less than Significant Impact." The initial study will describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from Section 4, "Earlier Analysis," may be cross-referenced).

- Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to tiering, a program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration [Section 15063(c)(3)(D)].

- Initial studies may incorporate references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., the general plan or zoning ordinances, etc.). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated. A source list attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted are cited in the discussion.

- The explanation of each issue should identify:
  a. The significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
  b. The mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significant.

V. PROGRAM LEVEL CEQA ANALYSIS

This Initial Study with Negative Declaration is a program level CEQA document evaluating the potential for environmental impacts associated with the City of Chico's decision to adopt a new SWMP that will guide future infrastructure decisions over the next 20 years. This project, in itself, will not result in any infrastructure improvements occurring (no ground disturbing activities) which are most commonly associated with incurring environmental impacts to resources as part of the natural or human environment. However, adoption of a new SWMP is expected to result in future projects being approved by the City, which will result in ground disturbance. The analysis provided in this Initial Study focuses on the potential for how the direction of the SWMP could result in impacts on a broader or cumulative scale; however, given the direction that the Master Plan's project description is providing the City, many of the proposed infrastructure improvement projects are not expected to have any potential for significant environmental impacts and would not contribute to cumulatively considerable impacts.

This environmental document assumes that future projects that the City pursues after adoption of the SWMP, will undergo some level of CEQA review. Many projects identified in the SWMP will be Exempt from CEQA and no further environmental documentation or analysis may be required, but some projects, particularly those that involve impacts to natural water ways or large ground disturbance of natural habitat or native soils may require a project level CEQA analysis that can be tiered to this Program Level Initial Study and Negative Declaration.

A. Aesthetics Except as provide in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project or its related activities:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?				X
2. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?				X
3. In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?			X	
4. Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?			X	

DISCUSSION:
The proposed Plan will not result in changes to the current visual character of the existing areas. The Plan would provide guidance on project design and location for stormwater improvements throughout the City of Chico.

A.1. - A.2. No Impact
There are no designated scenic highways or scenic vistas within the Plan area. The SWMP would not affect scenic resources, and no impact would occur. Any project associated with the guidance provided in the SWMP shall require project level CEQA analysis regarding potential effects to scenic resources, including trees, rock outcroppings, or historic buildings, and any effects to the visual character or quality of the proposed project area. Therefore, the SWMP would have no adverse impact to scenic vistas within the Plan area, and no impact would occur.

A.3– A.4 Less than Significant Impact.
The SWMP identifies improvements to the City's storm water infrastructure. The improvements range from maintenance of existing storm water facilities to construction of new detention basins and conveyance improvements to increase capacity (where appropriate). The SWMP does identify or recommend construction of new or improved storm water facilities; however, each new project would be individually analyzed for environmental effects during the project approval process. The improvements identified within the plan itself would not substantially change the hillsides, ridges, visually significant vegetation, and other elements that are critical in shaping the City's scenic identity or create a new source of substantial light or glare. Therefore, approval of the SWMP would not result in a substantial adverse effect on a scenic resources and impacts would be considered less than significant.

MITIGATION: None required.

B. Agriculture and Forest Resources: In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. 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	
2. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?				X
3. Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526, or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?				X
4. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				X
5. Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?			X	

DISCUSSION:

B.1.– Less than Significant Impact. The SWMP will not convert Prime or Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance to a non-agricultural use. The California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program's 'Butte County Important Farmland 2018' map identifies the Plan area as "Grazing Land", "Urban and Built-Up Land", "Other Land", and "Prime Farmland". Grazing land is characterized as land on which the existing vegetation is suited to the grazing of livestock. Urban and built-up land is occupied by structures with a building density of at least 1 unit to 1.5 acres. Other land is land not included in any other mapping category, commonly including low density residential, brush, timber, wetland or riparian areas. Prime farmland is characterized as farmland with the best combination of physical and chemical properties able to sustain long-term agricultural production.

The SWMP identifies improvements to the City's storm water infrastructure. The improvements range from maintenance of existing storm water facilities to construction of new detention basins and conveyance improvements to increase capacity (where appropriate). The SWMP does identify or recommend construction of new or improved storm water facilities; however, none of the proposed

infrastructure improvement projects are expected to result in any major or cumulatively significant conversion of agricultural lands to non-agricultural uses. A new detention or retention basin could result in a small area of conversion; however, if such a new basin is proposed where farmland of statewide importance occurs, project level CEQA analysis would occur to determine if those impacts would be significant and if mitigation would be required. Therefore, the SWMP is considered to have a **less than significant** to agricultural and forest resources.

B.2. – B.4 No Impact.
The SWMP will not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, forest land, or land under a Williamson Act Contract. The project will not result in the loss of forest land, conversion of forest land, or involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in the loss of forest land. The project will result in **No Impact**.

B.5. Less than Significant Impact.
See discussion in B.1. Impacts would be considered **less than significant**.

MITIGATION: None required.

C. 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 with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plans (e.g., Northern Sacramento Valley Planning Area 2021 Triennial Air Quality Attainment Plan, Chico Urban Area CO Attainment Plan, and Butte County AQMD Indirect Source Review Guidelines)?				X
2. 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	
3. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?			X	
4. Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?			X	

DISCUSSION:

This section describes the impact analysis related to air quality for the SWMP. Air quality impacts associated with construction and operation of proposed projects identified within the SWMP would be assessed and quantified (where applicable) individually during project-specific CEQA analysis using standard and accepted software tools, techniques, and emission factors. The following information discussion is an analysis of air quality effects solely for the Plan itself.

C.1. No Impact.

The SWMP will not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plans within the Butte County Air Quality Management District (BCAQMD) of the Northern Sacramento Valley Planning Area (NSVPA). The Air Pollution Control Districts and Air Quality Management Districts for the counties located in the northern portion of the Sacramento Valley together establish the NSVPA. The NSVPA County of Butte, Colusa, Glenn, Shasta, Sutter, Tehama, and Yuba counties have agreed to jointly prepare an Air Quality Attainment Plan. Glenn and Colusa Counties are in Attainment but continue to participate in the regional effort. The 2021 triennial update of the NSVPA Air Quality Attainment Plan (2021 Plan) assesses the progress made in implementing the previous triennial update and proposes modifications to the strategies necessary to attain the CAAQS by the earliest practicable date. Since the SWMP does not propose the construction or operation of any improvements or growth inducing projects, it would be consistent with the 2021 Plan, and other BCAQMD rules and regulations. **No Impact** would occur.

C.2. – C.4 Less than Significant Impact.

