Revised Draft
Initial Study/
Mitigated Negative Declaration

for

Toyon Middle School
Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project

SCH # 2019039117

June 2023

Calaveras Unified School District
P.O Box 788 - 3304 Highway 12
San Andreas, CA 95249

REVISED DRAFT
INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

for

TOYON MIDDLE SCHOOL
WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE PROJECT
SCH # 2019039117

June 2023

Calaveras Unified School District (CUSD)
PO Box 788, San Andreas, California 95249
Phone: 209-754-2300

The CUSD's proposed Toyon Middle School Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project was approved by the District in 2019 after review under the California Environmental Quality Act in an Initial Study/Mitigated Declaration (IS/MND). The IS/MND was adopted by the District prior to project approval. Prior to project construction, the District received new biological resources information that required modification of the impact analysis and conclusions of the adopted IS/MND. That information has been incorporated in this IS/MND, which is now being circulated for public review and comment from June 8, 2023 to July 7, 2023. Further information related to public review of the Revised IS/MND and its consideration by the District Board is shown in the Notice of Intent, following this page.

CALAVERAS UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
3304 Highway 12
San Andreas, California 95249

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Calaveras Unified School District (CUSD) has prepared Revised Initial Study (IS) of environmental effects and intends to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) and Mitigation Monitoring/Reporting Plan (MMRP) for its proposed Toyon Middle School Wastewater Improvement project. CUSD is the Lead Agency for this project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The project proposes to incorporate a new Biological Assessment into the existing IS/MND & MMRP (SHC 2019039117) and reconduct the public review process for the document.

The IS/MND analyzes the potential environmental effects of the project in accordance with CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines. The IS/MND finds that the project will not involve any significant environmental effects, provided that the mitigation measures described in the IS/MND are implemented. The CUSD has agreed to implement the mitigation measures. There are no sites identified under Section 65962.5 of the Government Code located on or near the project site.

Copies of the IS/MND are available for public review at: CUSD Administrative Office
3304 Highway 12
San Andres, CA 95249

The CUSD will accept public and agency comments on the IS/MND during a 30-day review period that will begin on June 8, 2023 and end on July 7, 2023. Comments may be submitted by mail or e-mail to:

Calaveras Unified School District
Attn: Mark Campbell, Superintendent
3304 Highway 12
San Andreas, CA 95249

The CUSD Board of Trustees will consider adoption of the IS/MND, at its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday July 18, 2023, at 6:00 p.m., at the address shown above.

Mark Campbell, Superintendent
Calaveras Unified School District

Table of Contents

Figures

Tables

Appendices

1. Project Information

1. Project Title:

Toyon Middle School, Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project

2. Lead Agency Name and Address:

Calaveras Unified School District
P.O Box 788 - 3304 Highway 12
San Andreas, CA 95249

3. Contact Person and Phone Number:

Mark Campbell, Superintendent
Calaveras Unified School District
(209) 754-2301
mcampbell@calaveras.k12.ca.us

4. Project Location:

The Project is located northeast of the intersection of State Route (SR) 12 and SR 26 in northwestern Calaveras County in the western foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains (Figures 1 and 2). The approximately 30.7 acre project area occurs on Calaveras County assessors' parcels numbers (APN) 040-004-038 and 040-006-043 owned by the CUSD and a 10.7 acre portion of privately held APN 040-006-042. The Project is located in a rural area and is bounded by low density commercial, light industrial, grazing, and utility uses.

The Project is on the Valley Springs USGS topographic quad (T4N, R11E, Section 10, Mt. Diablo Meridian) in the Upper Calaveras River Hydrologic Unit (hydrologic unit code 18040011). The centroid of the Project is located at 38.2145° north, -120.7572° west (WGS84), and its UTM coordinates (Zone 10S) are 696,353.77 m East; 4,231,981.89 m North.

5. Description of Project:

The Calaveras Unified School District (CUSD or District) is in the process of obtaining a State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Grant to replace the wastewater system at the Toyon Middle School (TMS). There is no sewer service in the vicinity of the TMS. In 2018 the District completed an Alternatives Analysis Report with monies from a SWRCB CWSRF planning Grant. The Alternatives Analysis Report evaluated multiple treatment alternatives against the CUSD Project goals. The CUSD determined that the Onsite Recirculating Sand Filter Treatment with Offsite Disposal Alternative is preferred.
A detailed project description is in Section 3 of this Initial Study.

6. General plan designation:

See table under Item 7 'Zoning' below

7. Zoning:

APN*	Zoning*
040-006-043 (TMS Campus)	Unclassified
040-004-038 (TMS Campus)	Light Industrial, Planned Development (M1-PD)
040-006-042 (potential offsite spray field, privately held parcel)	Unclassified

***** Per Calaveras County Public Web Viewer (https://gisportal.co.calaveras.ca.us/arcgis/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=40a999f3b65a46f089367b7c095f171e)

8. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:

The Project is located in a rural area and is bounded by rural residential, commercial, grazing, and transportation uses.

