



**RECORDING REQUESTED
WHEN RECORDING MAIL TO:**

County of Sacramento
Planning and Environmental Review
827 7th Street, Room 225
Sacramento, CA 95814
CONTACT PERSON: Julie Newton
TELEPHONE: (916)874-6141

ENDORSED
SACRAMENTO COUNTY

APR 06 2026

FLORENCE EVANS, CLERK/RECORDER
BY J. Evans DEPUTY

SPACE ABOVE RESERVED FOR RECORDER'S USE

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

Project Title:

8451 El Verano Tentative Parcel Map

Control Number:

PLNP2023-00005

Project Location:

The project parcel is located at 8451 El Verano Avenue, on the west side, approximately 0.6-mile north of Elverta Road in the Rio Linda/Elverta community of unincorporated Sacramento County

APN:

202-0043-007-0000

Description of Project:

The project consists of a Tentative Parcel Map and incidental Design Review to divide an existing 9.7-acre parcel, zoned Agricultural Residential – Two (AR-2), into four (4) parcels with a private access road in the Rio Linda/Elverta community of unincorporated Sacramento County.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project:

Sacramento County – ceqa@saccounty.gov

Person or Agency Carrying out Project:

Zeke Fredrickson
703 Golden Acorn Court
Rocklin, CA 95765
(916) 223-7223
aukake17@yahoo.com

Exempt Status:

Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 21083.3; CEQA Guidelines Section 15183(a) – Projects consistent with development densities established by existing zoning, community plan or general plan policies.

Reasons Why Project is Exempt:

Section 15183 (PRC Section 21083.3), provides that projects which are consistent with the development density established by zoning, community plan, or general plan policies for which an environmental impact report (EIR) has been certified “shall not require additional environmental review, except as might be necessary to examine whether there are project-specific significant effects which are peculiar to the project or its site.” An EIR was prepared and certified by the Board of Supervisors for the Sacramento County General Plan Update (SCH# 2007082086) incorporated by reference and available at: <https://planning.saccounty.gov/PlansandProjectsIn-Progress/Pages/GeneralPlan.aspx>.

The project is consistent with the development density and use characteristics considered by the General Plan EIR and Zoning Code for the Agricultural Residential (AG-RES) land use designation. The proposed project will divide an approximately 10 acre parcel into four (4) lots, consistent with the Agricultural Residential-2 (AR-2) zone. Construction of the project would comply with County Code Title 16 (Building and Construction) including land grading and erosion control (Chapter 16.44) and Title 22 (Land Development).

No new impacts peculiar to the project or the parcel on which the project will be located have been identified that would necessitate further environmental review beyond the impacts and issues already disclosed and analyzed in the General Plan Update EIR. No other special circumstances exist that would create a reasonable possibility that the project will have a significant adverse effect on the environment. Therefore, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15183, no further environmental review is required.

Section 15183 Analysis:

Section 15183(b) specifies that a public agency shall limit its evaluation of environmental effects to those which the agency determines:

1. *Are peculiar to the project or the parcel on which the project would be located.*

The project proposes the division of the land to create four (4) parcels. The project site is developed with one (1) single-family residence and associated accessory structures, landscaping and driveway on proposed Parcel D. Proposed Parcels A, B, and C would be vacant parcels improved with an access drive allowing for future development of single-family residences. The project site contains aquatic features including one (1) vernal pool which are suitable habitat for special status species. The development of the new access road will impact aquatic resources, and future residential development has the potential to impact additional aquatic features. Development would be subject to standard conditions concerning aquatic resources and special status species. While these impacts are specific to the project site and proposed project, the implementation of standard Sacramento County General Plan mitigation measures would result in reducing impacts to no greater than what was determined by the General Plan Update EIR. There are no other known environmental effects that are peculiar to the project or the parcel on which the project would be located.

2. *Were not analyzed as significant effects in a prior EIR on the zoning action, general plan, or community plan, with which the project is consistent.*

Construction of the project is not anticipated to result in significant effects which were not analyzed in the General Plan Update EIR.

3. *Are potentially significant off-site impacts and cumulative impacts which were not discussed in the prior EIR prepared for the general plan, community plan, or zoning action.*

Construction of the project does not include off-site impacts and would not result in cumulative impacts which were not analyzed in the General Plan Update EIR.

4. *Are previously identified significant effects which, as a result of substantial new information which was not known at the time the EIR was certified, are determined to have a more severe adverse impact than discussed in the prior EIR.*

There is no substantial new information that would result in a determination of a more severe impact than what had been anticipated by the General Plan Update EIR.

Section 15183(e) further specifies the analysis shall be limited to those environmental effects for which:

1. *Each public agency with authority to mitigate any of the significant effects on the environment identified in the EIR on the planning of zoning action undertakes or requires others to undertake mitigation measure specified in the EIR which the lead agency found to be feasible, and*
2. *The lead agency makes a finding at a public hearing as to whether the feasible mitigation measures will be undertaken.*

Implementation of the project will undertake all feasible mitigation measures specified in the General Plan Update EIR. Mitigation measures that remain applicable to the project are identified in the attached 15183 General Plan Consistency Checklist.



Julie Newton
ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR OF
SACRAMENTO COUNTY, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Copy To:

☒ **County Clerk of Sacramento**

County Clerk

3636 American River Drive, Suite 110
Sacramento, CA 95864

☒ **Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation**
State Clearinghouse

1400 10th Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Project Information.....	1
Project Description.....	1
Surrounding Land Uses and Setting.....	2
General Plan Update EIR.....	6
§15183 General Plan Consistency Checklist.....	6
Methodology	7
I. Aesthetics	8
II. Agriculture and Forestry Resources	10
III. Airports.....	12
IV. Air Quality	14
V. Biological Resources	26
VI. Cultural Resources	54
VII. Energy	57
VIII. Geology and Soils.....	58
IX. Greenhouse Gas Emissions	63
X. Hazards and Hazardous Materials	67
XI. Hydrology and Water Quality	70
XII. Land Use and Planning.....	77
XIII. Mineral Resources	79
XIV. Noise	80
XV. Population and Housing.....	82
XVI. Public Services	83
XVII. Recreation	85
XVIII. Transportation	86
XIX. Tribal Cultural Resources	88
XX. Utilities and Service Systems.....	90
XXI. Wildfire	92
XXII. Mandatory Findings of Significance	94
Environmental Determination.....	97
List of Preparers.....	97
References/Citations.....	98

LIST OF PLATES

Plate GPC-1: Project Vicinity Map.....	3
Plate GPC-2: General Plan Land Use Designation	4
Plate GPC-3: Tentative Parcel Map	5
Plate GPC-4: Aquatic Resources Delineation Map.....	28
Plate GPC-5: Tree Inventory Map	39

LIST OF TABLES

Table GPC-1: Air Quality Standards Attainment Status	15
Table GPC-2: SMAQMD Significance Thresholds.....	19
Table GPC-3: PM _{2.5} Health Risk Estimates	23
Table GPC-4: Ozone Health Risk Estimates	24
Table GPC-5: Special Status Plant	30
Table GPC-6: Special Status Wildlife Species and Potential for Occurrence.....	31
Table GPC-7: Recommended Survey Periods for Swainson's Hawk (TAC 2000)	44
Table GPC-8: SMAQMD Thresholds of Significance for Greenhouse Gases	65

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Stringer Biological Consulting, Inc. September 12, 2023. Aquatic Resources Delineation Report – 8451 El Verano Tentative Parcel Map, Elverta, California.

Appendix B: Arbitect. November 26, 2022. Tree Inventory for 8451 El Verano, Elverta, California.

Appendix C: ALFA Environmental Assessment Services. January 24, 2024. Phase One Environmental Site Assessment Report – 8451 El Verano Avenue, Elverta, California.

Appendix D: JTS Engineering. October 18, 2023. Preliminary Drainage Study for 8541 El Verano Ave. TPM

Due to the length, Appendices A, B, C and D are available to view at Sacramento County Planning and Environmental Review, 827 7th Street Room 225, Sacramento, CA 95814 during normal business hours, or online at <http://planningdocuments.saccounty.gov>

The direct link is:

<https://planningdocuments.saccounty.gov/ViewProjectDetails.aspx?ControlNum=PLNP2023-00005>

COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW
SECTION 15183 GENERAL PLAN
CONSISTENCY ANALYSIS

PROJECT INFORMATION

PROJECT TITLE: 8451 El Verano Tentative Parcel Map

CONTROL NUMBER: PLNP2023-00005

LEAD AGENCY: County of Sacramento
827 7th Street, Room 225
Sacramento, CA 95814

PROJECT SPONSOR: Zeke Fredickson
703 Golden Acorn Court
Rocklin, CA, 95765
Aukake17@yahoo.com
(916) 233-7723

LOCATION: The subject parcel is located at 8451 El Verano Avenue, on the west side, approximately 0.6-mile north of Elverta Road, in the Rio Linda/Elverta community of unincorporated Sacramento County (**Plate GPC-1**).

ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NUMBER: 202-0043-007-0000

GENERAL PLAN DESIGNATION: Agricultural Residential (AG-RES)

ZONING: Agricultural-Residential - Two (2) Acres (AR-2)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project consists of the following entitlement requests:

1. A **Tentative Parcel Map** to allow the division of an existing 9.7-acre lot, zoned Agricultural Residential Two (2) Acres (AR-2), into four (4) lots with a private access road.
2. A **Design Review** to determine substantial compliance with the *Sacramento County Countywide Design Guidelines* (Design Guidelines).

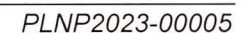
The project proposes to subdivide a 9.7-acre parcel, zoned Agricultural Residential Two (2) Acre (AR-2) into four (4) parcels. Proposed Parcels A and D will be 2.46 net acres in area while parcels B and C will be 2.37 net acres in area. The subject property contains a home and associated structures with a driveway connecting with El Verano Avenue which are expected to

remain within the newly created Parcel D. A new access roadway from El Verano Avenue will be constructed along the shared property line of Parcels A and D which will allow for access to the new parcels. The project would also be required to install Class "C" public street frontage improvements along El Verano Avenue along the eastern property line. Parcel D, containing the existing home, is expected to continue to be provided access via the existing driveway connecting with El Verano Avenue.

SURROUNDING LAND USES AND SETTING

The project site is located within a rural residential area in the Rio Linda/Elverta community in the northwestern portion of unincorporated Sacramento County. The project consists of one (1) 9.7-acre parcel, approximately 0.6-mile north of Elverta Road. The property is designated as Agricultural Residential (AG-RES) within the Sacramento County General Plan (**Plate GPC-2**). The zoning of the project site is Agricultural Residential Two (AR-2). The project site has a single-family residence and three (3) appurtenant structures, a double car garage, a car port, and a gravel drive located within proposed Parcel D. Proposed Parcels A, B, and C, contain no development (**Plate GPC-3**). There is a line of trees bisecting the site. The eastern half of the site has trees throughout. The western half has been used for livestock keeping and grazing and consists of mixed grassland. The site ranges in elevation from 52 feet to 62 feet.

The surrounding area within the community of Rio Linda/Elverta is characterized by rural residential properties generally ranging from one (1) to 10 acres. The surrounding land is comprised primarily of agricultural-residential development and is developed with single-family residences. Gibson Ranch Regional Park is approximately 2.2 miles east of the project site.



GENERAL PLAN UPDATE EIR

The Sacramento County General Plan Update establishes the framework for development in the unincorporated County that balances environmental protection with community issues such as new growth and housing needs. The General Plan Update includes a new growth management strategy, a stronger focus on addressing existing communities, and revitalizing aging corridors. Additionally, the General Plan Update adopted a new Economic Development Element, a Delta Protection Element, and strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions consistent with state law. The General Plan Update has a time horizon of 2030.

An EIR was prepared for the Sacramento County General Plan Update (Final EIR; County Control No. 2002-GPB-0105, SCH# 2007082086) and includes a comprehensive evaluation of environmental impacts that would result from implementation of the General Plan Update. Feasible mitigation measures were included as part of the General Plan Update EIR. The Final EIR was certified by the Board of Supervisors on November 9, 2011.

Subsequently, the Sacramento County Climate Action Plan (CAP) was developed to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and adapt to the effects of climate change. Furthermore, the CAP provides mechanisms to reduce GHG emissions associated with implementing the Sacramento County General Plan. A Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) was prepared for the Sacramento County CAP (Final SEIR, County Control No. PLNP2016-00063, SCH# 2023120386) was certified by the BOS on November 6, 2024.

The General Plan Update EIR and CAP Final SEIR are incorporated by reference in accordance with State CEQA Guidelines Section 15150 and available at:

<https://planning.sacounty.gov/PlansandProjectsIn-Progress/Pages/GeneralPlan.aspx>

<https://planning.sacounty.gov/PlansandProjectsIn-Progress/Pages/CAP.aspx>

The above documents are also available for review at Sacramento County Planning and Environmental Review, 827 7th Street, Room 225 Sacramento, CA 95814.

§15183 GENERAL PLAN CONSISTENCY CHECKLIST

This checklist provides an analysis of potential environmental impacts resulting from the project. Following the format of CEQA Guidelines Appendix G, environmental effects are evaluated to determine if the project would result in a potentially significant impact triggering additional review under CEQA Guidelines Section 15183.

New Significant Impact indicates the project would result in a new significant impact that was not previously identified in the General Plan Final EIR.

Substantial Increase in Severity of Impact indicates the project would result in a more severe project impact than what had been anticipated in the General Plan Final EIR.

Equal or Less Severity of Impact indicates the project would result in impacts of equal or less severity than what had been anticipated in the General Plan Final EIR.

Where the severity of the impacts of the project would be the same as or less than the severity of the impacts described in the General Plan FEIR, the checkbox for “Equal or Less Severity of Impact” is checked. Where the checkbox for “Substantial Increase in Severity of Impact” or “New Significant Impact” is checked, there are significant impacts that are:

- Peculiar to the project or project location (CEQA Guidelines Section 15183(b)(1));
- Not analyzed as significant impacts in the previous EIR, including off-site and cumulative impacts (CEQA Guidelines Section 15183(b)(2) and 15183(b)(3)); or
- Due to substantial new information not known at the time the EIR was certified (CEQA Guidelines Sections 15183(b)(4)).

METHODOLOGY

The General Plan Update EIR focused on residential infill development, redevelopment of commercial corridors, buildout of planned communities and new growth areas. However, the analysis and technical reports utilized to support the FEIR incorporated all land use assumptions across the County. Therefore, projects which are consistent with General Plan land use allowances are considered included in the FEIR analysis for the General Plan Update.

The proposed project will result in three (3) new housing units on 9.7-acres of land designated AG-RES by the General Plan which allows a residential density of between one (1) and 10 acres per unit. The proposed project is consistent with the AG-RES residential density allowance and is, consequently, consistent with the land use assumptions in the FEIR.

I. AESTHETICS

Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:	New Significant Impact	Substantial Increase in Severity of Impact	Equal or Less Severity of 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 ¹ of the site and its surroundings? If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	☐	☐	☒
d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☒
Notes: ¹ Public views are those that are experienced from a publicly accessible vantage point.			

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project site is within a rural residential portion of Sacramento County surrounded by AR-2 zoned parcels that contain single family residences. The topography around the project site is flat with sporadic groupings of trees visible. There are no scenic vistas or resources within or near the project site.

LIGHT AND GLARE

The project area is in a developed rural community surrounded by areas with existing nighttime lighting in the form of typical residential lighting.

SCENIC HIGHWAY

The project area is not within a viewshed of any designated or eligible local or state scenic highway. Garden Highway is a County designated scenic corridor and is approximately eight (8) miles southwest of the project site. River Road (State Route (SR) 160) is the closest state designated scenic highway, approximately 18.5 miles southwest of the project site.

DISCUSSION

- a. *Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?*

A scenic vista is a public viewpoint that provides expansive views of highly valued scenery or landscapes. The project area is within a developed rural area of Sacramento County, consisting primarily of residential neighborhoods and associated infrastructure. The project

area does not include any unique features that could be regarded as highly valued scenic resources. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

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

It is acknowledged that aesthetic impacts are subjective and may be perceived differently by various affected individuals. However, given the similar parcel sizes surrounding the project site, it is concluded that the project would not substantially degrade the visual character or quality of the project site or surrounding area. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

- c. *Would the project, in nonurbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?*

The project site is located within the rural Rio Linda/Elverta community in the unincorporated Sacramento County. The surrounding area consists of rural residential land uses. The completed project, with the assumption of three (3) new single-family dwellings, would not substantially degrade the existing public viewsheds as the proposed development is in character with the surrounding uses.

It is acknowledged that aesthetic impacts are subjective and may be perceived differently by various affected individuals. However, given the similar parcel sizes surrounding the proposed project, it is concluded that the project would not substantially degrade the visual character or quality of the project site or vicinity. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

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

The project will not result in a new source of substantial light, glare, or shadow that would result in safety hazards or adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area. Construction of the project would be completed during daytime hours; therefore, nighttime lighting is not anticipated. It is expected that residential development would include exterior lighting sources such as porch lighting. However, these typical exterior lighting sources associated with residential uses typically do not result in excess glare. The expected nighttime light generated would not result in a new source of substantial light, glare, or shadow that would result in safety hazards or adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

APPLICABLE MITIGATION MEASURES

None recommended.

II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board.

Would the project:	New Significant Impact	Substantial Increase in Severity of Impact	Equal or Less Severity of Impact
a. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☒
b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☒
c. Introduce incompatible uses in the vicinity of existing agricultural uses?	☐	☐	☒
d. Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))?	☐	☐	☒
e. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☒
f. 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?	☐	☐	☒

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Based on a review of the 2020 Important Farmland Map for Sacramento County from the California Department of Conservation under the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP), the project area is designated as Other Land (California Department of Conservation, 2023). The Other Land designation is used for land which is not included in any other mapping category. Common examples of Other Land include low density rural developments; brush, timber, wetland, and riparian areas not suitable for livestock grazing; confined livestock, poultry, or aquaculture facilities; strip mines, borrow pits, and water bodies smaller than forty acres.

The project site and surrounding area are zoned for single-family residential uses. There are trees scattered across the project site and within the area surrounding the project site. These trees are sparsely located and not capable of forestry purposes. There are no agricultural, forest, or timber resources on site or in the vicinity. The project parcel does include a history of small-scale livestock activities. The soils are labeled as San Joaquin fine sandy loam, zero (0)

to three (3) percent slopes and San Joaquin fine sandy loam, three (3) to eight (8) percent slopes.

DISCUSSION

- a. *Would the project convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?*

The project site is not designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance on the current Sacramento County Important Farmland Map published by the California Department of Conservation. The site does not contain prime soils. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

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

There are no Williamson Act contracts associated with the project site or adjacent parcels. Therefore, implementation of the project would not conflict with existing zoning or Williamson Act contracts and there would be **equal or less severe impact**.

- c. *Would the project introduce incompatible uses in the vicinity of existing agricultural uses?*

The project does not occur in an area of agricultural production. The 9.7-acre project site is surrounded by parcels zoned AR-2 and contains single family residences with sporadic animal raising activities. The proposed residential development is consistent with the surrounding land uses. Therefore, project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

- d. *Would the project conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))?*

The General Plan Update FEIR did not address forest land as there are none as defined in the Public Resources Code. The property is not zoned forest land or timberland as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g). Therefore, project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

- e. *Would the project result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?*

The General Plan Update FEIR did not address forest land as there are none as defined in the Public Resources Code. The project site and surrounding parcels are not zoned for forest land or timberland uses. Therefore, implementation of the project would not result in the loss or conversion of forest land, and the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

- f. *Would the project 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?*

The project site and surrounding parcels do not contain land designated solely for agricultural use or forest land. Additionally, the project site is not designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance on the current Sacramento County Important Farmland Map published by the California Department of Conservation. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

APPLICABLE MITIGATION MEASURES

None recommended.

III. AIRPORTS

Would the project:	New Significant Impact	Substantial Increase in Severity of Impact	Equal or Less Severity of Impact
a. Result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the vicinity of an airport/airstrip?	☐	☐	☒
b. Expose people residing or working in the project area to aircraft noise levels in excess of applicable standards?	☐	☐	☒
c. Result in a substantial adverse effect upon the safe and efficient use of navigable airspace by aircraft?	☐	☐	☒
d. 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?	☐	☐	☒

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The airport area of influence (AOI) is determined by three (3) sets of boundaries: height standards as defined by the Federal Aviation Administration; noise restrictions determined by California Administrative Code Title 21 Subchapter 6 and further defined by the *Sacramento County General Plan of 2005 – 2030* (General Plan) (Sacramento County, 2011), and airport safety areas as determined by the Airport Land Use Commission. Airport safety areas include three (3) different zones: the clear zone near the end of the runway, approach-departure zone under the takeoff/landing slopes, and the overflight zone under the traffic pattern (Airport Land Use Commission, 1992).

The nearest airports are the Rio Linda Airport which is located approximately three (3) miles south of the project site and McClellan Airpark which is located approximately 3.3 miles to the southeast. The project site is not located in overflight or safety zones of any airport/airstrip or within any airport noise contour however, the project is within McClellan Airport's Airport Planning Policy Area as established by Sacramento County.

DISCUSSION

- a. *Would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the vicinity of an airport/airstrip?*

The Rio Linda Airport is approximately three (3) miles south of the project site. No portion of the AOI for the Rio Linda Airport extends over the project site. Additionally, the McClellan Airpark is located approximately 3.3 miles southeast of the project site. No portion of the AOI for the McClellan Airpark extends over the project site. The project consists of a parcel split which would result in the allowance for up to three (3) new single-family residences. Three (3) single family residences are not expected to result in large concentrations of people, sensitive groups, or hazardous or explosive materials. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

- b. Would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to aircraft noise levels in excess of applicable standards?*

As described above, the Rio Linda Airport is approximately three (3) miles south of the project site and the McClellan Airpark is located approximately 3.3 miles southeast of the project site. The project site is not located within the AOI or noise contour for either airport. Although the project site is not located within any noise contours associated with airports, the Sacramento County Department of Airports reviewed the project and submitted conditions of approval indicating that minimum noise insulation to 45db CNEL within new residential buildings shall be provided. The project site is located outside of the 60 dB noise contour associated with adjacent airports and standard construction techniques, generally resulting in a 25 dB reduction in noise levels, are expected to attenuate noise to within acceptable levels. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

- c. Would the project result in a substantial adverse effect upon the safe and efficient use of navigable airspace by aircraft?*

As described above, the Rio Linda Airport is approximately three (3) miles south of the project site and the McClellan Airpark is located approximately 3.3 miles southeast of the project site. The project site is not located within the AOI for either airport. Single-family residences would not encroach into the airspace such that flight paths would be impacted. Although the project is not expected to result in a substantial effect upon the safe and efficient use of navigable airspace, the Sacramento County Department of Airports reviewed the project and submitted conditions of approval indicating that an aviation easement shall be recorded over the parcels with an acknowledgement that the properties are located within the McClellan Airfield Airport Planning Policy Area and shall grant the right of flight and unobstructed passage of all aircraft into and out of the subject airport. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

- d. Would the project 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?*

The implementation of the project would not increase air traffic levels or change the location of air traffic. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

APPLICABLE MITIGATION MEASURES

None recommended.

IV. AIR QUALITY

Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations.

Would the project:	New Significant Impact	Substantial Increase in Severity of Impact	Equal or Less Severity of Impact
a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☒
b. Result in cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	☐	☐	☒
c. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☒
d. Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☒

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The proposed project site is within the Sacramento Valley Air Basin (SVAB). The SVAB's frequent temperature inversions result in a relatively stable atmosphere that increases the potential for pollution. Sacramento County is within the Sacramento Federal Nonattainment Area (SFNA) planning boundaries for ozone PM2.5 and PM10. The Federal and California Clean Air Acts require an Air Quality Plan that consists of attainment plans and maintenance plans. Attainment plans must show how the region will attain air pollutant standards by a certain date and maintenance plans must demonstrate how the region will continue to maintain compliance with a standard. The most recent State Implementation Plan for Ozone was adopted in September 2023. The Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD) is responsible for ensuring that emission standards are not violated. Project related air emissions would have a significant effect if they would result in concentrations that either violate an ambient air quality standard or contribute to an existing air quality violation (**Table GPC-1**).

