DRAFT INITIAL STUDY WITH PROPOSED MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

DALBY ROAD OVER YANKEE SLOUGH BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

Prepared by

WOOD RODGERS

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS ONE PROJECT AT A TIME

Prepared for Placer County

March 2025

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

What's in this document:

The Placer County Department of Public Works has prepared this Initial Study, which examines the potential environmental impacts of the Dalby Road over Yankee Slough Bridge Replacement Project (project). The document explains the proposed project details; the existing environment that could be affected by the project; potential impacts; and proposed avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures.

Project Description

The County of Placer (County) Department of Public Works, in cooperation with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), is proposing to replace the existing Dalby Road Bridge (Bridge No. 19C0130) over Yankee Slough with a new single-span bridge structure as the Dalby Road over Yankee Slough Bridge Replacement Project (project). The project is located approximately 500-feet west of the Dalby Road and N. Dowd Road intersection in unincorporated Placer County, California.

What you should do:

- Please read the document. Hard copies of the document are available for review at:

  Placer County, Public Works Department
  3091 County Center Drive, Suite 220
  Auburn, CA 95603

  An electronic copy of the document is also available for review at:

  https://www.placer.ca.gov/9181/Projects---West-Placer

- Please submit your comments in writing no later than April 1, 2025 to:

  Placer County, Public Works Department
  ATTN: Cheyenne Toney
  3091 County Center Drive, Suite 220
  Auburn, CA 95603

  You may also submit your comments via e-mail to ctoney@placer.ca.gov. For emailed comments, please include the project title in the subject line and include the commentor's name and mailing address.

THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of Figures

List of Tables

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACE	Area of Conservation Emphasis
ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
ACM	Asbestos Containing Material
ADL	Aerially Deposited Lead
AIRFA	American Indian Religious Freedom Act
APE	Area of Potential Effects
ARDR	Aquatic Resources Delineation Report
ARPA	American Rescue Plan Act
BIOS	Biogeographic Information and Observation System
BMPs	Best Management Practices
BSA	Biological Study Area
CAA	Clean Air Act
CalNAGPRA	California Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act
Caltrans	California Department of Transportation
CCAP	Climate Change Action Plan
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CDC	California Department of Conservation
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CGP	Construction General Permit
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CRHR	California Register of Historical Resources
CWA	Clean Water Act
DCP	Dust Control Plan
DWR	California Department of Water Resources
EFH	Essential Fish Habitat
EOP	Emergency Operations Plan
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FESA	Federal Endangered Species Act
FIRM	Flood Insurance Rates Maps
FMMP	Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program
GHG	Greenhouse Gases
IPaC	Information for Planning and Consultation
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
ITA	Indian Trust Assets
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

MND	Mitigated Negative Declaration
MLD	Most Likely Descendent
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRCS	Natural Resource Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
OHP	Office of Historic Preservation
Porter-Cologne Act	Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act (Porter-Cologne Act)
project	Dalby Road over Yankee Slough Bridge Replacement Project
RECs	Recognized Environmental Conditions
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SIP	State Implementation Plan
SLF	Sacred Lands File
SOI	Sphere of Influence
SWPPP	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TCL	Traditional Cultural Landscapes
TCP	Traditional Cultural Properties
TCR	Tribal Cultural Resource
UCMP	University of California Museum of Paleontology
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
WoS	Waters of the State
WOTUS	Waters of the United States

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Project Description

The County of Placer (County) Department of Public Works, in cooperation with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), is proposing to replace the existing Dalby Road Bridge (Bridge No. 19C0130) over Yankee Slough with a new single-span bridge structure as the Dalby Road over Yankee Slough Bridge Replacement Project (project). The project is located approximately 500-feet west of the Dalby Road and Dowd Road intersection in unincorporated Placer County, California.

Dalby Road is a rural road located northwest of the City of Lincoln in an unincorporated area of western Placer County, approximately 500-feet west of the Dalby Road and Dowd Road intersection. It is classified as a local road primarily serving local property owners. The narrow bridge is 98 years old and was classified by Caltrans as structurally deficient and functionally obsolete. The existing bridge span is currently supported with temporary timber supports due to excessive deflection of the slab at midspan and is being monitored by the County. The proposed bridge and improved approaches will bring the bridge into compliance with current structural, geometric, and hydraulic guidelines; thereby, improving roadway safety.

The project is being funded through the Federal Highway Bridge Program (HBP) and is listed in the Federal Transportation Improvement Plan (FTIP) as well as the Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Plan (MTIP). The County is the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) lead agency and Caltrans is the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) lead agency for the project.

1.2 Purpose and Need

1.2.1 Purpose

The purpose of the project is to improve safety and reduce the risk of bridge failure by replacing the functionally obsolete bridge with a new bridge that meets current structural, geometric, and hydraulic design standards.

1.2.2 Need

The project is needed due to the bridge being categorized as structurally deficient and functionally obsolete by Caltrans.

1.3 Alternatives

1.3.1 Build Alternative

The project includes the replacement of the existing structurally deficient and functionally obsolete bridge with a single-span bridge alternative. The project would require the demolition of the existing bridge and the construction of either a cast-in-place reinforced concrete or a precast/prestressed concrete slab girder along the same alignment. The new bridge would be a single-span structure approximately 50 feet long and up to 24 feet wide with shoulders and crash-tested concrete bridge barriers. Guardrails will be installed at each corner to protect the ends of the barriers. Retaining walls may be added along the roadway approaches at the bridge to minimize the fill slopes.

Modifications to the existing drainage pattern of Yankee Slough would not occur; however, a water diversion system may be implemented as part of the project during demolition and construction of the project. Construction activities within Yankee Slough would include removal of the temporary timber supports.

Existing utilities in conflict with the proposed project may need to be relocated. Specifically, PG&E electrical overhead lines may require relocation of poles and/or guy wires. A temporary road closure and detour would be implemented for the duration of project demolition and construction, and construction staging would occur along Dalby Road. Temporary construction easements would be needed within adjacent agricultural parcels and permanent highway easements needed to accommodate the widened portion of the road and bridge.

1.3.2 No-Build Alternative

The No-Build Alternative would result in the structurally deficient and functionally obsolete bridge not being replaced and the existing bridge continuing to deteriorate until failure and subsequent closure of the road at Yankee Slough.

1.4 Permits and Approvals Needed

The following permits, licenses, agreements, and certifications are required for project construction:

Table 1. Permits and Approvals Needed

Agency	Permit/Approval	Status
Placer Conservation Authority	Placer County Conservation Program / County Aquatic Resources Plan Authorization	To be obtained prior to construction
Placer Conservation Authority	In-Lieu Fee Program to Fulfill Clean Water Act Section 404/401	To be obtained prior to construction
Regional Water Quality Control Board	Regional General Permit – Notice of Intent	To be submitted prior to construction
California Department of Fish and Wildlife	Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement	To be obtained prior to construction

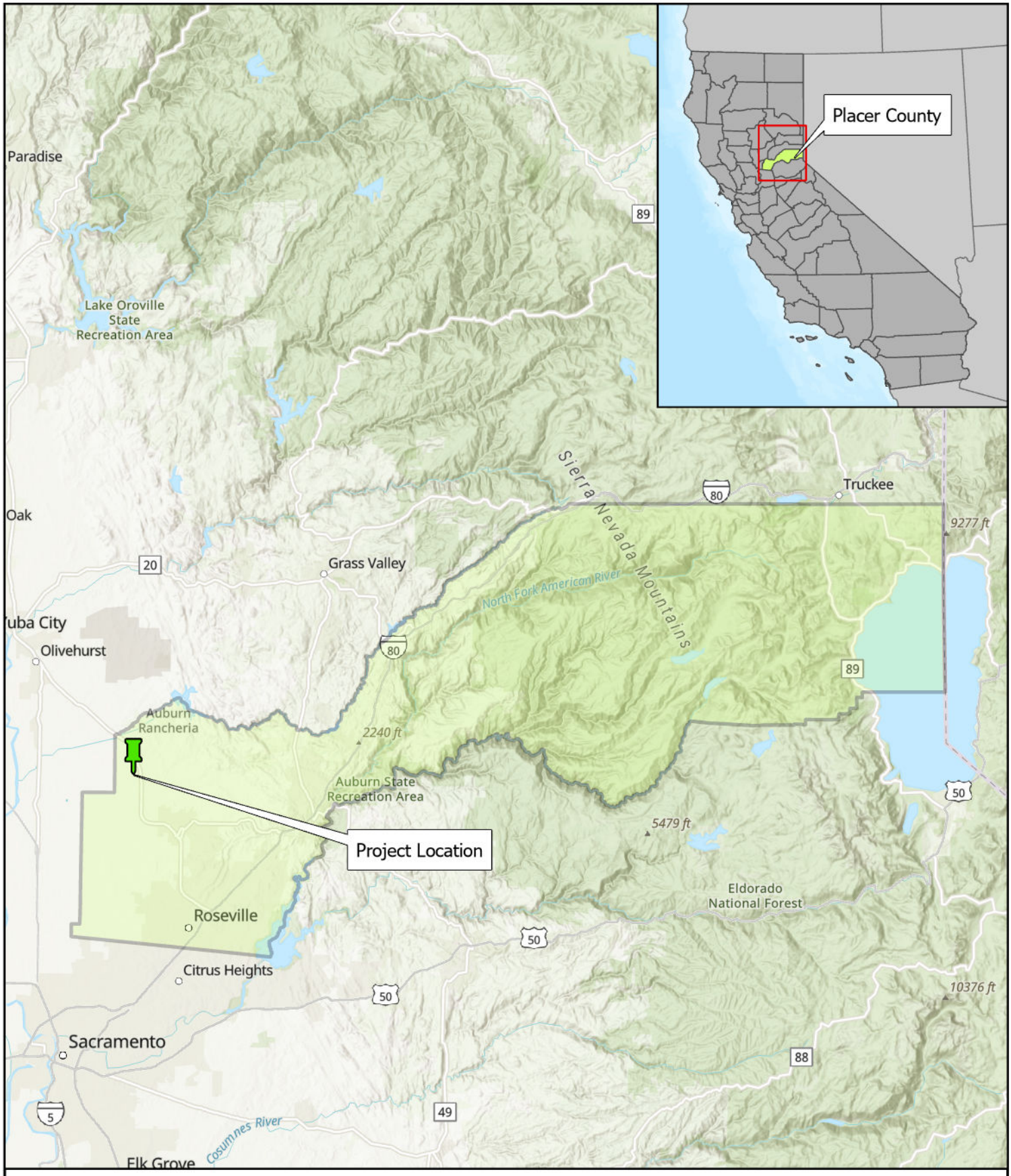


FIGURE 1

PROJECT VICINITY

DALBY ROAD OVER YANKEE SLOUGH BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

PLACER COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

JUNE 2024

0 2.5 5 10

Miles

NORTH

WOOD RODGERS

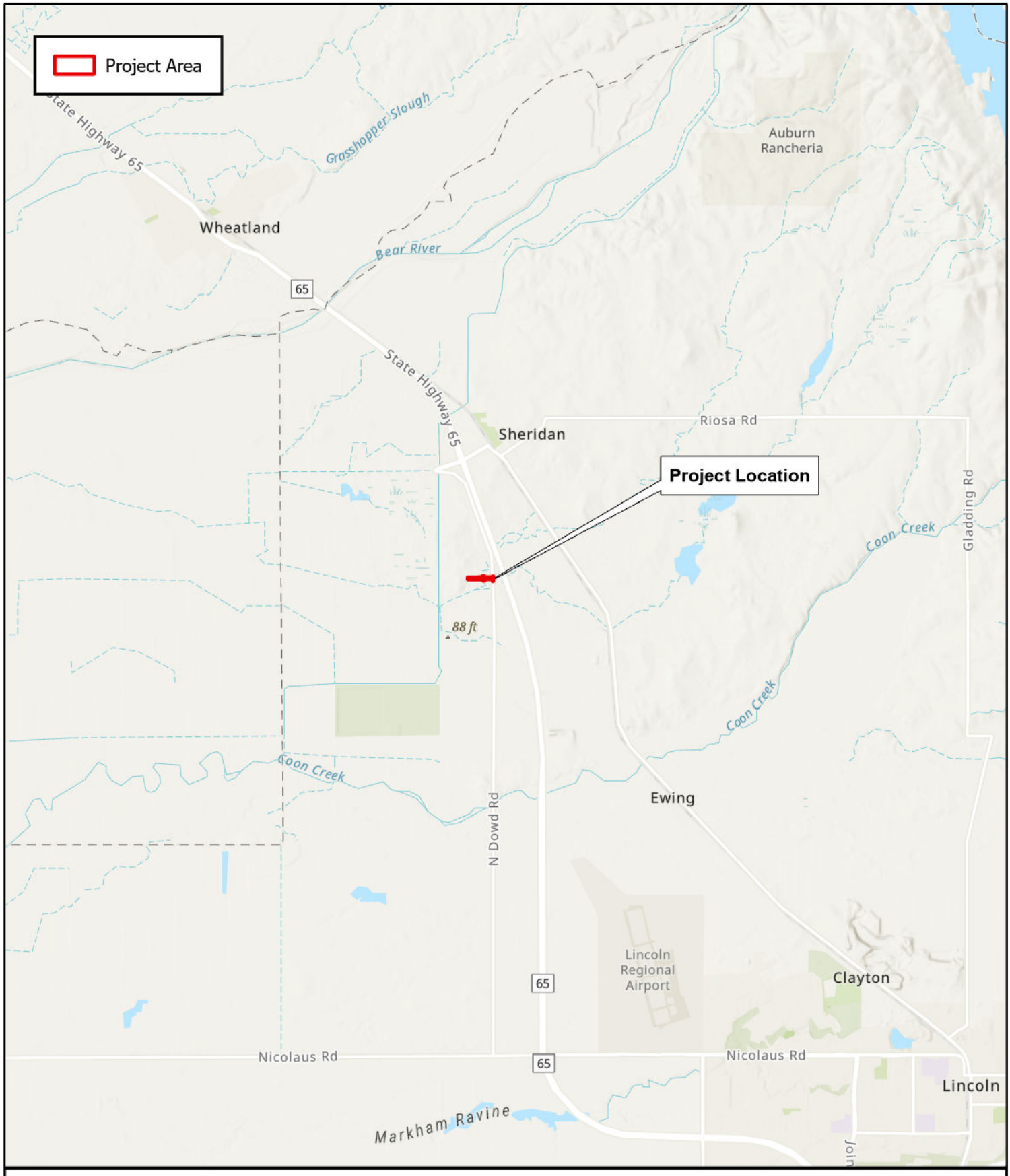


FIGURE 2

PROJECT LOCATION

DALBY ROAD OVER YANKEE SLOUGH BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

PLACER COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

JUNE 2024

0 0.5 1 2

Miles

NORTH

WOOD RODGERS

FIGURE 3

PROJECT FEATURES

DALBY ROAD OVER YANKEE SLOUGH

BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

PLACER COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

JUNE 2024

- Project Area
- Biological Study Area

Project Features

- Proposed Bridge Structure
- Proposed Edge of Travelway
- Proposed Edge of Pavement
- Proposed Fill Slopes
- Proposed Rock Slope Protection

0 50 100 200

Feet

1 inch equals 200 feet

NORTH

WOOD RODGERS

\\woodrodgers.loc\ProductionData\Jobs\Jobs\8923_County of Placer\001_Dalby Rd at Yankee Slough Bridge\40_DATA\40.8_GIS\Data\Task_Specific_Folder\Environmental\JN8923001\Environmental\JN8923001_Dalby_Env.aprx 6/26/2024 2:56 PM adellas

2.0 CEQA Initial Study Environmental Checklist Form

1. **PROJECT NAME:** Dalby Road over Yankee Slough Bridge Replacement Project

2. **LEAD AGENCY / PROJECT APPLICANT**

   Placer County Public Works
   3091 County Center Drive, Suite 220
   Auburn, CA 95603

3. **LEAD AGENCY CONTACT PERSON:**

   Cheyenne Toney, PE, Senior Civil Engineer, (530) 745-3528, ctoney@placer.ca.gov

4. **PROJECT LOCATION:** Dalby Road is a rural road located northwest of the City of Lincoln in an unincorporated area of western Placer County. Dalby Road Bridge is located approximately 0.1 miles west of the intersection of Dalby Road and North Dowd Road, and approximately 0.2 miles west of Highway 65.

5. **GENERAL PLAN LAND USE DESIGNATION:** Agriculture / Timberland – 80-Acre Minimum

6. **ZONING:** Farm (F)

7. **PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The project would replace the existing structurally deficient and functionally obsolete bridge with a single-span bridge alternative. The existing bridge would be demolished and either a cast-in-place reinforced concrete or a precast/prestressed concrete slab girder would be constructed along the same alignment. The new bridge would be a single-span structure approximately 40 feet long and up to 24 feet wide with shoulders and crash-tested concrete bridge barriers.

8. **ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING/SURROUNDING LAND USES:** The project would occur in an area designated as "Agriculture/Timberland 80-Acre Minimum" in the Land Use Element of the Placer County General Plan, adopted by the Board of Supervisors. The project site is surrounded by agricultural land uses. Placer County zoning designates the project area as Farm (F).

   The project area is located approximately 2 miles east of the western boundary, and approximately 3.5 miles south of the northern boundary of Placer County. The project area is bisected by Yankee Slough, over which Dalby Road Bridge crosses. The roadway of Dalby Road varies from an approximately 12-foot to 16-foot wide paved surface, and a clear width of 18-feet at the existing bridge structure. The existing bridge structure consists of a single span reinforced concrete slab supported on reinforced concrete abutments, founded on unknown foundations. Terrain is generally flat throughout the project area, maintaining an elevation of 85-90 feet. However, approximately 800 feet west of the project area, the roadway slopes slightly upward to an elevation of 115 feet.

9. **OTHER REQUIRED AGENCY APPROVALS (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement.):** Placer Conservation Authority Authorizations (PCCP/CARP Authorization, In-Lieu Fee Program Payments Confirmation), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

Programmatic General Permit 18 Compliance, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) Section 401/Waste Discharge Requirement General Order, California Department of Fisha and Wildlife (CDFW) Streambed Alteration Agreement

10. CALIFORNIA NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES CONSULTATION:

a. Have California Native American Tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1?

☐Yes **☒ No**

b. If so, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.?

☐Yes **☒ No**

11. PREVIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION: None

12. SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The summary of environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" or a "Less-Than-Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

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

13. PREPARATION: This Initial Study for the subject project was prepared by:

03/01/2025

Andrew Dellas, PWS, Senior Biologist / Environmental Planner — Date
Wood Rodgers, Inc.

14. DETERMINATION: (TO BE COMPLETED BY THE LEAD AGENCY)

Based on the initial evaluation:

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

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

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

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

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

A copy of the Initial Study documenting reasons to support the Mitigated Negative Declaration is on file at Placer County Public Works, 3091 County Center Drive, Suite 220, Auburn, California, 95603

Cheyenne Toney, PE
Senior Civil Engineer
Department of Public Works | Engineering
County of Placer

Date

Evaluation of Environmental Impacts

This checklist identifies physical, biological, social, and economic factors that might be affected by the proposed project. Potential impact determinations include Potentially Significant Impact, Less Than Significant with Mitigation, Less Than Significant Impact, and No Impact. In many cases, background investigation performed in connection with a project will indicate that there are no impacts to a particular resource. A No Impact answer reflects this determination. The questions in this checklist are intended to encourage the thoughtful assessment of impacts and do not represent thresholds of significance.

1. A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).

2. 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.

3. Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.

4. "Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from "Earlier Analyses," as described in (5) below, may be cross-referenced).

5. Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:

    a. Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.

    b. Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.

    c. Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.

6. Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.

7. Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used, or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.

8. The explanation of each issue should identify:

   a. The significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
   b. The mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significant.

9. Tribal consultation, if requested as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1, must begin prior to release of a negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration, or environmental impact report for a project. Information provided through tribal consultation may inform the lead agency's assessment as to whether tribal cultural resources are present, and the significance of any potential impacts to such resources. Prior to beginning consultation, lead agencies may request information from the Native American Heritage Commission regarding its Sacred Lands File, per Public Resources Code sections 5097.9 and 5097.94, as well as the California Historical Resources Information System administered by the California Office of Historic Preservation.

2.1 AESTHETICS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) In nonurbanized 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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☐	☒

DISCUSSION

a) Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

No impact. No designated scenic vistas or State Scenic Highways are located within or near to the project site. Additionally, the nearest river within the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System is the Lower American River, located approximately 26 miles south of the project area in Sacramento County (Wild and Scenic Rivers 2024). Therefore, the project would not have an adverse effect on scenic vistas and no impact would occur.

b) Would the project substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

No impact. The project site is not located within a State Scenic Highway designated by Caltrans' State Scenic Highway Program, nor is the site visible from a State Scenic Highway (Caltrans 2018). The nearest officially designated State Scenic Highway is Highway 160 within Sacramento County, approximately 35 miles south of the project area. Therefore, the project would not substantially damage scenic resources within a State Scenic Highway, and no impact would occur.

c) Would the project, in nonurbanized 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?

Less Than Significant Impact. The project location and setting provide the context for determining the type of changes to the existing visual environment. The project is located in a nonurbanized area; however, the project does not contain any elements that would result in permanent changes to the existing visual character of the area. Construction of the project would temporarily change public views for drivers, pedestrians, local residents, and other people in the vicinity of the site. However, these impacts would be short term and would cease upon project completion. The project would replace the existing bridge structure and roadway approaches, and the visual character and quality of the site would be returned to previous or improved conditions following the completion of construction. Therefore, impacts to the visual character or quality of the site would be considered less than significant.

d) Would the project create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

No Impact. The project would not install street lighting or any other permanent source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area. If construction lighting is used, it would be temporary, intermittent, and would be directed only into the active construction area. No residences are located in the immediate vicinity of the project area; therefore, the project does not have the potential to result in light pollution for adjacent residences. No impact would occur.

MITIGATION MEASURES

No mitigation is required.

FINDINGS

The project would not adversely affect any designated scenic resource or vista, nor substantially change the current visual environment. Any impacts to visual character of the site would be temporary and would cease upon completion of the project. Therefore, the project is anticipated to have a **Less Than Significant Impact** on aesthetics in the area.

2.2 AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 the forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board.				
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☒	☐

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The land within the project area is designated by the California Department of Conservation (CDC), Division of Land Resource Protection, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) as "Farmland of Local Importance". Farmland of Local Importance is defined as land of importance to the local agricultural economy as determined by each county's board of supervisors and a local advisory committee (CDC 2024). The Placer County General Plan (2013) Land Use Element designated the site as "Agriculture/Timberland – 80-Acre Minimum", and the area is zoned by the County as "Farm" (F). Fiddyment-Kaseberg loams and San Joaquin sandy loams within the project area are not classified as prime farmland soils; however, Xerofluvents, constituting the majority of soils onsite, are classified by the NRCS as "Prime Farmland if Irrigated" (USDA 2023). The lands surrounding Dalby Road are actively utilized for agriculture (grazing and hay production).

DISCUSSION

a) Would the project 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?

Less than Significant Impact. No Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance is present within the project area. According to the CDC California Important Farmland Finder (CDC 2023), and the Placer County FMMP Map (CDC 2018), the project area is considered Farmland of Local Importance. As a result of project implementation, approximately 0.76 acres of farmland of local

importance would be converted directly (permanent impact) to non-agricultural land. Of the 0.76 acres of permanent conversion, approximately 0.36 acres is currently under Williamson Act Contract. In addition, approximately 0.37 acres of farmland of local importance would have temporary impacts during construction operations (using temporary construction easements). Temporary impact areas would be returned to agricultural lands post construction, and no indirect loss of farmland would occur (see Table 2 and Figure 4). No prime farmland would be converted. Converted Williamson Act Contract Land would be appraised for compensation in accordance with the Williamson Act. According to Form NRCS-CPA-106 prepared for the project, project effects to farmlands would not be considered a substantial impact on farmland resources. Therefore, in comparison to the number of agricultural operations and Farmland of Local Importance in the vicinity of the project, impacts would be considered less than significant.

Table 2. Impacts to Important Farmland

Project Impacts	Farmland of Local Importance (acres)
Permanent Impacts (Conversion)	0.76
Temporary Impacts	0.37

b) Would the project conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?

Less than Significant Impact. The agricultural lands within the project area are zoned as Farm (F). The project would replace the existing Dalby Road Bridge and would not include any elements or new structures that would conflict with agricultural zoning. Williamson Act-contracted land is present within the project area directly south of Dalby Road. Of the 0.76 acres of permanent conversion, approximately 0.36 acres is currently under Williamson Act Contract.

The Williamson Act program allows individual property owners to have their property assessed on the basis of its agricultural production rather than at its current market value provided that the land is used for agricultural or related open space uses. As part of the right-of-way process, the area of permanent conversion under Williamson Act Contract will be assessed as directed by the California Land Conversion Act and the property owned would be compensated accordingly for the loss of function of the agricultural lands.

Therefore, the proposed project would not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, the project would not cause significant impacts in consideration of conflict with Williamson Act contract lands. Impacts would be considered less than significant.

c) Would the project 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))?

No Impact. The project area is designated as "Agriculture/Timberland – 80-Acre Minimum" land use, and would be considered timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), as land that could grow trees for commercial purposes. However, the land has historically and currently been used as grazing land. The project would not conflict with the existing zone or cause rezoning of the land, and no impact would occur.

FIGURE 4

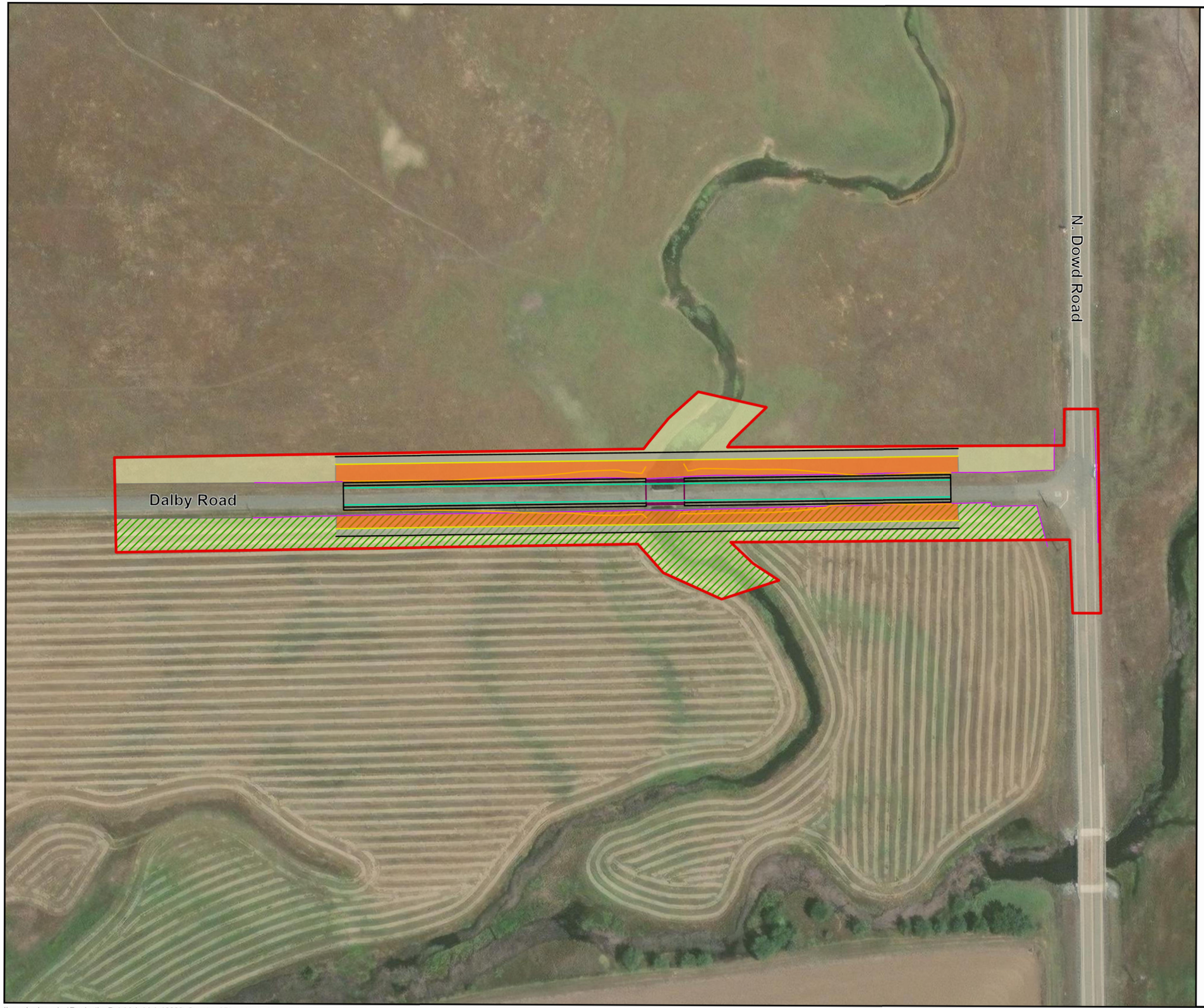
FARMLAND IMPACTS

DALBY ROAD OVER YANKEE SLOUGH

BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

PLACER COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

JUNE 2024



Project Area

Project Features

- Proposed Bridge Structure
- Proposed Edge of Travelway
- Proposed Edge of Pavement
- Proposed Fill Slopes

FMMP Resources

- Farmland of Local Importance (2.62 acres)
- Williamson Act Contract (1.42)

Easements

- Temporary Construction Easement
- Highway Easement (New)
- Highway Easement (Prescribed)

Farmland Impacts

- Permanent Conversion (0.76 acres)
- Temporary Conversion (0.37 acres)

0 50 100 200

Feet

NORTH

WOOD RODGERS

\\woodrodgers.loc\ProductionData\Jobs\Jobs\8923_County of Placer\001_Dalby Rd at Yankee Slough Bridge\40_DATA\40.8_GIS\Data\Task_Specific_Folder\Environmental\JN8923001\Environmental\JN8923001_Dalby_Env.aprx 6/17/2024 10:55 PM adellas

d) Would the project result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

No Impact. There are no forest lands or forest resources located within the project area; therefore, the project would not result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use, and no impact would occur.

e) Would the project involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in the conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

Less than Significant Impact. The proposed project would not involve changes in the existing environment that, due to their location or nature, could result in the further conversion of farmland that has been discussed in section a) and b) above, and would not result in the conversion of forest land. Therefore, no impact would occur.

MITIGATION MEASURES

No mitigation is required.

FINDINGS

As a result of project implementation, approximately 0.76 acres of farmland of local importance would be converted directly (permanent impact) to non-agricultural land. Of the 0.76 acres of permanent conversion, approximately 0.36 acres is currently under Williamson Act Contract. Converted Williamson Act Contract Land would be appraised for compensation in accordance with the Williamson Act. According to Form NRCS-CPA-106 prepared for the project, project effects to farmlands would not be considered a substantial impact on farmland resources. Therefore, in comparison to the number of agricultural operations and Farmland of Local Importance in the vicinity of the project, impacts would be considered less than significant.

2.3 AIR QUALITY

Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non- attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☒	☐

REGULATORY SETTING

Federal Regulations

The Clean Air Act (CAA) as amended in 1990 is the federal law that governs air quality. Its counterpart in California is the California Clean Air Act of 1988. These laws set standards for the quantity of pollutants that can be found in the air. At the federal level, these standards are called National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). Standards have been established for six criteria pollutants that have been linked to potential health concerns. These criteria pollutants are carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO_2), ozone (O_3), particulate matter (PM), lead (Pb), and sulfur dioxide (SO_2).

State Regulations

Responsibility for achieving California's air quality standards, which are more stringent than federal standards, is placed on the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and local air districts, and these standards are to be achieved through district-level air quality management plans that will be incorporated into the State Implementation Plan (SIP). In California, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) has delegated authority to prepare SIPs to the CARB, which, in turn, has delegated that authority to individual air districts.

The CARB has traditionally established state air quality standards while maintaining oversight authority in air quality planning, developing programs for reducing emissions from motor vehicles, developing air emission inventories, collecting air quality and meteorological data, and approving state implementation plans.

The responsibilities of air districts include overseeing stationary source emissions, approving permits, maintaining emissions inventories, maintaining air quality stations, overseeing agricultural burning permits, and reviewing air quality-related sections of the environmental documents required by CEQA.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The project, located within Placer County, is subject to the Placer County Air Pollution Control District (District) requirements and regulations. The project area is situated in the Sacramento Valley Air Basin; however, the District additionally regulates air quality within the Mountain and Lake Tahoe air basins. The District is responsible for ensuring the NAAQS and CAAQS are met within Placer County. The District

manages air quality through a comprehensive program of long-term planning, regulations, incentives for technical innovation, education, and community outreach.

DISCUSSION

a) Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?

No Impact. The project is consistent with the site land use and zoning. The project would not have operational emissions, and the short-term construction of the project would not exceed thresholds which would conflict with or obstruct implementation of the Placer County air quality attainment plan, SIP, or Federal Implementation Plan. Furthermore, all construction equipment would be maintained in a manner consistent with state and federal regulations applicable to off-road, construction diesel equipment. Therefore, no impact would occur.

b) Would the project 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?

Less Than Significant Impact. The CARB is required to designate areas of the state as attainment, non-attainment, or unclassified for any state standard. An "attainment" designation for an area signifies that pollutant concentrations do not violate the standard for that pollutant in that area. A "non-attainment" designation indicates that a pollutant concentration violated the standard at least once within a calendar year. The area air quality attainment status of Placer County is shown below on Table 3.

Table 3. NAAQS and CAAQS Attainment Status for Placer County

Pollutant	Designation/Classification	
	Federal Standards	**State Standards**
Ozone – 8-Hour	Nonattainment-Moderate	Nonattainment
PM_{10}	Attainment	Nonattainment
$PM_{2.5}$	Nonattainment-Moderate	Attainment
Carbon Monoxide	Unclassified/Attainment	Attainment
Nitrogen Dioxide	Unclassified/Attainment	Attainment
Sulfur Dioxide	Unclassified/Attainment	Attainment
Sulfates	No Federal Standard	Attainment
Lead	Unclassified/Attainment	Attainment
Hydrogen Sulfide	No Federal Standard	Unclassified
Visibility Reducing Particles	No Federal Standard	Unclassified
Sources: District 2020		

Operational Emissions

The completed project would have no operational emissions. Therefore, no impact relating to air quality would occur due to operation of the completed project. Additionally, Caltrans has also made an air quality conformity finding under 23 USC 326 for categorical exemptions under NEPA for the project.

Construction Emissions

Construction activities associated with the project would result in temporary incremental increases in air pollutants (such as ozone precursors and particulate matter) due to the operation of gas-powered equipment and earth-moving activities. The District's CEQA Handbook (2017) has adopted significance thresholds for criteria pollutants. Table 4 shows the construction phase project-level significance thresholds.

Table 4. PCAPCD Significance Thresholds for Criteria Pollutants

Construction Phase Project-Level		
ROG	**NOx**	**PM10**
lbs/day	lbs/day	lbs/day
82	**82**	**82**

For linear projects, the District's CEQA Handbook recommends use of the latest Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District's Road Construction Emission Model (RCEM; Version 9.0.1, August 2022). According to the RCEM results, the project's unmitigated construction phase emissions would be well below the District significance thresholds. Therefore, according to the District CEQA Handbook, the project would result in a less than significant impact to air quality, and no air quality mitigation measures would be necessary to reduce emissions below District thresholds (Appendix A. RCEM Results).

District Rule 228, Fugitive Dust

District Rule 228, Fugitive Dust establishes the minimum dust mitigation and control requirements along with the standards to be met from the activities that generate fugitive dust. Rule 228's minimum dust mitigation and control requirements must be used for all construction and grading activities. Therefore, to comply with District Rule 228, all applicable Rule 228 minimum dust control requirements would be implemented as construction best management practices (BMPs) during grading activities.

According to the District CEQA Handbook for projects in which construction activities would disturb equal to or greater than 1-acre of surface area, the District requires a Dust Control Plan (DCP) must be submitted to and approved by the District. The project's plans and specifications will provide details on the District DCP requirements and will require the project contractor to prepare and submit for approval the DCP to comply with District DCP requirements.