The project will not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment. The USEPA has classified Butte County as nonattainment for the federal 8-hour O_3 standard and a partial maintenance area for the federal $PM_{2.5}$ standard. CARB has classified the area as nonattainment for the state 8-hour O_3, 24-hour PM_{10}, and annual $PM_{2.5}$ standards. CARB has designated the County in attainment status for all other criteria pollutants including carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfates, lead and unclassified designation for hydrogen sulfides and visibility reducing particles. BCAQMD has promulgated separate construction- and operation-period significance thresholds to help the Basin attain federal and state air quality standards and protect public health.

Construction
Development and approval of the SWMP would not initiate or authorize any construction of designs or improvements proposed within the SWMP. Therefore, no construction effects (e.g., criteria pollutant emissions or toxic air contaminants) due to approval and implementation of the SWMP would occur and no adverse air quality impacts would occur. Full implementation of the SWMP could result in a cumulative impact from construction emissions; however, such emissions are short term and would be expected to occur over the life of the plan (20 years or more). Due to the total duration of construction emissions occurrence, the temporary nature of construction, and the limited number of projects described in the SWMP that would generate substantial construction emissions, no cumulatively considerable construction related air quality impacts are anticipated from adoption of the SWMP.

Operational Mobile Source Emissions
Since the SWMP would not initiate or authorize any construction of SWMP-specific designs or improvement, no operational air quality impacts would occur as part of approval and implementation of the SWMP.

Actions contained in the SWMP would not affect air quality standards or contribute to a cumulatively considerable net increase in any criteria pollutant, expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations, or result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors). While the SWMP proposes maintenance and provides suggested improvement projects, it is a plan-level approval designed to have a positive effect on storm water facilities throughout the City. Moreover, future SWMP improvement projects would be reviewed on a project-specific basis consistent with CEQA and the City General Plan, and applicable air quality improvement plans. Therefore, the SWMP impact on air quality is considered **less then significant.**

MITIGATION: None Required

D. Biological Resources Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species as listed and mapped in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?			X	
2. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?			X	
3. Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?			X	
4. 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	
5. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?			X	
6. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?			X	

DISCUSSION:

A desktop review was undertaken to assess potential biological conditions within SWMP Planning Area which included two steps to collect data on special-status species, vegetation communities, sensitive communities, protected lands, and federally protected aquatic resources with the potential to occur. First, preliminary database searches were performed to identify aquatic resources and special-status species with the potential to occur in the SWMP Planning Area. Second, a preliminary review of recent aerial imagery, land use maps, and the Chico General Plan was conducted to collect site-specific data regarding habitat suitability for special-status species. Database searches were performed on the following websites:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Information Planning and Consultation (IPaC) System (2024a); USFWS Critical Habitat Portal (2024b)
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW 2024) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB)
- California Native Plant Society (CNPS 2024) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California
- National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS 2024) Protected Resources Application

- USFWS National Wetland Inventory (USFWS 2024c)
- U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographical map
- City of Chico General Plan – Open Space and Environment Element (City of Chico 2011)
- Butte Regional Conservation Plan (BRCP 2019)

A query of the USFWS's IPaC system, and NMFS Protected Resources Application was performed to identify federally listed species that may occur in or adjacent to the SWMP Planning Area. A review of the USFWS's Critical Habitat portal was also conducted to identify designated critical habitat units that fall within the SWMP Planning Area. A query of the CNDDB provided a list of processed and unprocessed special-status species occurrences within the Nord, Richardson Springs, Paradise West, Ord Ferry, Chico, and Hamlin Canyon U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute quadrangle, as well as all adjacent quads. Additionally, the CNPS database was queried to identify special-status plant species with the potential to occur in the aforementioned quads. Finally, the Chico General Plan Open Space and Environment Element and BRCP were reviewed for habitat classifications and information regarding special status species potential. The raw data returned from the database queries is provided in Appendix B.

Dominant biological communities within the SWMP Planning Area include agriculture, annual grassland, blue oak savanna, blue oak woodland, chaparral, cottonwood-willow riparian, disturbed, dredger tailings, herbaceous riparian river bar, interior live oak woodland, mixed oak woodland, open water/riverine, ranchettes – open, ranchettes – wooded, urban, valley oak riparian, wetlands (including emergent wetland and vernal pool), and willow scrub. Each of the biological communities within the SWMP Planning Area, including common plant and wildlife species know to occur in such habitats.

According to USFWS, designated Critical Habitat for Butte County meadowfoam (*Limnanthes floccosa ssp. californica*), vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardi*), and vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*) exists within the SWMP Planning Area. Portions of the SWMP Planning area are also within the Doe Mill core area as defined by the USFWS Vernal Pool Recovery Plan. Additionally, NMFS designates Critical Habitat for anadromous fish through waterways within the SWMP Planning Area, including Critical Habitat for central valley steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) and central valley spring-run Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*). Within the SWMP Planning Area, there are also a wide variety of habitats that provide suitable conditions for other federal, state, and rare special status wildlife and plant species, such as giant garter snake (Thamnophis gigas), valley elderberry longhorn beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*), and others.

The SWMP is a planning-level document that proposes drainage facilities and other stormwater improvements expected to be used by both private development and public works projects in order to meet the City's goals for effectively routing stormwater and minimizing flooding within the project limits while meeting storm water quality requirements and objectives.

D.1. Less Than Significant Impact.
Wildlife habitats within the SWMP Planning Area include habitats with the potential to support special status wildlife and plant species. Development and approval of the SWMP would not initiate or authorize any construction of designs or improvements proposed within the SWMP. Though the SWMP does identify or recommend construction of new or improved storm water facilities that may affect special status wildlife or plant species on a project-specific level, the SWMP planning document would not cause adverse effects to special status species. Therefore, any project associated with the guidance provided in the SWMP that would directly or indirectly impact biological resources would require individual, project-specific CEQA analysis regarding potential effects to biological resources. The majority of infrastructure improvements proposed in the SWMP would occur in areas of the City that are already developed and would be upgrading or improving existing facilities. These types of projects would have minimal impacts to natural resources and limit the potential for cumulative impacts from full plan implementation. It is assumed that for specific project impacts, appropriate mitigation would be implemented that would mitigate for both individual project and cumulative impacts to biological resources. As a result, implementation of the SWMP is expected to result ina **less than significant impact** to wildlife habitats.

D.2. Less Than Significant Impact.
Riparian habitat and other sensitive natural communities have been identified within the SWMP Planning Area. The proposed SWMP planning-level document would not impact riparian or other sensitive natural communities. Approval and adoption of the SWMP would not approve construction of project specific work that could cause adverse effects to riparian or other sensitive natural communities. Similar to the answer to question D.1, future SWMP improvement projects would require individual, project-specific CEQA analysis to determine project-level impacts. Therefore, impacts associated with the SWMP would be considered **less than significant**.

