CEQA INITIAL STUDY

Use Permit UP-25;9-1 Calvary Chapel of Amador County
Amendment of Existing Use Permit and Master Plan for Additional 500-seat Sanctuary and Additional Parking
APN: 030-080-067

October 2025

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Project Overview

Project Title:	UP-25;9-1 Calvary Chapel of Amador County
Project Location:	18400 Ridge Road Pine Grove, CA 95665
Property Owner(s)	The Call Church (Calvary Chapel of Amador County, LLC)
Project Representatives	Gary Ghio
Zoning:	Residential Estates (RE)
General Plan Designation(s):	Agricultural Transition (AT)
Lead Agency Name and Address:	Amador County Planning Department 810 Court Street, Jackson, Ca 95642
Contact Person/Phone Number:	Nicole Sheppard, Planner 209-233-6380
Date Prepared:	October 2025
Other public agencies whose approval is required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement.)	

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This Initial Study was prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines to review the request for a Use Permit for Calvary Chapel of Amador County to amend the existing Use Permit and Master Plan. The proposed changes include an additional 16,800 square-foot Sanctuary building with up to 500 seats to be located on the existing gravel parking lot, an additional paved parking lot for a total of 270 parking spaces, and reconfiguration of the existing multi-purpose building. This environmental review document provides an assessment of the potential impacts caused by the proposed additional uses.

This Initial Study is prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines to review the Use Permit request and evaluate potential environmental impacts resulting from a discretionary approval of the project as proposed. The scope of the project's review and evaluation under CEQA is limited to the introduction of new uses and improvements, not to include those which are associated with by-right uses and which require no additional discretionary approvals or otherwise introduce unique factors which may result in any environmental impacts.

Project Location

The project site is located along Ridge Road in the unincorporated community of Pine Grove, located within Amador County. The surrounding area is primarily residentially zoned with areas of commercial to the East/North-East. The properties immediately surrounding the project parcel are zoned RE, Residential Estates and R1, Single-family Residential. Surrounding parcel sizes range from approximately 0.33 acres to 12 acres in size.

Site Characteristics

The project site is located along Ridge Road in the Unincorporated area of Amador County. The site is developed and currently contains a 12,340 square-foot multi-purpose building, a 3,500 square-foot classroom building, a 1,736 square-foot classroom building, and a 224-space parking lot.

Lead Agency

The lead agency is the public agency that has the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving a project that may have a significant effect upon the environment. In accordance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15051(b)(1), "the lead agency will normally be the agency with general governmental powers, such as a city or county, rather than an agency with a single or limited purpose." Amador County is the lead agency for this project.

PROBABLE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS AND SCOPE OF MITIGATED MND/MMRP

The Initial Study (IS) will analyze a broad range of potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed project. Information will be drawn from the Amador County General Plan, technical information provided by the applicant to date, and any other reputable information pertinent to the project area. This information includes existing Environmental Laws and Executive Orders, Coordination with other agencies and authorities. In the case that no immitigable, significant impacts are identified through the IS, a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) will be filed pursuant to CEQA requirements. Mitigation measures proposed serve to aid in the avoidance, minimization, rectification, reduction or elimination of impacts.

In the case that through the Environmental Assessment/Initial Study, it is determined that there will be significant, immitigable impacts, an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) may be required prior to project approval. Consistent with CEQA and the requirements of Amador County, each environmental chapter will include an introduction, technical approach, environmental setting, regulatory setting, standards of significance, identification of environmental impacts, the development of mitigation measures and monitoring strategies, cumulative impacts and mitigation measures, and level of significance after mitigation measures.

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS PER CEQA:

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 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 on the following pages.

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

DETERMINATION**: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)**

On the basis of the initial evaluation:

☐	I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a **NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.
☒	I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A **MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.
☐	I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required.
☐	I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT** is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
☐	I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

_____ _____

Planning Commission Chairperson Date

Figure A: Regional Map and Project Location

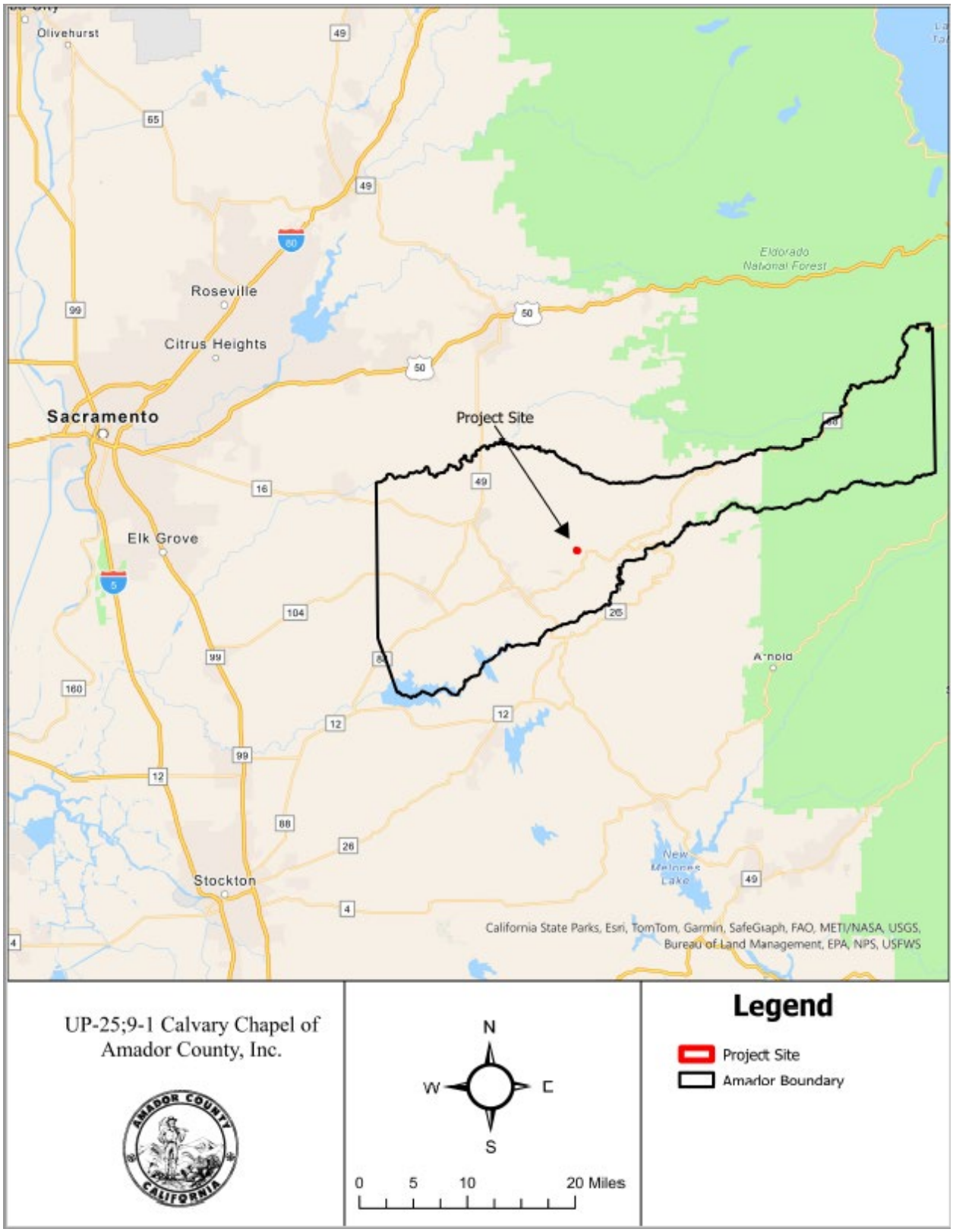


Figure B: Context Map

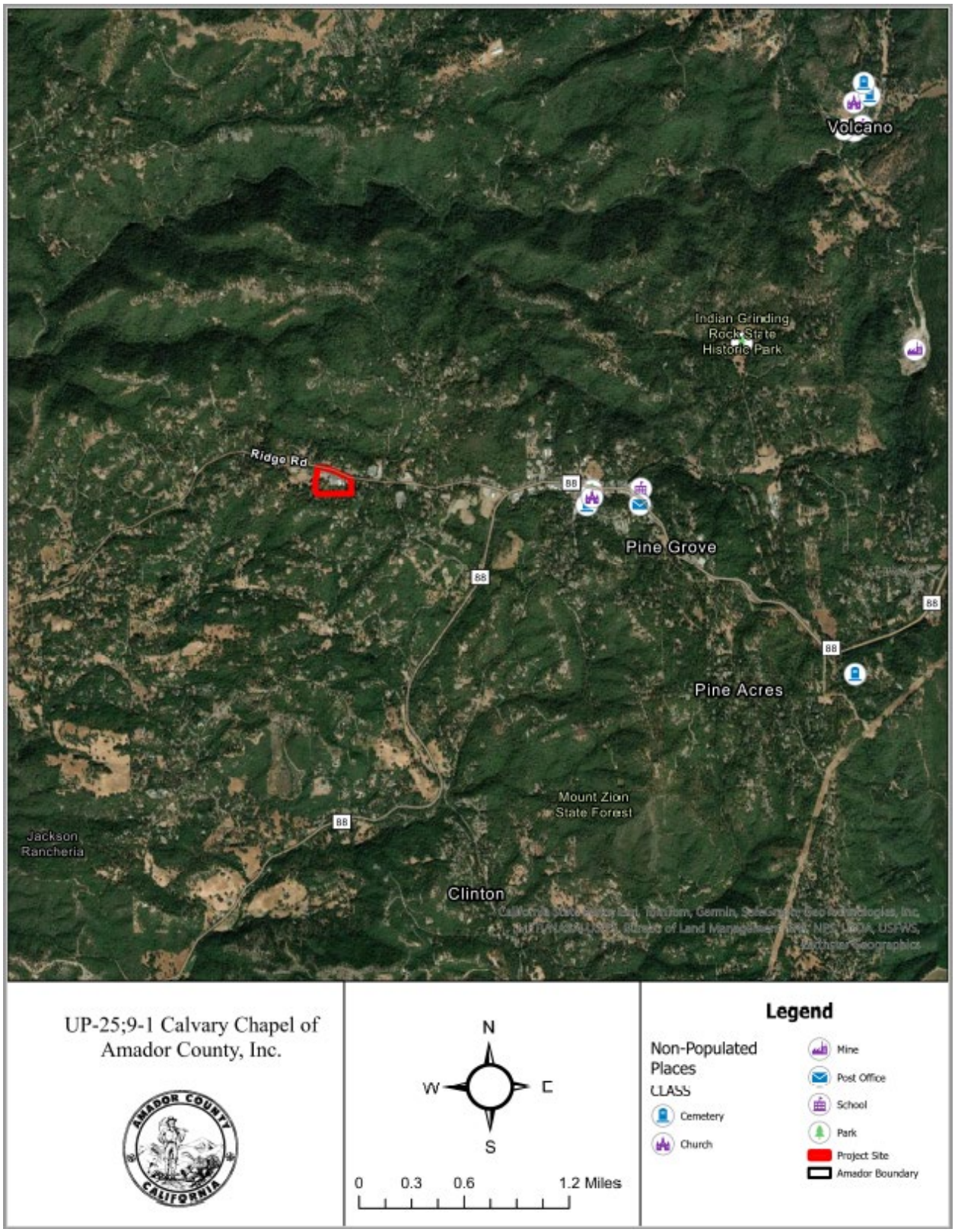


Figure C: Existing Zoning District(s)