9. Other Public Agencies Whose Approval May Be Required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement):

The Project may require permits or approvals from the following:

- State Water Resources Control Board Clean Water State Revolving Fund Grant
- Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board — Coverage under the Construction General Permit (Water Quality Order 2009-0009-DWQ)
- Calaveras County Grading Permit
- Calaveras County Air Quality Management District — Fugitive Dust Prevention and Control Plan Approval
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Section 404 Clean Water Act Permit
- Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) - Section 401 Water Quality Certification
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) - Streambed Alteration Agreement

2. Introduction

The Calaveras Unified School District (CUSD or District) is in the process of obtaining a State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Grant to replace the wastewater system at the Toyon Middle School (TMS). The TMS Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) was constructed in 1997 and is in need of replacement.

CUSD is the local lead agency and prepared this Initial Study to consider the significance of potential project impacts pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970, as amended (Public Resources Code, Section 21000, et seq.). This Initial Study was prepared in accordance with the State CEQA Guidelines (14 California Administrative Code, Section 14000 et seq.).

Based on the results of this Initial Study, CUSD has determined that the Project would have less than significant impacts on the environment with the incorporation of mitigation measures. CUSD may approve the Project with the certification of a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND).

The remainder of this document is organized into the following sections:

- **Section 3, Project Description:** Provides a detailed description of the proposed Project;
- **Section 4, Initial Study Checklist and Supporting Documentation:** Provides CEQA Initial Study Resource impact checklists and supporting documentation. Identifies the thresholds of significance, evaluates potential impacts, and describes mitigation measures necessary to reduce impact significance;
- **Section 5, Initial Study Findings:** Provides a determination of the District's CEQA findings;
- **Section 6, Supporting Information Sources:** Identifies the personnel responsible for the preparation of this document and provides a list of the references cited throughout the document.
- **Appendix A, Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan**: Contains the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan prepared for the proposed project. The Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan includes a list of required mitigation measures and includes information regarding the District's policies and procedures for implementation and monitoring of the mitigation measures.

3. Project Description

The Calaveras Unified School District (CUSD or District) is in the process of obtaining a State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Grant to replace the wastewater system at the Toyon Middle School (TMS). The TMS Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) was constructed in 1997.

3.1 Location

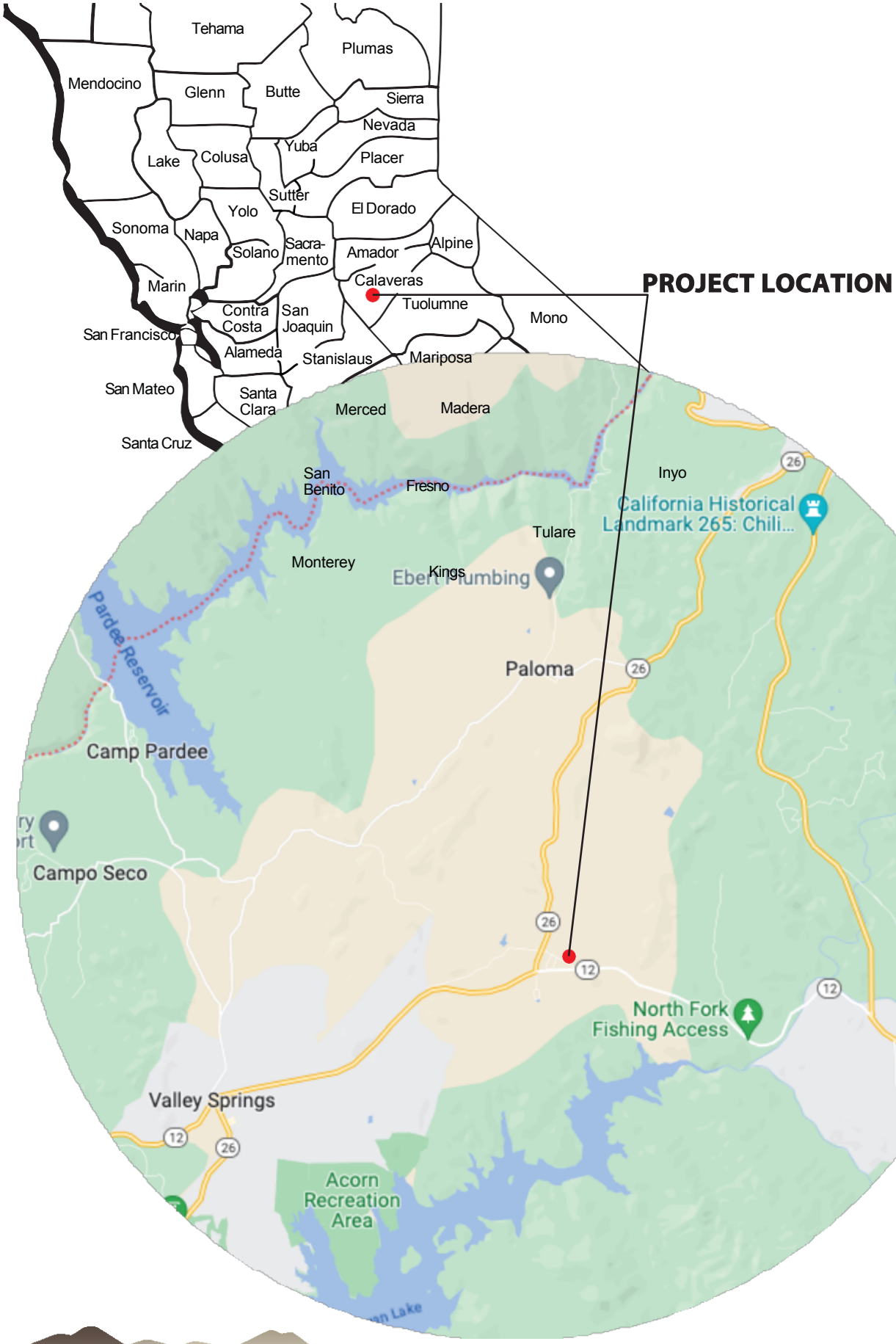
The Project is located northeast of the intersection of State Route (SR) 12 and SR 26 in northwestern Calaveras County in the western foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains (Figures 1 and 2). The approximately 30.7 acre Project area occurs on Calaveras County assessors' parcels numbers (APN) 040-004-038, 040-006-042, and 040-006-043. The Project is located in a rural area and is bounded by low density commercial, light industrial, grazing, and utility uses.