The District sets forth further BMPs to minimize air quality impacts resulting from the construction process. Construction vehicle emissions would be reduced by utilizing construction-related equipment powered by engines meeting at least Tier II emission standards, as outlined in Section 2423 of Title 13 of the California Code of Regulations and Part 89 of Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations. On-road heavy-duty trucks would be required to meet Tier III emission standards. The idling times of all diesel-powered vehicles would be limited to 5 minutes, and vehicle idling, and construction staging would be prohibited within 1,000 feet of sensitive receptors. District measures to control construction emissions, including the use of clean diesel fuel and idling limits, are compliant with emission control strategies adopted by CARB to ensure conformity with the SIP and federal NAAQS.

With incorporation of District air quality BMPs (including construction phase BMPs), and implementation of an approved DCP, project impacts related to air quality would be considered less than significant in accordance with District Air Quality Guidelines and performance standards.

c) Would the project expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

Less than Significant Impact. Sensitive receptors are defined by the District as people who are more susceptible to the effects of air pollution. Sensitive receptor locations include schools, parks, playgrounds, day care centers, nursing homes, hospitals, and residential dwelling units. The project would occur within an unincorporated area and the nearest sensitive receptor, a residential dwelling, is located approximately 0.34 miles south of the project area. However, the proposed project would not generate operational emissions and construction would not cause the generation of any substantial pollutant concentrations. With the implementation of District BMPs and an approved DCP, temporary incremental increases of air

pollutants would be minimized and reduced in accordance with District rules and regulations. Therefore, the project would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations and the project would have a less than significant effect.

d) Would the project result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?

Less Than Significant Impact. While offensive odors rarely cause physical harm, they can be unpleasant, leading to considerable annoyance and distress among the public, and can generate citizen complaints to local governments and air districts. Project-related odors would be limited to the times construction-related activities would require machine equipment. Emissions from equipment may be evident in the immediate surrounding area during these times; however, construction activities would be short-term and would quickly disperse after equipment utilization. The project site is located approximately 0.34 miles from the nearest sensitive receptor; therefore, any potential odors generated by the project are not anticipated to adversely affect a substantial number of people. Project impacts would be considered less than significant.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Prior to construction, the project proponent or project contractor shall submit and receive approval of a prepared DCP and shall implement all applicable District construction phase BMPs.

MITIGATION MEASURES

No mitigation is required.

FINDINGS

The project would not cause operational long-term air quality impacts; however, the project would cause temporary incremental emissions from construction. In accordance with the District CEQA Handbook, construction emissions were determined to cause a less than significant air quality impact. Furthermore, the project will comply with all applicable District rules and regulations regarding construction phase BMPs and implementation of an approved DCP. Therefore, the project would result in a **Less Than Significant Impact** relating to air quality.

2.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or NOAA Fisheries?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☒	☐	☐
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐

REGULATORY SETTING

This section describes the federal, state, and local plans, policies, and laws that are relevant to biological resources within the Biological Study Area (BSA). Applicable permits and approvals that will be required before the construction of the project are provided in Section 1.5.

Federal Regulations

National Environmental Policy Act
NEPA provides an interdisciplinary framework for environmental planning by Federal agencies and contains action-forcing procedures to ensure that Federal agency decision makers take environmental factors into account. NEPA applies whenever a Federal agency proposes an action, grants a permit, or agrees to fund or otherwise authorize any other entity to undertake an action that could possibly affect environmental resources. Caltrans is the designated NEPA lead agency for this project acting under delegation from Federal Highways Administration (FHWA).

Federal Endangered Species Act
The Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) of 1973 (16 U.S.C. section 1531 et seq.) provides for the conservation of endangered and threatened species listed pursuant to Section 4 of the Act (16 U.S.C. section 1533) and the ecosystems upon which they depend. These species and resources have been identified by the United States Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) or the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Clean Water Act
The Clean Water Act (CWA) was enacted as an amendment to the Federal Water Pollutant Control Act of 1972, which outlined the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants to waters of the United States (WOTUS). The CWA serves as the primary federal law protecting the quality of the nation's surface

waters, including lakes, rivers, and coastal wetlands. The CWA empowers the USEPA to set national water quality standards and effluent limitations, and it includes programs addressing both point-source and non-point-source pollution. Point-source pollution originates or enters surface waters at a single, discrete location, such as an outfall structure or an excavation or construction site. Non-point-source pollution originates over a broader area and includes urban contaminants in stormwater runoff and sediment loading from upstream areas. The CWA operates on the principle that all discharges into the nation's waters are unlawful unless they are specifically authorized by a permit. Permit review is CWA's primary regulatory tool.

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regulates discharges of dredged or fill material into WOTUS. These waters include wetlands and non-wetland bodies of water that meet specific criteria under 33 CFR Part 328 "Definition of Waters of the United States".

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and its functional Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCB) has jurisdiction under Section 401 of the CWA to regulate any activity that may result in a discharge to surface waters within the state of California. Typically, the areas subject to jurisdiction of the RWQCB coincide with those of the USACE (i.e., WOTUS, including any wetlands).

Executive Order 13112: Prevention and Control of Invasive Species
Executive Order (EO) 13112 (signed February 3, 1999) directs all Federal agencies to prevent and control introductions of invasive species in a cost-effective and environmentally sound manner. The EO and directives from the FHWA require consideration of invasive species in NEPA analyses, including their identification and distribution, their potential impacts, and measures to prevent or eradicate them.

Executive Order 13186: Migratory Bird Treaty Act
EO 13186 (signed January 10, 2001) directs each Federal agency taking actions that could adversely affect migratory bird populations to work with USFWS to develop a Memorandum of Understanding that will promote the conservation of migratory bird populations. Protocols developed under the Memorandum of Understanding will include the following agency responsibilities:

- avoid and minimize, to the maximum extent practicable, adverse impacts on migratory bird resources when conducting agency actions;
- restore and enhance habitat of migratory birds, as practicable; and
- prevent or abate the pollution or detrimental alteration of the environment for the benefit of migratory birds, as practicable.

The EO is designed to assist Federal agencies in their efforts to comply with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) (50 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 10 and 21) and does not constitute any legal authorization to take migratory birds. Take is defined under the MBTA as "the action of or attempt to pursue, hunt, shoot, capture, collect, or kill" (50 CFR 10.12) and includes intentional take (i.e., take that is the purpose of the activity in question) and unintentional take (i.e., take that results from, but is not the purpose of, the activity in question).

State Regulations

California Environmental Quality Act
California State law created the CEQA to inform governmental decision-makers and the public about the potential, significant environmental effects of proposed activities and to work to reduce these negative environmental impacts.

California Endangered Species Act
The California Endangered Species Act (CESA) (California Fish and Game (CFG) Code Section 2050 et seq.) requires the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to establish a list of endangered and threatened species (Section 2070) and to prohibit the incidental taking of any such listed species except as allowed by the Act (Sections 2080-2089). In addition, CESA prohibits "take" of candidate species (those species under consideration for listing).

The CESA also requires the CDFW to comply with CEQA (Pub. Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.) when evaluating incidental take permit applications (CFG Code Section 2081(b) and California Code Regulations, Title 14, section 783.0 et seq.), and the potential impacts that the project or activity for which the application was submitted may have on the environment. The CDFW's CEQA obligations include consultation with other public agencies that have jurisdiction over the project or activity [California Code Regulations, Title 14, Section 783.5(d)(3)]. The CDFW cannot issue an incidental take permit if issuance would jeopardize the continued existence of the species [CFG Code Section 2081(c); California Code Regulations, Title 14, Section 783.4(b)].

Natural Community Conservation Planning Act
The Natural Community Conservation Planning Act (NCCP) of 1991 was intended to provide an alternative and/or a collaborative approach to FESA and CESA. It was designed to represent a new approach to conservation. Instead of focusing on individual species (e.g., FESA/CESA), the NCCA focuses on protecting intact ecosystems across an entire region or landscape. NCCP programs have become increasingly common in the development of regional plans that combine the habitat conservation plan (HCP) and NCCP processes.

Section 3503 and 3503.5: Bird and Raptors
CFG Code Section 3503 prohibits the destruction of bird nests and Section 3503.5 prohibits the killing of raptor species and destruction of raptor nests. Trees and shrubs are present in and adjacent to the BSA and could contain nesting sites.

Section 3513: Migratory Birds
CFG Code Section 3513 prohibits the take or possession of any migratory non-game bird as designated in the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) or any part of such migratory non-game bird except as provided by the rules and regulations adopted by the Secretary of the Interior under provisions of the MBTA.

Local Regulations

Placer County General Plan
The Placer County General Plan (2013) contains numerous policies that support habitat conservation and open space preservation. Primarily found in the Natural Resources Element of the General Plan, these policies work together with those of other elements to form a framework for extraordinary wildlife protections.

Placer County Conservation Program
The Placer County Conservation Program (PCCP), established in 2020 by the Placer County Board of Supervisors, is a multi-component plan dedicated to the preservation of natural resources in the western portion of the County (Plan Area). The program is comprised of a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) under FESA, a Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP) under the California Natural Community Conservation Planning Act, a County Aquatic Resources Program (CARP), and an In-Lieu Fee Program to fill compensatory mitigation requirements for impacts to aquatic resources under Section 401 and 404 of the CWA.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

This section describes the natural resources present within and immediately surrounding the project area and the Biological Study Area (BSA), defined as the area necessary for all project activities, plus an additional 100-foot buffer. The BSA encompasses approximately 10.32 acres.

A Natural Environment Study (NES) was prepared for the project (Wood Rodgers 2024). The NES was prepared in coordination with the Placer Conservation Authority in order to comply with guiding principles and requirements of the PCCP. This section is a summary of the findings of the NES and provides the following: 1) discussion on the special-status species and sensitive habitats that have been identified or are potentially occurring in the BSA; 2) an analysis of the impacts that could occur to biological resources due to implementation of the project; and 3) appropriate avoidance and minimization and/or mitigation measures to reduce or avoid significant impacts.

Physical Conditions

The project would occur in unincorporated Placer County in the California Dry Steppe Province ecological subregion, Great Valley Section, and ecological subsection 262Ag (Hardpan Terraces) of California (USDA 2007). The project area is located within the USGS *Sheridan* 7.5-Minute Quadrangle.

Topography

The BSA is located entirely within the *Sheridan* USGS 7.5-Minute Quadrangle. The BSA occurs within a single distinct topographic region of valley floor, and the natural elevation within the BSA ranges from approximately 88 to 91 feet above mean sea level. The topography of the valley floor consists of low-elevation fluvial plains formed on nonmarine sedimentary rock with gently rolling terrain located on the Sacramento valley floor.

Soils

The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Web Soil Survey (WSS) for the project (NRCS 2024) identifies soils within the BSA as:

- Fiddyment-Kaseberg loams, 2 to 9 percent slopes
- San Joaquin sandy loam, 1 to 5 percent slopes
- Xerofluvents – occasionally flooded

Hydrological Resources

The BSA includes surface water features including a northern tributary of Yankee Slough (Yankee Slough North Fork), and vernal pool complex features north of Dalby Road. Yankee Slough North Fork originates northeast of the township of Sheridan and flows westerly into Sutter County, where it connects with the Bear River. According to the PCCP, Yankee Slough flows perennially; however, the slough is largely channelized, does dry in some sections, and has little to no riparian vegetation throughout the majority of its extent. Within the BSA, the Yankee Slough North Fork has no riparian vegetation and flows from the northeast through the BSA. The Yankee Slough North Fork confluences with the Yankee Slough main channel approximately 800 linear feet south of the BSA.

According to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) “Best Available Maps” website, the unnamed tributary is not part of a “Designated Floodway” or is part of a “Regulated Stream”. Therefore, no floodway encroachment permit from the Central Valley Flood Protection Board would be required. Additionally, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM), the BSA does not fall within a Special Flood Hazard Area. Furthermore, PCCP section

3.2.6.1 (page 3-12) confirms there is no evidence that anadromous fish are present within the Yankee Slough watershed; therefore, anadromous fish listed as PCCP Covered Species will not be discussed are presumed absent from the BSA.

Two distinct vernal pool features were also identified north of Dalby Road within the BSA. Vernal pool features are seasonal wetlands that provide growing and habitat conditions for specialized flora and fauna.

Vegetation Communities

The BSA is dominated by natural communities, including vernal pool complex (VPC), grassland, and riverine/riparian complex. A small portion Dalby Road and the Dalby Road Bridge bisecting the BSA is considered an urban (non-natural) community.

In accordance with the requirements of the PCCP, the natural community types within the BSA will be based on the classification system provided in the PCCP (Table 3-6, Communities and Land-Cover Types). Table 5 and Figure 5 provide PCCP baseline community, land cover, and constituent habitat classifications within the BSA. Table 6 and Figure 6 provide current site conditions of PCCP community, land cover, and constituent habitats within the BSA. The following section describes the PCCP community types and the comparison of existing conditions to the most recent PCCP baseline land-cover map provided by the Placer Conservation Agency.

Table 5. PCCP Baseline Communities, Land Cover, and Constituent Habitat

PCCP Baseline Community	PCCP Baseline Land-Cover Type	Acres
Grassland	Pasture	4.02
Vernal Pool Complex (VPC)	VPC – High Density	1.64
Vernal Pool Complex	VPC –Low Density	2.77
Riverine/Riparian Complex	Riverine/Riparian	0.29
Urban (Non-natural)	Road	1.60

Table 6. Current Condition Results

PCCP Community	Land-Cover Type	Constituent Habitat Site Conditions	Acres
Grassland	Pasture	--	4.19
Vernal Pool Complex	VPC – High Density	Vernal Pool & Wetland Swales	1.57
Vernal Pool Complex	VPC – Low Density	Vernal Pool & Wetland Swales	3.07
Riverine/Riparian Complex	Riverine/Riparia	Riverine	0.29
Urban (Non-natural)	Road	--	1.20

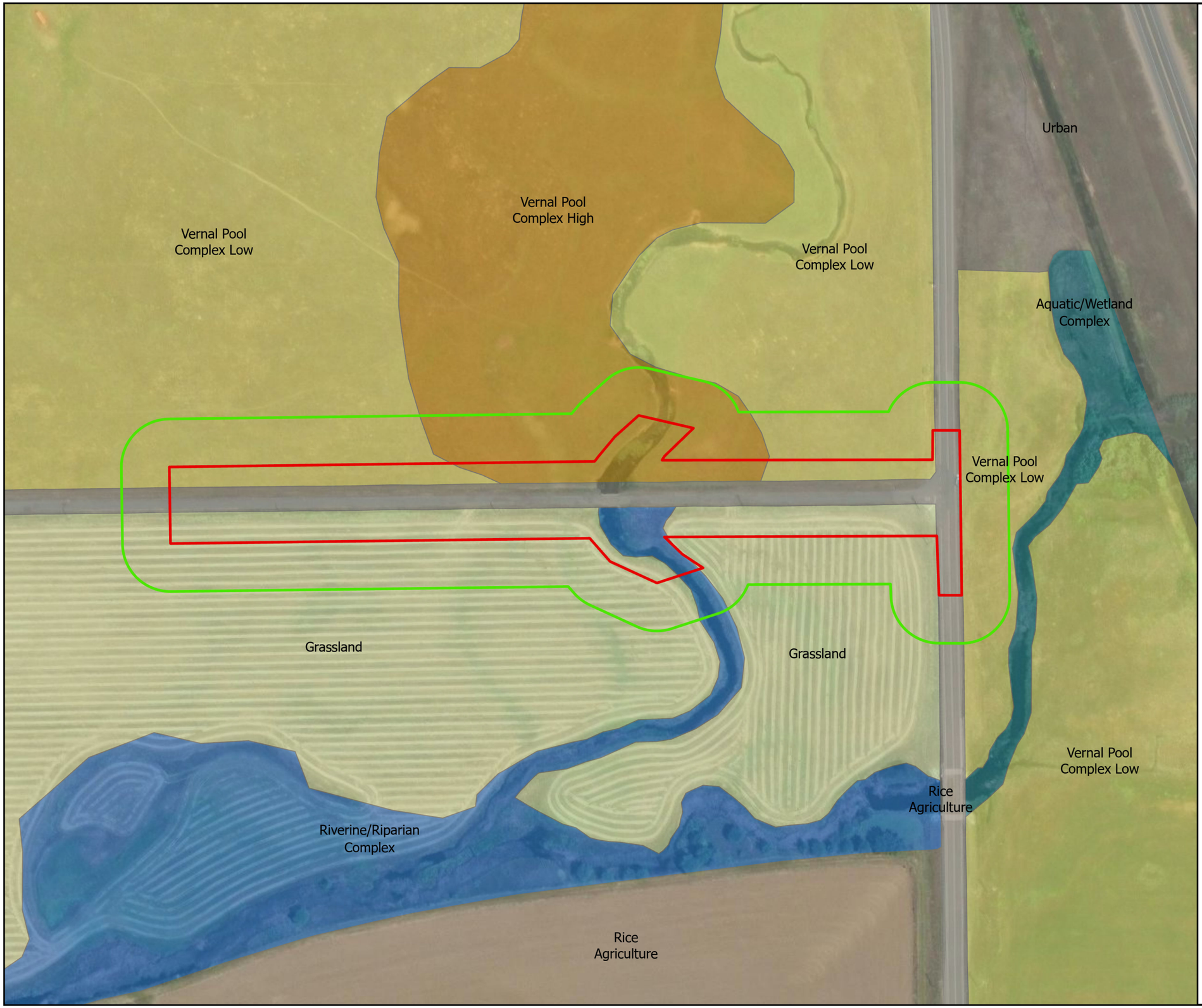
FIGURE 5

PCCP BASELINE COMMUNITIES AND LAND COVER

DALBY ROAD OVER YANKEE SLOUGH BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

PLACER COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

JUNE 2024



- Project Area
- Biological Study Area

PCCP Baseline Land Cover

- Aquatic/Wetland Complex
- Grassland
- Riverine/Riparian Complex
- Urban
- Vernal Pool Complex High
- Vernal Pool Complex Low

0 50 100 200

Feet

1 inch equals 200 feet

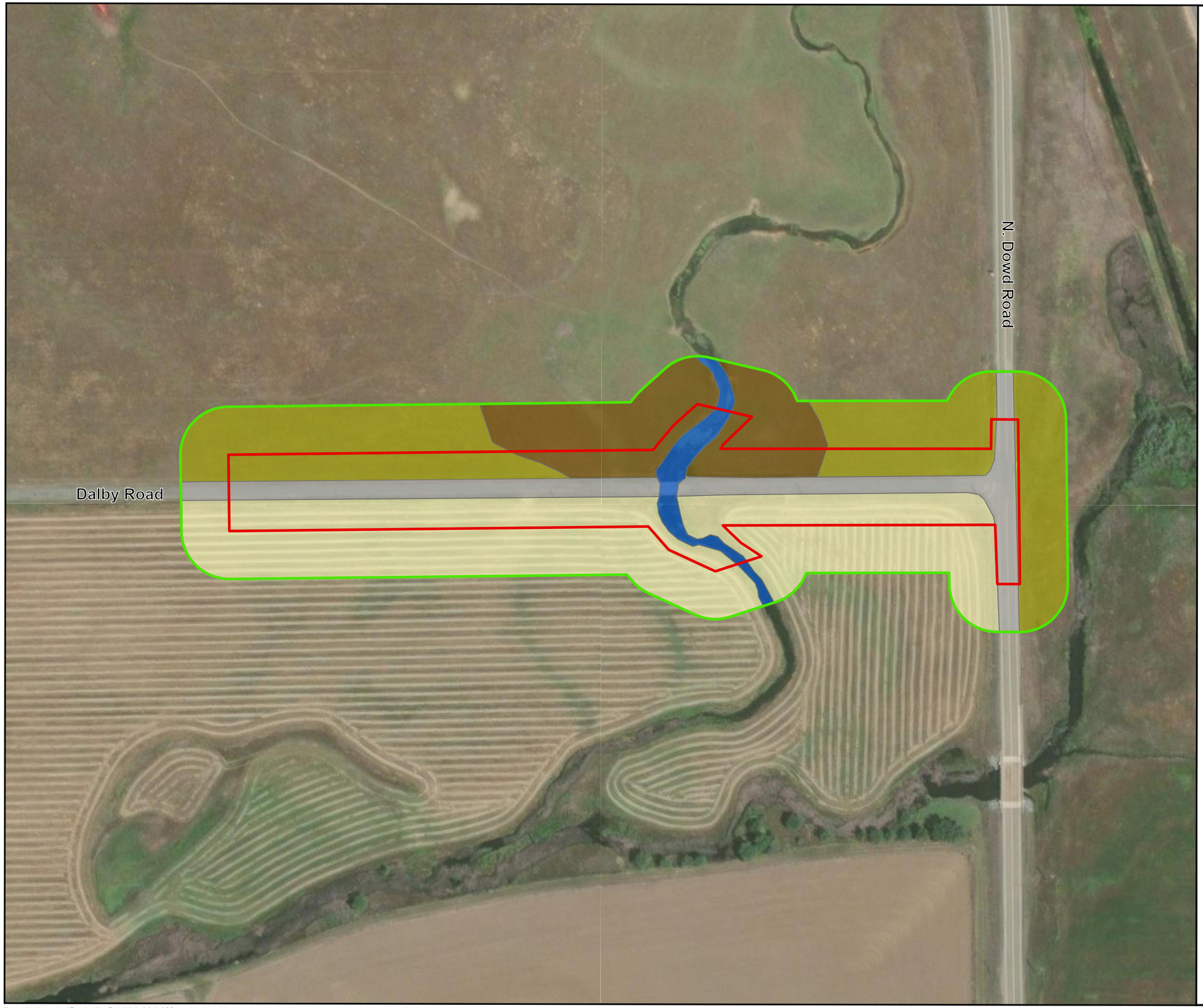
NORTH

WOOD RODGERS

FIGURE 6

PCCP COMMUNITIES
(CURRENT CONDITIONS)

DALBY ROAD OVER YANKEE SLOUGH
BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT
PLACER COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
AUGUST 2024



Project Area
Biological Study Area

PCCP Current Land Cover

- Urban - Road
- Grassland - Pasture
- Riverine/Riparian Complex - Riverine
- Vernal Pool Complex High
- Vernal Pool Complex Low

0 50 100 200
Feet

1 inch equals 200 feet

NORTH

WOOD RODGERS

Natural Vegetation Communities

Grassland

The grassland community within the PCCP specifically includes annual grassland and pasture land cover types. Vernal pool complex lands are also grasslands, but are considered a separate defined community due to the unique conservation requirements of vernal pool habitats.

Pasture

The PCCP grassland community, pasture land cover type, is differentiated from annual grassland land cover due to extensive terrain modification to accommodate irrigation and mechanical tilling for planting; however, simply discontinuing irrigation can convert pasture to annual grassland. Native plants are largely absent from this land cover type as they cannot compete with planted pasture species and invasive species. Within the BSA, dominant species in the pasture land cover includes wild oat (*Avena fatua*), ripgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*), foxtail barley (*Hordeum murinum*), storksbill (*Erodium botrys*), and wild radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum*).

Vernal Pool Complex

The vernal pool complex (VPC) community includes three land cover types: low, intermediate, and high density. Vernal pool wetlands, surrounding uplands, and ephemeral drainages and swales that interconnect isolated vernal pools constitute vernal pool complex constituent habitat. Vernal pools generally form in seasonally flooded depressions in grasslands under a combination of specific climatic, soil, hydrologic, and topographic conditions. Conditions necessary for vernal pool formation include a Mediterranean climate, a restrictive subsurface layer impermeable to water infiltration on which a shallow water table is perched during the wet season, and a microtopographic pattern of shallow depressions in a level landscape. This set of characteristics distinguishes vernal pools from other seasonal wetlands and perennial wetlands (Placer County 2020). The VPC community hosts biologically unique habitat for migratory birds, waterfowl, amphibians, and protected vernal pool branchiopods.

VPC – High Density

The VPC – High Density land cover is defined by the PCCP as a mosaic of vernal pool wetlands, seasonal wetlands, swales, and uplands, typically with a wetland density of 5 percent or more within the overall complex. Lands mapped as high-density VPC are estimated on average to comprise 4.5 percent vernal pool wetlands, 4 percent seasonal wetlands, 2 percent seasonal swales, for a total of 10.5 percent of vernal pool constituent habitats. Within the BSA, high-density VPC land cover has been identified immediately north of Dalby Road and includes constituent habitat elements including vernal pool wetlands and seasonal swales. Vernal pool specific flora identified includes vernal pool buttercup (*Ranunculus bonariensis var. trisepalus*), vernal pool popcornflower (*Plagiobothrys stipitatus*), and coyote thistle (*Eryngium vaseyi*).

VPC – Low Density

The VPC – Low Density land cover type is defined by the PCCP as land cover with less than one percent wetland density within the overall complex. Areas mapped as low-density VPC are most likely, on average, to show 0.2 percent delineated vernal pools and larger amounts of seasonal wetlands or seasonal swales. Within the BSA, this land cover type has been identified immediately north of Dalby Road, on either side of Yankee Slough. No constituent habitat exists within the BSA as part of the VPC – Low Density land cover.

Riverine/Riparian Complex

Within the PCCP, the diverse riverine and riparian ecosystems found throughout western Placer County are mapped into a single riverine/riparian complex community. This community is closely associated with other land cover types and habitats, including grasslands, valley oak woodland, and freshwater, off-channel, seasonal wetlands. Although mapped together, the PCCP indicates that initial land cover mapping in 2002 identified riverine habitat that existed separately from valley foothill riparian woodland land cover. However, due to the small, narrow patch size of these biological resources, riverine and riparian land cover types were mapped collectively.

Riverine
The riverine land cover type includes perennial, intermittent, and ephemeral streams and rivers. The flow regime in riverine ecosystems profoundly affects its ecology, in particular its ability to support fish and other aquatic organisms. Within the BSA, riverine land cover consists of the unnamed tributary of Yankee Slough. The unnamed tributary is an incised channel, and no riparian community exists. The PCCP baseline mapping only includes this riverine feature to the south of Dalby; conversely the riverine feature exists north of Dalby Road (see Figure 5).

Non-Natural Communities

Urban

The urban community represents a variety of developed land cover types, based generally on land use categories designated by the Placer County Planning Services Division. Land cover types included within this community consist of urban/suburban (greater than one dwelling unit per acre), urban golf course, urban parks, urban riparian, urban wetland, urban woodland, barren/industrial, and road.

Road
Roads were mapped as a specific land cover type only in the Valley, outside of areas that are otherwise mapped as urban/suburban. The mapped area includes the paved roadway itself and the adjoining right of way. Within the BSA, the road land cover type includes Dalby Road and Dalby Road Bridge.

Habitat Connectivity

According to the CDFW BIOS, the BSA lies within a "Terrestrial Connectivity, Area of Conservation Emphasis (ACE) Level 4, designated as an area with "Conservation Planning Linkages" (CDFW 2023a). However, the proposed project would not include any permanent impoundments or barriers to native wildlife migration. Although work would be required within Yankee Slough and the adjacent vernal pools, the project impact area will be minimized to the greatest extent practicable. The area would be returned to previous or improved conditions following the completion of construction, and natural vegetation communities could still serve native populations of wildlife as a habitat connectivity area. Therefore, the project is not anticipated to have significant impacts to regional habitat connectivity.

DISCUSSION

a) Would the project have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or NOAA Fisheries?

Less Than Significant with Mitigation. Prior to field work, literature research was conducted through the USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) official species list generator, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) West Coast Region Species List, the CDFW California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB), and the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Electronic Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants. Literature and database searches (see Appendix B) were completed to identify habitats and special-status species that have the potential to occur in the project vicinity.

Field surveys, habitat assessments, and analyses of special status species occurrences were conducted to determine the potential for species to occur within the BSA. Field surveys were conducted on April 5, 2024, and May 17, 2024, by Wood Rodgers biologists Andrew Dellas, Eralise Spokely, and Emma Deal. Field surveys included walking meandering transects through the entire BSA, observing vegetation communities, compiling notes on observed flora and fauna, and assessing the potential for existing habitat to support sensitive plants and wildlife.

The potential for each species to occur within the BSA was determined by analyzing the habitat requirements for each species, comparing them to available habitat within the BSA, and analyzing the regional occurrences of the species. Based on these analyses, it was concluded that eight (8) special status species have the potential to occur within the BSA: Vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*) and vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardi*) are assumed present within the BSA due to the presence of vernal pools. Additionally, tricolored blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*) was observed foraging within the BSA during May 17, 2024 field surveys, and is considered present. Western spadefoot (*Spea hammondii*), burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*), grasshopper sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*), Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*), and western pond turtle (*Emys marmorata*) are considered to have a low potential to occur within the BSA. No special status plant species were determined to have the potential to occur within the BSA. Appendix C contains a comprehensive list of all regional special status species as listed by USFWS, NMFS, CDFW, and CNPS, as well as rationale for the potential for occurrence.

The following is a discussion of special status species with potential to occur within the project area, potential project effects, and any avoidance, minimization and/or mitigation measures required to reduce project impacts to a less than significant level.

Special Status Plant Species

The plants listed are considered to be of special concern based on (1) federal, state, or local laws regulating their development; (2) limited distributions; and/or (3) the presence of habitat required by the special-status plants occurring on site.

Preliminary literature research was conducted to determine the special status plant species with the potential to occur in the vicinity of the project. A review of USFWS, CNDDB, and CNPS online databases concluded that 10 special status plant species had the potential to occur in the vicinity of the project. Based on the conducted literature research, aerial reconnaissance, and field surveys of habitat conditions within the BSA, each of the special status species returned from preliminary database queries with potential to occur were presumed absent from the BSA. However, survey access limitations would not allow planning level rare plant surveys within some potentially suitable habitat (i.e. vernal pool complex to the north of Dalby Road). Therefore, avoidance and minimization measure **BIO-9** (see Avoidance, Minimization and/or Mitigation Measures section below) would require pre-construction rare plant surveys be conducted within approved survey/construction areas after right-of-way acquisition for the project occurs to ensure no special status plant species would be impacted by the project.

Special Status Wildlife Species

Discussion of Vernal Pool Invertebrates

Vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*) are federally listed as threatened and are a Covered Species under the PCCP. The species is known to occur in vernal pool communities in 32 counties throughout central and southern California, as well as Jackson County in southern Oregon (USFWS 2023c). Vernal pool fairy shrimp are filter feeders and consume predominantly algae, bacteria, protozoa, rotifers, and plant waste. The species competes within the vernal pool community with other fairy shrimp species, including Conservancy fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta conservatio*). Female vernal pool fairy shrimp carry eggs (cysts) in a sac on the underside of their body, which are either dropped to the bottom of the pool or remain in the sac until the death of the mother. Cysts are capable of withstanding the dewatering of the vernal pool and remain in the dry pool bed until hatching begins in response to rains and waters return to the vernal pools (USFWS 2023c). This species is non-migratory; however, cysts can be consumed by birds or large mammals and deposited in new habitats, allowing for dispersal of the species to other vernal pool communities. Dominant threats to the species include habitat loss, fragmentation and degradation from development and agriculture, as well as pesicide use and prolonged drought.

Vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardi*) are federally listed as endangered and are a Covered Species under the PCCP. Vernal pool tadpole shrimp are rare in vernal pool communities, with a total of 226 documented CNDDB occurrences throughout 20 California counties. The species initially hatches in November, completes its entire life cycle by May, and disappears altogether from vernal pools before they dry. Eggs are carried by female vernal pool tadpole shrimp in a sac on the underside of their body, and are either dropped to the bottom of the pool or remain in the sac until the death of the mother. Cysts can withstand extreme environmental conditions, including digestion from predators and the drying of vernal pools. Hatching of the cysts is triggered by rains and the return of water to the pools. This species is non-migratory; however, cysts can be consumed by birds or large mammals and deposited in new habitats, allowing for dispersal of the species to other vernal pool communities. Dominant threats to vernal pool tadpole shrimp include habitat fragmentation and loss from development and agriculture, pesticide use, and prolonged drought (USFWS 2023d).

The nearest recent (2015) occurrence of the vernal pool fairy shrimp is located approximately 1.3 miles east of the project area, and the project site is located approximately 3 miles northwest of the nearest USFWS-designated critical habitat for vernal pool fairy shrimp.

The nearest recent (2013) CNDDB occurrence of the vernal pool tadpole shrimp is located approximately 5.89 miles south of the project area; and the nearest USFWS-designated critical habitat for the species is located approximately 10.3 miles north of the project area near Beale Air Force Base.

Permission to enter the large agricultural parcel north of Dalby Road was not granted. This parcel contains the vernal pool complexes, and with no permission to enter the private property, vernal pool habitat specific surveys could not be conducted, such as vernal pool invertebrate wet season surveys in accordance with PCCP Species Condition 10. According to the PCCP Land Cover maps and results of the desktop analysis and observations from the roadside, two distinct vernal pool features are located within the northern parcel. Therefore, both vernal pool fairy shrimp and vernal pool tadpole shrimp have been assumed present within the features.

Project Impacts to Vernal Pool Invertebrates

The project has been designed to minimize temporary and permanent impacts to vernal pools to the greatest extent practicable, and the project has also conducted an alternatives analysis to determine if full avoidance

of the vernal pools would be feasible. The analysis determined that the project alignment could not be altered in a way to preserve project funding guidelines and preserve the vernal pool habitat.

Impacts to the vernal pool complex would include temporary construction access and areas of permanent fill slopes for conformance of the new bridge width to the existing roadway. In accordance with the PCCP, any direct impact to a delineated vernal pool requires the entire vernal pool to be assumed as a direct impact to the entire pool. Within the project footprint, approximately 0.04 acres of permanent direct impact would occur and approximately 0.16 acres of temporary direct impact would occur. The full extent of the delineated vernal pools would have a direct impact of approximately 0.38 acres. The full extent of the vernal pools will not physically be impacted, and it is the assumption that after the new roadway slopes are established, similar functionality of the vernal pools would continue.

No indirect immediate watershed effects would occur as part of the project. All proposed project activities would occur downgrade of the overall vernal pool complex north of Dalby Road. No other vernal pools, other than the ones being impacted, occur within 50-feet of project activities. Therefore, the project would not include any additional indirect effects on the overall vernal pool complex past the pools that have already been included in the direct effect analysis.

Vernal Pool Invertebrates Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Efforts

The project is considered a Covered Activity under the PCCP's HCP/NCCP and CARP, and measures **BIO-1** through **BIO-3** would ensure all avoidance and minimization measures applicable to the project would be implemented as determined in the PCCP/CARP Certification of Authorization, CARP Conditions of Approval, USACE PGP 18, and RWQCB General Section 401 WQC. Examples of these measures include environmental awareness training for PCCP Covered Species with potential to occur, establishment of environmental sensitive area temporary construction fencing, and erosion control construction BMPs. In addition to all applicable measure, the following avoidance and minimization measure shall be implemented by the project proponent:

BIO-10: (Vernal Pool Wetland Protection Mats) In areas of temporary construction access (areas that will not require excavation or compaction of fill slopes) within the delineated vernal pools, the project contractor shall use wetland protection mats or other form of ground protection to prevent excessive ground compaction and to protect the existing vernal pool soil conditions and seed bank. The areas of construction access to be protected shall be delineated within the project plans, and shall be delineated by the project biologist prior to initial ground disturbance.

As described in the Avoidance, Minimization and/or Mitigation Measures below, measures **BIO-5** through **BIO-8** shall provide compensatory mitigation for permanent and temporary direct effects to VPC habitat through payment of the PCCP/CARP Special Habitat Fees. Through payment of the applicable Special Habitat Fees, impacts to vernal pool invertebrates would be compensated through restoration and preservation of vernal pool constituent habitat within the PCCP Plan Area. No additional compensatory mitigation is proposed for vernal pool invertebrates.

With the inclusion of project-specific avoidance and minimization measures in addition to PCCP compensatory mitigation payments, the project would not jeopardize the continued existence of the vernal pool invertebrate species. Therefore, the project would not contribute to cumulative effects to the species or reduction in the species habitat.