D.3. Less Than Significant Impact.
State and/or federally protected wetlands have been identified within the SWMP Planning Area. The proposed SWMP planning-level document would not impact state or federally protected wetlands. Approval and adoption of the SWMP would not approve construction of project specific work that could cause adverse effects to wetland habitats. Similar to the answer to question D.1, future SWMP improvement projects would require individual, project-specific CEQA analysis, and where required, appropriate regulatory permits, to determine project-level impacts. Therefore, impacts associated with the SWMP would be considered **less than significant**.

D.4.- D.6. Less Than Significant Impact. Development and approval of the SWMP would not initiate or authorize any construction of designs or improvements proposed within the SWMP. Therefore, the planning-level document would not result in the fragmentation of an existing wildlife habitat corridors nor conflict with any local policies, ordinances, or habitat conservation plans protecting biological resources. Future SWMP improvement projects would require individual, project-specific CEQA analysis to determine project-level impacts regarding wildlife corridors and consistency with applicable local policies, ordinances, and the BRCP, and the time of project-level analysis. The proposed SWMP impact would be considered **Less Than Significant**.

MITIGATION: None required; however, the following best management practices are included and may be incorporated into future infrastructure improvement projects associated with SWMP implementation (when appropriate).

- Vegetation removal or earthwork shall be minimized during the migratory nesting bird season (February 1 – August 31). If vegetation removal and/or ground disturbance is required during the nesting season, a pre-construction nesting bird and raptor survey (to encompass all migratory birds and raptors) must be conducted within three (3) days prior to commencement of construction activities.

  The pre-construction nesting bird and raptor survey shall extend up to 500-feet from the Project site to ensure that nesting raptors are not indirectly affected by construction noise. If no active nests are detected during the survey, no additional mitigation is required, and construction can proceed.

  If migratory birds or raptors are found to be nesting in or adjacent to the Project site, a no-disturbance buffer shall be established around nests to avoid disturbance and/or avoid take. Contractor shall direct construction resources to perform other construction activities in other areas of the Project at no additional cost. The buffer shall be maintained around the nest until the end of the breeding season or until a qualified biologist determines that the young have fledged and are foraging on their own. The extent of these buffers shall be determined by the biologist and shall depend on the species identified, level of noise or construction disturbance, line of sight between nest and the disturbance, ambient levels of noise and other disturbances, and other topographical or artificial barriers.

E. Cultural Resources Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to § 15064.5?			X	
2. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5?			X	
3. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?			X	

DISCUSSION:

E.1. – E.3. Less Than Significant Impact.

The SWMP planning-level document would not cause substantial adverse changes to historic resources, archaeological resources, directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resources or unique geologic feature, or disturb any human remains. However, the planned city-wide improvements recommended within the SWMP could require excavation, grading, and other ground disturbing activities within historic, cultural, paleontological or geological sensitive areas. All individual SWMP improvement project would be evaluated for conformance with regulatory guidelines and laws, and General Plan Policies. General Plan Action CRHP-1.1.6 requires conditions of approval for any discretionary project that ensure best management practices to protect cultural and historic resources.

Additionally, implementation of the General Plan Cultural Resources and Historical Preservation Element policy and actions would ensure protection and preservation of significant archaeological resources by identifying resources and avoiding or mitigating potential impacts. For example, Action CRHP-1.1.8 mandates consultation and record searches with the Northeast Center of the California Historical Information System, and CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5, subdivision (e) requires that excavation activities be stopped whenever human remains are uncovered, and that the county coroner be called in to assess the remains. Therefore, as discretionary projects suggested within the SWMP are considered and provided project-specific CEQA analysis, project-specific mitigation may be required on a project-specific level. The proposed SWMP impact would be considered **Less Than Significant**.

MITIGATION: None Required; however, the following best management practices are included and may be incorporated into future infrastructure improvement projects associated with SWMP implementation (when appropriate).

- If unrecorded cultural resources are encountered during Project-related ground-disturbing activities, even in the absence of an on-site archaeological monitor, a qualified cultural resources specialist shall be contacted to assess the potential significance of the find. If an inadvertent discovery of cultural materials (e.g., unusual amounts of shell, animal bone, bottle glass, ceramics, structure/building remains) is made during Project-related construction activities, ground disturbances within a 25-foot buffer of the find will be halted, and a qualified professional archaeologist will be notified regarding the discovery. The archaeologist will determine whether the resource is potentially significant per the California Register of Historic Resources and develop appropriate mitigation, such as avoidance or data recovery.

  If the find is determined to be an important cultural resource, the City will make available contingency funding and a time allotment sufficient to allow recovery of an archaeological sample or to implement an avoidance measure. Construction work can continue on other parts of the Project while archaeological mitigation takes place.

- Section 5097.94 of the Public Resources Code and Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code protect Native American burials, skeletal remains and grave goods, regardless of age and provide method and means for the appropriate handling of such remains. According to Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, in the event human remains are discovered during excavation, work must stop immediately within 100 feet (30 meter), and the county coroner must be contacted immediately. At the same time, a professional archaeologist should be contacted to evaluate the discovery. If the human remains are identified as Native American origin, the coroner must notify the Native American Heritage Commission within twenty-four hours of such identification. CEQA details steps to be taken if human burials are of Native American origin.

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

DISCUSSION:

F.1. Less than Significant Impact.

The planned improvements recommended in the SWMP would require relatively minor earthwork, demolition, and construction activities. Construction processes are generally designed to be efficient in order to avoid excess monetary costs. That is, equipment and fuel are not typically used wastefully on the site because of the added expense associated with items such as renting the equipment, as well as maintenance and fuel. For these reasons, construction of the planned improvements recommended in the SWMP would not result in the wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources. The proposed SWMP impact would be considered **Less Than Significant**.

F.2. No Impact.

The purpose of the SWMP is to improve existing storm drainage and to provide drainage facilities that can accommodate future development. The SWMP would be consistent with City of Chico General Plan Policies and Actions regarding energy efficiency. The SWMP would not conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency. **No impact** would occur.

MITIGATION: None Required

G. Geology/Soils Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:			X	
a. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.				X
b. Strong seismic ground shaking?				X
c. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?			X	
d. Landslides?			X	
2. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?			X	
3. 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	
4. 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	
5. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater, or is otherwise not consistent with the Chico Nitrate Action Plan or policies for sewer service control?				X
6. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?		X		

DISCUSSION:

G.1. Less Than Significant Impact.

The City of Chico is located in one of the least active seismic regions in California. Currently, there are no designated Alquist-Priolo Special Studies Zones within the Chico Planning Area, nor are there any known or inferred active faults. Thus, the potential for ground rupture within the Chico area is considered very low. However, Butte County is located in a seismic hazard zone and could experience strong seismic ground shaking and seismic-related ground failure (i.e., liquefaction, settlement, and landslides) from earthquakes on faults both within and outside of the county.