The Project is on the Valley Springs USGS topographic quad (T4N, R11E, Section 10, Mt. Diablo Meridian) in the Upper Calaveras River Hydrologic Unit (hydrologic unit code 18040011). The centroid of the Project is located at 38.2145° north, -120.7572° west (WGS84), and its UTM coordinates (Zone 10S) are 696,353.77 m East; 4,231,981.89 m North. The Project is relatively flat and ranges in elevation from approximately 1,020 to 1,105 feet above sea level. Figure 1 shows the project location. Figure 2 is an aerial photo of the Project area. Table 1 lists the APNs involved in the proposed Project.

Table 1. Calaveras County Assessor's Parcel Numbers involved in the proposed Project

APN*	Zoning*
040-006-043 (TMS Campus)	Unclassified
040-004-038 (TMS Campus)	Light Industrial, Planned Development (M1-PD)
040-006-042 (offsite spray field)	Unclassified

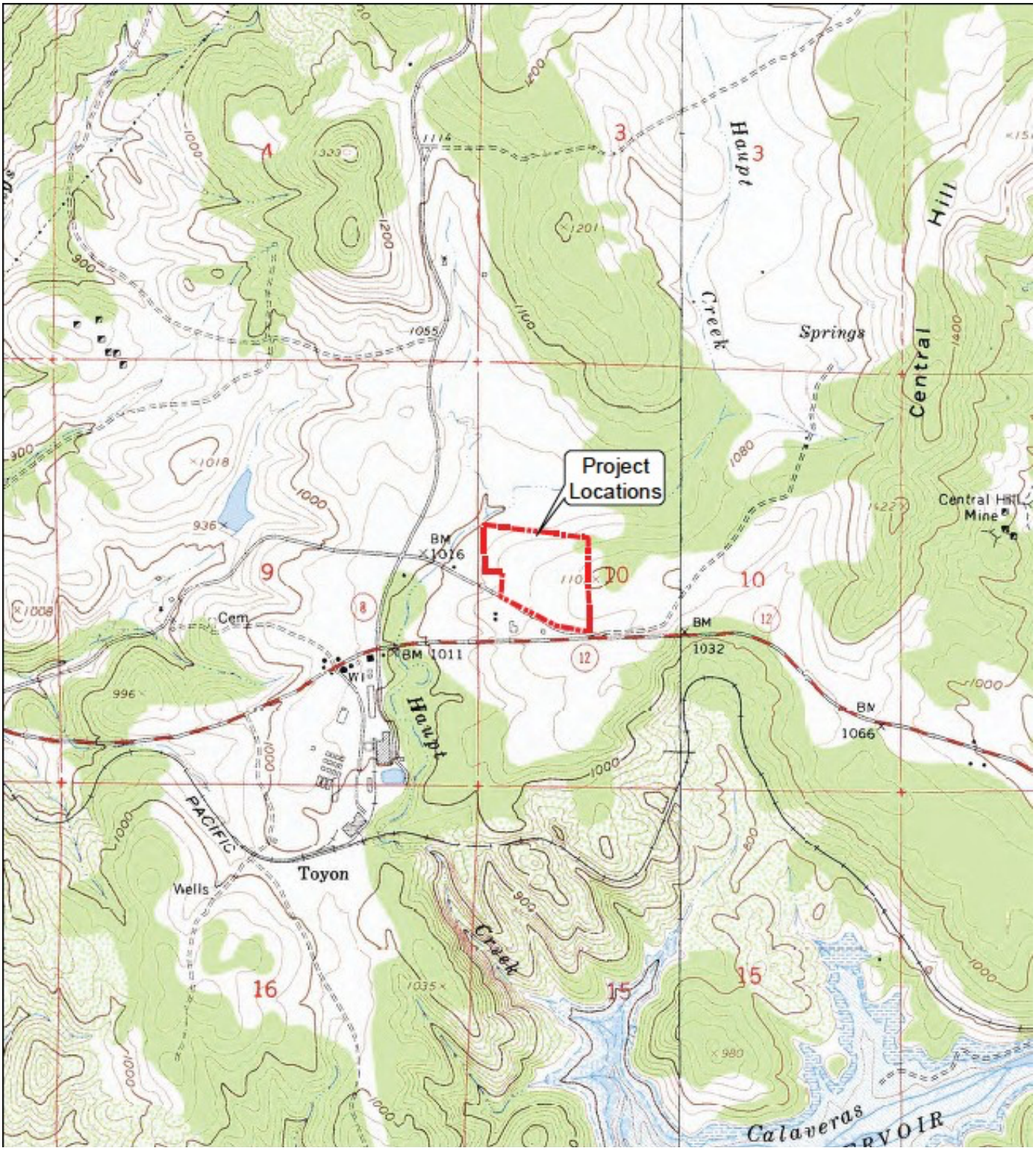
***** Per Calaveras County Public Web Viewer (https://gisportal.co.calaveras.ca.us/arcgis/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=40a999f3b65a46f089367b7c095f171e)