Discussion of Western Spadefoot

Western spadefoot (*Spea hammondii*) is a CDFW Species of Special Concern and is proposed for listing under the ESA as a threatened species. This species predominantly inhabits grasslands and vernal pool communities; however, some populations have been identified in pine-oak woodlands in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada and Coast Ranges. Western spadefoots breed exclusively in shallow, temporary pools formed by heavy winter rains. The species is capable of digging its own burrows in which it lives for the majority of the year. During dry periods when pools are not present, the species absorbs moisture from the wet soil within its burrow. Western spadefoots exit their burrows during the first rains of the fall, and breeding activity concludes by the end of March (CDFW 2000). Western spadefoots feed primarily on dead amphibian larvae, including those of its own species, and vernal pool crustaceans.

The BSA does contain potentially suitable grassland and vernal pool/seasonal wetland communities for this species. According to the PCCP, the species has been found in vernal pools within Placer County and are known to use regional vernal pools for breeding. The nearest recent (2016) CNDDB occurrence of the species is located approximately 3.8 miles south of the project area. Due to its strong association with habitat present within the BSA, along with the distance of known occurrences, the species is considered to have a low potential to occur.

Project Impacts to Western Spadefoot

Project construction access and completion of the project would cause permanent and temporary impacts to potentially suitable vernal pool complex and grassland habitats. However, the impact will be limited to a small area of the overall suitable habitat complexes within the local area. In a good faith effort, and in anticipation of the possible listing of the species prior to project implementation, mitigation measure have been included for pre-construction surveys and handling of the species by qualified biologists if it does occur at the project site during construction activities. With the incorporation of measures **BIO-11** through **BIO-16**, the project is not anticipated to result in adverse effects to western spadefoot individuals and would not cause an adverse loss of functional habitat on a local population level or within the PCCP Plan Area. Therefore, the project would not cause adverse effects to the species or its associated habitat.

The USFWS is currently not providing conference opinions for western spadefoot (based on the timing of this NES). However, given that western spadefoot is proposed to be listed under the ESA, Section 7 consultation will be required with USFWS upon official listing of the species. Given that no spadefoots have been observed within the BSA to date, and the distance from the nearest known records, few, if any individuals are expected to be at risk of effects from the project. Though no determination will be made for purposes of Section 7 at this time, once officially listed under ESA, the determination for western spadefoot is proposed to be "may affect, likely to adversely affect."

Western Spadefoot Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Efforts

BIO-11: (Western Spadefoot Pre-Construction Surveys) Prior to the start of ground disturbance, construction, or site preparation activities, a qualified biologist experienced with western spadefoot identification and behavior shall conduct pre-construction surveys for western spadefoot toad within all portions of the project site containing suitable breeding habitat. Surveys shall be conducted during a time of year when the species could be detected (e.g., the presence of rain pools). If no western spadefoot toad or egg masses are identified, no further action is required. If western spadefoot toad or egg masses are identified on the project site, the following measures will be implemented to ensure no direct effects to western spadefoot would occur.

BIO-12: (Western Spadefoot Work Window) Ground-disturbing project activities within potentially suitable western spadefoot habitat will occur outside of the breeding and dispersal season (May 15 to October 15), to the greatest extent practicable.

BIO-13: (Western Spadefoot Exclusion Fencing) If ground-disturbing activities must be implemented during the western spadefoot breeding and dispersal season (October 15 to May 15), wildlife exclusion fencing will be installed around the project footprint before October 15 the year prior to the start of construction activities. Exclusion fencing will remain in place until all construction activities within the construction area are completed. No project activities will occur outside the delineated project footprint.

BIO-14: (Western Spadefoot Monitoring) If ground-disturbing activities must be implemented during the western spadefoot breeding and dispersal season (October 15 to May 15), a qualified biologist will survey the active work areas (including access roads) in mornings following measurable precipitation events. Holes, trenches, and construction equipment left overnight will be inspected. Construction may commence once the biologist has confirmed that no spadefoot toads are in the work area.

BIO-15: (Western Spadefoot Entrapment / Erosion Control Materials) Trenches and holes will be covered and inspected daily for stranded animals. Steep-walled holes and trenches more than 6 inches deep will be covered with plywood (or similar material) or provided with one or more escape ramps (maximum slope of 2:1) to allow trapped animals to escape.

BIO-16: (Western Spadefoot Encounter Protocol) If project activities must be implemented during the breeding and dispersal season (October 15 to May 15), and a western spadefoot is encountered within the construction footprint, construction activity will be suspended in a 50-foot radius, and the project biologist will notify the wildlife agencies immediately. The animal will be allowed to move out of harm's way on its own volition. If necessary, the approved biologist will notify the Wildlife Agencies to determine the appropriate procedures related to relocation. If the animal is handled, a report will be submitted, including date(s), location(s), habitat description, and any corrective measures taken to protect the western spadefoot within 1 business day to the Wildlife Agencies. The biologist will report any impacts of listed species to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife immediately. Any worker who inadvertently injures or kills a western spadefoot or who finds dead, injured, or entrapped western spadefoot(s) must immediately report the incident to the approved biologist.

No species-specific compensatory mitigation is proposed. However, compensatory mitigation for permanent and temporary effects to suitable habitat through the payment of the PCCP/CARP Land Conversion Fees, Special Habitat Fees, and Temporary Effects Fees would support restoration and preservation of comparable or better habitat for the species within the PCCP Plan Area. No additional compensatory mitigation is proposed for western spadefoot.

With the inclusion of project-specific avoidance and minimization measures in addition to PCCP compensatory mitigation payments, the project would not jeopardize the continued existence of the species. Therefore, the project would not contribute to cumulative effects to the species or reduction in the species habitat.

Discussion of Burrowing Owl

Burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) is not a federally listed species, but has recently (October 10, 2024) been approved as a candidate threatened or endangered species under CESA, is a CDFW Species of Special

Concern, and is a Covered Species under the PCCP. Burrowing owls inhabit open, dry grasslands, agricultural and range lands, and desert habitats, as well as other areas with sparse, short vegetation. The species requires burrows for nesting, often utilizing burrows previously dug by ground squirrels (*Otospermophilus beecheyi*), or other mammals, as well as pipes, culverts, rock cavities, or debris piles. However, the species is capable of digging its own burrows (Placer County 2020). Breeding occurs between March and August, varying by geographic location and climate. The species is threatened by predation from various regional raptor and mammal species, in addition to vehicular traffic and the use of poisons to exterminate rodents (Placer County 2020).

The BSA is located within PCCP modeled habitat for the species and contains grassland habitat that is potentially suitable for nesting. The nearest recent (2016) CNDDB occurrence of the species is located approximately 1.7 miles east of the project area, and the nearest recent (2018) ebird.org occurrence is located approximately 1.4 miles east. In accordance with the PCCP Species Condition 3, planning level surveys were conducted to determine if suitable habitat features exist within the project impact area and a 250-foot survey buffer. It was determined during the planning-level habitat assessment that no suitable burrows, man-made structures, or banks of drainages for burrowing owl occurs in the project impact area or burrowing owl buffer. Due to the presence of modeled habitat within the BSA and the proximity to recent occurrences, the species is considered to have a low potential to occur as a flyover or transient species, but no nesting habitat occurs, and the species is unlikely to use the small areas grassland within the BSA for foraging. PCCP Species Condition 3 for pre-construction surveys would be implemented to ensure no take of burrowing owl would occur.

Project Impacts to Burrowing Owl

The project would require minor permanent and temporary effects to potentially suitable foraging habitat and PCCP modeled habitat for the species. However, with the lack of associated nesting habitat, the project is not anticipated to impact burrowing owl individuals. The project is considered a Covered Activity under the PCCP's HCP/NCCP, and the PCCP would provide take coverage for the species (if encountered) and impacts to burrowing owl modeled habitat. In addition, PCCP Species Condition 3 would be implemented to ensure no burrowing owl individuals move into the area prior to the start of construction, which would further ensure no direct impacts to species individuals, eggs, or nests would occur.

Burrowing Owl Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Efforts

The project is considered a Covered Activity under the PCCP's HCP/NCCP, and measure **BIO-1** would ensure all avoidance and minimization measures applicable to the project would be implemented as determined in the PCCP/CARP Certification of Authorization. To ensure no direct impacts to burrowing owls occurs, PCCP Species Condition 3 would be implemented as mitigation measure **BIO-17**:

BIO-17: (PCCP Species Condition 3 – Burrowing Owl Pre-Construction Survey)

> If preconstruction surveys are required, a qualified biologist must conduct two surveys within 15 days prior to ground disturbance to establish the presence or absence of western burrowing owls. The surveys will be conducted at least 7 days apart (if western burrowing owls are detected on the first survey, a second survey is not needed) for both breeding and non-breeding season surveys. All western burrowing owls observed will be counted and mapped. Preconstruction survey results will be valid only for the season (breeding or non-breeding) during which the survey was conducted.

Impacts to associated land cover types (i.e. PCCP Modeled Habitat) would be mitigated through the applicable PCCP Fees (**BIO-5** and **BIO-6**) and any temporary effects would be mitigated through measures **BIO-7** and **BIO-8**.

No direct impacts to burrowing owl individuals are anticipated. Minor project effects would be mitigated through the PCCP; therefore, the project would not contribute to cumulative effects to the species or reduction in the species habitat in the region.

Discussion of Grasshopper Sparrow

Grasshopper sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*) is not a state or federally listed species, but it is a CDFW Species of Special Concern. This species inhabits grassland communities, in which it establishes cup-shaped grass nests in the ground. Grasshopper sparrows feed and forage on the ground, primarily consuming grasshoppers, spiders, earthworms, and snails when breeding. However, outside of the breeding season (March through August), the species feeds predominantly on grass seed and grain. Grasshopper sparrow populations require large grassland areas; therefore, the primary threat to the species is breeding habitat loss and degradation due to development. Pesticide use, parasitism, and loss of wintering habitat constitute additional threats (American Bird Conservancy 2023).

No grasshopper sparrow or nests were observed during biological surveys conducted. The BSA does contain potentially suitable grassland habitat with a variety of grasses. There have been no recent occurrences of the species in Placer County; however, the nearest recent (2014) ebird.org occurrence of the species is located approximately 1.3 miles east of the project area. Due to the presence of potentially suitable habitat and the proximity of recent occurrences, the species is considered to have a low potential to occur within the BSA.

Project Impacts to Grasshopper Sparrow

The project would require minor permanent and temporary effects to potentially suitable foraging and nesting grassland habitat for the species. However, with the implementation of avoidance and minimization measures specific to the project's compliance with the PCCP and pre-construction nesting bird surveys (**BIO-17)**, no take of individuals, eggs, or nests would occur due to project implementation.

Grasshopper Sparrow Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Efforts

The project is considered a Covered Activity under the PCCP's HCP/NCCP, and measure **BIO-1** would ensure all avoidance and minimization measures applicable to the project would be implemented as determined in the PCCP/CARP Certification of Authorization. In addition, measure **BIO-18**, shall be incorporated to prevent take of grasshopper sparrow and other migratory nesting birds within the project impact area or designated buffers of construction activities.

BIO-18: (Migratory Nesting Bird Preconstruction Surveys)

> If vegetation removal or ground disturbance is required during the nesting season (February 1st – August 31st), a pre-construction nesting bird survey must be conducted within 7 days prior to vegetation removal. Within 2 weeks of the nesting bird survey, all vegetation cleared by the biologist will be removed by the contractor.
>
> A minimum 50-foot no-disturbance buffer will be established around any active nest of migratory birds and a minimum 250-foot no-disturbance buffer will be established around any nesting raptor species. The contractor must immediately stop work in the buffer area until the appropriate

buffer is established and is prohibited from conducting work that could disturb the birds (as determined by the project biologist and in consultation with wildlife agencies) in the buffer area until a qualified biologist determines the young have fledged. A reduced buffer can be established if determined appropriate by the project biologist and approved by CDFW.

No species-specific compensatory mitigation is proposed. However, compensatory mitigation for permanent and temporary effects to species associated habitats through the payment of the PCCP/CARP Land Conversion Fees, Special Habitat Fees, and Temporary Effects Fees would support restoration and preservation of comparable or better habitat for the species within the PCCP Plan Area. No additional compensatory mitigation is proposed for the grasshopper sparrow.

No direct impacts to grasshopper sparrow are anticipated. Minor project effects to potentially suitable habitat would be mitigated through the PCCP; therefore, the project would not contribute to cumulative effects to the species or reduction in the species habitat in the region.

Discussion of Swainson's Hawk

Swainson's hawk is listed as threatened under the CESA, and is a Covered Species under the PCCP. Swainson's hawk migrates annually from wintering areas in South America to breeding locations in northwestern Canada, the western U.S., and Mexico. In California, Swainson's hawk nest throughout the Sacramento Valley in large trees in riparian habitats and in isolated trees in or adjacent to agricultural fields. The breeding season extends from late March through late August, with peak activity from late May through July (England et al. 1997). In the Sacramento Valley, Swainson's hawks forage in large, open agricultural habitats, including alfalfa and hay fields (CDFW 1994). The breeding population in California has declined by an estimated 91% since 1900; this decline is attributed to the loss of riparian nesting habitats and the conversion of native grassland and woodland habitats to agriculture and urban development (CDFW 1994).

The BSA does not contain trees or other potential nesting habitat for the species. Potentially suitable foraging habitat is present in grassland areas, and the BSA is located within PCCP modeled habitat for the species. The nearest recent (2009) CNDDB occurrence of the species is located approximately 2.5 miles north of the project area, and there are numerous recent ebird.org occurrences near the intersection of Dalby Road and North Dowd Road.

The species is considered to have a low potential to occur as a flyover or transient species, but it is unlikely to use the small areas of grassland within the BSA for foraging. The species was observed flying in the vicinity of the project during PCCP planning level surveys conducted in April and May 2024; Potential suitable nesting trees were observed within the designated 1,320-foot survey buffer, along the Yankee Slough main channel. Therefore, PCCP Species Condition 1 would be implemented to ensure no take of Swainson's hawk would occur.

Project Impacts to Swainson's Hawk

The project would require minor permanent and temporary effects to potentially suitable foraging habitat and PCCP modeled habitat for the species. Therefore, project construction activities would have the potential to disturb Swainson's hawks within the designated PCCP disturbance buffer (e.g. noise, presence of the human form, etc.). Therefore, PCCP Species Condition 1 would be required by the project as a Covered Activity under the PCCP's HCP/NCCP. The PCCP would provide take coverage for the species (if encountered within the designated buffer) and impacts to species modeled habitat. With the implementation of Species Condition 1 no impacts or take of Swainson's hawk individuals, eggs or nests is anticipated due to project construction.

Swainson's Hawk Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Efforts

As determined by the results of the PCCP planning level surveys, potential nesting trees within the designated PCCP Swainson's survey buffer are present. Measure **BIO-1** would ensure all avoidance and minimization measures applicable to the project would be implemented as determined in the PCCP/CARP Certification of Authorization. To ensure no direct impacts to Swainson's hawk individuals, eggs, or nests occur due to project implementation, PCCP Species Condition 1 would be implemented as mitigation measure **BIO-19**:

BIO-19 (Species Condition 1 – Swainson's Hawk Pre-Construction Survey)

> If the project cannot be designed to avoid active Swainson's hawk nest trees and the construction must occur during the nesting season (February 1 to September 15, or sooner if the PCA determines that Swainson's hawk are nesting earlier in the year), a preconstruction survey must be conducted no more than 15 days prior to ground disturbance. If a Swainson's hawk nest is located and presence confirmed, only one follow-up visit is required.

Impacts to associated land cover types would be mitigated through the PCCP Fees (**BIO-5** and **BIO-6**) and any temporary effects would be mitigated through measures **BIO-7** and **BIO-8**.

No direct impacts to Swainson's hawk are anticipated. Minor project effects to potentially suitable habitat would be mitigated through the PCCP; therefore, the project would not contribute to cumulative effects to the species or reduction in the species habitat in the region.

Discussion of Tricolored Blackbird

Tricolored blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*) is listed as a threatened species under CESA, is a CDFW Species of Special Concern, and a Covered Species under the PCCP. This species is largely endemic to California's central valley and other low elevation areas throughout the state. Tricolored blackbirds breed in freshwater marsh, swamp, and wetland communities, and forage in large colonies within pastureland, rangeland, croplands, and wetlands. The species often flocks with other blackbird species. The PCCP documents that tricolored blackbird population size in the Sacramento and northern San Joaquin Valleys has declined by over 50 percent since the mid-1930s. However, numerous active colony sites have been identified within Placer County. The species nests between mid-March and early August in densely vegetated areas featuring cattails, tules, willows, or tall herbs.

The BSA does not contain suitable freshwater marsh communities that could support a nesting colony. The BSA does contain small portions of potentially suitable agricultural foraging habitat. According to the PCCP, the species is strongly associated with freshwater wetlands along Yankee slough east of the Highway 65 Lincoln Bypass. According to the Tricolored Blackbird Portal (UC Davis 2023), this known colony was last observed in 2022, but did not return in 2023. Other colony occurrences within the vicinity of the project area, include those documented in 2021 (3.6 miles east along Yankee Slough north of Riosa Road), and in 2018 (2 miles east at the Yankee Slough Preserve). Planning level surveys for nesting colonies were conducted April 5, 2024, and May 17, 2024.

No active colonies were observed within the PCCP planning level survey 1,300-foot buffer from the project impact area. However, the species was observed foraging within the BSA during the May 17, 2024, survey. It is assumed that nesting colonies are within 3 miles of the project, and PCCP foraging surveys will be conducted as part of pre-construction analysis of foraging habitat. The species is considered to be present within the BSA for foraging but would not use the BSA for nesting.

Project Impacts to Tricolored Blackbird

The project impact area and 1,300-foot PCCP designated disturbance buffer does not include suitable nesting habitat for the species. Therefore, the project does not have the potential to impact a nesting colony of tricolored blackbird However, the project would require minor permanent and temporary effects to potentially suitable foraging habitat for the species. Other than the potential impacts to the species modeled foraging habitat, construction activities could cause disturbances to any foraging individuals that typically use the BSA. Due to the potential for project disturbances within known foraging habitat, the project, as a Covered Activity under the PCCP's HCP/NCCP, would be required to comply with PCCP Species Condition 4b. Additionally, the PCCP would provide take coverage for the species (if encountered) and the species modeled habitat.

Tricolored Blackbird Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Efforts

Measure **BIO-1** would ensure all avoidance and minimization measures applicable to the project would be implemented as determined in the PCCP/CARP Certification of Authorization. In addition to applicable PCCP avoidance and minimization measures, measure **BIO-20** (Species Conditions 4b, Tricolored Blackbird Foraging) would be implemented as part of the project to further avoid impacts to foraging tricolored blackbirds.

BIO-20: (Species Condition 4b, Tricolored Blackbird Foraging)

Preconstruction Surveys
If foraging habitat is present in the survey area and project work will occur during the nesting season (March 15 to July 31) a qualified biologist must conduct two surveys approximately one week apart, with the second survey occurring within 5 calendar days of initiating ground disturbing covered activities.

Construction Related Avoidance Measures – Avoidance Area

Construction activity or other covered activities that may disturb foraging tricolored blackbirds, as determined by a qualified biologist, will be prohibited within 1,300-feet of the foraging site to the extent feasible during the nesting season. The avoidance area must be clearly marked to prevent project-related activities from occurring within the buffer zone. This buffer may be modified to a minimum of 300 feet, with written approval from the Wildlife Agencies, under the following circumstances:

- In areas with dense forest, buildings, or other features between the project activities and the actively used foraging habitat;
- Where there is sufficient topographic relief to protect foraging birds from excessive noise or visual disturbance; or
- In consultation with the Wildlife Agencies if other conditions warrant reduction of the buffer distance.

If tricolored blackbirds begin using foraging habitat adjacent to project activities after the activities have been initiated, the project applicant shall reduce disturbance through establishment of buffers or noise reduction techniques or visual screens, as determined in coordination with the County Project Lead and PCA, who must consult with the Wildlife Agencies.

If the survey results indicate that the area provides marginal foraging habitat (e.g., tricolored blackbirds were observed foraging, but only briefly, and most were not successfully capturing

prey), or site specific conditions may warrant a reduced buffer, the applicant may coordinate with County Project Lead to reduce avoidance requirements. The County Project Lead must request the PCA technical staff to consult with the Wildlife Agencies, to evaluate whether the project needs to avoid the foraging habitat or whether a reduced buffer may be appropriate. In such cases, additional surveys may be needed to assess site conditions and the value of the foraging habitat.

Construction Monitoring

A qualified biologist must monitor foraging habitat that occurs within the avoidance area, to verify the project activities are not disrupting tricolored blackbird foraging behavior during the nesting season. The County Project Lead will coordinate with the PCA to determine the frequency of monitoring, based on the frequency and intensity of construction activities and the likelihood of disturbance of the active nest. In most cases, monitoring will occur at least every other day, but in some cases, daily monitoring may be appropriate to ensure that direct effects on tricolored blackbird are minimized. The qualified biologist will train construction personnel on the avoidance procedures and buffer zones. If the qualified biologist(s) determines that the Covered Activity is disrupting foraging behavior, the qualified biologist(s) must notify the project applicant immediately, and the project applicant must notify the PCA within 24 hours to determine additional protective measures that can be implemented. The qualified biologist(s) must have the authority to stop project activities until additional protective measures are implemented. Additional protective measures may include:

- Increasing the size of the buffer (within the constraints of the project site)
- Temporarily relocating staging areas
- Temporarily rerouting access to the project work area

Additional protective measures must remain in place until the qualified biologist(s) determine(s) tricolored blackbird behavior has normalized. If additional protective measures are ineffective, the qualified biologist(s) must have the authority to stop project activities as needed until the additional protective measures are modified and nesting behavior of tricolored blackbird returns to normal.

Impacts to associated land cover types would be mitigated through the PCCP Fees (**BIO-5** and **BIO-6**) and any temporary effects would be mitigated through measures **BIO-7** and **BIO-8**. If determined necessary by measure **BIO-19** above, additional compensatory construction monitoring activities would occur to ensure no adverse effects to foraging tricolored blackbirds would occur.

No direct impacts to tricolored individuals or nesting colonies are anticipated. Minor project effects to potentially suitable foraging habitat would be mitigated through the PCCP. All associated avoidance and minimization measures shall be implemented; therefore, the project would not contribute to cumulative effects to the species or reduction in the species habitat in the region.

Discussion of Northwestern Pond Turtle

Northwestern pond turtle (*Emys marmorata*; NWPT) is a CDFW Species of Special Concern and is a candiate for federal listing under ESA. The species is additionally a Covered Species under the PCCP. Habitat for the species includes rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, wetlands, reservoirs, brackish esturaries, canals, and sewage ponds (Placer County 2020). The species requires basking sites such as rocks, logs, or emergent vegetation, and consequently avoids open waters lacking these features. Nesting sites are located in dry upland areas dominated by grasses and forbs, located an average of 92 feet from aquatic areas. NWPT are threatened by a variety of native and non-native predators, including raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), coyote

(*Canis latrans*), bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*), and largemouth bass (*Micropterus salmoides*). Additional causes of mortality include drought, contaminants, disease, and parasites (Placer County 2020).

No NWPT were observed during biological surveys. The BSA does contain marginal habitat for the species. Yankee Slough additionally contains PCCP modeled habitat for NWPT; however, the stream channel lacks suitable basking sites and can dry completely during the summer period. The nearest CNDDB occurrence of the species is from 1996, located approximately 11.4 miles west of the project area. Based on the presence of modeled habitat and marginal habitat characteristics, along with the distance of regional occurrences, the species is considered to have a low potential to occur within the BSA. The project would include species coverage under the PCCP, and include species-specific avoidance and minimization measures to avoid direct effects to species individuals.

Project Impacts to Western Pond Turtle

The proposed project would require construction within Yankee Slough North Fork resulting in direct permanent and temporary impacts. Impacts to Yankee Slough would include temporary construction access, and permanent rock slope projection of the new bridge abutments. Approximately 0.03 acres of permanent effects and approximately 0.06 acres of temporary effects would occur. Associated upland impacts would also occur as part of the project including associated permanent and temporary effects to localized grassland and wetland swale habitats. Because NWPT has a low chance of occurring within Yankee Slough North Fork, the likelihood to impact adult or juvenile NWPT, eggs or nests during construction is low given the lack of quality habitat for the species. Given that no turtles have been observed within the BSA to date, and the large distance from the nearest known records, few, if any, individuals are expected to be at risk of effects from the project.

The species is a PCCP Covered Species and has been included in the PCCP Section 10(a)(1)(B) Permit from USFWS (Consultation Code: 81420-2009-F-0520). The USFWS provided general guidance that it is currently not providing conference opinions of NWPT through the ESA Section 7 process (based on the timing of this NES), and the species was not a federally proposed listed species at the time the PCCP Section 10 Permit was issued. However, within the Section 10 Permit, it states, "*Should any of the non-listed Covered Species become listed under the ESA during the life of the incidental take permit, the incidental take permit would then also cover those species.*"

Therefore, because the species is included as a PCCP Covered Species, and all effects to the species have already been analyzed under the PCCP Section 10 Permit, the USFWS may, under this circumstance, provide a Section 7 conference opinion. As such, the determination for NWPT is proposed to be "may affect, likely to adversely affect" based on the project specific measures to be implemented if the species is to occur on-site during construction.

Western Pond Turtle Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Efforts

The project is considered a Covered Activity under the PCCP's HCP/NCCP and CARP, and measures **BIO-1** through **BIO-3** would ensure all avoidance and minimization measures applicable to the project would be implemented as determined in the PCCP/CARP Certification of Authorization, CARP Conditions of Approval, USACE PGP 18, and RWQCB General Section 401 WQC. In addition, measure **BIO-4** would require additional habitat and species conditions as part of the CDFW LSAA. Furthermore, species-specific measures **BIO-21** through **BIO-23** shall be incorporated to provide additional protection for the species:

BIO-21: (Western Pond Turtle Preconstruction Surveys) To avoid impacts to western pond turtles, the project biologist will conduct a pre-construction survey of all aquatic and upland habitats within the project area. Surveys will be conducted no more than 24 hours prior to onset of construction.

If any western pond turtles are found within the project area, the project biologist will notify the USFWS and CDFW to determine if any additional measures are required to ensure compliance of the project.

BIO-22: (Western Pond Turtle Construction Monitoring) During construction activities, the biologist shall periodically survey the project area for western pond turtle individuals to ensure no individuals shall become entrapped within the dewatered project area. If any western pond turtles are found within the project area, the animal will be allowed to move out of harm's way on its own volition. If necessary, the approved biologist will notify the USFWS and CDFW to determine the appropriate procedures related to relocation. If USFWS/CDFW approves the animal can be handled by a qualified biologist, a report will be submitted, including date(s), location(s), habitat description, and any corrective measures taken to protect the western spadefoot within 1 business day to the Wildlife Agencies. The biologist will report any impacts of listed species to the USFWS and CDFW immediately. Any worker who inadvertently injures or kills a northwestern pond turtle or who finds dead, injured, or entrapped northwestern pond turtle must immediately report the incident to the approved biologist.

BIO-23: (Western Pond Turtle - Dewatering) If water pumps are used to dewater the project area, pump intakes will be screened and equipped with an energy dissipater to protect aquatic species. The energy dissipater should be large enough to reduce approach velocity to 0.33 feet per second or less and be enclosed with ½ inch metal screen. The surface area of the energy dissipater shall be determined by dividing the maximum diverted flow, by the allowable approach velocity (example: 1.0 ft3 per second/ 0.33 feet per second = 3.0 ft2 surface area).

Impacts to associated land cover types of NWPT would be mitigated through the PCCP Fees (**BIO-5** and **BIO-6**) and any temporary effects would be mitigated through measures **BIO-7** and **BIO-8**.

No direct impacts to NWPT individuals or nests are anticipated. Project effects to potentially suitable aquatic and upland habitat would be mitigated through the PCCP. All associated avoidance and minimization measures shall be implemented; therefore, the project would not contribute to cumulative effects to the species or reduction in the species habitat in the region.

b) Would the project 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?

Less Than Significant with Mitigation. Sensitive natural communities identified within the BSA include riverine (Yankee Slough North Fork) and vernal pool complex. These habitats are described as "jurisdictional aquatic resources" in the following section, and analyzed for potential project impacts, based on the current design of the proposed project. The proposed project would have an impact of less than significant with mitigation incorporated relating to sensitive natural communities.

Discussion of Jurisdictional Aquatic Resources

Riverine (Yankee Slough North Fork)

Yankee Slough North Fork originates northeast of the township of Sheridan and flows westerly into Sutter County, where it connects with the Bear River. According to the PCCP, Yankee Slough flows perennially; however, the slough is largely channelized and little to no riparian vegetation is present throughout the majority of its extent. Additionally, there is no evidence that anadromous fish species are present within the slough due to temperature constraints and lack of spawning or rearing habitat (Placer County 2020).

The PCCP identifies the portion of Yankee Slough as part of the PCCP Stream System. Further, the PCCP designates Yankee Slough within the BSA as "Stream ID #5 – Yankee Slough North Fork to Riosa Road" and with an applicable Stream System Boundary width as 100-feet from the OHWM (PCCP Table 3-4, page 3-18). Figure 4 above identifies the reach of Yankee Slough within the BSA and the PCCP designated Stream System Boundary.

As a result of the preliminary jurisdictional delineation, approximately 0.30 acres (785 linear feet) of Yankee Slough was identified within the BSA. The channel was delineated using OHWM primary indicators and completion of the USACE Arid West OHWM Datasheet. Yankee Slough is categorized under the Cowardin Classification System as R2UBH (R (Riverine), 2 (Lower Perennial), UB (Unconsolidated Bottom), H (Permanently Flooded)). As it is a perennial waterway with a continuous surface connection with the Bear River, a traditional navigable WOTUS, Yankee Slough would be considered a WOTUS. All WOTUS within the boundaries of the State of California are additionally considered WoS under California Water Code Section 13050. Consequently, Yankee Slough is under the jurisdiction of the USACE as a WOTUS, as well as the Central Valley RWQCB as a WoS, and a CDFW jurisdictional stream channel (see Table 7 for acreage details and Figure 7 aquatic resources delineation map).

Table 7. Jurisdictional Resources Survey Results within the BSA

Waters of the U.S., State and CDFW Waters			
Aquatic Resource	***Waters of the U.S.*** **(acres / linear feet)**	***Waters of the State*** **(acres / linear feet)**	***CDFW Waters*** **(acres / linear feet)**
Riverine – Yankee Slough (SC-1, SC-2)	0.30 / 785	0.30 / 785	0.30 / 785
Vernal Pool Complex - Vernal Pool (VP-1, VP-2)	0.38 / NA	0.38 / NA	--
Vernal Pool Complex - Seasonal Swale (WS-1, WS-2)	0.03 / 204	0.03 / 204	--
Total	**0.71 / 989**	**0.71 / 989**	**0.30 / 785**

Vernal Pool Complex

High-density vernal pool complexes have been mapped directly north of Dalby Road by the PCCP. Vernal pools complexes include vernal pools and seasonal swales. These features inundate with water seasonally through the collection of rainfall in depressions within the grassland land cover. Therefore, formation does not require a hydraulic connection to traditional navigable or interstate waters. However, ephemeral streams and swales within the vernal pool complex may provide a connection to these waters. According to the new legislative guidance, these ephemeral features are not considered WOTUS unless hydrologically connected with a continuous surface connection. Within the BSA, the vernal pools on either side of Yankee Slough are connected to Yankee Slough by seasonal wetland swales north of Dalby Road. Therefore, for the purpose of the preliminary jurisdictional delineation effort, the seasonal swales and vernal pool features are considered WOTUS. The vernal pools and seasonal swales are considered PCCP constituent habitat.

Due to the access limitations to the parcel north of Dalby Road, vernal pool complex jurisdictional habitat was delineated using aerial imagery and visual identification from Dalby Road during biological surveys in April and May 2024. Table 7 provides the results of the preliminary jurisdictional delineation.

FIGURE 7

AQUATIC RESOURCE DELINEATION MAP

DALBY ROAD OVER YANKEE SLOUGH

BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

PLACER COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

AUGUST 2024

- Biological Study Area
- ReferencePoints
- OHWM Datapoint
- Wetland Datapoint

Aquatic Resources

- Riverine/Riparian Complex - Riverine
- Wetland Swale
- Vernal Pool

Summary of Aquatic Resources

Site Coordinates (decimal degrees)	Aquatic Resource	Cowardin	Aquatic Resource Size (acre)	Aquatic Resource Size (linear feet)
38.962866 N -121.379098 W	SC-1	R4SB	0.3	785
38.962969 N -121.379425 W	VP-1	PEM2C	0.22	N/A
38.962973 N -121.378544 W	VP-2	PEM2C	0.16	N/A
38.962883 N -121.379233 W	WS-1	PEM2C	<0.01	29
38.962862 N -121.378756 W	WS-2	PEM2C	0.02	175
		Total	**0.71**	**989**

0 50 100 200

Feet

1 inch equals 200 feet

NORTH

WOOD RODGERS

An Aquatic Resources Delineation Report (ARDR) was prepared for the project and submitted to the USACE to provide a preliminary jurisdictional determination (PJD) and confirm the extent of WOTUS within the BSA. On September 10, 2024, the USACE issued the PJD verifying the above extents of USACE jurisdiction, under CWA Section 404 and 401. The PJD will be used during the PCCP application process and concurrence with the PCCP CARP and associated PCCP regulatory permits.

Project Impacts to Jurisdictional Aquatic Resources

The proposed project would require construction within Yankee Slough resulting in direct permanent and temporary impacts including temporary construction access, and permanent rock slope projection within the channel. Approximately 0.03 acres of permanent effects and approximately 0.06 acres of temporary effects would occur. Table 8 and Figure 8 provides a detailed representation of the permanent and temporary impacts associated with the project in relation to jurisdictional waters under the CWA, State Water Board Regulations, and CDFW jurisdiction.

Table 8. Effects to Jurisdictional Aquatic Resources

Waters of the U.S., State and CDFW Waters (acres)						
Jurisdictional Waters	*Permanent Impacts WOTUS*	*Temporary Impacts WOTUS*	*Permanent Impacts WoS*	*Temporary Impacts WoS*	*Permanent Impacts CDFW*	*Temporary Impacts CDFW*
Riverine – Yankee Slough	0.03	0.06	0.03	0.06	0.03	0.06
VPC – Direct Vernal Pools	0.02	0.09	0.02	0.09	--	--
VPC – Seasonal Swale	0.02	<0.01	0.02	<0.01	--	--
Total	**0.07**	**0.15**	**0.07**	**0.15**	**0.03**	**0.06**

Vernal Pool Complex Effect (Direct Effect)

Impacts to the vernal pool complex would include temporary construction access and areas of permanent fill slopes for conformance of the new bridge width to the existing roadway. In accordance with the PCCP, any direct impact to a delineated vernal pool requires the entire vernal pool to be assumed as a direct impact to the entire pool. Within the project footprint, approximately 0.02 acres of permanent direct impact would occur and approximately 0.09 acres of temporary direct impact would occur. The full extent of the delineated vernal pools would have a direct impact of approximately 0.38 acres.

Respective of the delineated vernal pools, two seasonal wetland swale features exist within the project footprint. As part of project access and addition of bridge approach fill slopes, approximately 0.02 acres of permanent impacts, and approximately <0.01 acres of temporary impacts to seasonal swale habitat would occur.

Vernal Pool Immediate Watershed Effects (Indirect Effect)

Under the PCCP, proposed projects must avoid impacts to delineated vernal pools and their Immediate Watershed to the greatest extent feasible and mitigate for unavoidable impacts through the payment of fees. Specifically, any pools within 250-feet of project activity, if the activity is upgrade of the affected pool, or conversely any pools within 50-feet of project activity, if the activity is downgrade of the affected pool. All proposed project activities would occur downgrade of the overall vernal pool complex north of Dalby Road.

