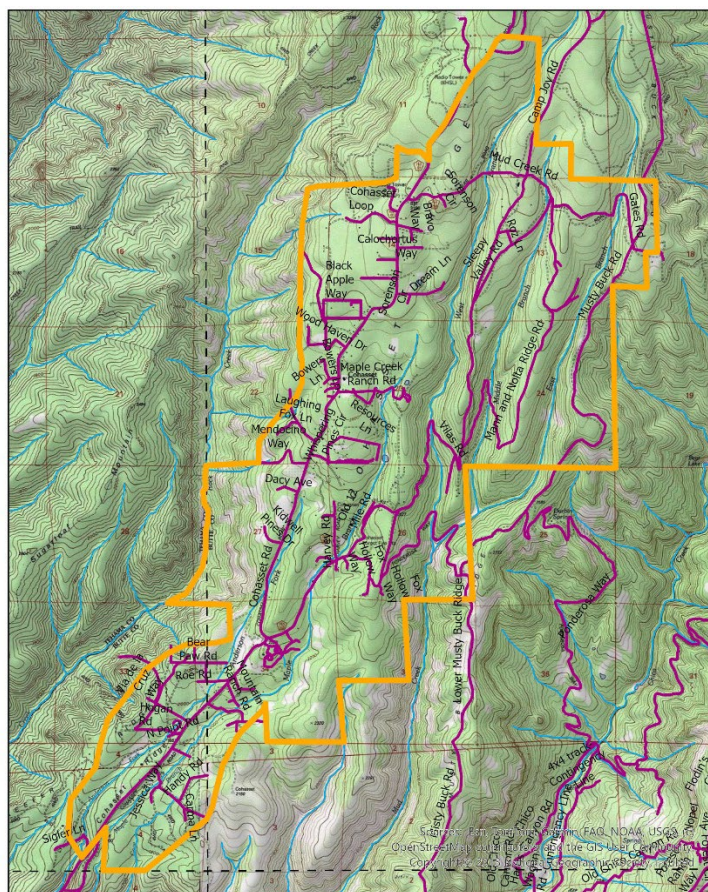


Draft

Initial Study - Negative Declaration for the proposed Cohasset Area Reforestation and Oak Restoration Program, Butte County, California



Prepared by:



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NEGATIVE DECLARATION

STAGE OF CEQA DOCUMENT DEVELOPMENT

- ☐ **Administrative Draft.** This California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) document is in preparation by Butte County Resource Conservation District (BCRCD) staff.
- ☒ **Public Document.** This completed CEQA document has been filed by BCRCD at the State Clearinghouse on May 8, 2026, and is being circulated for a 30-day state agency and public review period. The review period ends on Monday, June 8, 2026.
- ☐ **Final CEQA Document.** This final CEQA document contains the changes made by the District following consideration of comments received during the public and agency review period. The CEQA administrative record supporting this document is on file, and available for review, at the Butte County Resource Conservation District office, 150 Chuck Yeager Way, Suite A, Oroville, CA 95965.

1) Background and Program Description

Environmental Setting

The Cohasset area of Butte County, California, was burned in the 2024 Park Fire in July of 2024. While a “green island” comprising much of the heart of the town was successfully defended, thousands of acres nonetheless burned at high severity, resulting in total or near-total aboveground forest loss. The Park Fire burned at a speed, extent, and severity that was far outside of the natural range of variation for the area.

Post-fire, local land managers have several options for their land. They may pursue reforestation with primarily conifer species (assuming their land is appropriate for conifer forest). They may choose “oak-forward” restoration that selects for a primarily hardwood-dominated woodland with or without conifers. They may take a hands-off approach that allows a mixed oak-chaparral ecosystem to establish. Or, they may select a combination of these. All are valid land management choices, depending on landowner objectives (which include things such as desired fuel loading levels, personal and family goals, and biodiversity goals).

However, to increase the likelihood that the next wildfire’s effects are more in alignment with the natural range of variation for the area, the following Cohasset Area Reforestation and Oak Restoration Program (Program) has been designed. Land managers can opt to either 1) use this Program and all its incorporated design features,

or 2) manage their land in some other way and handle any necessary environmental compliance through a different pathway.

The proposed program area spans 6,372 acres, including all of the following sections: T24N, R02E, sections 13, 23, 24, & 26. It also covers parts of the following sections: T24N, R02E, sections 11, 12, 14, 15, 22, 27, 28, 33, 34, 35; T23N, R02E, sections 3 and 4; and T24N, R03E, section 18.

Elevations in the program area range from 1,675 to 3,550 feet above sea level. The program area is in the Sacramento Valley Air Basin. It is rural and remote, but since it is in Butte County, it is within an MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization.) The site is not on any of the lists enumerated under Section 65962.5 of the Government Code regarding hazardous waste facilities.

Program Description

The program consists of 2 main activities: 1) leader-training/coppicing, and 2) replanting/reforestation. Reforestation may be accompanied by herbicide use (following a recommendation from a California-licensed Pest Control Advisor (PCA), and after appropriate notifications to the Agricultural Commissioner's Office and the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, and landowners). Herbicide would only be sprayed in a manner consistent with its label, observing all buffers and limitations listed.

If a land manager or organization requires CEQA compliance for other activities they conduct, such as grazing or broadcast burning, they would utilize different environmental documents. As an example, the Cohasset Fuels Reduction NOE¹ (lead agency: Butte County Development Services) authorizes various activities including underburning, grazing and mastication, provided certain conditions are met.

Leader-training /coppicing of post-fire resprouts

Commencing 3 years post-fire (so, in fall 2027), managers can "leader-train" hardwood resprouts, meaning they can use loppers, metal-bladed weed whips, or other cutting tools to remove all but 2-5 strongest stems from resprouting oaks. Managers may also leader-train other hardwoods as desired. "Coppicing" is a locally used term for leader-training. (However, "coppicing," in many parts of the world, denotes a more severe cut, including removing almost the entire above-ground portion of a tree, in order to force regrowth of long straight stems. This activity is also authorized, with the same conditions as leader-training.) Elderberry would not be cut.

Leader-training before 3 years have passed since the fire is usually counter-productive, as the hardwood just resprouts even more vigorously and the work needs to be re-done.

Cut material shall be disposed of in one of the following ways:

¹ This and related documents can be viewed at <https://www.buttecounty.net/363/Environmental-Review-Documents>.

- Pile for burning (piles would not be placed within sensitive plant or archaeological buffers)
- Pile for wildlife (these piles will not be burned by humans, but still would not be placed within sensitive plant or archaeological buffers)
- Lop and scatter (allowed only if it will result in a surface fuel loading remaining under 4T/acre; where this method is the only method used, no archaeological surveys are required)
- Haul offsite (if this method is used, and all hauling is by hand to existing roads, no archaeological surveys are required; however, surveys are needed if piling or hauling will be by off-road machine)
- Chip and broadcast on-site (do not broadcast on lava cap/bare areas; keep chips layer under 2" thick on average)

Replanting/reforestation

Assessing natural regeneration

Assessing natural regeneration is the first step in replanting/reforestation. Before replanting, managers begin by assessing the amount of natural regeneration on their land. Managers count mature conifers, mature hardwoods, conifer seedlings, and oak resprouts. If the sum is over 150 total trees, no replanting would be conducted. Replanting trees where a healthy woodland is already establishing is counterproductive and results in excessive fuel loading after 5-15 years.

The exception is when natural regeneration is of an undesirable or climate-mismatched species. An example would be a landowner at 4000 feet above sea level who has strong natural regeneration in white fir and incense cedar, but wants to shift their land toward a more climate-adapted assemblage like ponderosa pine, sugar pine, and oak. In this case, the landowner can plant better-adapted species – after removing the undesired species so that the total trees per acre after planting is about 150 per acre.

After assessing natural regeneration and creating a planting plan accordingly, managers would conduct site prep, then replant appropriate species from seed or seedling. A list of acceptable species is below.

Site prep consists of removing competing vegetation (e.g. ceanothus species, thick grasses) from a replanting area. Removing *all* vegetation is usually counterproductive; regenerating trees benefit from nurse shrubs, so the minimum amount of vegetation should be removed that is still consistent with acceptable seedling survival. Vegetation may be removed using cut-pile-and-burn, cut-and-haul, or subsequent underburning. Vegetation may also be reduced using herbicide applied in accordance with the label's direction and with a recommendation from a California-licensed Pest Control Advisor, under a permit from the Butte County Agricultural Commissioner's office. Herbicide would only be applied using targeted, direct spray when target plants are **not** in flower. (If target plants are in flower, it is acceptable to cut them near ground level, pile the

flowering stalks outside the spray unit, and apply herbicide directly to the cut stumps/stobs, as long as this is consistent with a PCA recommendation and the label). Elderberry trees would not be sprayed, regardless of flowering.

Any site preparation activities conducted during nesting bird season (Feb 1-Aug 15) would be preceded 1-3 days by nesting bird surveys.

Managers would use seed or seedling lots from climate-adapted seed zones. Climate-adapted seed zones are those either 1) from a band at least 500'-1000' lower in elevation than the replanting site and in the same CAL FIRE seed zone, or 2) from elsewhere but selected using a climate modeling tool such as the [Climate Adapted Seed Tool](#). Not all species are suitable for all sites in the program area; for example, California juniper would not do well in a mixed-conifer forest plantation. Knobcone pine is currently not present in the program area but does grow at comparable elevations in the Coast Ranges and Berry Creek. Land managers should consider whether each species could help meet their objectives in the future.

