CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT
INITIAL STUDY

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has completed the following document for this Project in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) [Pub. Resources Code, div. 13, § 21000 et seq] and accompanying Guidelines [Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15000 et seq].

PROJECT INFORMATION

PROJECT TITLE: SMUD Thornton Avenue Former Electrical Substation Remedial Action Plan		SITE CODING: 102363-11
PROJECT ADDRESS: 1610 Thornton Avenue	CITY: Sacramento	COUNTY: Sacramento
PROJECT SPONSOR: Sacramento Municipal Utility District	CONTACT: Ammon Rice	PHONE: (916) 732-7466
APPROVAL ACTION UNDER CONSIDERATION BY DTSC: ☐ Initial Permit Issuance ☐ Permit Re-Issuance ☐ Permit Modification ☐ Closure Plan ☐ Removal Action Workplan ☒ Remedial Action Plan ☐ Interim Removal ☐ Regulations ☐ Corrective Measure/Study/Statement of Basis ☐ Other (specify):		
STATUTORY AUTHORITY: ☒ California H&SC, Chap. 6.5 ☐ California H&SC, Chap. 6.8 ☐ Other (specify):		
DTSC PROGRAM/ADDRESS: Site Mitigation and Restoration Program 8800 Cal Center Drive Sacramento, California 95826	CONTACT: Peter Ruttan Senior Engineering Geologist Peter.ruttan@dtsc.ca.gov	PHONE: (916) 255-3695

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is considering approval of a Remedial Action Plan (RAP) for the remediation of contaminants of concern (COCs) in soil at the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) Thornton Avenue former electrical substation (Site). The remedial action would consist of excavating approximately 4,500 cubic yards of soil on the Site and eastern adjacent property containing arsenic and lead. The cleanup would also reduce the potential for leaching to groundwater. The excavated areas would be backfilled with clean soil. All excavated soil would be removed from the Site and transported to an appropriate, permitted off-Site facility for disposal. Asphalt pavements and concrete curbing on the eastern adjacent property would be restored after backfilling the excavation with clean soil.

This remedial action was selected because it is the most effective and acceptable alternative for achieving the Site Remedial Action Objectives (RAOs), which consist of preventing direct human contact with and ingestion of soil and gravel with COCs exceeding concentrations acceptable for commercial/industrial exposure, preventing human inhalation of soil and gravel with COCs exceeding concentrations acceptable for commercial/industrial exposure, and preventing the migration of contaminants from soil and gravel with COCs that would impact groundwater.

The remedial action is anticipated to require between 12 and 16 weeks to complete.

BACKGROUND:

The Site is located at 1610 Thornton Avenue in the City of Sacramento, California (refer to Figure 1). The Site encompasses approximately 0.29 acres and is surrounded by existing light industrial/commercial properties. SMUD acquired the electrical substation and its associated property from the Pacific Gas and Electric Company in 1946 and operated the substation until approximately 1993. The Site consists of a historical electrical substation and is vacant except for a small, corrugated metal shed; three concrete pads; a subsurface electrical grounding grid; and a perimeter chain-link fence topped with barbed wire. The ground surface at the Site consists of soil covered with imported aggregate.

Several soil investigations were conducted at the Site between 2007 and 2019, including a Preliminary Endangerment Assessment (PEA). The PEA concluded that soil and surficial gravel at the Site are impacted by arsenic and lead and that surface gravel was also impacted by a release of arsenic and lead or may be the source of arsenic and lead in the underlying soil. The arsenic-impacted soil extends laterally throughout the SMUD property to a depth greater than 5 feet below ground surface (bgs), except for localized areas where the vertical extent is shallower (between 1.5 and 5 feet bgs)

or deeper (7.5 to 10 feet bgs or deeper than 10 feet bgs). Beyond the property boundary, arsenic-impacted soil extends laterally approximately 10 feet to the east and vertically at depths ranging from 3 feet bgs to greater than 5 feet bgs.

Figure 2 shows the Site location.

Figure 3 shows the areas where excavation activities would occur as part of the remedial action.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES:

The remedial action would consist of excavating COC-impacted soils on the Site and eastern adjacent property to a maximum depth of 10 feet bgs. The excavation would also act to reduce the potential for leaching to groundwater. The excavation would then be backfilled with clean soil. All excavated soil with arsenic and lead concentrations exceeding cleanup goals would be removed from the Site and transported to an appropriate, permitted off-Site facility for disposal. The asphalt pavement and concrete curb on the eastern adjacent property would be restored after backfilling the excavation with clean soil.

Sloping excavation sidewalls beyond the extent of Site-related contamination could result in increased volume of soil requiring excavation. Confirmation soil sampling and analysis would be conducted at the excavation bottom and perimeter to verify that cleanup goals are met. Direct loading of excavated soils into trucks or bins for disposal is anticipated; however, excavation could require soil stockpiling prior to disposal. The volume of soil to be removed is estimated to be approximately 4,500 cubic yards (CY), excluding soil excavated to slope the excavation sidewalls. Approximately 274 trucks will be needed to transport the excavated soil.

Based upon an analysis of historic soil sampling analytical data from the Site, soil excavated from the Site is anticipated to be classified as Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA)-hazardous waste for approximately 1,500 CY, classified as non-RCRA-hazardous waste for approximately 2,000 CY, and approximately 1,000 CY classified as non-hazardous waste. It is anticipated that all non-RCRA and RCRA-hazardous soil will be disposed at a Class I hazardous waste disposal facility. Soils disposed of as RCRA hazardous waste are not anticipated to require treatment prior to disposal.

Excavations would be backfilled to existing ground surface and would be backfilled first with any available clean excavation side slope material that was removed to slope the excavation sidewalls followed by clean imported fill material. After backfilling is completed, the Site surface would be restored to its pre-construction condition including gravel on SMUD property and asphalt surface bike path and roadway at the adjacent property.

Remediation activities would take a total of between 12 and 16 weeks.

Excavation activities would involve using loaders, excavators, and/or other appropriate equipment. Excavation activities would generate dust emissions. Dust emissions would be managed and controlled during all phases of the Project in accordance with a Dust Control and Air Monitoring Plan. Dust control measures would comply with Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD) Rules 401, 402, and 403 to protect on-Site and off-Site receptors from chemicals in soil and nuisance dust. Dust suppression would be performed by lightly spraying or misting the work areas (such as the excavation, soil handling areas and haul roads) with water. Misting could also be used on soil placed in the transport trucks.

PUBLIC AGENCIES WHOSE APPROVAL IS REQUIRED:

While DTSC is responsible for approving the overall remedial action for the Site, other public agencies may be involved through permitting or consultation such as the State Water Resources Control Board, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the City of Sacramento.

NATIVE AMERICAN CONSULTATION:

DTSC complied with the 2014 Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52). DTSC provided written notification to ten individuals, representing seven tribes, on the Tribal Consultation List from the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) regarding the Proposed Project on August 10, 2021. The notice included a brief Project description, Project location, and lead agency's contact information. DTSC received one response on March 10, 2022, from the list of contacted tribes provided by NAHC.

Based on the ProjectSite location, history, and absence of cultural resource findings during prior Site work, it is not likely that historical resources would be identified or impacted during remedial actions. However, if historical resources are discovered during remedial actions, then work would stop in that area until a qualified archaeologist or appropriately licensed professional can assess the significance of the find and, if necessary, develop appropriate response measures in consultation with the DTSC and other agencies and Native American representatives, as appropriate. Please refer to the Tribal Cultural Resources analysis (Section 18) for additional information.

REFERENCES USED:

SMUD. 2024. *Remedial Action Plan, SMUD Thornton Avenue Former Electrical Substation.* Prepared by AECOM. August 2024.



AECOM Remedial Action Plan
SMUD Thornton Avenue Former Electrical Substation

Figure 1
Project Site Location



AECOM Remedial Action Plan
SMUD Thornton Avenue Former Electrical Substation

Figure 2
Proposed Excavation Areas

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Attachment A – Air Quality

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this Project, involving at least one impact that is a “Potentially Significant Impact,” as indicated by the checklist beginning on page 14. Please see the checklist beginning on page 14 for additional information.

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

SUMMARY OF MITIGATION

DTSC has determined that mitigation measure(s) would not be required beyond those actions incorporated as part of the Proposed Project to ensure that potential impacts would remain at a less-than-significant level.

DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

☒	I find that the proposed Project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
☐	I find that although the proposed Project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the Project have been made by or agreed to by the Project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
☐	I find that the proposed Project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
☐	I find that the proposed Project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "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 or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed Project, nothing further is required.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the statements furnished above and in the attached documentation, present the data and information required for this initial study evaluation to the best of my ability and that the facts, statements and information presented are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.



Preparer's Signature	8/15/2025 Date

Peter Ruttan Preparer's Name	Senior Engineering Geologist Preparer's Title	(916) 255-3695 Phone #

Daniel V. Ziarkowski

Branch Chief Signature	8/17/2025 Date

Daniel V. Ziarkowski Branch Chief Name	Environmental Program Manager Branch Chief Title	(916) 255-6580 Phone #

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

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) "Negative Declaration: 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) This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a Project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.

9) 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 significance.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

1. AESTHETICS				
Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, 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 non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from a 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

REGULATORY SETTING (LAWS, ORDINANCES, REGULATIONS, STANDARDS):

California Scenic Highway Program

The Scenic Highway Program allows county and city governments to apply to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to establish a scenic corridor protection program which was created by the Legislature in 1963. Its purpose is to protect and enhance the natural scenic beauty of California highways and adjacent corridors through special conservation treatment.

City of Sacramento General Plan

The Land Use and Placemaking Element within the City of Sacramento General Plan 2040, adopted February 27, 2024, does not contain any policies related to visual character that are applicable to the proposed cleanup activities.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING (BASELINE):

The Project Site is located in the center of an existing urban area of the City of Sacramento at 1610 Thornton Avenue. The Site consists of a historical electrical substation and is vacant except for a small, corrugated metal shed; three concrete pads; a subsurface electrical grounding grid; and a perimeter chain-link fence topped with barbed wire. The ground surface at the Site consists of soil covered with imported aggregate. Visible features of the Site are consistent with existing, surrounding urban area with light industrial/commercial uses.

APPLICABLE THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The significance determination in this visual analysis is based on consideration of: (1) the extent of change related to visibility of the Project Site from key public vantage points; (2) the degree of visual contrast and compatibility in scale and character between Project activities and the existing surroundings; (3) conformance of the proposed Project with public policies regarding visual and urban design quality; and (4) potential adverse effects on scenic vistas and scenic resources.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PERFORMED AND METHODOLOGY:

No Project-specific environmental studies related to aesthetic resources were prepared for the proposed Project. However, the methodology employed for assessing potential aesthetic impacts involved considering the existing viewshed and the Project activities that have the potential to change the Project-area visual character.

IMPACT ANALYSES AND CONCLUSIONS:

Analysis as to whether or not Project activities would:

a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

Impact Analysis:

The proposed Project would implement remedial actions to address impacted soil involving excavation and off-Site disposal of contaminated soils. Remedial actions would not require construction of any new above ground structures. Therefore, no adverse effects on the view of the local vantage points or scenic vistas would occur. The nearest scenic vista (central coast range) is approximately 20 miles away to the west. Temporary construction activities at the Project Site would occur between 12 and 16 weeks. The short-term construction activities would not result in any long-term adverse effects to a scenic vista.

Conclusion:

Components of the proposed remedial actions and the short-term construction activities would not have the potential to substantially affect the view of a scenic vista. Therefore, there would be no impact.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

Impact Analysis:

The nearest roadway to the Project Site that is officially designated as a California State Scenic Highway is a section of Route 160, located over 10 miles to the south from the site. The nearest roadway to the Project Site that is identified as eligible for California State Scenic Highway Program is a segment of Interstate 80 (Bay Bridge), located approximately 8 miles to the south from the site (CalTrans 2024). There are no views of the Project Site from these sections of Route 160.

The Project Site has been used continuously since 1946 as a historical electrical substation and is currently vacant. No scenic resources would be damaged with implementation of the proposed remedial actions.

Conclusion:

Scenic resources (e.g., trees, rock outcroppings, historic buildings) would not be disturbed or damaged through implementation of proposed remedial actions. Implementation of the proposed Project would not result in any impacts to scenic resources.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

c. In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point.) If the Project is in an urbanized area, would the Project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?

Impact Analysis:

The Project site is located in an urbanized area of the City of Sacramento, for which regulations governing scenic quality are found in the Land Use and Placemaking Element of the City of Sacramento General Plan 2040. Publicly accessible vantage points of the Project Site include adjacent roadways of North 16th Street, B Street, and Thornton Avenue. The Project Site has been used since 1946 as a historical electrical substation and is currently vacant. The visual character of the Project Site currently reflects the site's long-term uses.

Remediation activities would occur for between 12 and 16 weeks at the Project Site. Even though implementation of the proposed remedial actions would minimally alter the visual character or quality of the Project Site, the remedial actions would not conflict with any applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality. In addition, the Site would be restored to its pre-remediation condition upon completion of remedial actions.