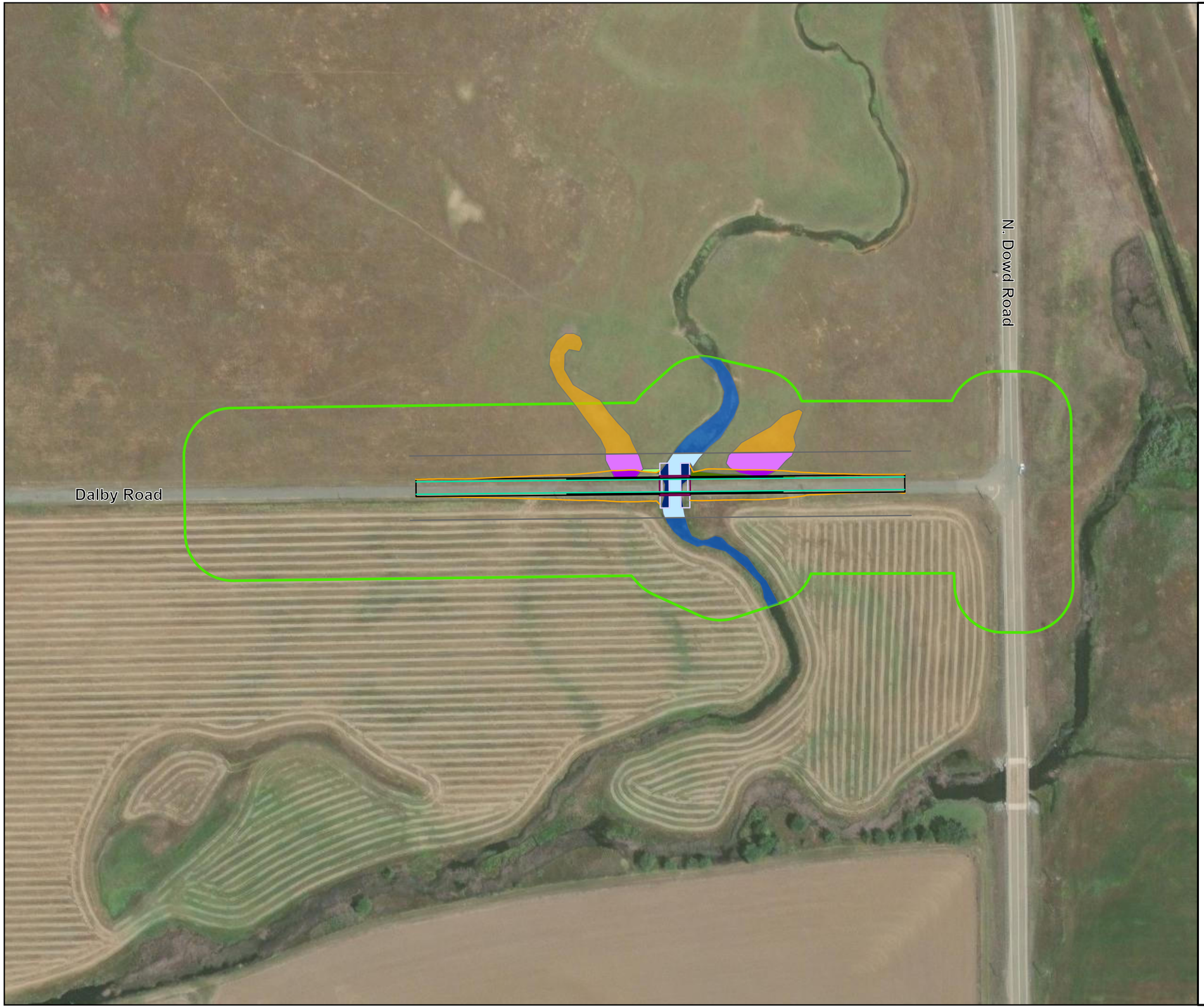


FIGURE 8

PROJECT EFFECTS TO JURISDICTIONAL AQUATIC RESOURCES

DALBY ROAD OVER YANKEE SLOUGH
BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT
PLACER COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
AUGUST 2024

Biological Study Area

Project Features

- Proposed Bridge Structure
- Proposed Edge of Travelway
- Proposed Edge of Pavement
- Proposed Fill Slopes
- Proposed Rock Slope Protection
- Temporary Construction Easement

Aquatic Resources

- Stream Channel - Riverine
- Wetland Swale
- Vernal Pool

Project Effects

- Riverine - Permanent (0.03 acres)
- Riverine - Temporary (0.06 acres)
- Vernal Pool - Permanent (0.02 acres)
- Vernal Pool - Temporary (0.09 acres)
- Wetland Swale - Permanent (0.02 acres)
- Wetland Swale - Temporary (<0.01 acres)

0 50 100 200
Feet

1 inch equals 200 feet

NORTH

WOOD RODGERS

\\woodrodgers.loc\ProductionData\Jobs\Jobs\8923_County of Placer\001_Dalby Rd at Yankee Slough Bridge\40_DATA\40.8_GIS\Data\Task_Specific_Folder\Environmental\JN8923001\Environmental\JN8923001_Dalby_Env.aprx 8/30/2024 12:36 PM adellas

Therefore, the 50-foot immediate watershed effect would be in place for the project. The temporary and permanent effects of the project within the 50-foot immediate watershed effect will be included in the projects PCCP Special Habitat Fee calculations.

PCCP Land Conversion Fees and Special Habitat Fees

Separate to jurisdictional analysis, calculations of the PCCP Land Conversion Fee and Special Habitat Fee areas were conducted to support the PCCP application process. Figure 9 displays the PCCP Land Conversion Fee calculations, and Figure 10 displays the Special Habitat Fee calculations, respectively.

Jurisdictional Waters Avoidance, Minimization, and Mitigation Efforts

The project has been designed to minimize temporary and permanent impacts to jurisdictional waters and PCCP sensitive habitats to the greatest extent practicable. The project is considered a Covered Activity under the PCCP's HCP/NCCP and CARP. The following measures would ensure all applicable avoidance and minimization measures would be included as part of the project:

BIO-1: **(PCCP/CARP Conditions of Approval)** In accordance with the PCCP/CARP, the project will prepare a PCCP/CARP Authorization Application to ensure adherence to program guidelines and ensure that all avoidance, minimization, and best management practices are implemented by the project proponent, including all applicable HCP/NCCP Conditions of Approval, and CARP Conditions of Approval.

BIO-2: **(USACE Programmatic General Permit Compliance)** In accordance with the PCCP/CARP, as part of the application process, the project proponent will provide the necessary information for the PCA to confirm that the project may utilize the Programmatic General Permit 18 (PGP 18), issued to the PCCP/CARP by USACE, for Section 404 compliance under the CWA. All applicable measures of the PGP 18 shall be implemented by the project proponent.

BIO 3: **(RWQCB General Section 401 Compliance)** In accordance with the PCCP/CARP, the project proponent shall prepare and submit a Notice of Intent for the General Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) issued for the PGP 18 by the Central Valley RWQCB. All applicable measures of the General Section 401 WQC shall be implemented by the project proponent.

BIO-4: **(Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Compliance)** Prior to construction, the project proponent shall secure a Section 1602 Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. All avoidance, minimization, and conservation measures for protection of wildlife habitat shall be implemented by the project proponent.

PCCP Land Conversion Fees

Pursuant to guidelines set forth in the PCCP, Covered Activities are required to mitigate for impacts to land cover classifications, generally through the payment of PCCP Land Conversion Fees. The project will implement measure **BIO-5** to provide appropriate fees for land cover in accordance with the PCCP fee schedule:

BIO-5: **(Payment of PCCP Land Conversion Fees)** The project proponent shall pay the applicable PCCP Land Conversion Fees to the PCA prior to the issuance of the PCCP/CARP Certification of Authorization, and prior to construction.

FIGURE 9

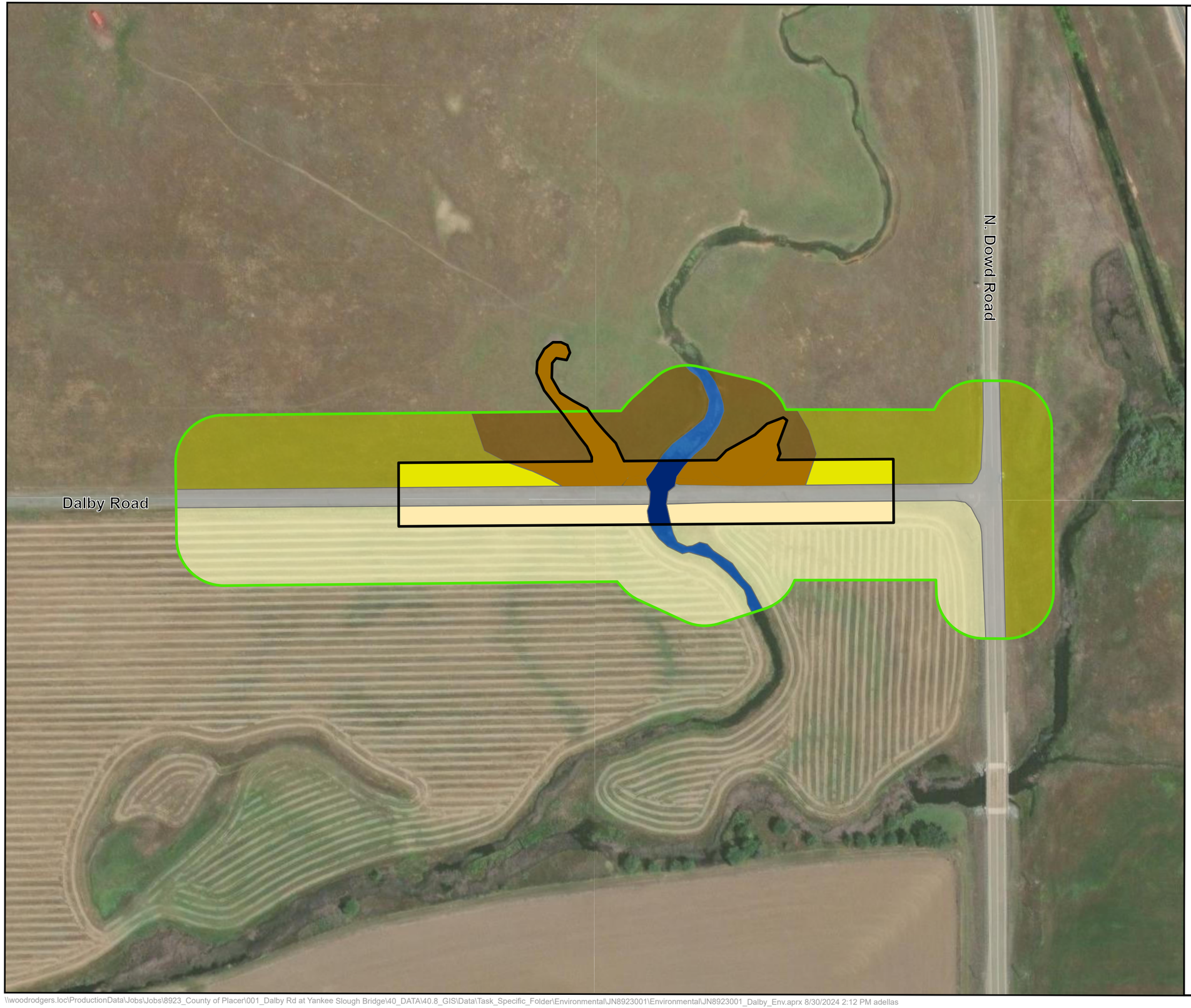
PCCP LAND CONVERSION FEE MAP

DALBY ROAD OVER YANKEE SLOUGH

BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

PLACER COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

AUGUST 2024



Biological Study Area

Land Conversion Fee Footprint

PCCP Current Land Cover

- Urban - Road
- Grassland - Pasture
- Riverine/Riparian Complex - Riverine
- Vernal Pool Complex High
- Vernal Pool Complex Low

PCCP Land Conversion Fee Areas

- Grassland (0.61 acres)
- Riverine/Riparian Complex (0.09 acres)
- Vernal Pool Complex - High (0.63 acres)
- Vernal Pool Complex - Low (0.34 acres)

0 50 100 200

Feet

1 inch equals 200 feet

NORTH

WOOD RODGERS

\\woodrodgers.loc\ProductionData\Jobs\Jobs\8923_County of Placer\001_Dalby Rd at Yankee Slough Bridge\40_DATA\40.8_GIS\Data\Task_Specific_Folder\Environmental\JN8923001\Environmental\JN8923001_Dalby_Env.aprx 8/30/2024 2:12 PM adellas

FIGURE 10

PCCP SPECIAL HABITAT FEE MAP

DALBY ROAD OVER YANKEE SLOUGH

BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

PLACER COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

AUGUST 2024

- Biological Study Area
- Land Conversion Fee Footprint
- Stream System Boundary - 100 ft
- Vernal Pool Immediate Watershed - 50 ft

Project Features

- Proposed Bridge Structure
- Proposed Edge of Travelway
- Proposed Edge of Pavement
- Proposed Fill Slopes
- Proposed Rock Slope Protection

PCCP Special Habitat Fee Areas

- 4a - Vernal Pool Effects (0.41 acres)
- 4b - Vernal Pool Immediate Watershed (0.15 acres)
- 4d - Riverine/Riparian - Permanent (0.03 acres)
- 4d - Riverine/Riparian - Temporary (0.05 acres)
- 4f - Stream System Encro. - Permanent (0.03 acres)
- 4f - Stream System Encro. - Temporary (0.13 acres)

0 50 100 200

Feet

1 inch equals feet

NORTH

WOOD RODGERS

\\woodrodgers.loc\ProductionData\Jobs\Jobs\8923_County of Placer\001_Dalby Rd at Yankee Slough Bridge\40_DATA\40.8_GIS\Data\Task_Specific_Folder\Environmental\JN8923001\Environmental\JN8923001_Dalby_Env.aprx 8/30/2024 1:57 PM adellas

PCCP Special Habitat Fees

Public projects covered under the PCCP that impact specialized constituent habitat land-cover types are required to pay one or more of the applicable special habitat fees in addition to the land conversion fee. The proposed project would require permanent and temporary direct effects to PCCP Stream System (Riverine) and VPC habitats. The project proposes implementing measure **BIO-6** to compensate for the permanent loss of riverine and vernal pool complex habitat types:

BIO-6: (Payment of PCCP Special Habitat Fees) The project proponent shall pay the applicable PCCP Special Habitat Fees to the PCA prior to the issuance of the PCCP/CARP Certification of Authorization, and prior to construction.

PCCP Temporary Effect Fee

PCCP Covered Activities that otherwise would be subject to the land conversion fee or special habitat fee pay a temporary effect fee if the effect is temporary as defined. To qualify as a temporary effect, restoration must be completed within 1 year of breaking ground. The temporary effect fee is based on the amount of the land conversion or special habitat fee that would otherwise apply, with the fee reduced to reflect the temporal aspect of the effect. The project proposes to implement measure **BIO-7** and **BIO-8** to compensate for the temporary effect to riverine and grassland habitat types:

BIO-7: (Payment of PCCP Temporary Effect Fees) The project proponent shall pay the applicable PCCP Temporary Effect Fee to the PCA prior to the issuance of the PCCP/CARP Certification of Authorization, and prior to construction.

BIO-8: (Temporary Effects Restoration) Following the completion of construction, all temporary effects to stream channel and grassland habitats would be recontoured and revegetated (where appropriate) at a 1:1 ratio, to allow for the habitat to return to its previous function or better within 1 year of ground disturbance. All disturbed areas will be hydroseeded with a project biologist approved native seed mix specific to each habitat type.

c) Would the project 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?

Less Than Significant with Mitigation. The parcel north of Dalby Road contains lands mapped by the PCCP as low- and high-density VPC. The presence of vernal pools was subsequently confirmed by Wood Rodgers biologists during field surveys conducted in April and May, 2024. As described in section b) above, the proposed project would require the removal of portions of vernal pool habitat within the project footprint, and within the PCCP designated 50-foot immediate watershed of the VPC. The Project would be required to implement PCCP compensatory mitigation measures associated with the direct and indirect impacts to vernal pool habitat. With the inclusion of measures BIO-1 through BIO-8, the project would be designed to avoid and minimize impacts to vernal pool wetlands to the greatest extent, include construction BMPs to reduce impacts, and provide compensatory mitigation through payment of PCCP In-Lieu Fees in order to compensate for the loss of vernal pool wetlands. Therefore, the project would be considered to have a less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated.

d) Would the project 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?

Less Than Significant. According to the CDFW BIOS, the BSA lies within a "Terrestrial Connectivity, Area of Conservation Emphasis (ACE) Level 4, designated as an area with "Conservation Planning Linkages" (CDFW 2023a). The BSA does not occur with a California Essential Habitat Connectivity (CEHC) area but does occur just outside of a CEHC Category 5 connectivity area. As such, the BSA may provide some essential connectivity functions as it relates to the Category 5 "Less Permeable" CEHC area.

The proposed project would not include any permanent impoundments or barriers to native wildlife migration. Conversely, the project would remove the existing wooden pier brace from the existing bridge, and subsequently, the project would increase the availability of the Yankee Slough North Fork channel and potential benefit connectivity through the project site. An existing cattle fence that spans the Yankee Slough North Fork to the north and south of the bridge would likely be replaced to maintain cattle restrictions, but this project detail would be determined during right-of-way negotiations with the property owner.

Although work would be required within Yankee Slough North Fork and the adjacent vernal pools, the project impact area will be minimized to the greatest extent practicable. The area would be returned to previous or improved conditions following the completion of construction, and natural vegetation communities could still serve native populations of wildlife as a habitat connectivity area. Therefore, the project is not anticipated to have an adverse impact to regional habitat connectivity, and the project would have a less than significant impact on the movement of native wildlife.

e) Would the project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

Less than Significant. The PCCP has been incorporated into the Placer County Code, Chapter 19 "Conservation, Open Space, and Woodland Conservation". See section f) below for detailed discussion on the PCCP. The project would comply with the Placer County Code and PCCP, and would have a less than significant impact relating to local policies protecting biological resources.

f) Would the project conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

Less than Significant. The PCCP established in 2020 by the Placer County Board of Supervisors, is a multi-component plan dedicated to the preservation of natural resources in the western portion of the County (Plan Area). The program is comprised of a joint HCP/NCCP and includes a County Aquatic Resources Program (CARP), and an In-Lieu Fee Program to fill compensatory mitigation requirements for impacts to PCCP Covered Species habitat types and aquatic resources under Sections 404 and 401 of the CWA. The project would secure a PCCP Certificate of Authorization, and complete payment of all necessary PCCP In-Lieu Fees prior to start of construction. In addition, the project would comply with and implement all PCCP avoidance and minimization measures applicable to the project during and post construction. Additionally, the project would secure CARP approval through notice of intent with the USACE and RWQCB regarding project effects to WOTUS and WoS. Therefore, the project would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, and impacts would be considered less than significant.

AVOIDANCE, MINIMIZATION, AND/OR MITIGATION MEASURES

The following is a summary of the project's proposed avoidance, minimization and/or mitigation measures relating to biological resources:

BIO-1: **(PCCP/CARP Conditions of Approval)** In accordance with the PCCP/CARP, the project will prepare a PCCP/CARP Authorization Application to ensure adherence to program guidelines and ensure that all avoidance, minimization, and best management practices are implemented by the project proponent, including all applicable HCP/NCCP Conditions of Approval, and CARP Conditions of Approval.

BIO-2: **(USACE Programmatic General Permit Compliance)** In accordance with the PCCP/CARP, as part of the application process, the project proponent will provide the necessary information for the PCA to confirm that the project may utilize the Programmatic General Permit 18 (PGP 18), issued to the PCCP/CARP by USACE, for Section 404 compliance under the CWA. All applicable measures of the PGP 18 shall be implemented by the project proponent.

BIO 3: **(RWQCB General Section 401 Compliance)** In accordance with the PCCP/CARP, the project proponent shall prepare and submit a Notice of Intent for the General Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) issued for the PGP 18 by the Central Valley RWQCB. All applicable measures of the General Section 401 WQC shall be implemented by the project proponent.

BIO-4: **(Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Compliance)** Prior to construction, the project proponent shall secure a Section 1602 Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. All avoidance, minimization, and conservation measures for protection of wildlife habitat shall be implemented by the project proponent.

BIO-5: **(Payment of PCCP Land Conversion Fees)** The project proponent shall pay the applicable PCCP Land Conversion Fees to the PCA prior to the issuance of the PCCP/CARP Certification of Authorization, and prior to construction.

BIO-6: **(Payment of PCCP Special Habitat Fees)** The project proponent shall pay the applicable PCCP Special Habitat Fees to the PCA prior to the issuance of the PCCP/CARP Certification of Authorization, and prior to construction.

BIO-7: **(Payment of PCCP Temporary Effect Fees)** The project proponent shall pay the applicable PCCP Temporary Effect Fee to the PCA prior to the issuance of the PCCP/CARP Certification of Authorization, and prior to construction.

BIO-8: **(Temporary Effects Restoration)** Following the completion of construction, all temporary effects to stream channel and grassland habitats would be recontoured and revegetated (where appropriate) at a 1:1 ratio, to allow for the habitat to return to its previous function or better within 1 year of ground disturbance. All disturbed areas will be hydroseeded with a project biologist approved native seed mix specific to each habitat type.

BIO-9: **(Pre-Construction Rare Plant Surveys)** A focused rare plant survey shall be conducted pursuant to the *Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Species Status Native Plant Populations and Natural Communities* (CDFW 2018) during the appropriate blooming season of rare plants potentially occurring within the project impact area prior to the start of construction. If construction is scheduled to occur during the species blooming season, the focused rare plant survey shall occur the year prior to construction. If the species or any other special status plant species are discovered during the focused rare plant surveys, additional ESA fencing or relocation shall be implemented to avoid and minimize impact to the species. Consultation with CDFW may be required to determine appropriate buffer distances and/or relocation of species populations.

BIO-10: (Vernal Pool Wetland Protection Mats) In areas of temporary construction access (areas that will not require excavation or compaction of fill slopes) within the delineated vernal pools, the project contractor shall use wetland protection mats or other form of ground protection to prevent excessive ground compaction and to protect the existing vernal pool soil conditions and seed bank. The areas of construction access to be protected shall be delineated within the project plans, and shall be delineated by the project biologist prior to initial ground disturbance.

BIO-11: (Western Spadefoot Pre-Construction Surveys) Prior to the start of ground disturbance, construction, or site preparation activities, a qualified biologist experienced with western spadefoot identification and behavior shall conduct pre-construction surveys for western spadefoot toad within all portions of the project site containing suitable breeding habitat. Surveys shall be conducted during a time of year when the species could be detected (e.g., the presence of rain pools). If no western spadefoot toad or egg masses are identified, no further action is required. If western spadefoot toad or egg masses are identified on the project site, the following measures will be implemented to ensure no direct effects to western spadefoot would occur.

BIO-12: (Western Spadefoot Work Window) Ground-disturbing project activities within potentially suitable western spadefoot habitat will occur outside of the breeding and dispersal season (May 15 to October 15), to the greatest extent practicable.

BIO-13: (Western Spadefoot Exclusion Fencing) If ground-disturbing activities must be implemented during the western spadefoot breeding and dispersal season (October 15 to May 15), wildlife exclusion fencing will be installed around the project footprint before October 15 the year prior to the start of construction activities. Exclusion fencing will remain in place until all construction activities within the construction area are completed. No project activities will occur outside the delineated project footprint.

BIO-14: (Western Spadefoot Monitoring) If ground-disturbing activities must be implemented during the western spadefoot breeding and dispersal season (October 15 to May 15), a qualified biologist will survey the active work areas (including access roads) in mornings following measurable precipitation events. Holes, trenches, and construction equipment left overnight will be inspected. Construction may commence once the biologist has confirmed that no spadefoot toads are in the work area.

BIO-15: (Western Spadefoot Entrapment / Erosion Control Materials) Trenches and holes will be covered and inspected daily for stranded animals. Steep-walled holes and trenches more than 6 inches deep will be covered with plywood (or similar material) or provided with one or more escape ramps (maximum slope of 2:1) to allow trapped animals to escape.

BIO-16: (Western Spadefoot Encounter Protocol) If project activities must be implemented during the breeding and dispersal season (October 15 to May 15), and a western spadefoot is encountered within the construction footprint, construction activity will be suspended in a 50-foot radius, and the project biologist will notify the wildlife agencies immediately. The animal will be allowed to move out of harm's way on its own volition. If necessary, the approved biologist will notify the Wildlife Agencies to determine the appropriate procedures related to relocation. If the animal is handled, a report will be submitted, including date(s), location(s), habitat description, and any corrective measures taken to protect the western spadefoot within 1 business day to the Wildlife Agencies. The biologist will report any impacts of listed species to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and California Department of Fish and Wildlife immediately. Any worker who inadvertently injures or kills a western spadefoot or who finds dead, injured, or entrapped western spadefoot(s) must immediately report the incident to the approved biologist.

BIO-17: (PCCP Species Condition 3 – Burrowing Owl Pre-Construction Survey)

If preconstruction surveys are required, a qualified biologist must conduct two surveys within 15 days prior to ground disturbance to establish the presence or absence of western burrowing owls. The surveys will be conducted at least 7 days apart (if western burrowing owls are detected on the first survey, a second survey is not needed) for both breeding and non-breeding season surveys. All western burrowing owls observed will be counted and mapped. Preconstruction survey results will be valid only for the season (breeding or non-breeding) during which the survey was conducted.

BIO-18: (Migratory Nesting Bird Preconstruction Surveys)

If vegetation removal or ground disturbance is required during the nesting season (February 1st – August 31st), a pre-construction nesting bird survey must be conducted within 7 days prior to vegetation removal. Within 2 weeks of the nesting bird survey, all vegetation cleared by the biologist will be removed by the contractor.

A minimum 50-foot no-disturbance buffer will be established around any active nest of migratory birds and a minimum 250-foot no-disturbance buffer will be established around any nesting raptor species. The contractor must immediately stop work in the buffer area until the appropriate buffer is established and is prohibited from conducting work that could disturb the birds (as determined by the project biologist and in consultation with wildlife agencies) in the buffer area until a qualified biologist determines the young have fledged. A reduced buffer can be established if determined appropriate by the project biologist and approved by CDFW.

BIO-19 (Species Condition 1 – Swainson's Hawk Pre-Construction Survey)

If the project cannot be designed to avoid active Swainson's hawk nest trees and the construction must occur during the nesting season (February 1 to September 15, or sooner if the PCA determines that Swainson's hawk are nesting earlier in the year), a preconstruction survey must be conducted no more than 15 days prior to ground disturbance. If a Swainson's hawk nest is located and presence confirmed, only one follow-up visit is required.

BIO-20: (Species Condition 4b, Tricolored Blackbird Foraging)

<u>Preconstruction Surveys</u>
If foraging habitat is present in the survey area and project work will occur during the nesting season (March 15 to July 31) a qualified biologist must conduct two surveys approximately one week apart, with the second survey occurring within 5 calendar days of initiating ground disturbing covered activities.

<u>Construction Related Avoidance Measures – Avoidance Area</u>

Construction activity or other covered activities that may disturb foraging tricolored blackbirds, as determined by a qualified biologist, will be prohibited within 1,300-feet of the foraging site to the extent feasible during the nesting season. The avoidance area must be clearly marked to prevent project-related activities from occurring within the buffer zone. This buffer may be modified to a minimum of 300 feet, with written approval from the Wildlife Agencies, under the following circumstances:

- In areas with dense forest, buildings, or other features between the project activities and the actively used foraging habitat;
- Where there is sufficient topographic relief to protect foraging birds from excessive noise or visual disturbance; or
- In consultation with the Wildlife Agencies if other conditions warrant reduction of the buffer distance.

If tricolored blackbirds begin using foraging habitat adjacent to project activities after the activities have been initiated, the project applicant shall reduce disturbance through establishment of buffers or noise reduction techniques or visual screens, as determined in coordination with the County Project Lead and PCA, who must consult with the Wildlife Agencies.

If the survey results indicate that the area provides marginal foraging habitat (e.g., tricolored blackbirds were observed foraging, but only briefly, and most were not successfully capturing prey), or site specific conditions may warrant a reduced buffer, the applicant may coordinate with County Project Lead to reduce avoidance requirements. The County Project Lead must request the PCA technical staff to consult with the Wildlife Agencies, to evaluate whether the project needs to avoid the foraging habitat or whether a reduced buffer may be appropriate. In such cases, additional surveys may be needed to assess site conditions and the value of the foraging habitat.

Construction Monitoring

A qualified biologist must monitor foraging habitat that occurs within the avoidance area, to verify the project activities are not disrupting tricolored blackbird foraging behavior during the nesting season. The County Project Lead will coordinate with the PCA to determine the frequency of monitoring, based on the frequency and intensity of construction activities and the likelihood of disturbance of the active nest. In most cases, monitoring will occur at least every other day, but in some cases, daily monitoring may be appropriate to ensure that direct effects on tricolored blackbird are minimized. The qualified biologist will train construction personnel on the avoidance procedures and buffer zones. If the qualified biologist(s) determines that the Covered Activity is disrupting foraging behavior, the qualified biologist(s) must notify the project applicant immediately, and the project applicant must notify the PCA within 24 hours to determine additional protective measures that can be implemented. The qualified biologist(s) must have the authority to stop project activities until additional protective measures are implemented. Additional protective measures may include:

- Increasing the size of the buffer (within the constraints of the project site)
- Temporarily relocating staging areas
- Temporarily rerouting access to the project work area

Additional protective measures must remain in place until the qualified biologist(s) determine(s) tricolored blackbird behavior has normalized. If additional protective measures are ineffective, the qualified biologist(s) must have the authority to stop project activities as needed until the additional protective measures are modified and nesting behavior of tricolored blackbird returns to normal.

BIO-21: (Western Pond Turtle Preconstruction Surveys) To avoid impacts to western pond turtles, the project biologist will conduct a pre-construction survey of all aquatic and upland habitats within the project area. Surveys will be conducted no more than 24 hours prior to onset of construction. If any western pond turtles are found within the project area, the project biologist will notify the

USFWS and CDFW to determine if any additional measures are required to ensure compliance of the project.

BIO-22: (Western Pond Turtle Construction Monitoring) During construction activities, the biologist shall periodically survey the project area for western pond turtle individuals to ensure no individuals shall become entrapped within the dewatered project area. If any western pond turtles are found within the project area, the animal will be allowed to move out of harm's way on its own volition. If necessary, the approved biologist will notify the USFWS and CDFW to determine the appropriate procedures related to relocation. If USFWS/CDFW approves the animal can be handled by a qualified biologist, a report will be submitted, including date(s), location(s), habitat description, and any corrective measures taken to protect the western spadefoot within 1 business day to the Wildlife Agencies. The biologist will report any impacts of listed species to the USFWS and CDFW immediately. Any worker who inadvertently injures or kills a northwestern pond turtle or who finds dead, injured, or entrapped northwestern pond turtle must immediately report the incident to the approved biologist.

BIO-23: (Western Pond Turtle - Dewatering) If water pumps are used to dewater the project area, pump intakes will be screened and equipped with an energy dissipater to protect aquatic species. The energy dissipater should be large enough to reduce approach velocity to 0.33 feet per second or less and be enclosed with ½ inch metal screen. The surface area of the energy dissipater shall be determined by dividing the maximum diverted flow, by the allowable approach velocity (example: 1.0 ft3 per second/ 0.33 feet per second = 3.0 ft2 surface area).

FINDINGS

Considering the information obtained for literature search, biological surveys, and analysis of potential impacts from project design, and in conjunction with the implementation of project-specific avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures, project effects relating to biological impacts would be considered **Less Than Significant with Mitigation.**

2.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	☐	☐	☒	☐

REGULATORY SETTING

Federal Regulations

National Historic Preservation Act

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requires federal undertakings to consider the effects of the action on historic properties. Historic properties are defined by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) regulations (36 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Part 800) and consist of any prehistoric or historical archaeological site, building, structure, historic district, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) maintained by the Secretary of the Interior. This term includes artifacts, records, and remains that are related to and located within such properties. The term includes properties of traditional religious and cultural importance to Native American tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations that meet the National Register criteria (36 CFR Part 800.16[l]).

To determine whether an undertaking could affect NRHP-eligible properties, cultural resources (including archaeological, historical, and architectural properties) must be inventoried and evaluated for listing in the NRHP. For a property to be considered for inclusion in the NRHP, it must be at least 50 years old and meet the criteria for evaluation set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.4.

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture must be present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. For inclusion on the NRHP, these properties must also meet one or more of the four criteria listed here:

1. Criterion A – They are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;
2. Criterion B – They are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
3. Criterion C – They embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
4. Criterion D – They have yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

If a cultural resources professional meeting the Secretary of Interior's Qualification Standards determines that a particular resource meets one of these criteria, it is considered as an eligible historic property for listing in the NRHP. Among other criteria considerations, a property that has achieved significance within

the last 50 years is not considered eligible for inclusion in the NRHP unless certain exceptional conditions are met.

Resources listed on the NRHP, or that are eligible to be listed on the NRHP are automatically considered historical resources for the purposes of CEQA.

Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (PL 101-601; 25 U.S.C. 3001)
Under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) (25 U.S.C. 3001) and implementing regulations 43 CFR Part 10, federal agencies are responsible for the protection of Native American human remains, funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony that are discovered on lands under the agency's jurisdiction. All human remains and potential human remains must be treated with respect and dignity at all times.

State Regulations

California Register of Historical Resources: Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 5024
The term "historical resource" includes, but is not limited to, any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which is historically or archaeologically significant, or is significant in the architectural, engineering, scientific, economic, agricultural, educational, social, political, military, or cultural annals of PRC (PRC Section 5020.1[j]).

Historical resources may be designated as such through three different processes:

1. Official designation or recognition by a local government pursuant to local ordinance or resolution (PRC Section 5020.1[k]);
2. A local survey conducted pursuant to PRC Section 5024.1(g); or
3. The property is listed in or eligible for listing in the NRHP (PRC Section 5024.1[d][1]).

The process for identifying historical resources is typically accomplished by applying the criteria for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR), which states that a historical resource must be significant at the local, state, or national level under one or more of the four criteria listed below. It is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of:

1. It is associated with California's history and cultural heritage;
2. It is associated with the lives of persons important in our past;
3. It embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values; or
4. It has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history. (CCR 14 Section 4852).

To be considered a historical resource for the purpose of CEQA, the resource must also have integrity, which is the authenticity of a resource's physical identity evidenced by the survival of characteristics that existed during the resource's period of significance. Resources, therefore, must retain enough of their historic character or appearance to be recognizable as historical resources and to convey the reasons for their significance. Integrity is evaluated with regard to the retention of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. It must also be judged with reference to the particular criteria under which a resource is eligible for listing in the CRHR (CCR 14 Section 4852[c]).

Unique Archeological Resources
The PRC also requires the Lead Agency to determine whether or not a project would have a significant effect on unique archaeological resources (PRC Section 21083.2[a]).

The PRC defines a unique archaeological resource as follows.

- An archaeological artifact, object, or site about which it can be clearly demonstrated that, without merely adding to the current body of knowledge, there is a high probability that it meets any of the following criteria:
    - Contains information needed to answer important scientific research questions and that there is a demonstrable public interest in that information;
    - Has a special and particular quality such as being the oldest of its type or the best available example of its type; or
    - Is directly associated with a scientifically-recognized important prehistoric or historic event or person (PRC Section 21083.2).

In most situations, resources that meet the definition of a unique archaeological resource also meet the definition of a historical resource. As a result, it is current professional practice to evaluate cultural resources for significance based on their eligibility for listing in the CRHR.

Local Regulations

Placer County General Plan
The Recreation and Cultural Resources Element of the Placer County General Plan (2013) contains specific policies relating to the identification, protection, and enhancement of the County's historical, archaeological, paleontological, and cultural resources and their contributing environments. In addition to County-level regulations, all federal and state regulations pertaining to cultural resources and consultations would apply to projects occurring within the County.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

This section presents an overview of information on the local prehistory and history of the proposed project area and vicinity. Understanding local cultural history is critical in defining important local, state, and/or regional events, trends, or patterns in prehistory and history by which the significance of prehistoric and historical cultural resources may be evaluated and their significance may be established.