Conifer species:

Gray pine
Knobcone pine
Ponderosa pine
California nutmeg
Incense-cedar
California juniper
Douglas-fir (plant above 2500')
Sugar pine (plant above 3000')

Hardwood species:

Any hardwood species native to Butte County and found within 500' of the planting site's elevation band.

Pre-implementation surveys

Birds: If activities take place between Feb 1 and Aug 15, nesting bird surveys would be performed 1-3 days in advance of work. Bird nest areas would be flagged for avoidance such that work would not occur in a 30-foot buffer around them. Certain bird species, such as egret rookeries and most birds of prey, are protected by the California Forest Practice Rules with larger buffers. For such species, the larger buffer would always be used.

Botany: All work would be preceded by botanical surveys. These surveys include flagging appropriate buffers around sensitive resources (usually 30-50 feet, but the recommendations of the botanist or archaeologist take precedence).

Cultural resources: All work would be preceded by archaeological surveys, except when work consists only of A) leader-training/coppicing where the cut material would be

scattered (not piled) on-site or hauled off-site and/or B) herbicide application. Both these activities are inherently non-ground disturbing.

Cultural resource surveys include flagging appropriate buffers around sensitive resources (usually 30-50 feet, but the recommendations of the botanist or archaeologist take precedence). Treatment units that had already received archaeological survey since the 2024 Park Fire would not be re-surveyed. When new surveys are necessary, BCRCD strongly recommends a hybrid cultural resource survey approach whenever feasible. In this approach, a team of professional archaeologists surveys **alongside** a team of locally based Tribal cultural monitors. The slightly increased upfront survey cost of this approach usually delivers better results and increased implementation efficiency.

New cultural resource surveys under this program would include sharing any archaeological finds directly with Tribes who have requested them during this CEQA process. In this case, those Tribes are:

- The Konkow Valley Band of Maidu Indians
(<mailto:konkowvalleybandpoctribalchair@gmail.com>)
- [Other Tribes will be added if they ask to be added prior to June 8, 2026].

Cultural resources notification letters to tribes are sent by the archaeologist who conducted the survey. The letter contains a description of each recorded site. Each description is about a paragraph long, describing the site's or resource's location, appearance, and contents. The description is also specific about appropriate protection measures that will be used (or why none are needed, e.g. if the site is in a watercourse that isn't going to be treated).

Wildlife buffers during implementation:

Immediately prior to commencing any activities, implementers would check with CDFW for the latest limited operating periods and buffers imposed to protect the gray wolf. The Pacific fisher has the potential to occur in the project area, and any known or suspected den sites would be protected with a strict 250-foot no-entrance buffer that would last until September 15th. The northwestern pond turtle may have potential to occur in the area around ponds or streams, and would be protected with a 300-foot no-disturbance buffer.

Riparian areas

For the purposes of this Program, riparian areas are the WLPZ (Watercourse and Lake Protection Zones) specified by the California Forest Practice Rules.

Within WLPZ:

No mechanical equipment

No Broadcast herbicide (only painting stumps of invasive spp)

No removal of bank stabilizing vegetation or material (live or dead)

No removal of canopy vegetation that is shading a stream

No conifer replanting

A machine arm can reach into the WLPZ to remove excessive dead fuels if necessary.

Water Class	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV
Water Class Characteristics or Key Indicator Beneficial Use	1) Domestic supplies, including springs, on site and/or within 100 feet downstream of the operations area and/or 2) Fish always or seasonally present onsite, includes habitat to sustain fish migration and spawning.	1) Fish always or seasonally present offsite within 1000 feet downstream and/or 2) Aquatic habitat for nonfish aquatic species. 3) Excludes Class III waters that are tributary to Class I waters.	No aquatic life present, watercourse showing evidence of being capable of sediment transport to Class I and II waters under normal high-water flow conditions after completion of timber operations.	Man-made watercourses, usually downstream, established domestic, agricultural, hydroelectric supply or other beneficial use.
WLPZ Width (ft) – Distance from top of bank to the edge of the protection zone				
< 30 % Slope	75	50	Sufficient to prevent the degradation of downstream beneficial uses of water. Determined on a site-specific basis.	
30-50 % Slope	100	75		
> 50 % Slope	150	100		

Source: 14 CCR Section 916.5 [936.5, 956.5] (February 2019 version)

Program Status and Regulatory Setting

Butte County Fire Safe Council expects to commence implementation in July 2026. Other organizations and land managers may utilize this document for CEQA coverage if their reforestation and restoration projects meet the project description and do not include any elements not analyzed for here. Required resource surveys shall precede all work, except as discussed above.

This program of work is considered a project subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA; Public Resources Code [PRC] § 21000 et seq.).

2) CEQA GUIDANCE AND Findings

Based on reconnaissance-level surveys, the project design, a working local knowledge of the resources likely to be present in the project area, features incorporated into program design, and the environmental evaluation presented in the Initial Study, the project would not cause significant adverse effects related to aesthetics, agriculture and forestry resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology/soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology/water quality, land use/planning, mineral resources, noise, population/housing, public services, recreation, transportation, tribal cultural resources, utilities/service systems, and wildfire. In addition, substantial adverse effects on humans, either direct or indirect, would not occur. As designed, the program would not affect any important examples of the major periods of California prehistory or history. Nor would the project 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, or substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal. The program would not have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable.

Not all resources in the project area have been fully evaluated at the time of this writing; however, with the incorporation of certain design features that protect biological, cultural and other resources that may be found during protocol-level surveys, BCRCD finds that no environmental effects related to the project activities would exceed stated CEQA-related significance criteria. There is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the BCRCD, that the project may have a significant effect on the environment.

The following section contains the Initial Study used by the Butte County Resource Conservation District (BCRCD) to evaluate the potential for the project to have significant effects pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15063(a)(2).

3) CEQA Environmental Checklist

The following discussion addresses environmental subjects identified in the CEQA Guidelines Appendix G Environmental Checklist. All potential impacts would either not occur or be minor in nature and be considered less than significant after mitigation.

Aesthetics.

- ☒ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- ☐ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Agriculture/Forestry.

- ☐ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- ☒ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

In accordance with Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, an impact related to agriculture and forestry is considered significant if the project would do any of the following:

- ◆ *Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (referred to in this section as "Special Designation Farmland"), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to nonagricultural use?*
- ◆ *Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?*
- ◆ *Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forestland (as defined in PRC Section 12220[g]), timberland (as defined by PRC Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104[g]) ?*
- ◆ *Result in the loss of forestland or conversion of forestland to non-forest use?*
- ◆ *Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Special Designation Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forestland to non-forest use?*

The project does not include any land use changes, so it would not convert any prime farmland or Williamson Act land to any other uses. The project would replant and/or restore burned forestland and woodland. Landowners will reforest/restore their lands with the tree species that have the best chances of long-term success, as modeled by a climate-adapted replanting tool such as CAST.

- ☐ Based on the above analysis, impacts from the project could be significant and unavoidable. An EIR will be prepared.
- ☒ Based on the above analysis, the project with design features incorporated would have no significant impacts. A Negative Declaration (ND) is appropriate.

Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases.

- ☐ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- ☒ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

In accordance with Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, a project's airborne emissions-related impact is considered significant if the project would do any of the following:

- ◆ *Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan*
- ◆ *Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard*
- ◆ *Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations*
- ◆ *Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people*
- ◆ *Generate GHG emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment*
- ◆ *Conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of GHGs?*

The program would not conflict with any applicable plans. Emissions of all criteria air pollutants (except PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ from pile burning smoke) would be *de minimis* and do not require further analysis. Emissions of PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀ from pile burning smoke would not violate any applicable plan because all pile burning would take place in accordance with BCAQMD regulations. This means that any organization, firm or contractor which burns piles on behalf of a landowner must first obtain a BCAQMD permit and comply with all terms of the permit. (Landowners who burn their own piles on their own time do not need a permit.)

- ☐ Based on the above analysis, impacts from the project could be significant and unavoidable. An EIR will be prepared.
- ☒ Based on the above analysis, the project with design features incorporated would have no significant impacts. A Negative Declaration (ND) is appropriate.

Biological resources.

- ☐ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- ☒ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

In accordance with Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, an impact related to biological resources is considered significant if the project would do any of the following:

- ♦ *Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by CDFW or USFWS?*
- ♦ *Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by CDFW or USFWS?*
- ♦ *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?*
- ♦ *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?*
- ♦ *Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?*
- ♦ *Conflict with the provisions of an adopted habitat conservation plan (HCP), natural community conservation plan, or other approved local, regional, or state HCP?*

The program would not conflict with any adopted tree protection or habitat conservation ordinance. The program would not change any hydrology or flow paths and would not fill any wetlands or watercourses. Riparian areas could be treated for invasive species and improved wildfire resilience in accordance with the program design which prohibits removal of bank-stabilizing material or vegetation that is being used by nesting birds.

The program area has not been thoroughly surveyed and is likely to contain species that are considered special-status by the State of California. However, prior to all activities, program units would be surveyed for sensitive species. The program description describes how unit boundaries and/or activities would be adjusted in order to avoid adverse impacts to species.

Appendix A contains a list of sensitive plant and wildlife species that have the potential to occur in and around the Cohasset quadrangle. Species are only included if they have a Federal, State or CDFW listed status (such as Endangered, Species of Special Concern, Watch List, etc.). This list was generated from a 9-quad search of the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) in BIOS 6 on April 24, 2026.

☐ Based on the above analysis, impacts from the project could be significant and unavoidable. An EIR will be prepared.

☒ Based on the above analysis, the project with design features incorporated would have no significant impacts. A Negative Declaration (ND) is appropriate.