Table GPC-1: Air Quality Standards Attainment Status

Pollutant	Attainment with State Standards	Attainment with Federal Standards
Ozone	Non-Attainment (One (1) hour Standard ¹ and eight (8) hour standard)	Non-Attainment, Classification = Severe -15* (eight (8) hour ³ Standards) Attainment (One (1) hour standard ²)
Particulate Matter 10 Micron	Non-Attainment (24-hour Standard and Annual Mean)	Attainment (24-hour standard)
Particulate Matter 2.5 Micron	Attainment (Annual Standard)	Non-Attainment (24-hour Standard) and Attainment (Annual)
Carbon Monoxide	Attainment (One (1) hour and eight (8) hour Standards)	Attainment (One (1) hour and eight (8) hour Standards)
Nitrogen Dioxide	Attainment (One (1) hour Standard and Annual)	Unclassified/Attainment (One (1) hour and Annual)
Sulfur Dioxide ⁴	Attainment (One (1) hour and 24-hour Standards)	Attainment/unclassifiable ⁵
Lead	Attainment (30-Day Standard)	Attainment (Three (3) month rolling average)
Visibility Reducing Particles	Unclassified (Eight (8) hour Standard)	No Federal Standard
Sulfates	Attainment (24-hour Standard)	No Federal Standard
Hydrogen Sulfide	Unclassified (One (1) hour Standard)	No Federal Standard

1. Per Health and Safety Code (HSC) § 40921.59(c), the classification is based on 1989-1001 data and therefore does not change.

2. Air Quality meets Federal One (1) hour Ozone standard (77 FR 64036). EPA revoked this standard, but some associated requirements still apply. The SMAQMD attained the standard in 2009.

3. For the 1997, 2008 and the 2015 Standard.

4. Cannot be classified

5. Designation was made as part of EPA's designations for the 2010 SO₂ Primary National Ambient Air Quality Standard – Round 3 Designation in December 2017

* Designations based on information from <http://www.arb.ca.gov/desig/changes.htm#reports>

Source: SMAQMD. "Air Quality Pollutants and Standards". Web. Accessed: January 2, 2025. <http://airquality.org/air-quality-health/air-quality-pollutants-and-standards>

CRITERIA AIR POLLUTANTS

Individual air pollutants at certain concentrations may adversely affect human or animal health, reduce visibility, damage property, and reduce the productivity or vigor of crops and natural vegetation. Six (6) air pollutants have been identified by the EPA and CARB as being of concern both on a nationwide and statewide level: ozone, carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), lead, and particulate matter (PM), which is subdivided into two (2) classes based on particle size - PM equal to or less than 10 micrometers in diameter (PM₁₀) and PM equal to or less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter (PM_{2.5}). Because the air quality standards for these air pollutants are regulated using human and environment health-based criteria, they are commonly referred to as "criteria air pollutants (CAP)."

Health-based air quality standards have been established for criteria air pollutants by EPA at the federal level and by CARB at the state level. These standards are referred to as the national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) and the California ambient air quality standards (CAAQS), respectively. The NAAQS and CAAQS were established to protect the public with a margin of safety from adverse health impacts caused by exposure to air pollution. Both EPA and CARB designate areas of California as “attainment,” “nonattainment,” “maintenance,” or “unclassified” for the various pollutant standards according to the federal Clean Air Act (CAA) and the California CAA (CCAA), respectively.

Within the SVAB, SMAQMD is responsible for ensuring that air quality standards are not violated. With respect to regional air quality, Sacramento County is designated as nonattainment for the eight (8) hour ozone and 24-hour PM_{2.5} NAAQS. Sacramento County is designated as attainment or unclassified for all other criteria pollutant NAAQS. Sacramento County is currently in nonattainment for the ozone and PM₁₀ CAAQS and in attainment or unclassified for all other pollutants (Sacramento Metropolitan AQMD, 2024).

TOXIC AIR CONTAMINANTS

Toxic Air Contaminants (TACs) are a set of airborne pollutants that may cause or contribute to an increase in mortality or in serious illness, or that may pose a hazard to human health. The health effects associated with TACs are quite diverse and generally are assessed locally, rather than regionally. TACs can cause long-term health effects such as cancer, birth defects, neurological damage, asthma, bronchitis, or genetic damage; or short-term acute effects, such as eye watering, respiratory irritation (a cough), running nose, throat pain, and headaches.

Public exposure to TACs can result from emissions from normal operations, as well as accidental releases. Stationary sources of TACs include gasoline stations, dry cleaners, and diesel backup generators. On-road motor vehicles and off-road sources, such as construction equipment and trains, are also common sources of TACs. According to the California Almanac of Emissions and Air Quality (California Air Resources Board, 2013), most of the estimated health risk from TACs can be attributed to relatively few compounds—the most important being diesel particulate matter (DPM). Other TACs for which data are available that currently pose the greatest ambient risk in California are benzene, formaldehyde, hexavalent chromium, 1,3-butadiene, and acetaldehyde.

The greatest potential TAC emissions generally would be related to DPM emissions from off-road and on-road diesel-fueled equipment used for construction activities. DPM differs from other TACs because it is not a single substance, but a complex mixture of hundreds of substances. Although DPM is emitted by diesel-fueled internal combustion engines, the composition of the emissions varies depending on engine type, operating conditions, fuel composition, type of lubricating oil, and presence or absence of an emission control system. Emissions of DPM are forecasted to decline; it is estimated that emissions of DPM in 2035 will be less than half those in 2010, further reducing statewide cancer risk and non-cancer health effects (California Air Resources Board, 2013).

SENSITIVE RECEPTORS

Sensitive receptors are individuals who have an increased sensitivity to air pollution and include elderly, children, individuals with chronic respiratory diseases such as asthma, emphysema, and bronchitis. Some land uses are considered more sensitive to air pollution than others due to the types of population groups or activities involved and are referred to as sensitive receptors.

Examples of these sensitive receptors are residences, schools, hospitals, and daycare centers. CARB and the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) have identified the following groups of individuals as the most likely to be affected by air pollution: the elderly over 65, children under 14, infants (including in utero in the third trimester of pregnancy), and persons with cardiovascular and chronic respiratory diseases such as asthma, emphysema, and bronchitis (Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, 2015).

Residential areas are considered sensitive receptors to air pollution because residents (including children and the elderly) tend to be at home for extended periods of time, resulting in sustained exposure to any pollutants present. Children and infants are considered more susceptible to health effects of air pollution due to their immature immune systems, developing organs, and higher breathing rates. As such, schools are also considered sensitive receptors, as children are present for extended durations and engage in regular outdoor activities. Industrial and commercial areas are considered the least sensitive to air pollution; exposure periods are relatively short and intermittent because the majority of the workers tend to stay indoors most of the time.

The project area is in a rural residential setting surrounded by residential land uses, consisting primarily of single-family uses. The closest sensitive receptors are adjacent residences on neighboring properties. The closest school to the project site is the Alpha Technology Middle School located at the intersection of Elwyn Avenue and Artesia Road (approximately 0.6 miles northwest of the site).

HEALTH EFFECTS SCREENING

SMAQMD has published procedures and instructions for estimating potential health risks that could result from the operational emissions of ROG, NO_x, and PM_{2.5} of a proposed project. SMAQMD's Instructions for Sac Metro Air District Minor Project and Strategic Area Project Health Effects Screening Tools (SMAQMD's Instructions) provides three (3) options for analyzing projects: small projects may use the Minor Project Health Screening Tool, while larger projects may use the Strategic Area Project Health Screening Tool, and practitioners have the option to conduct project-specific modeling.

Both the Minor Project Health Screening Tool and Strategic Area Project Health Screening Tool are based on the maximum thresholds of significance adopted within the five (5) air district regions contemplated within SMAQMD's Guidance to Address the Friant Ranch Ruling for CEQA Projects in the Sac Metro Air District (SMAQMD's Friant Guidance; October 2020). The air district thresholds considered in SMAQMD's Friant Guidance included thresholds from SMAQMD as well as the El Dorado County Air Quality Management District, the Feather River Air Quality Management District, the Placer County Air Pollution Control District, and the Yolo Solano Air Quality Management District. The highest allowable emission rates of NO_x, ROG, PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5} from the five (5) air districts is 82 pounds per day (lbs/day) for all four (4) pollutants.

The Minor Project Health Screening Tool is intended for use by projects that would result in emissions at or below 82 lbs/day, while the Strategic Area Project Health Screening Tool is intended for use by projects that would result in emissions between two (2) and eight (8) times greater than 82 lbs/day. The Strategic Area Project Screening Model was prepared by SMAQMD for five (5) locations throughout the Sacramento region for two (2) scenarios: two (2) times and eight (8) times the threshold of significance level (2xTOS and 8xTOS). The

corresponding emissions levels included in the model for 2xTOS were 164 lbs/day for ROG and NO_x, and 656 lbs/day under the 8xTOS for ROG and NO_x (SMAQMD 2020).

As noted in SMAQMD's Friant Guidance, "each model generates conservative estimates of health effects, for two (2) reasons: The tools' outputs are based on the simulation of a full year of exposure at the maximum daily average of the increases in air pollution concentration... [and] [t]he health effects are calculated for emissions levels that are very high" (SMAQMD 2020).

The model derives the estimated health risk associated with operation of a project based on increases in concentrations of ozone and PM_{2.5} that were estimated using a photochemical grid model (PGM). The concentration estimates of the PGM are then applied to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Benefits Mapping and Analysis Program (BenMAP) to estimate the resulting health effects from concentration increases. PGMs and BenMAP were developed to assess air pollution and human health impacts over large areas and populations that far exceed the area of an average land use development project. These models were never designed to determine whether emissions generated by an individual development project would affect community health or the date an air basin would attain an ambient air quality standard. Rather, they are used to help inform regional planning strategies based on cumulative changes in emissions within an air basin or larger geography.

It must be cautioned that within the typical project-level scope of CEQA analyses, PGMs are unable to provide precise, spatially defined pollutant data at a local scale. In addition, as noted in SMAQMD's Friant Guidance, "BenMAP estimates potential health effects from a change in air pollutant concentrations but does not fully account for other factors affecting health, such as access to medical care, genetics, income levels, behavior choices such as diet and exercise, and underlying health conditions" (2020). Thus, the modeling conducted for the health risk analysis is based on imprecise mapping and only takes into account one (1) of the main public health determinants (i.e., environmental influences).

REGULATORY SETTING

Air quality in Sacramento County is regulated by several agencies, which include the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), California Air Resources Board (ARB), and Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD). Each of these agencies develops rules and/or regulations to attain the goals or directives imposed upon them through legislation.

SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

All projects are subject to SMAQMD rules and regulations in effect at the time of construction. A full list of the District's rules and regulations can be found online at the rules and regulations webpage at: <https://www.airquality.org/Businesses/Rules-Regulations#09>. Examples of several SMAQMD rules applicable to the proposed project include Rule 201 – General Permit Requirements, Rule 403 – Fugitive Dust, Rule 422 – Architectural Coatings and Rule 902 – Asbestos (applicable for demolition or buildings).

Because the Sacramento Valley Air Basin is in non-attainment for ozone, PM₁₀, and PM_{2.5}, the SMAQMD requires all plans implement the District's Basic Construction Emission Control Practices (also known as Best Management Practices – BMPs). Compliance and implementation of the BMPs allows for proposed projects to utilize the District's Significance Thresholds for construction and operational emissions, as shown in **Table GPC-2**. Otherwise,

without the BMPs, any emissions above zero (0) pounds per day would be considered significant and inconsistent with SMAQMDs air quality plans.

Table GPC-2: SMAQMD Significance Thresholds

	ROG ¹ (lbs/day)	NO _x (lbs/day)	CO (µg/m ³)	PM ₁₀ (lbs/day)	PM _{2.5} (lbs/day)
Construction (short-term)	None	85	CAAQS ²	80 ^{3*}	82 ^{3*}
Operational (long-term)	65	65	CAAQS	80 ^{3*}	82 ^{3*}

1. Reactive Organic Gas

2. California Ambient Air Quality Standards

3. Only Applies to Projects for Which all Feasible Best Available Control Technology (BACT) and Best Management Practices (BMPs) have been Applied. Projects that Fail to Apply all Feasible BACT/BMPs Must Meet a Significance Threshold of zero (0) lbs/day

To allow the use of non-zero PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} thresholds of significance, the SMAQMD recommends lead agencies require implementation of the following Basic Construction Emission Control Practices (BCECPs) for all land use development projects (Sacramento Metropolitan AQMD, 2020a).

1. Water all exposed surfaces two (2) times daily. Exposed surfaces include, but are not limited to, soil piles, graded areas, unpaved parking areas, staging areas, and access roads;
2. Cover or maintain at least two (2) feet of free board space on haul trucks transporting soil, sand, or other loose material on the site. Any haul trucks that would be traveling along freeways or major roadways should be covered;
3. Use wet power vacuum street sweepers to remove any visible trackout mud or dirt onto adjacent public roads at least once a day. Use of dry power sweeping is prohibited;
4. Limit vehicle speeds on unpaved roads to 15 miles per hour (mph);
5. All roadways, driveways, sidewalks, and parking lots to be paved should be completed as soon as possible. In addition, building pads should be laid as soon as possible after grading unless seeding or soil binders are used;
6. Minimize idling time by either shutting equipment off when not in use or reducing time of idling to five (5) minutes. Provide clear signage that posts this requirement for workers at the entrances to the site; and
7. Maintain all construction equipment in proper working condition according to manufacturer's specifications. The equipment must be checked by a certified mechanic and determined to be running in proper condition before it is operated.

SMAQMD has developed a screening level to assist in determining NO_x emissions (an ozone precursor) from constructing a project in Sacramento County will exceed SMAQMD's construction significance thresholds. The screening level was developed by the SMAQMD, using default construction inputs into the California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod).

Based on the modelling, projects that are 35 acres or less in size are generally considered to not exceed construction NO_x emissions.

Furthermore, construction projects that incorporate BMPs, do not exceed the screening level of 35 acres or more in size, and meets all the limitations listed below, will be considered to have a less than significant impact on air quality, as it relates to both ozone precursors (NO_x) and particulate matter (PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀). The limitations stipulate that the project cannot include any of the following:

- Include buildings more than four (4) stories tall;
- Include demolition activities;
- Include major trenching activities;
- Have a construction schedule that is unusually compact, fast-paced, or involves more than two (2) phases (i.e., grading, paving, building construction and architectural coatings) occurring simultaneously;
- Involve cut and fill operations (moving earth with haul trucks and/or flattening or terracing hills); and,
- Require import or export of soil materials that will require a considerable amount of haul truck activity.

CRITERIA POLLUTANT HEALTH RISKS

All criteria air pollutants can have human health effects at certain concentrations. Air districts develop region-specific CEQA thresholds of significance in consideration of existing air quality concentrations and attainment designations under the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS). The NAAQS and CAAQS are informed by a wide range of scientific evidence, which demonstrates that there are known safe concentrations of criteria air pollutants. Because the NAAQS and CAAQS are based on maximum pollutant levels in outdoor air that would not harm the public's health, and air district thresholds pertain to attainment of these standards, the thresholds established by air districts are also protective of human health. Sacramento County is currently in nonattainment of the NAAQS and CAAQS for ozone. Projects that emit criteria air pollutants in exceedance of Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD) thresholds would contribute to the regional degradation of air quality that could result in adverse human health impacts.

Acute health effects of ozone exposure include increased respiratory and pulmonary resistance, cough, pain, shortness of breath, and lung inflammation. Chronic health effects include permeability of respiratory epithelia and the possibility of permanent lung impairment (EPA 2016).

DISCUSSION

- a. *Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?*

Regardless of a project's significance determination under CEQA, all projects must implement SMAQMD's Basic Construction Emission Control Practices (aka BMPs). Provided the proposed project implements the BMPs, the screening level described in the regulatory setting above can be used to determine if the project will exceed the SMAQMD significance threshold shown in **Table GPC-2**.

The project is within the screening criteria for construction related impacts related to air quality. The project site is less than 35 acres and does not involve buildings more than four (4) stories tall; demolition activities; significant trenching activities; an unusually compact construction schedule; cut-and-fill operations; or import or export of soil materials requiring a considerable amount of haul truck activity. Basic Construction Emissions Control Practices have also been included as Mitigation Measure AQ-1 with which the project must comply. The project meets the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District's screening criteria for PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5} and Ozone precursors and will not conflict with applicable air quality plans. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

- b. *Would the project result in cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?*

As discussed in (a) above, with implementation of Mitigation Measure AQ-1, the project would not exceed the screening thresholds established by SMAQMD for construction emissions. Construction of the project would not result in a considerable net increase in any criteria pollutant for which the region is in non-attainment.

Furthermore, SMAQMD has established screening levels for ozone precursors and particulate matter emissions related to operations of a project. The operational screening levels are based on the maximum size of certain types of projects (e.g., residential, retail, schools, etc.) to determine if the operational component of a proposed project will exceed the significance thresholds shown in **Table GPC-2**. Per the operational screening levels, single-family residential projects that are less than 485 dwelling units will not exceed thresholds related to ozone precursor emissions and residential projects that are less than 1,000 dwelling units will not exceed thresholds for particulate matter (PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀). Since the proposed project would result in three (3) new single-family residences, the project is below the operational screening levels and as such, will not exceed SMAQMD's significance thresholds and will not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is in non-attainment. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

- c. *Would the project expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?*

TOXIC AIR CONTAMINANTS

The project area is within a rural area of the Rio Linda/Elverta community. Sensitive receptors within a 0.25-mile of the project area include single-family residences. Construction activities would temporarily generate toxic air contaminants from the emissions of operating construction equipment, including DPM from the use of off-road diesel-powered equipment which may expose nearby receptors to TACs.

Health risk is a function of the concentration of contaminants in the environment and the duration of exposure to those contaminants. Even in intensive phases of construction, there

would not be substantial pollutant concentrations from an individual project, with the potential exception of the immediate vicinity of the construction site. Concentrations of mobile-source DPM emissions are typically reduced by approximately 60 percent at a distance of around 300 feet (100 meters) (Zhu and Hinds 2002). Construction activities will take place next to adjacent residences and a school.

The dose to which receptors are exposed is the primary factor used to determine health risk. Dose is a function of the concentration of a substance or substances in the environment and the extent to which a person is exposed to the substance. Exhaust PM_{2.5} emissions during construction would be low due to the limited number of construction equipment anticipated for the proposed project.

The risks estimated for an exposed individual are higher if a fixed exposure occurs over a longer period of time. Health effects from TACs are often described in terms of individual cancer risk, which is based on a 30-year lifetime exposure to TACs for residences and 25-year exposure for workers (OEHHA 2015). The total construction duration is projected to take place over a short period of time. As a result, the exposure of sensitive receptors to construction emissions would be intermittent and temporary in nature, and the exposure would be less than one (1) percent of the total exposure period used for typical health risk calculations.

Construction of the project would result in temporary construction emissions that would cease after the completion of the project. As discussed above, concentrations of DPM are highest within 300 feet of the source and drop off substantially at greater distances. Although there would be sensitive receptors located adjacent to construction activities, construction would be temporary in nature. Therefore, the possibility that construction activities could occur within a distance and for a duration that would generate substantial TAC exposure to sensitive receptors would be minimized. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

HEALTH EFFECTS SCREENING OF CRITERIA POLLUTANTS AND OZONE PRECURSORS

Since the project is below the daily operational thresholds for criteria pollutants, the Minor Health Screening Tool was used to estimate health risks. The results are shown in **Table GPC-3** and **Table GPC-4**.

Table GPC-3: PM_{2.5} Health Risk Estimates

PM _{2.5} Health Endpoint	Age Range ¹	Incidences Across the Reduced Sacramento Four (4) km Modeling Domain Resulting from Project Emissions (per year) ^{2,5}	Incidences Across the Five (5) Air-District Region Resulting from Project Emissions (per year) ²	Percent of Background Health Incidences Across the Five (5) Air-District Region ³	Total Number of Health Incidences Across the Five (5) Air-District Region (per year) ⁴
		(Mean)	(Mean)		
Respiratory					
Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	1.0	0.89	0.0048%	18419
Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	0.065	0.059	0.0032%	1846
Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	0.29	0.23	0.0012%	19644
Cardiovascular					
Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	0.15	0.13	0.00054%	24037
Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	0.000090	0.000079	0.0021%	4
Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	0.0080	0.0074	0.0024%	308
Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	0.017	0.015	0.0021%	741
Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	0.027	0.025	0.0020%	1239
Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	0.093	0.082	0.0016%	5052
Mortality					
Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	1.9	1.6	0.0036%	44766

1. Affected age ranges are shown. Other age ranges are available, but the endpoints and age ranges shown here are the ones used by the USEPA in their health assessments. The age ranges are consistent with the epidemiological study that is the basis of the health function.
2. Health effects are shown in terms of incidences of each health endpoint and how it compares to the base (2035 base year health effect incidences, or "background health incidence") values. Health effects are shown for the Reduced Sacramento four (4)-km Modeling Domain and the Five (5)-Air-District Region.
3. The percent of background health incidence uses the mean incidence. The background health incidence is an estimate of the average number of people that are affected by the health endpoint in a given population over a given period of time. In this case, the background incidence rates cover the Five (5) Air-District Region (estimated 2035 population of 3,271,451 persons). Health incidence rates and other health data are typically collected by the government as well as the World Health Organization. The background incidence rates used here are obtained from BenMAP.
4. The total number of health incidences across the Five (5)-Air-District Region is calculated based on the modeling data. The information is presented to assist in providing overall health context.

5. The technical specifications and map for the Reduced Sacramento four (4)-km Modeling Domain are included in Appendix A, Table A-1 and Appendix B, Figure B-2 of the Guidance to Address the Friant Ranch Ruling for CEQA Projects in the Sac Metro Air District

Table GPC-4: Ozone Health Risk Estimates

Ozone Health Endpoint	Age Range	Incidence Across the Reduced Sacramento four (4)-km Modeling Domain	Incidence Across the Five (5)-Air-District Region	Percent of Background Health Incidence Across the Five (5)-Air-District Region	Total Number of Health Incidences Across the Five (5)-Air-District Region
Respiratory					
Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	0.087	0.064	0.00032%	19644
Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	0.40	0.32	0.0055%	5859
Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	0.65	0.52	0.0042%	12560
Mortality					
Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	0.054	0.042	0.00014%	30386

- Affected age ranges are shown. Other age ranges are available, but the endpoints and age ranges shown here are the ones used by the USEPA in their health assessments. The age ranges are consistent with the epidemiological study that is the basis of the health function.
- Health effects are shown in terms of incidences of each health endpoint and how it compares to the base (2035 base year health effect incidences, or "background health incidence") values. Health effects are shown for the Reduced Sacramento four (4)-km Modeling Domain and the Five (5)-Air-District Region.
- The percent of background health incidence uses the mean incidence. The background health incidence is an estimate of the average number of people that are affected by the health endpoint in a given population over a given period of time. In this case, the background incidence rates cover the Five (5) Air-District Region (estimated 2035 population of 3,271,451 persons). Health incidence rates and other health data are typically collected by the government as well as the World Health Organization. The background incidence rates used here are obtained from BenMAP.
- The total number of health incidences across the Five (5) Air-District Region is calculated based on the modeling data. The information is presented to assist in providing overall health context.
- The technical specifications and map for the Reduced Sacramento four (4)-km Modeling Domain are included in Appendix A, Table A-1 and Appendix B, Figure B-2 of the Guidance to Address the Friant Ranch Ruling for CEQA Projects in the Sac Metro Air District.

Again, it is important to note that the "model outputs are derived from the numbers of people who would be affected by [the] project due to their geographic proximity and based on average population through the Five-District-Region. The models do not take into account population subgroups with greater vulnerabilities to air pollution, except for ages for certain endpoints" (Sacramento Metropolitan AQMD, 2020). Therefore, it would be misleading to correlate the levels of criteria air pollutant and precursor emissions associated with project implementation to specific health outcomes. While the effects noted above could manifest in individuals, actual effects depend on factors specific to each individual, including life stage (e.g., older adults are more sensitive), preexisting cardiovascular or respiratory diseases, and genetic polymorphisms. Even if this specific medical information was known about each individual, there are wide ranges of potential outcomes from exposure to ozone precursors and particulates, from no effect to the effects listed in the tables. Ultimately, the health

effects associated with the project, using the SMAQMD guidance “are conservatively estimated, and the actual effects may be zero” (Sacramento Metropolitan AQMD, 2020).