Ethnography

The project area is located in the central portion of the Maidu (Nisenan) territory, bordering near eastern Patwin territory and northwestern Miwok territory. Numerous villages have been reported near the APE just east of the Feather River. These include *Bamuma, Bakacha,* and *Pichiku* (Wilson and Towne 1978:388). The closest village that Kroeber depicts is *Bakacha*, located about five miles to the east of the APE (Kroeber 1976: Plate 37).

Nisenan settlement patterns in the valley focus on higher elevation areas such as natural levees near the major streams. Villages varied considerably in population with anywhere from three to 50 houses (Wilson and Towne 1978). Ethnographies all note that Nisenan political units consisted of "village communities" composed typically of one or more settlements including a main village and one or more outlying settlements (Kroeber 1976:398; Riddell 1978:373; Wilson and Towne 1978:387). Cemeteries seem to have been located in or very near villages (Riddell 1978; Wilson and Towne 1978).

Subsistence relied on the local productivity of tribal lands, streams, and rivers. A wide range of prey and plants were taken for food and other uses. Useful stone for tools and wood for weapons could be traded for or acquired through exchange. Shell beads served as a form of money at the time of historic contact. Archaeological evidence suggests that this use of shell "ornaments" may date back to at least the beginning of the Emergent period (ca. 800 to 200 B.P.).

In 1833, what is thought to be a widespread malaria epidemic killed an estimated 75% of the Valley Maidu population. Much of the remainder of the population retreated into the foothills. The Nisenan hunting and gathering cycle was again altered drastically with the discovery of gold in Coloma in 1848, which severely disrupted Nisenan culture and lifestyle. Farming in the valley began around this time, impacting native culture in the lowlands. Stephen Powers, after traveling through the region in the 1870s, noted that the "Nishinam [sic] had the misfortune to occupy the heart of the Sierra mining region, in consequence of which they have been miserably corrupted and destroyed" (1976:317). By the time of his visit, Nisenan were surviving as best they could, working for Euro-Americans in mines or on ranches, panning for gold, or adopting even more abstract forms of survival (Wilson and Towne 1978:396-397).

Prehistory

The following discussion follows the outlines of California prehistory set out by Rosenthal et al. (2007:150-157). Those interested in the primary articles are directed to that source for further information. Human populations entered the Great Central Valley of California in the late Pleistocene. The actual timing is uncertain but human bone from the southern San Joaquin Valley has been dated to almost 16,000 years ago (Rosenthal et al. 2007). Very little (in fact, effectively nothing) is known about these earliest populations.

Paleo-Indian Period: Calibrated (Ca.) 13,000-10,000 Before Present (B.P.) Between about 16,000 and 11,500 years ago the regional climate underwent an abrupt transition from the Tioga (Wisconsin) glacial maximum to the Early Holocene interstadial (Hill 1984, 2006). A climatic episode known as the Recess Peak glacial advance (Younger Dryas) between about 13,500 and 11,500 B.P., marked by an abrupt cooling and drying, was accompanied by glacial advances in the Sierra Nevada. This period marks the earliest recognized archaeological cultural patterns in the Americas. In California this period is poorly represented in the archaeological record at present. Two localities are particularly noted for site deposits that contain clear evidence of Paleo-Indian occupations. These include the Borax Lake site in Lake County, where numerous fluted points were recovered, and the Witt Site on the southwestern shore of Tulare Lake in Tulare County, where some fluted points and numerous concave-based but unfluted points have been found in association with the remains of large mammals - mostly bison (Rosenthal et al 2007:151).

Archaic: Ca. 10,000-800 B.P. Following the end of the Pleistocene, between about 10,000 and 8,000 B.P., climatic conditions continued warming and peaked during the Early Holocene (Rosenthal et al. 2007:151-157). Since then, California's climate has very slightly cooled to the present. Over that span, shorter term climatic shifts have periodically swung to both warmer and colder extremes than the present. The Archaic is a transitional cultural period characterized in the beginning by relatively small, mobile groups or bands that practiced a mobile subsistence with an emphasis on hunting and seed processing. By the Late Archaic in the Central Valley this had changed to "complex Hunter-Gather" social patterns with large, permanent villages and extensive evidence of material exchange (Fredrickson 1973; Rosenthal et al. 2007:151-157).

Increasingly warmer climates saw extensive desertification in southeastern California and the general disappearance of the pluvial lakes except for a very few, such as Tulare Lake and Buena Vista Lake in the southern Great Valley. Geoarchaeological evidence suggests that the Central Valley landscape may have undergone a period of instability during this period reflected in the number of Middle Holocene Archaic sites that are known from buried contexts. The lack of a well-documented occupation sequence on the Valley floor during this period is likely evidence of the burial of sites rather than the absence of prehistoric

peoples. Rosenthal et al. (2007) call out two adaptations in Central California during the mid-Archaic that they term "Foothill Traditions" and "Valley Traditions." The latter are poorly represented likely because of the obscuration of the sites through geomorphic processes including sea level changes, and resultant alluviation and stream course changes (Rosenthal et al. 2007:153). Rosenthal et al. (2007) note that they perceive an emerging pattern of logistically organized subsistence and concomitant increasing sedentism along the major waterways.

Within interior Central California the Late or Upper Archaic (ca. 2,500 – 800 B.P.) is frequently associated with the archaeologically recognized Middle Horizon or Berkeley Pattern, so named because of the apparent spread of material culture and social patterns outward from the San Francisco Bay region to surrounding areas. Increasing sedentism is noted in the Great Valley with massive middens marking Upper Archaic settlements along major stream courses in the Great Valley and in the Sacramento-San Joaquin delta region.

Emergent Period: Ca. 800 – 200 B.P. The transition between the Upper Archaic and the Emergent is marked by changes in technology – the bow and arrow displace or emplace beside other weapons systems, the bedrock mortar milling practice becomes important in some regions, and social complexity appears to increase dramatically (Rosenthal et al. 2007:157-159). This period is associated with the Sweetwater complex in northern Sacramento Valley (Kowta 1988). The term "Emergent" was coined by D. A. Fredrickson (1973) to set off the complex, extensively sedentary societies, of this later time period. Fredrickson argued that the complex hunter-gatherer societies that occupied much of California during the late prehistoric were effectively similar to early agricultural "Formative" societies elsewhere on the continent.

History

Early Exploration

The land that is now within Placer County remained relatively unexplored by Europeans until 1808, when Lieutenant Gabriel Moraga led an expedition up the Sacramento River to the lower reaches of the Feather River and northward to the Oroville area (Hoover et al. 1990:492).
In 1817, a group led by Father Narciso Durán, accompanied by Luís Argüello and Father Ramón Abella traveled up the Sacramento River, likely as far north as the Feather River (Hoover et al. 1990:492).

During this time, parties of trappers began to penetrate the Central Valley region in search of pelts for the Hudson's Bay Company. This had devastating consequences for the local tribes as it introduced previously foreign diseases, including smallpox, which devastated the population (Cook 1976:12; Jensen 2010:6).

Early Growth and Settlement

<u>Sheridan</u>

Sheridan is located approximately one and a half miles northeast of the project area. Sheridan, originally called "The Union Shed" or simply "The Shed" was first settled in 1855 by an E.C. Rogers. Rogers later renamed the town Sheridan after the prominent Civil War Union General Philip Sheridan (Pettit-Schaefer 1980). The Shed humbly began as two structures: a one-story house and unenclosed shed, completed in 1857 and intended to serve stagecoaches and wagons passing through (Angel 1882). It soon became a commercial and social hub for the area. Some of the need for a stagecoach stop diminished upon completion of the Railroad to Wheatland in 1866, although a small train depot was constructed in Sheridan and was the last stop before Marysville (Pettit-Schaefer 1980).

Although the original shed building burned down in 1868 and was never rebuilt, the town was by then established. In 1870 the town got its first postmaster, Young Dougherty. A flour mill operated by Blackburn and Daniel Click was constructed that same year, and for a time it was the only flour mill in Placer County (Angel 1882; Pettit-Schaefer 1980). The mill brought industry to Sheridan, driving the wheat industry in a 10-mile radius, and employing Chinese workers from Wheatland to cut the wood necessary to power the steam operation.

Yankee Slough itself, a small stream connected to the Bear River, is not often mentioned in historical accounts. A story of a "sea monster" in Yankee Slough broke in 1872. Two local boys wrestled the large fish onto the shore with pitchforks and pikes, and, although their dog suffered injuries, managed to secure it. Experts examined the specimen and revealed it to be a large 7-foot-long sturgeon, weighing nearly 125 pounds (*The Placer Herald* February 03, 1872).

Fire consistently plagued Sheridan. A fire destroyed the Union Shed by 1868, and again in the early 1890s (Pettit-Schaefer 1980). This latter fire all but destroyed the town and it never recovered to the center of commerce and residence it was in its heyday. By 1892, the flour mill had also closed. This came after a poor year for the wheat and grain industry, as a large flood spread from a broken Levee on the Bear River in March of 1890, flowed into Yankee slough, and covered crops in water south of Sheridan – although the town was out of the water's path (*The Placer Herald* March 01, 1890).

Agriculture

Agriculture has traditionally played an important role in the history of the area, with wheat, alfalfa, and livestock raising being the primary economic contributors. In the 1870s, more than 70 percent of the wheat exported from California came from the Sacramento and Northern San Joaquin valleys (Wee et al. 1994a:11). The "mild climate, concentration of winter rainfall, and shallow water table, allowed many grains and deep-rooted plants to thrive without irrigation" (Wee et al. 1994a:24). The development of flood control and irrigation allowed farmers to diversify their crops and grow fruit, rice, and vegetables.

Historic aerials imply that the project area has always been used as open field lands, with no structures or buildings recorded on historical documents.

Transportation

The 1868 GLO map for the project area depicts an early alignment of Dowd Road on the east side of Section 23, then labeled the Lower Sacramento and Nevada Road (USDA GLO 1868). Dalby Road first appears on the 1910 USGS Map (USGS 1910). Sheridan, over a mile away, received rail-line access in the 1860s. The railroad line did not spur west to service agricultural areas such as the APE, and farmers would have hauled goods into the towns to ship and transport them.

Summary of Methods and Results

An Archaeological Survey Report and Historic Property Survey Report was prepared by PAR Environmental Services, Inc (PAR) for the project. The following section provides a summary of methods and results of the reports.

Records Search

A record search of the Area of Potential Effects (APE) and one-quarter mile radius around the APE was conducted by staff at the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) North Central Information Center (NCIC) on December 1, 2023. The records search included a review of previous cultural resources studies, recorded resources, and California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) historic

properties data files (HPD). Cultural resource reports and records on file at PAR were also reviewed for the project area. The record search included the following sources:

- NCIC resource records on file as of December 2023;
- NCIC reports on file as of December 2023;
- Office of Historic Properties Directory as of December 2023;
- Office of Historic Properties Determinations of Eligibility as of December 2023;
- California Inventory of Historic Resources (1976 – obsolete);
- California Points of Historic Interest (1992, updated to December 2023);
- California State Historic Landmarks (1995a, updated to December 2023); and
- California Register of Historical Resources (1995b, updated to December 2023).
- National Register of Historic Places (1996, updated to December 2023).

Additional sources consulted include historic USGS topographic quadrangle maps, GLO maps, PAR's In-house library, historic aerials, and online historic newspaper databases.

According to the NCIC, no previously recorded resources are located within the APE. Two additional resources located adjacent to, but not within the APE were previously recorded: P-31-843 located southwest of the APE, Susoeff Ranch (P-31-5197), located northeast of the APE. Site P-31-5197 is located at 4710 N Dowd Road in Lincoln, Placer County, California.

The OHP's Directory of Historic Properties did not contain any listings for buildings within or within a one-quarter mile of the APE. The 1868 GLO map for the project area depicts an early alignment of Dowd Road on the east side of Section 23, then labeled the Lower Sacramento and Nevada Road (USDA GLO 1868). Dalby Road first appears on the 1910 USGS Map (USGS 1910). Dalby Road appears as a dirt road on the 1958 aerial (NETR v.d.). It appears to be paved sometime between 1958 and its appearance on the 1984 aerial. The status of Dalby Road does not appear to change over this time, as the road is not expanded or lengthened, and the surrounding area has continued to be used as agricultural fields. Searching within the BLM General Land Office Records did not reveal ownership of a land grant for the portion of Dalby Road that was within the APE.

Summary of Consultation Efforts

As part of the effort to identify potentially significant historical and traditional cultural resources that may fall within the APE, a letter was sent to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on November 22, 2023, requesting a search of the sacred lands file and contacts with individuals of Native American descent who might hold information concerning the APE and its vicinity. The NAHC responded on December 13, 2023. The Sacred Lands File search was ***negative.*** Placer County took the lead on contacting tribes for this project. A list of contacted Tribes is listed below (Table 9). Consultation is ongoing through the life of the project.

Table 9. Table of Consultation

Name	Organization	Information Sought	Date(s) and Means Contacted	Response
Pricilla Torres-Fuentes	Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC)	Native American concerns	**Email request:** November, 2023	**Email response: 12.13.23**. Sacred Lands File was negative.

Name	Organization	Information Sought	Date(s) and Means Contacted	Response
Pamela Cubbler	Colfax-Todds Valley Consolidated Tribe	Native American concerns	**Letter Sent:** January 16, 2024 **Email Follow Up** July 17,2024	No response to date
Randy Yonemura / Jereme Dutschke	Ione Band of Miwok Indians	Native American concerns	**Letter Sent:** January 16, 2024 **Email Follow Up** July 17,2024 **Phone Call 7/17/24**	Tribal representative informed Placer County that Jereme Dutschke is the new Chair of the Cultural Committee. Placer County Representative called Mr. Dutschke and left a message. No response.
Gene Whitehouse	United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria	Native American concerns	**Letter Sent:** January 16, 2024 **Email Follow Up** July 17,2024	No response to date
Darrel Cruz	Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California	Native American concerns	**Letter Sent:** January 16, 2024	**Email response: 3.20.24**. Project location outside of the ancestral lands of the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California – deferred consultation to neighboring Native Nations.

Field Methods

Pedestrian survey of the initial APE was conducted on January 12, by PAR archaeologists, Andrea E. Maniery and Diana Malarchik. In large, open fields with good visibility, transects were spaced 10 meters apart. In areas where the APE narrowed to ten meters or less in width archaeologists walked in five-meter transects.

Study Findings and Conclusions

Survey Results

The APE consists of agricultural fields, canals, and Dalby Road. Ground visibility across the non-paved portions of the project area varied between 10 and 100 percent (see Attachment A. Figure 4). Vegetation consists of a combination of native and non-native weeds and grasses located along the sides of Dalby Road and in surrounding agricultural fields.

No prehistoric resources were recorded during the pedestrian survey. No historical resources were recorded during the pedestrian survey. The north side of the APE was not accessible during survey due to rights of entry constraints. The APE on the north side is less than 25 meters wide; in fact, in all but the immediate bridge area the APE beyond the public easement, the APE measures less than 10 meters. Given the narrow width, the fence line along Dalby Road within the public easement was surveyed and the narrow strip of APE on the north side of the fence was examined from the fence transect line. The area is entirely composed of plowed field and no artifacts were noted or observed from the roadside. The buried site potential is extremely low (see soils discussion) and is covered in a standard intensive survey transect of 25 meters.

Conclusions

In summary, record searches, consultation, and pedestrian surveys of the APE did not result in the identification of any cultural resources in the APE. Historical research indicates that the location of Dalby Road located within the Archaeological APE first appears on historic maps and aerials in 1954 and does

not show any significant changes between this appearance and its appearance on the aerial in 1984. The remainder of the project area had no signs of buried deposits in the form of depressions or artifacts that may indicate buried remains. The full parcel at Pacific Avenue outside of the Archaeological APE was not surveyed for archaeology, only architectural history, and won't be affected by the project.

Modern agricultural and pasture use throughout the APE and in the region has caused a great deal of modification to the natural landscape. Agricultural areas are repeatedly leveled and exposed to heavy farming machinery that can potentially remove surficial archaeological deposits. Additionally, the construction of the road, roadside ditch, fields, and pastures likely eradicated any natural topography, streams, or creeks in the area and altered the landscape as it was known and used by prehistoric populations.

DISCUSSION

a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5?

No Impact. There are no resources listed in or eligible for the CRHR or NRHP within the project area. The existing Dalby Road Bridge was constructed in 1925; however, the structure was confirmed to be ineligible for listing under the NRHP as it does not meet any of the criteria for evaluation required for NRHP eligibility. No other structures or potential historic resources defined in CCR 14 Section 15064.5 are located in the project vicinity. Therefore, the proposed project would not cause an adverse change in the significance of a historic resource. No impact would occur.

b) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?

Less Than Significant with Mitigation. The project area has been heavily disturbed by prior development of Dalby Road and agricultural activity on surrounding properties. However, the Placer County General Plan Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR; 1994) indicates that there is a high sensitivity of archaeological resources within 500 feet of water throughout the County. As described above, the results of the record search and field survey were negative for the presence of archaeological resources in the APE and, consequently, the proposed project would not cause an adverse change in the significance of a known archaeological resource. However, with any project that requires ground disturbance and excavation, there is always the potential that previously unidentified archaeological resources could be identified during project implementation.

If unexpected discovery of subsurface archaeological resources occurs mitigation measure **CR-1** will be implemented to reduce impacts to a less than significant level. In the event that cultural materials are encountered during project implementation, all work would cease within 50 feet of the find and a qualified archaeologist would determine the appropriate next steps. Therefore, potential impacts relating to archaeological resources would be considered less than significant with mitigation.

c) Would the project disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?

Less Than Significant Impact. There is no evidence of the presence of human remains in the project area. However, this does not preclude the possibility of the existence of buried human remains. California law recognizes the need to protect historic-era and Native American human burials, skeletal remains, and items associated with Native American interments from vandalism and inadvertent destruction.

Damage to or destruction of human remains during project construction or other project-related activities would be considered a significant impact. However, in accordance with the California Health and Safety Code Sections 7050.5 and 7052, Public Resources Code Section 5097.98, and CEQA Section 15064.5, if human remains are uncovered during ground-disturbing activities, all such activities in the vicinity of the find would be halted immediately, and Placer County's designated representative would be notified. The County's representative would immediately notify the Placer County Coroner and a qualified professional archaeologist. The County Coroner is required to examine all discoveries of human remains within 48 hours of receiving notice of a discovery on private or State lands (Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5[b]). If the Coroner determines that the remains are those of a Native American, he or she must contact the NAHC by phone within 24 hours of making that determination (Health and Safety Code Section 7050[c]).

The County's responsibilities for acting upon notification of a discovery of Native American Human remains are identified in detail in the California Public Resources Code Section 5097.9. The County or its appointed representative and the professional archaeologist would contact the Most Likely Descendent (MLD), as determined by the NAHC, regarding the remains. The MLD, in cooperation with Placer County, would determine the ultimate disposition of the remains. Since the proposed project would be in compliance with the existing regulations of the California Health and Safety Code, the Public Resources Code, and CEQA, impacts to human remains would be less than significant and no mitigation is required.

MITIGATION MEASURES

CR-1: If unrecorded cultural resources are encountered during project-related ground-disturbing activities, even in the absence of an on-site archaeological monitor, a qualified archaeologist 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 and ground disturbances in the area 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 CRHR and develop appropriate mitigation, such as avoidance or data recovery.

If the find is determined to be an important cultural resource, the County 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.

FINDINGS

Project impacts relating to cultural resources would be **Less than Significant with Mitigation** incorporated.

2.6 ENERGY

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

DISCUSSION

a) Would the project result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?

Less Than Significant Impact. The project would require the consumption of energy sources such as electricity, natural gas, and oil during construction through the operation of construction equipment. However, construction-related energy consumption would be temporary, intermittent, and would cease upon the completion of construction. The project does not contain any elements that would permanently result in wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources during project operation. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

b) Would the project conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?

No Impact. The project would not conflict with or obstruct any state or local plans for renewable energy or energy efficiency. Therefore, no impact would occur.

MITIGATION MEASURES

No mitigation is required.

FINDINGS

The project would have a **Less Than Significant Impact** relating to energy or energy resources.

2.7 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42?	☐	☐	☐	☒
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iv) Landslides?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☒	☐

DISCUSSION

a) Would the project expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:

i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42?

ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?

iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

iv) Landslides?

No Impact. According to the CDC Fault Activity Map of California (CDC 2015), there are no known active faults within the project area or directly adjacent to the project area. The nearest fault is the Spenceville Fault (Pre-Quaternary), located approximately 8.5 miles northeast of the project area. The project would consist of minor ground disturbance and would not substantially change the existing conditions in such a way that it would result in new risks for exposing people or structures to potential, substantial adverse effects (including risk of loss, injury, or death involving rupture of a known fault; strong, seismic ground shaking; seismic-related ground failure; or landslides).

Placer County is not known as an area of high landslide potential according to the California Geographic Survey, and the project area is situated on flat or very gently sloping topography where the potential for slope failure due to seismic activity, including liquefaction, is minimal to low. As a result of the flat topography and distance from fault zones, the project would have no impact on seismic activity.

b) Would the project result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

Less than Significant Impact. K factor is a soil erodibility factor representing soil's susceptibility to erosion and the rate of runoff. Xerofluvents and San Joaquin series soils within the project area exhibit a moderate K value of 0.32, indicating that the soil is moderately susceptible to detachment and erosion. However, Fiddyment-Kaseberg series soils within the project area exhibit a high K value of 0.49, indicating a high susceptibility to detachment and erosion and high runoff.

The project would not alter the existing drainage patterns of the site in a manner that would contribute to erosion, but would have a disturbed soil area greater than one acre; therefore, a Construction General Permit (CGP) is required to address storm water runoff, including minimizing soil erosion. The permit will address clearing, grading, grubbing, and disturbances to the ground such as stockpiling or excavation. The permit also requires the County and the contractor to prepare and implement a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) with the intent of keeping all products of erosion from moving off-site into receiving waters. The SWPPP includes BMPs to prevent construction pollutants from entering stormwater runoff.

With compliance to the CGP and implementation of SWPPP and erosion control construction BMPs, project impacts would be less than significant.

c) Would the project 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?

No Impact. The project area is not located on a geologic unit or soil that is known for unstable conditions or would become unstable as a result of project construction or operations. During construction, soils may become unstable during de-grading activities; however, the area of ground disturbance and construction activities necessary for the construction of the Project would not occur on unstable soils, and would not result or potentially result in on- or off-site landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse. Backfilling and compaction of the de-graded areas would occur as part of the Project to return the site to pre-construction conditions and contours. Therefore, no impact would occur.

d) Would the project be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?

No Impact. Expansive soils are typically classified as clay soils with a high shrink-swell potential, or a high susceptibility to volume change due to a loss or gain in moisture content. Natural soils within the project area consist primarily of Fiddyment-Kaseberg loam, San Joaquin sandy loam, and Xerofluvents, all of which contain low clay content. These soil types are not known as expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code, and construction within these soil types would not create substantial risks to life or property. Therefore, no impact would occur.

e) Would the project have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?

No Impact. The project would not utilize septic tanks or an alternative waste water disposal system on site. Therefore, no impact would occur.

f) Would the project directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

No Impact. According to the University of California Museum of Paleontology (UCMP), there are no known recorded findings of fossils within the project area (UCMP 2024). Additionally, no findings of unique paleontological resources, sites, or unique geological features were identified within the project area during the record search and pedestrian survey. Therefore, no impact would occur.

MITIGATION MEASURES

No mitigation is required.

FINDINGS

With the compliance of the CGP and implementation of SWPPP erosion control construction BMPs, the project would have a **Less Than Significant Impact** relating to geology and soils.

2.8 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☐	☒

REGULATORY SETTING

While climate change has been a concern since at least 1988, as evidenced by the establishment of the United Nations and World Meteorological Organization's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), the efforts devoted to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction and climate change research and policy have increased dramatically in recent years. These efforts are primarily concerned with the emissions of GHG related to the human activities that include CO_2, CH_4, NO_X, nitrous oxide, tetrafluoromethane, hexafluoroethane, sulfur hexafluoride, HFC-23 (fluoroform), HFC-134a (s, s, s, 2 –tetrafluoroethane), and HFC-152a (difluoroethane).

On June 1, 2005, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed Executive Order S-3-05. The goal of this Executive Order is to reduce California's GHG emissions to: 1) 2000 levels by 2010; 2) 1990 levels by 2020; and 3) 80 percent below the 1990 levels by the year 2050. In 2006, this goal was further reinforced with the passage of Assembly Bill 32 (AB 32), the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. AB 32 sets the same overall GHG emissions reduction goals while further mandating that CARB create a plan which includes market mechanisms, and implement rules to achieve *"real, quantifiable, cost-effective reductions of greenhouse gases."* Executive Order S-20-06 further directs state agencies to begin implementing AB 32, including the recommendations made by the state's Climate Action Team.

With Executive Order S-01-07, Governor Schwarzenegger set forth the low carbon fuel standard for California. Under this executive order, the carbon intensity of California's transportation fuels was reduced by at least 10 percent by 2020.

Climate change and GHG reduction is also a concern at the federal level; however, at this time, no legislation or regulations have been enacted specifically addressing GHG emissions reductions and climate change. California, in conjunction with several environmental organizations and several other states, sued to force the U.S. EPA to regulate GHG as a pollutant under the Clean Air Act (Massachusetts vs. [EPA] et al., 549 U.S. 497 (2007). The court ruled that GHG does fit within the Clean Air Act's definition of a pollutant, and that the U.S. EPA does have the authority to regulate GHG. Despite the Supreme Court ruling, there are no promulgated federal regulations to date limiting GHG emissions. [1]

According to the Association of Environmental Professionals white paper, "Alternative Approaches to Analyzing Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Global Climate Change in CEQA Documents" (June 29, 2007), an individual project does not generate enough GHG emissions to significantly influence global climate change. Rather, global climate change creates a cumulative impact. This means that a project may participate in a potential impact through its incremental contribution combined with the contributions of all other sources of GHG. In assessing cumulative impacts, it must be determined if a project's incremental effect is "cumulatively considerable." (See CEQA Guidelines sections 15064(i)(1) and 15130.) To make this determination, the incremental impacts of the project must be compared with the effects of past, current,

[1] http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/endangerment.html

and probable future projects. To gather sufficient information on a global scale of all past, current, and future projects in order to make this determination is a difficult if not impossible task.

As the proposed project would have no effects on traffic capacity, any additional GHG emissions would only occur during, and result from, necessary temporary construction activities.

DISCUSSION

a) Would the project generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?

Less Than Significant Impact. The project would not generate GHG emissions through operation of the completed project. Short-term GHG emissions would occur during construction of the project consisting primarily of emissions from equipment exhaust. Construction activities, such as site preparation, site grading, on-site heavy-duty construction vehicles, equipment hauling materials to and from the site, and motor vehicles transporting the construction crew would produce combustion emissions from various sources. During the construction of the proposed project, GHGs would be emitted through the operation of construction equipment and from worker and builder supply vendor vehicles, each of which typically uses fossil-based fuels to operate. Exhaust emissions from on-site construction activities would vary daily as construction activity levels change.

Using the RCEM results for the proposed project, the project construction (anticipated at 9 months duration) would generate an annual maximum of approximately 1,183 MT CO2e. This is well below the District's project level construction phase significance threshold of 10,000 MT CO2e per year. Therefore, the project is not expected to generate GHG emissions in quantities that would individually or cumulatively contribute to a significant impact on the environment, and the project is considered to have a less than significant impact relating to the generation of GHG emissions. No mitigation is required.

b) Would the project conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

No Impact. The project would generate short-term GHG emissions during construction. As indicated under section (a) above, the short-term construction GHG emissions would not exceed the District's performance-based significance thresholds which are based on AB 32 GHG reduction targets. Further, the Placer County Sustainability Plan does not include GHG emissions reduction measures that are applicable to the proposed project. Therefore, the project would not conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing GHG emissions. No impact would occur, and no mitigation would be required.

MITIGATION MEASURES

No mitigation is required.

FINDINGS

The project would have a **Less Than Significant Impact** relating to GHG emissions.

2.9 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	☐	☐	☐	☒

REGULATORY SETTING

Hazardous materials and hazardous wastes are regulated by many state and federal laws. These include not only specific statutes governing hazardous waste, but also a variety of laws regulating air and water quality, human health, and land use.

Hazardous waste in California is regulated primarily under the authority of the federal Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976 and the California Health and Safety Code. Other California laws that affect hazardous waste are specific to handling, storage, transportation, disposal, treatment, reduction, cleanup, and emergency planning.

Worker health and safety and public safety are key issues when dealing with hazardous materials that may affect human health and the environment. Proper disposal of hazardous material is vital if it is disturbed during project construction.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The project occurs within a rural area, that is zoned for agricultural land use. Construction access would be available via N. Dowd Road and Dalby Road, with staging areas occurring on the roadway. Temporary construction easements would also occur within adjacent private property, and the County will establish a new highway easement within adjacent property. No sensitive receptors are within 0.25-miles of the proposed project. A review of the California Department of Toxic Substances (DTSC) EnviroStor database (DTSC 2024) and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) GeoTracker database (SWRCB 2024) found no known cleanup sites within one mile of the project area. The nearest cleanup site identified

within the GeoTracker Database is an "Open – Remediation" site approximately 2.4 miles southeast of the project area.

DISCUSSION

a) Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?

Less Than Significant Impact. The project would involve the use of heavy equipment for hauling soils and materials handling. The use of this equipment may require the use of fuels or other common materials that have hazardous properties (e.g., fuels are flammable). These materials would be used in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations and, if used properly, would not pose a hazard to people or the environment. The use of hazardous materials would be temporary, and the project would not include a permanent source of hazardous materials. Furthermore, compliance with the CGP and preparation of the SWPPP would require the use of standard conservation measures and BMPs to avoid or minimize the potential for accidental release of hazardous materials from spills or fuel leaks during project construction. Therefore, the project would not create a significant hazard to the public or environment, and the project would have a less than significant impact.

b) Would the project 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?

Less Than Significant with Mitigation. The project would involve ground disturbance and excavation within the project area. With any project conducting ground disturbance, there is a potential for unknown contaminates or accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment, as well as upset or accident related to machinery. A review of the SWRCB GeoTracker database and the DTSC EnviroStor database found no known hazardous materials sites or hazardous materials cleanup sites within one mile of the Project area. Therefore, it is unlikely for the project to have the potential of unknown contaminants or accidents due to excavation.

However, according to the project's Phase I Initial Site Assessment (Parikh 2024), recognized environmental conditions (RECs) were identified within the APE, including the potential presence of aerially deposited lead (ADL), agricultural chemicals, and asbestos containing materials (ACM). The report recommends a preliminary site investigation (PSI) is conducted prior to construction of the project, to confirm the presence or absence of these potential hazardous materials. With the implementation of measure **HAZ-1** will ensure the PSI and any subsequent avoidance and minimization measures, the project would not create a significant hazard to the public or environment due to release of hazardous materials, and project effects would be considered less than significant with mitigation incorporated.

c) Would the project emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

No Impact. The project area is not located within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school. The nearest schools to the project area are Virginia School, located approximately 4.25 miles northwest of the project area in the City of Wheatland, and Foskett Ranch Elementary School, located approximately 5.12 miles southeast of the project area in the City of Lincoln. The project does not have the potential to emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous materials in the vicinity of schools. No impact would occur.

d) Would the project 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?

No Impact. The proposed project is not on a site included in the list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5, which is also known as the Cortese List. No sites on the Cortese List are located within the project area; therefore, no impact would occur.

e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?

No Impact. The project is located within the vicinity of the Lincoln Regional Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP; Placer County Airport Land Use Commission 2021), and is within the northern terminus of the C1 – "Extended Approach/Departure Zone & Primary Traffic Pattern" Plan Area. The Lincoln Regional Airport is approximately four (4) miles southeast of the project area and is at the very end of the C1 traffic pattern area where noise levels from airplane traffic is nominal to non-existent. Therefore, the project would not result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing near or working in the project area, and no impact would occur.

f) Would the project impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

Less Than Significant Impact. The project would not permanently impair or alter any existing emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. However, construction of the project would require the closure of Dalby Road, and an approximately 5-mile detour route would be implemented. Therefore, response times of emergency services or personnel may be temporarily altered during construction. Access to residences west of Dalby Road Bridge would be maintained throughout project construction and evacuation capabilities for residents would not be impacted. Therefore, project impacts would be considered less than significant.

g) Would the project expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?

No Impact. The project would not occur within a designated wildland area, or where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands. Therefore, the project would not expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, and no impact would occur.

AVOIDANCE, MINIMIZATION, AND/OR MITIGATION MEASURES

The following mitigation measure shall be incorporated into the project to minimize the potential impacts discussed in section b) above:

HAZ-1: Preliminary Site Investigation Prior to Construction

Prior to initiation of construction activities, the project proponent shall conduct a Preliminary Site Investigation (PSI) to confirm the presence or absence of hazardous materials/soils, including aerially deposited lead and agricultural contaminants within adjacent soils, and

asbestos containing materials within the bridge structure. If any hazardous materials are determined present, appropriate handling or disposal measures shall be implemented.

FINDINGS

The project would have a **Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation** relating to hazards and hazardous materials.

2.10 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:				
(i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	☐	☐	☒	☐
(ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;	☐	☐	☒	☐
(iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	☐	☐	☒	☐
(iv) impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

REGULATORY SETTING

Federal Regulations

Clean Water Act

The CWA was enacted as an amendment to the Federal Water Pollutant Control Act of 1972, which outlined the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants to WOTUS. The CWA serves as the primary Federal law protecting the quality of the nation's surface waters, including lakes, rivers, and coastal wetlands. The CWA empowers the U.S. EPA to set national water quality standards and effluent limitations and includes programs addressing both point-source and non-point-source pollution. Point-source pollution originates or enters surface waters at a single, discrete location, such as an outfall structure or an excavation or construction site. Non-point-source pollution originates over a broader area and includes urban contaminants in storm water runoff and sediment loading from upstream areas. The CWA operates on the principle that all discharges into the nation's waters are unlawful unless they are specifically authorized by a permit; permit review is the CWA's primary regulatory tool.

Section 303(d)

Under the mandate of Section 303(d) of the CWA, the RWQCB is required to formulate a list of surface water bodies that exceed applicable water quality standards. Subsequently, the RWQCB is required to describe the impairment sources and prioritize these water bodies to develop Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs). The current 2020-2022 list includes the main channel of Yankee Slough as 303(d) listed for

Chlorpyifos and Toxicity (Caltrans, 2024). However, the project area is along the northern fork of Yankee Slough which is not 303(d) listed.

Section 401

The State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and the designated Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCB) have jurisdiction under Section 401 of the CWA and regulate any activity which may result in a discharge to surface waters. Typically, the areas subject to jurisdiction of the RWQCB coincide with those of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) (i.e., waters of the U.S. including any wetlands). The RWQCB also asserts authority over "Waters of the State" under waste discharge requirements pursuant to the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. The proposed project is located within the Jurisdiction of the Sacramento office of the Central Valley RWQCB.

Section 402

The Central Valley RWQCB is a designated municipal permittee under the EPA's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), which regulates stormwater flows into natural water bodies. The NPDES regulations require permitted areas to implement specific activities and actions to eliminate or control stormwater pollution (RWQCB, 2018).

The U.S. EPA defines a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) as any conveyance or system of conveyances (roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, curbs, gutters, ditches, human-made channels, and storm drains) owned or operated by a state, city, town, county, or other public body having jurisdiction over storm water, that are designed or used for collecting or conveying storm water. As part of the NPDES program, U.S. EPA initiated a program requiring that entities having MS4s apply to their local RWQCBs for storm water discharge permits. For all projects subject to the Construction General Permit (CGP), applicants are required to develop and implement an effective Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).

By law, all storm water discharges associated with construction activity, including, but not limited to, clearing, grading, grubbing or excavation, or any other activity that results in a land disturbance of equal to or greater than one acre must comply with the provisions of the CGP. Construction activity that results in soil disturbances of less than one acre is subject to this CGP if there is potential for significant water quality impairment resulting from the activity as determined by the RWQCB. Operators of regulated construction sites are required to develop a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan; to implement sediment, erosion, and pollution prevention control measures; and to obtain coverage under the CGP.