Conclusion:

Based on the temporary nature of the construction activities at the Project Site, no impact related to conflicting with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality at the Project Site would occur.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

Impact Analysis:

The proposed Project activities would be conducted during daytime hours with the potential for some work to occur after sunset. The proposed Project would not require any night-shift or swing-shift work. The nearest sensitive receptors (i.e., residences) are located in the Cottage Housing development approximately 1/10 mile to the southwest across North 16th Street. However, views towards the Project Site are blocked by existing commercial/industrial buildings and these residents do not have direct views of the Project Site. Any nighttime lighting used during construction activities would be occasional and limited to a relatively small work area and would not introduce any new temporary or permanent sources of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect daytime or nighttime views in the area.

Conclusion:

Project activities would not require nor introduce a new temporary or permanent source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect views in the Project area. Therefore, implementation of the proposed remedial actions would result in no impact.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

References Used:

California Department of Transportation. 2021. California Scenic Highway Program. https://dot.ca.gov/programs/design/lap-landscape-architecture-and-community-livability/lap-liv-i-scenic-highways (Accessed November 2024).

City of Sacramento. 2024. City of Sacramento General Plan 2040. https://www.cityofsacramento.gov/community-development/planning/long-range/general-plan/2040-general-plan (Accessed November 2024).

2. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES				
In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment Project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board.				
Would the Project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation**	**Less Than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

REGULATORY SETTING (LAWS, ORDINANCES, REGULATIONS, STANDARDS):

No laws, ordinances, regulations, or standards protecting agriculture or forestry resources are applicable to the proposed Project.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING (BASELINE):

The Project Site is not located in or near any agricultural or forestry resources. The Project Site has been used continuously since 1946 as a historical electrical substation and is currently vacant.

APPLICABLE THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The list of agriculture or forestry resource effects that may be considered significant contained in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines (Environmental Checklist) was used to establish a threshold of significance.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PERFORMED AND METHODOLOGY:

Based on the lack of agricultural or forestry resources in or near the Project Site, no environmental studies relating to agriculture or forestry resources were prepared for the proposed Project.

IMPACT ANALYSES AND CONCLUSIONS:

Analysis as to whether or not Project activities would:

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?

Impact Analysis:

The closest designated Farmland is over 3 miles from the Project Site (DRLP, 2024). Project-related activities would remain within the Project Site boundaries. Therefore, no impact to designated Farmland would occur.

Conclusion:

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?

Impact Analysis:

There is no farmland or vacant/fallow lands located near the Project Site. Therefore, Project-related activities would not have the ability to conflict with any Williamson Act contracts. The Project Site is zoned for light industrial uses and would not conflict with any existing agricultural zoning. No impact would occur.

Conclusion:

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

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))?

Impact Analysis:

There is no land with existing zoning of forest land or timberland within the Project Site. Proposed Project-related activities would not conflict with existing zoning or cause rezoning of forest land or timberland, as none exists within the Project Site boundaries. Therefore, there would be no impact to forest land or timberland.

Conclusion:

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

d. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

Impact Analysis:

There are no forests or timberland on or near the ProjectSite and the proposed Project would not convert any land to forest or timberland. Therefore, there would be no impact.

Conclusion:

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

e. Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural uses?

Impact Analysis:

The proposed Project would not conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land, timberland, or agricultural land. Therefore, there would be no impact.

Conclusion:

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

References Used:

California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection (DLRP). 2024. California Important Farmland Finder. https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/DLRP/CIFF/ (Accessed November 2024)

3. AIR QUALITY				
Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations.				
Would the Project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation**	**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 (LAWS, ORDINANCES, REGULATIONS, STANDARDS):

Federal Regulations

Clean Air Act (1970): The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is responsible for implementing most aspects of the Clean Air Act, including setting National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for major air pollutants; setting hazardous air pollutant (HAP) standards; approving state attainment plans; setting motor vehicle emission standards; issuing stationary source emission standards and permits; and establishing acid rain control measures, stratospheric O_3 protection measures, and enforcement provisions. Under the Clean Air Act, NAAQS are established for the following criteria pollutants: O_3, CO, NO_2, SO_2, PM_{10}, $PM_{2.5}$, and lead. The NAAQS describe acceptable air quality conditions designed to protect the health and welfare of the citizens of the nation. States with areas that exceed the NAAQS must prepare a state implementation plan that demonstrates how those areas will attain the standards within mandated time frames.

Hazardous Air Pollutants: The 1977 federal Clean Air Act amendments required EPA to identify national emission standards for hazardous air pollutants to protect public health and welfare. HAPs include certain volatile organic chemicals, pesticides, herbicides, and radionuclides that present a tangible hazard, based on scientific studies of exposure to humans and other mammals.

State Regulations

California Clean Air Act: The federal Clean Air Act delegates the regulation of air pollution control and the enforcement of the NAAQS to the states. In California, the task of air quality management and regulation has been legislatively granted to California Air Resources Board (CARB), with subsidiary responsibilities assigned to air quality management districts and air pollution control districts at the regional and county levels. CARB has established California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS), which are generally more restrictive than the NAAQS. Air quality is considered “in attainment” if pollutant levels are continuously below the CAAQS and violate the standards no more than once each year. The NAAQS and CAAQS are presented in Table 9, “Ambient Air Quality Standards.”

Air Toxics Program: The California TAC list identifies more than 700 pollutants, of which carcinogenic and non-carcinogenic toxicity criteria have been established for a subset of these pollutants pursuant to the California Health and Safety Code. The Legislature enacted the Air Toxics “Hot Spots” Information and Assessment Act of 1987 (AB 2588) to address public concern over the release of TACs into the atmosphere. AB 2588 law requires facilities emitting toxic substances to provide local air pollution control districts with information that will allow an assessment of the air toxics

problem, identification of air toxics emissions sources, location of resulting hotspots, notification of the public exposed to significant risk, and development of effective strategies to reduce potential risks to the public over 5 years.

Local Regulations

SMAQMD CEQA Guidelines and Thresholds: The Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD) published a revised CEQA Guidelines and Thresholds of Significance guidance in 2020. The purpose of the guidelines is to assist lead agencies in evaluating air quality impacts of Projects and plans proposed in the Sacramento Air Basin. The SMAQMD guidelines provide SMAQMD-recommended procedures for evaluating potential air quality impacts during the environmental review process consistent with CEQA requirements (SMAQMD, 2021). In this section, air quality is evaluated against numbers set forth in the SMAQMD guidance.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING (BASELINE):

The Project Site is located in the Sacramento Valley Air Basin (SVAB), which comprises all of Sacramento County. Air quality in SVAB is determined by such natural factors as topography, meteorology, and climate, along with the presence of existing air pollution sources and ambient conditions.

The SVAB is the northern half of California's Great Valley and is bordered by mountain ranges, with peaks in the eastern range above 9,000 feet. The SVAB is bounded by the North Coast Ranges on the west and Northern Sierra Nevada Mountains on the east. The SVAB is approximately 13,700 square miles and essentially a smooth valley floor with elevations ranging from 40 to 500 feet. The rolling valley is interrupted by the Sutter Buttes, an area of 80 square miles in northern Sutter County, which rise abruptly to more than 2,100 feet above the valley floor.

Hot dry summers and mild rainy winters characterize the Mediterranean climate of the SVAB. During the year the temperature may range from 20 to 115 degrees Fahrenheit with summer highs usually in the 90s and winter lows occasionally below freezing. Average annual rainfall is approximately 19 inches, and the rainy season generally occurs between November and March. Prevailing winds in the SVAB are moderate in strength and vary from moist clean breezes from the southwest to dry land flows from the north.

The mountains surrounding the SVAB create a barrier to airflow, which can trap air pollutants under certain meteorological conditions. The highest frequency of air stagnation occurs in the autumn and early winter when large high-pressure cells collect over the Sacramento Valley. The lack of surface wind during these periods and the reduced vertical flow caused by less surface heating reduces the influx of outside air and allows air pollutants to become concentrated in a stable volume of air. The surface concentrations of pollutants are highest when these conditions are combined with temperature inversions that trap pollutants near the ground.

The Sacramento Area is in attainment for National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and the California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) for the following pollutants: carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, lead, and sulfates. The Sacramento Area is in non-attainment for fine particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in size ($PM_{2.5}$) and ozone with respect to both NAAQS and CAAQS (SMAQMD, 2024).

The Project Site is located within the Sacramento metropolitan area, and the SMAQMD is primarily responsible for enforcing air quality standards, in accordance with standards set by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

APPLICABLE THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The 2021 SMAQMD CEQA Guidelines Thresholds of Significance for average daily air emissions are shown in Table 3.1 below. If Project-related average daily emissions are below these thresholds, the impacts are considered less than significant, even if peak days have emissions over the thresholds.

TABLE 3.1

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE FOR CONSTRUCTION-RELATED CRITERIA AIR POLLUTANTS AND PRECURSORS

Criteria Pollutant or Precursor	Maximum Annual Emissions, tons per year (tpy)
ROG	None
NOx	85
PM_{10}[1]	14.6
$PM_{2.5}$[1]	15

Notes:
NOx = nitrogen oxide
PM_{10} = particulate matter less than 10 microns in size
$PM_{2.5}$ = particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in size
ROG = reactive organic gases

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PERFORMED AND METHODOLOGY:

California Emissions Estimator Model ® (CalEEMod, Version 2022.1.1.26) was run to determine if Project-related air emissions exceed SMAQMD Air Quality Significance Thresholds (April 2021). The CalEEMod results are summarized in Table 3.2 below, and the model basis information is summarized in Attachment A. Complete CalEEMod Input and Output is provided in Attachment A. The following construction equipment was considered in modeling air emissions:

- On-road trucks (worker transportation),
- Forklifts,
- Loaders,
- Augers,
- Backhoes, and
- Generators.

IMPACT ANALYSES AND CONCLUSIONS:

Analysis as to whether or not Project activities would:

a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?

Impact Analysis:

Construction-related activities would result in emissions of ozone precursors (NOx and reactive organic gases (ROG)), particulates (PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$), air toxics, and greenhouse gases (Project-related greenhouse gas emissions are analyzed separately in Section 8 of this Initial Study/Negative Declaration). Emissions for construction activities associated with implementing the proposed remedial actions were performed in accordance with the SMAQMD Air Quality Significance Thresholds (April 2021), using the California Emissions Estimator Model ® (CalEEMod, Version 2022.1.1.26) and the results are shown in Table 3.2 below. The CalEEMod Input and Output model results are provided in Attachment A.

TABLE 3.2

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE FOR CONSTRUCTION-RELATED CRITERIA AIR POLLUTANTS AND PRECURSORS

Criteria Pollutant or Precursor	SMAQMD Maximum Annual Emissions (tpy)	Estimated Unmitigated Proposed Project Annual Emissions (tpy)	Is Threshold of Significance Exceeded?
ROG	None	0.03	No
NO_x	85	0.38	No
PM_{10}	14.6	0.03	No
$PM_{2.5}$	15	0.02	No

Notes:
tpy = tons per year
NOx = nitrogen oxide
ROG = reactive organic gases
PM_{10} = particulate matter less than 10 microns in size
$PM_{2.5}$ = particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in size

As shown in Table 3.2, Project-related construction activities would generate air emissions below 2021 SMAQMD Air Quality Significance Thresholds for construction impacts.

Conclusion:

The CalEEMod results indicate that the Project-related emissions would be below the 2021 SMAQMD Air Quality Significance Thresholds for construction Projects. The short-term construction activities of the

proposed Project and implementation of appropriate and feasible control strategies identified in the RAP (e.g., dust control plan, BMPs) would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the SMAQMD Air Quality Management Plan. Therefore, Project impacts are considered less than significant.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

b. Result in 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.

Impact Analysis:

The Project Site is non-attainment for ozone and $PM_{2.5}$ (SMAQMD, 2024). As shown in Table 3.2 above, the proposed Project-related emissions of these pollutants would not exceed any of the thresholds of significance established in the 2021 SMAQMD Air Quality Significance Thresholds.

Health Effects of Criteria Air Pollutants

Reactive organic gases (ROG) and nitrous oxides (NO_x) are precursors to ozone (O_3), for which the Sacramento Valley Air Basin (SVAB) is designated as nonattainment with respect to the NAAQS and CAAQS. The health effects associated with O_3 are generally associated with reduced lung function. The contribution of ROG and NO_x to regional ambient O_3 concentrations is the result of complex photochemistry. The increases in O_3 concentrations in the SCAB due to O_3 precursor emissions tend to be found downwind from the source location to allow time for the photochemical reactions to occur. However, the potential for exacerbating excessive O_3 concentrations would also depend on the time of year that the ROG emissions would occur because exceedances of the O_3 NAAQS and CAAQS tend to occur between April and October when solar radiation is highest. The holistic effect of a single Project's emissions of O_3 precursors is speculative due to the lack of quantitative methods to reliably and meaningfully assess this impact. Thus, a Project's ROG and NOx emissions are evaluated in the context of the SMAQMD significance thresholds, which define the levels of emissions that can occur without causing or contributing to violations of the NAAQS or CAAQS. In turn, the NAAQS and CAAQS define the pollutant concentrations above which adverse health effects are expected to occur. Nonetheless, because ROG and NO_x emissions associated with Project construction would be potentially significant before mitigation, the Project could minimally contribute to regional O_3 concentrations and the associated health effects.