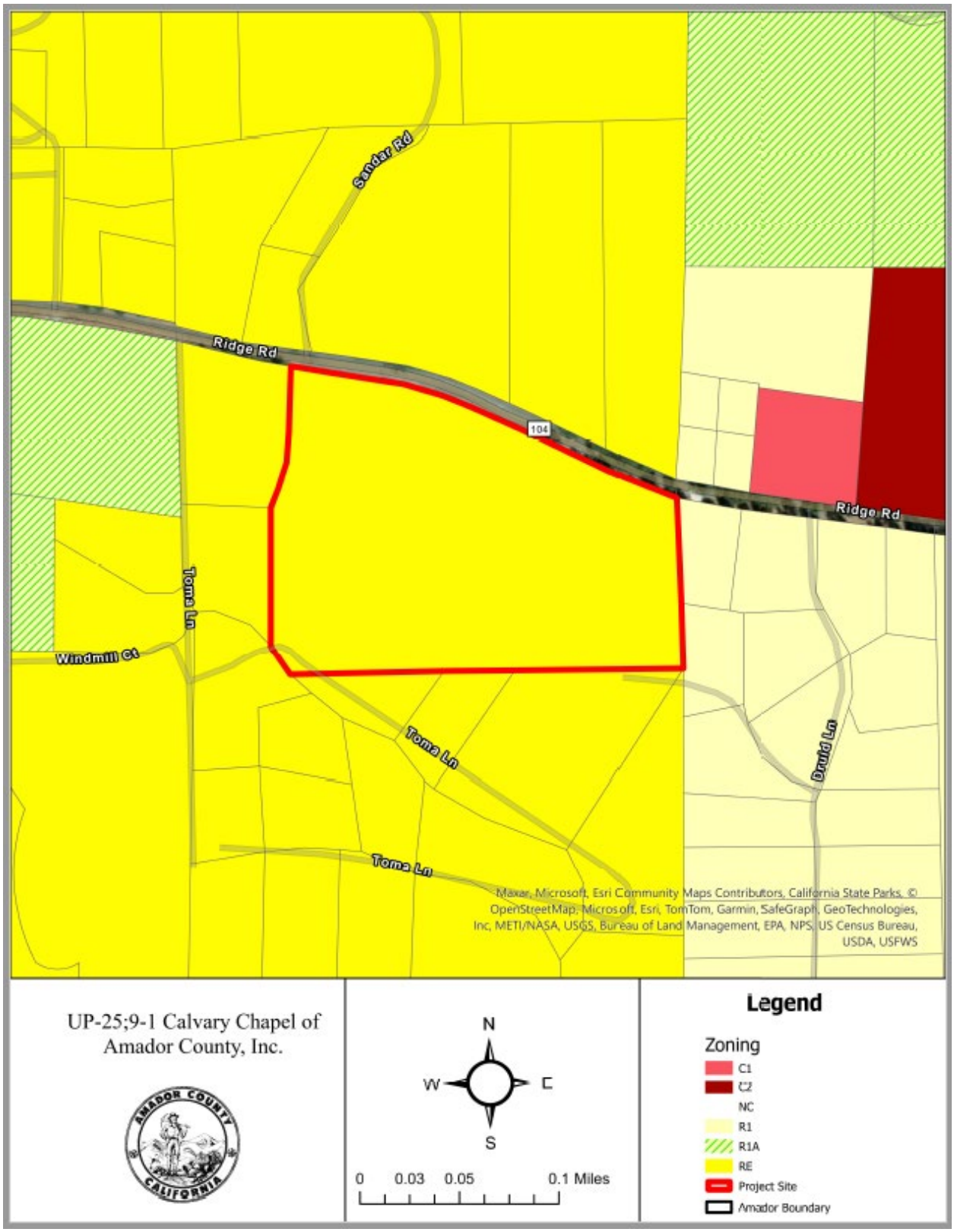


Figure D: Existing General Plan Designation(s)

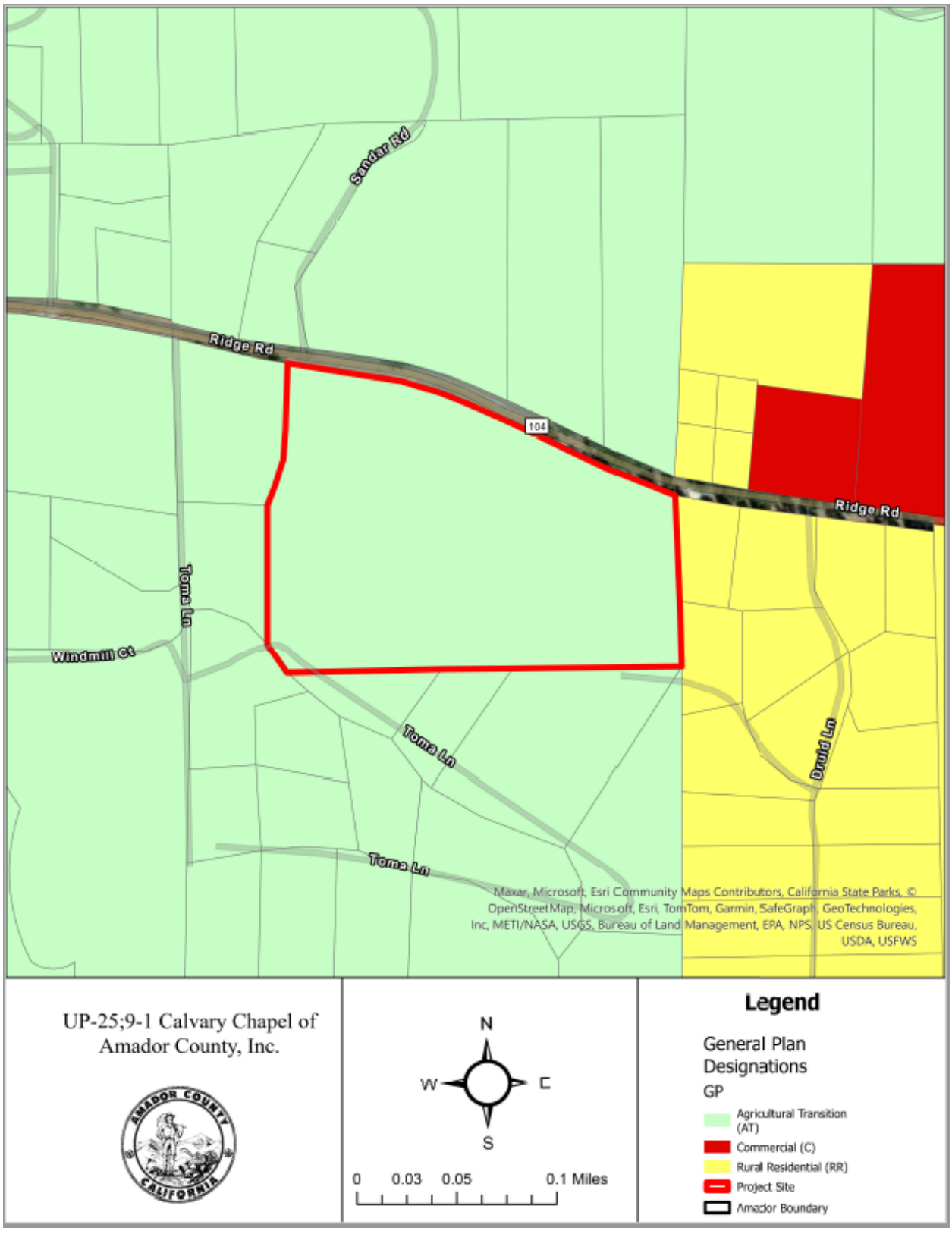
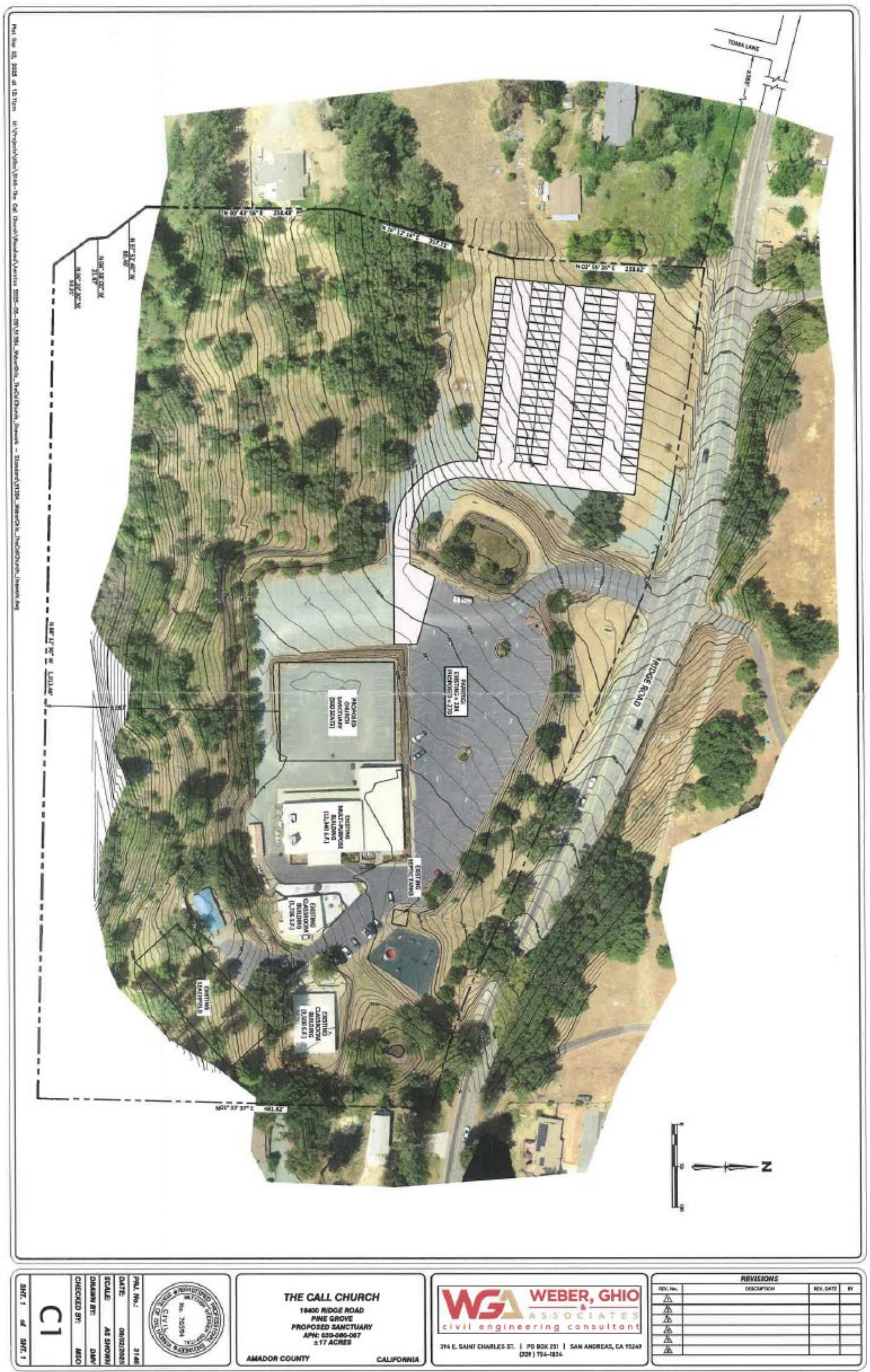