TOXIC AIR CONTAMINANTS CONCLUSION

SMAQMDs CEQA Guide (CEQA Guide) Chapter 5 entitled *Toxic Air Contaminants* includes thresholds for new stationary sources of TACs. The added cancer risk threshold for new sources of TACs is 10 in one million and the threshold for non-carcinogenic TACs is if a project would result in a Hazard Index greater than 1. The project is not considered a new stationary source of TACs, and these thresholds are not expected to be exceeded. The CEQA Guide also notes that the siting of new sensitive receptors, such as new homes, in close proximity to existing TAC sources should be analyzed and disclosed. Major sources of TACs can include some industrial and commercial uses such as factories, refineries, and power plants. Additionally, high-volume roadways can be sources of TAC emissions. The project site is located in a rural residential area of Sacramento County and is not located in close proximity to uses known to emit high levels of TACs. Additionally, the project site is not located in close proximity to a high-volume roadway that has the potential to expose sensitive receptors to high levels of TACs. Furthermore, as noted above, project related construction emissions are not expected to expose sensitive receptors to excessive TAC emissions. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

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

The predominant source of power for construction equipment is diesel engines. Exhaust odors from diesel engines and emissions associated with the application of architectural coatings may be considered offensive to some individuals. However, the project would not introduce a substantial level of new diesel-powered equipment or architectural coating activity over a prolonged period of time. Taking into consideration the fact that odors would be temporary and disperse rapidly with distance from the source, construction-generated odors would not result in the frequent exposure of receptors to objectionable odor emissions. Furthermore, the project would be required to comply with SMAQMD's Rule 402 (Nuisance), which place general limitations on odorous substances and nuisances. This regulation would ensure that odors generated by short-term construction would not affect a substantial number of people. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

APPLICABLE MITIGATION MEASURES

AQ-1: BASIC CONSTRUCTION EMISSIONS CONTROL PRACTICES

The following Basic Construction Emissions Control Practices are considered feasible for controlling fugitive dust from a construction site. The practices also serve as best management practices (BMPs), allowing the use of the non-zero particulate matter significance thresholds.

- Control of fugitive dust is required by District Rule 403 and enforced by District staff.
- Water all exposed surfaces two (2) times daily. Exposed surfaces include, but are not limited to soil piles, graded areas, unpaved parking areas, staging areas, and access roads.

- Cover or maintain at least two (2) feet of free board space on haul trucks transporting soil, sand, or other loose material on the site. Any haul trucks that would be traveling along freeways or major roadways should be covered.
- Use wet power vacuum street sweepers to remove any visible track out mud or dirt onto adjacent public roads at least once a day. Use of dry power sweeping is prohibited.
- Limit vehicle speeds on unpaved roads to 15 miles per hour (mph).
- All roadways, driveways, sidewalks, parking lots to be paved should be completed as soon as possible. In addition, building pads should be laid as soon as possible after grading unless seeding or soil binders are used.

The following practices describe exhaust emission control from diesel powered fleets working at a construction site. California regulations limit idling from both on-road and off-road diesel-powered equipment. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) enforces idling limitations and compliance with diesel fleet regulations.

- Minimize idling time either by shutting equipment off when not in use or reducing the time of idling to five (5) minutes [California Code of Regulations, Title 13, sections 2449(d)(3) and 2485]. Provide clear signage that posts this requirement for workers at the entrances to the site.
- Provide current certificate(s) of compliance for CARB's In-Use Off-Road Diesel-Fueled Fleets Regulation [California Code of Regulations, Title 13, sections 2449 and 2449.1]. For more information contact CARB at 877-593-6677, doors@arb.ca.gov, or www.arb.ca.gov/doors/compliance_cert1.html.
- Maintain all construction equipment in proper working condition according to manufacturer's specifications. The equipment must be checked by a certified mechanic and determined to be in proper condition before it is operated.

V. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Would the project:	New Significant Impact	Substantial Increase in Severity of Impact	Equal or Less Severity of Impact
a. Have a substantially adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife 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, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☒
c. Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☐	☒

d. Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	☐	☐	☒
e. Adversely affect or result in the removal of native or landmark trees?	☐	☐	☒
f. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources?	☐	☐	☒
g. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	☐	☐	☒

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

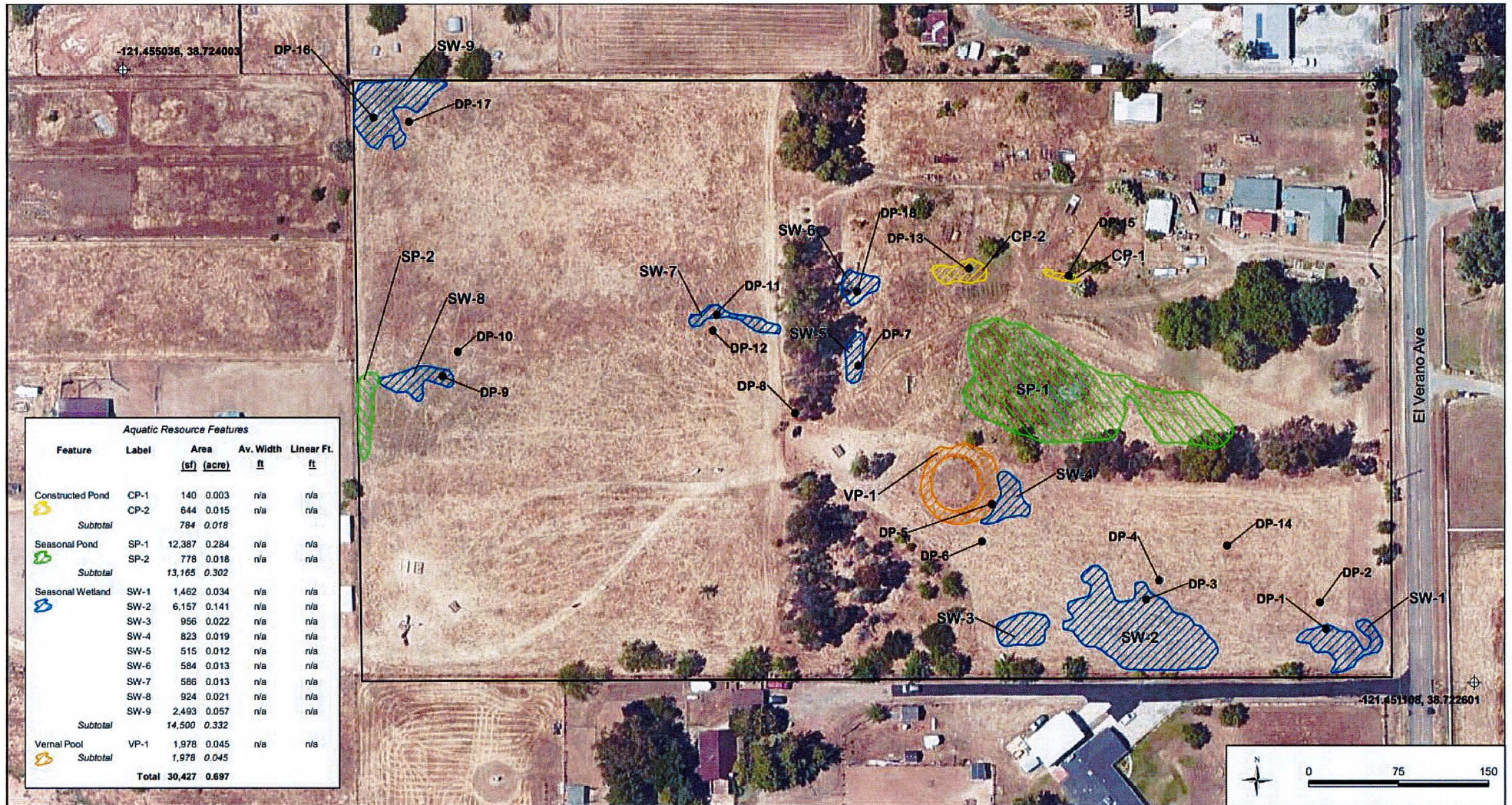
The project site is located in a rural residential setting roughly nine (9) miles north of the City of Sacramento. The surrounding area within the community of Rio Linda/Elverta is generally characterized by rural residential properties with one (1) to 10 acre lots. The surrounding land is comprised primarily of low-density agricultural-residential development. The onsite land cover is primarily comprised of annual grasses and bare soil. Some native and non-native trees are on the eastern half of the parcel and a north/south running line of Eucalyptus trees bisects the parcel. An existing home and related accessory structures are located toward the northeast corner of the subject property.

AQUATIC RESOURCES

A Draft Aquatic Resources Delineation report was prepared for the project Stringer Biological Consulting, Inc dated September 12, 2023 (Appendix A). Survey efforts as detailed within Appendix A identified a total of 0.697 acres of aquatic resources which consist of nine (9) seasonal wetlands totaling 0.332 acres, two (2) seasonal ponds totaling 0.302 acres, one (1) vernal pool totaling 0.045 acres, and two (2) constructed ponds totaling 0.018 acres (**Plate GPC-4**).

The nine (9) seasonal wetlands are scattered throughout the project site within annual grassland habitat. The seasonal wetlands are located in shallow depressional features that collect runoff from the surrounding uplands. Seven (7) of the wetlands appear to be natural wetlands, one (1) of the wetlands is likely artificial as it is fed by overflow from an excavated feature that has formed into a vernal pool, and one (1) artificial wetland feature that ponds against a constructed berm of unknown purpose. There are two (2) areas classified as seasonal ponds of which one (1) is a prominent depressional feature in the eastern half of the site that ponds seasonally, and the other is a small area along the western fence line that ponds seasonally and is mostly unvegetated bare ground. One (1) area classified as a vernal pool is present in the southeast quadrant of the project site. The vernal pool feature is an excavated "tire shaped" depression that mimics the hydrologic regime of a natural vernal pool and has developed vernal pool vegetation. Two (2) constructed ponds occur along the southern edge of the developed portion of the project site. These pond features are constructed artificial depressions that appear to be associated with the site's sewer/septic or water infrastructure.

Plate GPC-4: Aquatic Resources Delineation Map



SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES

The likelihood of a special status species to be present on the project site was determined using recent biological surveys performed on a property within a ¼-mile of the project site, and topical literature as cited as well as the aquatic resources report prepared for the project. This aquatic resources report identifies sensitive aquatic communities (Vernal pool, wetlands, etc.) on the project site. Species considered for presence are those species with potential occurrence as indicated on the official USFWS species list, California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) quadrangle queries (Rio Linda, Verona, Taylor Monument, and Pleasant Grove U.S. Geological Survey 7.5-minute quadrangles), California Native Plant Society (CNPS) queries.

Table GPC-5 and **Table GPC-6** report the likelihood of species occurrence based on habitat presence either on the site or in proximity of the site, and nearby recorded species occurrences. The following set of criteria was used to determine each species potential for occurrence on the site:

- **Present:** Species occur on the site based on CNDDDB records, and/or was observed on the site during field surveys.
- **High:** The site is within the known range of the species and suitable habitat exists.
- **Moderate:** The site is within the known range of the species and very limited suitable habitat exists.
- **Not Expected To Occur:** The site is within the known range of the species and there is marginally suitable habitat, or the species was not observed during protocol-level surveys conducted on-site.
- **No Habitat Present:** The site does not contain suitable habitat for the species, the species was not observed during protocol-level floristic surveys conducted on-site, or the site is outside the known range of the species.

A preliminary review of CNPS, USFWS, and five (5) mile radius CNDDDB species lists identified five (5) special-status plant species, 17 special-status animal species, and three (3) sensitive natural communities in the project vicinity. These special status species and sensitive natural communities were evaluated for potential to occur on the project site. The evaluation was based on factors such as habitat requirements, known elevational and geographic ranges, and soil requirements. Species that were determined to have no potential to occur in the project site and/or be impacted by the proposed project are not discussed further in this document.

Table GPC-5: Special Status Plant

Species Name Common Name	Status	Habitat Requirements, Ecology, and Life History	Potential to Occur
Plants			
<i>Downingia pusilla</i> dwarf downingia	--/--/CRPR 2B.2	Annual herb. Grows in vernal pools, seasonal wetlands and mesic areas within grassland. Flowering period Mar – May (CNPS 2023).	Moderate. Vernal pools in the project site provide suitable habitat for this species. Three occurrences within two miles of the project site are shown on CNDDDB.
<i>Gratiola heterosepala</i> Boggs Lake hedge-hyssop	--/CE/CRPR 1B.2	Annual herb. Grows in clay soils around the margins of marshes and swamps, and in vernal pools. Flowering period Apr – August (CNPS 2023).	Not expected to occur. The project site lacks clay soils.
<i>Hibiscus lasiocarpus</i> var. <i>occidentalis</i> woolly rose-mallow	--/--/CRPR 1B.2	Perennial, rhizomatous herb. Grows in freshwater marshes and swamps, often in rip rap on the sides of levees. Flowering period Jun – Sep (CNPS 2023).	Not expected to occur. There is no suitable habitat in the project site. The closest reported occurrences in the CNDDDB are several miles west of the site along the Sacramento River (CDFW 2023).
<i>Legenere limosa</i> Legenere	--/--/CRPR 1B.1	Annual herb. Grows in vernal pools and ephemeral wetland habitats. Flowering period Apr – June (CNPS 2023).	Moderate. Seasonal wetlands in the project site provide suitable habitat for this species.
<i>Sagittaria sanfordii</i> Sanford's arrowhead	--/--/CRPR 1B.2	Perennial, rhizomatous aquatic herb. Occurs in freshwater marsh habitats, often in channelized drainages with slow moving segments. Flowering period May – Oct (CNPS 2023).	Not expected to occur. There is no suitable habitat in the project site.

Table GPC-6: Special Status Wildlife Species and Potential for Occurrence

Scientific Name (Common Name)	State Status	Habitat Requirements	Potential for Occurrence
Invertebrates			
<i>Danaus plexippus</i> monarch - California overwintering population	FCE/--/--	Habitat can include; a field, roadside area, open area, wet area or urban garden, milkweed and flowering plants are needed for monarch habitat. Adult monarchs feed on the nectar of many flowers during breeding and migration, but they can only lay eggs on milkweed plants. For overwintering monarchs, habitat with a specific microclimate is needed for protection from the elements, as well as moderate temperatures to avoid freezing. Monarchs living west of the Rocky Mountain range in North America primarily overwinter in California at sites along the Pacific Coast, roosting in eucalyptus, Monterey pines and Monterey cypress trees.	Not expected to occur Monarch butterfly could potentially fly through the project site during migration; however, there is no suitable habitat for this species.
<i>Branchinecta lynchi</i> vernal pool fairy shrimp	FT/--/--	Occupies vernal pools ranging from small, clear, sandstone rock pools to large, turbid, alkaline, grassland valley floor pools as well as constructed seasonal ponds and lakes. It is most frequently found in pools measuring less than 0.05 acre, although it has been collected from vernal pools exceeding 25 acres. The known range within California includes the Central Valley and southern California. (USFWS 2005).	Moderate. Seasonal wetlands in the project site provide suitable habitat for this species. Three occurrences within 1.63 miles of the project site are shown on CNDDB.
<i>Desmocerus californicus</i> valley elderberry longhorn beetle	FT/--/--	Endemic to elderberry shrubs (<i>Sambucus</i> spp.) occurring in riparian habitat in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys, and less common throughout riparian forests of the Central Valley from Redding to Fresno County(USFWS 2014) typically below 12 meters elevation (USFWS 02177a)	Not expected to occur There are no elderberry shrubs in the project site.

Scientific Name (Common Name)	State Status	Habitat Requirements	Potential for Occurrence
<i>Lepidurus packardii</i> vernal pool tadpole shrimp	FE/--/--	Vernal pools from 54 square feet to 89 acres, containing clear- to highly-turbid water. Its known range is within the Central Valley of California and in the San Francisco Bay area (USFWS 2005).	Moderate. Seasonal wetlands in the project site provide suitable habitat for this species.
Fish			
<i>Acipenser medirostris</i> pop. 1 Green Sturgeon Southern DPS	FT/--/SSC	Spawn in freshwater streams, in fast, deep water, over gravel, cobble, or boulders. Juveniles inhabit estuarine waters for one (1) to four (4) years until dispersing into coastal marine waters as adults. Adults return to spawn in fresh water every six (6) to ten (10) years. Sacramento River watershed, including the Feather River, is the only known historical and present spawning areas for green sturgeon (NMFS 2018).	Not expected to occur There is no suitable aquatic habitat in the project site.
<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i> Central Valley Steelhead DPS	FT/--/--	This distinct population segment includes all naturally spawned anadromous steelhead populations below natural and manmade impassable barriers in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers and their tributaries, excluding steelhead from San Francisco and San Pablo Bays and their tributaries, as well as two artificial propagation programs: the Coleman NFH, and Feather River Hatchery steelhead hatchery programs (NMFS 2016). Steelhead spawn in rivers and streams with cool, clear, water and suitable silt free substrate (NMFS 2016).	Not expected to occur. There is no suitable aquatic habitat in the project site.
<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i> Central Valley chinook salmon spring-run ESU	FT/ST/--	Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon spawn in rivers and streams with cool, clear, water and suitable cobble and gravel substrate. Historically occurred in all major rivers and tributaries of the Central Valley. Spawning is currently located in tributary streams of the Sacramento River (NMFS 2014). Immigration of adults through the Delta and	Not expected to occur. There is no suitable aquatic habitat in the project site.

Scientific Name (Common Name)	State Status	Habitat Requirements	Potential for Occurrence
		lower Sacramento River occurs from March through September. Spawning occurs late August to October (NMFS 2014).	
<i>Pogonichthys macrolepidotus</i> Sacramento splittail	--/--/SSC	Endemic to the Central Valley. They occur below the Red Bluff Diversion Dam in Tehama County to the downstream reaches of the Sacramento and American Rivers (Moyle et al. 2015). They also occur in the lower reaches of the Feather, Merced, Tuolumne River and the San Joaquin Rivers (Moyle et al. 2015). This species is largely confined to the Delta, Suisun Bay, Suisun Marsh, Napa River, Petaluma River, and Sacramento-San Joaquin estuary. This species occurs predominantly in freshwater estuarine systems and prefers low-salinity, shallow-water habitats. Occurs in slow-moving sections of rivers, sloughs, and marshes. Species abundance is strongly tied to outflows because spawning occurs over flooded vegetation.	Not expected to occur. There is no suitable aquatic habitat in the project site.
<i>Spirinchus thaleichthys</i> longfin smelt	FC/ST/SSC	The longfin smelt is a pelagic estuarine fish that spawns in freshwater and then moves downstream to brackish water to rear.	Not expected to occur. There is no suitable aquatic habitat in the project site.
Amphibians			
<i>Ambystoma californiense</i> California tiger salamander	FT/ST/--	Generally restricted to vernal pools and seasonal ponds, including many constructed stock ponds, in grassland and oak savannah plant communities from sea level to about 1,500 feet in central California. Adults spend the majority of their lives in upland areas in the vicinity of suitable breeding ponds, in rodent burrows. Suitable breeding habitat must be present in combination with suitable upland habitat. In the Coastal region, populations occur from Sonoma County in the northern San Francisco Bay Area to Santa Barbara County, and in the Central Valley and Sierra Nevada foothills from Yolo to Kern	Not expected to occur. The project site is outside of this species' known geographic range and there is no suitable habitat in or adjacent to the site. There are no reported occurrences of this species in the CNDDB within five (5) miles of the project site (CDFW 2023). Although there are some aquatic features that could meet the criteria for breeding, the site and surrounding areas are developed and are not suitable habitat.

Scientific Name (Common Name)	State Status	Habitat Requirements	Potential for Occurrence
		counties (USFWS 2017b).	
<i>Spea hammondi</i> Western spadefoot	--/--/SSC	Amphibian that breeds in vernal pools and seasonal ponds or slow portions of streams in grasslands and woodlands. Adults spend most of their time in underground burrows in grasslands surrounding breeding pools.	Not expected to occur. There is no suitable habitat in or adjacent to the site. There are no reported occurrences of this species in the CNDDB within five (5) miles of the project site (CDFW 2023).
Reptiles			
<i>Actinemys marmorata</i> western pond turtle	--/--/SSC	Inhabits slow-moving water with dense submerged vegetation, abundant basking sites, gently sloping banks, and dry clay or silt soils in nearby uplands. Turtles will lay eggs up to 0.25-mile from water, but typically go no more than 600 feet (Jennings and Hayes 1994).	Not expected to occur. There is no suitable aquatic habitat in the project site.
<i>Thamnophis gigas</i> giant garter snake	FT/SE/--	Endemic to the San Joaquin and Sacramento Valley floors. Inhabits agricultural wetlands and other waterways such as irrigation and drainage canals, sloughs, ponds, small lakes, low gradient streams, and adjacent uplands. Requires adequate water during its active season (early spring through mid-fall) to provide food and cover, emergent, herbaceous wetland vegetation for foraging and cover, grassy banks and openings in waterside vegetation for basking, and higher elevation uplands for cover and refuge from flood waters during its dormant season winter). Inhabits small mammal burrows and other soil crevices with sunny exposure along south and west facing slopes, above prevailing flood elevations when dormant. Primarily found in marshes and sloughs as well as slow-moving creeks but absent from large rivers (USFWS 2017c).	Not expected to occur. The project site does not provide suitable aquatic habitat for this species. The wetlands and other features in the project site do not provide adequate water during the active period for this species, and the surrounding uplands are not suitable due to the high levels of disturbance.

Scientific Name (Common Name)	State Status	Habitat Requirements	Potential for Occurrence
Birds			
<i>Agelaius tricolor</i> Tricolored blackbird	--/ST/--	Nests in large colonies in emergent wetland vegetation and thorny vegetation such as Himalayan blackberry (<i>Rubus armeniacus</i>). Forages for insects in marshes and grasslands (Shuford and Gardali 2008).	Not expected to occur. The project site does not provide suitable nesting habitat for this species.
<i>Athene cunicularia</i> Burrowing owl	--/--/SSC	Forages in grasslands, agricultural fields, and disturbed places where burrowing mammals are abundant. Nests in burrows, especially those of California ground squirrel (<i>Otospermophilus beecheyi</i> ; Shuford and Gardali 2008).	Moderate. The project site contains grasslands and agricultural fields where burrowing mammals are.
<i>Buteo swainsoni</i> Swainson's hawk	--/ST/--	Forages in grasslands, suitable grain or alfalfa fields, or livestock pastures adjacent to nesting habitat. Nests on large trees in open areas (CDFW 1994).	Moderate. Suitable nesting habitat is present in and adjacent to the project site and suitable open foraging areas are present in the project site and vicinity.
<i>Coccyzus americanus</i> Western yellow-billed cuckoo	FT/SE/-	Occurs at isolated sites in Sacramento Valley in northern California, and along Kern and Colorado River systems in southern California. Frequents valley foothill	Not expected to occur. The project site does not provide riparian habitat for this species.

Status Codes:

CC - CDFW Candidate for Listing
CE - CDFW Endangered
CFP - CDFW Fully Protected
CRPR - California Rare Plant Rank
SE – State Listed as Endangered
SSC – State Candidate For Listing As Endangered Or Threatened
CSC - CDFW Species of Concern
CR - California Rare

CT - CDFW Threatened
FE - Federally Endangered
FT - Federally Threatened
FC - Candidate for Federal Listing
ST – State Listed As Threatened

WBWG M - Western Bat Working Group Medium Threat Rank
WBWG H - Western Bat Working Group High Threat Rank

SWAINSON'S HAWK

The Swainson's Hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) is listed as a threatened species by the State of California. It is a migratory raptor typically nesting in or near valley floor riparian habitats during spring and summer months. Swainson's Hawks were once common throughout the state, but various habitat changes, including the loss of nesting habitat (trees) and the loss of foraging habitat through the conversion of native Central Valley grasslands to certain incompatible agricultural and urban uses has caused an estimated 90% decline in their population.

Swainson's Hawks feed primarily upon small mammals, birds, and insects. Their typical foraging habitat includes native grasslands, alfalfa, and other hay crops that provide suitable habitat for small mammals. Certain other row crops and open habitats also provide some foraging habitat. The availability of productive foraging habitat near a Swainson's Hawk's nest site is a critical requirement for nesting and fledgling success. In central California, about 85% of Swainson's Hawk nests are within riparian forest or remnant riparian trees. CEQA analysis of impacts to Swainson's Hawks consists of separate analyses of impacts to nesting habitat and foraging habitat.

The CEQA analysis provides a means by which to ascertain impacts to the Swainson's Hawk. When the analysis identifies impacts, mitigation measures are established that will reduce impacts to the species to a less than significant level. Project proponents are cautioned that the mitigation measures are designed to reduce impacts and do not constitute an incidental take permit under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). Anyone who directly or incidentally takes a Swainson's Hawk, even when in compliance with mitigation measures established pursuant to CEQA, may violate CESA.