As related to health effects related to particle pollution (PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$), health studies have shown a significant association between exposure to particle pollution and health risks, including premature death. Health effects may include cardiovascular effects such as cardiac arrhythmias and heart attacks, and respiratory effects such as asthma attacks and bronchitis. Exposure to particle pollution can result in increased hospital admissions, emergency room visits, absences from school or work, and restricted activity days, especially for those with pre-existing heart or lung disease, older people, and children. The size of particles is directly linked to their potential for causing health problems. Fine particles ($PM_{2.5}$) pose the greatest health risk. These fine particles can get deep into lungs, and some may even get into the bloodstream. Exposure to these particles can affect a person's lungs and heart. Coarse particles ($PM_{10-2.5}$) are of less concern, although they can irritate a person's eyes, nose, and throat.

Conclusion:

Construction activities associated with implementing the proposed Project would generate emissions of non-attainment pollutants that are below the thresholds of significance identified in the 2021 SMAQMD Air Quality Significance Thresholds. Therefore, implementation of the proposed Project would result in a less-than-significant impact to the net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the Project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

c. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

Impact Analysis:

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) defines sensitive receptors as children, elderly, asthmatics, or others who are at a heightened risk of negative health outcomes due to exposure to air pollution. For the purposes of this analysis, the locations where these populations can typically congregate (e.g., schools, hospitals) are considered sensitive receptor locations. Remedial actions associated with implementing the proposed Project would take place in an area zoned for commercial and light industrial uses. The closest sensitive receptors (Washington Elementary School) are located approximately 0.4 miles distant to the Project Site. However, activities associated with the proposed remedial actions would not generate any substantial pollutant concentrations. Therefore, the Project would not have the ability to expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations.

Conclusion:

Schools are located within 1 mile from the Project Site. However, implementation of remediation actions would not involve activities with the potential to expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations and a less-than-significant impact would occur.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

d. Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?

Impact Analysis:

Implementation of remedial action have the potential to generate odors during the operation of construction equipment, such as those experienced from diesel engine exhaust. The closest receptor of odors are Cottage Housing development residences which are located approximately 1/10 mile to the southwest. Construction activities would use Tier 4 engines on all construction equipment. Currently, Tier 4 diesel engine standards are the strictest Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) emissions requirement for off-highway diesel engines. This requirement regulates the amount of PM, or black soot, and NO_x that can be emitted from an off-highway diesel engine. Specifically, Tier 4 compliant engines significantly reduce emissions of PM and NO_x relative to previous emissions standards whereby Tier 4 compliant engines reduce emissions by over 95 percent for most agricultural and construction equipment. The use of Tier 4 engines on all construction equipment and distance between construction activities and residences is considered sufficient to substantially reduce the ability for a resident to discern an odor originating from the Project Site (i.e., diesel exhaust fumes) from the overall air space.

Conclusion:

Project-related odors during construction activities would not be discernable by the closest receptors (i.e., residences) because of the use of Tier 4 engines on all construction equipment and distance between them and all construction equipment. Therefore, implementation of the remediation actions would not result in other emissions that could adversely affect a substantial number of people.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

References Used:

Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD). April 2021. *Guide to Air Quality Assessment in Sacramento County*. https:// https://www.airquality.org/businesses/ceqa-land-use-planning/ceqa-guidance-tools (Accessed November 2024)

SMAQMD. 2024. *Air Quality Standards and Attainment Status*. https://www.airquality.org/residents/air-quality-plans/federal-planning (Accessed November 2024)

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 Wildlife, 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 Wildlife or U.S. 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 (LAWS, ORDINANCES, REGULATIONS, STANDARDS):

Applicable statutes and regulations to the Proposed Project include:

Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA): (16 United States Code (USC) § 1531-1544, 50 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 17). The Federal ESA provides a program for the conservation of threatened and endangered plants and animals and the habitats in which they are found.

Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA): (16 USC § 703-712, 50 CFR Part 21). The MBTA makes it illegal to take, possess, import, export, transport, sell, purchase, barter, or offer for sale, purchase, or barter, any migratory bird, or the parts, nests, or eggs of such a bird except under the terms of a valid Federal permit.

California Endangered Species Act (CESA): (Fish and Game Code (FGC) chapter 1.5, sections 2050-2115.5, California Code of Regulations (CCR), title 14, chapter 6, § 783.0-787.9). CESA protects or preserves all native species of fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, invertebrates, and plants, and their habitats, threatened with extinction and those experiencing a significant decline which, if not halted, would lead to a threatened or endangered designation.

CESA states that all native species of fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, invertebrates, and plants, and their habitats, threatened with extinction and those experiencing a significant decline which, if not halted, would lead to a threatened or endangered designation, will be protected or preserved.

Additionally, the California FGC § 3503 prohibits the take, possession, or needless destruction of the nest or eggs of any bird; and § 3513 prohibits the take or possession of any migratory nongame bird or part there of as designated in the MBTA. Any birds in the orders Falconiformes or Strigiformes (birds of prey, such as hawks and owls) are protected under FGC 3503.5, which makes it unlawful to take, posses, or destroy their nest or eggs.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING (BASELINE):

The Project Site is surrounded by commercial and light-industrial uses. There are no wetlands on the Project Site.

APPLICABLE THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The list of biological resource effects that may be considered significant contained in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines (Environmental Checklist) was used to establish a threshold of significance.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PERFORMED AND METHODOLOGY:

Reconnaissance-level biological resources surveys were not conducted because of the urban nature of the Project Site and nearby areas.

IMPACT ANALYSES AND CONCLUSIONS:

Analysis as to whether or not Project activities would:

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

Impact Analysis:

The Project site consists of vacant land with remnants of prior urbanized development such as concrete pads and chain-link fencing. Urban commercial and light-industrial development surrounding the Project Site and other activities in the general Project vicinity has reduced or, in some cases, eliminated connectivity to undisturbed natural habitats in the area. However, some animals have adapted to these types of conditions and are expected to traverse the Project Site such as raptors and other birds protected by the MBTA and California FGC. However, the Site does not contain any habitat suitable for nesting birds. As a result, implementation of the remedial actions would not result in any disturbance of a biological habitat (such as trees with potential for nesting birds). There would be no impact to special status species.

Conclusion:

The Project Site does not contain suitable habitat for nesting of special status species. Therefore, proposed remedial actions would have a less-than-significant potential to adversely affect special status species.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

b. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?

Impact Analysis:

The Project Site does not contain any riparian habitat or sensitive natural community. The site is completely disturbed and is surrounded by an urban commercial and light-industrialized area. Implementation of remedial actions would not result in direct disturbance of any riparian habitat or sensitive natural community. There would be no impact.

Conclusion:

Riparian habitat is not located on the Project Site and implementation of proposed remedial actions would not have the potential to effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

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?

Impact Analysis:

Remedial actions would not occur in any wetland areas and would only occur on the Project Site. The site is completely disturbed and is surrounded by an urban commercial and light-industrialized area. Implementation of remedial actions would not result in direct disturbance of any wetlands. There would be no impact.

Conclusion:

Wetlands are not located on the Project Site and implementation of remedial actions would not have the potential to affect any state or federally protected wetlands.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

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?

Impact Analysis:

Based on the temporary nature and duration of the remedial actions and the location of the Project Site, which is a heavily disturbed, urban commercial and light-industrial setting, the proposed Project would not have the potential to interfere 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.

Conclusion:

There are no established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or native wildlife nursery sites located on or near the Project Site. The remedial actions would not have no impact.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

e. Conflict with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

Impact Analysis:

There are no biological resources on the ProjectSite that are protected by local policies or ordinances.

Conclusion:

Implementation of the proposed remedial actions would not conflict with any local polices or ordinances for the purposes of protecting biological resources.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

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?

Impact Analysis:

The Project Site is not located in any adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan. The proposed remedial actions would not conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

Conclusion:

The proposed remedial actions would not have the potential to conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

References Used:

Environmental Protection Agency. 2024. *NEPAssist.* https://nepassisttool.epa.gov/nepassist/nepamap.aspx (Accessed November 2024).

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 pursuant to 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 (LAWS, ORDINANCES, REGULATIONS, STANDARDS):

The definition of historical resources can be found in PRC §21084.1 and 14 CCR § 15064.5. Unique archaeological resources are defined in PRC § 21083.2 and 14 CCR § 15064.5. Tribal cultural resources are defined in PRC Div. 13 Section 21074.

California Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52) specifies that any Project for which a Notice of Preparation, Notice of Mitigated Negative Declaration or Notice of Negative Declaration is filed on or after July 1, 2015, the Lead agency must provide formal notification within 14 days of determining that an application for a Project is complete or of a decision to undertake a Project to the designated contact or tribal representative of the affiliated California Native American tribes. The tribe that is traditionally and culturally affiliated to the geographic area where a Project is located must have requested that the lead agency in question provide notification to the tribe (PRC 21081.3.1). Please refer to Section 18, Tribal Cultural Resources, of this Initial Study for additional discussion.

If remains are found on Site, the County Coroner will make the determination of origin and disposition, pursuant to Public Resources Code (PRC) § 5097.98. If the remains are determined to be Native American, the Coroner would notify the NAHC (per Health and Safety Code (HSC) 7050.5(c)) The NAHC would identify and notify the person(s) who might be the most likely descendent, who would make recommendations for the appropriate and dignified treatment of the remains (PRC Div. 5 section 5097.98). The descendants shall complete their inspection and make recommendations for treatment within 48 hours of being granted access to the Site (CEQA Guidelines, CCR section 15064.5(e); HSC section 7050.5).

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING (BASELINE):

There are numerous archaeological Sites within the Sacramento Valley Basin that have been recorded with the Archaeological Inventory Report, Northwest Information Center (NWIC) at California State University Sonoma. However, the Project Site has been previously disturbed and is located in a largely urbanized area. Therefore, the Project site is not anticipated to contain sensitive archaeological resources.

APPLICABLE THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

To be eligible for the California Register, a prehistoric or historic-period property must be significant at the local, state, and/or federal level under one or more of the following four criteria:

1. Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage;
2. Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past;
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; or,
4. Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

A resource eligible for the California Register must meet one of the criteria of significance described above and retain enough of its historic character or appearance (integrity) to be recognizable as a historical resource and to convey the reason for its significance. It is possible that a historic resource may not retain sufficient integrity to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register, but it may still be eligible for listing in the California Register.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PERFORMED AND METHODOLOGY:

Based on the lack of undisturbed areas on or near the Project Site, no environmental studies relating to cultural resources were prepared for the proposed Project.

IMPACT ANALYSES AND CONCLUSIONS:

Analysis as to whether or not Project activities would:

a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to in §15064.5?

Impact Analysis:

Historical resources, as defined by 14 CCR section 15064.5, have not been identified at the Project Site. The Project Site has been used continuously since 1946 and operated a substation on the Site until approximately 1993. Based on the Project Site location, history, and absence of resource findings during prior ground disturbing activities on the site, it is highly unlikely that historical resources would be identified or impacted.

Conclusion:

The proposed Project would not include demolition, elimination, or manipulation of a historical resource. In addition, the finding of a historical resource during implementation of the remedial actions is unlikely based on the Project Site history and conditions, and absence of findings during prior onsite development. Therefore, the proposed Project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a known historical resource.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?

Impact Analysis:

Archaeological resources, as defined by 14 CCR section 15064.5, have not been identified at the ProjectSite. The ProjectSite has been used continuously since 1946 and operated a substation on the Site until approximately 1993. Based on the ProjectSite location, history, and absence of resource findings during prior ground disturbing activities on the site, it is highly unlikely that archaeological resources would be identified or impacted. In addition, there is no unique geologic feature at the Site and the presence of a unique paleontological resource in the proposed Project work area is unlikely. However, if archaeological resources are discovered during the proposed Project activities, then ground disturbing activities within 25 feet would stop until a qualified archaeologist or appropriately licensed professional can assess the significance of the find and, if necessary, develop appropriate response measures in consultation with the DTSC, SMUD, and other agencies and Native American representatives.

Conclusion:

The proposed Project would not include demolition, elimination, or manipulation of an archaeological resource. In addition, the finding of an archaeological resource during implementation of the remedial actions is unlikely based on the ProjectSite history and conditions, and absence of findings during prior onsite work. Therefore, the proposed Project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a known archaeological resource.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

c. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?

Impact Analysis:

There are no known human remains on or near the Project Site and given the repeated disturbance of the site and the surrounding area, and the findings of the cultural resource study, the potential for such remains to be present is considered extremely low. If human remains are encountered, the County Coroner would be immediately notified. No further ground disturbing activities shall occur within 25 feet of the work area until the County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition, pursuant to PRC § 5097.98. If the remains are determined to be Native American, the Coroner would notify the NAHC (per Health and Safety Code 7050.5(c)) and the County Coordinator of Indian Affairs.