Figure E: Site Map Aerial



Figure F: Site Map Plot Plan



Chapter 1. AESTHETICS

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) In nonurbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). Would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☒	☐	☐

Discussion of Findings:

A. Scenic Vistas: For the purposes of determining significance under CEQA, a scenic vista is defined as a viewpoint that provides expansive views of a highly valued landscape for the benefit of the general public. A substantial adverse impact to a scenic vista would be one that degrades the view from such a designated location. No governmentally designated scenic vista has been identified within the project area. In addition, no specific scenic view spot has been identified in the project area. Therefore, there is **no impact.**

B. Scenic Highways: There are no officially designated scenic highways in the project area. There is **no impact** of this project on scenic highways.

C. There are no officially designated scenic vistas in the project area, and it is unlikely that short-range views would be significantly affected by this project. This project is not foreseen to cause any significant change in the aesthetic quality of the property. The proposed use is a similar to that which exists on the project property, therefore there is a **less than significant impact**.

D. Existing sources of light come from the use of the existing structures on the project property, nearby residential and agricultural developments, as well as the nearby commercial developments. The proposed improvements may include implementation of outdoor lighting which shall be required to meet commercial standards established by the Amador County General Plan. With **Mitigation Measure AES-1**, any lighting installations must be compliant with County regulations, and be

conditioned to incorporate measures to reduce light and reflectance pursuant to Amador County General Plan Mitigation Measure 4.1-4. This includes measures to reduce light and reflectance including limitation of all installed lighting with this project to full-cutoff, fully-shielded fixtures directed downwards with color correlative temperature (CCT) less than or equal to 3000K. Motion sensors and automatic shutoffs shall be used to limit all lighting fixtures in use after facility is closed to the public. There is a **less than significant impact with mitigations incorporated.**

Mitigation Measures:

AES-1 Commercial Light and Glare: Any lighting installations must be compliant with County regulations, and be conditioned to incorporate measures to reduce light and reflectance pursuant to Amador County General Plan Mitigation Measure 4.1-4. This includes measures to reduce light and reflectance including limitation of all installed lighting with this project to full-cutoff, fully-shielded fixtures directed downwards with color correlative temperature (CCT) less than or equal to 3000K. Motion sensors and automatic shutoffs shall be used to limit all lighting fixtures in use after facility is closed to the public or after 10:00 p.m.

Source: Amador County Planning Department, Amador County General Plan and Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR).

Chapter 2. AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES

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

Discussion of Findings:

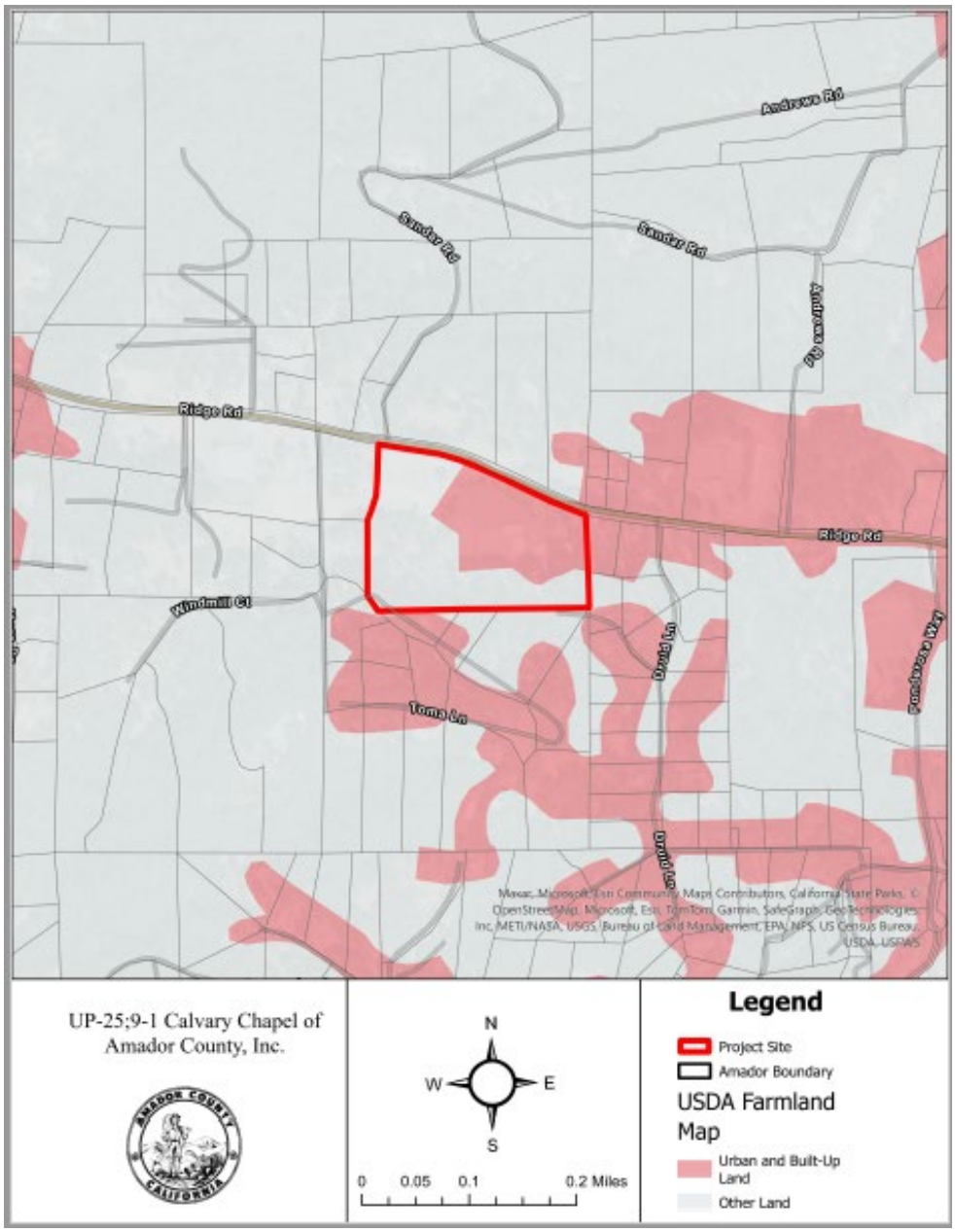
A. Farmland Conversion: The project will not result in the conversion of Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, or Farmland of Local Importance. The project site is located in an area designated as "Urban and Built-Up Land" and "Other Land" on the Amador County Important Farmland 2016 map, published by the California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection. There is **no impact** to farmland.

B. There is no conflict with an existing Williamson Act contract. This property is not in the Williamson Act nor would it qualify for its own contract. There is **no impact.**

C/D. The area is not zoned for forest land or timberland nor utilized as forest land or for timber production, therefore there are **no impact**.

E. This project does not introduce any inconsistent uses not otherwise mitigated for and which have the capacity to significantly affect agricultural or timberland resources. There is **less than significant impact** to farmland or forest land through this project.

Figure 2a: California Important Farmland



Source: California Important Farmland: 1984-2020 Map, California Department of Conservation; Amador County General Plan; Amador County Planning Department; CA Public Resources Code, Food and Agricultural Code Sections 19020, 21281.5, and 21070 "Custom Livestock Slaughterhouse" and "USDA Exempt Meat Establishment."

Chapter 3. AIR QUALITY

Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Violate any air quality standard, result in substantial increase of any criteria pollutant, or substantially contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation under an applicable local, federal, or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Result in other emissions (example: Odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion of Findings:

A. The project site is within the jurisdiction of the Amador Air District. The Amador Air District is responsible for attaining and maintaining compliance with the NAAQS and CAAQS in the Mountain Counties Air Basin (MCAB) through the regulation of pollution emissions from stationary and industrial sources. There is **less than significant impact** to implementation of any applicable air quality plans.

B. The proposed project would not generate a significant increase in operational or long-term emissions. The existing development climate of the area is a combination of residential, agricultural, and commercial uses. The proposed uses and any potential future development of the property would be required to comply with the General Plan regarding construction emissions and related project-level emissions, as outlined in Mitigation Measure AIR-1 Air Quality Best Management Practices (BMPs). There is **less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated** relative to air quality standards.

C. Sensitive receptors are children, elderly, asthmatics, and others who are at a heightened risk of negative health outcomes due to exposure to air pollution. The locations where these sensitive receptors congregate are considered sensitive receptor locations. Sensitive receptor locations include schools, parks and playgrounds, day care centers, nursing homes, hospitals, and residential dwelling units. These are areas where the occupants are more susceptible to the adverse effects of exposure to toxic chemicals, pesticides, and other pollutants. The nearest sensitive receptors include the surrounding neighbors of the project parcel. Though there are sensitive receptors, in the form of residential dwellings a short distance from the project site, the project itself does not introduce any significant increases of air pollution or environmental contaminants which would affect the surrounding populations. For these reasons, there would be no substantial increase in the exposure of sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations and there is a **less than significant impact**.

D. The proposed project would not generate any significantly objectionable odors. It is unlikely, due to the size and location of the property that any uses resulting from this project would introduce an increase of objectionable odors discernable at property boundaries. This project results in **a less than significant impact.**

Mitigation Measures:

AIR-1 Air Quality Best Management Practices (BMPs): Permittee shall meet requirements that may be deemed necessary by the Air District based upon site conditions and operations. The project shall require that idling times for construction equipment and vehicles be limited to a maximum of 5 minutes to reduce operational emissions of criteria pollutants per General Plan Mitigation Measure 4.3-2a.