According to the California Department of Conservation, the SWMP Planning Area is not located in an area of sloping topography that would result in a landslide risk. However, there is still some landslide potential in the foothill areas of the SWMP Planning Area. The SWMP Planning Area, in general, has a low to moderate risk for liquefaction, with the low potential being in the eastern portion of the Planning Area and the moderate potential being within the Chico city limits and to the west.

Any future SWMP project would be required to follow City General Plan Policies regarding seismic standards. As well, the City of Chico adopted the California Building Code (CBC) in Chapter 16R.02 of the City of Chico Municipal Code. All new development and redevelopment would be required to comply with the CBC, which includes design criteria for seismic loading and other geologic hazards, including design criteria for geologically induced loading that govern sizing of structural members and provide calculation methods to assist in the design process. Thus, while shaking impacts would be potentially damaging, they would also tend to be reduced in their structural effects due to CBC criteria that recognize this potential. Therefore, effects would be considered **Less Than Significant**.

G.2.-4. Less Than Significant Impact.
The City's General Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR) identifies the eastern portion of the SWMP Planning Area along the base of the Cascade foothills as the Tuscan Formation. The Tuscan Formation consists of a series of layers deposited by streams and mudflows between two and four million years ago. The mudflows spread out over the area, burying older rock, filling low areas, and gradually building a flat subdued landscape (City of Chico 2011b).

Development of future SWMP project will be subject to the City's Design Criteria and Improvement Standards (CMC §18R). The proposed SWMP would be required to incorporate site-specific and City-wide measures, as identified in the grading standards defined in the CBC, which describe appropriate measures used to reduce potential impacts resulting from unstable soils and soil shrink-swell. All projects disturbing greater than one acre must comply with and obtain coverage under the applicable National Pollution Discharge Elimination Permit (NPDES) from the California Regional Water Quality Control Board (CRWQCB) per §402 of the Clean Water Act. The proponent will be required to prepare and implement Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) pursuant to Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) requirements. The SWPPP would require site specific, detailed measures to be incorporated into grading plans to control erosion and sedimentation. Furthermore, the City and the Butte County Air Quality Management District require implementation of all applicable fugitive dust control measures, which further reduces the potential for construction-generated erosion.

Therefore, prior to grading, the City would ensure that the future SWMP projects have incorporated appropriate, project and site-specific construction and design standards per CMC §18R Design Criteria and Improvement Standards. As a result, potential future impacts relating to geology and soils are considered to be **Less Than Significant.**

G.5. No Impact.
The SWMP would be developed consistent with the Chico Nitrate Action Plan or policies for sewer service control. No septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems are proposed within the SWMP. The SWMP will result in **No Impact** relative to policies governing sewer service control.

G.6. Less Than Significant Impact.
All individual SWMP improvement projects would be evaluated for conformance with regulatory guidelines and laws, and General Plan Policies. General Plan Action CRHP-1.1.6 requires conditions of approval for any discretionary project that ensure best management practices to protect cultural and historic resources. While SWMP improvements would include grading and excavation activities, would be required to conform to applicable General Plan policies and federal, state, and local regulations to avoid and reduce construction related paleontological resources impacts. Therefore, effects would be considered **Less Than Significant**.

MITIGATION: None Required.

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

DISCUSSION:

H.1. Less Than Significant Impact.

California is a substantial contributor of global greenhouse gases (GHGs), emitting an estimated 381.3 million metric tons of carbon dioxide per year (CARB 2023). Climate studies indicate that California is likely to see an increase of three to four degrees Fahrenheit over the next century. Methane is also an important GHG that potentially contributes to global climate change. GHGs are global in their effect, which is to increase the earth's ability to absorb heat in the atmosphere. As primary GHGs have a long lifetime in the atmosphere, accumulate over time, and are generally well-mixed, their impact on the atmosphere is mostly independent of the point of emission.

The General Plan Sustainability Element provides a series of GHG polices under *Goal SUS-6: Reduce the level of greenhouse gases emissions Citywide* (City of Chico 2011). The SWMP is a planning-level document that provides a list of possible future storm water improvements throughout the City. Future SWMP project would be required to be consistent with all chapters of the City's General Plan, including the Sustainability Element.

Similar to the discussion in Section B Air Quality, full implementation of the SWMP could result in a cumulative impact from construction emissions; however, such emissions are short term and would be expected to occur over the life of the plan (20 years or more). Due to the total duration of construction emissions occurrence, the temporary nature of construction, and the limited number of projects described in the SWMP that would generate substantial construction emissions, no cumulatively considerable construction related air quality impacts are anticipated from adoption of the SWMP. GHG Emissions impacts would be considered **Less Than Significant**.

H.2. Less Than Significant Impact.

The City of Chico's 2020 Climate Action Plan (CAP) outlines strategies, organized within a flexible ten-year framework, for a significant reduction of greenhouse gas emissions that are directly and indirectly generated by local activities. The Plan includes actions to reduce energy, water, and fuel consumption and to reduce the amount of waste going into the landfill. The ultimate goal of the CAP is to reduce emissions for the year 2020 to 385,749 MtCO2e, 25% below the base year (2005) levels.

While the CAP provides a sustainable framework for future developments in the City, the goals outlined in the CAP are primarily municipal in nature and not project-specific. When fully implemented, the SWMP improvement projects will result in an improved network of storm water facilities that supports functionality of the City's overall storm water infrastructure. All future SWMP improvement projects are expected to be consistent with goals and objectives of the CAP and City General Plan GHG goals and policies. Therefore, the SWMP would not conflict with an applicable plan, policy of regulations adopted for the purpose of reducing emissions of GHG, and effects would be considered **Less Than Significant**.

MITIGATION: None Required.

I. Hazards and Hazardous Materials Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?			X	
2. 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	
3. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?			X	
4. Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?			X	
5. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?			X	
6. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				X
7. Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?				X

DISCUSSION:

I.1-I.3. Less Than Significant Impact.

The SWMP is a planning-level document that provides a list of possible future storm water improvements throughout the City, including near schools. Future projects are not anticipated to create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials, or create a significant hazard to the public. Hazardous materials will be used during construction activities (e.g., equipment maintenance, fuel, solvents, roadway resurfacing and re-striping materials). However, the use of hazardous materials and/or emission would be required to comply with all applicable local, state, and federal standards associated with the handling and storage of hazardous materials. All future SWMP improvement projects will be subject to separate environmental review in accordance with CEQA, and would be required to comply with local, state and federal requirements for the handling of hazardous materials. Use of hazardous materials in accordance with applicable standards ensures that any exposure of the public to hazardous materials would result in a **Less Than Significant Impact.**

I.4. Less Than Significant Impact.
The Hazardous Waste and Substances Sites (Cortese) List is a planning document used by the State, local agencies and developers to comply with CEQA requirements in providing information about the location of hazardous materials release sites. All future SWMP improvement projects would be subject to separate CEQA review that would include analysis of information from the Cortese List. Please see Section I. 1. above for discussion.