Conclusion:

Implementation of remedial actions is not expected to encounter or disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries. If human remains are encountered, procedures will be followed to prevent disturbing the remains and ensure compliance with applicable codes and regulations.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

REGULATORY SETTING (LAWS, ORDINANCES, REGULATIONS, STANDARDS):

In 2015, Governor Brown signed Senate Bill 350 to codify climate, clean energy, and energy efficiency goals. The regulations focus on generating energy through renewable sources and increasing the energy efficiency of buildings.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING (BASELINE):

Electrical power and natural gas are provided to the Project Site by Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) and Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E), respectively. SMUD obtains its electricity supplies from power plants and from energy purchased outside its service area and delivered through high voltage transmission lines. PG&E obtains its natural gas supplies from natural gas fields in northern California and from sources outside of California.

APPLICABLE THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The list of energy resource effects that may be considered significant contained in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines (Environmental Checklist) was used to establish a threshold of significance.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PERFORMED AND METHODOLOGY:

Based on the lack of significant increase in energy demand from the Project Site due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption, no environmental studies relating to energy resources were prepared for the proposed Project.

IMPACT ANALYSES AND CONCLUSIONS:

Analysis as to whether or not Project activities would:

a. Result in potentially significant impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during Project construction or operation?

Impact Analysis:

To implement the proposed Project, it is expected that construction equipment (e.g., tractors, excavators, loaders, generators, trucks, light-duty vehicles) would use petroleum fuels (diesel and gasoline products) and would not use on-site electricity or natural gas sources. Implementation of theremedial action would occur over a short duration (between 12 and 16 weeks) and, therefore, the wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary use of petroleum fuels would not occur. Construction contractors would use existing office space at the Project Site. Implementation of the proposed Project would not result in adding any new facilities that would increase the demand for energy resources.

Conclusion:

The proposed Project would not add new facilities that could increase the demand for energy resources. Construction activities would use equipment in accordance with manufacturer's specifications. Therefore, implementation of the proposed remedial action would not result in a wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources. In addition, implementation of proposed remedial action would not result in a new permanent energy demand.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

b. Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?

Impact Analysis:

In 2015, Governor Brown signed Senate Bill 350 to codify climate, clean energy, and energy efficiency goals. The regulations focus on generating energy through renewable sources and increasing the energy efficiency of buildings. Implementation of proposed remedial actions would not result in constructing any new buildings that would increase the demand for energy resources, renewable or otherwise.

Conclusion:

The proposed Project would not construct new facilities or permanent structures and would not generate any new energy demands. Therefore, the proposed Project would not conflict with or obstruct any state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

References Used:

California Legislative Information. 2015. SB-350 Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act of 2015. October. https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160SB350 (Accessed November 2024).

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 direct or indirect 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?	☐	☐	☒	☐

REGULATORY SETTING (LAWS, ORDINANCES, REGULATIONS, STANDARDS):

No laws, ordinances, regulations, or standards protecting geological or soil resources are applicable to the proposed Project.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING (BASELINE):

The Project site is located in the Sacramento Valley, which is in the northern portion of the Great Valley Geomorphic Province. The Great Valley Geomorphic Province is an elongated, northwest-trending structural trough, bounded by the Cascade Ranges to the north, the Sierra Nevada to the east, the Coast Ranges to the west, and the Transverse Ranges to the south. The Great Valley is approximately 450 miles long and 50 miles wide. According to the Geologic Map of California, the Great Valley is backfilled with Quaternary-age sediments, originating from the Sierra Nevada and Coast Ranges. The geology underlying the sediments is characterized as thick sequences of sedimentary materials of Jurassic through Holocene age.

Project site soils predominantly consist of mixtures of underlain by silt with sand in the upper 8 feet and underlain by clay at around 14 feet below grade.

APPLICABLE THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The list of geological and soils resource effects that may be considered significant contained in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines (Environmental Checklist) was used to establish a threshold of significance.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PERFORMED AND METHODOLOGY:

Site lithology has been characterized through investigations completed as part of the site investigations. Soil samples were also collected and characterized.

IMPACT ANALYSES AND CONCLUSIONS:

Analysis as to whether or not Project activities would:

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.

Impact Analysis:

The ProjectSite is located over 20 miles from the Green Valley Earthquake Fault Zone. However, no known earthquake fault crosses the site (CGS 2024). Site workers would only be present for a short duration during proposed remedial actions (between 12 and 16 weeks) and, therefore, the potential for exposure to substantial risk of injury to people would be limited.

Conclusion:

The Project Site is not identified as being near an Earthquake Fault Zone. In addition, the risk of loss, injury, or death involving from onsite ruptures would be limited because of the short duration of Project activities that would reduce the potential exposure of people or structures to significant impacts from fault rupture associated effects.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?

Impact Analysis:

The Project Site is not located in a seismically active area and the site would not be exposed to moderate to strong shaking in the event of an earthquake in the region (CGS 2024). Implementation of remedial actions would require the use of heavy equipment and would place numerous workers onsite. Site workers would only be present for between 12 and 16 weeks; therefore, the potential for substantial risk or injury to people from seismic ground shaking would be limited.

Conclusion:

Even though the Project Site is not located in a seismically active area and the site would not be exposed to moderate to strong shaking if an earthquake occurred, the remedial actions would occur for a short duration (between 12 and 16 weeks) that would reduce the potential exposure of people or structures to significant impacts from strong seismic ground shaking.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

Impact Analysis:

The Project Site is not located in a Liquefaction Zone and, therefore, does not have a high liquefaction susceptibility (CGS 2024). Due to liquefaction, which generally occurs at depths shallower than 50 feet bgs, soils may lose their ability to support structures. However, proposed remedial actions would not involve building new structures.

Site workers would only be present for the short Project duration (between 12 and 16 weeks); therefore, the potential for substantial risk or injury to people would be limited and would not expose people or structures to significant impacts from seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction.

Conclusion:

The Project Site is not located in a high liquefaction susceptible area and remedial actions would not involve activities that would place buildings or people at risk of loss, injury, or death at significant risk if liquefaction.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

iv) Landslides?

Impact Analysis:

The Project Site is not located in an area that could be adversely affected by landslides (CDC 2024). In addition, the proposed remedial actions would be performed on a flat area and there is little potential for substantial risk or injury from landslides.

Conclusion:

No landslide impacts from the on the site or nearby areas would occur relating to placing people or buildings at risk loss, injury, or death involving landslides.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

b. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

Impact Analysis:

The proposed remedial actions would not substantially increase the amount of potential soil erosion by preventing storm water runoff contact and water intrusion into the soil. The proposed excavations would not substantially affect the coverage of impermeable surfaces on the Project Site. Therefore, substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil would not occur with implementation of the proposed remedial actions.

Conclusion:

Remedial actions associated with the proposed Project would not increase the potential for soil erosion or loss of topsoil on the Project Site. Impacts related to soil erosion and loss of topsoil would not occur.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

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?

Impact Analysis:

The Project Site is flat with very little relief; therefore, the potential for slope instability, lateral spreading, or collapse are minimal. The soils beneath the Project Site would not be subject to subsidence because remedial actions would not involve the removal of groundwater. In addition, remediation of the Project Site would not involve any activities that could result in liquefaction of existing onsite soils (process by which saturated, unconsolidated soil or sand is converted into a suspension during an earthquake). The vibrations associated with the proposed work, such as operation of auger drills, would be incapable of approximating those necessary to cause liquefaction.

Conclusion:

Characteristics of existing soils on the Project Site would not be unstable or become unstable as a result of implementing the proposed Project. This would be considered a less-than-significant impact.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

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

Impact Analysis:

Expansive soils are characterized by their ability to undergo volume change due to variations in moisture content. The proposed Project area is located on an area underlain by silt with sand in the upper 8 feet and underlain by clay at around 14 feet below grade. Clay is a type of soil that exhibits expansive characteristics (SMUD 2024). However, implementation of proposed remedial actions would not involve construction of new structures or facilities. Therefore, the remedial actions would not create a substantial direct or indirect risk to life or property.

Conclusion:

Proposed remedial actions would not result in any new structures or facilities being placed on expansive soils. Therefore, substantial risk to life or property from expansive soils would not occur.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

e. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?

Impact Analysis:

The proposed Project activities would not require the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems nor involve construction of such new systems.

Conclusion:

The use or construction of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems are not part of the proposed remedial actions. No impact involving septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems as a result of onsite soils would occur.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

f. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resources or site unique feature?

Impact Analysis:

The Project Site has been used continuously since 1946 and operated a substation on the Site until approximately 1993. There are no unique geologic features at the site and the presence of a unique paleontological resource in the proposed Project work area is unlikely. The proposed Project is not expected to encounter or destroy any unique paleontological resources or geological features.

Conclusion:

There is no unique geologic feature at the site and the presence of a unique paleontological resource in the proposed Project work area is unlikely.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

References Used:

SMUD. 2024. *Draft Remedial Action Plan for the SMUD Thornton Avenue Former Electrical Substation Property*. Prepared by AECOM. August 2024.

California Department of Conservation, California Geological Survey (CGS). 2024. Earthquake Zones of Required Investigation. https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/EQZApp/app/ (Accessed November 2024).

International Conference of Building Officials. 1994. *Uniform Building Code, Seventh Printing*. May 1.

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 (LAWS, ORDINANCES, REGULATIONS, STANDARDS):

The Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD) 2021 Air Quality Significance Thresholds recommend that greenhouse gases (GHGs) for Projects be quantified and that the lead agency should make a determination on the significance of construction-related GHG emissions.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING (BASELINE):

Greenhouse gases are global pollutants, unlike criteria air pollutants that are of regional or local concern. The largest anthropogenic source of GHGs is the combustion of fossil fuels, which results primarily in emissions of carbon dioxide (CO_2). Other GHGs include methane, nitrous oxide, fluorinated gases, ozone, and sulfur hexafluoride. To account for the differences of the warming effects o f various GHGs, emissions are standardized into carbon dioxide equivalents (CO_2e).

A GHG emissions inventory is available for the Sacramento Area 2021. In 2015, approximately 4.2 million metric tons (MMT) CO_2e were attributable to the Sacramento Area (Sacramento County, 2021).

APPLICABLE THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The SMAQMD CEQA Guidelines identify

The 2021 SMAQMD CEQA Guidelines Thresholds of Significance for construction-related GHG emissions are identified as 1,100 metric tons per year. If Project-related average daily emissions are below this threshold, the impacts are considered less than significant, even if peak days have emissions over the thresholds.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PERFORMED AND METHODOLOGY:

California Emissions Estimator Model ® (CalEEMod, Version 2022.1.1.26) was run to identify Project-related greenhouse gas emissions. The CalEEMod results and the model basis information are provided in Attachment A.

IMPACT ANALYSES AND CONCLUSIONS:

Analysis as to whether or not Project activities would:

a. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?

Impact Analysis:

Implementation of proposed remedial actions would generate GHG emissions through mobilization of construction equipment; onsite delivery of materials, equipment and supplies; onsite use of vehicles and heavy equipment; worker commutes to the Project Site; and demobilization activities. The CalEEMod was run to identify the potential greenhouse gas emissions generated by implementation of proposed remedial actions. Results of the model indicate that remedial actions would generate approximately 108 metric tons of CO_2e per year during the construction period (refer to Attachment A). Carbon dioxide equivalent, or CO_2e, is a term for describing different greenhouse gases in a common unit. For any quantity and type of greenhouse gas, CO_2e signifies the amount of CO_2 which would have the equivalent global warming impact (Ecometrica 2012). The Project's amount of CO_2e

falls below the SMAQMD CEQA Guidelines operation-related maximum annual threshold of significance for stationary sources of 1,100 metric tons of CO_2e per year.

Conclusion:

The proposed Project would not result in a new permanent stationary or non-stationary source of GHGs and construction-related GHG emissions would be short-term and temporary. In addition, the estimated CO_2e emissions from implementing the remedial actions (108 metric tons of CO_2e per year) would fall below SMAQMD Air Quality Significance Thresholds for stationary sources (1,100 metric tons of CO_2e per year). Therefore, GHG emissions resulting from implementation of the proposed Project are considered to have a less-than-significant impact on the environment.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

b. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

Impact Analysis:

The SMAQMD is responsible for regulating GHG emissions in the Project area. The SMAQMD 2021 Air Quality Guidelines recommend that GHGs for Projects be quantified and the estimated CO_2e emissions from implementing the remedial actions (108 metric tons of CO_2e per year) would fall below SMAQMD Air Quality Significance Thresholds for stationary sources (1,100 metric tons of CO_2e per year). In addition, construction activities would not conflict with any goals set by the SMAQMD to achieve the Sacramento Area's implementation of Assembly Bill 32 pertaining to global warming.