NESTING BIRDS OF PREY

This section addresses raptors that are not listed as endangered, threatened, or of special concern, but are nonetheless afforded general protections by the Fish and Game Code. Raptors and their active nests are protected by the California Fish and Game Code Section 3503.5, which states: It is unlawful to take, possess, or destroy any birds in the orders Falconiformes or Strigiformes (birds or prey, or raptors) or to take, possess, or destroy the nest or eggs of any such bird except as otherwise provided by this code or any regulation adopted pursuant thereto. Section 3(19) of the Federal Endangered Species Act defines the term "take" means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. Causing a bird to abandon an active nest may cause harm to egg(s) or chick(s) and is therefore considered "take." Thus, take may occur both as a result of cutting down a tree or as a result of activities nearby an active nest which cause nest abandonment.

Raptors within the Sacramento region include tree-nesting species such as the red-tailed hawk and red-shouldered hawk, as well as ground-nesting species such as the northern harrier. The following raptor species are identified as "special animals" due to concerns over nest disturbance. Cooper's hawk, sharp-shinned hawk, golden eagle, northern harrier, and white-tailed kite. There is a suitable habitat for nesting birds of prey/raptors within the project site and study area. The grassland within and adjacent to the project site could provide suitable foraging habitat and trees and shrubs within and nearby the study area could provide suitable nesting habitat for nesting raptors.

BURROWING OWL

Burrowing owl are small, ground-dwelling owls found throughout most of the western U.S. Burrowing owl inhabit open areas with sparse or non-existent tree or shrub canopies. Burrowing owl inhabit open areas with sparse or non-existent tree or shrub canopies. Burrowing owl are dependent upon burrows created by other animals (burrowing mammals) or suitable surrogate burrows (e.g. rock/concrete piles, culverts). The grassland and open pastures used for agriculture could provide burrows made by burrowing mammals for the owls to use. The grassland within and adjacent to the project site could provide suitable habitat. Per CNDDB there have been nine (9) occurrences within five (5) miles of the project site. None of the occurrences identify an active reporting of burrowing owl within the last five (5) years.

VERNAL POOL CRUSTACEANS

There are a variety of invertebrate species which rely on vernal pools and similar seasonal wetland habitat. Species associated with vernal pools include California linderiella, midvalley fairy shrimp, vernal pool fairy shrimp, vernal pool tadpole shrimp, and Ricksecker's water scavenger beetle. All of these species spend their life cycle within the margins of the vernal pool. None of these species are readily observed through casual observation. Thus, lack of recorded sightings is not cause for concluding that the species is not present. If suitable habitat is present, then the species should be assumed to be present unless surveys have found the species to be absent. Discussion of the California linderiella, midvalley fairy shrimp, vernal pool fairy shrimp, and vernal pool tadpole shrimp are grouped under the heading of Vernal Pool Crustaceans, because the survey protocols and mitigation requirements are applied to all four (4) species.

According to the Recovery Plan for Vernal Pool Ecosystems of California and Southern Oregon (vernal pool recovery plan)¹, California linderiella, midvalley fairy shrimp, vernal pool fairy shrimp, and vernal pool tadpole shrimp use the same habitat types, though California linderiella tends to prefer deeper pools. The shrimp feed on algae, bacteria, protozoa, rotifers and bits of detritus. The females carry their eggs in a ventral brood sac until they are dropped to the bottom of the pool, or the mother dies and sinks. At the end of the rainy season, as the pool dries up, the eggs remain in a dormant stage in the dried pool until the rain of the next season, or other environmental stimuli causes them to hatch. Cysts will hatch when the pool refills, although not all cysts present will hatch during the following rainy season, and they may remain dormant in the soil for multiple seasons.

Survey requirements and mitigation protocols published by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ("Interim Survey Guidelines to Permittees for Recovery Permits under Section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Endangered Species Act for the Listed Vernal Pool Branchiopods" published April 19, 1996 and the Programmatic Formal Endangered Species Act Consultation published on February 28, 1996) are only required by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the two (2) species listed under the ESA: vernal pool fairy shrimp and vernal pool tadpole shrimp. However, the discussions and mitigation below also apply to the two (2) Species of Concern, California linderiella and midvalley fairy shrimp. Surveys to determine the presence or absence of the species must include either two (2) years of wet season surveys completed within a five (5) year period or consecutive wet season and dry season surveys. In the absence of surveys, presence should be assumed.

¹ United States Fish and Wildlife Service, "Recovery Plan for Vernal Pool Ecosystems of California and Southern Oregon", December 2005.

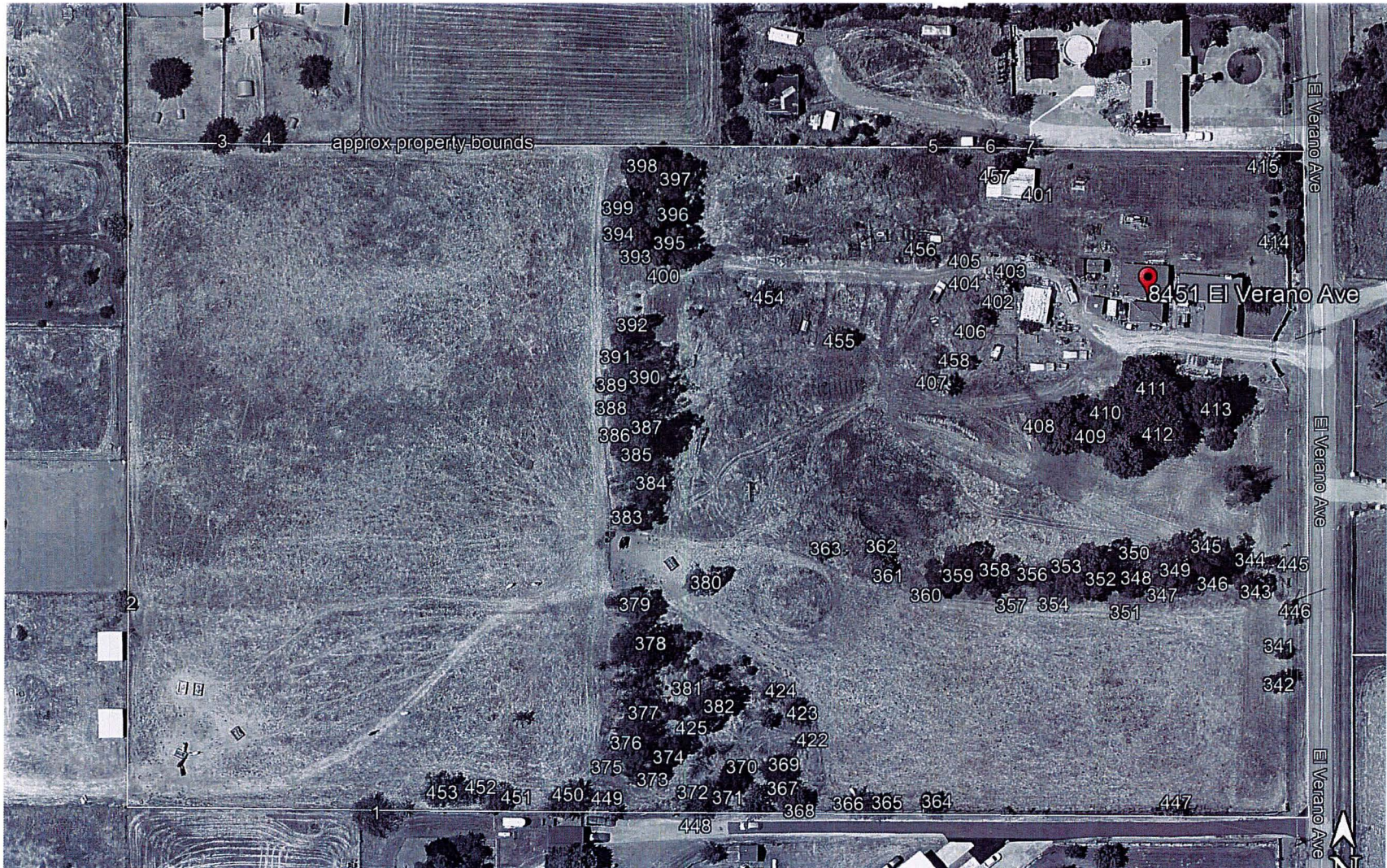
A U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service programmatic consultation was published for vernal pool fairy shrimp and vernal pool tadpole shrimp on February 28, 1996. Programmatic consultation can only be used by Projects involving a maximum impact of one (1) acre, all other projects must be individually permitted through the Army Corps and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, but it is reasonable to assume that vernal pool avoidance and mitigation requirements developed during the individual permitting process would be similar to those found in the programmatic consultation.

Vernal pool habitats may be subject to either direct or indirect impacts. Indirect impacts may result due to development in proximity of a vernal pool that could deliver runoff polluted with urban contaminants and introduce non-native species associated with development landscaping. Development may also reduce the size of the watershed which supports the vernal pool, by diverting runoff which once went into the vernal pool into a storm drainage system. This watershed reduction could cause a reduction in the depth and/or duration of ponding. Shorter inundation durations may mean a change in pool temperature, depth, and pH. Features that may have been utilized by species that required specific inundation durations for the completion of breeding cycles may no longer provide suitable habitat.

TREE INVENTORY

Arbitect prepared a tree inventory (Appendix B) of the project site and identified the species, size, and location of onsite and overhanging offsite trees (**Plate GPC-5**). All trees four (4) inches or greater in diameter at breast height (dbh) (4.5' above the ground) and all multi-trunk trees with an aggregate dbh of 10 inches were included in the inventory. 100 Trees were identified on site and immediately adjacent to the subject property including four (4) native oak trees.

Plate GPC-5: Tree Inventory Map



REGULATORY SETTING

FEDERAL REGULATIONS

FEDERAL ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

The Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) of 1973 protects species that are federally listed as endangered or threatened with extinction. FESA prohibits the unauthorized “take” of listed wildlife species. Take includes harassing, harming, pursuing, hunting, shooting, wounding, killing, trapping, capturing, or collecting wildlife species or any attempt to engage in such activities. Harm includes significant modifications or degradations of habitats that may cause death or injury to protected species by impairing their behavioral patterns. Harassment includes disruption of normal behavior patterns that may result in injury to or mortality of protected species. Civil or criminal penalties can be levied against persons convicted of unauthorized “take.” In addition, FESA prohibits malicious damage or destruction of listed plant species on federal lands or in association with federal actions, and the removal, cutting, digging up, damage, or destruction of listed plant species in violation of state law. FESA does not afford any protections to federally listed plant species that are not also included on a state endangered species list on private lands with no associated federal action.

MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY ACT

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) prohibits the take, possession, import, export, transport, selling, purchase, barter, or offering for sale, purchase or barter, any native migratory bird, their eggs, parts, and nests, except as authorized under a valid permit (50 CFR 21.11.). Likewise, Section 3513 of the California Fish & Game Code prohibits the “take or possession” of any migratory non-game bird identified under the MBTA. Therefore, activities that may result in the injury or mortality of native migratory birds, including eggs and nestlings, would be prohibited under the MBTA.

WETLANDS AND WATERS OF THE U.S

Federal and state regulation (Clean Water Act Sections 404 and 401) uses the term “surface water” to refer to all standing or flowing water which is present above-ground either perennially or seasonally. There are many types of surface waters, but the two (2) major groupings are linear waterways with a bed and bank (streams, rivers, etc.) and wetlands. The Clean Water Act has defined the term wetland to mean “those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions”. The term “wetlands” includes a diverse assortment of habitats such as perennial and seasonal freshwater marshes, vernal pools, and wetted swales. The 1987 Army Corps Wetlands Delineation Manual is used to determine whether an area meets the technical criteria for a wetland and is therefore subject to local, state or federal regulation of that habitat type. A delineation verification by the U.S Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) will verify the size and condition of the wetlands and other waters in question, and will help determine the extent of government jurisdiction.

Wetlands are regulated by both the federal and state government, pursuant to the Clean Water Act Section 404 (federal) and Section 401 (state). The USACE is generally the lead agency for the federal permit process, and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) is generally the lead agency for the state permit process. The Clean Water Act protects all “navigable waters”, which are defined as traditional navigable waters that are or were used

for commerce, or may be used for interstate commerce; tributaries of covered waters; and wetlands adjacent to covered waters, including tributaries. Isolated wetlands, that is, those wetlands that are not hydrologically connected to other “navigable” surface waters (or their tributaries), are not considered to be subject to the Clean Water Act.

In addition to the Clean Water Act, the state also has jurisdiction over impacts to surface waters through the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, which does not require that waters be “navigable”. For this reason, Federal non-jurisdictional waters – isolated wetlands – can be regulated by the State of California pursuant to Porter-Cologne.

The Clean Water Act establishes a “no net loss” policy regarding wetlands for the state and federal governments, and General Plan Policy CO-58 establishes a “no net loss” policy for Sacramento County. Pursuant to these policies, any wetlands to be excavated or filled require 1:1 mitigation, and construction within the wetlands cannot take place until the appropriate permit(s) have been obtained from the USACE, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Regional Water Board, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and any other agencies with authority over surface waters. Any loss of delineated wetlands not mitigated through the permitting process must be mitigated, pursuant to County policy. Appropriate mitigation may include establishment of a conservation easement over wetlands, purchase of mitigation banking credits, or similar measures.

There are regulatory setbacks established for vernal pools and other seasonal wetlands which may contain vernal pool crustaceans. The purpose of a setback is to buffer the wetland from the indirect impacts of development, such as polluted runoff. According to the Programmatic Consultation for vernal pool crustaceans, all construction activities must remain a minimum of 250 feet from any vernal pool in order to avoid impacts (refer to the discussion “Vernal Pool Crustaceans”). There is no regulatory setback for other surface waters, but the Planning and Environmental Review has typically required a minimum 50-foot setback². Maintenance of these setbacks will avoid indirect impacts to the surface water. A direct impact is the filling or excavation of a surface water. Note that if filling or excavation occurs within any portion of a vernal pool or seasonal wetland, the entire wetland should be considered directly impacted.

STATE REGULATIONS

PORTER-COLOGNE ACT

Enacted in 1969, the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act is the primary state law governing water quality in California. The act applies to all waters of the state, including groundwater, surface water, and wetlands and regulates both nonpoint sources and point sources of pollution. The goal of the act is to protect and enhance the quality of California’s waters for the benefit of the public and the environment.

The Porter-Cologne Act established nine regional water boards and assigned them the responsibility for implementing and enforcing water quality standards within their respective basins. The Act uses Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) permits to regulate the discharge

² Research suggests that some of the most common urban runoff pollutants – including sediment, nitrogen, and phosphorus – can be filtered over this distance by intervening vegetation. Source: McElfish, James M. et al. 2008. Planner’s Guide to Wetland Buffers for Local Governments. Environmental Law Institute, Washington, D.C.

of wastes into state waters to prevent pollution that could harm aquatic life and provides for the regulation of various activities with the potential to affect water quality and biological resources.

STATE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

With limited exceptions, the California Endangered Species Act (CESA) of 1984 protects state-designated endangered and threatened species in a way similar to FESA. For projects on private property (i.e. that for which a state agency is not a lead agency), CESA enables the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to authorize take of a listed species that is incidental to carrying out an otherwise lawful project that has been approved under CEQA (Fish & Game Code Section 2081).

CALIFORNIA FISH AND GAME CODE, SECTION 3503.5 - RAPTOR NESTS

Section 3503.5 of the Fish and Game Code makes it unlawful to take, possess, or destroy hawks or owls, unless permitted to do so, or to destroy the nest or eggs of any hawk or owl.

LOCAL REGULATIONS

COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO GENERAL PLAN: TREES

Sacramento County has identified the value of its native and landmark trees and has adopted measures for their preservation. The Tree Ordinance (Chapter 19.04 and 19.12 of the County Code) provides protections for landmark trees and heritage trees. The County Code defines a landmark tree as “an especially prominent or stately tree on any land in Sacramento County, including privately owned land” and a heritage tree as “native oak trees that are at or over 19” diameter at breast height (dbh).” Chapter 19.12 of the County Code, titled Tree Preservation and Protection, defines native oak trees as valley oak (*Quercus lobata*), interior live oak (*Quercus wislizenii*), blue oak (*Quercus douglasii*), or oracle oak (*Quercus morehus*) and states that “it shall be the policy of the County to preserve all trees possible through its development review process.” It should be noted that to be considered a tree, as opposed to a seedling or sapling, the tree must have a diameter at breast height (dbh) of at least six (6) inches or, if it has multiple trunks of less than six (6) inches each, a combined dbh of 10 inches. The Sacramento County General Plan Conservation Element policies CO-138 and CO-139 also provide protections for native trees:

CO-138. Protect and preserve non-oak native trees along riparian areas if used by Swainson's Hawk, as well as landmark and native oak trees measuring a minimum of six (6) inches in diameter or 10 inches aggregate for multi-trunk trees at 4.5 feet above ground.

CO-139. Native trees other than oaks, which cannot be protected through development, shall be replaced with in-kind species in accordance with established tree planting specifications, the combined diameter of which shall equal the combined diameter of the trees removed.

Native trees other than oaks include Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*), California sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*), California black walnut (*Juglans californica*), Oregon ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*), western redbud (*Cercis occidentalis*), gray pine (*Pinus sabiniana*), California white alder (*Alnus rhombifolia*), boxelder (*Acer negundo*), California buckeye (*Aesculus californica*), narrowleaf willow (*Salix exigua*), Gooding's willow (*Salix gooddingii*), red willow (*Salix laevigata*), arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*), shining willow (*Salix lucida*), Pacific willow (*Salix lasiandra*), and dusky willow (*Salix melanopsis*).

The Sacramento County General Plan Conservation Element contain several policies aimed at preserving tree canopy within the County. These are:

CO-145. Removal of non-native tree canopy for development shall be mitigated by creation of new tree canopy equivalent to the acreage of non-native tree canopy removed. New tree canopy acreage shall be calculated using the 15-year shade cover values for tree species.

CO-146. If new tree canopy cannot be created onsite to mitigate for the non-native tree canopy removed for new development, project proponents (including public agencies) shall contribute to the Greenprint funding in an amount proportional to the tree canopy of the specific project.

The 15-year shade cover values for tree species referenced in policy CO-145 are also referenced by the Sacramento County Zoning Code, Chapter 30, Article 4, and the list is maintained by the Sacramento County Department of Transportation, Landscape Planning and Design Division. The list includes more than seventy trees, so is not included here, but it is available at <https://www.planning.saccounty.gov/> under the “Environmental Documents CEQA/NEPA Overview heading. Policy CO-146 references the Greenprint program, which is run by the Sacramento Tree Foundation and has a goal of planting five million trees in the Sacramento region.

The Conservation Element of the Sacramento County General Plan (under Policy CO-58) currently provides protection to various ecosystems. Specifically, it “ensures no net loss of wetlands, riparian woodlands, and oak woodlands.” The General Plan also seeks to protect landmark and native trees (collectively referred to as “protected trees”). “Landmark trees” are defined as ones that are “especially prominent and stately.” “Policies CO-137, CO- 138, CO-139, CO-140, and CO-141 encourage protection and preservation of landmark and native trees, and Policy CO-145 requires mitigation by creation of new tree canopy equivalent to the acreage of non-native tree canopy removed.

COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO GENERAL PLAN: WETLANDS

The Conservation Element of the Sacramento County General Plan (under Policy CO-58 and CO-59) currently provides protection to various ecosystems. Specifically, it “ensures no net loss of wetlands, riparian woodlands, and oak woodlands.”

DISCUSSION

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

The project site is not located within any sensitive natural community of the County, state, or federal agency, including but not limited to an Ecological Preserve or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Recovery Plan boundaries. However, the project site does include potential habitat for species identified as candidate, sensitive, or special status species as discussed below.

SWAINSON'S HAWK

Per the guidance of the *Staff Report Regarding Mitigation for Impacts to Swainson's Hawks (Buteo swainsoni) in the Central Valley of California* (CDFW 1994), a specific CNDDDB search for Swainson's hawk nests that have been active in the last five (5) years within a five (5) mile radius was conducted. No occurrences of active nests within the last five (5) years were identified during this search. Suitable habitat is present within the project site, therefore there is a moderate potential for Swainson's hawk to occur. Suitable Swainson's hawk foraging habitat includes open fields and pastures within an energetically efficient flight distance from active nest sites. CDFW considers impacts to foraging habitat greater than five (5) acres within 10 miles of an active nest (used during one (1) or more of the last five (5) years).

While the project site consists of habitat area fragmented by surrounding development, the grasslands and trees on the project site and surrounding parcels may provide suitable nesting and foraging habitat for Swainson's Hawk.

NESTING HABITAT

For determining impacts to and establishing mitigation for nesting Swainson's hawks in Sacramento County, CDFW recommends utilizing the methodology set forth in the Recommended Timing and Methodology for Swainson's Hawk Nesting Surveys in California's Central Valley (Swainson's Hawk TAC 2000). This document recommends that surveys be conducted for the two (2) survey periods immediately prior to the start of construction. The five (5) survey periods are defined by the timing of migration, courtship, and nesting in a typical year. Surveys should extend a ½-mile radius around all project activities, and if active nesting is identified, CDFW should be contacted.

Table GPC-7: Recommended Survey Periods for Swainson's Hawk (TAC 2000)

Period #	Timeframe	# of surveys required	Notes
I.	Jan. 1 – Mar. 20	1	Optional, but recommended
II.	Mar. 20 – Apr. 5	3	
III.	Apr. 5 – Apr. 20	3	
IV.	Apr. 21 – June 10	N/A	Initiating surveys is not recommended during this period
V.	June 10 – July 30	3	

For example, if a project is scheduled to begin on June 20, three (3) surveys should be completed in Period III and three (3) surveys in Period V, as surveys should not be initiated in Period IV. It is always recommended that surveys be completed in Periods II, III, and V.

NESTING HABITAT IMPACTS

A number of large trees are adjacent to the subject property which provide suitable nesting habitat for Swainson's hawk and pre-construction surveys consistent with the Recommended Timing and Methodology for Swainson's Hawk Nesting Surveys in California's Central Valley are included as mitigation. The purpose of the survey requirements is to ensure that construction activities do not agitate nesting hawks, potentially resulting in nest abandonment or other harm to nesting success. If Swainson's

hawk nests are found, the developer is required to contact California Fish and Wildlife to determine what measures need to be implemented in order to ensure that nesting hawks remain undisturbed. The measures selected will depend on many variables, including the distance of activities from the nest, the types of activities, and whether the landform between the nest and activities provides any natural screening. Mitigation Measure BIO-1 will ensure that impacts to nesting Swainson's Hawk are reduced.

FORAGING HABITAT IMPACTS

Swainson's hawk foraging habitat value is greater in large expansive open space and agricultural areas than in areas which have been fragmented by agricultural-residential or urban development. The methodology for unincorporated Sacramento County is based on the concept that impacts to Swainson's hawk foraging habitat occur as properties develop to increasingly more intensive uses on smaller minimum parcel sizes. As part of methodology development, County and California Fish and Wildlife staff analyzed aerial photography of the County and compared this to the underlying zoning. It was determined that there was a strong correlation in most areas between the presence of suitable habitat and zoning for large agricultural parcels, and conversely that areas zoned for agricultural-residential or more dense uses tended to have fragmented or absent habitat. Therefore, the methodology relies mainly on the minimum parcel size allowed by zoning to determine habitat value. For the purpose of the methodology, properties with zoning of AG-40 and larger are assumed to maintain 100% of their foraging habitat value and properties with AR-5 zoning and smaller are assumed to have lost all foraging habitat value.

The project site consists of five (5) acres zoned AR-2. The AR-2 zoning district includes parcels of a size which have been determined to have no value for Swainson's hawk foraging habitat pursuant to the County's foraging impact methodology. Therefore, the project would not result in removal of suitable foraging habitat.

NESTING BIRDS OF PREY

A number of large trees are adjacent to the subject property which provide suitable nesting habitat for birds of prey. To avoid impacts to nesting raptors, mitigation involves pre-construction nesting surveys within 500 feet of construction to identify any active nests and to implement avoidance measures if nests are found – if construction will occur during the nesting season of February 1st to September 15th. The purpose of the survey requirement is to ensure that construction activities do not agitate or harm nesting raptors, potentially resulting in nest abandonment or other harm to nesting success. If nests are found, the developer is required to contact CDFW to determine what measures need to be implemented in order to ensure that nesting raptors remain undisturbed. The measures selected will depend on many variables, including the distance of activities from the nest, the types of activities, and whether the landform between the nest and activities provides any kind of natural screening. If no active nests are found during the focused survey, no further mitigation will be required. Mitigation Measure BIO-2 will ensure that impacts to nesting raptors will be reduced.