I.5. Less Than Significant Impact.
The Chico Municipal Airport is within the SWMP Planning Area, east of State Highway 99 along Cohasset Road. Additionally, a private airstrip, Ranchaero Airport, is located just west of the SWMP Planning Area. The SWMP proposed improvement projects are not anticipated to alter air traffic patterns or encourage future projects that could conflict with established Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) flight protection zones. All future SWMP improvement projects would be subject to separate CEQA review that would include analysis of potential airport conflicts. Please see Section I. 1. above for discussion.

I.6. No Impact.
Development of the proposed project would neither hinder the implementation, nor physically interfere with, emergency response or evacuation plans. If street design and improvements are required as part of proposed SWMP projects, design would be required to follow local and state regulations on adequate ingress and egress of emergency response vehicles. The SWMP is considered to have **No Impact.**

I.7. No Impact.
According to the CAL FIRE, Fire Hazard Severity Maps (CAL FIRE 2008), a small portion of the SWMP Planning Area at the northeast terminus of the Planning Area is located in an area of "very high fire hazard severity zone" to wildland fire risks. The SWMP is a planning-level document that provides a list of possible future storm water improvements throughout the City. Future projects are not anticipated to create a significant hazard relating to wildfire since the majority of the SWMP Planning Area is within a Non-Very High Fire Severity Zone. All future SWMP improvement projects will be subject to separate environmental review in accordance with CEQA and would be required to comply with local and state requirements relating to wildfire risk. The SWMP document would have **No Impact**.

MITIGATION: None Required.

J. Hydrology/ Water Quality Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?			X	
2. Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?			X	
3. 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	
a. result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;			X	
b. substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;			X	
c. 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	
d. impede or redirect flood flows?			X	
4. In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?			X	
5. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?			X	

DISCUSSION:

The City of Chico is located in the Sacramento River Valley and is approximately 10 miles east of the Sacramento River itself. The Sacramento River flows in a south/southeasterly direction through the Sacramento River Valley.

The SWMP Planning Area includes the watersheds that drain into and cover the City of Chico Sphere of Influence. The SWMP study area include numerous streams that pose flood risks to the City and many storm drainage systems of a wide range of sizes that discharge into the various streams. The study area was divided into the following evaluation areas for the purpose of organizing analysis of the storm drainage systems by receiving waterway:

- Comanche Creek
- Little Chico Creek
- Big Chico Creek
- Lindo Channel (Upper and Lower)

- Pleasant Valley (PV) Ditch
- Shasta Union Drainage Assessment District (SUDAD) Drainage Ditch
- Sycamore Creek/Mud Creek
- Airport Area (North Chico)

The SWMP initial focus is on improvements to the existing stormwater facilities to alleviate deficiencies that have been identified by City staff based on observed flooding and through a review of the 10-year and 100-year storm model results.

The Sacramento River Hydrologic Region is part of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board's Central Valley Region (CVRWQCB). Water quality for all surface and ground waters for the Sacramento Valley is regulated under the jurisdiction of the CVRWQCB. Water quality standards for all waters in the region are discussed in the region's Basin Plan, which covers the entire area included in the Sacramento and San Joaquin river drainage basins.

The Chico Municipal Code prohibits discharges of storm runoff to sanitary sewers (Title 15: Water and Sewers), regulates development in floodplains and alteration of watercourses (Title 16: Buildings and Construction), provides for preservation and enhancement of riparian habitat (Title 18: Subdivisions), and establishes design criteria and improvement standards for storm drain management and facilities (Title 18R: Design Criteria and Improvements Standards), development standards in floodplains (Title 16R.37: Floodplain Standards), and development and use standards for creek-side areas (Title 19: Land Use and Development). It should also be noted that there are approved development projects in the City that have adopted mitigation measures that provide mitigation for soil erosion, flooding, and water quality impacts (preparation of a SWPPP and provision of erosion control features). These projects include large-scale developments in the city such as the Meriam Park project and the Northwest Chico Specific Plan.

The City's General Plan Open Space and Environment Element, Safety Element, and Parks, Public Facilities, and Services all address topics relating to hydrology, water quality, flooding, and storm water drainage facilities. General Plan goals that provide guidance for these topics include, Goal OS-3, Goal S-2, and Goal PPFS-6. These goals as well as their contributing Policies and Actions provide guidance and regulation of environmental effects related to the SWMP.

J.1. – J.3. Less Than Significant Impact.
The SWMP proposes drainage facilities and other stormwater improvements expected to be used by both private development and public works projects in order to meet the City's goals for effectively routing stormwater and minimizing flooding within the project limits while meeting storm water quality requirements and objectives. The purpose of the SWMP is to improve existing storm drainage and to provide drainage facilities that can accommodate future development.

The planning-level document identifies improvements to the City's storm water infrastructure. The improvements range from maintenance of existing storm water facilities to construction of new detention basins and conveyance improvements to increase capacity (where appropriate). The SWMP does identify or recommend construction of new or improved storm water facilities; however, approval and adoption of the SWMP would not initiate or authorize any construction of designs or improvements proposed within the SWMP. Therefore, no project-level effects to water quality would occur, and the SWMP would not violate water quality standards or waste discharge requirements.

Any project associated with the guidance provided in the SWMP would require project level CEQA analysis regarding potential water quality effects. During the discretionary approval process, each future SWMP project would be required to comply with City General Plan Policies, as well as any state or federal permitting requirements issued on a project-specific level.

Due to the scope of the SWMP, the cumulative effects of implementing the proposed project would by and large be an improvement to water quality and hydrology within the plan area because the SWMP would improve infrastructure, reduce flooding, and better manage stormwater runoff. Hydrology and water quality effects relating to violation of water quality standards, waste discharge requirements, groundwater supply or recharge, alteration of existing drainage patterns, erosion or siltation, flooding, increased rates of runoff, storm water drainage system capacity, and impeding or redirection of flood flows are considered to be a **Less Than Significant Impact**.

Trash Capture

On April 7, 2015, the SWRCB adopted the Proposed Final Amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for Ocean Waters of California and the Proposed Final Part 1 Trash Provisions of the Water Quality Control Plan for Inland Surface Waters, Enclosed Bays, and Estuaries of California (Statewide Trash Amendments). The goal of the Statewide Trash Amendments is to address the impacts of trash to the surface waters of California through the establishment of a statewide narrative water quality objective and implementation requirements to control trash, including a prohibition against the discharge of trash. The Statewide Trash Amendments became effective on December 2, 2015; full compliance with the Trash Amendments is required by December 2, 2030.