Cultural Resources and Tribal Cultural Resources

- ☐ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- ☒ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

An impact related to cultural resources is considered significant if the project would do any of the following:

♦ *Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5?*

♦ *Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5?*

The project as designed would include archaeological surveys in advance of any work (except lop-and scatter work with no pile burning, and herbicide application to invasive weeds; both of these treatments are inherently non-ground disturbing). Areas that had already received survey prior to the program start, *but since the 2024 Park Fire*, would not need to be resurveyed.

♦ *Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?*

If human remains are inadvertently discovered, the discoverer would follow the procedures as outlined in California Health and Safety Code section 7050.5. All project activities at the find site must come to a complete stop, and no further excavation or disturbance of the area or vicinity would occur. The county coroner would be contacted immediately, and if the coroner determines or has reason to believe that the remains are Native American, the coroner will contact the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) within 24 hours of making this determination. Whenever the NAHC receives notification of a discovery of Native American human remains from a county coroner, the NAHC follows the procedures as outlined in PRC section 5097.98.

♦ *Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in PRC Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American Tribe? A tribal cultural resource shall be:*

- *Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in PRC Section 5020.1(k); or*
- *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 PRC Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of PRC Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American Tribe.*

AB 52 requires a lead agency, prior to the release of a negative declaration, mitigated negative declaration, or environmental impact report for a project, to offer opportunities for consultation to California Native American tribes that are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the geographic area of the proposed project. A Sacred Lands File

Search for the area was returned as **negative** on April 24, 2026. On April 24, 2026, the BCRCD sent notification letters to the following tribes in accordance with the Native American Heritage Commission Native American contact list for Butte County: Konkow Valley Band of Maidu Indians, Redding Rancheria, Round Valley Indian Tribes, Mechoopda Indian Tribe, Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians, and Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe. BCRCD requested Tribes respond within 30 days.

Responses: Konkow Valley Band of Maidu Indians responded that they had data on two sites in the area, BUT-7 and BUT-437, and requested to “be updated on new arch finds, etc.”. To do this, the archaeologist or forester would send a description of the recorded site of about a paragraph long, describing its location, appearance, contents, and specific appropriate protection measures (or why none are needed, e.g. if the site is in a watercourse that isn't going to be treated).

Another Tribe requested information on which archaeological firm(s) would likely conduct the surveys; the answer is that this would be determined by the particular implementer prior to survey. No additional requests for information were received prior to completion of this draft document (May 6, 2026).

☐ Based on the above analysis, impacts from the project could be significant and unavoidable. An EIR will be prepared.

☒ Based on the above analysis, , the project with design features incorporated would have no significant impacts. A Negative Declaration (ND) is appropriate.

Energy.

☒ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.

☐ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below

Geology and Soils.

☐ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further. (*But, also see Hydrology section*)

☒ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below

In accordance with Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, an impact related to geologic, soils, or paleontological resources is considered significant if a project would do any of the following:

♦ *Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:*

• *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)

- Strong seismic ground shaking?
- Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?
- Landslides?
- ♦Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?
- ♦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?
- ♦Be located on expansive soils, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?
- ♦Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?
- ♦Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

The project does not involve ground disturbance substantial enough to trigger new erosion. Pile burning can create temporarily bare areas of briefly vulnerable soil, but these eventually revegetate, are seldom located on steepest slopes (because piles are safest to burn on flatter areas), and would be surrounded by land where the soil has least 45% effective ground cover, so the risk of erosion would be minimal. Finally, the program does not include any placement of debris in stream or wetlands nor any removal of bank-stabilizing material; therefore, the program poses little risk of riparian erosion.

☐ Based on the above analysis, impacts from the project could be significant and unavoidable. An EIR will be prepared.

☒ Based on the above analysis, the project with design features incorporated would have no significant impacts. A Negative Declaration (ND) is appropriate.

Growth-Inducing Effects.

- ☒ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- ☐ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below

Hazards and Hazardous Materials.

- ☐ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- ☒ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

In accordance with Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, an impact related to hazards and hazardous materials is considered significant if a project would do any of the following:

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

♦ *Be located on a site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?*

♦ *For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport, result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?*

There are no known *active/open* hazardous materials sites or cleanup sites in the project area (DTSC, 2026; SWQCB, 2026). The project is not located within an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public use airport and would not interfere with adopted emergency response or evacuation plans. The project would not substantially impair emergency response plans or emergency evacuation plans and would not require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure.

♦ *Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan (including those located in or near state responsibility areas or land classified as very high Fire Hazard Severity Zones [FHSZ]) or result in inadequate emergency access)?*

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

The project area is located in the State Responsibility Area and has been identified by Cal-Fire as being in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ). However, the project does not change any existing land use restrictions so it would not change the number of people who can be exposed to risk from wildland fire. The project would not interfere with any evacuation routes; the type of activities it covers would be unlikely to result in roads or lanes being closed, and even if traffic control was necessary during

short times (e.g., to allow chippers to maneuver down a driveway or to allow flaggers to guide motorists through temporary areas of smoke from roadside pile burns), these impacts would be transient and concentrated during times of the year when wildfires are least likely. (Pile burning does not take place during red flag conditions.)

Over at least the short term (1-5 years), the program would reduce the overall amount of fuel on the landscape. This would be expected to somewhat reduce the hazard posed by wildfire to some structures and evacuation routes.

♦*Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?*

♦*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?*

Herbicides: The program could include the use of herbicide (with landowner approval) as preparation for reforestation and to control invasive plants. All herbicides carry some hazard to human life or the environment. Other methods of vegetation management also carry risks. It is always unlawful (regardless of CEQA) to use herbicide in a manner inconsistent with its label. Herbicide labels are approved, and herbicide use within a county is regulated, by the Department of Pesticide Regulation and the county agricultural commissioner. This pesticide regulatory program is a State regulatory program that is certified as functionally equivalent to CEQA (CEQA guidelines §15251(i)). Whenever a project is regulated and authorized by a State regulatory program that is certified as a functional equivalent to CEQA, that project is exempt from the requirement to develop any EIR, negative declaration, or initial study (§21080.5(c)), or indeed any additional CEQA document at all.

However, a lead agency still has the obligation to consider whether there are any extraordinary circumstances of a project that would result in a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable accidents or spills. In doing so, BCRCD considered that the program area is a rural, sparsely populated area where most lands are already zoned for timber production and/or agriculture, and that all herbicides applied under the program would be applied by licensed professionals in accordance with the label directions, a recommendation from a CA-licensed Pest Control Advisor or PCA, and a permit from the Butte County Agricultural Commissioner's office. Herbicide application within and adjacent to the program area is already common. BCRCD finds no specially elevated risk or hazard from the application of herbicide as part of this program.

Finally, BCRCD finds a significant impact would occur if a project would:

♦*Create vector habitat that would pose a significant public health hazard?*

The project would not increase habitat for vectors such as rats, mosquitoes, ticks, etc., when compared to the no-project alternative.

☐ Based on the above analysis, impacts from the project could be significant and unavoidable. An EIR will be prepared.

☒ Based on the above analysis, the project with design features incorporated would have no significant impacts. A Negative Declaration (ND) is appropriate.

Hydrology.

☐ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.

☒ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

In accordance with Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, an impact related to hazards and hydrology and water quality is considered significant if a project would do any of the following:

♦ *Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?*

♦ *Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?*

♦ *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:*

• *Result in substantial on- or off-site erosion or siltation?*

• *Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in on or off-site flooding?*

• *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*

• *Impede or redirect flood flows?*

The project does not involve ground disturbance substantial enough to trigger new erosion. Pile burning can create temporarily bare areas of briefly vulnerable soil, but these eventually revegetate, are seldom located on steepest slopes (because piles are safest to burn on flatter areas), and would be restored after burning to at least 45% effective ground cover, for instance by scattering or raking slash or needle-cast over the pile scars. For these reasons, the risk of erosion from the program would be minimal.

Finally, the program does not include any placement of debris in stream or wetlands nor any removal of bank-stabilizing material; therefore, the program poses little risk of flooding, changes in runoff, or riparian erosion.

♦ *In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?*

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

The project does not include any irrigation of the trees that will be planted. Natural precipitation and good planting practices will suffice to keep an adequate number of trees alive. The project would not increase water use, create a significant demand on groundwater supply, or otherwise interfere with groundwater volumes or recharge rates. No new impervious surfaces would be added.

The project would not result in flooding or increase potential for flooding. The project would not contribute runoff that would exceed storm water drainage systems or create additional sources of polluted runoff. The project does not involve construction of any residential or other structures; within a 100-year flood plain or in an area that could be affected by failure of a levee or dam. The project is not located in an area that is subject to seiches, tsunamis, or mudflows.

☐ Based on the above analysis, impacts from the project could be significant and unavoidable. An EIR will be prepared.

☒ Based on the above analysis, the project with design features incorporated would have no significant impacts. A Negative Declaration (ND) is appropriate.

Land Use.

☒ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.

☐ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Mineral Resources.

☒ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.

☐ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below

Noise.

☐ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.

☒ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

In accordance with Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, an impact related to noise is considered significant if a project would do any of the following:

♦Generate 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?

♦Generate excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

♦For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport, expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

Noise levels would temporarily increase during program work due to the use of power tools and heavy equipment, such as chainsaws and chippers. Localized ground vibrations may occur during implementation of the project due to the use of heavy equipment. Butte County's noise ordinance (Butte County 2026a) states that non-urban areas, daytime noise levels should not exceed a peak of 60 decibels and a sustained average of 50 decibels. Many chainsaws run at about 120 decibels (some are less noisy). A receptor would need to be at least 2,000 feet away to hear only 60 decibels and over a mile away (6000+ feet) to hear only 50 decibels.