BaseCamp Environmental

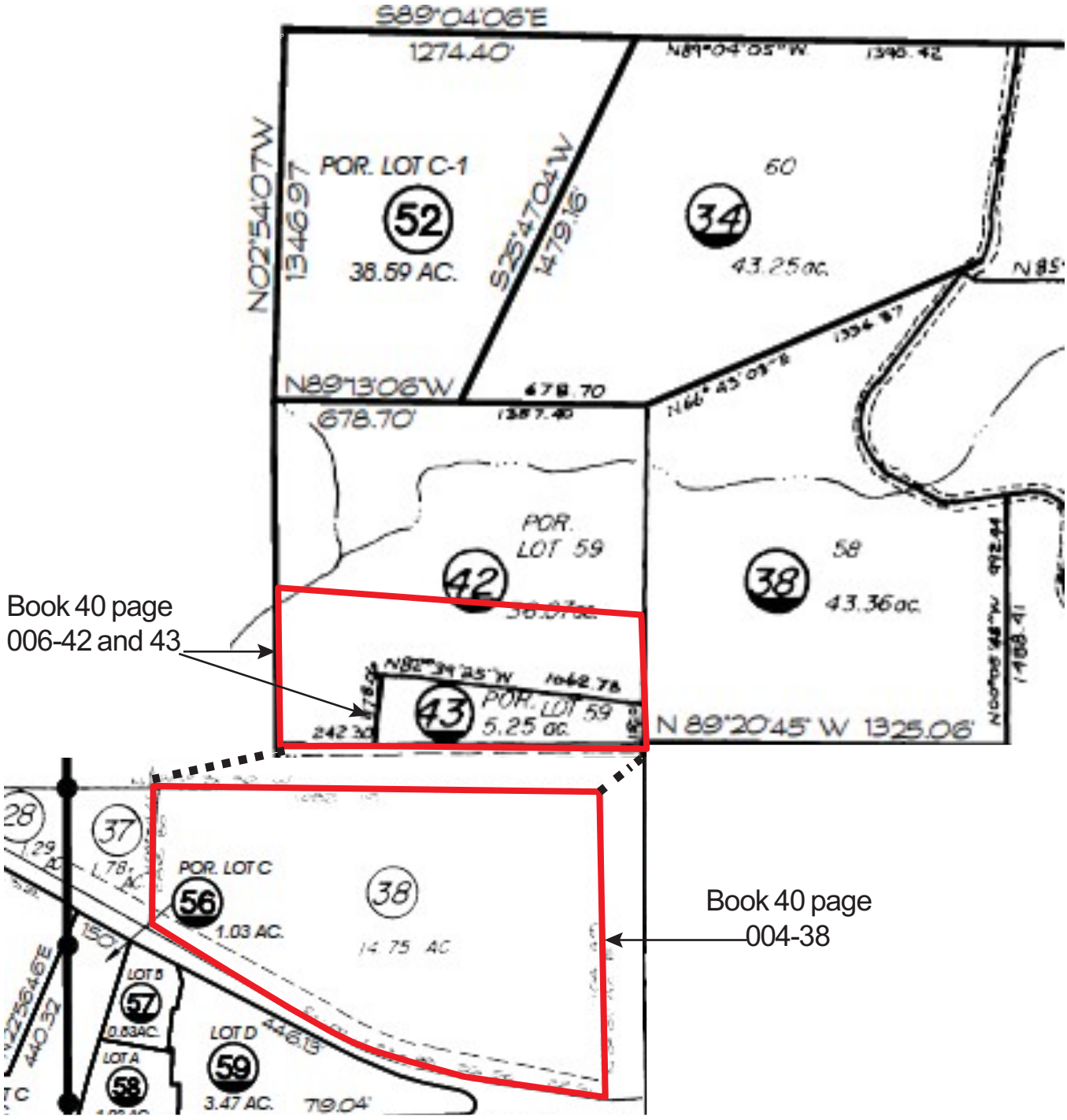
Figure 1
REGIONAL LOCATION MAP

Figure 2
STREET MAP



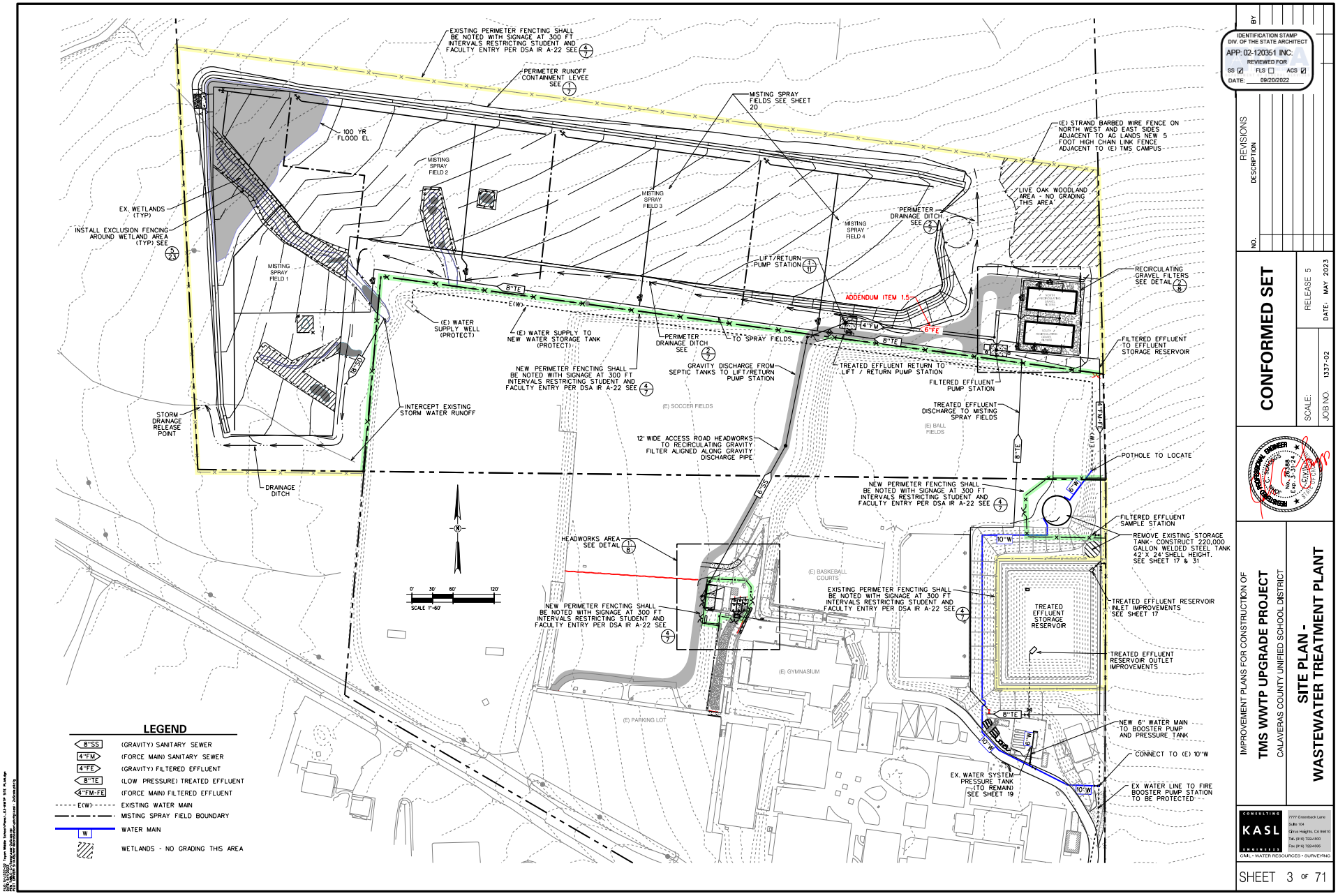
SOURCE: Sycamore Environmental Consultants, Inc.

SOURCE: Google Earth



SOURCE: CALAVERASCOUNTY ASSESSOR'SOFFICE

Figure 5
ASSESSOR PARCEL MAP



SOURCE: WGA Engineering

BaseCamp Environmental

Figure 6

MISTING NOZZLE SPRAY FIELD LAYOUT

3.2 Project Purpose and Objectives

The purpose of the Project is the replacement of the existing wastewater treatment system at TMS with the goals of improved compliance with water quality standards, improved safety, and simplified operation and maintenance.

3.3 History

TMS provides public educational facilities for 7th and 8th grade Calaveras County students. The District plans to expand TMS to serve students in 6th through 8th grades with a projected enrollment of 620 students and an equivalent full-time staff of 60. The existing TMS facilities include a gymnasium with showers and a cafeteria with hot meal kitchen facilities, upper soccer field / baseball field, lower soccer field, and a football field with running track. The proposed wastewater treatment and disposal improvements will address both current and future needs.

At TMS raw wastewater flows by gravity pipeline to the existing wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). The raw wastewater flows through screening devices followed by an equalization basin, primary, secondary, and final clarifiers (each with intermediate trickling filtration). After the final clarifier, the effluent is delivered to a clear well, dosed with alum and then discharged through sand filters before it is disinfected and then stored for treated effluent irrigation. Treated effluent is stored in an existing effluent storage basin and is applied as irrigation during off school hours on the existing upper soccer field / baseball field and lower soccer field. The existing facilities provide for recirculation, flow equalization and returns along the treatment process. Skilled operation is required to keep the system in balance and operating at or near design conditions.