Subsequently, the SWRCB staff issued a California Water Code Section 13383 Order on June 1, 2017, for all Phase II permittees (including the City) requiring selection of a compliance track and additional supporting information. The City selected Track 1, which requires the installation, operation, and maintenance of full capture systems (FCS) for all storm drains that capture runoff from the priority land uses (PLUs) within the City's jurisdiction. PLUs, as defined in the Statewide Trash Amendments, include high-density residential, industrial, commercial, mixed urban, and public transportation stations.

The SWMP includes recommendations for locations of FCS to meet the requirements of the Statewide Trash Amendments. Types of FCS include proprietary devices such as catch basin inserts, hydrodynamic separators, and screen filters. Other types of FCS include bioretention facilities, infiltration basins and appropriately configured detention basins. The SWMP relies heavily on installation of proprietary devices and includes retrofit of detention basins where it is anticipated to be feasible.

The SWMP FCS recommendations are prioritized by anticipated cost effectiveness. Cost effectiveness was calculated as the estimated FCS cost divided by the area of PLU in the area tributary to the device. By implementing the FCS in the recommended order, the City will be able to demonstrate that they are attempting to maximize the degree of compliance for the available budget. Furthermore, it is anticipated that more detailed investigations of some locations will result in the identification of more cost-effective FCS locations for treatment of runoff from some of the PLU areas. Further refinement of FCS locations will require collection of data for private drainage systems, site visits, and other detailed analysis that is beyond the scope of the SWMP.

The City has 2,585 acres of PLU (3,654 parcels). This analysis found treatment device locations that could treat 2,523 acres of PLU including 80 acres treated by nine devices that the City has installed and three devices that the City is planning to install. Private parcels that do not drain to the City's storm drain system are not required to be treated by the City. During the GIS placement analysis, 157 potential FCS locations were identified. Seven of these FCS locations are on proposed drainage improvements, rather than existing systems, and would only need to be implemented when the master planned improvements are constructed. The SWMP provides a six-year plan to install 150 FCS based on an annual budget of $7.5 million in 2024 dollars.

J.4. Less Than Significant Impact.
According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) portions of the SWMP Planning Area would have substantial flooding during a 100-year storm event (Figure 5. FEMA Special Flood Hazard Areas). Flood control projects on Little Chico Creek, Big Chico Creek, Butte Creek, Mud Creek, and Lindo Channel have helped reduce the amount of runoff that flows through the city, reducing potential flooding problems.

The SWMP initial focus is on improvements to the existing stormwater facilities to alleviate deficiencies that have been identified by City staff based on observed flooding and through a review of the 10-year and 100-year storm model results. The planning-level SWMP would not exacerbate flood conditions within the SWMP Planning Area, or risk the release of pollutants due to inundation, and effects are considered a **Less Than Significant Impact**.

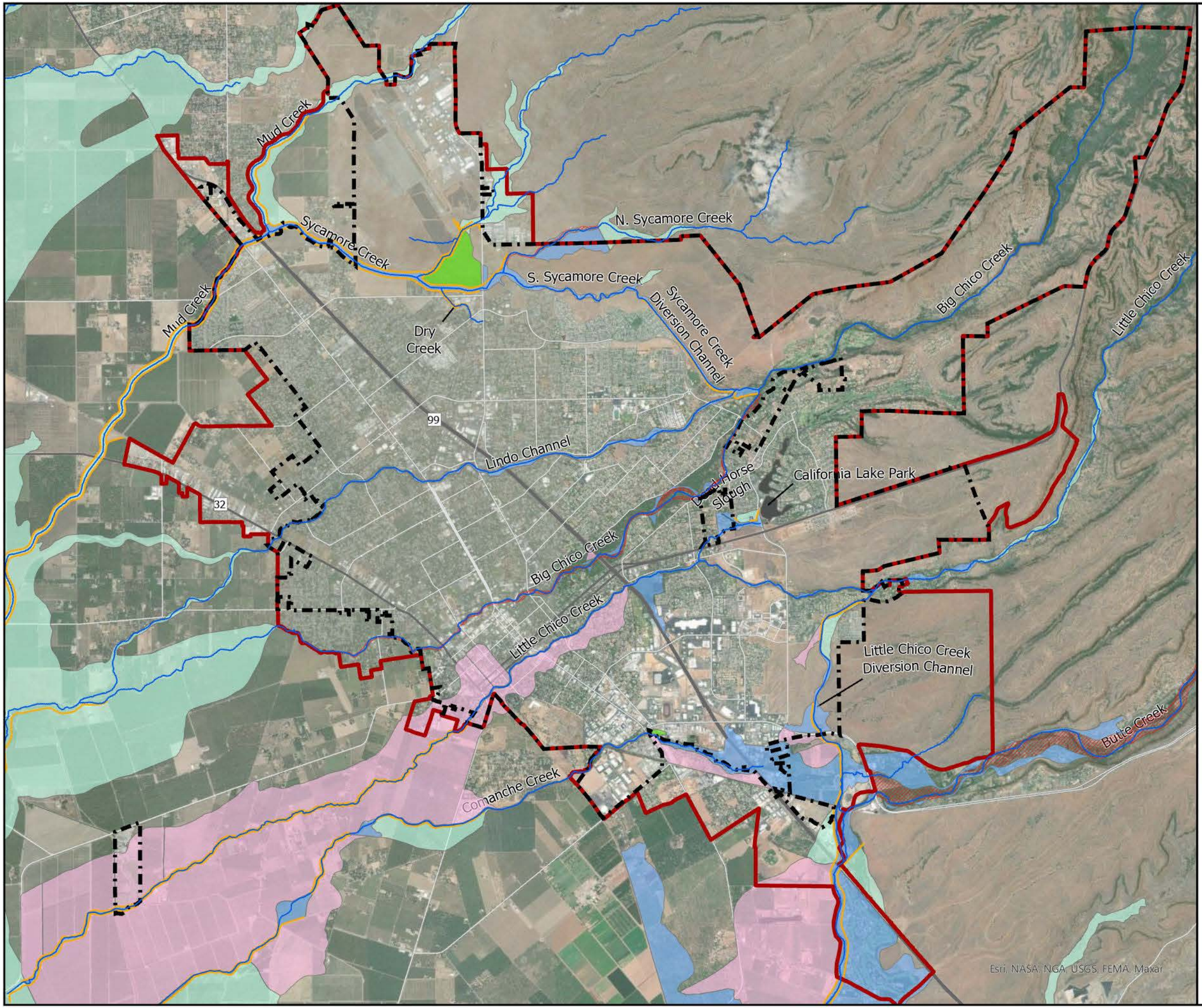
The project site is not located in an area that is prone to seiche or tsunami. Risks associated with inundation and the release of pollutants by seiche or tsunami, would not occur beyond existing conditions. This is considered a **Less Than Significant Impact.**

FEMA SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS

STORM WATER MASTER PLAN

CITY OF CHICO

APRIL 2023



NORTH

0 2,500 5,000 10,000

Feet

Legend

- Streams
- Levee
- City Limits
- Sphere of Influence

Flood Hazard Zone

- A
- AE
- AH
- AO
- FLOODWAY

SOURCES:
Floodplains: National Flood Hazard Layer

Flowlines: NHD

WOOD RODGERS

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J.5. No Impact.
Implementation of the SWMP is providing the City with a comprehensive approach to stormwater and flood protection over the next 20 years and is consistent with the City's existing general plan requirements. The project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan, and therefore would have **No Impact**.