BURROWING OWL

The grassland within and adjacent to the project site could provide suitable habitat for Burrowing owl. Per CNDDDB there have been nine (9) occurrences within five (5) miles of the project site. None of the occurrences identify an active reporting of burrowing owl within the last five (5) years. However, given the suitable habitat, there is a moderate potential for burrowing owl to occur within the project site. Mitigation Measure BIO-3 has been included

in the form of pre-construction surveys and consultation with the CDFW as necessary if owls or evidence of owls are present on the project site.

AQUATIC RESOURCES

There are a total of 0.69 acres of aquatic habitat on site including 0.332 acres of seasonal wetlands, 0.302 acres of seasonal ponds, 0.045 acres of vernal pools, and 0.018 acres of constructed ponds within the 9.7-acre project site (**Plate GPC-4**). As the project site includes a vernal pool and site surveys, consistent with U.S. Fish and Wildlife survey requirements, showing that crustaceans are not present were not completed, presence of listed vernal pool species shall be assumed unless determinate surveys that comply with the US Fish and Wildlife protocol "Survey Guidelines of the Listed Large Branchiopods" conclude that species are absent. Additionally, given the close proximity of the other aquatic features to the vernal pool, the other aquatic features on site also have the potential to contain vernal pool crustaceans.

Filling of onsite aquatic resources may result in the take of vernal pool crustaceans and development within 50 feet of the aquatic features may result in indirect impacts. The proposed driveway will be located along the shared property line of Parcels A and D and will result in direct impacts to Seasonal Pond-1 and Seasonal Wetland -5. Additionally, the driveway will be within 50 feet of Vernal Pool-1 and Seasonal Wetland-7.. Although the location of future home sites is currently unknown, there is potential for future homes and related residential improvements such as driveways, utilities, septic systems and wells to be located within aquatic features or their 50 buffer areas.

Given the proposed location of the driveway and the potential location of future home development mitigation is recommended to minimize impacts to special status vernal pool species and habitat. Prior to any ground disturbing impacts (including grading, or the construction of driveways, structures, wells, and septic) that are to take place within 50 feet of any aquatic resource, protocol level surveys shall be conducted to determine presence or absence of the species. Alternatively, presence of vernal pool species can be assumed and the appropriate permits from regulatory agencies will be obtained prior to any ground disturbing activities within 50 feet of aquatic habitat. Additionally, any impacts to special status vernal pool species will be mitigated for consistent with the Programmatic Formal Endangered Species Act published on February 28, 1996. Mitigation Measures BIO-4 and BIO-6 are recommended to ensure that vernal pool crustaceans and their habitat are not impacted or that the appropriate take permits are secured.

SPECIAL STATUS PLANTS

The project site contains 0.69 acres of aquatic habitat that have the potential to support special status plant species. The proposed driveway will directly impact aquatic features and future home sites have the potential to be within or in close proximity to a number of aquatic features. Filling of aquatic features may result in the take of special status plants. Prior to any ground disturbing impacts (including grading and the construction of structures, wells, and septic) that are to take place within 50 feet of any aquatic resource, protocol level surveys shall be conducted to determine presence or absence of special status plants species. Given that the proposed locations of the new dwellings is unknown, Mitigation Measures BIO-5 and BIO-6 are recommended to ensure that special status plant habitat is not impacted or that the appropriate permits are secured.

CONCLUSION

The proposed project will result in the new development in habitat which may support special status species. Compliance with recommended Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-6, reduces this impact. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

- b. Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?*

The project site does not contain riparian habitat, nor does it contain other sensitive natural communities identified in regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

- c. Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?*

The project site contains a number of aquatic features including a vernal pool. Construction of a new driveway will directly impact aquatic resources additionally, future home development could disturb wetland habitat. The wetland delineation prepared for the project indicated that the aquatic features are not believed to be Waters of the US as they are isolated features, however the delineation has not been verified by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Regardless, surface waters/wetlands are regulated by the State pursuant to the Porter-Cologne Act and Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. Mitigation Measures BIO-6 and BIO-7 require the avoidance of the features with a buffer of 50 feet or to obtain necessary regulatory permits prior to filling of the wetland. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

- d. Would the project interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?*

The project site is a partially developed parcel surrounded by similar rural residential development. There are no established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors present. The project parcel and surrounding properties do contain suitable habitat for raptor species as well as trees which could be suitable for other avian species nesting and roosting activities. Construction activity could disrupt nesting migratory birds, which could result in a violation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). Given the potential for avian species nesting and roosting activities on or near the project site, the project would be required to implement Mitigation Measure BIO-8, preconstruction nesting surveys avian species. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

- e. Would the project adversely affect or result in the removal of native or landmark trees?*

According to the tree inventory prepared for the project, 100 trees are located on site and immediately adjacent to the subject property including four (4) native oaks (Tree 369, Tree 370, Tree 371, and Tree 401). Tree 371 and Tree 401 are small and are not afforded protection under the County General Plan Policy. Tree 369 and Tree 370 are located toward

the southwest corner of proposed Parcel A and are not expected to be removed to accommodate future development of the site. However, there is potential for future construction activities to be located within the protected dripline area of these oaks and Mitigation Measure BIO-9 Native Oak Tree Protection is recommended to ensure impacts to native trees are avoided. In the event Tree 369 and/or Tree 370 require removal to accommodate future construction activity, then impacts would be mitigated under mitigation measure BIO-10 Native Oak Tree Replacement. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

- f. *Would the project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources?*

According to the tree inventory prepared for the project, 100 trees are located on site and immediately adjacent to the subject property, the majority of which are non-native trees. The site plan appears to have been designed to minimize impacts to trees. However, the proposed driveway and associated public utilities easement will encroach into the a cluster of gum trees (trees 383 through 389) some of which will likely need to be removed for driveway development. The tree inventory notes many of these trees are either dead or poor condition. However, two gum trees (Tree 387 and Tree 388) within the cluster are in fair condition and will require compensation for removal. Two trees shown on the site map within the driveway alignment near El Verano Avenue are noted to have already been removed. Frontage improvements along El Verano Avenue may also result in the removal of Tree 341, Tree 342 and Tree 446. These trees are also noted to be in poor condition in the tree inventory and will not require compensation. Mitigation Measure BIO-11 (Non-Native Tree Canopy) requiring compensation for the loss of 2,514 square feet of non-native tree canopy is recommended to offset this impact. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

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

The project site is not within the boundaries of a HCP, or a natural community conservation plan or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

APPLICABLE MITIGATION MEASURES

MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-1: SWAINSON'S HAWK SURVEY (TAC 2000)

If construction, grading, or project-related improvements are to commence between February 1st and September 15th, focused surveys for Swainson's Hawk nests shall be conducted by a qualified biologist within a half-mile radius of project activities, in accordance with the Recommended Timing and Methodology for Swainson's Hawk Nesting Surveys in California's Central Valley (Swainson's Hawk TAC 2000). To meet the minimum level of protection for the species, surveys should be completed for the two (2) survey periods immediately prior to commencement of construction activities in accordance with the 2000 TAC recommendations. If active nests are found, CDFW shall be contacted to determine appropriate protective measures, and these measures shall be implemented prior to the start of any ground-disturbing activities. If no active nests are found during the focused survey, no further mitigation will be required.

MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-2: RAPTOR NEST PROTECTION

If construction activity (which includes clearing, grubbing, or grading) is to commence within 500 feet of suitable nesting habitat between February 1st and September 15th, a survey for raptor nests shall be conducted by a qualified biologist. The survey shall cover all potential tree and ground nesting habitat on-site and off-site up to a distance of 500 feet from the project boundary. The survey shall occur within 30 days of the date that construction will encroach within 500 feet of suitable habitat. The biologist shall supply a brief written report (including date, time of survey, survey method, name of surveyor and survey results) to the Environmental Coordinator prior to ground disturbing activity. If no nests are found, no further mitigation will be required. If any active nests are found, the Environmental Coordinator and California Fish and Wildlife shall be contacted to determine appropriate avoidance/protective measures. The avoidance/protective measures shall be implemented prior to the commencement of construction within 500 feet of an identified nest.

MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-3: BURROWING OWL

Prior to the commencement of construction activities (which include clearing, grubbing, or grading) within 500 feet of suitable borrow habitat, a survey for burrowing owl shall be conducted by a qualified biologist. The survey shall occur within 30 days of the date that construction will encroach within 500 feet of suitable habitat. Surveys shall be conducted in accordance with the following:

- A survey for burrows and owls should be conducted by walking through suitable habitat over the entire project site and in areas within 150 meters (~500 feet) of the project impact zone.
- Pedestrian survey transects should be spaced to allow 100 percent visual coverage of the ground surface. The distance between transect center lines should be no more than 30 meters (~100 feet) and should be reduced to account for differences in terrain, vegetation density, and ground surface visibility. To efficiently survey projects larger than 100 acres, it is recommended that two (2) or more surveyors conduct concurrent surveys. Surveyors should maintain a minimum distance of 50 meters (~160 feet) from any owls or occupied burrows. It is important to minimize disturbance near occupied burrows during all seasons.
- If no occupied burrows or burrowing owls are found in the survey area, a letter report documenting survey methods and findings shall be submitted to the Environmental Coordinator and no further mitigation is necessary.
- If occupied burrows or burrowing owls are found, then a complete burrowing owl survey is required. This consists of a minimum of four (4) site visits conducted on four (4) separate days, which must also be consistent with the Survey Methods, Weather Conditions, and Time of Day sections of Appendix D of the California Fish and Wildlife "Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (March 2012)." Submit a survey report to the Environmental Coordinator which is consistent with the Survey Report section of Appendix D of the California Fish and Wildlife "Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (March 2012)."
- If occupied burrows or burrowing owls are found the applicant shall contact the Environmental Coordinator and consult with California Fish and Wildlife prior to

construction and will be required to submit a Burrowing Owl Mitigation Plan (subject to the approval of the Environmental Coordinator and in consultation with California Fish and Wildlife). This plan must document all proposed measures, including avoidance, minimization, exclusion, relocation, or other measures, and include a plan to monitor mitigation success. The California Fish and Wildlife “Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (March 2012)” should be used in the development of the mitigation plan.

MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-4: VERNAL POOL CRUSTACEANS

Presence of listed vernal pool crustaceans, Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*) and Vernal Pool Tadpole Shrimp (*Lepidurus packardii*) shall be assumed unless determinate surveys that comply with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife protocol “Survey Guidelines of the Listed Large Branchiopods (published on May 31, 2015)” conclude that the species is absent. In order to reduce impacts to listed vernal pool branchiopods and wetland habitat the applicant shall comply with one (1) or a combination of the following:

- **Total Avoidance - Species is present or assumed to be present:** Unless a smaller buffer is approved through consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, construction fencing shall be installed a minimum of 50 feet from the delineated wetland margin. All construction activities are prohibited within this buffer area. If total avoidance is achieved, no further action is required.
- **Compensate for Habitat Removed:** Mitigate for all vernal pools consistent with the Programmatic Formal Endangered Species Act Consultation published on February 28, 1996, for vernal pool branchiopods, if the project qualifies. Also, obtain all applicable permits from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, California Fish and Wildlife, and the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board for the proposed modifications to on-site wetlands and mitigate for habitat loss in accordance with the published regulatory guidelines.

MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-5: RARE VERNAL POOL PLANTS

Prior to any grading, grubbing, or excavation within 50 feet of a vernal pool or other suitable habitat, rare plant surveys shall be performed. The surveys should be floristic in nature, meaning that all plant species found in the survey area shall be identified to the taxonomic level necessary to determine rarity and listing status. The rare plant surveyor shall have experience as a botanical field investigator and familiarity with the local flora and potential rare plants at the site will be easiest to identify (i.e. flowering stage), and when the plants reach that stage of maturity. A minimum of three (3) site visits shall be required during the plants flowering period in order to determine absence. Each site visit must be no less than seven (7) days apart.

Submit a written report to the Environmental Coordinator which describes the survey. The survey report should include a brief description of the vegetation, survey results (which includes a list of all species observed), photographs, time spent surveying, date of surveys, a map showing the location of the survey route and any rare plant populations and copies of any rare plant occurrence forms. If no rare plants are found, no further mitigation for plant species is required. If a special status plant or natural community is located, complete and submit to the CNDDDB a California Native Species (or Community) Field Survey Form or equivalent written report, accompanied by a copy of the relevant portion of a 7.5-minute topographic map with the occurrence mapped. Total avoidance of habitats which contain rare plants shall be required unless deemed infeasible by the Environmental Coordinator. If avoidance is infeasible, prior to

construction within 50 feet of the vernal pool(s) which contain the rare plant occurrence(s), notify California Fish and Wildlife and U.S. Fish and Wildlife and comply with any permit or mitigation requirements stipulated by those agencies. Submit copies of all such correspondence, including a copy of any required permits, to the Environmental Coordinator.

MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-6: WETLAND AVOIDANCE DURING CONSTRUCTION

The aquatic features, or portions of aquatic features, not proposed to be permanently impacted shall have an established setback of 50 feet to ensure the features are not directly or indirectly impacted. Construction and silt fencing shall be placed on either side of the aquatic feature and the area shall be clearly demarcated on all construction plans as environmentally sensitive. For areas where construction is within the aquatic feature, temporary construction and silt fencing shall be placed at the edge of construction limits. A qualified biologist shall oversee the placement of temporary construction and silt fencing when aquatic features are present.

MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-7: WETLAND COMPENSATION

To compensate for the permanent loss of wetlands, the applicant shall perform one (1) or a combination of the following prior to issuance of building permits, and shall also obtain all applicable permits from the Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife:

- Where a Section 404 Permit has been issued by the Army Corps of Engineers, or an application has been made to obtain a Section 404 Permit, the Mitigation and Management Plan required by that permit or proposed to satisfy the requirements of the Corps for granting a permit may be submitted for purposes of achieving a no net-loss of wetlands. The required Plan shall be submitted to the Sacramento County Environmental Coordinator, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for approval prior to its implementation.
- If regulatory permitting processes result in less than a 1:1 compensation ratio for loss of wetlands, the Project applicant shall demonstrate that the wetlands which went unmitigated/uncompensated as a result of permitting have been mitigated through other means. Acceptable methods include payment into a mitigation bank or protection of off-site wetlands through the establishment of a permanent conservation easement, subject to the approval of the Environmental Coordinator.

MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-8: PRECONSTRUCTION SURVEYS FOR MIGRATORY NESTING BIRDS

To avoid impacts to nesting migratory birds the following will apply:

- If construction activity (which includes clearing, grubbing, or grading) is to commence within 50 feet of nesting habitat between February 1st and August 31st, a survey for active migratory bird nests will be conducted no more than 14 days prior to construction by a qualified biologist.
- Trees slated for removal will be removed during the period of September through January, in order to avoid the nesting season. Any trees that are removed during the nesting season, which is February through August, will be surveyed by a qualified biologist and will only be removed if no nesting migratory birds are found.

- If active nest(s) are found in the survey area, a non-disturbance buffer, the size of which has been determined by a qualified biologist, will be established and maintained around the nest to prevent nest failure. All construction activities will be avoided within this buffer area until a qualified biologist determines that nestlings have fledged.

MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-9: NATIVE OAK TREE PROTECTION

For the purpose of this mitigation measure, a native tree is defined as a valley oak (*Quercus lobata*), blue oak (*Q. douglasii*) and interior live oak (*Q. wislizenii*) having a diameter at breast height (dbh) of at least six (6) inches, or if it has multiple trunks, a combined dbh of at least 10 inches.

1. A circle with a radius measurement from the trunk of the tree to the tip of its longest limb shall constitute the dripline protection area of the tree. Limbs must not be cut back in order to change the dripline. The area beneath the dripline is a critical portion of the root zone and defines the minimum protected area of the tree. Removing limbs which make up the dripline does not change the protected area.
2. Chain link fencing or a similar protective barrier shall be installed one (1) foot outside the driplines of the native trees prior to initiating project construction, in order to avoid damage to the trees and their root system.
3. No signs, ropes, cables (except cables which may be installed by a certified arborist to provide limb support) or any other items shall be attached to the native trees.
4. No vehicles, construction equipment, mobile home/office, supplies, materials or facilities shall be driven, parked, stockpiled or located within the driplines of the native trees.
5. Any soil disturbance (scraping, grading, trenching, and excavation) is to be avoided within the driplines of the native trees. Where this is necessary, an ISA Certified Arborist will provide specifications for this work, including methods for root pruning, backfill specifications and irrigation management guidelines.
6. All underground utilities and drain or irrigation lines shall be routed outside the driplines of native trees to the fullest extent practicable. Trenching within protected tree driplines is not permitted. If utility or irrigation lines must encroach upon the dripline, they should be tunneled or bored under the tree under the supervision of an ISA Certified Arborist.
7. If temporary haul or access roads must pass within the driplines of oak trees, a roadbed of six (6) inches of mulch or gravel shall be created to protect the root zone. The roadbed shall be installed from outside of the dripline and while the soil is in a dry condition, if possible. The roadbed material shall be replenished as necessary to maintain a six (6) inch depth.
8. Drainage patterns on the site shall not be modified so that water collects or stands within, or is diverted across, the dripline of oak trees.
9. No sprinkler or irrigation system shall be installed in such a manner that it sprays water within the driplines of the oak trees.

10. Tree pruning that may be required for clearance during construction must be performed by an ISA Certified Arborist or Tree Worker and in accordance with the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) A300 pruning standards and the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) "Tree Pruning Guidelines".
11. Landscaping beneath the oak trees may include non-plant materials such as boulders, decorative rock, wood chips, organic mulch, non-compacted decomposed granite, etc. Landscape materials shall be kept two (2) feet away from the base of the trunk. The only plant species which shall be planted within the driplines of the oak trees are those which are tolerant of the natural semi-arid environs of the trees. Limited drip irrigation approximately twice per summer is recommended for the understory plants.
12. Any fence/wall that will encroach into the dripline protection area of any protected tree shall be constructed using grade beam wall panels and posts or piers set no closer than 10 feet on center. Posts or piers shall be spaced in such a manner as to maximize the separation between the tree trunks and the posts or piers in order to reduce impacts to the trees.
13. For a project constructing during the months of June, July, August, and September, deep water trees by using a soaker hose (or a garden hose set to a trickle) that slowly applies water to the soil until water has penetrated at least one foot in depth. Sprinklers may be used to water deeply by watering until water begins to run off, then waiting at least an hour or two (2) to resume watering (provided that the sprinkler is not wetting the tree's trunk. Deep water every two (2) weeks and suspend watering two (2) weeks between rain events of one (1) inch or more.

MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-10: NATIVE OAK TREE REPLACEMENT

In the event oak Tree #369 and/or oak Tree #370 require removal to accommodate construction related activities, replacement native oak trees shall be planted at locations authorized by the Environmental Coordinator. Native trees include: valley oak (*Quercus lobata*), interior live oak (*Quercus wislizenii*), blue oak (*Quercus douglasii*), or oracle oak (*Quercus morehus*).

Replacement tree planting shall be completed prior to approval of grading or improvement plans, whichever comes first.

Equivalent compensation based on the following ratio is required:

- One (1) 24-inch box tree = two (2) inches dbh for each oak tree removed.

Prior to the approval of Improvement Plans or Building Permits, whichever occurs first, a Replacement Tree Planting Plan shall be prepared by a certified arborist or licensed landscape architect and shall be submitted to the Environmental Coordinator for approval. The Replacement Tree Planting Plan(s) shall include the following minimum elements:

1. Species, size and locations of all replacement plantings and < six (6) inch dbh trees to be preserved
2. Method of irrigation

3. If planting in soils with a hardpan/duripan or claypan layer, include the Sacramento County Standard Tree Planting Detail L-1, including the 10-foot-deep boring hole to provide for adequate drainage
4. Planting, irrigation, and maintenance schedules;
5. Identification of the maintenance entity and a written agreement with that entity to provide care and irrigation of the trees for a three (3) year establishment period, and to replace any of the replacement trees which do not survive during that period.
6. Designation of 20-foot root zone radius and landscaping to occur within the radius of trees < six (6) inches dbh to be preserved on-site.

No replacement tree shall be planted within 15 feet of the driplines of existing native trees or landmark size trees that are retained on-site, or within 15 feet of a building foundation or swimming pool excavation. The minimum spacing for replacement native trees shall be 20 feet on-center. Examples of acceptable planting locations are publicly owned lands, common areas, and landscaped frontages (with adequate spacing). Generally unacceptable locations are utility easements (PUE, sewer, storm drains), under overhead utility lines, private yards of single-family lots (including front yards), and roadway medians.

MITIGATION MEASURE BIO-11: NON-NATIVE TREE CANOPY

Removal of 2,514 square feet of non-native tree canopy for development shall be mitigated by creation of new tree canopy equivalent to the acreage of non-native tree canopy removed. Prior to tree removal a tree replacement plan shall be in place. Prior to final building inspection all mitigation trees shall be planted. New tree canopy acreage shall be calculated using the Sacramento County Department of Transportation 15-year shade cover values for tree species. Preference is given to on-site mitigation, but if this is infeasible, then funding shall be contributed to the Sacramento Tree Foundation's Greenprint program in an amount proportional to the tree canopy lost (as determined by the 15-year shade cover calculations for the tree species to be planted through the funding, with the cost to be determined by the Sacramento County Tree Foundation).

VI. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:	New Significant Impact	Substantial Increase in Severity of Impact	Equal or Less Severity of Impact
a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to § 15064.5?	☐	☐	☒
b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5?	☐	☐	☒
c. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	☐	☐	☒

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project site is situated in a rural residential setting in the Rio Linda/Elverta community. El Verano Avenue borders the project site to the east, with single-family residences on similar sized parcels on all sides. The project site is partially developed, with one (1) single-family residence, three (3) appurtenant structures, a double car garage, and a car port located within proposed Parcel D. Proposed Parcels A, B, and C contain no development. The majority of the parcel consists of annual grasses, non-native trees, several disconnected seasonal wetland areas, and one (1) vernal pool area.

DISCUSSION

- a. *Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to § 15064.5?*

A North Central Information Center (NCIC) record search report dated June 21, 2023, determined that the project site contains no recorded historic-period cultural resources. Additionally, there are no previously recorded historic-period cultural resources located within a half mile of the project site. Although the likelihood of a resource find is low, there is a potential of a find anytime there is ground disturbance. Mitigation Measure CR-1 concerning inadvertent discovery would be required. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

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

The NCIC records search did not yield pre-contact cultural resources within the project site. Based on the records search, the project area is considered to have a low sensitivity for the presence of unidentified archaeological resources. Therefore, ground-disturbing activities are not anticipated to adversely affect any known or unknown cultural resources within the project area. Although the likelihood of a historical resource discovery is low, there is a potential for the discovery of historic resources whenever there is ground disturbance. Mitigation Measure CR-1 is recommended in the event inadvertent discoveries are encountered. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

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

The project site has not been used as a cemetery and there are no known burial sites located within or adjacent to the project site. The project is not expected to disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries. However, anytime there is ground disturbance, there is a chance of a find and Mitigation Measure CR-1 is included in the event of an inadvertent discovery. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

APPLICABLE MITIGATION MEASURES

The following mitigation measures would be implemented during construction of the project to reduce potential impacts related to cultural resources.

CR-1: INADVERTENT DISCOVERY OF CULTURAL RESOURCES

In the event that human remains are discovered in any location other than a dedicated cemetery, work shall be halted, and the County Coroner contacted. For all other potential tribal cultural resources [TCRs], archaeological, or cultural resources discovered during project's ground disturbing activities, work shall be halted until a qualified archaeologist and/or tribal representative may evaluate the resource.