However, noise sources are exempt from the noise ordinance if they are "associated with agricultural and timber management operations in zones permitting agricultural and timber management uses". Parcels with Timber Management, Timber Production Zone, or any of the Foothill Residential zonings (see Figure 1) permit timber management uses (Butte County 2026b). Therefore, when work takes place in the dark green areas on Figure 1, no noise reduction measures are necessary.

Additionally, noise sources are exempt from the or "associated with maintenance of residential area property between 7:00 a.m. to sunset on any day except Saturday, Sunday, or a holiday, or between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, Sunday, or a holiday; and, provided machinery is fitted with correctly functioning sound suppression equipment". Therefore, when work takes place in the white areas on Figure 1, power tools and heavy equipment must be fitted with correctly functioning sound suppression equipment.

Given the exceptions for timber and residential parcel maintenance work built into the Butte County noise ordinance, BCRCD finds the program would not cause ambient noise levels in excess of standards established in the local noise ordinance. Increases in ambient noise levels would be temporary, intermittent, and localized to the specific area where construction is occurring and would not be significant.

The project area is not located within two miles of a public airport, or private airport, or airstrip; the project would not result in exposure of people to excessive noise levels from airport operations.

☐ Based on the above analysis, impacts from the project could be significant and unavoidable. An EIR will be prepared.

☒ Based on the above analysis, the project with design features incorporated would have no

significant impacts. A Negative Declaration (ND) is appropriate.

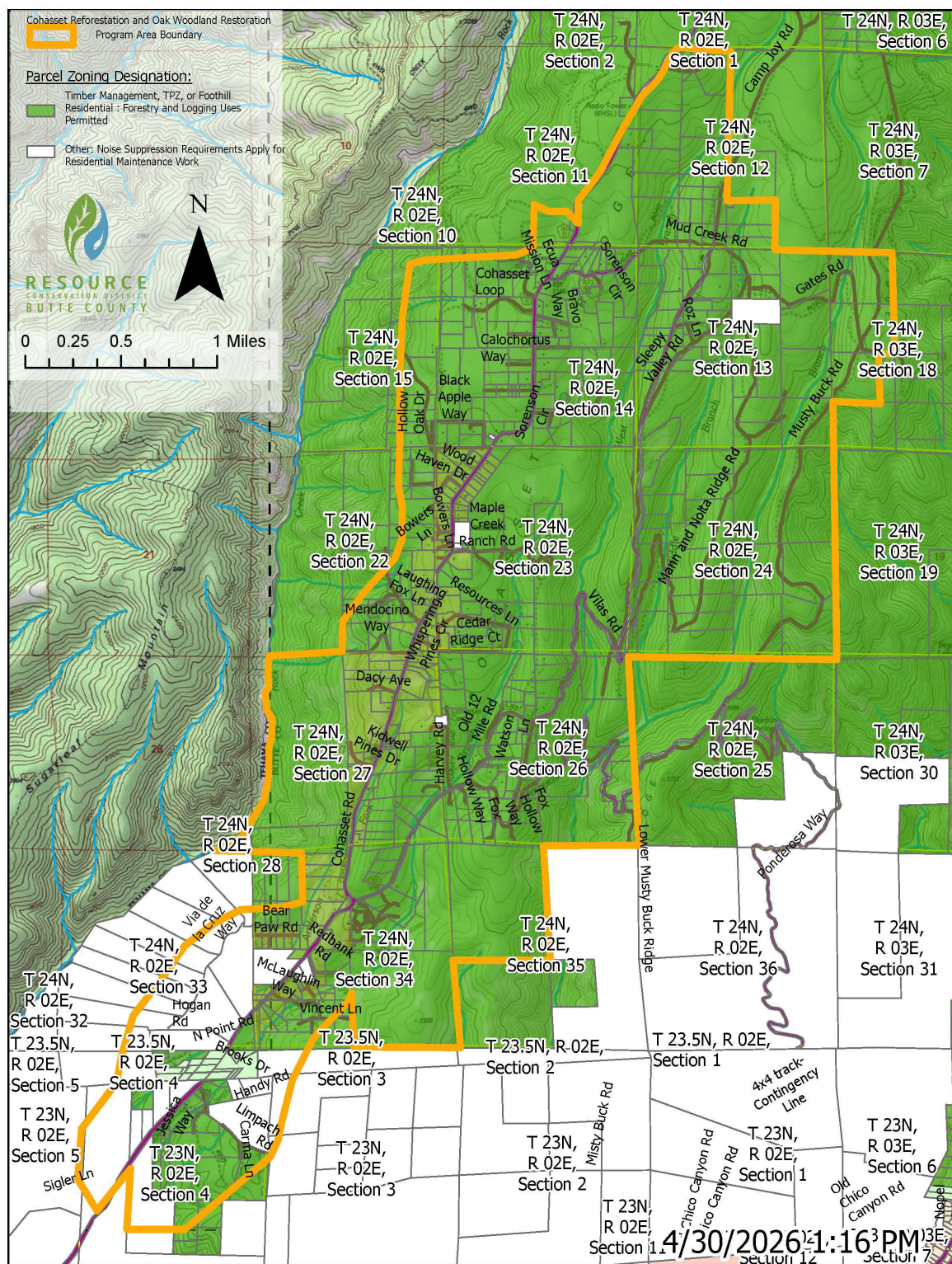


Figure 1: Zoning in the Cohasset Reforestation and Oak Woodland Restoration Program area.

Population and Housing.

- ☒ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- ☐ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below

Recreation.

- ☒ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- ☐ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below

Transportation.

- ☒ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- ☐ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Utilities and Public Services.

- ☒ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- ☐ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

Wildfire.

- ☐ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.
- ☒ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

In accordance with Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, an impact related to wildfire is considered significant if a project is located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as VHFHSZs and would do any of the following:

- ◆ *Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?*
- ◆ *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?*
- ◆ *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?*
- ◆ *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 area is located in the State Responsibility Area and has been identified by Cal-Fire as being in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ). However, the

project does not change any existing land use restrictions, so it would not change the number of people who can be exposed to risk from wildland fire.

The project would not interfere with any evacuation routes; the type of activities it covers would be unlikely to result in roads or lanes being closed. Traffic control could be necessary during short times that would cause an insignificant impact in the context of the rural, forested community. Examples are to allow chippers to maneuver down a driveway or to allow flaggers to guide motorists through temporary areas of smoke from roadside pile burns. (Pile burns do not occur during wildfire season.)

Over at least the short term (1-5 years), the program would reduce the overall amount of fuel on the landscape. This would be expected to somewhat reduce the hazard posed by wildfire to some structures and evacuation routes.

☐ Based on the above analysis, impacts from the project could be significant and unavoidable. An EIR will be prepared.

☒ Based on the above analysis, the project with design features incorporated would have no significant impacts. A Negative Declaration (ND) is appropriate.

Mandatory findings of significance

☐ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.

☒ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

The project does not have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory. The project does not have impacts that are cumulatively considerable (i.e., incremental effects that become considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects). The project does not have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.

☐ Based on the above analysis, impacts from the project could be significant and unavoidable. An EIR will be prepared.

☒ Based on the above analysis, the project with design features incorporated would have no significant impacts. A Negative Declaration (ND) is appropriate.

4.) Additional Conditions: Other Public Agency Review/Permits Required

This Negative Determination ***is contingent on*** implementers' securing, and following the terms of, the following additional authorizations:

- ☐ Alterations to a watercourse (CDFW - Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement)
- ☐ Conversion of timberland (Cal Fire - Conversion Permit or Exemption)
- ☒ Herbicide application (permit required from Butte County Agricultural Commissioner)
- ☐ Demolition (Local Air District - Demolition Permit)
- ☐ Soil disturbance over 1 acre (RWQCB SWPPP and local grading permit)
- ☐ Fill of possible wetlands or Waters of the United States (404 Permit - USACE)
- ☒ Other: Pile burning: BCAQMD Permit needed when contractors burn piles on a landowner's behalf (landowners burning their own piles need no permit). CAL FIRE permit may or may not be needed, depending on time of year (check locally).
- ☐ None/Not applicable

5) References

Butte County. 2026a. "Noise Ordinance (Ord. No. 4053, § 1, 3-26-13). Chapter 41A of Butte County Code of Ordinances. March 6, 2026 version. Accessed online on 4/30/2026 at https://library.municode.com/ca/butte_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=CH41ANOCO#TOPTITLE

Butte County. 2026b. "Article II. - Zoning Districts, Land Uses, and Development Standards: Division 1, 2, and 3" (See in particular table 24-19-1). March 6, 2026 version. Accessed online on 4/30/2026 at https://library.municode.com/ca/butte_county/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=CH24ZOARTIIZODILAUSDESTDIV3REZO24-19LAUSREREZO

[CaliforniaHerps.com](https://californiaherps.com). Resource pages for *Rana cascadae*, *Rana sierrae*, Last accessed April 30, 2026.

California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). 2026. EnviroStor. Hazardous Waste and Substances Site List. Available at: https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/search?CMD=search&city=&zip=95973&county=Butte&case_number=&business_name=&FEDERAL_SUPERFUND=True&STATE_RESPONSE=True&VOLUNTARY_CLEANUP=True&SCHOOL_CLEANUP=True&CORRECTIVE_ACTION=True&tiered_permit=True&evaluation=True&operating=True&post_closure=True&non_operating=True&inspections=True&inspectionsother=True [Accessed April 30, 2026].

California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB). 2026. Biogeographic Data Branch. California Department of Fish and Wildlife. California Natural Diversity Database Search of Nine-Quadrangle Area around Cohasset Quadrangle. Available at: <https://apps.wildlife.ca.gov/bios6/?tool=cnddbqv> [Accessed April 24, 2024].