Conclusion:

The operation of construction equipment during implementation of remedial actions at the Project Site would be short-term and temporary and would not conflict with any applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases. All remedial actions would be performed in compliance with the SMAQMD rules and polices. No impact related to conflict with a GHG reduction plan would occur.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

References Used:

Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD). April 2021. *Guide to Air Quality Assessment in Sacramento County*. https:// https://www.airquality.org/businesses/ceqa-land-use-planning/ceqa-guidance-tools (Accessed November 2024)

SMAQMD. 2024. *Air Quality Standards and Attainment Status*. https://www.airquality.org/residents/air-quality-plans/federal-planning (Accessed November 2024)

Ecometrica 2012. Greenhouse Gases, CO_2, CO_2e, and Carbon: What Do All These Terms Mean? August 2012. Matthew Brander

Sacramento County. 2021. *2021 Greenhouse Gas Inventory.* https://green.saccounty.net/Pages/2021GreenhouseGasInventory.aspx (Accessed December 12, 2024).

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 (LAWS, ORDINANCES, REGULATIONS, STANDARDS):

Federal laws and regulations:

- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Title 42 United States Code and 40 Code Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 260-279. More specifically, hazardous waste generators are governed by 40 CFR part 262, subpart E and transporters of hazardous waste governed by 40 CFR part 263. RCRA gives EPA the authority to control hazardous waste from the generation, transportation, treatment, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste. RCRA also set forth a framework for the management of non-hazardous solid waste.

- The U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration regulates the transport of hazardous materials through Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Subchapter C.

State laws and regulations:

- Hazardous Waste Control Law (Health and Safety Code (HSC) Chapter 6.5) and 22 California Code of Regulations (CCR). The law establishes regulations and incentives which ensure that the generators of hazardous

waste employ technology and management practices for the safe handling, treatment, recycling, and destruction of their hazardous wastes prior to disposal. Article 6 of HSC Chapter 6.5 discusses the transportation of hazardous waste.

- California Vehicle Code: Divisions 2, 6, 12, 13, 14, 15 also apply to transportation of hazardous materials.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING (BASELINE):
SMUD acquired the electrical substation and its associated property from the Pacific Gas and Electric Company in 1946 and operated the substation until approximately 1993 when the transformers were removed. The Site is currently vacant except for a small, corrugated metal shed; three concrete pads; a subsurface electrical grounding grid; and a perimeter chain-link fence topped with barbed wire. The main COCs onsite are lead, and arsenic in soils.

APPLICABLE THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The list of hazards and hazardous materials effects that may be considered significant contained in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines (Environmental Checklist) was used to establish a threshold of significance**.**

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PERFORMED AND METHODOLOGY:

Human health and ecological risk assessments performed for the Project Site are summarized in the *Remedial Action Plan, SMUD Thornton Avenue Former Electrical Substation* (AECOM, 2025).

IMPACT ANALYSES AND CONCLUSIONS:

Analysis as to whether or not Project activities would:

a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment throughout the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?

Impact Analysis:

Hazardous materials used during implementation of remedial actions would include fuels and oils for standard operation of construction equipment. Proper storage and disposal and compliance with applicable laws and regulations governing the management of hazardous materials and hazardous waste would minimize potential impacts associated with the use of such materials. Construction activities are estimated to occur over an anticipated 12- to 16-week period during use and transport of hazardous materials, and management and/or transport of waste generated would occur.

The proposed Project would implement remedial actions to address impacted soil by removing COC-impacted soils to a maximum depth of 10 feet bgs;; exporting any Class I RCRA waste, non-RCRA-hazardous waste, and Class II non-hazardous waste to the appropriate permitted off-site facility for disposal; and backfilling the site with clean imported soil.

The routine management, storage, and transport of materials would be consistent with all applicable federal and state laws. Any storage of hazardous or impacted materials would occur in a designated material-handling area with secondary containment. In addition, the proposed Project would implement a Health and Safety Plan (HASP) which would describe, in detail, how potential for exposures would be minimized for all personnel who enter the Project Site and how migration of contaminated materials beyond the area would be prevented.

Conclusion:

The adherence to the HASP and standard practices, implementation of remedial actions would not a create a significant hazard to the public or the environment throughout the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. Project-related impacts would be less than significant.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

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?

Impact Analysis:

Implementation of remedial actions at the Project Site have the slight potential to release hazardous materials into the environment during disturbance of contaminated soils; from an accidental release of fuel, oil, or maintenance chemicals from construction equipment; and/or from dust generated during construction activities. During construction activities, potential spills or releases of hazardous materials would be minimized through the following:

- Preparation and implementation of a HASP including requirements for workers and other construction management components;
- Implementation of contaminant control measures for the construction and maintenance of soil stockpiles, if stockpiles are needed, to prevent potentially impacted soil from being released onto clean soil or into the air; and
- Implementation of an Erosion Control Plan and best management practices to reduce erosion, sediment, and pollution levels in storm water runoff discharged from the site to storm drains during and after excavation activities.

Conclusion:

Remedial actions would be required to adhere to the requirements of hazardous waste management plans (i.e., HASP) and to implement standard practices (e.g., contaminant control measures, erosion control). Therefore, the proposed Project potential to 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 would be less than significant.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

Impact Analysis:

There are no schools located within one-quarter mile of the Project Site. The remedial actions would involve activities that would disturb the existing contaminated soils in such a way that could impact offsite areas, including the any school. However, the proposed Project would implement contaminant control measures for proper construction and maintenance of soil stockpiles, if stockpiles are needed, to prevent potentially COPC-impacted soil from being released into the air. In addition, dust monitoring stations would be placed on-site, and careful visual monitoring would be conducted to assure dust suppression techniques are effective in preventing dust from traveling off-site during excavation and loading. Potential releases of hazardous materials would be minimized through implementation of contaminant control measures during construction activities which protect students within one-quarter mile of the Project site from potentially hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials.

Conclusion:
Remedial actions at the Project Site would not occur within one-quarter mile of an elementary school. Activities associated with the remedial actions would disturb the existing contaminated soils in such a way that could impact offsite areas, including schools. The proposed Project would implement contaminant control measures (e.g., dust monitoring) which would substantially reduce the potential for emissions of hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances or waste within one-quarter mile of school to a less-than-significant level.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

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?

Impact Analysis:

The Project Site is not included on any list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. However, the purpose of the remedial actions is to clean up contaminated soils on the site. Therefore, proposed activities would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment.

Conclusion:

The Project Site is not included on any list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. The proposed remedial actions would remove, not create, a significant hazard to the public or the environment. Therefore, no impact would occur.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

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?

Impact Analysis:

The Project Site is not located within two miles of any public airport or public use airport. The closest airport to the site is Sacramento International Airport which is located approximately 9 miles to the northwest.

Conclusion:

The remedial actions would not occur in an area located within an airport land use plan nor within two miles of a public airport or public use airport. Therefore, implementation of the Project would not result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the Project area.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

f. Impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

Impact Analysis:

In the event of an emergency during remedial actions, a Project Health and Safety Plan (HASP) will be developed and implemented which outlines the actions to protect workers during remedial actions. The HASP includes contingency plans for spills, fires, or other emergencies during construction activities.

The transportation of equipment and materials to and from the Project Site have the potential to impair implementation or interfere with the existing emergency response plan and/or evacuation plan. The HASP would include a stop-work authority requirement for all work locations and workers and grants any worker the ability to stop work if an unsafe condition is identified that could cause substantial harm or imminent danger to health and safety of workers, the public, or the environment. As a result, if actions described in the HASP

were to be implemented in response to an emergency, Project management would be able to immediately suspend equipment operation until the emergency response is completed or the evacuation order is lifted.

Conclusion:

The proposed Project would implement a HASP that would allow for suspending construction activities that could impair implementation of an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. Impacts to an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan are considered less than significant.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

g. Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?

Impact Analysis:

The Project Site is not located in an area with environmental conditions conducive to wildland fires. The Project Site is in an area lacking dry vegetation (urban area). Although construction equipment has a minimal potential to spark a fire during remedial actions, implementation of best management practices (BMPs) would further limit the potential for a wildland fire that exposes people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death to occur.

Conclusion:

Impacts from wildland fires during implementation of the remedial actions are considered less than significant.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

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 (LAWS, ORDINANCES, REGULATIONS, STANDARDS):

The State Water Resources Control Board and the Regional Water Quality Control Boards (collectively Water Boards) share authority to implement the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA, 33 U.S.C. §1251 et seq.) and California's Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (California Water Code, Section 7). The CWA establishes the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants into the waters of the United States and regulating quality standards for surface waters.

The Water Boards enforce waste discharge requirements through National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. The Porter-Cologne Act mandates the Regional Water Board to develop, adopt and implement a Basin Plan for the Region. The Water Quality Control Plan for the Los Angeles Basin (Los Angeles Region Basin Plan) is the master policy document that contains descriptions of the legal, technical, and programmatic bases of water quality regulation in the Region.

The following are also applicable:

- The State Board published a resolution (SWRCB Resolution No. 88-63, as revised by Resolution No. 2006-0008) adopting policy regarding sources of drinking water where exceptions are provided for waters meeting certain criteria.

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency promulgated numeric water quality criteria for priority toxic pollutants and other water quality standards provisions to be applied to inland surface waters, enclosed bays and estuaries in California (California Toxics Rule, CTRs).

- A California Stormwater Construction General Permit is required for construction Projects disturbing more than 1 acre. The legally responsible person is required to electronically file permit registration documents consisting of a notice of intent, risk assessment, site map, SWPPP, annual fee, and signed certification statement through the State Water Board's Storm Water Multi-Application and Report Tracking System.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING (BASELINE):

Sacramento Valley, which is in the northern portion of the Great Valley Geomorphic Province. The Great Valley Geomorphic Province is an elongated, northwest-trending structural trough, bounded by the Cascade Ranges to the north, the Sierra Nevada to the east, the Coast Ranges to the west, and the Transverse Ranges to the south. The Great Valley is approximately 450 miles long and 50 miles wide. According to the Geologic Map of California, the Great Valley is backfilled with Quaternary-age sediments, originating from the Sierra Nevada and Coast Ranges. The geology underlying the sediments is characterized as thick sequences of sedimentary materials of Jurassic through Holocene age. The Project site overlies the South American Subbasin.

The Project site does not contain any storm drains or culverts including ponds, lakes, creeks or any other surface water bodies. The Project site is composed of mostly impermeable surfaces (e.g., pavement) and are surrounded by more impermeable areas associated with urban development. Because of the existing features on the Project site, storm water runoff would most likely be free of sediment and would flow from the site toward Thornton Avenue or North B Street.

APPLICABLE THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The list of hydrology and water quality effects that may be considered significant contained in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines (Environmental Checklist) was used to establish a threshold of significance**.**

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PERFORMED AND METHODOLOGY:

The hydrogeological conditions have been characterized through investigations completed as part of the Site investigations. Groundwater samples were also collected and characterized.

IMPACT ANALYSES AND CONCLUSIONS:

Analysis as to whether or not Project activities would:

a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?

Impact Analysis:

The objectives of the remedial actions include improving water quality conditions by excavating contaminated soils from the Project site. The removal of contaminated soils as part of the remedial actions would also result in improvement to the groundwater quality and would not violate any water quality standards or water discharge requirements.

Conclusion:

The remedial actions are anticipated to improve groundwater quality and result in the overall reduction of contaminants in on-site soils. Project activities would not violate any water quality standards, waste discharge requirements, or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality. Impacts are considered to be less than significant.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

b. Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the Project may impeded sustainable groundwater management of the basin?

Impact Analysis:

Groundwater would not be extracted as part of implementation of the remedial actions. Groundwater beneath the site would remain isolated. Implementation of the remedial actions would not result in reducing groundwater discharge because the Project site is currently covered with impervious surfaces. Excavation of contaminated soils and backfilling with clean soil would not change the overall amount of impervious surfaces on the Project site. Therefore, implementation of the remedial actions would not substantially interfere with the overall recharge of the East Bay Plain Subbasin.

Conclusion:

Implementation of the remedial actions would not interfere substantially with groundwater recharge of the East Bay Plain Subbasin. A less-than-significant impact is expected to occur.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

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;

Impact Analysis:

Excavation of contaminated soils and backfilling with clean soil would not substantially increase or decrease the paved surface area of the site from existing conditions. Runoff from the Project site would not change and would continue to be managed in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations.

Conclusion:

Implementation of the remedial actions would not result in any substantial changes to onsite drainage patterns. Therefore, the remedial actions would not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the overall Project Site or Project area in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or offsite. Consequently, impacts are considered to be less than significant.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

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

Impact Analysis:

Excavation of contaminated soils and backfilling with clean soil would not substantially increase or decrease the paved surface area of the site from existing conditions. The existing storm water runoff at the Project Site would continue to occur in the same manner as currently experienced.

Conclusion:

The remedial actions would not alter the overall, existing drainage patterns on the Project Site and, therefore, it would not substantially alter the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite. Impacts related to flooding are considered to be less than significant.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

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

Impact Analysis:

Excavation of contaminated soils and backfilling with clean soil would not substantially increase or decrease the paved surface area of the site from existing conditions. The existing storm water runoff at the Project Site would continue to occur in the same manner as currently experienced, including continuing to prevent polluted runoff.

Conclusion:

Construction activities and implementation of remedial actions would not create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

(iv) impede or redirect flood flows?