MITIGATION: None Required.

K. Land Use and Planning Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. Physically divide an established community?				X
2. Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?				X

DISCUSSION:

K.1. -K.2. No Impact.

The SWMP proposes drainage facilities and other stormwater improvements expected to be used by both private development and public works projects in order to meet the City's goals for effectively routing stormwater and minimizing flooding within the project limits while meeting storm water quality requirements and objectives. The SWMP has been developed in combination with guided review of the 2030 General Plan, and therefore, will be consistent with the growth analysis, policies, and goals of the 2030 General Plan and the 2030 General Plan Final EIR. The SWMP will not physically divide an established community, and would not conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation. Therefore, the SWMP would have **No Impact**.

MITIGATION: None Required.

L. Mineral Resources Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. 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
2. Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?				X

DISCUSSION:

L.1.-2. No Impact. There are no active mines and no known areas with mineral resource deposits within the SWMP Planning Area. The closest mining operations are located to the southeast, outside of the Chico Sphere of Influence. The SWMP would not result in the loss of availability of a known or locally important mineral resource or mineral resource recovery site. Therefore, the SWMP would have **No Impact** relating to mineral resources.

MITIGATION: None Required.

M. Noise Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. 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	
2. Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?			X	
3. For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?			X	

DISCUSSION:

M.1. – M.2. Less Than Significant Impact.

The SWMP is a planning-level document that identifies improvements to the City's storm water infrastructure. The improvements range from maintenance of existing storm water facilities to construction of new detention basins and conveyance improvements to increase capacity (where appropriate). The SWMP does identify or recommend construction of new or improved storm water facilities; however, approval and adoption of the SWMP would not initiate or authorize the construction or operation of SWMP proposed improvements. Therefore, no project-level generation of substantial temporary or permanent ambient noise increases, or groundborne vibrations would occur.

While the SWMP proposes maintenance and improvement projects, it is a plan-level approval designed to have a positive effect on storm water facilities throughout the City. Future SWMP improvement projects would be reviewed on a project-level basis consistent with CEQA, the City General Plan, and applicable City Municipal Codes relating to noise. Therefore, the SWMP impact on air quality is considered **less then significant.**

M.3. Less Than Significant Impact.

The Chico Municipal Airport is within the SWMP Planning Area, east of State Highway 99 along Cohasset Road. The SWMP proposed improvement projects are not anticipated to alter air traffic patterns or encourage future projects that could conflict with established Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) flight protection zones. All future SWMP improvement projects would be subject to separate CEQA review that would include analysis of potential airport conflicts. Please see Section I. 1. above for discussion.

MITIGATION: None Required.

N. Population and Housing Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?				X
2. Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				X

DISCUSSION:

N.1.-N.2. No Impact.

The SWMP is a planning-level document that identifies improvements to the City's storm water infrastructure. The improvements range from maintenance of existing storm water facilities to construction of new detention basins and conveyance improvements to increase capacity (where appropriate). The SWMP would contribute to General Plan Goal PPFS-6, "Provide a comprehensive and functional storm water management system that protects people, property, water quality and natural aquifers". The SWMP would not displace any people or housing. There will be no conflicts with land use plans, policies or regulations adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. **No Impact** would occur.

MITIGATION: None Required.

O. Public Services

1. Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Fire protection?			X	
b. Police protection?			X	
c. Schools?			X	
d. Parks?			X	
3. Other public facilities?			X	

DISCUSSION:

O.1.a.- O.1.e. Less Than Significant Impact. The SWMP would not construct dwelling units, buildings, businesses, or other similar facilities that would result in an increased human population in the SWMP Planning Area. There would be no long-term demands on fire or police protection services generated by the proposed SWMP. Similarly, there would be no increased demands on school services or parks.

The SWMP is a planning-level document that identifies improvements to the City's storm water infrastructure. The improvements range from maintenance of existing storm water facilities to construction of new detention basins and conveyance improvements to increase capacity (where appropriate). The SWMP does identify or recommend construction of new or improved storm water facilities; however, approval and adoption of the SWMP would not initiate or authorize the construction or operation of SWMP proposed improvement projects. Future SWMP improvement projects would be reviewed on a project-level basis consistent with CEQA. The SWMP would not increase response times or performance objectives, and would not result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of such services. SWMP effects would be considered **Less Than Significant Impacts**.

MITIGATION: None Required.

P. Recreation	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. 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
2. Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?				X

DISCUSSION:

P.1.-2. No Impact.

The SWMP would not construct dwelling units, buildings, businesses, or other similar facilities that would result in an increased human population in the SWMP Planning Area; therefore, the SWMP would not increase the use of existing neighborhood or regional parks or other recreational facilities, such that substantial physical deterioration would be caused or accelerated. **No Impact** would occur.

The SWMP does not include proposed improvements to existing recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that could cause adverse effects to the environment. **No Impact** would occur.

MITIGATION: None Required.

Q. Transportation Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. Conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?				X
2. Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?				X
3. Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?				X
4. Result in inadequate emergency access?			X	

DISCUSSION:

Q.1. – Q. 3. No Impact.

The SWMP is a planning-level document that identifies improvements to the City's storm water infrastructure. The improvements range from maintenance of existing storm water facilities to construction of new detention basins and conveyance improvements to increase capacity (where appropriate).

The planning-level SWMP does not propose any circulation- or transportation-related improvements within the SWMP Planning Area though some SWMP improvement recommendations have been assessed with circulation and transportation considerations incorporated. Therefore, the SWMP would not conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system; it would not conflict with or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b); and, would not substantially increase hazards due to geometric design. **No impact** would occur.

Q.4. Less than Significant Impact.

The SWMP is a planning-level document that identifies improvements to the City's storm water infrastructure. The improvements range from maintenance of existing storm water facilities to construction of new detention basins and conveyance improvements to increase capacity (where appropriate). The SWMP does identify or recommend construction of new or improved storm water facilities; however, approval and adoption of the SWMP would not initiate or authorize the construction or operation of SWMP proposed improvement projects. Furthermore, the SWMP does provide recommendations that would reduce roadway flooding, and thereby, improve emergency access during severe storm events.