In the 2017 Annual Report prepared for the TMS WWTP the District's maintenance supervisor noted that while existing facilities continue to operate in accordance with Regional Water Quality Control Board Waste Discharge Orders, existing treatment equipment is antiquated and significant operator time and effort is required to achieve permit compliance. Operational problems faced by CUSD at TMS include the following:

- TMS has failed or failing control equipment. Without a reliable control system process control can become inconsistent and labor intensive.
- The electrical service is aging and WWTP is subject to power surges / brownouts which upset the treatment processes and equipment. At a minimum, power monitoring and surge protection are needed; backup power should be considered, at least for critical control systems and alarming.
- The automated screening system has failed at the TMS facility resulting in a significant labor demand to capture and remove screenings. Plastic materials and other food scraps sometime pass through to the trickling filters, creating more labor demands.
- Biological treatment is provided by trickling filters and clarifiers. The trickling filters have dilapidated distributors that are losing their effectiveness to evenly distribute wastewater over the filter media. Safe access for Operators to inspect the media and the distributors is limited.

- The sludge removal process can be problematic and labor intensive and can cause carryover of solids to the tertiary system, hindering ability to maintain compliance.
- The tertiary filter systems are antiquated. The systems are manually operated and the backwash controls do not work effectively. There is no filter-to-waste function, making startup of the system more labor intensive and difficult to control. At TMS, the process control automation is bypassed in favor of manual operation.
- The chemical dosing facilities are controlled manually by the Operator. The Operator implements "work-arounds" to initiate startup of polymer pumps needed for treated effluent reclamation. The chemical storage facilities need proper containment and properly operating safety showers / eyewash facilities are needed.
- Site security and fencing needs upgrading. Since these plants are located at public schools, improved plant security should be considered.
- The effluent storage pond and disposal pumping system need rehabilitation to maintain useful life.

In 2018 the District completed an Alternatives Analysis Report with monies from a SWRCB CWSRF planning Grant (KASL 2018). The Alternatives Analysis Report evaluated multiple treatment alternatives against the CUSD Project goals. The CUSD determined that the Onsite Recirculating Sand Filter Treatment with Offsite Disposal Alternative is preferred. This alternative requires acquisition of ± 10.7 acres of privately held APN 040-006-042 immediately north of TMS. To date the CUSD has not acquired the ± 10.7 acres of privately held APN 040-006-042. If the ± 10.7 acres of privately held APN 040-006-042 cannot be acquired then the preferred would include the Recirculating Sand Filtration with Onsite Underground Drip Disposal (UDD). Both alternatives respond well to the Project goals. A "Preliminary Design Report" was also prepared for the Project in January 2019 (KASL 2019).

3.4 Project Description

The Onsite Recirculating Sand Filter Treatment with Offsite Disposal Alternative is the CUSD preferred alternative (Figure 3). The onsite recirculating sand filter improvements associated are described below.

- **Headworks:** The existing headworks facilities located between the gym and lower soccer field will be replaced with new headworks equipment. The existing equalization basin will be retained. The existing headworks influent channel will be modified with the installation of a spiral screen/compaction unit. This unit will be furnished with screen washing and automatic solids bagging capability. The screen/compaction unit will be housed in a prefabricated (typically fiberglass) building set on a concrete pad and large enough to provide minimum three feet of clearance on each side of the screen / compaction unit. A ± 10 to 12-foot-wide by ± 10 to 12-foot-long by ± 10-foot-high headworks building with double access doors, forced air ventilation, lighting and electrical receptacles is suggested. The forced air ventilation would discharge building exhaust to the existing concrete equalization basin to provide mixing and aeration. Flow from the retained equalization basin (± 15,000 gallon capacity) will discharge to a three way distribution box which will direct flows to one or two of the three 5,000 gallon capacity septic tanks. One of the three septic tanks will always be available in reserve when one of the other tanks is removed from service for cleaning and pump out. The effluent discharged from the septic tanks would be directed to an intermediate lift station which will lift the primary treated effluent to the recirculating sand filters via a new ± 500 pipeline.
  The headworks area will also include the chlorine contact tank and sodium hypochlorite stored in a double wall containment facility. The headworks area will be secured with fencing (typically 8-foot-high, no climb, chain link). Emergency eye wash and shower facilities will be installed in the headworks areas for operator safety.

- **Recirculating Sand Filter:** New recirculating sand filters will be installed in the new sprayfield area of TMS. The primary treated effluent pumped from the headworks will be applied to the recirculating sand filters through two-inch distribution piping spaced two feet apart and placed within the top eight inches layer of washed drain rock. The recirculating sand filter design will include solar panel type, covers. The primary purpose of the solar panel covers is to reduce the volume of rainfall collected through the filters. The solar panel covers will be furnished with gutters and rain downspouts which will direct the discharge of rainfall to areas outside of the sand filters beds. Design of the solar panels for power generation will be conducted as part of Project design phase. The existing water storage tank located along the eastern edge of the TMS campus will be removed.