State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). 2026. GeoTracker. Available at: <https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/map> [Accessed Apr 30, 2026].

Technical assistance and background information provided by:

Cait Bell, Sierra Pacific Industries Vegetation Management Specialist (Central Sierra) – Background on SPI cultural notification procedures

Julia Sidman, BCRCD Forestry Program Manager – climate-appropriate reforestation and stocking levels advice

Taylor Nilsson, Sarah Jo McDowell, and Katie Battaglia, Butte County Fire Safe Council Executive Director and Project Managers, respectively – Project description review

the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?

♦ *Have insufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years?*

♦ *Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may serve the project that it does not have adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?*

♦ *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 soil waste reduction goals?*

♦ *Fail to comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?*

♦ *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?*
- *Park?*
- *Other public facilities?*

☐ Based on the above analysis, impacts from the project could be significant and unavoidable. An EIR will be prepared.

☒ Based on the above analysis, the project with design features incorporated would have no significant impacts. A Negative Declaration (ND) is appropriate.

Wildfire.

☐ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.

☒ This topic could apply to this project, and results of the assessment are provided below:

In accordance with Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines, an impact related to wildfire is considered significant if a project is located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as VHFHSZs and would do any of the following:

♦ *Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?*

♦ *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?*

♦ *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?*

♦ *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 area is located in the State Responsibility Area and has been identified by Cal-Fire as being in a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ). However, the project does not change any existing land use restrictions, so it would not change the number of people who can be exposed to risk from wildland fire.

The project would not interfere with any evacuation routes; the type of activities it covers would be unlikely to result in roads or lanes being closed. Traffic control could be necessary during short times that would cause an insignificant impact in the context of the rural, forested community. Examples are to allow chippers to maneuver down a driveway or to allow flaggers to guide motorists through temporary areas of smoke from roadside pile burns. (Pile burns do not occur during wildfire season.)

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☒ Based on the above analysis, the project with design features incorporated would have no significant impacts. A Negative Declaration (ND) is appropriate.

Mandatory findings of significance

☐ This topic does not apply to this project and was not evaluated further.

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the effects of probable future projects). The project does not have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.

☐ Based on the above analysis, impacts from the project could be significant and unavoidable. An EIR will be prepared.

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4.) Additional Conditions: Other Public Agency Review/Permits Required

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- ☒ Herbicide application (permit required from Butte County Agricultural Commissioner)
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- ☐ Soil disturbance over 1 acre (RWQCB SWPPP and local grading permit)
- ☐ Fill of possible wetlands or Waters of the United States (404 Permit - USACE)
- ☒ Other: Pile burning: BCAQMD Permit needed when contractors burn piles on a landowner's behalf (landowners burning their own piles need no permit). CAL FIRE permit may or may not be needed, depending on time of year (check locally).
- ☐ None/Not applicable

5) References

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California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). 2026. EnviroStor. Hazardous Waste and Substances Site List. Available at: https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/search?CMD=search&city=&zip=95973&county=Butte&case_number=&business_name=&FEDERAL_SUPERFUND=True&STATE_RESPONSE=True&VOLUNTARY_CLEANUP=True&SCHOOL_CLEANUP=True&CORRECTIVE_ACTION=True&tiered_permit=True&evaluation=True&operating=True&post_closure=True&non_operating=True&inspections=True&inspectionsother=True [Accessed April 30, 2026].

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Taylor Nilsson, Sarah Jo McDowell, and Katie Battaglia, Butte County Fire Safe Council Executive Director and Project Managers, respectively – Project description review

Common_Name	Scientific_Name	Status	Habitat present/ absent?	Reason species would not be harmed by project?
southern long-toed salamander	<i>Ambystoma macrodactylum sigillatum</i>	Fed ESA: None; State ESA: None; CDFW status: SSC	absent ; sp. occurs in Sierra Nevada alpine meadow habitats typically above 6,500 feet w/ high mountain ponds and lakes.	n/a
foothill yellow-legged frog - north coast DPS	<i>Rana boylei pop. 1</i>	Fed ESA: None; State ESA: None; CDFW status: SSC	Likely present in most or all perennial streams	Project involves no in-stream work. Mechanical equipment exclusion zones and observance of restrictions on herbicide labels would minimize impacts to amphibian habitat.
Cascades frog	<i>Rana cascadae</i>	Fed ESA: None; State ESA: Candidate Endangered; CDFW status: SSC	Likely absent ; program area is well outside of species' historic range	Project involves no in-stream work. Mechanical equipment exclusion zones and observance of restrictions on herbicide labels would minimize impacts to amphibian habitat.
Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog	<i>Rana sierrae</i>	Fed ESA: Endangered; State ESA: Threatened; CDFW status: WL	Likely absent ; program area is well outside of species' historic range	Project involves no in-stream work. Mechanical equipment exclusion zones and observance of restrictions on herbicide labels would minimize impacts to amphibian habitat.
western spadefoot	<i>Spea hammondi</i>	Fed ESA: Proposed Threatened; State ESA:	Absent ; entire program area is outside of Western Spadefoot range as mapped by BIOS	N/a

Common_Name	Scientific_Name	Status	Habitat present/ absent?	Reason species would not be harmed by project?
golden eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>	Fed ESA: None; State ESA: None; CDFW status: FP WL	Could be present	Nesting birds would be protected by the program's integration of pre-implementation surveys and of CFPR buffers *
American goshawk	<i>Astur atricapillus</i>	Fed ESA: None; State ESA: None; CDFW status: SSC	Could be present	Nesting birds would be protected by the program's integration of pre-implementation surveys and of CFPR buffers*
white-tailed kite	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>	Fed ESA: None; State ESA: None; CDFW status: FP	Could be present	Nesting birds would be protected by the program's integration of pre-implementation surveys and of CFPR buffers (Nests of bird species not recognized by CFPR would be buffered at least 30 ft)
bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	Fed ESA: Delisted; State ESA: Endangered; CDFW status:	Could be present	Nesting birds would be protected by the program's integration of pre-implementation surveys and of CFPR buffers *
California condor	<i>Gymnogyps californianus</i>	Fed ESA: Endangered; State ESA: Endangered; CDFW status:	Could be present	Nesting birds would be protected by the program's integration of pre-implementation surveys and of CFPR buffers *

Common_Name	Scientific_Name	Status	Habitat present/ absent?	Reason species would not be harmed by project?
prairie falcon	<i>Falco mexicanus</i>	Fed ESA: None; State ESA: None; CDFW status: WL	Could be present	Nesting birds would be protected by the program's integration of pre-implementation surveys and of CFPR buffers *
American peregrine falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>	Fed ESA: Delisted; State ESA: Delisted; CDFW status: -	Could be present	Nesting birds would be protected by the program's integration of pre-implementation surveys and of CFPR buffers *
lesser sandhill crane	<i>Antigone canadensis canadensis</i>	Fed ESA: None; State ESA: None; CDFW status: SSC	Could be present as a transient visitor	Nesting birds would be protected by the program's integration of pre-implementation surveys and of CFPR buffers *
greater sandhill crane	<i>Antigone canadensis tabida</i>	Fed ESA: None; State ESA: Threatened; CDFW status:	Could be present as a transient visitor	Nesting birds would be protected by the program's integration of pre-implementation surveys and of CFPR buffers *
purple martin	<i>Progne subis</i>	Fed ESA: None; State ESA: None; CDFW status: SSC	Could be present	Nesting birds would be protected by the program's integration of pre-implementation surveys and of CFPR buffers (Nests of bird species not recognized by CFPR would be buffered at least 30 ft)

Common_Name	Scientific_Name	Status	Habitat present/ absent?	Reason species would not be harmed by project?
yellow-breasted chat	<i>Icteria virens</i>	Fed ESA: None; State ESA: None; CDFW status: SSC	Could be present	Nesting birds would be protected by the program's integration of pre-implementation surveys and of CFPR buffers (Nests of bird species not recognized by CFPR would be buffered at least 30 ft)
osprey	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	Fed ESA: None; State ESA: None; CDFW status: WL	Could be present	Nesting birds would be protected by the program's integration of pre-implementation surveys and of CFPR buffers *
yellow warbler	<i>Setophaga petechia</i>	Fed ESA: None; State ESA: None; CDFW status: SSC	Could be present	Nesting birds would be protected by the program's integration of pre-implementation surveys and of CFPR buffers (Nests of bird species not recognized by CFPR would be buffered at least 30 ft)
California black rail	<i>Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus</i>	Fed ESA: None; State ESA: Threatened; CDFW status:	Could be present	Nesting birds would be protected by the program's integration of pre-implementation surveys and of CFPR buffers *
burrowing owl	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	Fed ESA: None; State ESA: Candidate Endangered;	Could be present	Nesting birds would be protected by the program's integration of pre-implementation surveys and of CFPR buffers *

Common_Name	Scientific_Name	Status	Habitat present/ absent?	Reason species would not be harmed by project?
great gray owl	<i>Strix nebulosa</i>	Fed ESA: None; State ESA:	Absent ; entire program area is outside of range as mapped by BIOS	N/a
California Spotted Owl	<i>Strix occidentalis occidentalis</i>	Fed ESA: Proposed Endangered; Proposed Threatened;	Unlikely to be present due to severely burned habitat, but could possibly be using area for foraging	Nesting birds would be protected by the program's integration of pre-implementation surveys and of CFPR buffers *
vernal pool fairy shrimp	<i>Branchinecta lynchi</i>	Fed ESA: Threatened; State ESA:	Absent ; no vernal pools in area	N/a
vernal pool tadpole shrimp	<i>Lepidurus packardii</i>	Fed ESA: Endangered; State ESA:	Absent ; no vernal pools in area	N/a
green sturgeon - southern DPS	<i>Acipenser medirostris pop. 1</i>	Fed ESA: Threatened; State ESA:	Absent	N/a
rifle sculpin	<i>Cottus gulosus</i>	Fed ESA: None; State ESA: None; CDFW status: SSC	Unknown	Project does not have potential to harm any fish because 1) it involves no in-stream work and 2) it would not result in an appreciable water temperature increase because it does not involve the removal of either mature trees or bank-stabilizing vegetation.