The CGP separates projects into Risk Levels 1, 2, or 3. Risk levels are determined during the planning and design phases and are based on potential erosion and transport to receiving waters. Requirements apply according to the Risk Level determined.

Section 404

The USACE regulates discharges of dredged or fill material into WOTUS. These waters include wetlands and non-wetland bodies of water that meet specific criteria, including a direct or indirect connection to interstate commerce. USACE regulatory jurisdiction pursuant to Section 404 of the CWA is founded on a connection, or nexus, between the water body in question and interstate commerce. This connection may be direct (through a tributary system linking a stream channel with traditional navigable waters used in interstate or foreign commerce) or may be indirect (through a nexus identified in USACE regulations).

Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency

On May 25, 2023, the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS) issued a unanimous ruling limiting the federal government's jurisdiction over wetland and tributaries. In Sackett v. EPA, the Court expressly endorsed the test articulated in the Rapanos plurality opinion and outright rejected Justice Kennedy's

"significant nexus" test. Therefore, the Sackett v. EPA decision limits the definition of WOTUS to relatively permanent bodies of navigable waters, and to assert jurisdiction over an adjacent wetland or tributary under the CWA, a party must establish "first, that the adjacent [body of water constitutes] . . . 'water[s] of the United States' (i.e., "only those relatively permanent, standing or continuously flowing bodies of water 'forming geographic[al] features' connected to traditional interstate navigable waters); and second, that the wetland or tributary has a continuous surface connection with that water, making it difficult to determine where the 'water' ends and the 'wetland' begins." (SCOTUS 2023).

State Regulations

Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act

Also known as the California Water Code, the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Act (Porter-Cologne Act), was created in 1969 to govern water quality regulation in California and protect water quality as well as beneficial uses of water. The Porter-Cologne Act applies to all WoS, including surface water, groundwater, and wetlands at both point and non-point sources of pollution. The act established the overarching California State Water Resources Control Board and nine semiautonomous Regional Water Boards. The Porter-Cologne Act requires the adoption of water quality control plans that give direction to managing water pollution in California. Usually, basin plans get adopted by the Regional Water Boards and are updated when needed. The plans incorporate the beneficial uses of the WoS and then provide objectives that should be met in order to maintain and protect these uses.

State Water Resources Control Board "State Wetland Definition and Procedures for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Materials to Waters of the State"

The SWRCB adjudicates water rights, sets water pollution control policy, and issues water board orders on matters of statewide application, and oversees water quality functions throughout the state by approving Basin Plans, TMDLs, and NPDES permits. Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCBs) are responsible for protecting beneficial uses of water resources within their regional jurisdiction using planning, permitting, and enforcement authorities to meet this responsibility.

In 2019, the SWRCB adopted a "State Wetland Definition and Procedures for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Material to Waters of the State" (Procedures). The Procedures consist of four major elements: 1) a wetland definition; 2) a framework for determining if a wetland feature is a water of the state; 3) wetland delineation procedures; and 4) procedures for the submittal, review and approval of applications for Water Quality Certifications and Waste Discharge Requirements for dredge or fill activities.

The SWRCB adopted the Procedures to address several important issues. There was a need to strengthen protection of waters of the state that were no longer protected under the CWA due to U.S. Supreme Court decisions, since the SWRCB historically relied on CWA protections in dredged or fill discharge permitting practices. Second, there was inconsistency across the SWRCB in requirements for discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the state, including wetlands. Third, there was no single accepted definition of wetlands at the state level, and the SWRCB historically had different requirements and levels of analysis regarding issuance of water quality certifications. Finally, regulations have historically not been adequate to prevent losses in the quantity and quality of wetlands in California, where there have been especially profound historical losses of wetlands.

The Office of Administrative Law (OAL) approved the Procedures on August 28, 2019. Pursuant to the Procedures, the effective date is nine months upon OAL approval. Accordingly, the Procedures became effective May 28, 2020 (SWRCB 2022).

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Hydrology
The project area occurs within a single distinct topographic region of valley floor. The topography of the valley floor consists of low-elevation fluvial plains formed on nonmarine sedimentary rock with gently rolling terrain located on the Sacramento Valley floor. The project site is at an elevation of approximately 88 to 91 feet above mean sea level within the Marysville hydrologic unit, Lower Bear River watershed, Yankee Slough subwatershed (HUC 180201260501).

Hydrological resources with the project area include one surface water feature, North Fork Yankee Slough, and vernal pool complex features north of Dalby Road. The North Fork Yankee Slough carries agricultural flows from the northeast of the project area, and meets with confluence of the Yankee Slough main channel approximately 800 linear feet south of the BSA.

Groundwater
Seasonal groundwater level data was reviewed through the Groundwater Information Center Interactive Map Web Application provided by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR 2024a). In the Project vicinity there are two periodic groundwater measurement locations. The most recent (2021 and 2007) readings of groundwater depths range from 10 feet to 22 feet water surface elevation in relation to the ground surface elevation. General groundwater depth may be influenced by local pumping, rainfall, and irrigation patterns. The proposed project is within the Sacramento Valley Groundwater Basin, and more specifically, the Sacramento Valley – North American Subbasin. The Sacramento Valley – North American Subbasin is defined by the Sacramento River to the west and bounded by Bear Creek/Dry Creek to the north and the American River to the south.

Flooding
According to the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) "Best Available Maps" website (DWR 2024b), the North Fork Yankee Slough channel is not part of a "Designated Floodway" or is a "Regulated Stream". Therefore, no floodway encroachment permit from the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB) would be required. Additionally, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA 2024) Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) the project site does not fall within a Special Flood Hazard Area (see Appendix D for FEMA FIRMette Map).

DISCUSSION

a) *Would the project violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?*

Less Than Significant Impact. The project would disturb greater than 1 linear acre of land as a result of construction; therefore, a CGP is required consistent with Water Quality Order No. 2022-0057-DWQ, issued by the State Water Resources Control Board under the NPDES to address storm water runoff. The CGP would require the County and/or the contractor to prepare and implement a SWPPP with the intent of keeping all products of erosion from moving off-site into receiving waters. The SWPPP includes BMPs to prevent construction pollutants from entering stormwater runoff. Further, the project would replace more than 2,500 square feet of impervious surface; therefore, compliance with the County's Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) would be required.

Furthermore, the project would be required to comply all regulatory permitting regarding water quality standards and waste discharge requirements (e.g., CWA Section 404 and Section 401), which would include construction BMPs for erosion and sediment control. In addition to the CGP, SWPPP, the regulatory permits will condition the project to implement measures that will prevent degradation of water quality.

With implementation of construction BMPs and compliance with CWA and NPDES, construction and operation of the project would not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements established by the Central Valley RWQCB in its Basin Plan for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins. Impacts would be considered less than significant.

b) Would the project substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?

Less than Significant Impact. The project would not directly or indirectly result in the construction of uses that would utilize groundwater supplies. The project would include a minor increase in impervious surface from the replacement bridge; however, this is not anticipated to alter the drainage patterns in such a way that the minor increase would interfere with groundwater recharge. Additionally, the project would not be constructed immediately above a pre-existing well, nor would areas known to contain wells be disturbed by construction of the proposed project. Therefore, impacts to groundwater supplies would be considered less than significant.

c) Would the project 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:

(i) result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;

(ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;

(iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or

(iv) impede or redirect flood flows?

(i) Less Than Significant Impact. As described in Section 2.7, Geology and Soils, soils within the project area have a moderate to high K factor, indicating moderate to high susceptibility to detachment and erosion. The project would replace the Dalby Road over Yankee Slough bridge and project activities would require excavation and general disturbance of soil within and adjacent to the North Fork Yankee Slough. The project would have a disturbed soil area greater than one acre; therefore, a NPDES CGP is required to address storm water runoff, including minimizing soil erosion. The permit will address clearing, grading, grubbing, and disturbances to the ground such as stockpiling or excavation. The permit also requires the County and the contractor to prepare and implement a SWPPP with the intent of keeping all products of erosion from moving off-site into receiving waters. The SWPPP includes BMPs to prevent construction pollutants from entering stormwater runoff. With compliance to the CGP and implementation of SWPPP and erosion control construction BMPs, project impacts would be less than significant.

(ii, iii) Less Than Significant Impact. The new bridge structure and the newly conformed roadway approaches would include a minor increase of approximately 0.12 acres (approximately 5,370 square feet) of new impervious surface from the widened roadway and bridge; however, the increase is considered negligible in consideration of the capacity of the North Fork Yankee Slough, and the existing drainage patterns that would be maintained. The new bridge would be constructed along the same alignment of the existing bridge and the project would not substantially affect the existing drainage patterns of the project site. Therefore, the project would not substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on or offsite and would not contribute to runoff water which would exceed the

capacity of existing or planned drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff. Impacts would be considered less than significant.

(iv) Less Than Significant Impact. Construction activities within the North Fork Yankee Slough channel are required for construction of the proposed project. If water is present within the channel or is anticipated during the duration of project construction, the project would implement a diversion and dewatering system within the North Fork Yankee Slough. The diversion system would be constructed of clean materials and would only be temporary until work activities within the channel are completed. Project construction is not anticipated to occur during the flood season, and the North Fork Yankee Slough would be returned to pre-project conditions following the completion of construction. Existing drainage patterns would be returned to pre-project conditions, and no permanent impediment or redirection of flood flows would occur as part of the project. Therefore, the project would not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site in a manner which would impede or redirect flood flows, and impacts would be considered less than significant.

d) Would the project, in flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?

No Impact. According to the DWR "Best Available Maps" website (DWR 2024b), the North Fork Yankee Slough channel is not part of a "Designated Floodway" or is a "Regulated Stream". Therefore, no floodway encroachment permit from the CVFPB would be required. Additionally, according to the FEMA FIRM, the project site does not fall within a Special Flood Hazard Area (see Appendix D for FEMA FIRMette Map). The project is not within the coastal zone, tsunami evacuation zone, or known seiche zone. Therefore, the project would not risk release of pollutants due to project inundation within a flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zone, and no impact would occur.

e) Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?

No Impact. The project would comply with the PCCP CARP including compliance with all federal and state regulatory requirements including the USACE PGP, RWQCB General Order, and NDPES CGP. All water quality conditions and measures would be implemented for pre-construction, during construction, and post construction compliance. The project would also have no effect to groundwater resources or recharge as described in discussion (b) above. Therefore, the project would not conflict with or obstruct a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan, and no impact would occur.

MITIGATION MEASURES

No mitigation is required.

FINDINGS

With compliance of all required regulatory permitting, and implementation of permit conditions and construction BMPs the project will have a **Less Than Significant Impact** relating to hydrology and water quality.

2.11 LAND USE AND PLANNING

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☐	☒

DISCUSSION

a) Would the project physically divide an established community?

No Impact. The purpose of the project is to improve safety and reduce the risk of bridge failure by replacing the functionally obsolete bridge with a new bridge that meets current structural, geometric, and hydraulic design standards. The project is not located within an established community and would not physically divide an established community. Therefore, no impact would occur.

b) Would the project 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?

No Impact. The project would be consistent with the Placer County General Plan, PCCP, and applicable Placer County Ordinances. Therefore, the project would not conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. Therefore, no impact would occur.

MITIGATION MEASURES

No mitigation is required.

FINDINGS

The project would not physically divide an established community or conflict with any land use plan, policy or regulation. Therefore, the project would have **No Impact** relating to land use and planning.

2.12 MINERAL RESOURCES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

DISCUSSION

a) Would the project 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?

No Impact. The CDC California Geological Survey is responsible for identifying and classifying mineral resource areas throughout the state. According to the CDC, Placer County contains areas classified by the State Geologist as Mineral Resource Zone (MRZ)-2a, MRZ-2b, MRZ-3a and MRZ-4. According to the "Mineral Land Classification Map of Placer County, California (CDC 1995), the project area is not located within a known mineral resource deposit that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state. Therefore, the Project would not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource, and no impact would occur.

b) Would the project 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?

No Impact. The project area does not contain any areas that are listed as locally-important mineral resource recovery sites by CDC or Placer County; therefore, no impact would occur.

MITIGATION MEASURES

No mitigation is required.

FINDINGS

The project would have **No Impact** relating to mineral resources.

2.13 NOISE

Would the project result in:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

Noise-sensitive land uses generally include those uses where exposure to noise would result in adverse effects, as well as uses where quiet is an essential element of their intended purpose. The Placer County General Plan (2013) defines noise-sensitive land uses as: Residences, transient lodging, hospitals, nursing homes, theaters, auditoriums, music halls, churches, meeting halls, office buildings, schools, libraries, museums, playgrounds, and neighborhood parks. The project is located within an agricultural area, and the nearest noise-sensitive land use is a residential dwelling located approximately 0.34 miles south of the project area.

DISCUSSION

a) Would the project result in 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?

Less Than Significant Impact. The overall noise goal for the County is to protect County residents from the harmful and annoying effects of exposure to excessive noise. The Placer County General Plan (2013) and the Placer County Code Article 9.36 establishes noise standards for maximum allowable onsite noise levels for sensitive receptors and other land uses. However, County Code Section 9.36.030 indicates that construction activity is exempt from these noise standards, provided that construction would occur only between the hours of 6:00 A.M and 8:00 P.M. Monday through Friday and between 8:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M. Saturday and Sunday, and that all construction equipment is well maintained and fitted with factory installed muffling devices.

Anticipated construction equipment used for the project includes pile driving equipment, heavy earthmoving and pavement-breaking equipment, dump trucks, and paving equipment; the loudest of which would be pile driving machinery. According to the Construction Noise Handbook (2018) published by the Federal Highway Administration, the average actual measured noise levels emitted by pile drivers is 101 dBA at a distance of 50 feet. The maximum onsite daytime (7:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M.) sound level for noise-sensitive receptors is 70 decibels (dB), pursuant to the Placer County Code. As the nearest noise-sensitive receptor is located approximately 0.34 miles from the area in which construction activity would occur, noise generated from pile driving operations would be reduced to approximately 69 decibels at this property, based on general noise attenuation calculations per 50-foot increments. Additionally, construction-related noise would be short-term, temporary, and intermittent, and would cease upon completion of the project.

The project would have no operational noise impacts. Therefore, the project would not be considered to generate a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in relation to noise-sensitive receptors, and project impacts would be considered less than significant.

b) Would the project result in the generation of excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels?

Less Than Significant Impact. Project construction includes activities, such as operation of heavy trucks and pile driving equipment, which may result in the periodic, temporary generation of ground-borne vibration. However, the project would not introduce new sources of permanent ground-borne vibration. Given the temporary nature of any potential ground-borne vibration as a result of bridge construction, potential impacts would be considered less than significant.

c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

No Impact. The project is located within the vicinity of the Lincoln Regional ALUCP (Placer County Airport Land Use Commission 2021) and is within the northern terminus of the C1 – "Extended Approach/Departure Zone & Primary Traffic Pattern" Plan Area. The Lincoln Regional Airport is approximately four (4) miles southeast of the project area, and is at the very end of the C1 traffic pattern area where noise levels from airplane traffic is nominal to non-existent. Therefore, the project would not expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels, and no impact would occur.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

The following construction BMPs shall be incorporated into the project:

- The project would comply with County Code Section 9.36.030
    - Do not operate construction equipment or run the equipment engines from 8:00 P.M. to 6:00 A.M. Monday through Friday, or 8:00 P.M. to 8:00 A.M. Saturday through Sunday, pursuant to the Placer County Code Section 9.36.030.
    - All internal combustion engine driven equipment shall be equipped with the appropriate manufacturer-recommended intake and exhaust mufflers, which shall be kept in good condition.

MITIGATION MEASURES

No mitigation is required.

FINDINGS

The project would cause temporary construction-related noise; however, the project would comply with the noise regulations provided in Placer County Code Article 9.36, and construction noise generated from the project would not expose noise-sensitive receptors in the vicinity to excessive noise levels. Therefore, the project would have a **Less Than Significant Impact** relating to Noise.

2.14 POPULATION AND HOUSING

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

DISCUSSION

a) Would the project 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)?

No Impact. The purpose of the proposed project is to replace the existing Dalby Road Bridge, which is currently structurally deficient and functionally obsolete. The project would not construct new residences or business, nor would it extend existing roads, utilities, or infrastructure. Therefore, the project would not directly or indirectly induce substantial unplanned population growth in the area, and no impact would occur.

b) Would the project displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

No Impact. Implementation of the project would require temporary construction easements and would designate a new highway easement around the newly constructed bridge and roadway improvements. The project area is not located in a residential area and temporary and permanent right-of-way acquisitions would not displace any existing housing or necessitate the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. Therefore, no impact would occur.

MITIGATION MEASURES

No mitigation is required.

FINDINGS

The project would have **No Impact** relating to population or housing.

2.15 PUBLIC SERVICES

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

DISCUSSION

a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services: fire protection, police protection, schools, parks, and/or other public facilities?

Less Than Significant Impact. The project would replace an existing bridge structure and does not contain any elements that would result in an increase of demand for fire or police services, schools, or recreation facilities. However, the existing paved surface of Dalby Road is narrow, and bridge replacement efforts would require the full closure of the roadway. Response times of police and fire services, or other emergency services, may be temporarily altered during construction. The project would implement an approximately 5-mile offsite detour route to ensure access to residences west of the Dalby Road Bridge are maintained throughout construction. Response times of emergency services would be returned to pre-construction conditions following the completion of the project; therefore, impacts relating to fire and/or police emergency services would be considered less than significant. No impact would occur to public services relating to schools, parks, or other public facilities.

MITIGATION MEASURES

No mitigation is required.

FINDINGS

The project would have **Less Than Significant Impact** relating to public services.

2.16 RECREATION

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒

DISCUSSION

a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?

No Impact. The construction and/or operation of the completed project would not increase the use of existing parks or other recreational facilities due to the location and nature of the project. No impact would occur.

b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

No Impact. The project does not include recreational facilities, nor does it require the construction or expansion of other recreational facilities. No impact would occur.

MITIGATION MEASURES

No mitigation is required.

FINDINGS

The project would have **No Impact** relating to recreation.

2.17 TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC

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

DISCUSSION

a) Would the project conflict with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?

Less Than Significant Impact. The project would not conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system. This takes into account all elements and modes of transportation, including intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit. The project would require the full closure of Dalby Road for the duration of construction; however, the closure would be localized around the immediate project area and access to properties in the western portion of Dalby Road would be maintained. Full access to the roadway would be restored upon completion of construction. The proposed detour route is approximately 5 miles, via Wheatland Road, Riosa Road, and North Dowd Road, with a travel time of approximately 11 minutes. The route would detour traffic onto roads within Sutter County; therefore, coordination and a Sutter County Encroachment Permit would be required. With the obtention of all required permits, project impacts would be less than significant.

b) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?

Less Than Significant Impact. The purpose of the project is to improve safety and reduce the risk of bridge failure by replacing the functionally obsolete bridge with a new bridge that meets current structural, geometric, and hydraulic design standards. Per CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3 subdivision (b), transportation projects that reduce, or have no impact on, vehicle miles traveled (VMT) should be presumed to cause a less than significant transportation impact.

The project would require the full closure of Dalby Road and use of a 5-mile detour, via Placer Road, Riosa Road, and North Dowd Road. The detour route would temporarily increase VMT for those residents west of the Dalby Road bridge. However, the increase would be temporary and intermittent, and in relation to the low average daily traffic counts along Dalby Road, the temporary increase in VMT would be negligible. The project would not permanently increase VMT; therefore, impacts would be considered less than significant.

c) Would the project substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

No Impact. The purpose of the project is to improve safety and reduce the risk of bridge failure by replacing the functionally obsolete bridge with a new bridge that meets current structural, geometric, and hydraulic design standards. The new bridge will be on a similar alignment and no new geometric design features or incompatible uses are proposed as part of the project. Therefore, the project would not substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature or incompatible uses, and no impact would occur.

d) Would the project result in inadequate emergency access?

Less Than Significant Impact. Due to the full closure of Dalby Road during project construction, the project would involve the implementation of an approximately 5-mile offsite detour route via Wheatland Road, Riosa Road, and North Dowd Road. The detour route would have an approximate travel time of 11 minutes. No residences would be located within the road closure area, and access to residences along Dalby Road west of the bridge would be maintained throughout construction via the detour route. Emergency responders to residences west of the bridge would be detoured; however, access to these properties would be maintained throughout construction and emergency services would remain operational. The detour route would be temporary and any impact to emergency access would be restored when project construction is completed. Therefore, the project would not cause inadequate emergency access, and impacts would be considered less than significant.

AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION MEASURES

The following construction BMPs shall be incorporated into the project:

- Prior to the start of construction, the County or it's contractor shall prepare a Traffic Management Plan to minimize temporary disruption to traffic flow as a result of project construction.

MITIGATION MEASURES

No mitigation is required.

FINDINGS

The project would have a **Less Than Significant Impact** relating to transportation/traffic.

2.18 TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

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:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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	☐	☐	☐	☒
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.	☐	☐	☐	☒

REGULATORY SETTING

Federal Regulations

Indian Trust Assets

Indian Trust Assets (ITAs) are legal interests in property that is held in trust by the United States for Native American tribes or individuals. Examples of potential ITAs are lands, minerals, fishing rights, and water rights. Management of ITAs is based on the following orders, agreements, and regulations:

- Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments 65 FR 67249
- Memorandum on Government-to-Government Relations With Native American Tribal Governments (FR Volume 59, Number 85, signed April 29, 1994)
- Secretarial Order No. 3175 – Departmental Responsibilities for Indian Trust Resources
- Secretarial Order No. 3206 – American Indian Tribal Rights, Federal -Tribal Trust Responsibilities, and the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA)
- Secretarial Order No. 3215 – Principles for the Discharge of the Secretary's Trust Responsibility
- Secretarial Order No. 3342 – Identifying Opportunities for Cooperative and Collaborative Partnerships with Federally Recognized Indian Tribes in the Management of Federal Lands and Resources
- Secretarial Order No. 3335 – Reaffirmation of the Federal Trust Responsibility to Federally Recognized Tribes and Individual Indian Beneficiaries

American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978

The American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 (AIRFA; 42 U.S.C. § 1996) protects the rights of Native Americans to exercise their traditional religions by ensuring access to sites, the use and possession of sacred objects, and the freedom to worship through ceremonials and traditional rites.

Historic Sites Act of 1935

The Historic Sites Act of 1935 (54 U.S.C. 320101–320106, formerly 16 U.S.C. 461–467) declares *"...that it is a national policy to preserve for public use historic sites, buildings, and objects of national significance…,"* asserting historic preservation as a government duty under jurisdiction of the United States Secretary of the Interior.

National Historic Preservation Act
As discussed and defined in Section 2.5, Cultural Resources, Section 106 of the NHPA requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties. For purposes of the discussion regarding tribal cultural resources, it is important to underscore that historic properties include properties of traditional religious and cultural importance to a Native American tribe or Native Hawaiian organization that meet the National Register criteria (36 C.F.R. § 800.16[l]).[1]

Traditional Cultural Properties and Traditional Cultural Landscapes
Traditional Cultural Properties (TCPs) are properties associated with cultural practices or beliefs of a living community that are: 1) rooted in that community's history; and 2) important in maintaining the continuing cultural identity of a community. TCPs can refer to properties of importance to any community, including Indigenous communities. The appropriate terminology for sites of importance to Native American/Indian tribes is *'historic property of religious and cultural significance to an Indian tribe [and Native Hawaiian organization"*" (ACHP 2008:19; ACHP 2011:14). Traditional cultural landscapes (TCL) encompass the same meaning and utility, as well as inclusivity of Indigenous communities. The Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines for the treatment of cultural landscapes define a cultural landscape as *"a geographic area (including both cultural and natural resources and the wildlife or domestic animals therein), associated with a historic event, activity, or person or exhibiting other cultural or aesthetic values"* (Birnbaum and Peters 1996:4). Historic vernacular landscapes *"evolved through use by the people whose activities or occupancy shaped them"* and ethnographic *landscapes "contain a variety of natural and cultural resources that associated people define as heritage resource"* (Birnbaum and Peter 1996:4; Ball et al. 2015:7).

National Register Bulletin 38 provides examples of TCPs and TCLs that fit the definition in the guidelines (Parker and King 1998:1):

- A location associated with the traditional beliefs of a Native American group about its origins, its cultural history, or the nature of the world;
- A rural community whose organization, buildings and structures, or patterns of land use reflect the cultural traditions valued by its long-term residents;
- An urban neighborhood that is the traditional home of a particular cultural group, and that reflects its beliefs and practices;
- A location where Native American religious practitioners have historically gone, and are known or thought to go today, to perform ceremonial activities in accordance with their traditional cultural rules of practice; and
- A location where a community has traditionally carried out economic, artistic, or other cultural practices important in maintaining its historic identity.

TCPs and TCLs are eligible for inclusion on the NRHP if they meet the criteria set forth in 36 C.F.R. § 60.4, National Register Criteria for Evaluation. The steps in the identification and evaluation of TCPs are the following (abbreviated from Parker and King 1998:11-14):

1. Potential Traditional Cultural Properties must be identified through consultation with the affected community or Tribe.
2. The investigation must consider the beliefs and practices associated with a potential Traditional Cultural Properties from the perspective of the community or Tribe.
3. The potential Traditional Cultural Properties must be a property, that is, a tangible place on the landscape, rather than an intangible belief or practice.
4. The property must retain integrity of relationship with the beliefs and practices that give it meaning to the community or Tribe.

5. The property must retain integrity of condition, such that the elements of the property associated with the beliefs and practices that give it significance are present.
6. The property must meet one or more of the four criteria for eligibility on the National Register (see Section 2.5.1.1 Cultural Resources – Regulatory Setting – Federal).

Cultural resources routinely not considered for eligibility for inclusion in the NRHP are religious properties, moved properties, birthplaces and graves, cemeteries, reconstructed properties, commemorative properties, and properties achieving significance within the past 50 years. However, these resources, can be evaluated as eligible if they meet one or more of the NRHP eligibility criteria for evaluation, retain integrity, and meet special criteria requirements called criteria considerations. The most notable of the seven considerations (A through G) is Criteria Consideration G, which specifies that a property that has achieved significance within the last 50 years can qualify for the NRHP only if it is of exceptional importance. As noted by Parker and King (1998:17–18), *"a significance ascribed to a property only in the past 50 years cannot be considered traditional."* However, they also note: *"The fact that a property may have gone unused for a lengthy period of time, with use beginning again only recently, does not make the property ineligible for the [National] Register"* (Parker and King 1998:14).

If a property is determined to be a TCP, it becomes the responsibility of the lead agency to assess whether the proposed project would have an effect on the property, and should the effect be adverse, would it alter or destroy the elements that make the property significant and eligible. If a proposed project is determined to have an adverse effect, the lead agency is responsible for seeking measures that would mitigate the adverse effects to TCPs.

State Regulations

Tribal Cultural Resources

As defined at PRC § 21074, a tribal cultural resource (TCR) is a site, feature, place, cultural landscape, sacred place or object that is of cultural value to a California Native American tribe and is either: 1) on or eligible for the CRHR or a local historic register; or 2) the lead agency, at its discretion, chooses to treat the resource as a TCR. TCRs are similar to TCPs in terms of their characteristics, identification, and treatment, and may include a cultural landscape to the extent that the landscape is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape. Additionally, as defined at PRC § 21074(c), a historical resource, a unique archaeological resource, or a non-unique archaeological resource may also be a TCR if it conforms to the criteria of a TCR in PRC § 21074(a). CEQA mandates that lead agencies determine whether a project will have a significant impact on TCRs that are eligible for listing on the CRHR (i.e., a historical resource), or are determined to be significant by the lead agency in order to appropriately mitigate any such impacts.

Under the CEQA Guidelines, even if a resource is not included on any local, state, or federal register, or identified in a qualifying historical resources survey, a lead agency may still determine that any resource is a historical resource (i.e., TCR) for the purposes of CEQA if there is substantial evidence supporting such a determination (CEQA Guidelines § 15064.5[a]). A lead agency must consider a resource to be historically significant if it finds that the resource meets the criteria for listing in the CRHR. A resource may be eligible for inclusion in the CRHR if it:

- Criterion 1 – Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage.
- Criterion 2 – Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past.
- Criterion 3 – Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction or represents the work of an important creative individual or possesses high artistic values.

- Criterion 4 – Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

In accordance with CEQA Guidelines, cultural resources investigations are necessary to identify TCRs that may have significant impacts as a result of a project (14 CCR §15064.5). The following steps are routinely implemented in a cultural resources investigation for CEQA compliance:

1. Identify cultural resources in the proposed project area.
2. Evaluate against the CRHR criteria of significance (listed below).
3. Evaluate the impacts of the proposed project on all cultural/tribal resources.
4. Develop and implement measures to mitigate proposed project impacts on historical resources or resources deemed significant by the lead agency.

As TCRs hold cultural value to a California Native American tribe, consultation with local Native American tribes is an integral component of each of the cultural resources investigation steps described above.

Assembly Bill 52 and Consultation
The lead agency for CEQA is responsible for consultation with Native American tribes regarding the potential for a project to impact TCRs, pursuant to Assembly Bill 52 and PRC §§ 21073, 21074, 21080.3.1, 21080.3.2, 21082.3, 21083.09, 21084.2, 21084.3, and 5097.94(m). Assembly Bill 52 recognizes that *"…tribes may have expertise with regard to their tribal history and practices, which concern the tribal cultural resources with which they are traditionally and culturally affiliated…"* and that consultation will occur between a lead agency and Native American tribes for covered projects.

PRC §21080.3.1 (a) and Government Code §65352.4 define consultation as *"the meaningful and timely process of seeking, discussing, and considering carefully the views of others, in a manner that is cognizant of all parties' cultural values and, where feasible, seeking agreement. Consultation between government agencies and Native American tribes shall be conducted in a way that is mutually respectful of each party's sovereignty. Consultation shall also recognize the tribes' potential needs for confidentiality with respect to places that have traditional tribal cultural significance."*

As described in Section 2.5, Cultural Resources, a proposed project may induce a significant impact to a historical resource, unique archaeological resource, or a TCR if it causes a substantial adverse change (i.e., physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration) to the resource or immediate surroundings (14 CCR 15064.5[b]), thereby demolishing or significantly altering the physical characteristics that qualify it for listing on the CRHR or local registers (PRC §§ 5020.01[k] and 5024.1[g]). A project that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a TCR is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment (PRC § 21084.2). A lead agency shall establish measures to avoid impacts that would alter significant characteristics of a TCR, when feasible (PRC §21084.3).

Native American Historical, Cultural, and Sacred Sites
Pursuant to PRC 5097.94 the NAHC has authority and duty to "*identify and catalog places of special religious or social significance to Native Americans, and known graves and cemeteries of Native Americans on private lands"* and has the power and duty to make recommendations for acquisition by the state or other public agencies regarding Native American sacred places that are located on private lands, are inaccessible to Native Americans, and have cultural significance to Native Americans.

California Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 2001
The California Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 2001 (CalNAGPRA) requires all state agencies and museums that receive state funding and that have possession or control over collections of human remains or cultural items to provide a process for the identification and repatriation of these items to the appropriate tribes.

Local Regulations

Placer County General Plan
The Recreation and Cultural Resources Element of the Placer County General Plan (2013) contains specific policies relating to the identification, protection, and enhancement of the County's historical, archaeological, paleontological, and cultural resources and their contributing environments. In addition to County-level regulations, all federal and state regulations pertaining to Tribal cultural resources and consultations would apply to projects occurring within the County.

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The APE is located within the ancestral territory of the Nisenan. Nisenan territory is bounded by the Consumnes River in the south, the community of Kyburz in the east, the Sutter Buttes, known by the Nisenan as 'Estom Yanim, or Sacred Mountain, in the west, Gold Lake in the northeast, and the south fork Feather River in the northwest. Nisenan settlements were clustered along regional rivers running west from the Sierra Nevada mountains, including the Yuba, Bear, American, and Feather rivers. There were no permanent villages documented in the Sheridan area; however, the nearest settlement to the project area is known as Tgi'tgi, located on the Coon Creek in the Ewing area, approximately 2.3 miles southeast of the project site. This location was frequently visited to gather food. The nearest permanent village was Bamuma, historically controlled by the Auburn Nisenan group and located on the site of present-day Lincoln (Littlejohn 1928). Tribal Cultural Resources in the vicinity could include, but are not limited to, Native American human remains, funerary objects, items or artifacts, sites, features, places, landscapes, or objects with cultural values to the tribe.

NATIVE AMERICAN CONSULTATION

As part of the effort to identify potentially significant historical and traditional cultural resources that may fall within the APE, a letter was sent to the NAHC on November 22, 2023, requesting a search of the sacred lands file and contacts with individuals of Native American descent who might hold information concerning the APE and its vicinity. The NAHC responded on December 13, 2023. The Sacred Lands File search was *negative.* Placer County took the lead in contacting tribes for this project. A list of contacted Tribes is listed below (see Table 6 for consultation details in Section 2.5 Cultural Resources). Consultation is ongoing through the life of the project.

DISCUSSION

If a lead agency determines that a project may cause a substantial adverse change to a TCR, the lead agency must consider measures to mitigate that impact. Consultation concludes when either: 1) the parties agree to measures to mitigate or avoid a significant effect, if a significant effect exists, on a TCR; or 2) a party, acting in good faith, and after reasonable effort, concludes that mutual agreement cannot be reached (PRC § 21080.3.2). Under existing law, environmental documents must not include information about the locations of an archaeological site or sacred lands or any other information that is exempt from public disclosure pursuant to the Public Records act.

a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, 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)

No Impact. As described above, PAR and Placer County provided formal notification and follow up consultation efforts to tribal representatives who represent groups with traditional and cultural ties to the project site. To date, no requests for consultation have been received. As such, there is no evidence of any TCRs within the APE, and the proposed project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a TCR listed or eligible for listing in the CRHR, or in a local register of historic resources. No impact would occur.

b) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of 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.

No Impact. As described above, PAR and Placer County provided formal notification and follow up consultation efforts to tribal representatives who represent groups with traditional and cultural ties to the project site. To date, no requests for consultation have been received. As such, there is no evidence of any TCRs within the APE, and the proposed project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of any known TCR. No impact would occur.

MITIGATION MEASURES

No mitigation is required.

FINDINGS

The project would have **No Impact** relating to tribal cultural resources.

2.19 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion

a) Would the project 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?

Less Than Significant Impact. The project would not require new or expanded water, wastewater, storm water, natural gas, electric power, or telecommunication facilities. The project would result in the relocation of utility poles with overhead high-voltage electrical lines and buried AT&T cable. Additionally, intermittent utility disruptions may be required during construction, as overhead utilities may be de-energized when large cranes and other high vertical clearance equipment are present. All utility work would be conducted in coordination with service providers and all affected property owners would be notified of potential disruptions. Following the completion of construction, all relocated or disrupted utilities would be restored. Construction and/or relocation of the electrical lines or buried AT&T cable would not cause significant environmental effects. Therefore, project impacts would be considered less than significant.

b) Would the project have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?

Less Than Significant Impact. The project would temporarily require water supplies to meet dust control specifications. However, the project would not involve the construction of any permanent structures or facilities that would require permanent water supplies. Furthermore, the project would not increase population or alter the distribution of population within the project vicinity in a manner that would require additional water supplies. Due to the short-term and intermittent usage of water supplies, project impacts would be considered less than significant.

c) Would the project 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?

No Impact. The project does not include any uses, features, or facilities that would generate wastewater or require wastewater treatment. No impact to wastewater service or capacity would occur.

d) Would the project 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?

Less Than Significant Impact. Although the project would not generate solid waste during operation, solid waste would be generated during construction. The demolished existing bridge structure would require disposal, as well as demolished portions of the roadway and other excavated materials. All solid waste generated from construction would be disposed of at the Western Placer Waste Management Authority Materials Recovery Facility (MRF). The MRF has the facilities to accept and process construction and demolition materials and has a maximum capacity of 1,900 tons of solid waste per day. Construction-related solid waste generated by the project would not exceed the capacity of the MRF; therefore, impacts associated with the development of solid waste would be considered less than significant.

e) Would the project comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

No Impact. The construction contractor would be required to dispose of all solid waste at an appropriate waste disposal facility or landfill, and in compliance with all federal, state, and local statutes and regulations regarding solid waste. No impact would occur.