Source: Amador Air District, Amador County Planning Department, Amador County General Plan Mitigation Measure 4.3.

Chapter 4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, 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 CA Dept. of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations or by the CA Dept. of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (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?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion of Findings:

A. CDFW IPAC database identified potential habitat area for several special status species including the Grey Wolf (Canis lupus); California Spotted Owl (Strix occidentalis occidentalis); Northwestern Pond Turtle (Actinemys marmorta); California Red-legged Frog (Rana draytonii); Foothill Yellow-legged Frog (Rana boylii); and Monarch Butterfly (Danaus Plexippus). There is no critical habitat identified within the project location. However, **Mitigation measure BIO-1, BIO-2, BIO-3,** and **BIO-4** are required in order to ensure that impacts are **less than significant with mitigations incorporated** to special status species due to the project. In the case that any of these species are found on the project site and which would experience potential impacts through future site development, the proper authorities shall be notified and all construction and/or ground disturbing activities halted so that additional mitigation measures may be prescribed. There is a **less than significant impact with mitigations incorporated.**

The California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants identified seven (7) plants found in Quad 3812046 (Pine Grove) where the property is located. These plants are shown in *Figure 4a*, below. The California Native Plant Society Calscape did not identify any native plants unique to the site address. As the proposed project may include ground disturbing activity, the above listed mitigations measures would be implemented to reduce impacts to **less than significant with mitigations incorporated.**

B. Natural communities of concern (i.e. riparian, wetlands, and oak woodlands) are considered sensitive under CEQA and may be regulated by the CDFW pursuant to Section 1602 of the California Fish and Wildlife Code. Riparian communities and wetlands may also be regulated by the United States Army Corps of Engineers and/or Regional Water Quality Control Board if the community is determined to be waters of the United States, or waters of the State. No natural communities of concern occur within the project site, and proposed development of the site is limited. There are **no impacts.**

C. General Plan Mitigation Measure 4.4-5 requires project applicants to conduct wetland delineations according to United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) standards and submit the delineations to the USACE for verification. Based on the verified delineation, project applicants will quantify impacts to wetlands and other waters of the United States resulting from their proposed projects. Any activity resulting in impacts of "fill" of wetlands and other waters of the United States will require permitting through USACE.

The National Wetlands Inventory indicates that there is no wetlands or riparian habitats in the project vicinity. There is **no impact.**

D. Movement of Fish and Wildlife: The project site contains potential habitat for nine migratory bird species, listed in Figure 4c. The Monarch Butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) is a seasonally migrating species, with different populations migrating at in varying periods of time throughout the summer and fall, laying their eggs on several species of milkweed (*Asclepias* spp.) found throughout California. In the event that any of the special-status species are found within the project site, the proper authorities shall be notified and all construction and/or ground disturbing activity halted so that additional mitigation measures may be proscribed. **Mitigation Measures BIO-1** and **BIO-2** are required to render the impacts **less than significant with mitigations incorporated.**

E. The proposed project would not conflict with local policies adopted for the protection of biological resources. **Less than significant impacts** would occur.

F. Amador County does not have an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plans. Due to the small scale of the site and development relative to the Conditional Use Permit, there is **less than significant impact** to any biological or habitat conservation plans.

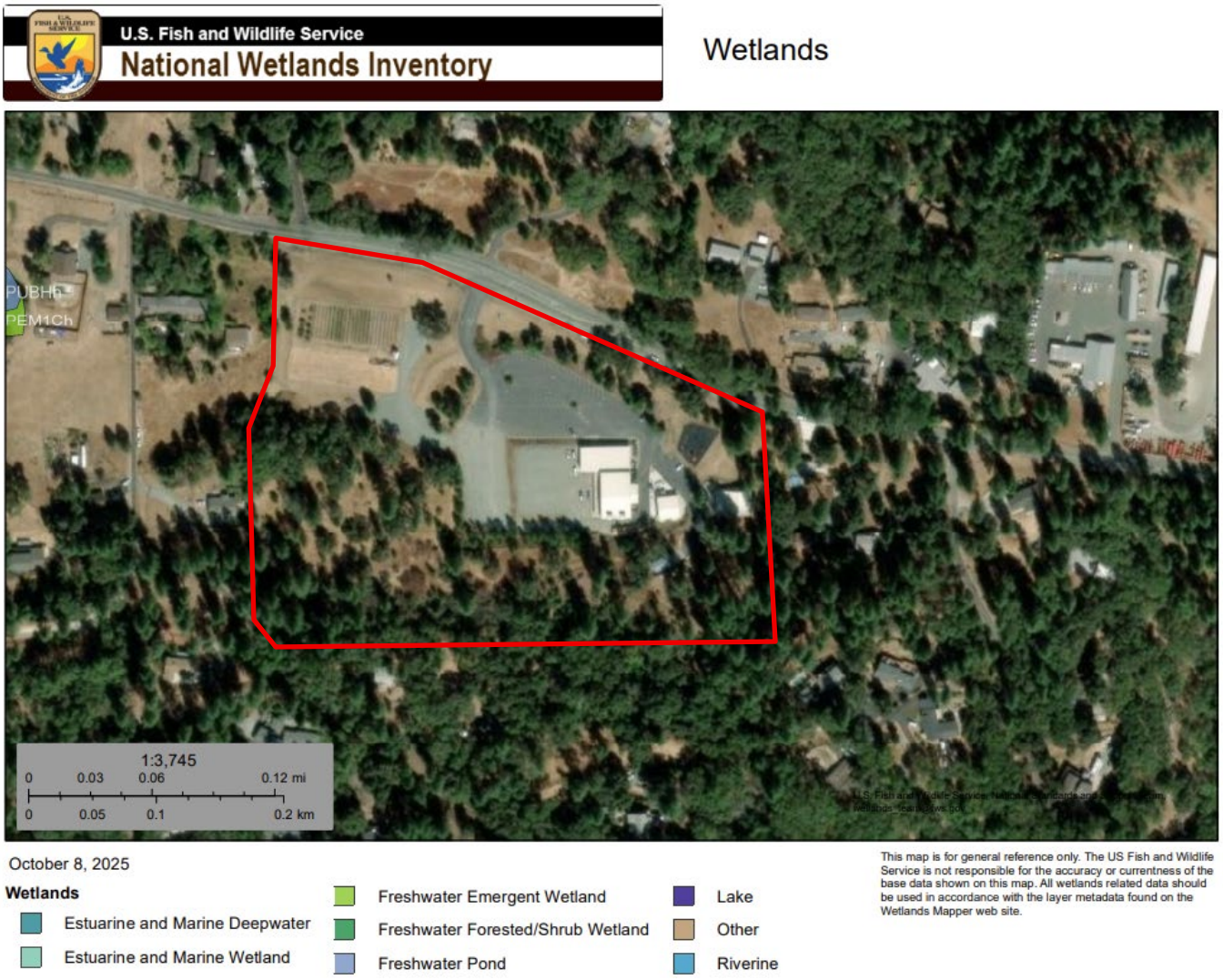
Figure 4a: CNPS Rare Plant Inventory (Quad List)

▲ SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	FAMILY	LIFEFORM	BLOOMING PERIOD	GLOBAL RANK
Chlorogalum grandiflorum	Red Hills soaproot	Agavaceae	perennial bulbiferous herb	(Apr)May-Jun	G3
Clarkia virgata	Sierra clarkia	Onagraceae	annual herb	May-Aug	G3
Claytonia parviflora ssp. *grandiflora*	streambank spring beauty	Montiaceae	annual herb	Feb-May	G5T3
Eryngium pinnatisectum	Tuolumne button-celery	Apiaceae	annual/perennial herb	May-Aug	G2
Erythranthe marmorata	Stanislaus monkeyflower	Phrymaceae	annual herb	Mar-May	G2?
Lilium humboldtii ssp. *humboldtii*	Humboldt lily	Liliaceae	perennial bulbiferous herb	May-Jul(Aug)	G4T3
Sphenopholis obtusata	prairie wedge grass	Poaceae	perennial herb	Apr-Jul	G5

Figure 4b: Migratory Birds List (IPAC 2024)

Common Name	Species Name	Birds of Conservation Concern Listed	Other Conservation List
Bald Eagle	*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*	Non-BCC Vulnerable	Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.
American Dipper	*Cinclus mexicanus*	BCC-BCR	
Black-throated Grey Warbler	*Setophaga nigrescens*	BCC-BCR	
Calliope Hummingbird	*Selasphorus calliope*	BCC Rangewide (CON)	
Evening Grosbeak	*Coccothraustes vespertinus*	BCC Rangewide (CON)	
Hermit Warbler	*Setophaga occidentalis*	BCC-BCR	
Oak Titmouse	*Baeolophus inornatus*	BCC Rangewide (CON)	
Wrentit	*Chamea fasciata*	BCC Rangewide (CON)	
Olive-sided Flycatcher	*Contopus cooperi*	BCC Rangewide (CON)	

Figure 4c: National Wetland Inventory (IPAC 2024)



Mitigation Measures:

BIO-1 **Special-Status Species – Animals**: Special-status plant and animal species should be avoided to the maximum extent practicable. If complete avoidance is infeasible, project impacts will need to be quantified and mitigation developed to reduce the impacts to a less-than-significant level. Mitigations may include preservation and enhancement of on and/or off-site populations, transplanting individuals to a preservation area, or other actions, subject to the approval of CDFW or USFWS. In the event that any of the endangered, threatened, or special-status plant or animal species identified in the CEQA Initial Study for this project are discovered in the project area, all construction and ground-disturbing activity will be halted immediately. The property owner will then contact the US Department of Fish and Wildlife and Amador County Planning Department to establish additional mitigations according to industry-standard best management practices (BMPs) to mitigate for impacts to these species.

BIO-2 **Ground Disturbance Timing for Nesting Birds:** To avoid impacts to nesting bird species or birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, all ground disturbing activities conducted between February 1 and September 1 must be preceded by a pre-construction survey for active nests, to be conducted by a qualified biologist. This survey should be conducted within two weeks prior to any construction activities. The purpose of this survey is to determine the presence or absence of nests in an area to be potentially disturbed. If nests are found, a buffer depending upon the species and as determined by a qualified biologist in consultation with the

California Department of Fish and Wildlife and shall be demarcated with bright orange construction fencing. Any vegetation clearing should be schedule outside of the avian nesting season (February 1 through August 31) or survey should be conducted immediately prior to vegetation removal. If active nests are found, vegetation removal should be delayed until the young fledge. No ground disturbing or other construction activities shall occur within this buffer until the County-approved biologist has confirmed that breeding or nesting is completed and the young have fledged the nest. Nesting bird surveys are not required for ground disturbing activities occurring between September 2 and January 31.