Common_Name	Scientific_Name	Status	Habitat present/ absent?	Reason species would not be harmed by project?
central California roach	<i>Hesperoleucus symmetricus symmetricus</i>	Fed ESA: None; State ESA: None; CDFW status: SSC	Unknown	Project does not have potential to harm any fish because 1) it involves no in-stream work and 2) it would not result in an appreciable water temperature increase because it does not involve the removal of either mature trees or bank-stabilizing vegetation.
hardhead	<i>Mylopharodon conocephalus</i>	Fed ESA: None; State ESA: None; CDFW status: SSC	Unknown	Project does not have potential to harm any fish because 1) it involves no in-stream work and 2) it would not result in an appreciable water temperature increase because it does not involve the removal of either mature trees or bank-stabilizing vegetation.
steelhead - Central Valley DPS	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus pop. 11</i>	Fed ESA: Threatened; State ESA:	Absent	N/a
chinook salmon - Central Valley spring-run ESU	<i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha pop. 11</i>	Fed ESA: Threatened; State ESA:	Absent	N/a
Crotch's bumble bee	<i>Bombus crotchii</i>	Fed ESA: None; State ESA: Candidate Endangered; CDFW status:	Could be present	Bumblebees would be substantially protected from herbicide because floral resources would not be sprayed when in flower. Incidental damage to overwintering bumblebees could occur from pile burning. However, project would not be likely to imperil survival of the species globally or locally.

Common_Name	Scientific_Name	Status	Habitat present/ absent?	Reason species would not be harmed by project?
western bumble bee	<i>Bombus occidentalis</i>	Fed ESA: None; State ESA: Candidate Endangered; CDFW status: -	Could be present	Bumblebees would be substantially protected from herbicide because floral resources would not be sprayed when in flower. Incidental damage to overwintering bumblebees could occur from pile burning. However, project would not be likely to imperil survival of the species globally or locally.
valley elderberry longhorn beetle	<i>Desmocerus californicus dimorphus</i>	Fed ESA: Threatened; State ESA: None; CDFW status: -	Could be present	No elderberry trees would be cut or pruned.
gray wolf	<i>Canis lupus</i>	Fed ESA: Endangered; State ESA: Endangered; CDFW status: -	Could be present	Prior to commencement of activities, the project proponent would contact California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to determine the presence of wolf activity near the project area. The project proponent will work closely with the CDFW to ensure the best available information on wolf locations and habitat use are employed to inform management activities and monitoring. CDFW may impose limited operating periods and/or buffers.
Sierra Nevada red fox - southern Cascades DPS	<i>Vulpes vulpes necator pop. 1</i>	Fed ESA: None; State ESA:	Absent; in southern Cascades, not found below 5000'	N/a

Common_Name	Scientific_Name	Status	Habitat present/ absent?	Reason species would not be harmed by project?
Fisher	<i>Pekania pennanti</i>	Fed ESA: None; State ESA: None; CDFW status: SSC	Habitat is severely burned, which w	If a fisher is incidentally seen, it would be left alone so it can move out of the area at its own pace. If a den or nursery site of a fisher or other forest carnivore is discovered or suspected, a strict no-disturbance buffer of 250 feet will be placed around the site and no workers will enter the buffer until after September 15th.
western red bat	<i>Lasiurus frantzii</i>	Fed ESA: None; State ESA: None; CDFW status: SSC	Could be present	This species roosts singly in live trees in edge habitats where intact, leafy trees border open fields; especially associated with intact riparian habitats such as sycamore-willow; roosts in leaf litter e.g. thick oak litter in winter. Due to the 2024 fire, which top-killed 90-100% of oaks and hardwoods, neither roosting habitat is now present in the program area. Therefore, this bat would be unlikely to be affected by the project.

Common_Name	Scientific_Name	Status	Habitat present/ absent?	Reason species would not be harmed by project?
northwestern pond turtle	<i>Actinemys marmorata</i>	Fed ESA: Proposed Threatened; State ESA: None; CDFW status: SSC	Could be present	Species occupies riparian areas and freshwater emergent wetlands. In this project, piles inside riparian corridors would not be burned, and bank-stabilizing vegetation would not be removed, contributing to habitat stability of the species. If NWPT are observed within the project area, work would move 300 feet away (including upstream or downstream) until the NWPT has left of its own volition. The need to avoid NWPT could result in gaps in treatment. If NWPT nests are noticed in the work area, a 300-foot no disturbance buffer would be established between the nest and any areas of potential disturbance. Buffers shall be clearly marked with temporary fencing. No activities would occur in the exclusion area until the nest was deemed inactive by a qualified biologist.
*Nests of any bird species not recognized and assigned their own buffer in CFPR (California Forest Practice rules), would be buffered by at least 30 feet.				

Plant common name	Plant scientific name	California Rare Plant Rank	Plant habitat present/absent?	Reason plant, if habitat present, would not be harmed by project:
Siskiyou jellyskin lichen	<i>Scytinium siskiyouense</i>	1B.1	Yes, on unburned mature hardwood trunks	Mature trees, which are the lichen's habitat, would not be cut under this program
Jepsons onion	<i>Allium jepsonii</i>	1B.2	Unlikely; serpentine endemic, and no serpentine soils are mapped in the area.	N/a
Sanborns onion	<i>Allium sanbornii</i> var. <i>sanbornii</i>	4.2	Unlikely; serpentine endemic, and no serpentine soils are mapped in the area.	N/a
Butte County calycadenia	<i>Calycadenia oppositifolia</i>	4.2	Likely present	The potential dangers to this plant from the program would be impacts from herbicide, suffocation by chips, and burn piles. Plant would be protected from these dangers by pre-implementation botany surveys.
hot rock daisy	<i>Erigeron inornatus</i> var. <i>calidipetris</i>	4.3	Likely present	The potential dangers to this plant from the program would be impacts from herbicide, suffocation by chips, and burn piles. Plant would be protected from these dangers by pre-implementation botany surveys.
northern Sierra daisy	<i>Erigeron petrophilus</i> var. <i>sierrensis</i>	4.3	Unlikely; serpentine endemic, and no serpentine soils are mapped in the area.	N/a
hogwallow starfish	<i>Hesperervax caulescens</i>	4.2	Absent ; vernal pool Valley floor endemic	N/a

Plant common name	Plant scientific name	California Rare Plant Rank	Plant habitat present/absent?	Reason plant, if habitat present, would not be harmed by project:
Lewis Roses ragwort	<i>Packera eurycephala</i> <i>var. lewisrosei</i>	1B.2	Unlikely; serpentine endemic, and no serpentine soils are mapped in the area.	N/a
Mexican mosquito fern	<i>Azolla microphylla</i>	4.2	Aquatic; could be present	This is an aquatic plant that would be present in ponds only. The only danger to it from the program would be a small chance of impacts from herbicide (labeled for use in aquatic areas) which might be used to control aquatic or riparian invasive weeds. In this case, however, the plant would be protected by pre-implementation botany surveys.
silky cryptantha	<i>Cryptantha crinita</i>	1B.2	Likely present	The potential dangers to this plant from the program would be impacts from herbicide, suffocation by chips, and burn piles. Plant would be protected from these dangers by pre-implementation botany surveys.
dissected-leaved toothwort	<i>Cardamine pachystigma</i> <i>var. dissectifolia</i>	1B.2	Unlikely; serpentine endemic, and no serpentine soils are mapped in the area.	N/a

Plant common name	Plant scientific name	California Rare Plant Rank	Plant habitat present/absent?	Reason plant, if habitat present, would not be harmed by project:
sickle-fruit jewelflower	<i>Streptanthus drepanoides</i>	4.3	Could be present	The potential dangers to this plant from the program would be impacts from herbicide, suffocation by chips, and burn piles. Plant would be protected from these dangers by pre-implementation botany surveys.
long-fruit jewelflower	<i>Streptanthus longisiliquus</i>	4.3	Could be present	The potential dangers to this plant from the program would be impacts from herbicide, suffocation by chips, and burn piles. Plant would be protected from these dangers by pre-implementation botany surveys.
serpentine bluecup	<i>Githopsis pulchella ssp. serpentinicola</i>	4.3	Unlikely; serpentine endemic, and no serpentine soils are mapped in the area.	N/a
obtuse starwort	<i>Engellaria obtusa</i>	4.3	Could be present	The potential dangers to this plant from the program would be impacts from herbicide, suffocation by chips, and burn piles. Plant would be protected from these dangers by pre-implementation botany surveys.
Aharts paronychia	<i>Paronychia ahartii</i>	1B.1	Absent; vernal pool Valley floor endemic	N/a
long-stiped campion	<i>Silene occidentalis ssp. longistipitata</i>	1B.2	Absent; in Butte County, only grows above 5000'	N/a

Plant common name	Plant scientific name	California Rare Plant Rank	Plant habitat present/absent?	Reason plant, if habitat present, would not be harmed by project:
long-leaved starwort	<i>Stellaria longifolia</i>	2B.2	Could be present	The potential dangers to this plant from the program would be impacts from herbicide, suffocation by chips, and burn piles. Plant would be protected from these dangers by pre-implementation botany surveys.
Butte County morning-glory	<i>Calystegia atriplicifolia</i> <i>ssp. buttensis</i>	4.2	Could be present	The potential dangers to this plant from the program would be impacts from herbicide, suffocation by chips, and burn piles. Plant would be protected from these dangers by pre-implementation botany surveys.
Baker cypress	<i>Hesperocyparis bakeri</i>	4.2	Absent	N/a
Geyers sedge	<i>Carex geyeri</i>	4.2	Could be present	The potential dangers to this plant from the program would be impacts from herbicide, suffocation by chips, and burn piles. Plant would be protected from these dangers by pre-implementation botany surveys.
mud sedge	<i>Carex limosa</i>	2B.2	Could be present	The potential dangers to this plant from the program would be impacts from herbicide, suffocation by chips, and burn piles. Plant would be protected from these dangers by pre-implementation botany surveys.