- **Disinfection:** Disinfection of the filtered effluent is proposed with sodium hypochlorite although further evaluation of UV disinfection will be included in subsequent design submittals. If the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Board requires that a chlorine residual be maintained in the treated effluent, sodium hypochlorite disinfection will be implemented. With sodium hypochlorite disinfection a dosage rate up to 10 mg/L is proposed to provide a minimum 2 mg/L chlorine residual. Dosage will be controlled by a chlorine residual "feedback loop" monitor which will automatically adjust the chlorine dosage to maintain residuals at or above 2 mg/L. Sodium hypochlorite tank levels will be monitored. Low storage tank levels and low chlorine residual concentrations will trigger local and remote alarms. As previously noted, wastewater disinfection facilities will be located within the fenced headworks area.

- **New Fire Supply / Irrigation Water Supply Tank:** The recommended wastewater improvements include a new 250,000-gallon capacity steel tank that will be constructed to replace the emergency fire flow and the irrigation supply stored in the exiting treated effluent storage basin. The new 250,000-gallon tank (46-foot diameter and 24-foot-high tank with a ± 20' normal water operating level) would also provide potable supply to TMS.
- **Treated Effluent Storage Basin:** The existing 135 ft x 165 ft effluent storage basin located along the eastern edge of the school property will be modified. The existing lined basin has a capacity of 3.8-acre ft. The proposed Project requires a storage capacity of 4.8-acre ft. This storage volume is suitable with either the onsite UDD system or the offsite spray irrigation /disposal facilities. The Project will increase the depth of the existing basin to achieve the needed storage volume. The modified basin will also be lined to prevent infiltration of treated effluent. Material excavated from the basin may be used onsite to raise the elevation of the proposed WWTP site. Unused spoils material will be disposed of at an approved facility.
- **Offsite Disposal:** Suitable land for spray irrigation disposal of treated effluent, will be located adjacent to and north of TMS on APN 040-006-042. To meet the offsite disposal needs of TMS under 100-year return period conditions, ± 4 acres of spray field is needed. With buffer and property line setbacks (50-foot minimum), the southerly 10.7 acres of APN 040-006-042 would be sufficient to meet this requirement. A suggested layout of the offsite disposal system includes the use of low impact misting nozzles (Figure 3). Using low impact misting nozzles reduced operating pressures are required when compared to other impact type spray equipment. There is sufficient elevation difference between the proposed locations of the misting nozzles and the treated effluent storage to effectively operate the offsite disposal system without pumping.
  The 10.7 acre sprayfield area would be fenced and access provided from TMS. A new access road with a gravel surface would be installed from the treated effluent storage to the new spray fields. The road is needed to provide construction access and following project completion it will provide access for maintenance and monitoring of the spray fields. A new gravity flow pipeline will be installed from the treated effluent storage to the new spray fields and will follow the general alignment of the new access road.

3.5 Project Impacts

Project Design is not finalized. The selection of the on or offsite disposal alternative is dependent on District's acquisition of the 10.7 acre portion of APN 040-006-042. If the offsite disposal is selected the installation of the spray field, access road, gravity pipeline and fencing may impact 8.35 acres of the 10.7 acre portion of APN 040-006-042 including California Annual Grassland community and potential wetland swales or ephemeral channels. The offsite disposal alternative avoids impacts to 0.81 acres of interior live oak woodland and 1.54 acres of California Annual Grassland.

If the onsite disposal alternative is chosen then the ball fields would be temporarily disturbed during installation but would return to their current use following installation. The remaining project improvements would all occur on the TMS campus and would result in minor disturbances to the school grounds.

3.6 Construction Contract

CUSD would retain a construction contractor to construct the proposed improvements. The contractor would be responsible for compliance with all applicable rules, regulations, and ordinances associated with proposed Project activities and for implementing construction-related mitigation measures. CUSD would provide the construction contractor oversight and management and would be responsible for verifying the implementation of the mitigation measures. The contractor would construct the proposed Project in accordance with the Public Contract Code of the State of California, Project Plans, and any Special Provisions under development by CUSD. The following are a combination of standard and project-specific procedures/requirements applicable to Project construction:

- Contract special provisions will require compliance with Calaveras County Air Pollution Control District Rules 202, 205, and 207 to minimize fugitive dust emissions;
- Contract provisions will require notification of the District and compliance with California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 and California Public Resources Code Sections 5097.5, 5097.9 et seq., regarding the discovery and disturbance of cultural materials or human remains should any be discovered during project construction;
- Contract provisions will require implementation of best management practices (BMPs) consistent with the *Calaveras County Grading, Drainage, and Erosion Control Design Manual* (Calaveras County 2012a) and or Caltrans Stormwater Quality Handbooks to protect water quality and minimize the potential for siltation and downstream sedimentation.
- The CUSD or its construction contractors will conduct early coordination with utility service providers, law enforcement and emergency service providers to ensure minimal disruption to service during construction;
- The Project would comply with Section 9.02.060, Chapter 9.02 (Noise Control) of the Calaveras County Code pertaining to construction noise.