Impact Analysis:

According to the FEMA Flood Map, the Project Site does not lie within a 100-year flood hazard area (FEMA, 2025). In addition, the remedial actions would not involve building any structures which could impede or redirect flood flows.

Conclusion:

Activities associated with remedial actions would not construct any structures which could impede or redirect flood flows. Therefore, no impact would occur.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

d. In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to Project inundation?

Impact Analysis:

The Project Site is not located in an area at risk from tsunami inundation (CDC, 2024). The Project Site is not susceptible to seiche inundation because there are no major landlocked bodies of water within or near the site.

Conclusion:
Implementation of remedial actions would not occur in an area at risk to seiche or from tsunami inundation. Therefore, the potential for release of pollutants from the Project Site would not occur. No impact would occur.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

e. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?

Impact Analysis:

The objectives of the remedial actions include improving water quality conditions through excavation of contaminated soils and backfilling with clean soil at the Project S ite. Overall, remedial actions would decrease the potential for contaminants to migrate from soil or groundwater.

Conclusion:

Construction activities during implementation of remedial actions would not violate any water quality standards or water discharge requirements identified in any water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

References Used:

California Department of Conservation (CDC). 2022. Department of Conservation Tsunami Inundation Map, https://www.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/tsunami/maps. (Accessed August 21, 2024).

FEMA. 2025. FEMA Flood Map Service Center: Search By Address. https://msc.fema.gov/portal/search (Accessed June 10, 2025).

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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

REGULATORY SETTING (LAWS, ORDINANCES, REGULATIONS, STANDARDS):

City of Sacramento Zoning Code provides restrictions and regulations on land uses and identifies the Project Site as Heavy Commercial Zone (C-4). Similarly, the City of Sacramento General Plan designates the land use of the Project Site as Employment Mixed Use.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING (BASELINE):

The City of Sacramento General Plan refers to the Project Site as an area intended to buffer residential uses from more intense industrial and service commercial activities and to provide compatible employment uses near higher-density and mixed-use housing.

APPLICABLE THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The list of land use and planning resource effects that may be considered significant contained in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines (Environmental Checklist) was used to establish a threshold of significance.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PERFORMED AND METHODOLOGY:

Based on the lack of land use changes in or near the Project Site, no environmental studies relating to land use and planning were prepared for the proposed Project.

IMPACT ANALYSES AND CONCLUSIONS:

Analysis as to whether or not Project activities would:

a. Physically divide an established community?

Impact Analysis:

There are no residential areas or developed community on the Project Site. Implementation of the remedial actions would not physically divide the nearby established community.

Conclusion:

Remedial actions would not have the potential to physically divide an established community based on the distance between the Project Site and nearest developed community. No impact would occur.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

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?

Impact Analysis:

The remedial actions are intended to be a remedy to previous environmental effects (e.g., excavation of contaminated soils). Implementation of the remedial actions would not conflict with land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect but would improve the existing environment.

Conclusion:

The remedial actions would remedy previous environmental effects and would not conflict with land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. No impact would occur.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

References Used:

City of Sacramento. Zoning Information. 2024. https://www.cityofsacramento.gov/community-development/planning/zoning-and-entitlements/zoning (Accessed December 11, 2024).

City of Sacramento. 2040 General Plan, Land Use and Placemaking Element. https://www.cityofsacramento.gov/community-development/planning/long-range/general-plan/2040-general-plan (Accessed December 11, 2024).

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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

REGULATORY SETTING (LAWS, ORDINANCES, REGULATIONS, STANDARDS):
No laws, ordinances, regulations, or standards protecting mineral resources are applicable to the proposed Project.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING (BASELINE):

The Project Site is located in an urban, developed area of the City of Sacramento which has been identified as Urban Land by the California Department of Conservation and has been designated as Employment Mixed Use in the City of Sacramento General Plan.

APPLICABLE THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The list of mineral resource effects that may be considered significant contained in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines (Environmental Checklist) was used to establish a threshold of significance.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PERFORMED AND METHODOLOGY:

Based on the lack of mineral resources in or near the Project Site, no environmental studies relating to mineral resources were prepared for the proposed Project.

IMPACT ANALYSES AND CONCLUSIONS:

Analysis as to whether or not Project activities would:

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?

Impact Analysis:

The Project Site is located in an urban, developed area and no known mineral resources of value to the region and the residents of the state exist on the site.

Conclusion:

The cap would not prevent access to potential mineral resources if the Project Site and surrounding area are ever reclassified. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

b. 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?

Impact Analysis:

The Project Site is located in an urban, developed area and is not located in an area identified as a mineral resource area.

Conclusion:

The Project Site is not likely to contain significant mineral deposits and the remedial actions would not prevent access to mineral resources if the Project Site and surrounding area are ever reclassified. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

REGULATORY SETTING (LAWS, ORDINANCES, REGULATIONS, STANDARDS):

The Environmental Resources and Constraints Element of the City of Sacramento General Plan identifies its purpose to make sure that noise-sensitive land uses are separated from noisy uses to ensure a pleasant, healthy noise environment. This element works to ensure that the City limits the exposure of the community to excessive noise levels in noise-sensitive areas and at noise-sensitive times of day. The City adopted noise levels that exceed 65 dBA to be unacceptable for multi-family residential land uses.

The City of Sacramento Municipal Code (Section 8.68.080 (E), Noise Control) addresses impacts that are due to construction noise. The regulations state that noise associated with construction activities shall be limited to between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on weekdays and Saturday and limited to between 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on Sunday.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING (BASELINE):

The Project Site is located in an urban, developed area of the City of Sacramento and currently zoned for Employment Mixed Use development as part of the City's General Plan. Existing ambient noise in the area of the Project Site includes commercial activities, light industrial activities, vehicle trips along nearby roads (e.g., North 16th Street), and trains along a rail line to the east.

APPLICABLE THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

For purposes of this analysis, noise effects may be considered significant if Project activities would result in generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the Project Site in excess of City noise level standard of 65 dB CNEL or result in generation of excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PERFORMED AND METHODOLOGY:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) developed the Roadway Construction Noise Model (RCNM), which has become the industry-accepted standard model for calculating construction noise levels at specific receptor locations. Model inputs include the type and number of pieces of heavy construction equipment, their usage factors, distance to a receptor, and estimated shielding reduction (if any). The noise modeling for the proposed remedial actions were analyzed according to default construction equipment list from the air quality impact analysis for the proposed Project. To reflect a conservative analysis, a reasonable worst-case scenario was modeled, assuming that each piece of modeled equipment would operate simultaneously at a reasonable distance from one another at the nearest possible locations to each modeled receptor. The modeled receptor locations represent the closest existing sensitive receptors to the Project Site.

The City uses CNEL for regulating noise levels throughout the City. CNEL is the average equivalent sound level over a 24-hour period, with a penalty added for noise during the nighttime hours of 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and of 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. During the evening period, 5 dB is added to take into account the decrease in community background noise between the hours of 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. During the nighttime period, 10 dB is added to take into account the decrease in community background noise between the hours of 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. However, construction activities associated with implementing the proposed remedial actions would occur only during daytime hours and would not be subject to the noise penalty applied to CNEL. Therefore, this analysis uses L_{eq}, the equivalent continuous sound level in decibels measured over a stated period of time (typically one hour), for the purposes of measuring Project-generated noise.

IMPACT ANALYSES AND CONCLUSIONS:

Analysis as to whether or not Project activities would result in:

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?

Impact Analysis:

The proposed Project would use heavy equipment for excavation of contaminated soils. Remedial actions would occur between 12 and 16 weeks during daytime hours (Weekdays, 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.) to meet the City of Sacramento's requirement for construction activities to provide relative quiet during the more sensitive evening and early morning periods (Municipal Code Title 8 Health and Safety Chapter 8.68.080 (E)).

The City uses CNEL for regulating noise levels, however, construction activities associated with implementing the remedial actions would occur only during daytime hours and would not be subject to the noise penalty applied to CNEL. Therefore, this analysis uses L_{eq} for the purposes of measuring noise generated during construction activities and is considered relevant and appropriate. L_{eq} is the equivalent continuous sound level in decibels, equivalent to the total sound energy measured over a stated period of time (typically one hour).

The Project Site is located in an active industrial and commercial area along with an affordable, homeless housing complex located approximately one-tenth mile (670 feet) to the southwest across 16th Street. Using the RCNM, noise levels generated by the loudest construction equipment anticipated to be used for remedial actions (i.e., auger, loader, excavator) at the Project Site are predicted to be 57.7 L_{eq} dBA at 670 feet (closest distance between the Project Site and nearest residences) (FHWA 2006). Based on this predicted noise level, temporary noise levels during construction activities are anticipated to be noticed at nearby receptors (e.g., residences) and construction activities would be allowed in accordance with City regulations.

Conclusion:

Noise levels generated during Project construction activities would not be discernible from the existing ambient noise levels in the Project Site area because of the distance (670 feet) to the nearest noise receptor (e.g., residences). In addition, the proposed Project would meet City of Sacramento's requirement that construction activities be limited to weekdays between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. The proposed Project would have a less than significant impact.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

b. Generation of excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels?

Impact Analysis:

Implementation of remedial actions would require the use of heavy construction equipment (e.g., auger, loader, excavator) at the ProjectSite. Ground-borne vibration and noise generated by the use of these heavy construction equipment would not be felt at the nearest receptor (i.e., residence) because of the potential distance to construction activities (670 feet). Therefore, ground-borne vibration and ground-borne noise levels would not

occur at levels that would be considered excessive because the ground would substantially attenuate vibration and noise. Temporary vibration levels during construction activities are anticipated to not be noticed at nearby receptors (e.g., residences).

Conclusion:

Construction equipment used during proposed remedial actions would not generate excessive ground-borne vibration or noise felt because of the distance (670 feet) to the nearest noise receptor (e.g., residence). The proposed Project would have a less than significant impact.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

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?

Impact Analysis:

The Project Site is not located within an airport land use plan, vicinity of a private airstrip, or within two miles of a public airport or public use airport. The closest airport to the site is Sacramento International Airport which is located approximately 9 miles to the northwest.

Conclusion:
The remedial actions would not the potential to expose people residing or working in the Project area to excessive noise levels generated by a nearby airport or airfield. No impact would occur.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

References Used:

City of Sacramento Municipal Code. https://codelibrary.amlegal.com/codes/sacramentoca/latest/sacramento_ca/0-0-0-17693#JD_Chapter8.68 (Accessed December 11, 2024).

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). February 15, 2006. Roadway Construction Noise Model. https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/noise/construction_noise/rcnm/ (Accessed December 11, 2024).

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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

REGULATORY SETTING (LAWS, ORDINANCES, REGULATIONS, STANDARDS):

No laws, ordinances, regulations, or standards protecting population and housing resources are applicable to the proposed Project.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING (BASELINE):

City of Sacramento Zoning Code provides restrictions and regulations on land uses and identifies the Project Site as Heavy Commercial Zone (C-4). Similarly, the City of Sacramento General Plan designates the land use of the Project Site as Employment Mixed Use.

APPLICABLE THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The list of population and housing resource effects that may be considered significant contained in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines (Environmental Checklist) was used to establish a threshold of significance.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PERFORMED AND METHODOLOGY:

Based on the lack of housing on the Project Site, no environmental studies relating to population and housing resources were prepared for the proposed Project.

IMPACT ANALYSES AND CONCLUSIONS:

Analysis as to whether or not Project activities would:

a. Induce substantial unplanned population growth in area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?

Impact Analysis:

Implementation of the remedial actions are intended to clean up contaminated soils. Remediation of contaminated soils would not change the underlying use of the site for heavy commercial uses and would not allow for increased population growth.

Conclusion:

The proposed Project would not have the potential to allow for future population growth. No impact would occur.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

b. Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

Impact Analysis:
Implementation of the remedial actions are intended to clean up contaminated soils at the Project Site. Remediation of contaminated soils would not require removing any existing people or housing.

Conclusion:
The proposed Project would not have the potential to displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

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

REGULATORY SETTING (LAWS, ORDINANCES, REGULATIONS, STANDARDS):

No laws, ordinances, regulations, or standards protecting public services resources are applicable to the proposed Project.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING (BASELINE):

City of Sacramento Zoning Code provides restrictions and regulations on land uses and identifies the Project Site as Heavy Commercial Zone (C-4). Similarly, the City of Sacramento General Plan designates the land use of the Project Site as Employment Mixed Use.

Public parks located within 1 mile of the Project Site includes John Muir Children's Park (1/4-mile to the south), Mirasol Park (1/2-mile to the northwest), River District Park (3/4-mile to the west), and Ulysses S. Grant Park (3/4-mile to the east). The are two schools located within 1 mile of the Project Site (Washington Elementary approximately 0.4 mile south and the Smythe Academy of Arts and Sciences Middle School approximately 0.5 miles northwest). Sacramento Police Department is located approximately 1-mile to the west of the Project site. Sacramento Fire Department Station 14 is located one-tenth mile to the west and Sutter Medical Center is located 1 mile to the southeast of the site. Lastly, the Sacramento Public Library is located 1-mile to the south of the Project site.