BIO-3 **Special-Status Species – Plants:** Special-status plant populations should be avoided to the maximum extent practicable. If complete avoidance is infeasible, project impacts will need to be quantified and mitigation developed to reduce the impacts to a less-than-significant level. Mitigation may include preservation and enhancement of on and/or off-site populations, transplanting individual plants to preservation area, or other actions, subject to the approval of CDFW, USFWS, or CNPS. Prior to any construction activity, a biological and/or rare plant survey may be required to be conducted to determine if there are any special-status plants within the project area and which may potentially be disturbed. If special-status species are identified, avoidance zones may be established around plant populations to clearly demarcate areas for avoidance. Where avoidance is infeasible, and the plant subject to removal or potential damage from construction, the project applicant shall develop and implement a mitigation plan pursuant to State and Federal regulation. The mitigation plan shall provide for no net loss of habitat and shall include, but is not limited to, relocation of the affected plants, replanting, and monitoring of relocated and planted specimens, or any other BMPs or conservation practices established by CDFW or USFWS

BIO-4 **Plant Survey:** Prior to any construction activity related to any discretionary project, a biological and/or rare plant survey shall be conducted to determine if there are any special-status plants within the project area and which may potentially be disturbed. Surveys shall be timed according to the blooming period for the target species, and known reference populations will be visited prior to surveys to confirm the species is blooming where known to occur. If special-status species are identified, avoidance zones may be established around plant populations to clearly demarcate areas for avoidance. Avoidance measures and buffer distances may vary between species, and the specific avoidance zone distance will be determined in coordination with the appropriate resource agencies. For individual specimens, highly visible temporary construction fencing shall be placed at least 10 ft. away from the drip line of the plant. No construction activity or grading would be permitted within the buffer zone. Where avoidance is infeasible, and the plant subject to removal or potential damage from construction, the project applicant shall develop and implement a mitigation plan pursuant to State and Federal regulation. The mitigation plan shall provide for no net loss of habitat and shall include, but is not limited to, relocation of the affected plants, replanting, and monitoring of relocated and planted specimens.

Source: California Department of Fish and Wildlife BIOS, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service IPAC, California Native Plant Society (CNPS) California Department of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Conservation Planning, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, NOAA, National Wetlands Inventory, 2019, Amador County Planning Department.

Chapter 5. CULTURAL RESOURCES

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

Discussion of Findings:
(A.)(B.)(C.)(D.) Cultural resources include prehistoric and historic period archaeological sites; historical features, such as rock walls, water ditches and flumes, and cemeteries; and architectural features. Cultural resources consist of any human-made site, object (i.e., artifact), or feature that defines and illuminates our past. Prehistoric resources sites are found in foothill areas, areas with high bluffs, rock outcroppings, areas overlooking deer migratory corridors, or above bodies of water. Grading and other soil disturbance activities of previously undisturbed land on the project site have the potential to uncover historic or prehistoric cultural resources. In the case that any ground disturbing or construction activity is proposed in the future which does encroach onto any previously undisturbed land, additional environmental review would be necessary including but not limited to requiring the developer to halt construction upon the discovery of as-yet undiscovered significant prehistoric sites, documenting and/or avoiding these resources, informing the County Planning Department, and consultation with a professional archeologist.

Discretionary permits for projects "that could have significant adverse impacts to prehistoric or historic-era archeological resources" in areas designated by the Amador County General Plan as being moderate-to-high cultural resource sensitivity are required to have a Cultural Resource Study prepared prior to project approval, per Mitigation Measures 4.5-1a, 4.5-1b, and 4.5-2 of the Amador County Implementation Plan. The project site is located in an area of moderate cultural resource sensitivity. Standard Conditions of Approval, **CULT-1 and CULT-2,** include implementation of BMPs supported through the General Plan. There is a **less than significant impact with mitigations incorporated.**

Mitigation Measures:

CULTR-1 In the event the permittee encounters any historic, archaeological, paleontological, or tribal resource (such as chipped or ground stone, fossil-bearing rock, large quantities of shell, historic debris, building foundations, or human bone) during any construction undertaken to comply with these conditions, permittee shall stop work immediately within a 100 ft. radius of the find and retain the services of a qualified professional for the purpose of recording, protecting, or curating the discovery as appropriate. The qualified professional shall be required to submit to the Planning Department a written report concerning the importance of the resource and the need to preserve the resource or otherwise reduce

impacts of the project. The permittee shall notify the Amador County Planning Department of the find and provide proof to the Planning Department that any/all recommendations and requirements of the qualified professional have been complied with.

CULTR-2 In the case that human remains are discovered on site, the following steps must be taken in accordance with Amador County General Plan Mitigation Measure 4.5-15 Cultural Resources, per Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code. The Amador County Coroner shall, within two working days:

i. Determine if an investigation of cause of death is required;
ii. Determine if the remains are most likely that of Native American origin, and if so suspected, the coroner shall notify the California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) within 24 hours of making his or her determination.
iii. The descendants of the deceased Native Americans shall make a recommendation to the operator/ permittee for the means of handling the remains and any associated grave goods as provided in Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 5097.98.
iv. The NAHC shall immediately notify those persons it believes to be most likely descended from the deceased Native American.
v. The descendants may, with the permission of the landowner or their representative, inspect the site of the discovered Native American remains and may recommend possible treatment or disposition within 24 hours of their notification.
vi. Whenever the NAHC is unable to identify a descendent, or the descendent identified fails to make a recommendation, or the landowner or his or her authorized representative rejects the recommendation of the descendent and the mediation provided for in subdivision (k) of PRC Section 5097.94 fails to provide measures acceptable to the landowner, the landowner or his or her authorized representative shall reinter the human remains and items associated with Native American burials with appropriate dignity on the property in a location not subject to further subsurface disturbance.

Source: Amador County Planning Department, Amador County General Plan Environmental Impact Report, Amador County Implementation Plan 2016, California Health and Safety Code, California Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), CA Office of Historic Preservation, State of California Resources Agency Department of Parks and Recreation Primary Records, Amador County Planning Department, Helix Environmental Planning.

Chapter 6. ENERGY

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

Discussion of Findings:

A. Long-term project construction or long-term operational changes resulting in substantial energy use shall conform to the Amador County General Plan energy use requirements, and any other applicable requirements under the State of California. There is a **less than significant impact.**

B. The only local energy plan is the Energy Action Plan (EAP) which provides incentives for homeowners and business owners to invest in higher-efficiency energy services. The project would not conflict with or obstruct any state or local plan for energy management, therefore there is **no impact.**

Sources: Amador County EAP, Amador County Planning Department.

Chapter 7. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

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

Discussion of Findings:

A. The project site is not located within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone and no active faults are located on or adjacent to the property, as identified by the U.S. Geologic Survey mapping system. The State Geologist has determined there are no known sufficiently active or well-defined faults or areas subject to strong ground shaking, liquefaction, landslides, or other ground failure in Amador County as to constitute a potential hazard to structures from surface faulting or fault creep. Slopes most susceptible to earthquake-induced failure include those with highly weathered and unconsolidated materials on moderately steep slopes (especially in areas of previously existing landslides). The actuators of landslides can be both natural events, such as earthquakes, rainfall, and erosion, and human activities. Slope instability can be due to a variety of factors, including slope inclination, characteristics of the soil materials, the presence of groundwater and degree of soil saturation. The project location has not been evaluated for liquefaction hazards or seismic landslide hazards by the California Geological Survey; however, due to the lack of substantial slopes on the property or surrounding properties, there is **no impact**.

B. According to the project location as mapped in *Figures 7a-c* by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS, 2017), the property where the project is located is characterized by approximately 9.0 acres of Sites of very rocky loam, 4.4 acres of Mariposa-Sites complex, and 3.6 acres of Sites loam. Grading permits are required for any earthmoving of 50 or more cubic yards, and are reviewed and approved by the County in accordance with Ordinance 1619 (County Code 15.40) with conditions/requirements applied to minimize potential erosion. Presence of the above listed soil types does not require additional regulatory action, nor does it indicate special circumstances required under County Code. If future uses require grading, the grading shall be subject to regulation by the Amador County Building Department. With the implementation of **Mitigation Measures HYD-1, and BIO-1,-2,-3,** and **-4**, there is a **less than significant impact with mitigations incorporated.**

C. Slopes most susceptible to earthquake-induced failure include those with highly weathered and unconsolidated materials on moderately steep slopes (especially in areas of previously existing landslides). The actuators of landslides can be both natural events, such as earthquakes, rainfall, and erosion, as well as human activities. Those induced by man are most commonly related to large grading activities that can potentially cause new landslides or reactivate old ones when compacted fill is placed on potentially unstable slopes. Conditions to be considered in regard to slope instability include slope inclination, characteristics of the soil material, the presence of groundwater, and degree of soil saturation. This project will not impact the stability of existing geological units or soil, nor impact potential landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse. There is a **less than significant impact** of this project on the aforementioned conditions.

D. Expansive or collapsible soils are characterized by the ability to undergo significant volume change (shrink and swell) as a result of variation in soil moisture content. Soil moisture content can change due to many factors, including perched groundwater, landscape irrigation, rainfall, and utility leakage. Requirement of a grading permit requires building inspection and grading permit issuance for any substantial earthmoving or construction of structures, and as it is unlikely that even if expansive soils are found at the project site, that there would be impacts detrimental to the project, property, or current uses with the current regulation implemented through construction. There is **less than significant impact.**

E. In accordance with Health and Safety Code 5411 and Amador County Code 14.12.140, wastewater from any residence, place of business, or other building or place where persons reside, congregate, or are employed, must be discharged to an approved method of wastewater treatment and disposal**.** The project is proposing to use the existing on-site septic system that was intended for the proposed use. There is a l**ess than significant impact.**

F. The proposed project would not destroy or greatly impact any known unique geological site or feature. There is **a less than significant impact.**

Figure 7a: Soil Map Unit Legend

Map Unit Legend

Map Unit Symbol	Map Unit Name	Acres in AOI	Percent of AOI
SnB	Sites loam, 2 to 9 percent slopes, C low montane	3.6	21.3%
SrC	Sites very rocky loam, 3 to 16 percent slopes	9.0	52.8%
StE	Mariposa-Sites complex, 16 to 51 percent slopes	4.4	25.9%
Totals for Area of Interest		**17.0**	**100.0%**

Figure 7b: Soil Map Legend

MAP LEGEND

Area of Interest (AOI)
- Area of Interest (AOI)

Soils
- Soil Map Unit Polygons
- Soil Map Unit Lines
- Soil Map Unit Points

Special Point Features
- Blowout
- Borrow Pit
- Clay Spot
- Closed Depression
- Gravel Pit
- Gravelly Spot
- Landfill
- Lava Flow
- Marsh or swamp
- Mine or Quarry
- Miscellaneous Water
- Perennial Water
- Rock Outcrop
- Saline Spot
- Sandy Spot
- Severely Eroded Spot
- Sinkhole
- Slide or Slip
- Sodic Spot
- Spoil Area
- Stony Spot
- Very Stony Spot
- Wet Spot
- Other

Special Line Features

Water Features
- Streams and Canals

Transportation
- Rails
- Interstate Highways
- US Routes
- Major Roads
- Local Roads

Background
- Aerial Photography

MAP INFORMATION

The soil surveys that comprise your AOI were mapped at 1:20,000.