Plant common name	Plant scientific name	California Rare Plant Rank	Plant habitat present/absent?	Reason plant, if habitat present, would not be harmed by project:
chaparral sedge	<i>Carex xerophila</i>	1B.2	Unlikely; serpentine endemic, and no serpentine soils are mapped in the area.	N/a
slender cottongrass	<i>Eriophorum gracile</i>	4.3	Absent ; in Butte County, only grows above 5000'	N/a
California beaked-rush	<i>Rhynchospora californica</i>	1B.1	Could be present	The potential dangers to this plant from the program would be impacts from herbicide, suffocation by chips, and burn piles. Plant would be protected from these dangers by pre-implementation botany surveys.
brownish beaked-rush	<i>Rhynchospora capitellata</i>	2B.2	Could be present	The potential dangers to this plant from the program would be impacts from herbicide, suffocation by chips, and burn piles. Plant would be protected from these dangers by pre-implementation botany surveys.
English sundew	<i>Drosera anglica</i>	2B.3	Absent ; in Butte County, only grows above 5000'	N/a
Trues manzanita	<i>Arctostaphylos mewukka ssp. truei</i>	4.2	Could be present	The potential dangers to this plant from the program would be impacts from herbicide, suffocation by chips, and burn piles. Plant would be protected from these dangers by pre-implementation botany surveys.

Plant common name	Plant scientific name	California Rare Plant Rank	Plant habitat present/absent?	Reason plant, if habitat present, would not be harmed by project:
depauperate milk-vetch	<i>Astragalus pauperculus</i>	4.3	Could be present	The potential dangers to this plant from the program would be impacts from herbicide, suffocation by chips, and burn piles. Plant would be protected from these dangers by pre-implementation botany surveys.
Halls rupertia	<i>Rupertia hallii</i>	1B.2	Likely present	The potential dangers to this plant from the program would be impacts from herbicide, suffocation by chips, and burn piles. Plant would be protected from these dangers by pre-implementation botany surveys.
Red Bluff dwarf rush	<i>Juncus leiospermus</i> var. <i>leiospermus</i>	1B.1	Could be present	The potential dangers to this plant from the program would be impacts from herbicide, suffocation by chips, and burn piles. Plant would be protected from these dangers by pre-implementation botany surveys.
flat-leaved bladderwort	<i>Utricularia intermedia</i>	2B.2	Absent ; in Butte County, only grows above 5000'	N/a
Callahans mariposa-lily	<i>Calochortus syntrophus</i>	1B.1	Could be present	The potential dangers to this plant from the program would be impacts from herbicide, suffocation by chips, and burn piles. Plant would be protected from these dangers by pre-implementation botany surveys.

Plant common name	Plant scientific name	California Rare Plant Rank	Plant habitat present/absent?	Reason plant, if habitat present, would not be harmed by project:
Butte County fritillary	<i>Fritillaria eastwoodiae</i>	3.2	Could be present	The potential dangers to this plant from the program would be impacts from herbicide, suffocation by chips, and burn piles. Plant would be protected from these dangers by pre-implementation botany surveys.
adobe-lily	<i>Fritillaria pluriflora</i>	1B.2	Absent; Valley floor adobe soils endemic	N/a
Humboldt lily	<i>Lilium humboldtii</i> ssp. <i>humboldtii</i>	4.2	Likely present	The potential dangers to this plant from the program would be impacts from herbicide, suffocation by chips, and burn piles. Plant would be protected from these dangers by pre-implementation botany surveys.
Butte County meadowfoam	<i>Limnanthes floccosa</i> ssp. <i>californica</i>	1B.1	Absent; vernal pool Valley floor endemic	N/a
woolly meadowfoam	<i>Limnanthes floccosa</i> ssp. <i>floccosa</i>	4.2	Absent; vernal pool Valley floor endemic	N/a
woolly rose-mallow	<i>Hibiscus lasiocarpus</i> var. <i>occidentalis</i>	1B.2	Absent; requires year-round water and is mostly a Sacramento River endemic	N/a
Bakers globe mallow	<i>Lilium bakeri</i>	4.2	Could be present	The potential dangers to this plant from the program would be impacts from herbicide, suffocation by chips, and burn piles. Plant would be protected from these dangers by pre-implementation botany surveys.

Plant common name	Plant scientific name	California Rare Plant Rank	Plant habitat present/absent?	Reason plant, if habitat present, would not be harmed by project:
giant checkerbloom	<i>Sidalcea gigantea</i>	4.3	Could be present	This is a semiaquatic plant and the danger to it from the program would be impacts from herbicide (labeled for use in aquatic areas) which might be used to control aquatic or riparian invasive weeds. Plant will be protected by pre-implementation botany surveys.
Butte County checkerbloom	<i>Sidalcea robusta</i>	1B.2	Unlikely, but could be present in southern portion of Program area	The potential dangers to this plant from the program would be impacts from herbicide, suffocation by chips, and burn piles. Plant would be protected from these dangers by pre-implementation botany surveys.
marsh claytonia	<i>Claytonia palustris</i>	4.3	Could be present	This is a semiaquatic plant and the danger to it from the program would be impacts from herbicide (labeled for use in aquatic areas) which might be used to control aquatic or riparian invasive weeds. Plant will be protected by pre-implementation botany surveys.

Plant common name	Plant scientific name	California Rare Plant Rank	Plant habitat present/absent?	Reason plant, if habitat present, would not be harmed by project:
streambank spring beauty	<i>Claytonia parviflora</i> ssp. <i>grandiflora</i>	4.2	Could be present	This is a semiaquatic plant and the danger to it from the program would be impacts from herbicide (labeled for use in aquatic areas) which might be used to control aquatic or riparian invasive weeds. Plant will be protected by pre-implementation botany surveys.
Hutchisons lewisia	<i>Lewisia kelloggii</i> ssp. <i>hutchisonii</i>	3.2	Absent	N/a
white-stemmed clarkia	<i>Clarkia gracilis</i> ssp. <i>albicaulis</i>	1B.2	Could be present	The potential dangers to this plant from the program would be impacts from herbicide, suffocation by chips, and burn piles. Plant would be protected from these dangers by pre-implementation botany surveys.
golden-anthered clarkia	<i>Clarkia mildrediae</i> ssp. <i>lutescens</i>	4.2	Absent ; granite endemic	N/a
Mildreds clarkia	<i>Clarkia mildrediae</i> ssp. <i>mildrediae</i>	1B.3	Absent ; granite endemic	N/a
Mosquins clarkia	<i>Clarkia mosquinii</i>	1B.1	Absent ; granite endemic	N/a
upswept moonwort	<i>Botrychium ascendens</i>	2B.2	Absent ; montane fen endemic	N/a
scalloped moonwort	<i>Botrychium crenulatum</i>	2B.2	Absent ; montane fen endemic	N/a
Mingan moonwort	<i>Botrychium minganense</i>	4.2	Absent ; montane fen endemic	N/a

Plant common name	Plant scientific name	California Rare Plant Rank	Plant habitat present/absent?	Reason plant, if habitat present, would not be harmed by project:
clustered ladys-slipper	<i>Cypripedium fasciculatum</i>	4.2	Could be present	The potential dangers to this plant from the program would be impacts from herbicide, suffocation by chips, and burn piles. Plant would be protected from these dangers by pre-implementation botany surveys.
Colemans rein orchid	<i>Piperia colemanii</i>	4.3	Could be present	The potential dangers to this plant from the program would be impacts from herbicide, suffocation by chips, and burn piles. Plant would be protected from these dangers by pre-implementation botany surveys.
shield-bracted monkeyflower	<i>Erythranthe glaucescens</i>	4.3	Could be present	The potential dangers to this plant from the program would be impacts from herbicide, suffocation by chips, and burn piles. Plant would be protected from these dangers by pre-implementation botany surveys.
closed-throated beardtongue	<i>Penstemon personatus</i>	1B.2	Absent; granite endemic	N/a
California satintail	<i>Imperata brevifolia</i>	2B.1	Could be present	This is a semiaquatic plant and the danger to it from the program would be impacts from herbicide (labeled for use in aquatic areas) which might be used to control aquatic or riparian invasive weeds. Plant will be protected by pre-implementation botany surveys.