Future SWMP improvement projects could require temporary road closures during construction activities. Road closures would occur with authorization from the City through an encroachment permit, or through approval of a Traffic Management Plan. SWMP effects would be considered **Less Than Significant Impacts**.

MITIGATION: None Required; however, the following best management practices are included and should be incorporated into future infrastructure improvement projects (when applicable) associated with SWMP implementation.

- When construction activities require temporary closure of individual lanes, or a roadway during construction, a Traffic Management Plan will be prepared. The Plan will provide detour routes, effective signage, and a strategy to notify the public in advance of the road or lane closure.

R. Tribal Cultural Resources	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
a. Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), 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 Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.			X	

DISCUSSION:

R.1.a. – R.1.b. Less Than Significant Impact.

The SWMP planning-level document would not cause substantial adverse changes in the significance of a tribal cultural resources (TRCs), as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe. However, the planned city-wide improvements recommended within the SWMP could require excavation, grading, and other ground disturbing activities within historic, or cultural sensitive areas. All individual SWMP improvement projects would be evaluated for conformance with regulatory guidelines and laws, and General Plan Policies. General Plan Action CRHP-1.1.6 requires conditions of approval for any discretionary project that ensure best management practices to protect cultural and historic resources.

Additionally, implementation of the General Plan Cultural Resources and Historical Preservation Element policy and actions would ensure protection and preservation of significant archaeological resources by identifying resources and avoiding or mitigating potential impacts. For example, Action CRHP-1.1.8 mandates consultation and record searches with the Northeast Center of the California Historical Information System, and CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5, subdivision (e) requires that excavation activities be stopped whenever human remains are uncovered, and that the county coroner be called in to assess the remains. Therefore, as discretionary projects suggested within the SWMP are considered and provided project-specific CEQA analysis, project-specific mitigation may be required on a project-specific level. The proposed SWMP impact would be considered **Less Than Significant**.

MITIGATION: None Required; however, the best management practices provided in Section E Cultural Resources are expected to also apply to Tribal Cultural Resources and may be incorporated into future infrastructure improvement projects when appropriate.

S. Utilities and Service Systems Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. 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	
2. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?			X	
3. Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?			X	
4. 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	
5. Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?			X	

DISCUSSION:

S.1. Less Than Significant Impact.

The SWMP proposes drainage facilities and other stormwater improvements expected to be used by both private development and public works projects in order to meet the City's goals for effectively routing stormwater and minimizing flooding within the project limits while meeting storm water quality requirements and objectives. The SWMP initial focus is on improvements to the existing stormwater facilities to alleviate deficiencies that have been identified through a review of the 10-year and 100-year storm model runs. The purpose of the SWMP is to improve existing storm drainage and to provide drainage facilities that can accommodate future development. The types of proposed improvements included in the SWMP include:

- Improvements to existing stormwater pipes, gutters, and drainage inlets (increasing capacity where appropriate)
- Placement of new stormwater pipes
- Installation of a new pump station
- Construction of peak flow attenuation facilities such as detention basins
- Bank and bed stream stabilization
- Upgrading or construction of storm drainage facilities to improve water quality

These types of improvements form the basis of the evaluation of environmental impacts of the SWMP. The specific size and design of individual facilities would vary. Each future proposed SWMP improvement project associated with the guidance provided in the SWMP would be required to adhere to standards, performance criteria, and design criteria consistent with the SWMP and the City of Chico General Plan. This would be considered a **Less Than Significant Impact**.

S.2.-S.3. Less Than Significant Impact.
The SWMP proposes drainage facilities and other stormwater improvements expected to be used by both private development and public works projects in order to meet the City's goals for effectively routing stormwater and minimizing flooding within the project limits while meeting storm water quality requirements and objectives. Individual future SWMP projects may require water resources for construction purposes; however, these would be analyzed during discretionary CEQA analysis for each individual project. The SWMP planning-level document would not require the use of water supplies and would not require the need for wastewater treatment or the expansion of wastewater treatment facilities. This is considered a **Less Than Significant Impact.**

S.4.-S.5. Less Than Significant Impact.
The SWMP planning-level document would not generate solid waste. Each future proposed SWMP improvement project associated with the guidance provided in the SWMP shall require project level CEQA analysis regarding solid waste. During construction, a limited amount of construction waste would be generated by each future SWMP project. Waste would only be sent to permitted landfill facilities with adequate capacity to accept construction waste. Disposal and recycling of materials generated by the construction of the future SWMP project will be handled and disposed of in accordance with Federal, State, and local requirements. It is anticipated that individual SWMP projects 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. The SWMP document would be prepared consistent to all elements of the City's General Plan regarding solid waste and sustainable use of materials. This impact would be **Less Than Significant**.

Mitigation Required: No Required.

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

DISCUSSION:

T.1.-T.4. No Impact.

According to the CAL FIRE, Fire Hazard Severity Maps (CAL FIRE 2008) for the City of Chico, a small portion of the SWMP Planning Area at the northeast terminus of the Planning Area is located in an area of "Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone" to wildland fire risks. The SWMP is a planning-level document that provides a list of possible future storm water improvements throughout the City. Future projects are not anticipated to create a significant hazard relating to wildfire since the majority of the SWMP Planning Area is within a Non-Very High Fire Severity Zone. All future SWMP improvement projects will be subject to separate environmental review in accordance with CEQA and would be required to comply with local and state requirements relating to wildfire risk. The SWMP document would have **No Impact**.

MITIGATION: None Required.

U. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
1. 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 or prehistory?			X	
2. 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	
3. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?			X	

DISCUSSION:

U. 1-3. Less Than Significant Impact. Based on the preceding environmental analysis, the SWMP planning-level document does not have the potential to significantly degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory. The SWMP will not result in direct or indirect adverse effects on human beings or the environment, nor result in significant cumulatively considerable impacts. The SWMP would be consistent with all other chapters and elements of the 2030 General Plan and would not contribute any cumulative growth effects; therefore, the project will result in a **Less Than Significant Impact.**

Implementation of the complete list of SWMP projects may result in cumulatively significant impacts associated with reduction of habitat, or impacts to special status wildlife species; however, without project level details of where and how impacts would occur, it is not possible to take steps in this environmental document to reduce or minimize the potential for cumulatively considerable environmental impacts. All future projects associated with SWMP implementation will undergo some level of project level CEQA review, and projects that would result in direct or indirect impacts which could contribute to cumulative impacts will include avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures designed to offset potentially significant impacts.

Furthermore, the SWMP is not considered a growth inducing action as it would not directly result in additional residential or supporting development projects. There are some projects in the SWMP that could result in increase stormwater runoff capacity; however, these projects will be evaluated for how they may or may not induce growth when they are advanced through a project level CEQA review.

MITIGATION: None Required.

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