Warning: Soil Map may not be valid at this scale.

Enlargement of maps beyond the scale of mapping can cause misunderstanding of the detail of mapping and accuracy of soil line placement. The maps do not show the small areas of contrasting soils that could have been shown at a more detailed scale.

Please rely on the bar scale on each map sheet for map measurements.

Source of Map: Natural Resources Conservation Service
Web Soil Survey URL:
Coordinate System: Web Mercator (EPSG:3857)

Maps from the Web Soil Survey are based on the Web Mercator projection, which preserves direction and shape but distorts distance and area. A projection that preserves area, such as the Albers equal-area conic projection, should be used if more accurate calculations of distance or area are required.

This product is generated from the USDA-NRCS certified data as of the version date(s) listed below.

Soil Survey Area: Amador Area, California
Survey Area Data: Version 16, Aug 31, 2023

Soil map units are labeled (as space allows) for map scales 1:50,000 or larger.

Date(s) aerial images were photographed: Oct 3, 2022—Oct 6, 2022

The orthophoto or other base map on which the soil lines were compiled and digitized probably differs from the background imagery displayed on these maps. As a result, some minor shifting of map unit boundaries may be evident.

Figure 7c: Soil Map



Sources: Soil Survey-Amador County; Amador County Planning Department, Environmental Health Department, National Cooperative Soil Survey, Amador County General Plan EIR, California Geologic Survey: Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones Maps.

Chapter 8. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

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

Discussion of Findings:

A. This project is not anticipated to generate substantial increase in greenhouse gas emissions. The increase in emissions as a result of a greater number of parishioners and members of the public visiting the project site are foreseen to be less-than significant. The project would not generate significant greenhouse gas emissions or result in significant global climate change impacts. There is **a less than significant impact.**

B. There is no applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases. Any increase in emissions would comply with regulations and limits established by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and Amador Air District. Therefore, there is a **less than significant impact.**

Sources: Amador County General Plan, Amador Air District, Amador County Municipal Codes, Assembly Bill 32 Scoping Plan- California Air Resources Board (CARB), Amador County General Plan EIR.

Chapter 9. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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, or otherwise introduce potential hazards to residents or property?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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 §65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment? Or otherwise, be influenced by other notable hazards?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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 for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency	☐	☐	☒	☐

response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				

Discussion of Findings:

A. The project does not significantly increase risk to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. The storage of hazardous materials shall be subject to applicable regulations established in the Health and Safety Code Section 25503.5. The uses applied for through this project do not affect these factors There is a **less than significant impact.**

B. Potential impacts of hazardous material handling, transport, or release is monitored oversight of the Amador County Environmental Health Department pursuant to state law. The scope of this project does not increase any of these factors. There is a **less than significant impact.**

C. The nearest public school, Pine Grove Elementary, is located more than 1.75 miles away. Schools would not be exposed to hazardous materials, substances, or waste due to the project, and there would be **a less than significant impact.**

D. Pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5, the project site was queried for past-to-current records regarding information collected, compiled, and updated by the Department of Toxic Substances Control and Secretary for Environmental Protection (EPA) evaluating sites meeting the "Cortese List" requirements. The project site also was also searched on the California EPA's Superfund Enterprise Management System (SEMS) database and the US EPA Facility Registry Service (FRS) however there were no specific flags for the project on either site. CalEPA GeoTracker identified no potential hazardous materials within the project area or near vicinity which would be affected by or have effects on the project.

The project does not propose any significant changes in use or intensity, which would increase the number or amounts of hazardous materials on-site, or the probability of sensitive receptors being exposed to any hazardous materials. There is a **less than significant impact** regarding hazardous materials on site.

E. The nearest public use airport to the project site is the Westover Field Airport located in Martell, approximately 6.5 miles away. The proposed project is located outside the safety compatibility zones for the area airports, and due to the significant distance from the project site, there is **no impact**.

F. The nearest private use airport to the project site is Flying Gluepie Ranch airport, located approximately 7 miles northwest of the project parcel. The proposed use will not negatively affect the airport usage, nor will the project be negatively affected in turn. No impacts regarding safety hazards associated with airport operations are anticipated to affect people working or visiting the project site, and due to the significant distance from the project site, there is **no impact.**

G. Amador County has an adopted Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP), updated in May 2020. The proposed project does not include any actions that physically interfere with any emergency response or emergency evacuation plans. There is **a less than significant impact.**

Sources: Amador County Planning Department, Amador County Environmental Health Department, Superfund Enterprise Management System database (SEMS), Department of Toxic Substances Control Envirostor database, Geotracker, California State Water Control Board (CA SWRBC), California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA), Local Hazard Mitigation Plan (LHMP).

Chapter 10. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate or pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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 off-site?	☐	☒	☐	☐
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?	☐	☒	☐	☐
iv. Impede or redirect flood flows or place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) In a flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zone, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation or increase risk of such inundation?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	☐	☐	☒	☐
g) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion of Findings:

A. The proposed project would not result in a significant increase in urban storm water runoff. The County requires a grading permit (County Code Chapter 15.40) for any earthmoving in excess of 50 cubic yards, which may require an erosion control plan as deemed necessary by the County Agencies. The impacts are **less than significant.**

B. The project currently has water service through Amador Water Association (AWA) and proposes to continue this service with the proposed project, as opposed to an on-site well system. The proposed project would not significantly require the use of, or otherwise interfere with, available groundwater supplies**.** There is **a less than significant impact.**

C. i-ii. The proposed project is not projected to significantly contribute to any increase in erosion, siltation, surface runoff, or redirection of flood flows with implementation of **Mitigation Measures HYD-1** requiring the issuance of a grading permit through the Amador County Building Department to ensure that there are less than significant impacts to erosion, siltation, surface runoff or redirection of flood flows on-site. There is a **less than significant impact with mitigations incorporated.**

iii. The project would not contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems. There is a **less than significant impact.**

iv. The project is located in Flood Zone X, meaning that the site is outside of the Standard Flood Height Elevation. The proposed project does not involve the construction of housing on the property. There is **no impact** regarding the placement of housing within a 100-year flood hazard area.

D. There is no known risk mapped on the California Department of Conservation CGS Information Warehouse regarding landslides. There is **no impact** to or from flood flows.

E. The project would not substantially degrade water quality through its operation. Conditions of project approval include submission of a written certification by a qualified consultant that the on-site sewage disposal system may be expected to continue to function in a sanitary manner including the proposed increased uses and all currently permitted uses, and obtainment of a Grading Permit through the Amador County Building Department. There is a **less than significant impact** regarding water quality resulting from this project.

F. It is highly unlikely that the project would be subject to inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow as the project site is not in any FEMA mapped DFIRM Flood Zones. There would not be substantial risk for property or people through the failure of levees or dams introduced by this project; therefore, there is **a less than significant impact** regarding risk or loss.

G. There is no existing water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan in the vicinity of this project. There is a **less than significant impact**.

Mitigation Measure:

HYD-1 Grading Permits and Erosion Control: Prior to the issuance of permits for site-specific development, drainage and grading permits shall be prepared by a licensed civil engineer and submitted to the Amador County Building Department for approval. Drainage plans shall demonstrate that new development would not increase peak storm flows and that adequate capacity exists downstream to

accommodate increased stormwater volume. All site-specific development shall implement appropriate stormwater runoff best management practices (BMPs) and design features to protect receiving water quality consistent with Amador County standards, and any require National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits administered by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) must be obtained prior to project execution.

Sources: Amador County Planning Department, California State Water Resources Control Board (CSWRCB), California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA). CA Department of Conservation, USGS-USDA Forest Service Quad Map, USGS Landslide Hazards Program, CA Department of Conservation CGS Information Warehouse, mywaterway database, US EPA.

Chapter 11. LAND USE AND PLANNING

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the project (including, but not limited to the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion of Findings:

A. The property features an existing multi-purpose building, 2 classroom buildings, and a parking lot. The remainder of the project area consists of existing asphalt pavement and previously-disturbed land. The proposed uses would operate alongside these existing uses. There is a **less than significant impact** to established communities**.**

B. Proposed uses consist of an expansion of the existing use of a church, which is consistent with the RE, Residential Estates zoning district and AT, Agricultural Transition General Plan Designation, subject to first securing an approved conditional use permit. There is **less than significant impact** relative to land use.

C. There is no applicable habitat or natural community conservation plan in this area. There is **no impact.**

Sources: Amador County General Plan, Amador County Municipal Codes, Amador County Planning Department.

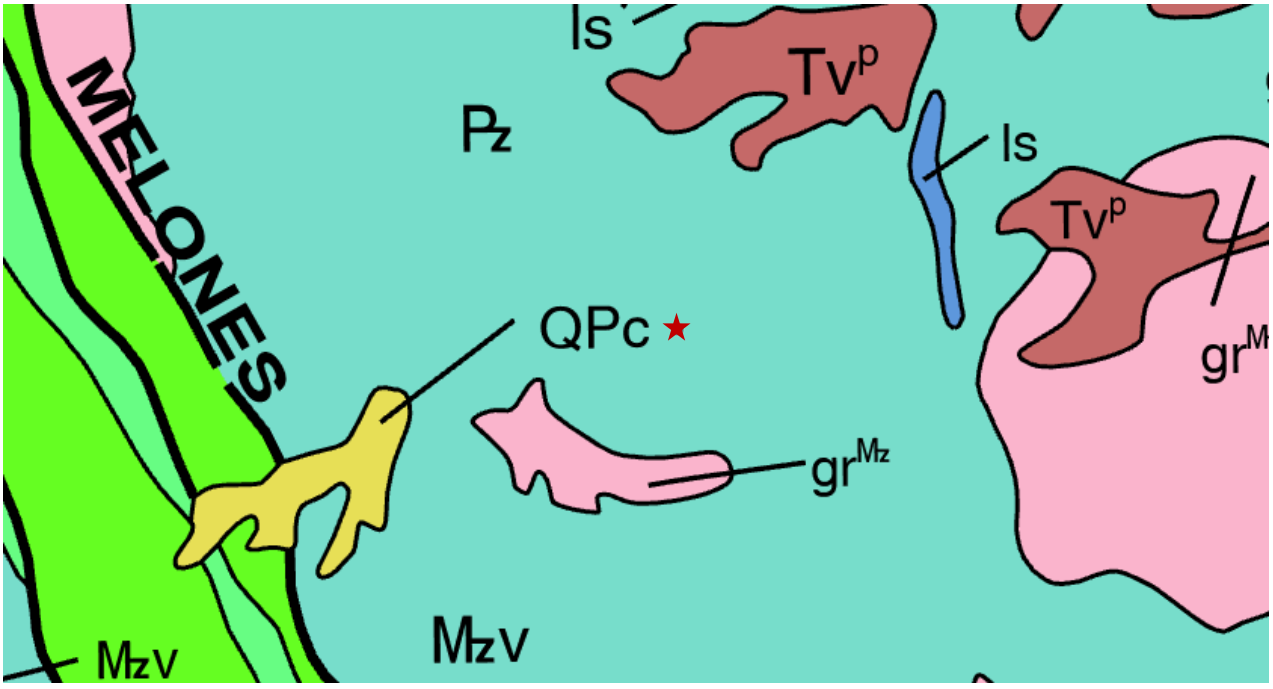
Chapter 12. MINERAL RESOURCES

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

Discussion of Findings:

A & B According to the California Division of Mines and Geology Mineral Land Classification Map, this project is located in the Sutter Creek 15-Minute Quadrangle which has a reported SMARA Study Area, conducted in 1987. This project would not restrict access to any mineral resources on site as the property is relatively small and the surrounding areas are developed and inconsistent with mineral-industrial uses. This project will not encroach onto any of the other properties and therefore not interfere with any present or future access to known mineral resource areas. There is **a less than significant impact** to any mineral resources.