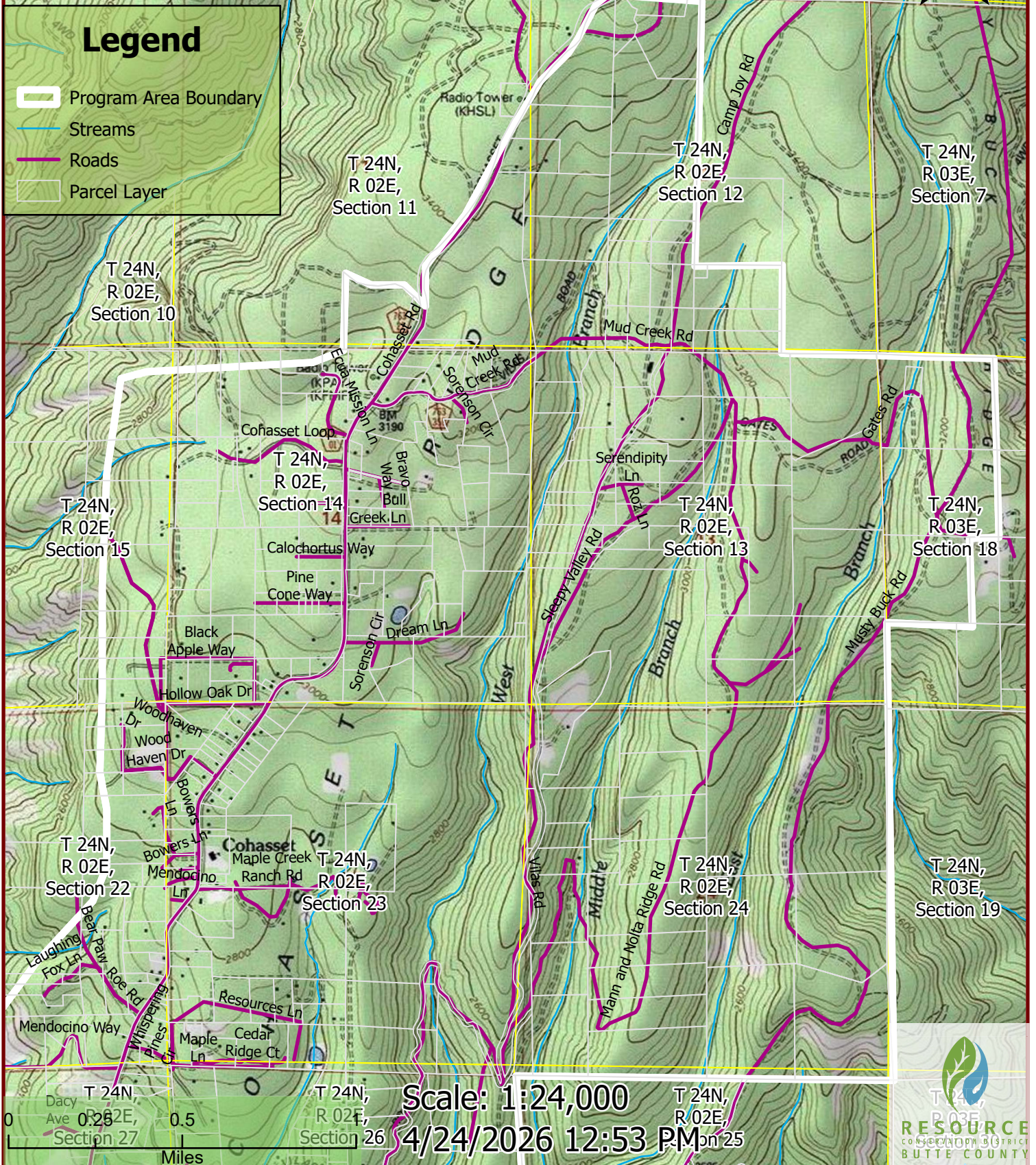
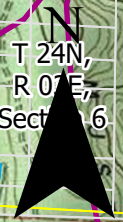
Plant common name	Plant scientific name	California Rare Plant Rank	Plant habitat present/absent?	Reason plant, if habitat present, would not be harmed by project:
serpentine leptosiphon	<i>Leptosiphon ambiguus</i>	4.2	Unlikely; serpentine endemic, and no serpentine soils are mapped in the area.	N/a
Tehama navarretia	<i>Navarretia heterandra</i>	4.3	Could be present	The potential dangers to this plant from the program would be impacts from herbicide, suffocation by chips, and burn piles. Plant would be protected from these dangers by pre-implementation botany surveys.
tripod buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum tripodum</i>	4.2	Could be present	The potential dangers to this plant from the program would be impacts from herbicide, suffocation by chips, and burn piles. Plant would be protected from these dangers by pre-implementation botany surveys.
Aharts buckwheat	<i>Eriogonum umbellatum</i> <i>var. ahartii</i>	1B.2	Unlikely; serpentine endemic, and no serpentine soils are mapped in the area.	N/a
Bidwells knotweed	<i>Polygonum bidwelliae</i>	4.3	Could be present	The potential dangers to this plant from the program would be impacts from herbicide, suffocation by chips, and burn piles. Plant would be protected from these dangers by pre-implementation botany surveys.
swamp larkspur	<i>Delphinium uliginosum</i>	4.2	Absent; known only from Coast ranges; CNDDB error	N/a

Plant common name	Plant scientific name	California Rare Plant Rank	Plant habitat present/absent?	Reason plant, if habitat present, would not be harmed by project:
Caribou coffeeberry	<i>Frangula purshiana ssp. ultra mafica</i>	1B.2	Unlikely; serpentine endemic, and no serpentine soils are mapped in the area.	N/a
Sierra foothills brodiaea	<i>Brodiaea sierrae</i>	4.3	Could be present	The potential dangers to this plant from the program would be impacts from herbicide, suffocation by chips, and burn piles. Plant would be protected from these dangers by pre-implementation botany surveys.

Cohasset Area Reforestation & Oak Restoration Program: North Half

Legend

- Program Area Boundary
- Streams
- Roads
- Parcel Layer



Scale: 1:24,000

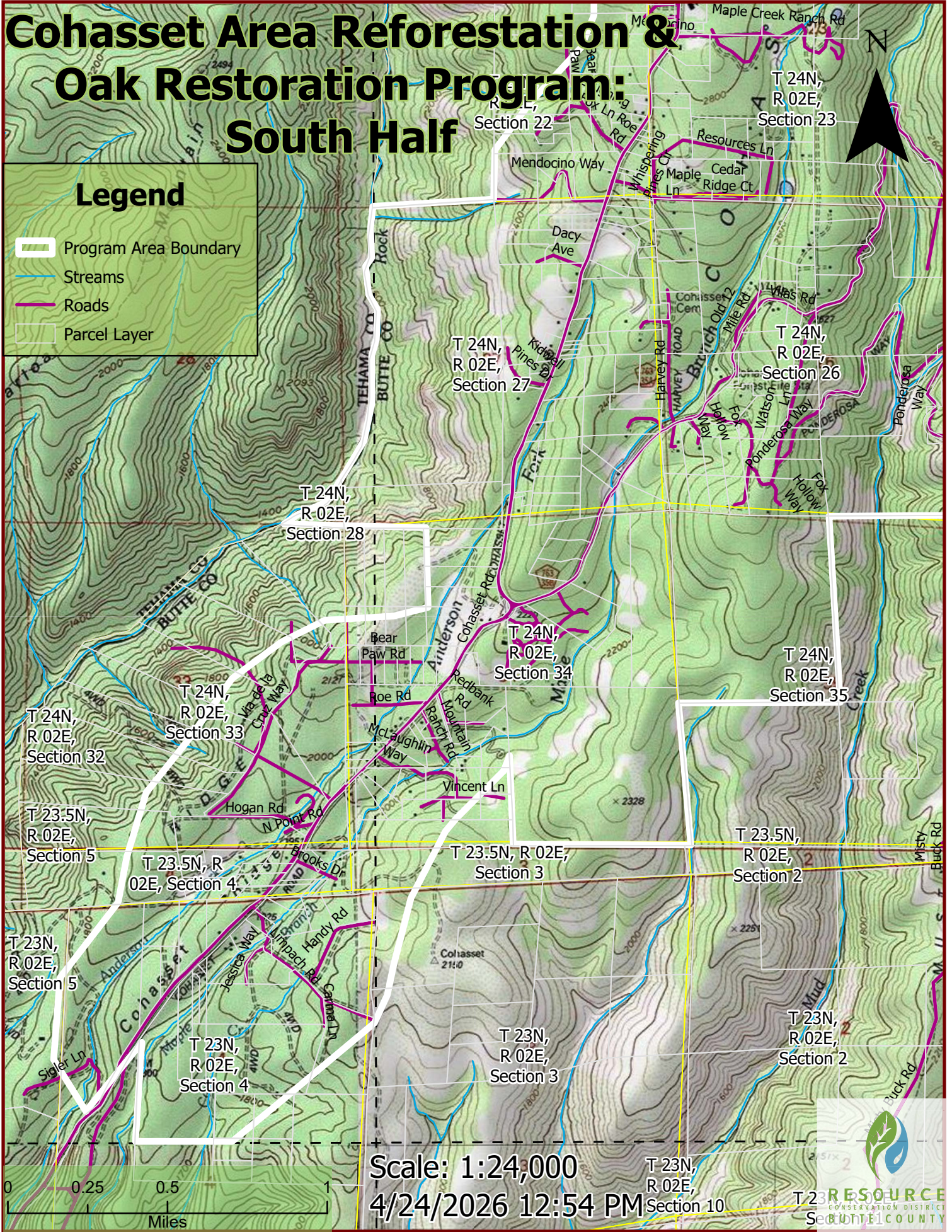
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Cohasset Area Reforestation & Oak Restoration Program: South Half

Legend

-  Program Area Boundary
-  Streams
-  Roads
-  Parcel Layer



Scale: 1:24,000

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RESOURCE
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BUTTE COUNTY