1. Unanticipated human remains. Pursuant to Sections 5097.97 and 5097.98 of the State Public Resources Code, and Section 7050.5 of the State Health and Safety Code, if a human bone or bone of unknown origin is found during construction, all work is to stop, and the County Coroner and the Planning and Environmental Review shall be immediately notified. If the remains are determined to be Native American, the coroner shall notify the Native American Heritage Commission within 24 hours, and the Native American Heritage Commission shall identify the person or persons it believes to be the most likely descendent from the deceased Native American. The most likely descendent may make recommendations to the landowner or the person responsible for the excavation work, for means of treating or disposition of, with appropriate dignity, the human remains and any associated grave goods.
2. Unanticipated cultural resources. In the event of an inadvertent discovery of cultural resources (excluding human remains) during construction, all work must halt within a 100-foot radius of the discovery. A qualified professional archaeologist, meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for prehistoric and historic archaeology, shall be retained at the Applicant's expense to evaluate the significance of the find. If it is determined due to the types of deposits discovered that a Native American monitor is required, the Guidelines for Monitors/Consultants of Native American Cultural, Religious, and Burial Sites as established by the Native American Heritage Commission shall be followed, and the monitor shall be retained at the Applicant's expense.
 - a. Work cannot continue within the 100-foot radius of the discovery site until the archaeologist and/or tribal monitor conducts sufficient research and data collection to make a determination that the resource is either 1) not cultural in origin; or 2) not potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places or California Register of Historical Resources.
 - b. If a potentially eligible resource is encountered, then the archaeologist and/or tribal monitor, Planning and Environmental Review staff, and project proponent shall arrange for either 1) total avoidance of the resource, if possible; or 2) test excavations or total data recovery as mitigation. The determination shall be formally documented in writing and submitted to the County Environmental Coordinator as verification that the provisions of CEQA for managing unanticipated discoveries have been met.

VII. ENERGY

Would the project:	New Significant Impact	Substantial Increase in Severity of Impact	Equal or Less Severity of 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?	☐	☐	☒

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) is the primary provider of electric service in the planning area. Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) provides natural gas to customers in the Rio Linda/Elverta community.

Energy use during construction is temporary and typically includes the consumption of fossil fuels, electricity, and natural gas for the operation of construction equipment and vehicles. Operational energy use for residential projects is typically in the form of fossil fuels for vehicular trips and electricity for the operation of indoor facilities and exterior lighting.

REGULATORY SETTING

The California Building Standards Code, Title 24, applies to all building occupancies, and related features and equipment, throughout California. The California Green Building Standards Code (CALGreen Code) is a subsection of Title 24 which mandates green building standard code for all buildings within the State.

Section 2449 of the California Code of Regulations, Title 13, Chapter 9, Article 4.8 requires minimizing non-essential idling of construction equipment during construction. This requirement applies to all construction activities.

DISCUSSION

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

SHORT-TERM CONSTRUCTION

The use of energy resources by construction equipment and vehicles would fluctuate according to the phase of construction and would be temporary. Upon completion of the project, all construction activities would cease. Contractors would comply with Section 2449 of the California Code of Regulations, Title 13, Chapter 9, Article 4.8, which requires minimizing non-essential idling of construction equipment during construction. Compliance with Section 2449 would limit wasteful and unnecessary energy consumption. Construction would require the use of nonrenewable construction materials, such as concrete, metals,

and plastics. Nonrenewable resources and energy would also be consumed during the manufacturing and transportation, and construction of the project facility itself. The scope of construction activities is minimal with removal activities occurring in short periods. Large amounts of energy would not be expended, and all construction vehicles would comply with federal and State standards for on- and off-road vehicles (e.g., emission standards set by the California Air Resources Board [CARB]), meaning wasteful usage of energy would not occur. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

OPERATIONAL ELECTRICITY

Implementation of the proposed project would result in the addition of three (3) additional primary single-family residences in the area. The typical energy use of single-family homes is not considered wasteful or unnecessary consumption of energy resources. Further, the California Green Building Code (CALGreen Code) is a subsection of Title 24 which mandates new development to meet current energy standards. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

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

Compliance with state building codes would ensure the project would not conflict or obstruct state or local plans for renewable energy or energy efficiency. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

APPLICABLE MITIGATION MEASURES

None recommended.

VIII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Would the project:	New Significant Impact	Substantial Increase in Severity of Impact	Equal or Less Severity of Impact
a. Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:			
i. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map, issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	☐	☐	☒
ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☒
iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☒
iv. Landslides?	☐	☐	☒

b. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☒
c. Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	☐	☐	☒
d. Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☒
e. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	☐	☐	☒
f. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☒

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

REGIONAL GEOLOGY

The project area lies within the Great Valley geomorphic province of California (the Great Valley), which is a gently sloping to relatively flat alluvial plain. The Great Valley is bounded by the Coast Mountain Ranges on the west, the Sierra Nevada on the east, and the Klamath and Cascade Mountain Ranges to the north. The Great Valley is a trough in which sediments eroded from the adjacent mountain ranges have been deposited since the Jurassic Era (approximately 160 million years ago) (California Geological Survey, 2002).

TOPOGRAPHY

The project area is on the broad, flat alluvial plain in the Sacramento Valley of the Great Valley. The topography of the site is relatively flat with an average elevation of 56 feet above mean sea level (msl).

SEISMIC HAZARDS

FAULTS AND SEISMICITY

There are no active or potentially active faults in the area of the project site. The closest Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone is located approximately 49 miles southwest of the project site, known as the Green Valley Fault (California Department of Conservation, 2022). According to the Safety Element Background of the Sacramento County General Plan, there are two (2) fault zones to the east and west of the County. The Midland Fault Zone is approximately 31 miles southwest and the Bear Mountain Fault Zone is approximately 43 miles southeast of the project site. The closest active fault to the project area is the Dunnigan Hills Fault, approximately 22 miles west.

GROUND SHAKING

Ground shaking is the result of faulting and is the primary cause of earthquake damage to manmade structures. The California Geological Survey (CGS) has prepared a statewide map showing the expected intensity of ground shaking from potential future earthquakes. The map indicates that the project site is within an area classified as Intensity VIII (severe shaking potential) on the Modified Mercalli Intensity scale ³.

LIQUEFACTION AND LANDSLIDES

According to the seismic hazards identified by the California Geological Survey, the project area is not within an area designated as a liquefaction or landslide hazard (California Department of Conservation, 2022).

SOILS

According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Web Soil Survey, the project area is underlain with the following soil types: San Joaquin fine sandy loam, zero (0) to three (3) percent slopes and San Joaquin fine sandy loam, three (3) to eight (8) percent slopes.

PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Paleontological resources are the fossilized evidence of organisms preserved in the geologic record. Fossils are considered nonrenewable resources that are protected by federal, state, and local environmental laws and regulations. Sedimentary rocks, and some volcanic and metamorphic rocks, have potential to yield significant fossiliferous deposits.

The project area includes developed rural residential properties and existing roadways. Additionally, the project parcel includes one (1) single-family residence on the eastern portion of the project site. The Rio Linda/Elverta community area is underlain by the Riverbank Formation, which is known to contain paleontological resource sites.

DISCUSSION

- a. *Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:*
 - i. *Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map, issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.*

The project area is not within or adjacent to a fault zone under the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone Act. The nearest fault associated with the Alquist-Priolo Fault Zone is located approximately 49 miles to the southwest. The nearest fault to the project site is the Dunnigan Hills Fault, approximately 22 miles west of the project site which is

³ California Geological Survey, 2025. *Earthquake Shaking Potential for California, Map Sheet 48*. Available at: [https://www.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/sh/earthquake-shaking-potential#:~:text=The%20California%20Geological%20Survey%20\(CGS,basins%20generally%20experience%20amplified%20shaking](https://www.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/sh/earthquake-shaking-potential#:~:text=The%20California%20Geological%20Survey%20(CGS,basins%20generally%20experience%20amplified%20shaking). Accessed October 6, 2025.

not a part of the Alquist-Priolo Fault Zone and surface fault rupture is considered unlikely. Additionally, the California Building Code (CBC) contains applicable construction regulations for earthquake safety. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?

The closest active fault to the project area is the Dunnigan Hills Fault, approximately 22 miles to the west. The intensity of ground shaking is dependent on the proximity to the epicenter of the site, the magnitude of the earthquake, and site soil conditions. Although there are no known active earthquake faults in the project area, the site could be subject to some ground shaking from regional faults. The CBC contains applicable construction regulations for earthquake safety that will ensure impacts are minimized. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

Liquefaction happens when ground shaking causes water-saturated, loosely packed soils to lose strength and take on the characteristics of a fluid. Factors contributing to liquefaction include soil type, depth to groundwater, and level and duration of ground shaking. The project area is not within a liquefaction hazard zone; therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

iv. Landslides?

The project area is relatively flat, with existing roads and surrounding agricultural and residential infrastructure. Additionally, the California Department of Conservation's Earthquake Hazards Zone Application indicates that the project area is not located in a landslide hazard zone (California Department of Conservation, 2022). Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

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

A parcel split would result in an increase in the allowable development across a site. Therefore, this project would result in the allowance for new residential construction. Any construction activities such as site clearing and grubbing, earthmoving activities, and excavation would result in soil disturbance, temporarily exposing soil to wind and water erosion. During construction, the contractor would be required to comply with all applicable provisions and requirements of the County's Land Grading and Erosion Control Ordinance (Municipal Code Chapter 16.44). Additionally, if construction would disturb more than one (1) acre of land, a project specific Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) would be required. The SWPPP would include best management practices (BMPs) and erosion control measures to be implemented during construction activities. Therefore, any construction allowed as a result of the project would not result in substantial soil erosion. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

c. Would the project be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?

The potential for landslides and liquefaction are minimal due to the project parcel's flat area and the depth of the groundwater table. The project would be required to conform to the most recent CBC. Conformance to the CBC, standard engineering practices, and design criteria would reduce the potential for substantial risks as a result of unstable soils. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

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

According to the Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) Web Soil Survey, the project area is underlain with the following soil types: San Joaquin fine sandy loam, zero (0) to three (3) percent slopes and San Joaquin fine sandy loam, three (3) to eight (8) percent slopes.

The San Joaquin fine sandy loam soil types which exist within the project site have a low linear extensibility rating. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

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

Each of the proposed parcels would include more than two (2) acres of total lot area, which meets the minimum lot area requirement for on-site septic sanitation. The existing residence on site gains sanitation service from an on-site septic sanitation system. It is expected that the project would result in three (3) additional septic system to service residential development on proposed Parcels A, B, and C. Given all proposed parcels would consist of greater than two (2) acres of lot area, it is not expected that the soils on site would be incapable of adequately supporting a total of four (4) septic tank systems. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

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

The project site is partially developed with a single-family residence, three (3) appurtenant structures, a double car garage, and a car port. The rest of the project site is undeveloped. The project site is surrounded by single-family residential development on all sides. The Rio Linda/Elverta community area is underlain by the Riverbank Formation, which is known to contain paleontological resource sites. However, typical residential construction excavates to 6-8 feet. Most recovered paleontological resources are found much deeper (20 feet or more below ground). It is unlikely that paleontological resources would be uncovered. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

APPLICABLE MITIGATION MEASURES

None recommended.

IX. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Would the project:	New Significant Impact	Substantial Increase in Severity of Impact	Equal or Less Severity of 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?	☐	☐	☒

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Greenhouse gases (GHG), including CO₂, methane (CH₄), and nitrous oxide (N₂O), are naturally occurring atmospheric gases that insulate Earth as part of the greenhouse effect, which is responsible for keeping temperatures on Earth conducive to life. After solar radiation is absorbed by the earth's surface, infrared radiation is emitted into the atmosphere, which is then absorbed by GHGs. Some of the infrared radiation is re-emitted into the atmosphere, which is then absorbed by GHGs. Some of the infrared radiation is re-emitted back to the earth's surface, warming the atmosphere. However, human activities such as combustion of fossil fuels have increasingly emitted excess GHGs into the atmosphere causing the greenhouse effect to intensify and Earth's climate to warm at an unprecedented rate.

The Global Warming Potential (GWP) of GHGs compares the ability of each GHG to trap heat in the atmosphere relative to another gas. GWP is based on several factors, including the relative effectiveness of a gas to absorb infrared radiation and the length of time the gas remains in the atmosphere (its "atmospheric lifetime"). The GWP of each gas is measured relative to CO₂. Therefore, CO₂ has a GWP of one (1). GHGs with lower emission rates than CO₂ may still contribute to climate change because they are more effective at absorbing outgoing infrared radiation than CO₂ (i.e., high GWP). For example, N₂O has a GWP of 273, meaning that one (1) ton of N₂O has the same contribution to the greenhouse effect as approximately 273 tons of CO₂. The concept of CO₂ equivalence (CO₂e) is used to account for the different GWP potentials of GHGs. GHG emissions are typically measured in terms of pounds or tons of CO₂e and are often expressed in metric tons (MT) CO₂e.

REGULATORY SETTING**STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

California has adopted statewide legislation addressing various aspects of climate change and GHG emissions mitigation. Much of this establishes a broad framework for the State's long-term GHG reduction and climate change adaptation program. Of particular importance is AB 32, which establishes a statewide goal to reduce GHG emissions back to 1990 levels by 2020, and Senate Bill (SB) 375 supports AB 32 through coordinated transportation and land use planning with the goal of more sustainable communities. SB 32 extends the State's GHG policies and

establishes a near-term GHG reduction goal of 40% below 1990 emissions levels by 2030. Executive Order (EO) S-03-05 identifies a longer-term goal for 2050.⁴

SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN AQMD

As discussed in the Air Quality Section, the project area is within the boundaries of the SMAQMD. The SMAQMD has developed greenhouse gas (GHG) thresholds and screening levels to provide a consistent scale to measure the significance of land use development. The thresholds are used to evaluate a project for consistency with statewide GHG reduction targets as established in Assembly Bill (AB) 32, followed by Senate Bill (SB) 32. AB 32 is the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006. California reached the goals set in AB 32 in 2016. As a follow up to AB 32, SB 32, which requires CARB to ensure state GHG emissions are reduced 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030, was signed in 2016.

SACRAMENTO COUNTY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

The County's Climate Action Plan (CAP), adopted by the Board of Supervisors in November 2024, is a comprehensive, multi objective plan that balances environmental, economic, and community interests for the reduction of GHG emissions. Strategies and measures have been identified in the CAP to meet California's 2020 and 2045 GHG reduction targets. Each measure is supported by implementing actions to reduce GHG emissions generated from current and future activities within the unincorporated areas of the County, including existing County facilities and operations. Upon implementation of the CAP, projects being proposed in unincorporated areas of the County would need to demonstrate compliance with applicable measures and actions.

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Addressing GHG generation impacts requires an agency to make a determination as to what constitutes a significant impact. Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (previously Planning and Research (OPR)) Guidance does not include a quantitative threshold of significance to use for assessing a proposed development's GHG emissions under CEQA. Moreover, CARB has not established such a threshold or recommended a method for setting a threshold for proposed development-level analysis.

In April 2020, SMAQMD adopted an update to their land development project operational GHG threshold, which requires a project to demonstrate consistency with CARB's 2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan. The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors adopted the updated GHG threshold in December 2020. SMAQMD's technical support document, "Greenhouse Gas Thresholds for Sacramento County," identifies operational measures that should be applied to a project to demonstrate consistency.

All projects must implement Tier One Best Management Practices to demonstrate consistency with the Climate Change Scoping Plan. After implementation of Tier One Best Management Practices, project emissions are compared to the operational land use screening levels table (equivalent to 1,100 metric tons of CO₂e per year). If a project's operational emissions are less than or equal to 1,100 metric tons of CO₂e per year after implementation of Tier One Best

⁴ EO S-03-05 has set forth a reduction target to reduce GHG emissions by 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. This target has not been legislatively adopted.

Management Practices, the project will result in a less than cumulatively considerable contribution and has no further action. Tier One Best Management Practices include:

- **BMP One – no natural gas:** projects shall be designed and constructed without natural gas infrastructure
- **BMP Two – electric vehicle (EV) ready:** projects shall meet the current CalGreen Tier Two standards.
 - EV Capable requires the installation of “raceway” (the enclosed conduit that forms the physical pathway for electrical wiring to protect it from damage) and adequate panel capacity to accommodate future installation of a dedicated branch circuit and charging station(s).
 - EV Ready requires all EV Capable improvements plus installation of dedicated branch circuit(s) (electrical pre-wiring), circuit breakers, and other electrical components, including a receptacle (240-volt) or blank cover needed to support future installation of one (1) or more charging stations.

Projects that implement BMP One and BMP Two can utilize the screening criteria for operational emissions outlined in **Table GPC-8**. Projects that do not exceed 1,100 metric tons per year are then screened out of further requirements. For projects that exceed 1,100 metric tons per year, then compliance with BMP Three is also required.

- **BMP Three – Reduce applicable project VMT by 15% residential and 15% worker relative to Sacramento County targets, and no net increase in retail VMT.** In areas with above-average existing VMT, commit to providing electrical capacity for 100% electric vehicles.

SMAQMD's GHG construction and operational emissions thresholds for Sacramento County are shown in **Table GPC-8**.

Table GPC-8: SMAQMD Thresholds of Significance for Greenhouse Gases

Land Development and Construction Projects		
	Construction Phase	Operational Phase
Greenhouse Gas as CO ₂ e	1,100 metric tons per year	1,100 metric tons per year
Stationary Source Only		
	Construction Phase	Operational Phase
Greenhouse Gas as CO ₂ e	1,100 metric tons per year	10,000 metric tons per year

DISCUSSION

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

The General Plan Update Final EIR evaluated greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as part of the Climate Change chapter and concluded that development would result in significant and unavoidable impacts. The General Plan Update Final EIR included Mitigation Measure CC-1 (addition of General Plan policy LU-115: reduce the County's GHG emissions) and CC-2 (addition of General Plan implementation measures F through J for LU-115, which includes adoption of a Climate Action Plan [CAP]). The General Plan Update Final EIR also determined that any project with potential to result in significant impacts, must comply with the CAP once adopted by the County. The Sacramento County CAP was adopted in November 2024 by the County Board of Supervisors (BOS) and the County is developing the implementation strategy to comply with the required policies. Therefore, in the interim, GHG emissions from the implementation of a project would continue to be evaluated using the thresholds adopted by the County BOS in December 2020.

SMAQMD drafted a technical support document, Greenhouse Gas Thresholds for Sacramento County (Ramboll US Corporation, 2020) that identifies operational measures to demonstrate consistency with GHG targets. Tier 1 best management practices (BMP) are required for all projects. Therefore, Mitigation Measure GHG-1: Tier 1 Best Management Practices for GHG Emissions, would be required for implementation of the project. With the implementation of GHG-1, GHG emissions from the operation of the project are compared to the operational land use screening table (1,100 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) per year). If a project's operational emissions are less than or equal to 1,100 metric tons of CO₂e per year after implementation of Tier 1 BMPs, the project will result in a less than cumulatively considerable contribution and has no further action.

Therefore, with Mitigation Measure GHG-1, implementation of the project would not result in impacts greater than what was determined in the General Plan Update Final EIR and will result in **equal or less severity of impact**.

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

The project is the division of the property into four (4) parcels and the subsequent development of three (3) primary single-family residence. SMAQMD has developed operational screening thresholds for new development which indicates that projects including 56 single family residential units and fewer would be below the GHG thresholds noted in **Table GPC-8** above. As the project is expected to be under the thresholds, the project is considered to be consistent with applicable air quality plans, including the adopted Sacramento County 2024 Climate Action Plan. Implementation of the project would not conflict with applicable plans, policies, or regulations for reducing GHG emissions. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

APPLICABLE MITIGATION MEASURES

MITIGATION MEASURE GHG-1: GREENHOUSE GASES

The project is required to incorporate the following Tier One Best Management Practices (BMPs) or propose Alternatives that demonstrate the same level of GHG reductions as BMPs One and Two, listed below. At a minimum, the project must mitigate natural gas emissions and provide necessary wiring for an all-electric retrofit to accommodate future installation of electric space heating, water heating, drying, and cooking appliances.

TIER ONE: BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMP) REQUIRED FOR ALL PROJECTS

- BMP One: No natural gas: Projects shall be designed and constructed without natural gas infrastructure.
- BMP Two: Electric vehicle ready: Projects shall meet the current CalGreen Tier Two standards, except all EV Capable spaces shall instead be EV ready.
 - EV Capable requires the installation of “raceway” (the enclosed conduit that forms the physical pathway for electrical wiring to protect it from damage) and adequate panel capacity to accommodate future installation of a dedicated branch circuit and charging station(s).
 - EV Ready requires all EV capable improvements plus installation of dedicated branch circuit(s) (electrical pre-wiring), circuit breakers, and other electrical components, including a receptacle (240-volt outlet) or blank cover needed to support future installation of one (1) or more charging stations.
- If the project proponent chooses to propose an alternative to the above BMPs, they will need to submit documentation, to the satisfaction of the Environmental Coordinator, demonstrating that the alternatives are equivalent to Tier One BMPs. Documentation shall be submitted to the Environmental Coordinator prior to final approval of grading, improvement plans or building permits, whichever occurs first.
- Upon implementation of the CAP, in lieu of the measures above, the project may demonstrate consistency with the CAP by implementing applicable GHG reduction measures and/or demonstrating consistency with performance standards associated with such measures, as outline in a CAP Consistency Review Checklist adopted by Sacramento County. The CAP Consistency Checklist will ensure that the specified GHG reduction measures applicable to new development projects and performance standards are met.

X. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Would the project:	New Significant Impact	Substantial Increase in Severity of Impact	Equal or Less Severity of Impact
a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☒
b. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☐	☒
c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☒
d. Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to	☐	☐	☒

Government Code § 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?			
e. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☒
f. Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	☐	☐	☒

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project site is in a rural residential area within the Rio Linda/Elverta community. There are single-family residences surrounding the project site and within the project area.

A review of publicly available databases was conducted for the project to determine if any known hazardous waste sites are within the project area. The databases included EnviroStor maintained by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) (Department of Toxic Substances Control, 2024) and GeoTracker maintained by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) (State Water Resources Control Board, 2024). Additionally, a search of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) National Priorities List (Superfund) database was completed (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2024).

A Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment Report dated January 24, 2024, was prepared for the project by ALFA Environmental Assessment Services (Appendix C). The environmental site assessment was prepared in order to identify recognized environmental conditions (RECS). RECS indicate the presence or likely presence of any hazardous substances or petroleum products on a property under conditions that indicate an existing release, a past release, or a material threat of release into structures on a property or into the ground, groundwater, or surface water of a property. The term is not intended to include *de minimis* conditions that generally do not present a threat to human health or the environment and that generally would not be the subject of an enforcement action if brought to the attention of appropriate governmental agencies. Conditions determined to be *de minimis* are not recognized environmental conditions.

The report concluded that the project site and surrounding properties are not identified in the regulatory database reports (as described above) and that all cases listed in the databases within one mile are closed cases. The report concluded that there are no known hazardous waste issues affecting the subject property. However, the report did note that the site was utilized for agricultural activities in the past and there is a possibility that agricultural chemicals (herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers) are present on site.

DISCUSSION

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

The project is the division of the property into four (4) parcels with the planned development of three (3) new residential units in addition to the existing residence. While homes do use and contain hazardous materials such as paints, cleaners and fuel these uses do not

routinely transport or dispose of hazardous materials. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

- b. *Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?*

The Phase 1 Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) prepared for the project identified potential for the site to contain chemicals (herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers) due to past agricultural activities and recommended that soil samples be collected and analyzed for agricultural chemicals. Mitigation measure HM-1 requiring soil sampling and remediation of any hazardous materials found in exceedance of acceptable levels is recommended to ensure the project will not result in a hazard to the public or environment due to the release of hazardous materials. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

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

There are no existing or proposed schools within one-quarter mile of the project site. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

- d. *Would the project 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?*

The project area is not located on a site included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code §65962.5; therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

- e. *Would the project impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?*

The project would consist of the development of three (3) new residents which will need to comply with the fire access requirement set forth by Sacramento Metropolitan Fire. The project would not create any physical interference nor impair the implementation of any adopted emergency response plan or evacuation plan. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

- f. *Would the project expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?*

Based on fire hazard maps published by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire), the project site is not located within an identified State or Local fire hazard area. The proposed project would be constructed in accordance with fire codes established in the Uniform Building Code, CBC, and the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District laws, ordinances, regulations, and standards. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

APPLICABLE MITIGATION MEASURES**MITIGATION MEASURE HM-1: HAZARDOUS MATERIALS**

Prior to ground disturbing activities that may result in the upset condition of agricultural chemicals, soil sampling and testing shall be completed by a qualified professional in coordination with the Sacramento County Environmental Management Department and any remediation activities deemed necessary by the Environmental Management Department shall be completed.

XI. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

	New Significant Impact	Substantial Increase in Severity of Impact	Equal or Less Severity of Impact
Would the project:			
a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	☐	☐	☒
b. Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	☐	☐	☒
c. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:			
i. result in a substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	☐	☐	☒
ii. substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;	☐	☐	☒
iii. create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	☐	☐	☒
iv. impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☒
d. Develop in an area that is subject to 200 year urban levels of flood protection (ULOP)?	☐	☐	☒
e. In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	☐	☐	☒
f. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	☐	☐	☒

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

SURFACE WATER

REGIONAL HYDROLOGY

The project area is in an agricultural-residential area of the Rio Linda/Elverta community, within the Sacramento River Basin. The Sacramento River Basin encompasses approximately 27,000 square miles and is bounded by the Sierra Nevada to the east, Coast Ranges to the west, Cascade Range and Trinity Mountains to the north, and the Delta to the southeast. The project area is situated within the Natomas East Main Drain Canal (NEMDC) Tributary 2 watershed which eventually flows to the American River.