APPLICABLE THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The list of public services resource effects that may be considered significant contained in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines (Environmental Checklist) was used to establish a threshold of significance.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PERFORMED AND METHODOLOGY:

Based on the less than significant impact of the Project Site to public services resources, no environmental studies relating to public services resources were prepared for the proposed Project.

IMPACT ANALYSES AND CONCLUSIONS:

Analysis as to whether or not Project activities would:

Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered government 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 following public services:

Fire protection?

Impact Analysis:

The closest fire station to the Project Site is Sacramento Fire Department Station 14, located at 1400 North B Street in Sacramento. The drive distance between the Project Site and Station 14 is 0.1 miles. Potential demands on fire protection services may increase slightly during the construction period as a result of unforeseen events related to the scope of work. However, ongoing adherence to procedures and practices identified in the proposed Project's HASP would reduce the potential for incidents to occur that would require a fire district response.

Conclusion:

Ongoing adherence to procedures and practices identified in the proposed Project's HASP would reduce the potential for incidents to occur that would require response from fire protection services. After completion of remedial actions, the proposed Project would not cause an increase in demand on fire protection, as compared to the current demand.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

Police protection?

Impact Analysis:

The Project Site is located in the jurisdiction of the City of Sacramento's Police Department. Potential demands on law enforcement or emergency response services could increase slightly during the construction period as a result of unforeseen events or circumstances. However, risks to human health and safety would be minimized through ongoing adherence to procedures and practices identified in the proposed Project's HASP.

Conclusion:

Ongoing adherence to procedures and practices identified in the proposed Project's HASP would reduce the need for police protection services. After completion of remedial actions, the Project would not cause an increase in demand on police protection, as compared to current demand.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

Schools?

Impact Analysis:

The proposed Project would not result in an increase in population or associated increase in demand on any school.

Conclusion:

Remedial actions would not create a demand for existing or new school facilities. No impact to school facilities would occur.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

Parks?

Impact Analysis:

The nearest neighborhood park to the Project Site is John Muir Children's Park (located 1/4-mile to the southwest). The proposed Project would not result in an increase in population or associated increase in demand on parks.

Conclusion:

Remedial actions would not create a demand for existing or new park facilities. No impact to park facilities would occur.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

Other public facilities?

Impact Analysis:

The closest hospital to the Project Site is the Sutter Medical Center, located approximately 1 mile to the southeast at 2825 Capitol Avenue in Sacramento. Construction activities could result in a slight increase in demands for services at the hospital. The potential for incidents requiring medical attention would be minimized through adherence with the proposed Project's HASP.

Conclusion:

Ongoing adherence to procedures and practices identified in the proposed Project's HASP would reduce the need for other public facilities and services. After remedial actions complete, the Project would not cause an increase in demand on other public facilities and services, as compared to current demand.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

16. RECREATION				
	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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

REGULATORY SETTING (LAWS, ORDINANCES, REGULATIONS, STANDARDS):

No laws, ordinances, regulations, or standards protecting agriculture or forestry resources are applicable to the Proposed Project.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING (BASELINE):

Public parks located within 1 mile of the Project Site includes John Muir Children's Park (1/4-mile to the south), Mirasol Park (1/2-mile to the northwest), River District Park (3/4-mile to the west), and Ulysses S. Grant Park (3/4-mile to the east).

APPLICABLE THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The list of recreational resource effects that may be considered significant contained in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines (Environmental Checklist) was used to establish a threshold of significance.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PERFORMED AND METHODOLOGY:

Based on the lack of impacts to recreational resources in or near the Project Site, no environmental studies relating to recreational resources were prepared for the proposed Project.

IMPACT ANALYSES AND CONCLUSIONS:

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?

Impact Analysis:

The nearest neighborhood park is John Muir Children's Park, located 1/4-mile southwest of the Project Site in a residential district. Implementation of remedial actions would not directly increase the permanent resident population in the area because no habitable structures are planned as part of the Project.

Conclusion:

The proposed Project would not increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks, other recreational parks, or other recreational facilities, such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated. No impact to the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities would occur.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

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

Impact Analysis:

The Project Site does not contain any recreational facilities. Implementation of remedial actions would not involve or require construction or expansion of any recreational facilities.

Conclusion:

The proposed Project would not construct or cause the need for construction of additional recreational facilities. No impact to existing or need for additional recreational facilities would occur.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

17. TRANSPORTATION				
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) Would the Project 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

REGULATORY SETTING (LAWS, ORDINANCES, REGULATIONS, STANDARDS):

Federal laws and regulations:

- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Title 42 United States Code Subtitle C and 40 Code Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 260-279. More specifically, transporters of hazardous waste are governed by 40 CFR part 263. RCRA gives EPA the authority to control hazardous waste from the generation, transportation, treatment, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste.

- The U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration regulates the transport of hazardous materials through Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Subchapter C.

State laws and regulations:

- Hazardous Waste Control Law (Health and Safety Code (HSC) Chapter 6.5) and 22 California Code of Regulations (CCR). The law establishes regulations and incentives which ensure that the generators of hazardous waste employ technology and management practices for the safe handling, treatment, recycling, and destruction of their hazardous wastes prior to disposal. Article 6 of HSC Chapter 6.5 discusses the transportation of hazardous waste.

- California Vehicle Code: Divisions 2, 6, 12, 13, 14, 15 also apply to transportation of hazardous materials.

Local laws and regulations:

The Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG) is designated by the Federal government as the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) that oversees the regional transportation plan for the Sacramento region. The SCOF oversees a Congestion Management Process (CMP) which is a collaboratively developed set of objectives, performance metrics, and strategies the Sacramento region uses to monitor and manage traffic congestion on select roadways that comprise its CMP network. SACOG updates its CMP every four years, in alignment with its Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP-SCS) updates. The MTP/SCS for the Sacramento region proactively links land use, air quality, and transportation needs.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING (BASELINE):

North 16th Street, Thornton Avenue, and North B Street Street provide the main access routes into the ProjectSite.

APPLICABLE THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The list of transportation resource effects that may be considered significant contained in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines (Environmental Checklist) was used to establish a threshold of significance. LOS has been the standard by which transportation impacts of major developments and changes to roads were measured. LOS was formally defined in the 1965 Highway Capacity Manual as a "qualitative measure of the effect of a number of factors, which include speed and travel time, traffic interruptions, freedom to maneuver, safety, driving comfort and convenience, and operating cost". It is better understood today that LOS does not accurately reflect vehicle travel as it only focuses on individual local intersections and roadway segments and not on the entire vehicle trip. In 2013, the State of California passed Senate Bill (SB) 743 which required the Office Planning and Research (OPR) to amend the CEQA Guidelines to provide an alternative to LOS for evaluating transportation impacts. LOS was replaced with Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) as "the most appropriate metric of a Project's potential transportation impacts". VMT data are used primarily by transportation agencies, environmental agencies, and consultants to perform a variety of functions such as allocating resources, estimating vehicle emissions, computing energy consumption, and assessing traffic impacts.

Section 15064.3(b) of the CEQA Guidelines states the following:

(b) Criteria for Analyzing Transportation Impacts.

(1) Land Use Projects. Vehicle miles traveled exceeding an applicable threshold of significance may indicate a significant impact. Generally, Projects within one-half mile of either an existing major transit stop or a stop along an existing high-quality transit corridor should be presumed to cause a less than significant transportation impact. Projects that decrease vehicle miles traveled in the Project area compared to existing conditions should be presumed to have a less than significant transportation impact.

(2) Transportation Projects. Transportation Projects that reduce, or have no impact on, vehicle miles traveled should be presumed to cause a less than significant transportation impact. For roadway capacity Projects, agencies have discretion to determine the appropriate measure of transportation impact consistent with CEQA and other applicable requirements. To the extent that such impacts have already been adequately addressed at a programmatic level, such as in a regional transportation plan EIR, a lead agency may tier from that analysis as provided in Section 15152.

(3) Qualitative Analysis. If existing models or methods are not available to estimate the vehicle miles traveled for the particular Project being considered, a lead agency may analyze the Project's vehicle miles traveled qualitatively. Such a qualitative analysis would evaluate factors such as the availability of transit, proximity to other destinations, etc. For many Projects, a qualitative analysis of construction traffic may be appropriate.

(4) Methodology. A lead agency has discretion to choose the most appropriate methodology to evaluate a Project's vehicle miles traveled, including whether to express the change in absolute terms, per capita, per household or in any other measure. A lead agency may use models to estimate a Project's vehicle miles traveled, and may revise those estimates to reflect professional judgment based on substantial evidence. Any assumptions used to estimate vehicle miles traveled and any revisions to model outputs should be documented and explained in the environmental document prepared for the Project. The standard of adequacy in Section 15151 shall apply to the analysis described in this section.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PERFORMED AND METHODOLOGY:

Based on the less than significant impact to transportation resources in or near the ProjectSite, no environmental studies relating to transportation resources were prepared for the proposed Project.

IMPACT ANALYSES AND CONCLUSIONS:

Analysis as to whether or not Project activities would:

a. Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadways, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?

Impact Analysis:

The remedial actions would not affect public roadways in the long-term because these activities would not substantially affect the overall circulation system. The proposed Project would add some traffic to roadways during the anticipated 12- to 16-week construction period due to delivery of materials and supplies to the site,

removal of any wastes from the site, and workers traveling to and from the site. The proposed Project would not have any long-term effects on congestion levels.

During construction, periodic movement of heavy equipment would occur using North 16th Street, Thornton Avenue, and North B Street. It is anticipated that heavy truck trips would be only associated with moving equipment associated with excavation activities to the site. The trucks would primarily enter and exit the Project Site on these local roadways. As these trips would be intermittent, the remedial actions would not substantially increase the traffic on any public street system. Prior to entering the site, all haulers will demonstrate that their vehicles are properly registered, operational, and placarded in compliance with Federal, State and Local laws, for the type of material being transported. Overall, the proposed Project is considered a less-than-significant impact in relation to congestion management.

There are no bike lanes adjacent to the Project Site; however, a regional bike trail is located ¼-mile east of the Project site. The regional bike trail is not connected to the roadway network serving the Project site and, therefore, remedial actions would not affect bicyclists using the regional trail. The nearest bus line (Sacramento Regional Transit's Arden Commuter Bus Route #129) operates along North 16th Street near the site. The temporary increase in truck traffic during implementation of remedial actions would not affect any program, plan, ordinance or policy relating to these transportation facilities.

Conclusion:

The proposed Project would not incorporate any activities, short-term or long-term, that would have the ability to conflict with any program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadways, bicycle and pedestrian facilities in the Project area.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

b. Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?

Impact Analysis:

Vehicle miles traveled (VMT) is a measure used in transportation planning for a variety of purposes. It measures the amount of travel for all vehicles in a geographic region over a given period of time, typically a one-year period. VMT is calculated by adding all the miles driven by all the cars and trucks on all the roadways in a region. This metric plays an integral role in the transportation planning, policy-making, and revenue estimation processes due to its ability to indicate travel demand and behavior. VMT may also be used to evaluate conformity assumptions, adjust travel demand forecasts, and identify pavement maintenance needs.

Implementation of the remedial action would not generate additional long-term vehicle trips or change circulation patterns in the Project area. No permanent employees or residents would be added at the Site as a result of the site remediation activities. During site remediation, a limited number of vehicle trips would occur, such as construction worker trips and deliveries of equipment and materials to the Site. Given the limited number and temporary nature of these trips, there would be no conflict with or inconsistencies with provisions of the CEQA guidelines pertaining to VMT.

Conclusion:

The remedial actions would not Project Siteconflict with or be inconsistent with Section 15064.3(b) of the CEQA Guidelines. There would be no impact.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

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

Impact Analysis:

The proposed Project involves onsite remedial actions to address soil contamination. The remedial actions would not contain a design feature or incompatible use that would substantially increase traffic hazards because the activities would not alter the public roadways system.

Conclusion:

Implementation of the remedial actions would not include any design features or incompatible uses which would substantially increase hazards. No impacts related to increased hazards due to a geometric design feature or incompatible uses would occur.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

d. Result in inadequate emergency access?

Impact Analysis:

The remedial actions would not affect emergency access to/from the Project Site in the long-term because these activities would not substantially change the overall circulation system on- and offsite. In addition, all construction equipment would be located and stored onsite and would not have the potential to block access roads.

Conclusion:

Emergency access to/from the Project Site would not change with implementation of remedial actions. No impacts related to inadequate emergency access would occur.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

18. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES				
Conducting consultation early in the CEQA process allows tribal governments, lead agencies, and Project proponents to discuss the level of environmental review, identify and address potential adverse impacts to tribal cultural resources, and reduce the potential for delay and conflict in the environmental review process. (See Public Resources Code section 21083.3.2.) Information may also be available from the California Native American Heritage Commission's Sacred Lands File per Public Resources Code section 5097.96 and the California Historical Resources Information System administered by the California Office of Historic Preservation. Please also note that Public Resources Code section 21082.3(c) contains provisions specific to confidentiality.				
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 (LAWS, ORDINANCES, REGULATIONS, STANDARDS):

Tribal cultural resources are defined in PRC Div. 13 Section 21074. California Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52) specifies that any Project for which a Notice of Preparation, Notice of Mitigated Negative Declaration or Notice of Negative Declaration is filed on or after July 1, 2015, the Lead agency must provide formal notification within 14 days of determining that an application for a Project is complete or of a decision to undertake a Project to the designated contact or tribal representative of the affiliated California Native American tribes. The tribe that is traditionally and culturally affiliated to the geographic area where a Project is located must have requested that the lead agency in question provide notification to the tribe (PRC 21081.3.1).