MITIGATION MEASURES

No mitigation is required.

FINDINGS

The project would have a **Less Than Significant Impact** to utilities and service systems.

2.20 WILDFIRE

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

DISCUSSION

a) Would the project substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

No Impact. The Placer County Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP), updated in 2021, addresses the planned response to extraordinary emergency situations associated with natural disasters or human-caused emergencies in or affecting Placer County. Project construction or operation would not impair the adopted LHMP, and no impact would occur.

b) Would the project, 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?

No Impact. According to the Placer County CAL FIRE, Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map (CAL FIRE 2023), the project area is not within a State-Responsibility or Local-Responsibility Area listed as having a moderate, high, or very high potential for wildfire. Therefore, the project is not anticipated to exacerbate wildfire risks due to slope, prevailing winds, or other factors. No impact would occur.

c) Would the project 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?

Less than Significant Impact. The project would result in the relocation of utility poles with overhead high-voltage electrical lines. All utility work would be conducted by authorized service providers, qualified to work with high-voltage electrical lines. Following the completion of construction, all high-voltage electrical lines would be restored to service provider guidelines and state regulations. Relocation of the power lines would be temporary in nature and would not exacerbate fire risk permanently which would result in impacts on the environment. Therefore, impacts would be considered less than significant.

d) Would the project 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?

No Impact. The project would replace an existing bridge structure and would not result in excessive runoff, post-fire instability or substantial drainage changes that would expose people or structures to significant risk of downslope or downstream flooding or landslides. Therefore, no impact would occur.

MITIGATION MEASURES

No mitigation is required.

FINDINGS

The project would have **No Impact** relating to wildfire.

2.21 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, 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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☒	☐

DISCUSSION

a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, 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?

Less Than Significant Impact. Based upon the review and analysis of potential adverse effects to the environment provided in this Initial Study (including the project-specific avoidance and minimization measures), the proposed project would not substantially degrade the overall quality of the environment within the project area.

Any potentially significant impacts to biological, and historical or cultural resources would be reduced to a less-than-significant level with the incorporation of project-specific avoidance, minimization, and mitigation measures for biological resources and cultural resources, as discussed previously in Sections 2.4, and 2.5, respectively. Therefore, the project impacts would be considered less than significant.

b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?

Less Than Significant Impact. The project is located approximately 750 feet northwest of the Dowd Road Bridge over Yankee Slough, replaced in 2015, and approximately 2 miles north of the Dowd Road Bridge over Coon Creek, which was replaced in 2022.

Placer County has several ongoing bridge replacement projects in the project vicinity. The planned Crosby Herold over Doty Ravine Bridge Replacement Project would replace the Crosby Herold Bridge (Bridge 19C-0111) spanning Doty Ravine, approximately 7.3 miles southeast of the project area. Additionally, the Wise Road at Doty Creek Bridge Replacement Project would replace the existing 34-foot Wise Road Bridge (Bridge 19C-0090) spanning Doty Ravine, approximately 9 miles southeast of the project area.

Although these projects would consist of similar elements, they are separate and individual projects. Each project would implement project-specific avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures to reduce the potential for adverse environmental impacts specific to each individual project effects. Therefore, the project would not have cumulatively considerable impacts when viewed in connection with past, current, or future projects in the project vicinity, and impacts would be considered less than significant.

c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

Less Than Significant Impact. The project would not have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly. With respect to the analysis provided in this Initial Study, potential effects of the project on human beings would be temporary and related to project construction. Specifically, any project impact on human beings would be considered less-than-significant relating to air, noise, hazards and hazardous materials, transportation/traffic, and utilities and service systems. No significant adverse effects to human beings would occur, and project effects are considered less than significant.

MITIGATION MEASURES

No mitigation is required.

FINDINGS

Through compliance with applicable Placer County codes, regulations, and regulatory permitting, along with the project-specific avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures noted previously, the project will not have a significant impact relating to degradation of the quality of the environment, nor have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable; nor have environmental effects which would cause substantial adverse effects, either directly or indirectly, on human beings. Therefore, there are no potentially significant determinations for mandatory findings of significance.

3.0 Comments and Coordination

This chapter summarizes Placer County efforts to identify, address and resolve project-related issues through early and continuing coordination.

3.1 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION WITH PUBLIC AGENCIES

Consultation and/or coordination with the following agencies was, or will be initiated for the project:

- Placer County Conservation Authority (PCCP/CARP Compliance)
- United States Army Corps of Engineers (via PCCP/CARP Coordination)
- Central Valley – Regional Water Quality Control Board (via PCCP/CARP Coordination)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (via PCCP/CARP Coordination)
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife

3.2 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The public comment period for the project will occur from March 3, 2025, to April 1, 2025. All written comments received by Placer County will be incorporated into the Final IS/MND and added in an appendix. Any additions or corrections to the IS/MND subsequent to public comments will be addressed within the final document.

4.0 Distribution List

A Notice of Availability was prepared and posted with the Placer County Clerk, within the Lincoln Messenger, the Public Works Department webpage, and the County's social media pages. Additionally, the Draft IS was distributed to the following agencies and interested parties (unless IS hardcopy is specified):

State Government

Governor's Office of Planning and Research – California State Clearinghouse
CEQA Submit Online Database

Local Agencies

Placer County Clerk-Recorder
3715 Atherton Road
Rocklin, CA 95765

Lincoln Public Library
485 Twelve Bridges Dr,
Lincoln, CA 95648
(IS hardcopy)

5.0 List of Preparers

Wood Rodgers, Inc.

Andrew Dellas, MS, PWS, Senior Biologist / Associate Environmental Planner
Tim Chamberlain, Principal Environmental Planner
Eralise Spokely, Assistant Environmental Planner
Stacey Randal, PE, Principal Engineer
Dean Zurcher, PE, Project Engineer
Joseph Hamilton, PE, Engineer

Placer County

Cheyenne Toney, PE, Senior Civil Engineer, Department of Public Works – Engineering
Sarah Williams, SR/WA, Right-of-Way Agency, Department of Public Works
Theresa Johnson, PCCP Biologist, Placer Conservation Authority

6.0 References

CAL FIRE 2023. Placer County. State Responsibility Area Fire Hazard Severity Zones. June 15, 2023.

Caltrans. 2018. California State Scenic Highway System Map. Available at: https://www.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=465dfd3d807c46cc8e8057116f1aacaa

CDC 2024. Department of Conservation. Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program. California Important Farmland Finder. Available at: https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/DLRP/CIFF/

CDC 2015. Department of Conservation. 2015 Fault Activity Map of California. Available at: https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/fam/

CDFW 2024. Terrestrial Connectivity Dataset. Available at: https://map.dfg.ca.gov/metadata/ds2734.html

CDFW 1988. Wildlife Habitats – California Wildlife Habitat Relationship System. Available at: https://wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CWHR/Wildlife-Habitats

CNPS 2024. Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants. California Native Plant Society, Sacramento, CA. Available at: http://www.rareplants.cnps.org

DTSC 2024. Department of Toxic Substances Control. EnviroStor. Available at: https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/

DWR 2024. Department of Water Resources Groundwater Information Center Interactive Map Application. Available at: https://gis.water.ca.gov/app/gicima/

FEMA 2024. FEMA Flood Map Service Center. Available at: https://msc.fema.gov/portal/home

FHWA 2018. Construction Noise Handbook – Construction Equipment Noise Levels and Ranges. Available at: https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/noise/construction_noise/handbook/handbook09.cfm

PAR 2024. Historic Property Survey Report and Archaeological Survey Report for the Dalby Road over Yankee Slough Bridge Replacement Project. PAR Environmental Services, Inc.

Parikh 2024. Phase I Initial Site Assessment. Dalby Road over Yankee Slough Bridge Replacement Project. Parikh Consultants Inc.

Placer County Airport Land Use Commission 2021 (as amended). Placer County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plans. Placer County Transportation Planning Agency. Prepared by Mead & Hunt.

SWRCB 2024. State Water Resources Control Board. GeoTracker. Available at: https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov

UCMP 2024. University of California Museum of Paleontology Vertebrate Specimen Search for Placer County. Available at: http://ucmpdb.berkeley.edu.

USDA 2007. Ecological Subregions: Sections and Subsections for the Conterminous United States. Available at: https://www.fs.usda.gov/research/treesearch/48672

USDA 2024. Natural Resource Conservation Service. Web Soil Survey. Available at: https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/

Wild and Scenic Rivers. 2024. National Wild and Scenic Rivers System – California. Available at: https://www.rivers.gov/california

Littlejohn, H. W. 1928. Nisenan Geography. Department and Museum of Anthropology, University of California Berkeley. Available at:https://digitalassets.lib.berkeley.edu/ethnodocs/ucb/text/cubanc18_1.pdf

Appendix A.
RCEM Results

Road Construction Emissions Model, Version 9.0.1

Daily Emission Estimates for -> Dalby Road Bridge Replacement

Project Phases (Pounds)	ROG (lbs/day)	CO (lbs/day)	NOx (lbs/day)	Total PM10 (lbs/day)	Exhaust PM10 (lbs/day)	Fugitive Dust PM10 (lbs/day)	Total PM2.5 (lbs/day)	Exhaust PM2.5 (lbs/day)	Fugitive Dust PM2.5 (lbs/day)	SOx (lbs/day)	CO2 (lbs/day)	CH4 (lbs/day)	N2O (lbs/day)	CO2e (lbs/day)
Grubbing/Land Clearing	0.85	9.94	12.30	100.49	0.49	100.00	21.15	0.35	20.80	0.04	4,456.85	0.58	0.42	4,595.26
Grading/Excavation	6.62	60.84	65.31	102.67	2.67	100.00	23.15	2.35	20.80	0.17	16,920.45	4.68	0.42	17,163.62
Drainage/Utilities/Sub-Grade	4.65	43.23	45.15	101.79	1.79	100.00	22.40	1.60	20.80	0.11	11,033.57	2.70	0.22	11,166.76
Paving	0.83	12.82	9.12	0.42	0.42	0.00	0.34	0.34	0.00	0.03	2,747.74	0.56	0.14	2,804.93
Maximum (pounds/day)	6.62	60.84	65.31	102.67	2.67	100.00	23.15	2.35	20.80	0.17	16,920.45	4.68	0.42	17,163.62
Total (tons/construction project)	0.45	4.28	4.51	8.60	0.18	8.42	1.91	0.16	1.75	0.01	1,166.43	0.30	0.03	1,183.44

Notes:

Project Start Year ->	2027
Project Length (months) ->	9
Total Project Area (acres) ->	3
Maximum Area Disturbed/Day (acres) ->	2
Water Truck Used? ->	Yes

	Total Material Imported/Exported Volume (yd^3/day)		Daily VMT (miles/day)			
Phase	Soil	Asphalt	Soil Hauling	Asphalt Hauling	Worker Commute	Water Truck
Grubbing/Land Clearing	430	0	660	0	200	40
Grading/Excavation	295	0	450	0	1,120	40
Drainage/Utilities/Sub-Grade	0	110	0	180	720	40
Paving	0	110	0	180	320	40

PM10 and PM2.5 estimates assume 50% control of fugitive dust from watering and associated dust control measures if a minimum number of water trucks are specified.

Total PM10 emissions shown in column F are the sum of exhaust and fugitive dust emissions shown in columns G and H. Total PM2.5 emissions shown in Column I are the sum of exhaust and fugitive dust emissions shown in columns J and K.

CO2e emissions are estimated by multiplying mass emissions for each GHG by its global warming potential (GWP), 1 , 25 and 298 for CO2, CH4 and N2O, respectively. Total CO2e is then estimated by summing CO2e estimates over all GHGs.

Total Emission Estimates by Phase for -> Dalby Road Bridge Replacement

Project Phases (Tons for all except CO2e. Metric tonnes for CO2e)	ROG (tons/phase)	CO (tons/phase)	NOx (tons/phase)	Total PM10 (tons/phase)	Exhaust PM10 (tons/phase)	Fugitive Dust PM10 (tons/phase)	Total PM2.5 (tons/phase)	Exhaust PM2.5 (tons/phase)	Fugitive Dust PM2.5 (tons/phase)	SOx (tons/phase)	CO2 (tons/phase)	CH4 (tons/phase)	N2O (tons/phase)	CO2e (MT/phase)
Grubbing/Land Clearing	0.01	0.10	0.12	0.99	0.00	0.99	0.21	0.00	0.21	0.00	44.12	0.01	0.00	41.27
Grading/Excavation	0.29	2.71	2.91	4.57	0.12	4.46	1.03	0.10	0.93	0.01	753.81	0.21	0.02	693.68
Drainage/Utilities/Sub-Grade	0.14	1.28	1.34	3.02	0.05	2.97	0.67	0.05	0.62	0.00	327.70	0.08	0.01	300.87
Paving	0.01	0.19	0.14	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	40.80	0.01	0.00	37.79
Maximum (tons/phase)	0.29	2.71	2.91	4.57	0.12	4.46	1.03	0.10	0.93	0.01	753.81	0.21	0.02	693.68
Total (tons/construction project)	0.45	4.28	4.51	8.60	0.18	8.42	1.91	0.16	1.75	0.01	1166.43	0.30	0.03	1,073.61

PM10 and PM2.5 estimates assume 50% control of fugitive dust from watering and associated dust control measures if a minimum number of water trucks are specified.

Total PM10 emissions shown in column F are the sum of exhaust and fugitive dust emissions shown in columns G and H. Total PM2.5 emissions shown in Column I are the sum of exhaust and fugitive dust emissions shown in columns J and K.

CO2e emissions are estimated by multiplying mass emissions for each GHG by its global warming potential (GWP), 1 , 25 and 298 for CO2, CH4 and N2O, respectively. Total CO2e is then estimated by summing CO2e estimates over all GHGs.

The CO2e emissions are reported as metric tons per phase.

Appendix B.
Special Status Species Database Query Results

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Sacramento Fish And Wildlife Office
Federal Building
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605
Sacramento, CA 95825-1846
Phone: (916) 414-6600 Fax: (916) 414-6713

In Reply Refer To: 01/20/2025 23:19:27 UTC
Project Code: 2024-0138191
Project Name: Dalby Road over Yankee Slough Bridge Replacement Project

Subject: List of threatened and endangered species that may occur in your proposed project location or may be affected by your proposed project

To Whom It May Concern:

The enclosed species list identifies threatened, endangered, proposed and candidate species, as well as proposed and final designated critical habitat, that may occur within the boundary of your proposed project and/or may be affected by your proposed project. The species list fulfills the requirements of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) under section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act (Act) of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*).

New information based on updated surveys, changes in the abundance and distribution of species, changed habitat conditions, or other factors could change this list. Please feel free to contact us if you need more current information or assistance regarding the potential impacts to federally proposed, listed, and candidate species and federally designated and proposed critical habitat. Please note that under 50 CFR 402.12(e) of the regulations implementing section 7 of the Act, the accuracy of this species list should be verified after 90 days. This verification can be completed formally or informally as desired. The Service recommends that verification be completed by visiting the IPaC website at regular intervals during project planning and implementation for updates to species lists and information. An updated list may be requested through the IPaC system by completing the same process used to receive the enclosed list.

The purpose of the Act is to provide a means whereby threatened and endangered species and the ecosystems upon which they depend may be conserved. Under sections 7(a)(1) and 7(a)(2) of the Act and its implementing regulations (50 CFR 402 *et seq.*), Federal agencies are required to utilize their authorities to carry out programs for the conservation of threatened and endangered species and to determine whether projects may affect threatened and endangered species and/or designated critical habitat.

A Biological Assessment is required for construction projects (or other undertakings having similar physical impacts) that are major Federal actions significantly affecting the quality of the human environment as defined in the National Environmental Policy Act (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)

(c)). For projects other than major construction activities, the Service suggests that a biological evaluation similar to a Biological Assessment be prepared to determine whether the project may affect listed or proposed species and/or designated or proposed critical habitat. Recommended contents of a Biological Assessment are described at 50 CFR 402.12.

If a Federal agency determines, based on the Biological Assessment or biological evaluation, that listed species and/or designated critical habitat may be affected by the proposed project, the agency is required to consult with the Service pursuant to 50 CFR 402. In addition, the Service recommends that candidate species, proposed species and proposed critical habitat be addressed within the consultation. More information on the regulations and procedures for section 7 consultation, including the role of permit or license applicants, can be found in the "Endangered Species Consultation Handbook" at:

https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/endangered-species-consultation-handbook.pdf

Migratory Birds: In addition to responsibilities to protect threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), there are additional responsibilities under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (BGEPA) to protect native birds from project-related impacts. Any activity, intentional or unintentional, resulting in take of migratory birds, including eagles, is prohibited unless otherwise permitted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (50 C.F.R. Sec. 10.12 and 16 U.S.C. Sec. 668(a)). For more information regarding these Acts, see https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-bird-permit/what-we-do.

The MBTA has no provision for allowing take of migratory birds that may be unintentionally killed or injured by otherwise lawful activities. It is the responsibility of the project proponent to comply with these Acts by identifying potential impacts to migratory birds and eagles within applicable NEPA documents (when there is a federal nexus) or a Bird/Eagle Conservation Plan (when there is no federal nexus). Proponents should implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize the production of project-related stressors or minimize the exposure of birds and their resources to the project-related stressors. For more information on avian stressors and recommended conservation measures, see https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/threats-birds.

In addition to MBTA and BGEPA, Executive Order 13186: *Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds*, obligates all Federal agencies that engage in or authorize activities that might affect migratory birds, to minimize those effects and encourage conservation measures that will improve bird populations. Executive Order 13186 provides for the protection of both migratory birds and migratory bird habitat. For information regarding the implementation of Executive Order 13186, please visit https://www.fws.gov/partner/council-conservation-migratory-birds.

We appreciate your concern for threatened and endangered species. The Service encourages Federal agencies to include conservation of threatened and endangered species into their project planning to further the purposes of the Act. Please include the Consultation Code in the header of this letter with any request for consultation or correspondence about your project that you submit to our office.

Attachment(s):

- Official Species List

OFFICIAL SPECIES LIST

This list is provided pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, and fulfills the requirement for Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary of the Interior information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of a proposed action".

This species list is provided by:

Sacramento Fish And Wildlife Office
Federal Building
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605
Sacramento, CA 95825-1846
(916) 414-6600

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Code: 2024-0138191
Project Name: Dalby Road over Yankee Slough Bridge Replacement Project
Project Type: Bridge - Replacement
Project Description: Bridge Replacement
Project Location:

The approximate location of the project can be viewed in Google Maps: https://www.google.com/maps/@38.96275555,-121.37938010263665,14z

Counties: Placer County, California

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SPECIES

There is a total of 8 threatened, endangered, or candidate species on this species list.

Species on this list should be considered in an effects analysis for your project and could include species that exist in another geographic area. For example, certain fish may appear on the species list because a project could affect downstream species.

IPaC does not display listed species or critical habitats under the sole jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries[1], as USFWS does not have the authority to speak on behalf of NOAA and the Department of Commerce.

See the "Critical habitats" section below for those critical habitats that lie wholly or partially within your project area under this office's jurisdiction. Please contact the designated FWS office if you have questions.

---

1. NOAA Fisheries, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

REPTILES

NAME	STATUS
Giant Garter Snake *Thamnophis gigas* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/4482	Threatened
Northwestern Pond Turtle *Actinemys marmorata* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1111	Proposed Threatened

AMPHIBIANS

NAME	STATUS
Western Spadefoot *Spea hammondii* No critical habitat has been designated for this species. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5425	Proposed Threatened

INSECTS

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly *Danaus plexippus* There is **proposed** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Proposed Threatened
Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle *Desmocerus californicus dimorphus* There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7850	Threatened

CRUSTACEANS

NAME	STATUS
Conservancy Fairy Shrimp *Branchinecta conservatio* There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8246	Endangered
Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp *Branchinecta lynchi* There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/498	Threatened
Vernal Pool Tadpole Shrimp *Lepidurus packardi* There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. Species profile: https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2246	Endangered

CRITICAL HABITATS

THERE ARE NO CRITICAL HABITATS WITHIN YOUR PROJECT AREA UNDER THIS OFFICE'S JURISDICTION.

YOU ARE STILL REQUIRED TO DETERMINE IF YOUR PROJECT(S) MAY HAVE EFFECTS ON ALL ABOVE LISTED SPECIES.

IPAC USER CONTACT INFORMATION

Agency: County of Placer
Name: Andrew Dellas
Address: 3301 C St. #100B
City: Sacramento
State: CA
Zip: 95816
Email adellas@woodrodgers.com
Phone: 2798957367

LEAD AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Lead Agency: Federal Highway Administration

Andrew Dellas

From: NMFS SpeciesList - NOAA Service Account <nmfs.wcrca.specieslist@noaa.gov>
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2025 4:16 PM
To: Andrew Dellas
Subject: Federal ESA - - NOAA Fisheries Species List Re: Dalby Road over Yankee Slough Bridge Replacement Project

CAUTION: This email originated from outside your organization. Exercise caution when opening attachments or clicking links, especially from unknown senders.

Please retain a copy of each email request that you send to NOAA at nmfs.wcrca.specieslist@noaa.gov as proof of your official Endangered Species Act SPECIES LIST. The email you send to NOAA should include the following information: your first and last name; email address; phone number; federal agency name (or delegated state agency such as Caltrans); mailing address; project title; brief description of the project; and a copy of a list of threatened or endangered species identified within specified geographic areas derived from the NOAA Fisheries, West Coast Region, California Species List Tool. You may only receive this instruction once per week. If you have questions, contact your local NOAA Fisheries liaison.

Andrew Dellas

From: Andrew Dellas
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2025 4:16 PM
To: nmfs.wcrca.specieslist@noaa.gov
Subject: Dalby Road over Yankee Slough Bridge Replacement Project

Placer County Department of Public Works
Unincorporated Placer County
Dalby Road over Yankee Slough Bridge Replacement Project

Quad Name **Sheridan**
Quad Number **38121-H4**

ESA Anadromous Fish

SONCC Coho ESU (T) -
CCC Coho ESU (E) -
CC Chinook Salmon ESU (T) -
CVSR Chinook Salmon ESU (T) - **X**
SRWR Chinook Salmon ESU (E) -
NC Steelhead DPS (T) -
CCC Steelhead DPS (T) -
SCCC Steelhead DPS (T) -
SC Steelhead DPS (E) -
CCV Steelhead DPS (T) - **X**
Eulachon (T) -
sDPS Green Sturgeon (T) -

ESA Anadromous Fish Critical Habitat

SONCC Coho Critical Habitat -
CCC Coho Critical Habitat -
CC Chinook Salmon Critical Habitat -
CVSR Chinook Salmon Critical Habitat -
SRWR Chinook Salmon Critical Habitat -
NC Steelhead Critical Habitat -
CCC Steelhead Critical Habitat -
SCCC Steelhead Critical Habitat -
SC Steelhead Critical Habitat -
CCV Steelhead Critical Habitat - **X**
Eulachon Critical Habitat -
sDPS Green Sturgeon Critical Habitat -

ESA Marine Invertebrates

Range Black Abalone (E) -
Range White Abalone (E) -

ESA Marine Invertebrates Critical Habitat

Black Abalone Critical Habitat -

ESA Sea Turtles

East Pacific Green Sea Turtle (T) -

Olive Ridley Sea Turtle (T/E) -

Leatherback Sea Turtle (E) -

North Pacific Loggerhead Sea Turtle (E) -

ESA Whales

Blue Whale (E) -

Fin Whale (E) -

Humpback Whale (E) -

Southern Resident Killer Whale (E) -

North Pacific Right Whale (E) -

Sei Whale (E) -

Sperm Whale (E) -

ESA Pinnipeds

Guadalupe Fur Seal (T) -

Essential Fish Habitat

Coho EFH -

Chinook Salmon EFH - **X**

Groundfish EFH -

Coastal Pelagics EFH -

Highly Migratory Species EFH -

MMPA Species (See list at left)

ESA and MMPA Cetaceans/Pinnipeds

See list at left and consult Monica DeAngelis
monica.deangelis@noaa.gov
562-980-3232

MMPA Cetaceans -

MMPA Pinnipeds -

Selected Elements by Common Name

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

California Natural Diversity Database

Query Criteria: Quad IS (Sheridan (3812184) OR Nicolaus (3812185) OR Verona (3812175) OR Pleasant Grove (3812174) OR Roseville (3812173) OR Lincoln (3812183))

Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
Ahart's dwarf rush *Juncus leiospermus var. ahartii*	PMJUN011L1	None	None	G2T1	S1	1B.2
Alkali Meadow *Alkali Meadow*	CTT45310CA	None	None	G3	S2.1	
Alkali Seep *Alkali Seep*	CTT45320CA	None	None	G3	S2.1	
American bumble bee *Bombus pensylvanicus*	IIHYM24260	None	None	G3G4	S2	
An andrenid bee *Andrena subapasta*	IIHYM35210	None	None	G1G2	S1S2	
Antioch Dunes anthicid beetle *Anthicus antiochensis*	IICOL49020	None	None	G3	S3	
bank swallow *Riparia riparia*	ABPAU08010	None	Threatened	G5	S3	
big-scale balsamroot *Balsamorhiza macrolepis*	PDAST11061	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2
black-crowned night heron *Nycticorax nycticorax*	ABNGA11010	None	None	G5	S4	
Boggs Lake hedge-hyssop *Gratiola heterosepala*	PDSCR0R060	None	Endangered	G2	S2	1B.2
burrowing owl *Athene cunicularia*	ABNSB10010	None	Candidate Endangered	G4	S2	SSC
California black rail *Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus*	ABNME03041	None	Threatened	G3T1	S2	FP
California linderiella *Linderiella occidentalis*	ICBRA06010	None	None	G2G3	S2S3	
chinook salmon - Central Valley spring-run ESU *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha pop. 11*	AFCHA0205L	Threatened	Threatened	G5T2Q	S2	
Conservancy fairy shrimp *Branchinecta conservatio*	ICBRA03010	Endangered	None	G2	S2	
dwarf downingia *Downingia pusilla*	PDCAM060C0	None	None	GU	S2	2B.2
giant gartersnake *Thamnophis gigas*	ARADB36150	Threatened	Threatened	G2	S2	
grasshopper sparrow *Ammodramus savannarum*	ABPBXA0020	None	None	G5	S3	SSC
great blue heron *Ardea herodias*	ABNGA04010	None	None	G5	S4	

Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
Great Valley Mixed Riparian Forest *Great Valley Mixed Riparian Forest*	CTT61420CA	None	None	G2	S2.2	
green sturgeon - southern DPS *Acipenser medirostris pop. 1*	AFCAA01031	Threatened	None	G2T1	S1	SSC
hispid salty bird's-beak *Chloropyron molle ssp. hispidum*	PDSCR0J0D1	None	None	G2T1	S1	1B.1
legenere *Legenere limosa*	PDCAM0C010	None	None	G2	S2	1B.1
Northern Hardpan Vernal Pool *Northern Hardpan Vernal Pool*	CTT44110CA	None	None	G3	S3.1	
Northern Volcanic Mud Flow Vernal Pool *Northern Volcanic Mud Flow Vernal Pool*	CTT44132CA	None	None	G1	S1.1	
northwestern pond turtle *Actinemys marmorata*	ARAAD02031	Proposed Threatened	None	G2	SNR	SSC
pallid bat *Antrozous pallidus*	AMACC10010	None	None	G4	S3	SSC
pincushion navarretia *Navarretia myersii ssp. myersii*	PDPLM0C0X1	None	None	G2T2	S2	1B.1
purple martin *Progne subis*	ABPAU01010	None	None	G5	S3	SSC
Red Bluff dwarf rush *Juncus leiospermus var. leiospermus*	PMJUN011L2	None	None	G2T2	S2	1B.1
Ricksecker's water scavenger beetle *Hydrochara rickseckeri*	IICOL5V010	None	None	G2?	S2?	
Sacramento anthicid beetle *Anthicus sacramento*	IICOL49010	None	None	G4	S4	
Sacramento splittail *Pogonichthys macrolepidotus*	AFCJB34020	None	None	G3	S3	SSC
Sacramento Valley tiger beetle *Cicindela hirticollis abrupta*	IICOL02106	None	None	G5TH	SH	
Sanford's arrowhead *Sagittaria sanfordii*	PMALI040Q0	None	None	G3	S3	1B.2
song sparrow ("Modesto" population) *Melospiza melodia pop. 1*	ABPBXA3013	None	None	G5T3?Q	S3?	SSC
spicate calycadenia *Calycadenia spicata*	PDAST1P090	None	None	G3?	S3	1B.3
steelhead - Central Valley DPS *Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus pop. 11*	AFCHA0209K	Threatened	None	G5T2Q	S2	SSC
Swainson's hawk *Buteo swainsoni*	ABNKC19070	None	Threatened	G5	S4	
tricolored blackbird *Agelaius tricolor*	ABPBXB0020	None	Threatened	G1G2	S2	SSC

Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
valley elderberry longhorn beetle *Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*	IICOL48011	Threatened	None	G3T3	S3	
vernal pool fairy shrimp *Branchinecta lynchi*	ICBRA03030	Threatened	None	G3	S3	
vernal pool tadpole shrimp *Lepidurus packardi*	ICBRA10010	Endangered	None	G3	S3	
western spadefoot *Spea hammondii*	AAABF02020	Proposed Threatened	None	G2G3	S3S4	SSC
western yellow-billed cuckoo *Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*	ABNRB02022	Threatened	Endangered	G5T2T3	S1	
white-tailed kite *Elanus leucurus*	ABNKC06010	None	None	G5	S3S4	FP
woolly rose-mallow *Hibiscus lasiocarpos var. occidentalis*	PDMAL0H0R3	None	None	G5T3	S3	1B.2

Record Count: 47

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

CNPS Rare Plant Inventory

Search Results

11 matches found. Click on scientific name for details

Search Criteria: , CRPR is one of [**1A:1B:2A:2B:3**] , Quad is one of [**3812185:3812184:3812183:3812173:3812174:3812175**]

▲ SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FAMILY	LIFEFORM	BLOOMING PERIOD	FED LIST	STATE LIST	GLOBAL RANK	STATE RANK	CA RARE PLANT RANK	CA ENDEMIC	DATE ADDED
Balsamorhiza macrolepis	big-scale balsamroot	Asteraceae	perennial herb	Mar-Jun	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2	Yes	1974-01-01
Calycadenia spicata	spicate calycadenia	Asteraceae	annual herb	May-Sep	None	None	G3?	S3	1B.3		2023-04-05
Chloropyron molle ssp. *hispidum*	hispid salty bird's-beak	Orobanchaceae	annual herb (hemiparasitic)	Jun-Sep	None	None	G2T1	S1	1B.1	Yes	1974-01-01
Downingia pusilla	dwarf downingia	Campanulaceae	annual herb	Mar-May	None	None	GU	S2	2B.2		1980-01-01
Gratiola heterosepala	Boggs Lake hedge-hyssop	Plantaginaceae	annual herb	Apr-Aug	None	CE	G2	S2	1B.2		1974-01-01
Hibiscus lasiocarpos var. *occidentalis*	woolly rose-mallow	Malvaceae	perennial rhizomatous herb (emergent)	Jun-Sep	None	None	G5T3	S3	1B.2	Yes	1974-01-01
Juncus leiospermus var. *ahartii*	Ahart's dwarf rush	Juncaceae	annual herb	Mar-May	None	None	G2T1	S1	1B.2	Yes	1984-01-01
Juncus leiospermus var. *leiospermus*	Red Bluff dwarf rush	Juncaceae	annual herb	Mar-Jun	None	None	G2T2	S2	1B.1	Yes	1974-01-01

Legenere limosa	legenere	Campanulaceae	annual herb	Apr-Jun	None	None	G2	S2	1B.1	Yes	1974-01-01
Navarretia myersii ssp. *myersii*	pincushion navarretia	Polemoniaceae	annual herb	Apr-May	None	None	G2T2	S2	1B.1	Yes	1994-01-01
Sagittaria sanfordii	Sanford's arrowhead	Alismataceae	perennial rhizomatous herb (emergent)	May-Oct(Nov)	None	None	G3	S3	1B.2	Yes	1984-01-01

Showing 1 to 11 of 11 entries

Go to top

Suggested Citation:

California Native Plant Society, Rare Plant Program. 2025. Rare Plant Inventory (online edition, v9.5.1). Website https://www.rareplants.cnps.org [accessed 20 January 2025].

}

Appendix C.
Special Status Species with Potential to Occur Table

Special Status Species with Potential to Occur in the Project Vicinity

Common Name	Species Name	Status	General Habitat Description	Habitat Present	Effects Determination	Potential for Occurrence/Rationale
Amphibian Species						
western spadefoot	*Spea hammondii*	FC SSC	Inhabits open areas with sandy or gravelly soils within mixed woodlands, grasslands, coastal sage scrub, chaparral, sandy washes, lowlands, river floodplains, alluvial fans, playas, alkali flats, foothills, and mountains. Burrows underground from most of the year and is active above ground during rainfall. Requires vernal, shallow, temporary pools formed by heavy winter rains for reproduction. These pools must be free of bullfrogs, fish, and crayfish. Breeds from late winter to March.	HP	May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect No Take with mitigation measures incorporated	Low Potential: The BSA does contain potentially suitable grassland and vernal pool/seasonal wetland communities for this species. According to the PCCP, the species has been found in vernal pools within Placer County and are known to use regional vernal pools for breeding. The nearest recent (2016) CNDDB occurrence of the species is located approximately 3.8 miles south of the project area. Due to its strong association with habitat present within the BSA, along with the distance of known occurrences, the species is considered to have a low potential to occur. USFWS is not currently conducting Conference Opinions on the species. Therefore, Caltrans does not propose a determination under the ESA for the species at this time. If/when the species becomes listed, the proposed determination for the species under the ESA would be May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect.
Bird Species						
Bank swallow	*Riparia riparia*	ST	A migratory colonial nester inhabiting lowland and riparian habitats west of the deserts during spring through fall. Majority of current breeding populations occur along the Sacramento and Feather Rivers in the north Central Valley. Forages in grassland, brushland, wetlands, and cropland during migration. Requires vertical banks or cliffs with fine textured/sandy soils for nesting (tunnel and burrow excavations). Nests exclusively near streams,	A	No Take	Presumed Absent: The BSA does not contain vertical banks or cliffs required for the species. Additionally, there are no recent (<20 years) CNDDB occurrences of the species located within 10 miles of the BSA. Due to the absence of suitable habitat and the distance of recent occurrences, the species is presumed absent from the BSA.