FLOODING

The project site is flood Zone X per the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panel Number 06067C0052H. This is an area with minimal flood hazard and is outside of the 500-year flood limit. However, a level 3 drainage study, dated October 18, 2023, was prepared for the project by JTS Engineering Consultants (Appendix D). The drainage study determined that the southeast corner of the project site contains a 100-year local floodplain. A 100-year floodplain is an area with a one (1) percent annual chance of flooding. The drainage study was reviewed by the Sacramento County Department of Water resources and approved on November 17, 2023.

GROUNDWATER

SUSTAINABLE GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

The County is within the Sacramento Valley Groundwater Basin (Basin) which is underlain by an extensive alluvial aquifer system encompassing approximately 3,780,180 acres and divided into 18 subbasins (California Department of Water Resources, 2015). The project area is in the northern portion of the Sacramento Valley – North American Groundwater Subbasin (North American Subbasin), which underlies northern Sacramento, southern Sutter, and western Placer counties and encompasses approximately 342,000 acres (GEI Consultants, 2021).

A draft Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the North American Subbasin was prepared and submitted to the California Department of Water Resources (CA DWR) in December 2021 and approved in January 2022. As required by the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), the Groundwater Sustainability Plan includes a description of the setting, hydrogeological conceptual model, comprehensive water budget, basin-wide monitoring network, sustainable management criteria, and projects and management actions necessary to ensure sustainability of the subbasin. Modeling conducted for the Groundwater Sustainability Plan, including the projected conditions water budget scenario indicates that the North American Subbasin is projected to maintain sustainable conditions under conditions of future planned growth and with anticipated climate change impacts. The Groundwater Sustainability Plan contains a description of specific projects and management actions that will be undertaken in the North American Subbasin to promote groundwater sustainability, including continued conjunctive use (i.e., a mix of groundwater and surface water) in urban areas, and continued water demand management throughout the subbasin.

GROUNDWATER QUALITY

Generally, the quality of groundwater in the North American Subbasin is suitable for nearly all uses, except in known contamination plumes and localized, naturally occurring and human caused quality issues, which may affect the supply, beneficial uses, and potential management of groundwater in the subbasin if not properly managed. Total dissolved solids (TDS) and nitrate were identified as constituents that represent general conditions in the subbasin, with some wells displaying upward trends. Nitrate is below the drinking water standards for all wells in the subbasin. TDS exceeds the drinking water standards in some wells, predominantly in the western and eastern portions of the subbasin. The higher salinity concentrations are generally considered to be present due to natural sources.

REGULATORY SETTING

FEDERAL

CLEAN WATER ACT

The federal Clean Water Act and subsequent amendments, under the enforcement authority of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), was enacted “to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation’s waters.” The purpose of the act is to protect and maintain the quality and integrity of the nation’s waters by requiring states to develop and implement state water plans and policies. The Clean Water Act also sets water quality standards for surface waters and established the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program to protect water quality, such as under Section 402, which outlines the NPDES program, including Section 402(p), which governs stormwater permitting. The Clean Water Act authorizes the USEPA to implement pollution control programs such as setting wastewater standards for industry. In California, implementation and enforcement of the act is conducted through the California SWRCB and the nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards (RWQCBs).

NPDES PERMIT

Section 402 of the Clean Water Act contains the NPDES permit system, which regulates municipal and industrial point discharges to surface waters of the U.S. Each NPDES permit for point discharges contains limits on allowable concentrations of pollutants contained in discharges.

The NPDES program also regulates non-point source (i.e., stormwater) pollutants in discharges. Stormwater sources are diffuse and originate over a wide area rather than from a definable point. The goal of NPDES stormwater regulations is to improve the quality of stormwater discharged to receiving waters to the “maximum extent practicable” using structural and non-structural best management practices (BMPs). BMPs can include the development and implementation of various practices including educational measures (workshops informing the public of the impacts of household chemicals being dumped into storm drains), regulatory measures (e.g., silt fences, straw wattle, grass swales, and detention ponds). The NPDES permits that apply to the project include the Construction General Permit, as described further below.

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

Under Executive Order 11988, FEMA is responsible for management of floodplain areas, defined as the lowland and relatively flat areas adjoining inland and coastal waters subject to a one (1) percent or greater chance of flooding in any given year (the 100-year floodplain). FEMA's overall mission is to support citizens and first responders to ensure that the United States builds, sustains, and improves capabilities to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards. Regarding flooding, FEMA provides information, guidance, and regulation associated with flood prevention, mitigation, and response. Under Executive Order 11988, FEMA requires that local governments covered by the federal flood insurance program pass and enforce a floodplain management ordinance that specifies minimum requirements for any construction within the 100-year floodplain. Through its Flood Insurance and Mitigation Administration, FEMA manages the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), which includes flood insurance, floodplain management, and flood hazard mapping functions. FEMA determines flood elevations and floodplain boundaries and distributes the FIRM maps used in the NFIP. These maps identify the locations of special flood hazard areas, including 100-year floodplains.

Federal regulations governing development in a floodplain are set forth in Code of Federal Regulations Title 44, Part 60. Those regulations enable FEMA to require municipalities participating in the NFIP to adopt certain flood hazard reduction standards for construction and development in 100-year floodplains.

STATE

PORTER-COLOGNE WATER QUALITY CONTROL ACT

The Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (Water Code Section 13000 et seq.) is the primary water quality control law in California. The Porter-Cologne Act established the SWRCB and divided the State into nine (9) regional basins, each overseen by a RWQCB. The nine (9) RWQCBs have the primary responsibility for the coordination and control of water quality within their respective jurisdictional boundaries. The Porter-Cologne Act requires the RWQCBs to establish water quality objectives while acknowledging that water quality may be changed to some degree without unreasonably affecting beneficial uses. Water quality objectives are limits or levels of water quality constituents or characteristics established for the purpose of protecting beneficial uses. Designated beneficial uses, together with the corresponding water quality objectives, also constitute water quality standards under the federal Clean Water Act. Therefore, the water quality objectives form the regulatory references for meeting State and federal requirements for water quality control. Designated beneficial uses for water bodies in the study area are described in the regional regulatory section (under Water Quality Control Plan [Basin Plan]).

NPDES CONSTRUCTION GENERAL PERMIT

Construction associated with projects that would disturb more than one (1) acre of land surface affecting the quality of stormwater discharges into waters of the U.S. are subject to the NPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities (Order 2022-0057-DWQ, NPDES No. CAS00002).

The Construction General Permit regulates discharges of pollutants in stormwater associated with construction activity to waters of the U.S. from construction sites that disturb one (1) acre or

more of land surface, or that are part of a common plan of development or sale that disturbs more than one (1) acre of land surface. The permit regulates stormwater discharges associated with construction or demolition activities, such as clearing and excavation; construction of buildings; and linear underground projects, including installation of water pipelines and other utility lines.

The Construction General Permit requires that construction sites be assigned a Risk Level of 1 (low), 2 (medium), or 3 (high), based both on the sediment transport risk at the site and the receiving waters risk during periods of soil exposure (e.g., grading and site stabilization). The sediment risk level reflects the relative amount of sediment that could potentially be discharged to receiving water bodies and is based on the nature of the construction activities and the location of the site relative to receiving water bodies. The receiving waters risk level reflects the risk to the receiving waters from the sediment discharge. Depending on the risk level, the construction projects could be subject to the following requirements:

- Effluent standards
- Good site management “housekeeping”
- Non-stormwater management
- Erosion and sediment controls
- Run-on and runoff controls
- Inspection, maintenance, and repair
- Monitoring and reporting requirements

The Construction General Permit requires the development and implementation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), which includes specific BMPs designed to prevent sediment and pollutants from contacting stormwater from moving off-site into receiving waters. The BMPs fall into several categories, including erosion control, sediment control, waste management and good housekeeping, and are intended to protect surface water quality by preventing the off-site migration of eroded soil and construction-related pollutants from the construction area. Routine inspection of all BMPs is required under the provisions of the Construction General Permit. In addition, the SWPPP is required to contain a visual monitoring program, a chemical monitoring program for non-visible pollutants, and a sediment monitoring plan if the site discharges directly to a water body listed on the 303(d) list for sediment.

LOCAL

WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN (BASIN PLAN)

The Central Valley RWQCB (Region 5S) Water Quality Control Plan (commonly referred to as the Basin Plan) for the Sacramento River Basin and the San Joaquin River Basin was adopted by the RWQCB as revised in 2019 (Central Valley RWQCB, 2019). The Basin Plan is the master water quality control planning document used to designate beneficial uses and surface and ground water quality objectives. The RWQCB is tasked with implementing the adopted Basin Plan through planning, permitting, and enforcement of established water quality objectives. In accordance with the State Policy for Water Quality Control, the RWQCB employs a range of beneficial use designations for surface waters (including creeks, streams, lakes, and reservoirs), groundwater, marshes, and mudflats that serve as the basis for establishing water quality objectives, discharge conditions, and prohibitions. The Basin Plan has identified existing and potential beneficial uses supported by the key surface water drainage throughout its jurisdictional planning area, and for groundwater. The Basin Plan designates the beneficial uses

for the nearby Cosumnes River as municipal and domestic supply, agricultural supply, contact and non-contact water recreation, freshwater habitat, migration, spawning, and wildlife habitat (Central Valley RWQCB 2019). The beneficial uses for groundwater in the area are municipal and domestic water supply, agricultural supply, industrial service supply, and industrial process supply.

SACRAMENTO COUNTY WATER QUALITY: EROSION AND GRADING

Sacramento County has a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Stormwater Permit issued by Regional Water Board. The Municipal Stormwater Permit requires the County to reduce pollutants in stormwater discharges to the maximum extent practicable and to effectively prohibit non-stormwater discharges. The County complies with this permit in part by developing and enforcing ordinances and requirements to reduce the discharge of sediments and other pollutants in runoff from newly developing and redeveloping areas of the County.

The County has established a Stormwater Management and Discharge Control Ordinance (Sacramento County Code 15.12). The Stormwater Ordinance prohibits the discharge of unauthorized non-stormwater to the County's stormwater conveyance system and local creeks. It applies to all private and public projects in the County, regardless of size or land use type. In addition, Sacramento County Code 16.44 (Land Grading and Erosion Control) requires private construction sites disturbing one (1) or more acres or moving 350 cubic yards or more of earthen material to obtain a grading permit. To obtain a grading permit, project proponents must prepare and submit for approval an Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC) Plan describing erosion and sediment control best management practices (BMPs) that will be implemented during construction to prevent sediment from leaving the site and entering the County's storm drain system or local receiving waters. Construction projects not subject to SCC 16.44 are subject to the Stormwater Ordinance (SCC 15.12) described above.

DISCUSSION

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

Construction activities related to the project would comply with the County's Stormwater Ordinance (Section 15.12), which requires implementation of BMPs to the maximum extent practicable to prevent or minimize non-stormwater or pollutant discharge into County waterways during construction. Further, the project would be required to comply with the County's Land Grading and Erosion Control Ordinance (Chapter 16.44) which is intended, in part, to minimize the degradation of the water quality of water courses in Sacramento County. Therefore, implementation of the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

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

The project site is within the Rio Linda/Elverta water district; however, water distribution lines are not within proximity to the project site. Therefore, the project will be served by private water wells. Three (3) new wells will be required to serve newly created parcels. The addition of three (3) private water wells is consistent with the existing land use designation

and density allowances, which would not represent a significant increase in water use. Additionally, the project site is not located in a high groundwater recharge area. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

- c. *Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:*

- i. *result in a substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;*

As described in impact a) above, construction activities would be required to comply with the requirements and standards in the County's Stormwater Management and Discharge Control Ordinance (County Code Chapter 15.12) and the County's Land Grading and Erosion Control Ordinance (County Code Chapter 16.44). Therefore, construction would not result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off site, and the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

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

As detailed above, the project will be required to comply with the requirements and standards in the County's Stormwater Management and Discharge Control Ordinance (County Code Chapter 15.12) and the County's Land Grading and Erosion Control Ordinance (County Code Chapter 16.44). Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

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

The proposed project will result in the development of three (3) new homes and related ancillary infrastructure consistent with existing land use designations and densities and would not substantially increase the amount of surface runoff from the site. Additionally, the project will be required to comply with the requirements and standards in the County's Stormwater Management and Discharge Control Ordinance (County Code Chapter 15.12) and the County's Land Grading and Erosion Control Ordinance (County Code Chapter 16.44). Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

- iv. *impede or redirect flood flows?*

The project site is not within a FEMA floodplain, however, the drainage study prepared for the project indicates that a small area at the southeast corner of proposed Parcel A is within the 100-year floodplain. Each of the proposed parcels would contain adequate developable area outside of the identified localized flood zone area and development of residential structures are not expected to impede or redirect flood flows.

It should be noted that the site plan included in the drainage study differs from the current site plan utilized in this document, however, DWR reviewed the revised site plan and stated that the revised map does not change the findings of the approved drainage study. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

- d. *Would the project develop in an area that is subject to 200-year urban levels of flood protection (ULOP)?*

The project site is not located within an area subject to the 200-year urban levels of flood protection. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

- e. *Would the project in flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?*

The project site is not within a tsunami or seiche zone or within a FEMA designated flood zone; however, the drainage study prepared for the project found that a small portion of the project site is within a local 100-year floodplain. Each of the proposed parcels would contain developable area outside of the identified flood zone area and development of residential structures are not expected to be subject to flood hazards. Additionally, the project will be required to comply with the Floodplain Management and Control Ordinance which required homes to be elevated 1.5 feet above the floodplain and inundation that may result in the release of pollutants is not expected. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

- f. *Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?*

The project site is located within the North American Subbasin which includes the areas of the County north of the American River as well as portions of Sutter and Placer counties. Construction of groundwater wells to service the three (3) single-family residences is consistent with the existing land use designation and density allowances, which would not represent a conflict with groundwater management strategies for the North American Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan. Additionally, compliance with the Stormwater Management and Discharge Control Ordinance and the Floodplain Management Ordinance will ensure project construction will not obstruct implementation of water quality control plans. Therefore, implementation of the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

APPLICABLE MITIGATION MEASURES

None recommended.

XII. LAND USE AND PLANNING

	New Significant Impact	Substantial Increase in Severity of Impact	Equal or Less Severity of Impact
Would the project:			
a. Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☒
b. Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☒

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project site is located within a rural residential area in the Rio Linda/Elverta community. The project site is zoned as Agricultural Residential – Two Acres (AR-2), which requires a minimum lot area of two (2) acres. The project site is surrounded by parcels developed with single-family residential uses. The project is located within the Agricultural Residential (AG-RES) General Plan Land Use Designation which provides for rural residential uses, such as animal husbandry, small-scale agriculture, and other limited agricultural activities. The project site is not located within a specific plan or special planning area.

REGULATORY SETTING

GENERAL PLAN

The County's General Plan consists of 16 elements that outline the long-range vision for development within the County focused on existing needs and character of the County. The Land Use Element establishes a land use classification system as well as land use policies. Within the project area, El Verano Avenue is designated as a Local Street in the General Plan, Transportation Diagram (Sacramento County, 2019b). The project area includes agricultural residential and agricultural land use designations based on the General Plan (**Plate GPC-2**).

RIO LINDA/ELVERTA COMMUNITY PLAN

The project site is located within the Rio Linda/Elverta community plan area. The Rio Linda/Elverta community plan includes land use designations which are similar to the designations denoted within the County's General Plan. However, a substantial portion of the community plan area is identified as Ag-Res Preservation Area (ARPA). The community plan designates the project site Agricultural Residential – Two (AR-2).

ZONING CODE

In addition to the General Plan and the Community Plan, the County's Zoning Code establishes land use zones with standards and regulations for development within those zones. Similar to the General Plan and Community Plan, the project area includes land use zones of Residential Agriculture and Agriculture.

DISCUSSION

a. Would the project physically divide an established community?

The project is located within a rural residential area in the Rio Linda/Elverta Community. The project site is surrounded by single-family residences on large lots. The project site is adjacent to parcels similar in size to the proposed parcels. The parcel split would not conflict with the existing land use pattern in the area or physically divide an established community. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

b. Would the project cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

The project site has a zoning designation of AR-2. The intent of the AR-2 zone district is to establish living areas within the County where development is limited to low density concentrations of single-family dwellings. The proposed parcel split is consistent with the AR-2 zone district. The proposed project would not conflict with a land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

APPLICABLE MITIGATION MEASURES

None recommended.

XIII. MINERAL RESOURCES

	New Significant Impact	Substantial Increase in Severity of Impact	Equal or Less Severity of Impact
Would the project:			
a. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be a value to the region and the residents of the state?	☐	☐	☒
b. Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	☐	☐	☒

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project parcel is located west of El Verano Avenue within the Rio Linda/Elverta community. This area is within Mineral Resource Zone (MRZ) area 1, which includes areas where available geologic information indicates that little likelihood exists for the presence of significant concrete aggregate resources (California Department of Conservation, 1999). Additionally, the project parcel and surrounding area are not delineated as important mineral resource recovery sites in the Sacramento County General Plan.

DISCUSSION

- a. *Would the project result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be a value to the region and the residents of the state?*

The project area does not contain known mineral resources; therefore, implementation of the project would not result in the loss of availability of mineral resources. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

- b. *Would the project result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?*

The project area does not contain known mineral resources and is not delineated as a locally important mineral resource recovery site in the Sacramento County General Plan; therefore, implementation of the project would not result in the loss of availability of mineral resources. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

APPLICABLE MITIGATION MEASURES

None recommended.

XIV. NOISE

Would the project:	New Significant Impact	Substantial Increase in Severity of Impact	Equal or Less Severity of Impact
a. Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☐	☒
b. Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	☒

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project site is a 9.7-acre property located west of El Verano Avenue, approximately 0.6 miles north of the intersection of Elverta Road and El Verano Avenue in the Rio Linda/Elverta community. The project site is bounded by single-family residential properties on all sides. The area of the project site includes similar land uses, which results in low noise land uses.

EXISTING AMBIENT NOISE LEVELS

Land use within the project area consists of single-family residential development and agricultural uses beyond. Surrounding sources of transportation noise include two (2) lane rural roadways. The most common and primary sources of noise in the project area are associated with traffic on El Verano Avenue, agricultural activities in the area, and other typical residential noises like dogs barking, radios, and landscaping equipment.

NOISE SENSITIVE RECEPTORS

Rural residential areas contain a variety of land use and development types that are noise sensitive including residences, schools, churches, and convalescent care facilities. Adjacent sensitive receptors are single-family residences located on all sides. There are no nearby schools, churches, or convalescent care facilities located within a quarter mile of the project parcel.

DISCUSSION

- a. *Would the project generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?*

CONSTRUCTION

The project as proposed would result in four (4) new parcels from an existing 9.7-acre parcel. The site includes a single-family residence and accessory structures within proposed Parcel D. Proposed Parcels A, B, and C would be available for development of a single-family residence and accessory structures. Additionally, a new access road will be constructed from El Verano Avenue through the central portion of the subject property. Construction noise associated with the proposed project would be temporary and would vary depending on the specific nature of the activities being performed. Noise generated would primarily be associated with the operation of off-road equipment for onsite construction activities as well as construction vehicle traffic on area roadways. Construction noise typically occurs intermittently and varies depending on the nature or phase of construction. Noise generated by construction equipment, including backhoes, front loaders and portable generators would be some of the loudest pieces of equipment on a small residential project which have a maximum noise level of 80 decibels (dB) at 50 feet. Typical operating cycles for these types of construction equipment would be intermittent over the course of a day through the duration of construction. Other primary sources of acoustic disturbance would be random incidents, which would last less than one (1) minute (such as dropping large pieces of equipment or the hydraulic movement of machinery lifts).

The nearest sensitive receptor is the house to remain on proposed Parcel D (100 feet from proposed access road). Applying the standard reduction of 6 dB per doubling distance, the nearest receptor would experience a maximum of 74 dB at the building façade. While this exceeds the County's General Plan policy for exterior noise levels, the impact would be temporary. Sacramento County Code Section 6.68.90 exempts noise associated with construction, repair, remodeling, demolition, paving, or grading, provided that the activities do not take place between the hours of 8:00p.m. to 6:00a.m., Monday through Saturday and 8:00p.m. to 7:00a.m. on weekends. With adherence to allowed construction timeframes. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

OPERATIONS

The implementation of the proposed project would create new sources of noise in the project area. However, noise generated from developed single-family residential properties in areas surrounded by similar single-family residential development is not known to increase the ambient noise levels within an area. Although the project would allow for additional residential development, the addition of the same type of noise sources is not expected to increase the ambient noise levels in the area surrounding the project. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

- b. *Would the project generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?*

CONSTRUCTION

The project would result in four (4) new parcels from an existing 9.7-acre parcel. As such, the expected result of the project is the construction of additional single-family residences along with associated accessory structures and uses. Increases in groundborne vibration levels attributable to the project would be primarily associated with short-term construction-related activities.

Construction of the project would have the potential to result in varying degrees of temporary groundborne vibration, depending on the specific construction equipment used and the operations involved. Substantial construction-related ground vibration is normally associated with impact equipment such as pile drivers, jackhammers, and the operation of some heavy-duty construction equipment, such as dozers and trucks. The Federal Transit Authority has published standard vibration velocities for construction equipment operations in their 2018 Transit Noise and Vibration Impact Assessment Manual. Based on the construction equipment list expected for a project of this type and size, equipment with the potential to generate the greatest vibration levels would be a large bulldozer, which generates a vibration level up to 0.089 in/sec PPV at a reference distance of 25 feet (FTA 2018). The types of construction vibration impacts include human annoyance and building damage. The FTA's threshold is 0.2 in/sec PPV for structural damage and 0.64 in/sec for human annoyance.

Based upon construction vibration assessment methodology published by the Federal Transit Authority, vibration due to onsite construction activities on the project site would not exceed threshold limits at the nearest structure located approximately 100 feet from the proposed access. Additionally, existing homes located on the properties surrounding the project site are more than 25 feet away from the property lines of the subject parcel and groundborne vibration levels resulting from future home development would be below thresholds. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

OPERATIONS

Project operations would not include the use of any stationary equipment that would result in excessive vibration levels. The project would not accommodate the movement or storage of heavy-duty trucks, or other vehicles known to generate groundborne vibrations that would result in excessive vibration levels. The project is not expected to result in groundborne vibration impacts during operations. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

APPLICABLE MITIGATION MEASURES

None recommended.

XV. POPULATION AND HOUSING

	New Significant Impact	Substantial Increase in Severity of Impact	Equal or Less Severity of Impact
Would the project:			
a. Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☒
b. Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☒

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project site is located within a rural residential community with a mixture of residential and agricultural uses. The project site includes one (1) single-family residence, which would remain on site. No other housing exists on the project site.

DISCUSSION

- a. *Would the project induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?*

The project includes the split of an existing 9.7-acre parcel into four (4) parcels consisting of more than two (2) acres each. The result of a parcel split is an increased allowance for development across a project site. The project as proposed would result in the allowance for three (3) additional primary residences consistent with existing land use allowances and would not be considered a substantial population increase. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

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

The project site is partially developed with one (1) single-family residence, which would not be removed as a result of the project. As no housing would be demolished, the project would not displace people or housing. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

APPLICABLE MITIGATION MEASURES

None recommended.

XVI. PUBLIC SERVICES

Would the project:	New Significant Impact	Substantial Increase in Severity of Impact	Equal or Less Severity of Impact
a. Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:			
Fire protection?	☐	☐	☒
Police protection?	☐	☐	☒
Schools?	☐	☐	☒

Parks?	☐	☐	☒
Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☒

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project site is located in the unincorporated community of Rio Linda/Elverta. The Rio Linda/Elverta community contains a mix of agricultural and single-family development.

FIRE PROTECTION

The project area is within the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District (SMFD) service area. The closest fire station to the project site is SMFD Station 116 located at 7995 Elwyn Avenue, Elverta, CA, approximately 1.1 miles southwest of the project site. In addition, SMFD Station 117 is located at 7961 Cherry Brook Drive, Elverta, CA, approximately 1.9 miles southeast of the project site.