If remains are found on site, the County Coroner will make the determination of origin and disposition, pursuant to Public Resources Code (PRC) § 5097.98. If the remains are determined to be Native American, the Coroner would notify the NAHC (per Health and Safety Code 7050.5(c)) The NAHC would identify and notify the person(s) who might be the most likely descendent, who would make recommendations for the appropriate and dignified treatment of the remains (PRC Div. 5 section 5097.98). The descendants shall complete their inspection and make recommendations for treatment within 48 hours of being granted access to the Site (CEQA Guidelines, CCR section 15064.5(e); HSC section 7050.5).

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING (BASELINE):

There are no known tribal cultural resources, as defined in PRC Div. 13 Section 21074, on the Project Site or in its immediate vicinity. The Project Site has been used continuously since 1946 and operated a substation on the Site until approximately 1993. DTSC complied with the 2014 Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52). DTSC provided written notification to ten individuals, representing seven tribes, on the Tribal Consultation List from the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) regarding the Proposed Project on August 10, 2021. The notice included a brief Project description, Project location, and lead agency's contact information. DTSC received one response on March 10, 2022, from the list of contacted tribes provided by NAHC.

APPLICABLE THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Tribal cultural resources are defined as either 1) sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that are either included or determined to be eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources (California Register) or listed in a local register of historical resources or 2) a resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, is a tribal cultural resource (OPR, 2017).

To be eligible for the California Register, a prehistoric or historic-period property must be significant at the local, state, and/or federal level under one or more of the following four criteria:

1. Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage;
2. Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past;
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; or,
4. Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

A resource eligible for the California Register must meet one of the criteria of significance described above and retain enough of its historic character or appearance (integrity) to be recognizable as a historical resource and to convey the reason for its significance. It is possible that a historic resource may not retain sufficient integrity to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register, but it may still be eligible for listing in the California Register.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PERFORMED AND METHODOLOGY:

Based on the unlikely potential for unknown cultural resources to be located on the Project Site, no environmental studies relating to cultural resources were prepared for the proposed Project.

IMPACT ANALYSES AND CONCLUSIONS:

a. Would the Project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:

i. Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or

Impact Analysis:

There are no known tribal cultural resources, as defined in PRC Section 21074, on the Project Site or in its immediate vicinity. As described in the Baseline Environmental Conditions, the Project site has been used continuously since 1946 and operated a substation on the Site until approximately 1993. Based on the Project Site location, history, and absence of cultural resource findings during prior site work, it is not likely that historical resources would be identified or impacted during remedial actions. However, if tribal cultural resources are discovered during remedial actions, work would stop in that area until a qualified archaeologist or appropriately licensed professional can assess the significance of the find and, if necessary, develop appropriate response measures in consultation with the DTSC and other agencies and Native American representatives, as appropriate.

Specifically, in the event of discovery of human remains during ground-disturbing activities, work within 25 feet of the discovery shall stop immediately and the County Coroner shall be notified to determine its origin. The County Coroner would determine disposition within 48 hours. If the remains are Native American, the County Coroner would be responsible for contacting the NAHC within 24 hours. The NAHC would identify and notify the person(s) who might be the most likely descendent, who would make recommendations for the appropriate and dignified treatment of the remains (PRC Div. 5 section 5097.98). The descendants shall complete their inspection and make recommendations for treatment within 48 hours of being granted access to the Site (CEQA Guidelines, CCR section 15064.5(e); HSC section 7050.5).

In the event of discovery of potential cultural or archaeological resources, remediation activities would be immediately suspended in the immediate area and surrounding 25 feet along with contacting and informing the DTSC Project Manager (Peter Ruttan at (916) 255-3695; Peter.ruttan@dtsc.ca.gov). After discussion with their Tribal Chairperson or respective Cultural Resources Managers or Tribal Historic Preservation

Officers and in collaboration with DTSC (including the Office of Environmental Equity) and the property owner, any measures deemed necessary to record and/or protect the cultural or archaeological resource(s) would be implemented.

Conclusion:

The proposed Project would not include the demolition, elimination, or manipulation of a known tribal cultural resource. In addition, the finding of an unknown tribal cultural resource during implementation of remedial actions is unlikely based on the site history and conditions and absence of findings during prior onsite work. However, the proposed Project is subject to existing regulations that would be implemented if discovery of unknown tribal cultural resource were uncovered during remedial actions. The proposed Project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource and impacts would be less than significant.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

ii. A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource 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.

Impact Analysis:

There are no known tribal cultural resources, as defined in PRC Section 21074, on the Project Site or in its immediate vicinity. The site has been used continuously since 1946 and operated a substation on the Site until approximately 1993.

On August 10, 2021, the DTSC formally notified the seven tribes identified in the NAHC listing. On March 10, 2022, one tribal Government responded to the AB 52 Consultation letter and requested consultation. The tribes communicated with did not identify any known tribal cultural resources that may be affected by the proposed Project.

However, the one tribal Government that communicated interest provided standard unanticipated discoveries mitigation measure language to protect and notify a Tribal Representative from a California Native American tribe that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with a geographic area to determine if the find is a tribal cultural resource and provide recommendations for further evaluation and treatment. It is noted that the proposed Project includes a standard operating procedure that satisfies the tribal Government's request whereby all possible damages caused in the event of an unanticipated discovery can be avoided. Specifically, if tribal cultural resources are discovered during remedial actions, work would stop in that area until a qualified archaeologist or appropriately licensed professional can assess the significance of the find and, if necessary, develop appropriate response measures in consultation with the DTSC and other agencies and Native American representatives, as appropriate (Section 5.1.3.4 of the RAP). As previously stated, the Project Site has been previously disturbed and no information regarding the presence of known tribal cultural resources has been provided to the DTSC from the contacted tribes or from cultural resource surveys or records.

Conclusion:

As no known tribal cultural resources occur at the ProjectSite or would be affected by the proposed Project, and implementation of the contingency set forth in Section 18 (a)(i) and (ii) would reduce impacts to unknown tribal cultural resources during excavation activities, impacts would be less than significant.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

References Used:

Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR). 2017. Technical Advisory, AB 52 and Tribal Cultural Resources in CEQA. June 2017.

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 management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	☒

REGULATORY SETTING (LAWS, ORDINANCES, REGULATIONS, STANDARDS):

No laws, ordinances, regulations, or standards protecting utilities and service systems resources are applicable to the Proposed Project.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING (BASELINE):

Water delivered to customers in the proposed Project area originates from the Sacramento County Water Agency (SCWA) surface water supplies primarily from the Sacramento River.

The Sacramento Area Sewer District (SASD) provides wastewater treatment and effluent disposal services for the City of Sacramento. The SASD operates and maintains a combined sewer system that integrates both stormwater and sanitary sewage into a single network of sewer main drains, pipes, and conduits. The SASD also owns and operates the second largest water resource recovery facility of its kind in the nation, the EchoWater Resource Recovery Facility located near Elk Grove. Republic Services provides refuse and recycling service in the City of Sacramento.

APPLICABLE THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The list of utilities and service systems resource effects that may be considered significant contained in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines (Environmental Checklist) was used to establish a threshold of significance.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PERFORMED AND METHODOLOGY:

Based on the less than significant impacts to utilities and service systems resources in or near the Project Site, no environmental studies relating to utilities and service systems resources were prepared for the proposed Project.

IMPACT ANALYSES AND CONCLUSIONS:

Analysis as to whether or not Project activities would:

a. Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?

Impact Analysis:

The remedial actions would not create the need for or result in the construction of new or expanded water or wastewater treatment, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities. The excavation of contaminated soils would not affect the current drainage pattern of the site. Runoff on the site would continue to be collected in the existing drainage system.

Conclusion:

Activities associated with the proposed Project would not require new or expanded water or wastewater treatment, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities. Impacts to these facilities would be less than significant.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

b. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the Project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?

Impact Analysis:

Implementation of remedial actions would require between 12 and 16 weeks to complete. The primary source of water required during construction activities would be supplied by the existing onsite non-potable fire protection water system. If needed, additional water would be transported to the ProjectSite by water trucks.

Conclusion:

Sufficient water supplies from existing entitlements and resources onsite are available to serve the needs of remedial actions during the anticipated 12- to 16-week remedial actions period. The remedial actions would not create long-term, future demand for water supply beyond existing conditions. Impacts to water supplies would be less than significant.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

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?

Impact Analysis:

Implementation of remedial actions would not generate wastewater that would require a wastewater treatment provider. Wastewater generated during equipment decontamination activities would be containerized, profiled, and disposed at an appropriate offsite facility. The remedial actions would not create long-term, future demand for wastewater treatment beyond existing conditions.

Conclusion:

Construction activities associated with remediation of the Project Site would not create a demand for wastewater treatment at any wastewater treatment provider. No impact to a wastewater treatment provider would occur.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

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?

Impact Analysis:

Implementation of the proposed site remediation activities are temporary in nature and would not result in any long-term operational generation of solid waste. Any solid waste generated during the remediation activities would be negligible, well within the capacity of local solid waste infrastructure and not of an amount which would impair attainment of solid waste reduction goals.

Conclusion:

Any minimal solid waste generated by remedial actions would be served by the existing solid waste service provider. A less-than-significant impact would occur to solid waste facilities.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

e. Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

Impact Analysis:

Implementation of remedial actions would not generate substantially increase the amounts of solid waste needing transport offsite.

Conclusion:

Any minimal solid waste generated by remedial actions would comply with all federal, state, and local statues and regulations related to solid waste. Therefore, no impacts related to compliance with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste would occur.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

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?	☐	☐	☒	☐

REGULATORY SETTING (LAWS, ORDINANCES, REGULATIONS, STANDARDS):

No laws, ordinances, regulations, or standards protecting wildfire resources are applicable to the proposed Project.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING (BASELINE):

State Responsibility Areas are boundaries adopted by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection and are areas where the California Department of Forestry and Fire (CAL FIRE) has a financial responsibility for fire suppression and prevention. Review of the Fire Hazard Severity Zones in State Responsibility Areas indicate the Project Site is not located in a Very High Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) but is located in a Local Responsibility Area. The closest area classified as a VHFHSZ is located approximately 8 miles east of the Project Site (CAL FIRE 2024).

APPLICABLE THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The list of wildfires resource effects that may be considered significant contained in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines (Environmental Checklist) was used to establish a threshold of significance.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PERFORMED AND METHODOLOGY:

Based on the less than significant impacts to wildfire resources in or near the ProjectSite, no environmental studies relating to wildfire resources were prepared for the proposed Project.

IMPACT ANALYSES AND CONCLUSIONS:

Analysis as to whether or not Project activities would:

a. Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

Impact Analysis:

Please refer to the analysis provided in Section 9(f) of this Initial Study.

Conclusion:

Please refer to the conclusion provided in Section 9(f) of this Initial Study.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

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?

Impact Analysis:

The Project Site is not located in an area with environmental conditions conducive to wildland fires. The Project Site is in an urban area lacking dry vegetation. However, operation of construction equipment on the during remedial actions has the limited potential to spark a fire. However, construction activities would implement BMPs which address fire prevention methods.

Conclusion:

Although construction equipment has a minimal potential to spark a fire during remedial actions, implementation of BMPS would substantially limit the potential for a wildland fire that exposes people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death to occur. Impacts from wildland fires during implementation of the remedial y actions are considered less than significant.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

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?

Impact Analysis:

Implementation of remedial actions would not require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (e.g., fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines, other utilities) that could exacerbate fire risk or could result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment.

Conclusion:

The remedial actions would not install any infrastructure that could exacerbate fire risk or could result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment. No impact would occur.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

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?

Impact Analysis:

Landslides tend to occur where slopes are steeper with higher relief. The Project Site is flat with very little relief. The remedial actions would not significantly change the existing slope of the Project Site.

Conclusion:

The remedial actions would not create steep slopes or disturb any landslide-prone areas. In addition, remedial actions would not expose people or structures to risk from uncontrolled storm water runoff. These impacts are considered less than significant.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

References Used:

California Department of Forestry and Fire (CAL FIRE), 2024. Fire Hazard Severity Zones in State Responsibility Area. https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/what-we-do/community-wildfire-preparedness-and-mitigation/fire-hazard-severity-zones (Accessed December 12, 2024).

21. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Based on evidence provided in this Initial Study, DTSC makes the following findings:

a. The Project does not have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory.

b. The Project does not have impacts that are individually limited but cumulatively considerable. ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of an individual 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. The Project does not have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.

Authority: Public Resources Code 21083, 21094.5.5
Reference: Public Resources Code Sections 21094.5 and 21094.5