Common Name	Species Name	Status	General Habitat Description	Habitat Present	Effects Determination	Potential for Occurrence/Rationale
			rivers, lakes, or the ocean. Breeds from May through July.			
California black rail	*Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus*	ST, FP, CS	A rare, yearlong California resident of brackish and freshwater emergent wetlands in delta and coastal locations, including the San Francisco Bay area, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, Morro Bay, the Salton Sea, and lower Colorado River. Occurs in tidal emergent wetlands dominated by pickleweed, in brackish marshes dominated by bulrushes with pickleweed, and in freshwater wetlands dominated by bulrushes, cattails, and saltgrass. Species prefers high wetland areas, away from areas experiencing fluctuating water levels. Requires vegetation providing adequate overhead cover for nesting. Eggs are laid from March through June.	A	No Take	Presumed Absent: The BSA does not contain suitable brackish or freshwater emergent marsh habitat for the species, and would not require presence/absence surveys based on the PCCP Survey Protocol (no suitable marsh habitat >0.2 acres in size within project site or 500-feet of project site). There is one recent (2011) CNDDB occurrence recorded in suitable marsh areas of Yankee Slough and the Ellis Preserve, approximately 1.5 miles east of the project area. Due to the lack of suitable habitat within the BSA, and no PCCP planning level surveys required, the species is presumed absent from the BSA. Therefore, the project would not be subject to PCCP Species Condition 2.
burrowing owl	*Athene cunicularia*	SSC, CS	The species inhabits arid, open areas with sparse vegetation cover such as deserts, abandoned agricultural areas, grasslands, and disturbed open habitats. Can be associated with open shrub stages of pinyon-juniper and ponderosa pine habitats. Nests in old small mammal burrows but may dig own burrow in soft soil. Nests are lined with excrement, pellets, debris, grass, and feathers. The species may use pipes, culverts, and nest boxes, and even buildings where burrows are scarce. Breeding occurs March through August (below 5,300 feet).	HP	No Take	Low Potential: Soils within the BSA consist predominantly of those prone to occasional flooding and ponding. The BSA is located within PCCP modeled habitat for the species and contains grassland habitat that is potentially suitable for nesting. However, during the April 2024 habitat assessment, no suitable burrows, man-made infrastructure, or channel banks were observed within the project area or a 250-foot survey buffer. The nearest recent (2016) CNDDB occurrence of the species is located approximately 1.7 miles east of the project area, and the nearest recent (2018) ebird.org occurrence is located approximately 1.4 miles east. Due to the presence of modeled habitat within the BSA and the proximity to recent occurrences, the species is considered to have a low potential to occur as a flyover or transient

Common Name	Species Name	Status	General Habitat Description	Habitat Present	Effects Determination	Potential for Occurrence/Rationale
						species, but it is unlikely to use the small areas grassland within the BSA for foraging or nesting. PCCP Species Condition 3 (Precon Survey) would be implemented.
Grasshopper sparrow	*Ammodramus savannarum*	SSC	Inhabits foothills and lowlands with dry, dense, well-drained grasslands with a variety of grasses, tall forbs, and shrubs for perches. In southern California largely utilizes hillsides, and lower mountain slopes. Nests are composed of grasses and forbs on slight depressions in the ground. Species may form small groups when nesting. Breeds April through July (0-5,000 feet).	HP	No Take	Low Potential: The BSA does contain potentially suitable grassland habitat with a variety of grasses. There have been no recent occurrences of the species in Placer County; however, the nearest recent (2014) ebird.org occurrence of the species is located approximately 1.3 miles east of the project area. Due to the presence of potentially suitable habitat and the proximity of recent occurrences, the species is considered to have a low potential to occur within the BSA.
Purple martin	*Progne subis*	SSC	Present in California as a summer migrant, arriving in March and departing by late September. Inhabits valley foothill and montane hardwood/hardwood-conifer, coniferous habitats, and riparian habitats. Associated with closed-cone pine-cypress, pondorosa pine, Douglas-fir, and redwood. Nests in tall, old, isolated trees or snags in open forest or woodland and in proximity to a body of water. Frequently nests within former woodpecker cavities; may nest in human-made structures such as nesting boxes, under bridges and in culverts. Needs abundant aerial insect prey. Breeds April through August.	A	No Take	Presumed Absent: The BSA does not contain trees or coniferous habitat. The nearest recent (2007) CNDDB occurrence of the species is located approximately 15.1 miles southeast of the project area in the City of Roseville. Due to the lack of suitable habitat within the BSA and the distance of regional occurrences, the species is presumed absent.
white-tailed kite	*Elanus leucurus*	FP	Inhabits rolling foothills and valley margins with scattered oaks and river bottomlands or marshes next to deciduous woodland. Prefers open grasslands, meadows or marshes for foraging close to isolated, dense-topped trees for nesting and	HP	No Take	Presumed Absent: The BSA does not contain trees or other potential nesting habitat. Potentially suitable foraging habitat is present in adjacent fields, but these areas within the BSA would be minimal. No recent (<20 years) CNDDB occurrences of the species are

Common Name	Species Name	Status	General Habitat Description	Habitat Present	Effects Determination	Potential for Occurrence/Rationale
			perching. In southern California, will roost in saltgrass and Bermuda grass. Often found near agricultural lands. Nests are placed near the tops of dense oak, willow, or other tree stands. Breeds February through October.			documented within 10+ miles of the BSA. However, there are recent ebird.org occurrences documented within 0.5 miles of the project area. Due to the absence of suitable nesting habitat, the species is presumed absent from the BSA. The species may occur as a flyover or transient species, but it is unlikely to use the small areas grassland within the BSA for foraging. PCCP planning level surveys for migratory birds and raptors would ensure the species is not nesting within designated buffers in vicinity of the project area. The project would not result in the degradation of any species habitat and no take of the species would occur.
Swainson's hawk	*Buteo swainsoni*	ST, CS	Inhabits grasslands with scattered trees, juniper-sage flats, riparian areas, savannahs, and agricultural or ranch lands with groves or lines of trees. Requires adjacent suitable foraging areas such as grasslands, alfalfa or grain fields that support a stable rodent prey base. Breeds march to late August.	HP	No Take	Low Potential: The BSA does not contain trees or other potential nesting habitat for the species. Potentially suitable foraging habitat is present in grassland areas, and the BSA is located within PCCP modeled habitat for the species. The nearest recent (2009) CNDDB occurrence of the species is located approximately 2.5 miles north of the project area, and there are numerous recent ebird.org occurrences near the intersection of Dalby Road and North Dowd Road. The species would have a low potential to occur as a flyover or transient species, but it is unlikely to use the small areas of grassland within the BSA for foraging. The species was observed flying in the vicinity of the project during PCCP planning level surveys conducted in April and May 2024; however, the planning level survey found no hawks nesting within the 1,320-foot survey area. Therefore, the project would not be subject to PCCP Species Condition 1. The project would not result in the degradation of any species habitat and no take of the species is anticipated.

Common Name	Species Name	Status	General Habitat Description	Habitat Present	Effects Determination	Potential for Occurrence/Rationale
tricolored blackbird	*Agelaius tricolor*	ST, SSC, CS	Inhabits freshwater marsh, swamp and wetland communities, but may utilize agricultural or upland habitats that can support large colonies, often in the Central Valley area. Requires dense nesting habitat that is protected from predators, is within 3-5 miles from a suitable foraging area containing insect prey and is within 0.3 miles of open water. Suitable foraging includes wetland, pastureland, rangeland, at dairy farms, and some irrigated croplands (silage, alfalfa, etc.). Nests in dense cattails, tules, willow, blackberry, wild rose, or tall herbs. Nests mid-March to early August, but may extend until October or November in the Sacramento Valley region.	HP	No Take	Present: The BSA does not contain suitable freshwater marsh communities that could support a nesting colony. The BSA does contain small portions of potentially suitable agricultural foraging habitat. According to the PCCP, the species is strongly associated with freshwater wetlands along Yankee slough east of the Highway 65 Lincoln Bypass. According to the Tricolored Blackbird Portal (UC Davis 2023), this known colony was last observed in 2022, but did not return in 2023. Other colony occurrences within the vicinity of the project area, include 2021 (3.6 miles east along Yankee Slough north of Riosa Road), and the 2018 (2 miles east at the Yankee Slough Preserve). Planning level surveys for nesting colonies were conducted April 5, 2024, and May 17, 2024. No active colonies were observed within the planning level survey 1,300 feet buffer from the project area. However, the species was observed foraging within the BSA during the May 17, 2024, survey. It is assumed that nesting colonies are within 3 miles of the project, and PCCP foraging surveys will be conducted as part of pre-construction analysis of foraging habitat. The species is considered to be present within the BSA for foraging, but would not use the BSA for nesting. Species Condition 4 would be implemented.
song sparrow (Modesto population)	*Melospiza melodia pop. 1*	SSC	An endemic bird found exclusively in the north-central portion of the Central Valley, with highest densities in the Butte Sink and Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. The species is usually found in open brushy habitats, along the borders of ponds or streams, abandoned pastures, desert washes, thickets, or	A	No Take	Presumed Absent: The BSA does not contain potentially suitable brushy habitats, desert washes, thickets, or emergent marsh habitat suitable for the species. The nearest recent (2005) CNDDB occurrence of the species is located approximately 2.5 miles east of the project area, within suitable habitat. Based on the absence of suitable habitat

Common Name	Species Name	Status	General Habitat Description	Habitat Present	Effects Determination	Potential for Occurrence/Rationale
			woodland edges. In addition, there is a strong affinity for emergent freshwater marshes dominated by tules and cattails, riparian willow thickets, and valley oak forests with a blackberry understory. Nests found in base of shrubs or clumps of grass, requiring low, dense vegetation for cover, usually near water. Breeds from March through August.			and the distance of known occurrences, the species is presumed absent from the BSA.
western yellow-billed cuckoo	*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*	FT, SE	Species inhabits riparian forests, along broad, lower flood bottoms of larger river systems. Nests in large blocks of riparian jungles often mixed with cottonwoods. Nesting appears to be preferred in riparian forest habitats with a dense understory; requires water near nesting site. Breeds June to August.	A	No Effect No Take	Presumed Absent: The BSA does not contain densely vegetated riparian forests or jungles, or any other dense vegetation communities. Additionally, there are no recent CNDDB occurrences of the species within 10+ miles of the BSA. Due to the lack of suitable habitat and distance of regional occurrences, the species is presumed absent from the BSA. A No Effect determination under Section 7 of the ESA is proposed for the species.
Fish Species						
Chinook salmon – Central Valley spring-run ESU	*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha pop. 11*	FT, ST	Spring-run Chinook enter the Sacramento-San Joaquin River system to spawn, requiring larger gravel particle size and more water flow through their redds than other salmonids. Remaining runs occur in Butte, Mill, Deer, Antelope, and Beegum Creeks, tributaries to the Sacramento River. Known to occur in Siskiyou and Trinity counties.	A	No Effect No Take	Presumed Absent: Yankee Slough is not a known extent for anadromous fish and does not provide Physical and Biological Features (PBFs) for the species. Further, it does not provide Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) or Critical Habitat for the species and is confirmed by the NMFS and the PCCP that Yankee Slough does not contain suitable salmonid habitat. Due to lack of suitable habitat, the species is presumed absent from the BSA, and a No Effect determination under Section 7 of the ESA is proposed for the species.
steelhead - Central Valley DPS	*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus pop. 11*	FT, CS	This species is known to occur along most of the California coastline and inhabits freshwater streams and tributaries in northern and central California. The preferred habitat consists of estuaries, freshwater streams and near shore habitat with	A	No Effect	Presumed Absent: Yankee Slough is not a known extent for anadromous fish and does not provide primary constituent elements for the species. Further, it does not provide EFH or Critical Habitat for the species and is confirmed by the NMFS and the PCCP that Yankee Slough does

Common Name	Species Name	Status	General Habitat Description	Habitat Present	Effects Determination	Potential for Occurrence/Rationale
			productive costal oceans. Spawning occurs in small freshwater streams and tributaries occurs from January through March and could extend into spring. Spawning occurs where cool, well oxygenated water is available year-round. Approximately 550-1,300 eggs are deposited in an area with good intergravel flow. The fry emerge from the gravel about 4-6 six weeks after hatching and remain in shallow protected areas associated with stream margin. Juveniles may remain in freshwater for the rest of their life cycle or return to the ocean. The principal remaining wild populations spawn annually in Deer and Mill Creeks in Tehama County, in the lower Yuba River, and a small population in the lower Stanislaus River.			not contain suitable salmonid habitat. Due to the lack of suitable habitat, the species is presumed absent from the BSA, and a No Effect determination under Section 7 of the ESA is proposed for the species.
green sturgeon - southern DPS	*Acipenser medirostris pop. 1*	FT	Most marine of the sturgeon species. Predominately spawns in the upper Sacramento River, with some recorded in the Rogue River, Klamath and Trinity Rivers (Klamath River basin). In the Sacramento River, green sturgeon spawn above Hamilton City up to Keswick Dam. Known to occupy other river bodies including the lower Feather River; spawning not recorded. Large cobbles preferred for spawning, but may utilize a range of substrates from bedrock to sand. Spawning occurs March-July.	A	No Effect	Presumed Absent: Yankee Slough is not a known extent for anadromous fish and does not provide primary constituent elements for the species. Further, it does not provide EFH or Critical Habitat for the species. Due to the lack of suitable habitat, the species is presumed absent from the BSA, and a No Effect determination under Section 7 of the ESA is proposed for the species.
Sacramento splittail	*Pogonichthys macrolepidotus*	SSC	Historically inhabited low moving rivers, sloughs, and alkaline lakes of the Central Valley; now restricted to the Delta, Suisun Bay and associated marshes. Species is adapted to fluctuating environments with tolerance to water salinities from	A	No Take	Presumed Absent: The BSA is outside of the species current known range of the Delta, Suisun Bay and associated marshes. There are no recent extant occurrences of the species within 10+ miles of the BSA. Due to the distance of known habitat and the lack of recent

Common Name	Species Name	Status	General Habitat Description	Habitat Present	Effects Determination	Potential for Occurrence/Rationale
			10-18 ppt., low oxygen levels (< 1.0 mg/L) and temperatures of 41-75°F. Spawns late February- early July, with a peak in March-April; requires flooded vegetation for spawning activity and protective cover for young.			occurrences, the species is presumed absent from the BSA.
Invertebrate Species						
valley elderberry longhorn beetle	*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*	FT, CS	Species requires elderberry shrubs as host plants. Typically occurs in moist valley oak woodlands associated with riparian corridors in the lower Sacramento River and upper San Joaquin River drainages. (Sea level-3,000 feet).	A	No Effect	Presumed Absent: The BSA does not include suitable riparian habitat and the biological survey confirmed no host elderberry shrubs are within the BSA. The nearest recent (2011) CNDDB occurrence of the species is located approximately 2.3 miles north of the project area. Due to the lack of suitable habitat and no host elderberry shrubs present within the BSA, the species is presumed absent, and a No Effect determination under Section 7 of the ESA is proposed for the species.
monarch butterfly	*Danaus plexippus*	FPT	Winter roosts along the coast from northern Mendocino to Baja California. Utilizes wind protected tree groves in proximity to nectar and water sources. Host plants include milkweed species such as Asclepias syriaca, A. incarnara, and A. speciosa. Suitable habitat includes fields, meadows, weedy areas, marshes, and roadsides. Mass adult migrations occur from August to October.	A	No Effect	Presumed Absent: The BSA does not contain suitable habitat for the species, and no host milkweed species were observed within the BSA during the biological surveys. The nearest documented occurrence of the species is a “Research Grade” iNaturalist.org occurrence located approximately 4.6 miles north of the project area. Due to the lack of suitable habitat and distance from known occurrences, the species is presumed absent from the BSA, and a No Effect determination under Section 7 of the ESA is proposed for the species.
Conservancy fairy shrimp	*Branchinecta conservatio*	FE, CS	Inhabits relatively large and turbid clay bottomed playa vernal pools. Species requires pools to continuously hold water for a minimum of 19 days and must remain inundated into the summer months. Occupied playa pools typically are 1 to 88 acres in size, but	HP	No Effect No Take	Presumed Absent: Although Vernal pool habitat was confirmed present within the BSA north of Dalby Road, according to the PCCP, Conservancy shrimp are limited to a single vernal pool within the Mariner Vernal Pool Conservation Bank, and are not anticipated to occur within unincorporated Placer County or the

Common Name	Species Name	Status	General Habitat Description	Habitat Present	Effects Determination	Potential for Occurrence/Rationale
			species may utilize smaller, less turbid pools.			PCCP Plan Area. The species is presumed absent from the BSA and a No Effect Determination is proposed.
vernal pool fairy shrimp	*Branchinecta lynchi*	FT, CS	In California inhabits portions of Tehama county, south through the Central Valley, and scattered locations in Riverside County and the Coast Ranges. Species associated with smaller and shallower cool-water vernal pools approximately 6 inches deep and short periods of inundation. In the southernmost extremes of the range, the species occurs in large, deep cool-water pools. Inhabited pools have low to moderate levels of alkalinity and total dissolved solids. The shrimp are temperature sensitive, requiring pools below 50 F to hatch and dying within pools reaching 75 F. Young emerge during cold-weather winter storms.	HP	May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect	Assumed Presence: Vernal pool habitat was confirmed present within the BSA north of Dalby Road. The nearest recent (2015) occurrence of the species is located approximately 1.3 miles east of the project area, and the project site is located approximately 3 miles northwest of the nearest USFWS-designated critical habitat for vernal pool fairy shrimp. Due to the documented presence of vernal pool habitat within the BSA, the species is considered to be present within the BSA. No brachiopod surveys were conducted to confirm presence/absence of the species due to property access limitations. The project will be specifically designed to avoid sensitive vernal pool habitat to the greatest extent practicable and will include project-specific mitigation measures to minimize potential impacts; due to the assumed presence of the species, take coverage under the PCCP will be required.
vernal pool tadpole shrimp	*Lepidurus packardi*	FE, CS	Inhabits vernal pools and swales containing clear to highly turbid waters such as pools located in grass bottomed swales of unplowed grasslands, old alluvial soils underlain by hardpan, and mud-bottomed pools with highly turbid water.	HP	May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect	Assumed Presence: Vernal pool habitat was confirmed present within the BSA north of Dalby Road. The nearest recent (2013) CNDDB occurrence of the species is located approximately 5.89 miles south of the project area; and the nearest USFWS-designated critical habitat for the species is located approximately 10.3 miles north of the project area near Beale Air Force Base. Due to the documented presence of vernal pool habitat within the BSA, the species is considered to be present within the BSA. No brachiopod surveys were conducted to confirm presence/absence of the species due to property access limitations. The project will be specifically designed to avoid

Common Name	Species Name	Status	General Habitat Description	Habitat Present	Effects Determination	Potential for Occurrence/Rationale
						sensitive vernal pool habitat to the greatest extent practicable and will include project-specific mitigation measures to minimize potential impacts; due to the assumed presence of the species, take coverage under the PCCP will be required.
Mammal Species						
Pallid bat	*Antrozous pallidus*	SSC	Inhabits low elevations of deserts, grasslands, shrub lands, woodlands and forests year-round. Most common in open, dry habitats with rocky areas for roosting. Forages over open ground within 1-3 miles of day roosts. Prefers caves, crevices, and mines for day roosts, but may utilize hollow trees, bridges and buildings. Roosts must protect bats from high temperatures. Very sensitive to disturbance of roosting sites. Maternity colonies form early April and young are born April-July (below 10,000 feet).	A	No Take	Presumed Absent: The BSA does not contain crevices, caves, mines, or hollow trees suitable for roosting. The nearest recent (2015) CNDDB occurrence of the species is located approximately 2.2 miles south of the project area near Coon Creek. Due to the lack of suitable habitat and distance of regional occurrences, the species is presumed absent from the BSA.
Reptile Species						
giant gartersnake	*Thamnophis gigas*	FT, ST, CS	A highly aquatic species that inhabits marsh, swamp, wetland (including agricultural wetlands), sloughs, ponds, rice fields, low gradient streams and irrigation/drainage canals adjacent to uplands. Ideal habitat contains both shallow and deep water with variations in topography. Species requires adequate water during the active season (April-November), emergent, herbaceous wetland vegetation, such as cattails and bulrushes, for escape cover and foraging habitat and mammal burrows estivation. Requires grassy banks and openings in waterside vegetation for basking and higher elevation uplands for cover and refuge from flood waters	HP	No Effect No Take	Presumed Absent: Aquatic habitat within the BSA does not provide essential aquatic habitat elements (no emergent vegetation for cover, no muddy banks, no mammal burrows in upland grassland). Additionally, on a typical year, the portion of Yankee Slough within the project area does completely dry. No recent CNDDB occurrences of the species have been noted within Placer County. Nearest recent occurrence (2004) is 12 miles west of the project area and west of Hwy 99/70. According to E. Hansen trapping data over the last 10+ years, the species is essentially extirpated East of HWY 99/70 (Hansen 2022). According to the PCCP, modeled habitat for GGS is present along Yankee Slough west of North Dowd Road, near the project site.

Common Name	Species Name	Status	General Habitat Description	Habitat Present	Effects Determination	Potential for Occurrence/Rationale
			during winter dormant season. Mating occurs in the spring and females bear live young.			However, with the lack of essential habitat elements, the species is presumed absent from the BSA, and a No Effect Determination is proposed. Therefore, the project would not be subject to PCCP Species Condition 5.
western pond turtle	*Emys marmorata*	FC, SSC, CS	A fully aquatic turtle of ponds, lakes, rivers, streams, creeks, marshes, and irrigation ditches with aquatic vegetation. Suitable habitat includes woodland, forests, and grasslands. Requires logs, rocks, cattail mats, and exposed banks for basking. Suitable upland habitat (sandy banks or grassy open field) is required for reproduction, which begins in April and ends with egg laying as late as August (sea level to 4,700 feet).	HP	May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect Take Coverage under PCCP	Low Potential: The BSA does contain marginally suitable aquatic and upland habitat for the species, as it features an intermittent stream channel, exposed banks and upland grassland habitat. Yankee Slough is also identified as PCCP modeled habitat for the species. However, the nearest CNDDB occurrence of the species is from 1996, located approximately 11.4 miles west of the project area. Based on the presence of modeled habitat and suitable habitat characteristics, along with the distance of regional occurrences, the species is considered to have a low potential to occur within the BSA. NWPT is a PCCP Covered Species. However, the PCCP does not provide species specific protection measures for NWPT. Applicable PCCP habitat protection measures would be implemented to provide overall PCCP plan area protections for the species, and it's associated habitat. With the implementation of habitat protection measures, no adverse impacts to NWPT are anticipated. NWPT would be included in PCCP Section 10 coverage with a “May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect” determination, Given the proposed project is consistent with the PCCP, Caltrans will propose a similar “May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect” determination under Section 7 of the ESA during interagency consultation.

Common Name	Species Name	Status	General Habitat Description	Habitat Present	Effects Determination	Potential for Occurrence/Rationale
Plant Species						
Ahart's dwarf rush	*Juncus leiospermus var. ahartii*	CRPR 1B.2	An annual herb inhabiting grassland swales, gopher mounds, and vernal pool margins of mesic valley and foothill grassland communities. Flowers March-May (100-750 feet).	HP	No Impact	Presumed Absent: The BSA does contain potentially suitable vernal pool and grassland communities. However, there are no known occurrences of the species within Placer County since 1990s. Survey limitations would not allow planning level rare plant surveys within suitable habitat. The species is presumed absent due to the lack of occurrences in the County; however, pre-construction rare plant surveys will be conducted within approved survey/construction areas after right-of-way acquisition for the project.
Big-scale balsamroot	*Balsamorhiza macrolepis*	CRPR 1B.2	A perennial herb inhabiting open grassy or rocky slopes and valleys within chaparral, cismontane woodland, valley and foothill grassland communities; sometimes occurs in serpentinite soils. Flowers March-June (300-5,100 feet).	HP	No Impact	Presumed Absent: The BSA does contain potentially suitable grassland habitat; however, the BSA is below the species known elevation range. Additionally, the species was not observed during the focused rare plant survey, and there are no recent (<20 years) occurrences of the species within 20+ miles of the BSA. The species is presumed absent from the BSA based on being outside the species known elevation range and the distance to regional occurrences.
Boggs Lake hedge-hyssop	*Gratiola heterosepala*	SE CRPR 1B.2	An annual herb inhabiting clay soils and shallow waters of marshes, swamps, lake margins, and vernal pools. Flowers April-August (30-7,800 feet).	HP	No Impact	Presumed Absent: The BSA does contain potentially suitable vernal pool habitat; however, there are no recent (<20 years) occurrences of the species within 20+ miles of the BSA. The species is presumed absent due to the lack of occurrences in the County; however, pre-construction rare plant surveys will be conducted within approved survey/construction areas after right-of-way acquisition for the project.

Common Name	Species Name	Status	General Habitat Description	Habitat Present	Effects Determination	Potential for Occurrence/Rationale
Dwarf downingia	*Downingia pusilla*	CRPR 2B.2	An annual herb inhabiting vernal pools and mesic soils in valley and foothill grassland communities. Flowers March-May (0-1,500 feet).	HP	No Impact	Presumed Absent: The BSA does contain potentially suitable vernal pool and valley grassland communities; however, however, there are no recent (<20 years) occurrences of the species within 20+ miles of the BSA. The species is presumed absent due to the lack of occurrences in the County; however, pre-construction rare plant surveys will be conducted within approved survey/construction areas after right-of-way acquisition for the project.
Hispid salty bird's-beak	*Chloropyron molle ssp. hispidum*	CRPR 1B.1	An annual herb inhabiting moist alkaline soils of saline marshes and flats, meadows and seeps, playas, and valley and foothill grassland communities. Flowers June-July (0-500 feet).	A	No Impact	Presumed Absent: The BSA does contain potentially suitable valley grassland habitat; however, the soils within the BSA are considered neutral or slightly acidic. Additionally, the species was not observed during the focused rare plant survey, and there are no recent (<20 years) occurrences of the species within 20+ miles of the BSA. Due to the absence of suitable alkaline soils and the distance of regional occurrences, the species is presumed absent.
legenere	*Legenere limosa*	CRPR 1B.1	An annual herb inhabiting wet areas, vernal pools, and ponds. Flowers April-June (0-2,900 feet).	HP	No Impact	Presumed Absent: The BSA does contain potentially suitable vernal pools; however, the nearest recent (2014) occurrence of the species is located approximately 8 miles south of the project area. The species is presumed absent due to the lack of occurrences in the County; however, pre-construction rare plant surveys will be conducted within approved survey/construction areas after right-of-way acquisition for the project.

Common Name	Species Name	Status	General Habitat Description	Habitat Present	Effects Determination	Potential for Occurrence/Rationale
Pincushion navarretia	*Navarretia myersii ssp. myersii*	CRPR 1B.1	An annual herb native to California inhabiting vernal pool communities, often in acidic soil conditions. Flowers April-May (65-1,080 feet).	HP	No Impact	Presumed Absent: The BSA does contain potentially suitable vernal pool habitat; however, there have been no documented occurrences of the species in Placer County, or neighboring Sutter or Yuba Counties. The species is presumed absent due to the lack of occurrences in the County; however, pre-construction rare plant surveys will be conducted within approved survey/construction areas after right-of-way acquisition for the project.
Red Bluff dwarf rush	*Juncus leiospermus var. leiospermus*	CRPR 1B.1	An annual herb inhabiting vernally mesic soils of chaparral, cismontane woodland, meadows and seeps, valley and foothill grassland, and vernal pool communities. Flowers April-June (100-4,100 feet).	HP	No Impact	Presumed Absent: The BSA does contain potentially suitable vernal pool habitat; however, there have been no documented occurrences of the species in Placer County, or neighboring Sutter or Yuba Counties. The species is presumed absent due to the lack of occurrences in the County; however, pre-construction rare plant surveys will be conducted within approved survey/construction areas after right-of-way acquisition for the project.
Sanford's arrowhead	*Sagittaria sanfordii*	CRPR 1B.2	A perennial rhizomatous herb inhabiting freshwater marshes, swamps, ponds, and ditches. Flowers May-October (0-2,130 feet).	HP	No Impact	Presumed Absent: The BSA does contain potentially suitable freshwater wetlands; however, the perennial species was not observed during the biological surveys in April and May when it would have been identifiable. Therefore, and there are no recent (<20 years) occurrences of the species within 20 miles of the BSA. Due to negative survey results and the distance of recent occurrences, the species is presumed absent from the BSA.
woolly rose-mallow	*Hibiscus lasiocarpos var. occidentalis*	CRPR 1B.2	A perennial rhizomatous herb inhabiting freshwater wetlands, wet banks, and marsh communities. Often found in-between riprap on levees. Flowers June-September (0-400 feet).	HP	No Impact	Presumed Absent: The BSA does include potentially suitable freshwater wetland habitat; ; however, the perennial species was not observed during the biological surveys in April and May when the vegetative portions of the species would have been identifiable. There are no

Common Name	Species Name	Status	General Habitat Description	Habitat Present	Effects Determination	Potential for Occurrence/Rationale
						recent (<20 years) occurrences of the species within 10+ miles of the BSA. Due to negative survey results and the distance of recent occurrences, the species is presumed absent from the BSA.

Federal Designations (ESA, USFWS):
FE: Federally listed, endangered
FT: Federally listed, threatened
FC: Federal candidate
DL: Federally listed, delisted

State Designations (CESA, CDFW):
SE: State-listed, endangered
ST: State-listed, threatened
SCE: Candidate Endangered
SCT: Candidate Threatened

CDFW Designations
SSC: Species of Special Concern
FP: Fully Protected

Placer County Conservation Program (PCCP) Designation
CS: Covered Species under the Western Placer County Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)/Natural Community Conservation Plan (NCCP)

California Native Plant Society (CNPS) California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR)
Note: according to CNPS (Skinner and Pavlik 1994), plants on Lists 1B and 2 meet definitions for listing as threatened or endangered under Section 1901, Chapter 10 of the California Fish and Game Code. This interpretation is inconsistent with other definitions.

1A: Plants presumed extinct in California.
1B: Plants rare and endangered in California and throughout their range.
2: Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California but more common elsewhere in their range.
3: Plants about which need more information; a review list.

Plants 1B, 2, and 3 extension meanings:
_**.1** Seriously endangered in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened / high degree and immediacy of threat)
_**.2** Fairly endangered in California (20-80% occurrences threatened)
_**.3** Not very endangered in California (<20% of occurrences threatened or no current threats known)

Habitat Potential
Absent [A] - No habitat present and no further assessment required.
Habitat Present [HP] - Habitat is, or may be present.
Critical Habitat [CH] – Project is within designated Critical Habitat.

Effects Determination
"No Take" – No take anticipated for CDFW CESA-Listed or Candidate Species or SSCs.
"No Effect" – Proposed No Effect Determination for ESA-listed of Candidate Species.
"May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect" – Proposed NLAA Determination for ESA-Species
"May Affect, Likely to Adversely Affect" – Proposed LAA Determination for ESA-Species

Potential for Occurrence Criteria:
Present: Species was observed on site during a site visit or focused survey.
Moderate to High: Habitat strongly associated with the species occurs on site and recent (<20 years extant occurrence(s) recorded within the project vicinity.
Low: Low-quality habitat is present and recent (<20 years) extant occurrence(s) recorded within the project vicinity.
Presumed Absent: No habitat is present within the project area, or low-quality habitat is present but no recent (<20 years) extant occurrence(s) recorded within the project vicinity.

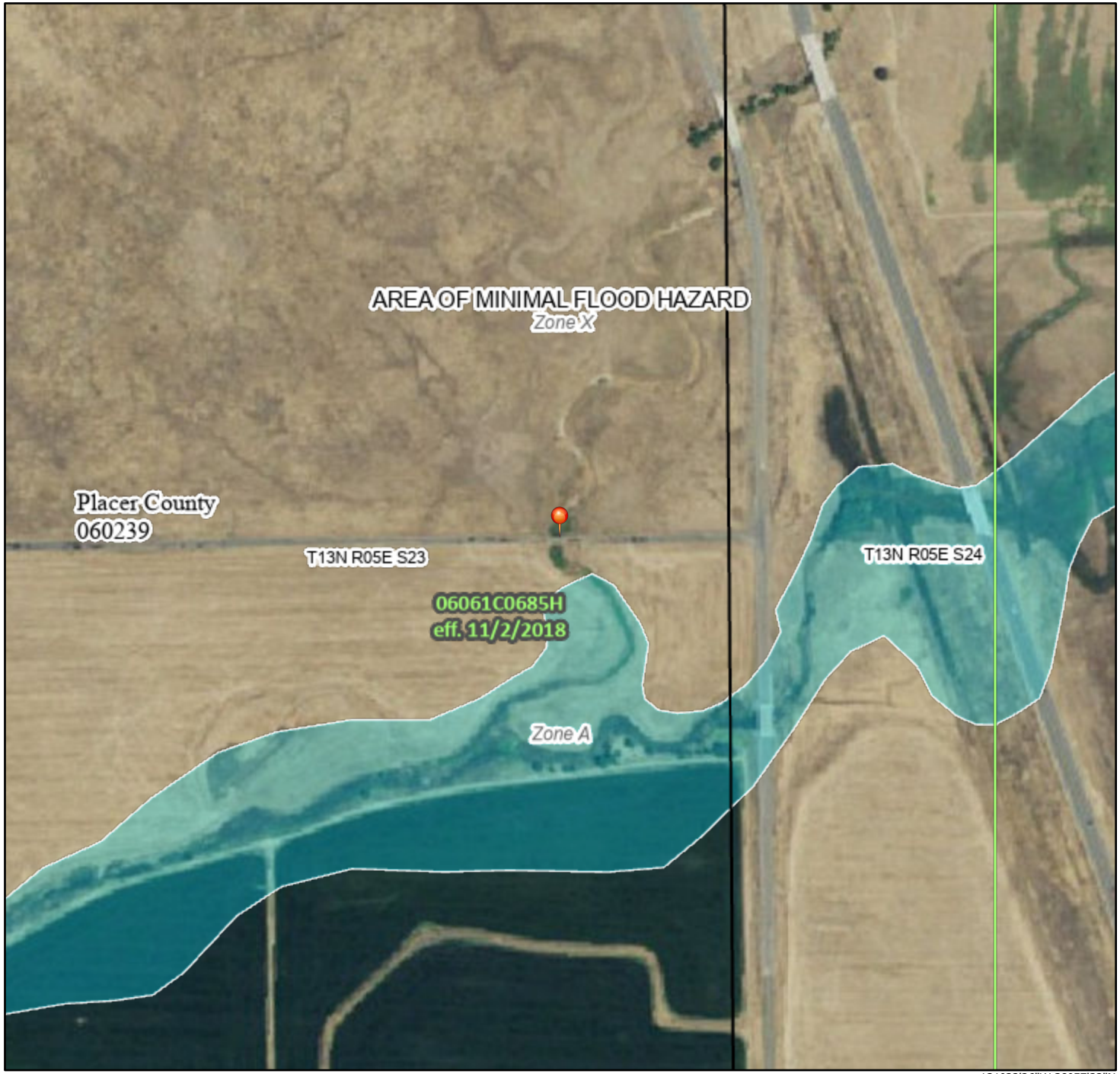
Sources: CDFW 2024; CNDDB 2024; CNPS 2024; Calflora 2024; Jepson, 2nd Ed. 2021; NMFS 2024; USFWS 2024

Appendix D.
FEMA FIRMette Map

National Flood Hazard Layer FIRMette

FEMA

121°23'3"W 38°58'N



0 250 500 1,000 1,500 2,000 Feet

1:6,000

121°22'26"W 38°57'32"N

Basemap Imagery Source: USGS National Map 2023

Legend

SEE FIS REPORT FOR DETAILED LEGEND AND INDEX MAP FOR FIRM PANEL LAYOUT

SPECIAL FLOOD HAZARD AREAS
- Without Base Flood Elevation (BFE) *Zone A, V, A99*
- With BFE or Depth *Zone AE, AO, AH, VE, AR*
- Regulatory Floodway

OTHER AREAS OF FLOOD HAZARD
- 0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard, Areas of 1% annual chance flood with average depth less than one foot or with drainage areas of less than one square mile *Zone X*
- Future Conditions 1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard *Zone X*
- Area with Reduced Flood Risk due to Levee. See Notes. *Zone X*
- Area with Flood Risk due to Levee *Zone D*

OTHER AREAS
- NO SCREEN Area of Minimal Flood Hazard *Zone X*
- Effective LOMRs
- Area of Undetermined Flood Hazard *Zone D*

GENERAL STRUCTURES
- Channel, Culvert, or Storm Sewer
- Levee, Dike, or Floodwall

OTHER FEATURES
- 20.2 Cross Sections with 1% Annual Chance
- 17.5 Water Surface Elevation
- Coastal Transect
- 513 Base Flood Elevation Line (BFE)
- Limit of Study
- Jurisdiction Boundary
- Coastal Transect Baseline
- Profile Baseline
- Hydrographic Feature

MAP PANELS
- Digital Data Available
- No Digital Data Available
- Unmapped

N

The pin displayed on the map is an approximate point selected by the user and does not represent an authoritative property location.

This map complies with FEMA's standards for the use of digital flood maps if it is not void as described below. The basemap shown complies with FEMA's basemap accuracy standards

The flood hazard information is derived directly from the authoritative NFHL web services provided by FEMA. This map was exported on 7/10/2024 at 7:49 PM and does not reflect changes or amendments subsequent to this date and time. The NFHL and effective information may change or become superseded by new data over time.

This map image is void if the one or more of the following map elements do not appear: basemap imagery, flood zone labels, legend, scale bar, map creation date, community identifiers, FIRM panel number, and FIRM effective date. Map images for unmapped and unmodernized areas cannot be used for regulatory purposes.