Figure 12a: CGS Geologic map of California (CGS-webportal)





★ *Approximate location of the project site*

Source: Amador County Planning Department, California Geological Survey https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/gmc/); Wagner, D.L., Jennings, C.W., Bedrossian, T.L., and Bortugno, E.J.; Geologic map of the Sacramento quadrangle, California, 1:250,000: California Division of Mines and Geology, Geologic Map 1A; 1987.

Chapter 13. NOISE

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Contribute to substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Contribute to substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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 expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion of Findings:

A. The project would result in low levels of noise-related impacts related to the use of the property as a public gathering space. Any noise increases based on the scope of this project would be negligible. There is **a less than significant impact.**

B. If uses associated with the proposed project would include the construction activity which may generate ground-borne vibration, noise, or use construction activities, construction would be required to comply with the provisions of General Plan and standard BMPs. There are no additional uses which would propose the use of heavy equipment for an extended period of time beyond what is expected for construction, which would be temporary. There is **a less than significant impact.**

C & D. The presented project will not introduce significant increased noise. Noise levels generated would not exceed applicable noise standards established in the General Plan, and the property would be subject to Amador County noise regulations. There is **a less than significant impact.**

E. The public would not be significantly impacted by this project in relation to excessive noise from aircraft. The nearest public use airport is Westover Field, located approximately 6.5 miles away from the project site. There would be a less **than significant impact.**

G. The nearest private use airstrip is the Flying Gluepie Ranch airport, located approximately 7 miles away from the project site. There is **no impact** to private airstrips.

Sources: Amador County Planning Department, Amador County General Plan: Noise Element, General Plan Mitigation Measure 4.11.

Chapter 14. POPULATION AND HOUSING

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Induce substantial 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 housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Displace substantial numbers of people, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion of Findings:

A The project would not induce significant population growth through the introduction of new homes, or through the extension of infrastructural systems beyond what is required to support the current developmental climate of the unincorporated area of Pine Grove. The proposed uses are relatively small-scale and unlikely to have result in significant population growth. Current zoning of the property allows for the development classification in which the proposed project is an accessory use, subject to securing an approved conditional use permit. There is a **less than significant impact.**

B & C This project does not include the removal of any housing. There is a **less than significant impact** to housing.

Sources: Amador County Planning Department.

Chapter 15. PUBLIC SERVICES

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

Discussion of Findings:

A The project site is currently served by the Amador Fire Protection District (AFPD). The nearest fire station is AFPD 114 in the community of Pine Grove, approximately 1.5 miles away from the project site. Mutual aid agreements coordinate protection service between Community Fire Protection Jurisdictions and CalFire. **Less than significant impact** to fire protection services would occur.

B The project site is currently served by the Amador County Sheriff's Department. The nearest Sheriff station is located at 700 Court St., Jackson, which serves the unincorporated area of the County. Proposed improvements would not result in additional demand for sheriff protection services. California Highway Patrol (CHP) also provides police protection associated with the State Highways; the nearest highway to this project is CA State Hwy 88. The nearest city of Jackson also has their own Police Department, and are able to provide aid as part of the mutual aid agreements for law enforcement services throughout the County. As these various agencies all provide various police and emergency services, this project would not result in the provision of or need for new or physically altered sheriff or police protection facilities. There is **a less than significant impact** with regard to police protection services.

C-E The demand for schools, parks, and other public facilities is driven by population, the proposed project would not significantly increase demand for those services as the property is not going to experience any change in zoning or general plan designation and the project scope itself would not result in significant population increases. As such, the proposed project would result in **a less than significant impact** on these public services.

Sources: Amador County Planning Department.

Chapter 16. RECREATION

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

Discussion of Findings:

A&B The proposed project would not increase opportunity for residential development and therefore would not present potential increases in demand for parks or recreational facilities for full-time residents. The proposed project would not significantly affect use of existing facilities, nor would it require the construction or expansion of existing recreational facilities at this time**.** The proposed project would have a **less than significant impact** on recreational facilities.

Source: Amador County Planning Department.

Chapter 17. TRANSPORTATION / TRAFFIC

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measure of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including, but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs regarding public transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?	☐	☐	☒	☐
g) Conflict with or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines §15064.3, subdivision (b)?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion of Findings:

A&B Development of this property will require compliance with County Code 15.30 Fire and Life Safety or site-specific requirements to ensure adequate emergency access to the satisfaction of the County.

Mitigation measure TRA-1, ensures that impacts are **less than significant with mitigations incorporated.** Due to the substantial transportation infrastructure in the area, it is unlikely that the implementation of the proposed project would significantly impact traffic or cause a substantial increase in traffic, reduce the existing level of service, or create any significant congestion at any intersection, nor would it conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system. Amador County Department of Transportation and Public Works, California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), and other applicable transportation agencies have been included in circulation of this project. There would be **a less than significant impact with mitigations incorporated.**

C The proposed project is located outside of the Westover Airport Influence Area. The project would not result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that would result in a safety risk. A **less than significant impact** would result.

D Compliance with 15.30 and applicable state regulations would ensure that there would not be any significant impacts to transportation**.** There is a **less than significant impact.**

E The proposed project must comply with the Fire and Life Safety Ordinance (Chapter 15.30), compliance required. There is **less than significant impact**.

F The project would not significantly affect alternative transportation. Therefore, the proposed project is consistent with the policies, plans, and programs supporting alternative transportation, and there would be **a less than significant impact.**

G Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15064.3, subdivision (b) the County's qualitative analysis of this project establishes there are no significant impacts to traffic beyond which is evaluated through this study and adequately regulated through existing codes. There is **a less than significant impact** with respects to CEQA Guidelines §15064.3(b).

Mitigation measures:

TRA-1 Fire and Life Safety: The project applicant shall comply with Chapter 15.30 Fire and Life Safety Ordinance and CA CCR Title 14, Division 1.5, Chapter 7, Subchapter 2.

Sources: Amador County Planning, California Fire and Life Safety (Chapter 15.30), California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines 2019.

Chapter 18. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code § 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)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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 Resources Code § 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code § 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion of Findings:

Tribal cultural resources" are defined as (1) Sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that are either of the following:
(A) Included or determined to be eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources.
(B) Included in a local register of historical resources as defined in subdivision (k) of Section 5020.1.
These may include non-unique archaeological resources previously subject to limited review under CEQA. Assembly Bill 52, which became effective in July 2015, requires the lead agency (in this case, Amador County) to begin consultation with any California Native American tribe that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the proposed project prior to the release of a negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration, or environmental impact report if: (1) the California Native American tribe requested to the lead agency, in writing, to be informed by the lead agency through formal notification of proposed projects in the geographic area that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the tribe, and (2) the

California Native American tribe responds, in writing, within 30 days of receipt of the formal notification and requests the consultation (Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1[b]).

A As defined by Public Resources Code section 21074 (a) there were no tribal cultural resources identified in the project area; therefore, the project would not cause a substantial adverse change in any identified tribal cultural resources. Additionally, all tribes requesting notification for discretionary project submissions were notified of this project proposal. Any identified cultural resources or potentially significant resources would be preserved and avoided by future development consistent with the provisions of the General Plan (2016). Impacts to Tribal Cultural Resources on this site are **less than significant.**

Sources: Amador County Planning Department, California Public Resources Code; National Park Service National Register of Historic Places, North Central Information Center Records, Department of Parks and Recreation Record (2020), UAIC Recommendations (Attachment 1).

Chapter 19. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded systems (causing significant environmental effects):				
i. Water or wastewater treatment facilities	☐	☐	☒	☐
ii. Stormwater drainage facilities	☐	☐	☒	☐
iii. Electric power facilities	☐	☐	☐	☒
iv. Natural gas facilities	☐	☐	☐	☒
v. Telecommunications facilities	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources (for the reasonably foreseeable future during normal, dry, or multiple dry years), or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Result in 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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs while not otherwise impairing the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f) Generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure?	☐	☐	☒	☐
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statues and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion of Findings:

A i. The project proposes additional uses which are not dependent on the provision of additional services to support those additional uses. For any new construction, the applicant must provide evidence of availability of water and wastewater disposal consistent with the requirements by the Amador County Environmental Health Department. Due to the small scale of the project and lack of changes in overall use classifications of the property, this project would not require a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Permit (SWPPP) from State Water Resources Control Board. There is **a less than significant impact.**

A ii. Stormwater drainage on site will need to be redirected and will necessitate the project proponent obtain a grading permit (Chapter 15.40) through the Building Department in order to regulate stormwater drainage and runoff. There is a **less than significant impact.**

Aiii-v. No new or expanded stormwater or drainage facility, electric power facility, natural gas facility, or telecommunications facility would be necessary over the course of this project and therefore would not cause any environmental effects as a result. There is **no impact.**

B. The proposed project would not exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board or result in the expansion of water or wastewater treatment facilities. Therefore, **a less than significant impact** related to these utilities and service systems would occur.

C. The project is located in and currently serviced by an existing public water system. The project proponent will be required to maintain service through this provider throughout the life of the project. The impacts are **less than significant.**

D. The project is currently served by and proposes to use the existing on-site septic system for the proposed project. There is a **less than significant impact** to public wastewater treatment.