POLICE PROTECTION

The Sacramento County Sheriff's Department provides police protection within the project area. The project area is within the service area of the North Division, which provides law enforcement services to the northwestern portion of the County, including the Rio Linda/Elverta Community area. The closest North Division station is located at 5510 Garfield Avenue, approximately 7.65 miles southeast of the project site.

SCHOOLS

The project site is within the Twin Rivers Unified School District and the Elverta Joint Elementary School District. There are no schools located within a quarter mile of the project site. The closest school to the project site is the Alpha Middle School, located approximately 0.7 miles northwest of the project site. Additionally, Elverta Elementary School is located approximately 0.8 miles southwest of the project site and Orchard Elementary School is located approximately 1.8 miles southeast.

PARKS

There are no parks with an approximate quarter mile distance from the project site; however, there are several parks within 2.5 miles from the project site. These parks include Babe Best Park, located approximately 1.3 miles southeast; Dry Creek Parkway, located approximately 2.1 miles southeast; and Gibson Ranch Regional Park, located approximately 2.2 miles east.

DISCUSSION

- a. *Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services:*

Fire protection?

Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District provides fire protection to the surrounding area of the project site. The subject property will continue to be served by the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District, and the project will create new residential housing consistent with allowed densities and will not increase the need for additional fire-fighting personnel, facilities or equipment. Additionally, the project must adhere to applicable requirements for emergency vehicle access including roadway widths and turning radii, fire flow and sprinkler requirements, and vehicle ingress/egress. Compliance with these requirements would ensure adequate emergency access and evacuation routes. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

Police protection?

Police services would continue to be provided by the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office (SCSO). The project will create new residential housing consistent with allowed densities and will not substantially increase the need for law enforcement services or require additional law enforcement personnel, facilities or equipment. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

Schools?

The project is not expected to result in a significant number of additional students. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

Parks?

The project would not result in a significant number of additional residents and therefore would not substantially increase the use of parks and recreational facilities. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

Other public facilities?

There are no other public facilities or government services that would be significantly impacted as a result of the project. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

APPLICABLE MITIGATION MEASURES

None recommended.

XVII. RECREATION

	New Significant Impact	Substantial Increase in Severity of Impact	Equal or Less Severity of Impact
Would the project:			
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?	☐	☐	☒
---	--------------------------	--------------------------	-------------------------------------

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project site is in the unincorporated Rio Linda/Elverta community, which is comprised of rural residential land uses. There are no neighborhood parks within a quarter-mile of the project site; however, there are four (4) parks within 2.5-miles of the project site: Babe Best Park, located approximately 1.3-miles southeast; Dry Creek Parkway, located approximately 2.1-miles southeast; and Gibson Ranch Regional Park, located approximately 2.2-miles east.

DISCUSSION

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

The proposed parcel split would result in the ability for three (3) additional primary single-family residential units to be constructed. The addition of three (3) primary single-family residential units would not substantially increase the local population. Therefore, the project would not result in a substantial increase in the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

- 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?*

The project does not include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

APPLICABLE MITIGATION MEASURES

None recommended.

XVIII. TRANSPORTATION

Would the project:	New Significant Impact	Substantial Increase in Severity of Impact	Equal or Less Severity of Impact
a. Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	☐	☐	☒
b. Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines § 15064.3, subdivision (b) – measuring transportation impacts individually or cumulatively, using a vehicles miles traveled standard established by the County?	☐	☐	☒

c. Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☒
d. Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☒

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project site is located along El Verano Avenue which is identified as a two-lane local roadway. El Verano Avenue serves the residential and agricultural uses surrounding it. The closest roadway intersection is the intersection of El Verano Avenue and Adair Street which is located approximately 480 feet north of the project site.

DISCUSSION

The General Plan Update Final EIR was certified prior to 2020 when the CEQA Guidelines were updated to require consideration of Vehicle Miles Traveled. Prior case law has uniformly concluded that projects subject to supplemental review under CEQA did not need to address new subject matters, even though the prior EIR being updated did not address said subject matter (greenhouse gases). (Reference *Citizens for Responsible Equitable Environmental Development v. City of San Diego* (2011) 196 Cal.App.4th 525, 530-532; *Citizens Against Airport Pollution v. City of San Jose* (2014) 227 Cal.App.4th 788, 806-808; see also CEQA Guidelines Section 15007(b)(c).) Therefore, no new analysis for vehicle miles traveled is required for this project. The questions below are answered using the significance criteria in effect at the time the EIR was certified – Level of Service.

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

Construction activities may temporarily generate new vehicle trips (e.g., hauling and worker commute trips) and may result in a short-term increase in traffic levels on roadways in the project area. Given the temporary nature of construction and existing capacity on local roadways, project construction is not anticipated to conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or ordinance related to the transportation system that could result in a substantial adverse environmental effect.

Per Sacramento County Site Improvement Permit Section, the project would be required to install Class “C” public street intersection improvements at the intersection of El Verano Avenue and the proposed access drive. Class C street improvements include roadway surface improvements/widening and roadside drainage improvements. No other pedestrian, bicycle or transit improvements are required. The project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

- b. *Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines § 15064.3, subdivision (b) – measuring transportation impacts individually or cumulatively, using a vehicles miles traveled standard established by the County?*

As stated above, this project is being analyzed consistent with the methodology used in the General Plan Update Final EIR. The proposed project was reviewed by SacDOT to determine if a local transportation analysis would be required. The trip generation table

prepared by SacDOT, estimates that the project would generate approximately 52 daily trips, with four (4) trips in the peak AM hours and five (5) trips in the peak PM hours. This is well below the County threshold of 1,000 daily trips and/or 100 trips during the AM/PM peak hours. Since the proposed project would not require a local transportation analysis, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

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

Construction of the project would result in new driveway improvements, residence and associated ancillary structures and uses. There are no proposed changes to the existing geometric design of El Verano Avenue, and the access road improvements will need to conform with adopted improvements standards. Additionally, the project does not propose any uses incompatible with the surrounding transportation network. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

- d. *Would the project result in inadequate emergency access?*

The project would implement the requirements established by Sacramento County Metropolitan Fire. Therefore, the project would not result in inadequate emergency access. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

APPLICABLE MITIGATION MEASURES

None recommended.

XIX. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

	New Significant Impact	Substantial Increase in Severity of Impact	Equal or Less Severity of Impact
Would the project:			
a. Would the project 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), or	☐	☐	☒
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.			
--	--	--	--

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

Pursuant to Senate Bill 18 (Cal. Gov. Code Sections 65352.3, 65352.4), the County Department of Planning and Community Development initiated the consultation process as required under these provisions of the Government Code during the General Plan Update process. No requests for consultation were received from Native American Tribes.

DISCUSSION

The General Plan Update Final EIR was certified prior to 2015 when the CEQA Guidelines were updated to require consideration of Tribal Cultural Resources. Prior case law has uniformly concluded that projects subject to supplemental review under CEQA did not need to address new subject matters, even though the prior EIR being updated did not address said subject matter (greenhouse gases). (Reference *Citizens for Responsible Equitable Environmental Development v. City of San Diego* (2011) 196 Cal.App.4th 525, 530-532; *Citizens Against Airport Pollution v. City of San Jose* (2014) 227 Cal.App.4th 788, 806-808; see also CEQA Guidelines Section 15007(b)(c).) Therefore, no new analysis for tribal cultural resources is required for this project. However, the General Plan Update Final EIR did include a discussion of tribal consultation under SB18 and the County has since conducted multiple tribal consultations in and around the project area. This information is provided in the questions below.

- a. *Would the project 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)?*

According to the Northern California Information Center (NCIC) record search prepared for the project, there are no known indigenous period/ethnographic period cultural resources on or within ¼ mile of the project site. The site does not include the presence of a known tribal cultural resource, defined as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American Tribe. However, there is always a potential to uncover buried resources during construction activities. The project would be subject to inadvertent discovery Mitigation Measure CR-1. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

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

There is no information suggesting that there are any tribal cultural resources in the vicinity of the project site. However, as stated previously, there is always a potential to uncover buried resources. The project would be subject to inadvertent discovery

Mitigation Measure CR-1. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

APPLICABLE MITIGATION MEASURES

No additional mitigation is required. Refer to Mitigation Measure CR-1: Inadvertent Discovery of Cultural Resources as listed in Section VI (Cultural Resources) above.

XX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

	New Significant Impact	Substantial Increase in Severity of Impact	Equal or Less Severity of Impact
Would the project:			
a. Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☒
b. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years?	☐	☐	☒
c. Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	☐	☐	☒
d. Generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	☐	☐	☒
e. Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of storm water drainage facilities?	☐	☐	☒
f. Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of electric or natural gas service?	☐	☐	☒
g. Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☒

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project site is located within a rural residential area of the Rio Linda/Elverta community along El Verano Avenue. The project area has existing utilities including Sacramento Metropolitan Utility District (SMUD) electric service and Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) gas service. The project area is within the Rio Linda/Elverta Water District but is not in a sewer

service district. Solid waste disposal is provided by Sacramento County Waste Management & Recycling (Kiefer Landfill). These utility providers do not have any current issues in providing services to the existing uses in the area.

DISCUSSION

- a. *Would the project require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?*

Minor extension of infrastructure would be necessary to serve the proposed project. Existing service lines are located within roadways and other developed areas, and the extension of lines would take place within areas already proposed for development as part of the project. No significant new impacts would result from service line extension. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

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

The project site is within the Rio Linda/Elverta water district; however, water distribution lines are not within proximity to the project site. Therefore, the project will be served by private water wells. Three (3) new wells will be required to serve newly created parcels. The addition of three (3) private water wells is consistent with the existing land use designation and density allowances, which would not interfere substantially with groundwater supplies or interfere with groundwater recharge. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

- c. *Would the project result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?*

The project site is not within a sewer service area. As such, the project is proposed to be served by private on-site septic sanitation systems. The applicant will be required to secure permits from the County's Environmental Management Division (EMD) at the time of construction. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

- d. *Would the project generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?*

Kiefer Landfill has the capacity to accommodate solid waste until the year 2050. Implementation of the project would comply with all applicable federal, State, and local solid waste statutes and regulations, including compliance with the CALGreen Code and the County's Construction and Demolition Debris program. There is sufficient landfill capacity available to accommodate the solid-waste disposal needs of the project. Therefore, implementation of the project would not generate waste in excess of state or local standards or in excess of local infrastructure. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

- e. *Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of storm water drainage facilities?*

The project site is located within the Sacramento County Water Resources drainage district. The minimum buildable area for each proposed parcel is a quarter-acre for agricultural residential parcels. According to the drainage study prepared for the project, proposed Parcel A is partially located within a localized 100-year floodplain, however, Parcel A will have approximately 1.2 acres of developable land outside of the floodplain. The project, as proposed, would not result in adverse physical impacts to storm drainage facilities. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

- f. *Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of electric or natural gas service?*

The project does not propose connecting to natural gas services. For electrical service, minor extension of infrastructure would be necessary to serve the proposed project. Existing service lines are located within existing roadways and other developed areas, and the extension of lines would take place within areas already proposed for development as part of the project. No significant new impacts would result from service line extension. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

- g. *Would the project comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?*

As discussed above under item d), implementation of the project would comply with all applicable solid waste statutes and regulations, including CALGreen and Article 6 (Construction and Demolition Debris) of Chapter 6.20, Title 6, of the Sacramento County Code. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

APPLICABLE MITIGATION MEASURES

None recommended.

XXI. WILDFIRE

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:	New Significant Impact	Substantial Increase in Severity of Impact	Equal or Less Severity of 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?	☐	☐	☒

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project site is in a rural residential community and is not within or near a State Responsibility Area (SRA) or a Fire Hazard Severity Zone (FHSZ). The closest SRA is east of Grant Line Road, approximately 17.5 miles southeast of the project area, these lands are rated as moderate FHSZ (California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, 2024).

The project area is within the Local Responsibility Area for Sacramento County, and fire protection is provided by the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District (see Section XVI Public Services for further discussion); however, there are no FHSZ in the LRA that encompasses the project area (California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, 2024).

DISCUSSION

The General Plan Update Final EIR was certified prior to 2018 when the CEQA Guidelines were updated to require consideration of Wildfire. Prior case law has uniformly concluded that projects subject to supplemental review under CEQA did not need to address new subject matters, even though the prior EIR being updated did not address said subject matter (greenhouse gases). (Reference *Citizens for Responsible Equitable Environmental Development v. City of San Diego* (2011) 196 Cal.App.4th 525, 530-532; *Citizens Against Airport Pollution v. City of San Jose* (2014) 227 Cal.App.4th 788, 806-808; see also CEQA Guidelines Section 15007(b)(c).) Therefore, no new analysis for wildfire is required for this project. However, analysis of the project in consideration of the topical questions is provided below.

- a. *Would the project substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?*

The project site is not denoted within a State or Local Fire Hazard Severity Zone. Areas of Sacramento County which are not located within a State Responsibility Area have not been reviewed for wildfire hazard severity due to the distance from wildland areas. Fuel levels observed within wildland areas are not typically found in large quantities within more developed and urbanized areas due to the replacement or removal of potential fuel sources with the built environment.

Project construction would not require the complete closure of any public or private streets or roadways during construction. Temporary construction activities would not impede the use of roadways for emergencies or access for emergency response vehicles. In addition, the project would be required to comply with Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District development requirements concerning emergency access and circulation. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

- b. *Would the project, due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?*

The project site is relatively flat and does not support areas of steep slopes. In addition, the project site is located within a developed rural residential area of the Rio Linda/Elverta community which is lacking in substantial tree canopy. In areas including scattered tree canopy alongside development, the risk of wildland fire is decreased. As such, the proposed project would not be located in a critical fire danger zone or adjacent to wildlands subject to wildfires. There would be an unchanged level of fire protection provided to the project area. In addition, the project would adhere to building codes and any conditions included through review by the Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

- c. *Would the project require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?*

The project is required to provide fire department access including an equipment turnaround which is provided as a hammerhead turnaround. However, this requirement would not result in a change in fire risk, instead improving firefighting access. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

- d. *Would the project expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?*

The project site does not include significant downslopes. The project site and surrounding vicinity are relatively flat. There are no known landslides near the site nor is the site in the path of any known or potential landslides. Therefore, the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

APPLICABLE MITIGATION MEASURES

None recommended.

XXII. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

	New Significant Impact	Substantial Increase in Severity of Impact	Equal or Less Severity of Impact
a. Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☐	☐	☒

b. Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)	☐	☐	☒
c. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☒

DISCUSSION

- a. *Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?*

As discussed in Section V. Biological Resources, potential impacts were identified to Swainson's Hawks, nesting raptors, burrowing owls, migratory nesting birds, vernal pool crustaceans, rare vernal pool plants, wetlands, and native trees. However, Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-10 would be implemented, and impacts would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

As discussed in Section VI (Cultural Resources) and Section XIX (Tribal Cultural Resources) there is potential for inadvertent discoveries of cultural resources, tribal cultural resources, and human remains. However, Mitigation Measure CR-1 would be implemented, and the project would result in an **equal or less severe impact**.

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

No past, present, or foreseeable future projects in the vicinity of the project site have been identified that would combine with the project to cause cumulative impacts. For all the topics discussed in this General Plan Consistency Exemption, impacts resulting from implementation of the project would be individually limited and not cumulatively considerable, because the impacts are either temporary in nature (i.e., limited to the construction period) or limited to the project area (e.g., cultural resources). Additionally, for each of the topics analyzed in this document, the proposed project would have no impacts, less than significant impacts, or less than significant impacts with mitigation incorporated, and therefore would not substantially contribute to any potential cumulative impacts. Therefore, cumulative impacts would be **equal or less severe**.

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

As discussed in Section IV (Air Quality), the project would result in air emissions during construction of the project. However, AQ-1 would be implemented and the project would result in an equal or less severe impact. As discussed in Section IX (Greenhouse Gas), there is potential for greenhouse gas emissions to exceed allowed thresholds of significance. However, GHG-1 would be implemented, and the project would result in an ***equal or less severe impact***.

ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION

As demonstrated by the analysis herein, implementation of the project would not result in any new additional significant impacts, nor would it substantially increase the severity of previously identified significant impacts. Rather, all the impacts associated with the project are found to be within the scope of impacts previously addressed and disclosed in the certified General Plan Update EIR and do not constitute a new or substantially increased significant impact. Based on this determination and pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines Section 15183, the project qualifies for an exemption.

MITIGATION MEASURE COMPLIANCE

Comply with the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) for the 8451 El Verano Tentative Parcel Map project as follows:

1. It shall be the responsibility of the project applicant to reimburse the County for all expenses incurred in the implementation of the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP), including any necessary enforcement actions. The applicant shall pay an initial deposit of **\$9,100.00**, which includes administrative costs of **\$1,167.00**. Over the course of the project, the Office of Planning and Environmental Review will regularly conduct cost accounting and submit invoices to the applicant when the County monitoring costs exceed the initial deposit.
2. Until the MMRP has been recorded and the administrative portion of the MMRP fee has been paid, no final parcel map or final subdivision map for the subject property shall be approved. Until the balance of the MMRP fee has been paid, no encroachment, grading, building, sewer connection, water connection or occupancy permit from Sacramento County shall be approved.

LIST OF PREPARERS

LEAD AGENCY

Environmental Coordinator	Julie Newton
Senior Planner	Kevin Messerschmitt
Associate Planner	Matthew Aselage/ Carol Gregory
Assistant Planner	Hukum Sekhon
Office Manager	Kim Reading
Administrative Support	Jessica Love

REFERENCES/CITATIONS

- Airport Land Use Commission. (1992). *McClellan Air Force Base Comprehensive Land Use Plan*. Adopted 1987, Amended 1992. Retrieved October 18, 2024, from <https://www.sacog.org/planning/land-use/airport-planning/comprehensive-land-use-planning-maps>
- Branum, D., Chen, R., Petersen, M., & Wills, C. (2016). *Earthquake Shaking Potential for California*. digitized by the California Department of Conservation. Retrieved January 22, 2025, from <https://www.conservacion.ca.gov/cgs/psha>
- California Department of Conservation. (1999). *Mineral Land Classification Map of PCC-Grade Aggregate Resources in Sacramento County, Plate 3*. Division of Mines. Retrieved January 22, 2025, from <https://maps.conservacion.ca.gov/mineralresources/>
- California Department of Conservation. (2022). EQ Zapp: California Earthquake Hazards Zone Application. Sacramento, CA. Retrieved January 22, 2025, from <https://www.conservacion.ca.gov/cgs/sh/eqzapp>
- California Department of Conservation (2023). *Sacramento County Important Farmland 2020*. Retrieved March 3, 2025, from <https://www.conservacion.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp/Pages/Sacramento.aspx>
- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. (2024). *Fire Hazard Severity Zone Viewer*. Retrieved February 5, 2025, from Fire Hazard Severity Zones: <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/03beab8511814e79a0e4eabf0d3e7247/>
- California Department of Transportation. (2020). *Transportation and Construction Vibration Guidance Manual*. Retrieved January 15, 2025, from <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/environmental-analysis/noise-vibration/guidance-manuals>
- California Department of Water Resources. (2015). Chapter 7. Sacramento River Hydrologic Region. *California's Groundwater Update 2013 - A Compilation of Enhanced Content for California Water Plan Update 2013*. Retrieved October 30, 2024, from <https://data.cnra.ca.gov/dataset/california-water-plan-groundwater-update-2013>
- California Geological Survey. (2002). *California Geomorphic Provinces, Note 36*. California Department of Conservation. Retrieved February 5, 2025, from <https://www.conservacion.ca.gov/cgs/Documents/Publications/CGS-Notes/CGS-Note-36.pdf>
- CalRecycle. (2024a). *SWIS Facility/Site Summary Sacramento County Landfill (Kiefer) (34-AA-0001)*. Retrieved November 1, 2024, from Solid Waste Information System (SWIS): <https://www2.calrecycle.ca.gov/SolidWaste/Site/Summary/2507>
- Central Valley RWQCB. (2019). *The Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) for the Sacramento River Basin and the San Joaquin River Basin*. Retrieved October 30, 2024, from https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/basin_plans/
- Department of Toxic Substances Control. (2024). EnviroStor. Retrieved January 22, 2025, from <https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/>
- Department of Water Resources. (2023). *Sacramento Valley - North American Subbasin 2022 GSP Approved*. Retrieved January 30, 2025, from <https://rwah2o.org/long-term-groundwater-sustainability-plan-secures-state-approval/>

- Sacramento County. (2011). *Sacramento County General Plan of 2005-2030*. Retrieved October 24, 2024, from <https://planning.sacounty.gov/PlansandProjectsIn-Progress/Pages/GeneralPlan.aspx>
- Sacramento County. (2019b). *General Plan Transportation Element; Transportation Plan Roadway Components*. Retrieved October 23, 2024, from <https://planning.sacounty.gov/PlansandProjectsIn-Progress/Pages/GeneralPlan.aspx>
- Sacramento County. (2022b). *Circulation Element. General Plan*. Retrieved November 1, 2024, from <https://planning.sacounty.gov/PlansandProjectsIn-Progress/Pages/GeneralPlan.aspx>
- Sacramento County. (2024). *Sacramento County Certified Construction & Demolition (C&D) Sorting Facilities*. Retrieved November 1, 2024, from Waste Management and Recycling: <https://wmr.sacounty.gov/Pages/CDDebrisSortingFacilities.aspx>
- Sacramento Metropolitan AQMD. (2013). *PM2.5 Implementation/Maintenance Plan and Redesignation Request for Sacramento PM2.5 Nonattainment Area*. Retrieved October 24, 2024, from <https://www.airquality.org/air-quality-health/air-quality-plans>
- Sacramento Metropolitan AQMD. (2017). *Sacramento Regional 2008 NAAQS 8-Hour Ozone Attainment and Reasonable Further Progress Plan*. Retrieved October 24, 2024, from <https://www.airquality.org/air-quality-health/air-quality-plans>
- Sacramento Metropolitan AQMD. (2019). *Basic Construction Emission Control Practices (Best Management Practices). CEQA Guide, Chapter 3 Appendix*. Retrieved October 18, 2024, from <https://www.airquality.org/Residents/CEQA-Land-Use-Planning/CEQA-Guidance-Tools>
- Sacramento Metropolitan AQMD. (2020a). *SMAQMD Thresholds of Significance Table. SMAQMD CEQA Guide, Chapter 2 Appendix*. Retrieved October 18, 2024, from <https://www.airquality.org/Residents/CEQA-Land-Use-Planning/CEQA-Guidance-Tools>
- Sacramento Metropolitan AQMD. (2020b). *Construction-Generated Criteria Air Pollutant and Precursor Emissions. SMAQMD CEQA Guide, Chapter 3*. Retrieved October 18, 2024, from <https://www.airquality.org/Residents/CEQA-Land-Use-Planning/CEQA-Guidance-Tools>
- Sacramento Metropolitan AQMD. (2021). *Second 10-Year PM10 Maintenance Plan for Sacramento County*. Retrieved October 18, 2024, from <https://www.airquality.org/air-quality-health/air-quality-plans>
- Sacramento Metropolitan AQMD. (2023). *Sacramento Regional 2015 NAAQS 8-Hour Attainment and Reasonable Further Progress Plan*. Retrieved October 18, 2024, from <https://www.airquality.org/air-quality-health/air-quality-plans>
- Sacramento Metropolitan AQMD. (2024). *Air Quality Pollutants and Standards*. Retrieved October 18, 2024, from Air Quality and Health: <https://www.airquality.org/air-quality-health/air-quality-pollutants-and-standards>
- State Water Resources Control Board. (2022). *California 2020-2022 Integrated Report, Clean Water Act 303(d) List and 305(b) Report*. Retrieved November 25, 2024, from https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/water_quality_assessment/2020_2022_integrated_report.html
- State Water Resources Control Board. (2024). *GeoTracker*. Retrieved November 25, 2024, from <https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. (2024). *National Priorities List (NPL) Sites - by State*. Retrieved October 18, 2024, from <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/national-priorities-list-npl-sites-state>

APPENDIX A (PROVIDED UNDER SEPARATE COVER)

Aquatic Resources Delineation Report – 8451 El Verano Tentative Parcel Map

APPENDIX B (PROVIDED UNDER SEPARATE COVER)

Tree Inventory for 8451 El Verano, Elverta, California

APPENDIX C (PROVIDED UNDER SEPARATE COVER)

**Phase One Environmental Site Assessment Report – 8451 El
Verano Avenue, Elverta, California**

APPENDIX D (PROVIDED UNDER SEPARATE COVER)

Preliminary Drainage Study for 8451 El Verano Ave. TPM