E-G The project will not produce an increase in solid waste disposal needs beyond what would be addressed by County and State requirements; therefore, there is a **less than significant impact.**

Sources: Amador County Planning Department, Amador County Environmental Health Department.

Chapter 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 Impact with Mitigation Incorporated	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?	☐	☒	☐	☐
e) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	☐	☒	☐	☐

Discussion of Findings:

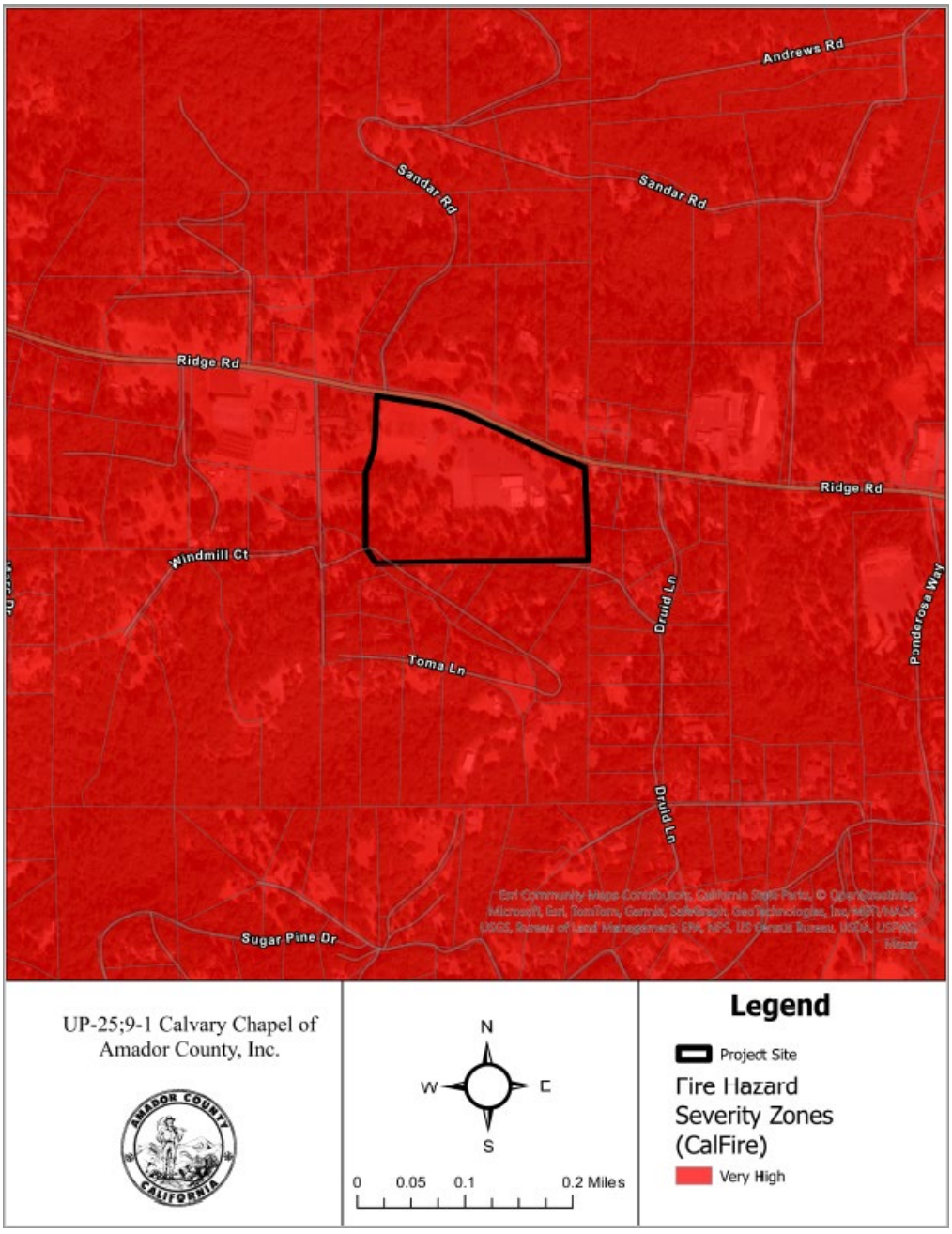
A The project shall not impair any adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan as the project shall be required to comply with Chapter 15.30. There is **a less significant impact.**

B The project does not exacerbate wildfire risks through significant change in slope, prevailing winds, or other major factors. The project would not require the installation of emergency services and infrastructure that may result in temporary or ongoing environmental risks or increase in fire risk. Therefore, there is **no impact.**

C The project shall not require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure that may exacerbate fire risk or impact the environment. Standard conditions require compliance with 15.30 regarding fire access. There is **a less than significant impact.**

D&E The project does not expose people or structure to any new significant risks regarding flooding, landslides, or wildland fire risk. The project is in the Very High Fire Risk Zone and therefore shall conform to all standard Fire Safety Regulations as determined by Amador County Fire District, CalFire, and California Building Code, as outlined in Mitigation Measure **TRA-1**. The project site is located approximately 1.5 miles from AFPD Station 114, and 1.25 miles from the nearest CalFire Station located at 19597 State Hwy 88 in Pine Grove. There is **a less than significant impact with mitigations incorporated.**

Calfire Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map



Source: Amador County Planning, Amador County Office of Emergency Services, Calfire Fire Hazard Severity Zone Map.

Chapter 21. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

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

Discussion of Findings:

A. The project will not degrade the quality of the environment and no habitat, wildlife populations, and plant and animal communities would be significantly impacted by this project. All environmental topics are either considered to have "No Impact," "Less Than Significant Impact," or **"Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigations Incorporated."**

Mitigation measures included with this Initial Study include the following, summarized:

AES-1 Commercial Light and Glare shall be shielded per regulations outlined in the Amador County General Plan;

AIR-1 Air Quality Best Management Practices (BMPs) as outlined in the Amador County General Plan;

BIO-1 Special-Status Animal Species Mitigation Plan will reduce biological impacts consistent with the BMPs developed with CDFW and USFW;

BIO-2 Ground Disturbing Timing for Nesting Birds, and Survey will be conducted prior to any construction;

BIO-3 Special-Status Plant Species Mitigation will be developed in conjunction with regulation by CDFW, USFW, and CNPS;

BIO-4 Plant Survey will be conducted prior to ground disturbance resultant from any discretionary projects;

CULTR-1 Historic/Cultural Resources, if found, shall be protected consistent with General Plan Mitigation Measures 4.5-1 and 4.5-2;

CULTR-2 Human Remains, if discovered, shall be protected consistent with General Plan Mitigation Measure 4.5-3;

HYD-1 Grading Permits and Erosion Control

TRA-1 Compliance with County Code Chapter 15.30 – Fire and Life Safety Ordinance

B. In addition to the individually limited impacts discussed in the previous chapters of this Initial Study, CEQA requires a discussion of "cumulatively considerable impacts", meaning the incremental effects of a project in connection with the effects of past, current, and probable future projects. These potential cumulatively considerable impacts may refer to those resulting from increased traffic to and from the general area, overall resource consumption, aesthetic and community character, and other general developmental shifts.

   Evaluation of these potentially cumulative impacts may be conducted through two alternative methods as presented by the CA State CEQA Guidelines, the list method and regional growth projections/plan method. As this project is independent and unique to the County, the latter is most appropriately employed to evaluate an individual project's contribution to potential cumulative significant impacts in conjunction with past, current, or reasonably foreseeable future projects. Thresholds of significance may be established independently for the project evaluated depending on potentially cumulative impacts particular to the project under review, but shall reference those established in the 2016 General Plan EIR and be supplemented by other relevant documents as necessary. According to CEQA Guidelines §15064.7, thresholds of significance may include environmental standards, defined as "(1) a quantitative, qualitative, or performance requirement found in an ordinance, resolution, rule, regulation, order, plan, or other environmental requirement; (2) adopted for the purpose of environmental protection; (3) addresses the environmental effect caused by the project; and, (4) applies to the project under review" (CEQA Guidelines §15064(d)). CEQA states that an EIR may determine a project's individual contribution to a cumulative impact, and may establish whether the impact would be rendered less than cumulatively considerable with the implementation of mitigation or reduction strategies. Any impacts would only be evaluated with direct associations to the proposed project. If cumulative impacts when combined with the impact product of the specific project are found to be less than significant, minimal explanation is required. For elements of the environmental review for which the project is found to have no impact through the Initial Study, no additional evaluation of cumulative impacts is necessary.

   No past, current, or probable future projects were identified in the project vicinity that, when added to project-related impacts, would result in cumulatively considerable impacts. Per CEQA, the proposed project scope would not significantly change introduced impacts beyond the scope of the by-right uses which are allowed on the property and which are consistent with the general area. Therefore, the conditions of the property and surrounding area would not considerably change as a result of the approval of this project. Therefore, cumulative impacts are **less than significant with mitigations incorporated**.

C. There have been no impacts discovered through the review of this application demonstrating that there would be substantial adverse effects on human beings directly or indirectly relating the project. The proposed uses following approval of the project shall be sufficiently mitigated to reduce any potential impacts to a less than significant level through the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

proposed with the project; therefore, there is a less **than significant impact with mitigations incorporated**.

Sources: Chapters 1 through 21 of this Initial Study.
References: Amador County General Plan; Amador County General Plan EIR; Amador Air District; Amador County Municipal Codes; Fish & Wildlife's IPAC and BIOS databases; Migratory Bird Treaty Act; California Native Plant Society; California Air Resources Board; California Department of Conservation; Migratory Bird Treaty Act; California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection; California Geologic Survey: Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones; State Department of Mines & Geology; Superfund Enterprise Management System Database (SEMS); Department of Toxic Substances Control Envirostor Database; Geotracker; Amador County GIS; Amador County Zoning Map; Amador County Municipal Codes; Amador County Soil Survey; California Native American Heritage Commission; Amador Fire Protection District; California Air Resources Board (ARB); California State Water Resources Control Board (CSWRCB); California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA); California Environmental Quality Act 2019 Guidelines (CEQA); California Public Resources Board; Caltrans District 10 Office of Rural Planning; Amador County Important Farmland Map, 2016; Commenting Department and Agencies; Amador County Community Development Agency and Departments. All sources cited herein are available in the public domain, and are hereby incorporated by reference.
NOTE: Authority cited: Sections 21083, 21083.05, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 65088.4, Gov. Code; Sections 21080, 21083.05, 21095, Pub. Resources Code; *Eureka Citizens for Responsible Govt. v. City of Eureka* (2007) 147 Cal. Appl. 4th 357; *Protect the Historic Amador Waterways v. Amador Water Agency* (2004) 116 Cal. App. 4th at 1109; *San Franciscans Upholding the Downtown Plan v. city and County of San Francisco* (2002) 102 Cal. App. 4th 656.