3.7 Project Schedule

The Project is anticipated to take approximately 8-12 months and can be completed in one construction season. Removal of existing TMS wastewater facilities will occur after the new TMS wastewater and irrigation / disposal improvements are constructed, tested, inspected and accepted. New TMS sand filtration and reservoir improvements can be constructed without impacting the operation of the existing TMS wastewater plant. Offsite irrigation / disposal facilities would be constructed independent of the school schedule. If onsite treated effluent disposal is ultimately required, construction of the new UDD system would be scheduled during the mid-June to early-August summer break period. While the majority of construction is expected to take place under favorable weather conditions, unforeseen weather delays are possible and would impact the project schedule.

4. Initial Study Checklist and Supporting Documentation

4.1 Initial Study Checklist

This section of the Initial Study incorporates the Environmental Checklist contained in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines. Each resource topic section provides a determination of potential impact and an explanation for the checklist impact questions. The following 19 environmental categories are addressed in this section:

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

Each of the above listed environmental categories was fully evaluated and one of the following four determinations was made for each checklist question:

- **"No Impact"** means that no impact to the environment would occur as a result of implementing the Project.
- **"Less than Significant Impact"** means that implementation of the Project would not result in a substantial and/or adverse change to the environment and no mitigation is required.
- **"Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation is Incorporated"** means that the incorporation of one or more mitigation measures would reduce the impact from potentially significant to less than significant.
- **"Potentially Significant Impact"** means that there is either substantial evidence that a project-related effect would be significant or, due to a lack of existing information, could have the potential to be significant.

4.2 Setting, Impacts, and Mitigation Measures

Calaveras County is in the process of updating its General Plan. At the time of writing the document the updated General Plan has not been adopted. This document references the 9 December 1996 Calaveras County General Plan.

4.2.1 Aesthetics

I. AESTHETICS—Would the project:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☒	☐	☐

Environmental Setting

The Project is located immediately northeast of the intersection of State Route (SR) 12 and SR 26 east of the community of Valley Springs in western Calaveras County in the western foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. The Project is relatively flat and ranges in elevation from approximately 1,020 to 1,105 feet above sea level. The Project is located in a rural area and is bounded by rural residential, grazing, commercial, and transportation uses.

The Calaveras County General Plan Open Space Element (1996) describes the County's goals and policies pertaining to conservation of areas of outstanding Scenic Value:

Goal V-6: To preserve and protect the scenic qualities of the County.

Policy V-6A: Proposed new development shall consider the scenic qualities of the natural resources in the design of the project.

Implementation Measure V-6A-1: New development shall be encouraged to avoid extreme topographic modification, and may be required to restore natural contours and vegetation of the land after grading or other land disturbances.

Implementation Measure V-6A-2: Cluster development with preservation of open space of scenic quality shall be encouraged.

Implementation Measure V-6A-3: New development shall be encouraged to be designed in a manner which is sensitive to available natural resources.

The primary attributes of the County that are considered aesthetically valuable are the reservoirs, rivers and streams, rolling hills with oak habitat, ridgelines, and the forests (Calaveras County General Plan 1996).

Potential Environmental Effects

a) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** A scenic vista refers to the view of an area that is visually or aesthetically pleasing. Aesthetic components of a scenic vista include; 1) scenic quality, 2) sensitivity level, and 3) view access.

No scenic vistas have been identified in the Project area, based on a review of the Calaveras County General Plan (Calaveras County 1996). The 1974 Valley Springs Community Area General Plan does not identify any scenic vistas in the Project area (Calaveras County 1974). The yet to be adopted General Plan Update EIR identifies the Ebbetts Pass National Scenic Byway as the sole scenic vista in the County (Calaveras County 2018). The Ebbetts Pass National Scenic Byway is located approximately 27 miles northeast of the TMS campus.

Construction of the Project components on the TMS campus will result in similar views to the traveling public using SR 12 or SR 26 adjacent to the Project site. The TMS campus includes a variety of existing buildings of various sizes. The new headworks building will be located in the same general area as the existing headworks. New recirculating sand filters will be installed on approximately 0.5 acre portion of the existing upper soccer field / baseball field in the northeast corner of TMS. The existing water storage tank located along the eastern edge of the TMS campus will be removed. A new 250,000-gallon steel tank will be constructed to replace the emergency fire flow and the irrigation supply stored in the existing Treated Effluent Storage Basin. The 250,000-gallon tank (46-foot diameter and 24-foot-high tank with a ± 20' normal water operating level) would be located in the fenced area adjacent to the recirculating sand filters. The 10.7 acre offsite spray field area would be fenced and access provided from TMS. A new access road with a gravel surface would be installed from the treated effluent storage to the new spray fields. The project is not anticipated to result in adverse effect to any scenic vista. The Proposed improvements are consistent with the existing land use and aesthetic of the area.

b) ***No Impact.*** SR 26 and SR 12 are not state designated scenic highways. SR 49 is identified as '*Eligible State Scenic Highway-Not Yet Designated*' (Caltrans 2019). The eastern portion of SR 4 in Calaveras County is designated as a '*Officially Designated State Scenic Highway*' this section is also designated the Ebbetts Pass National Scenic Byway. The western portion of Highway 4 in Calaveras County is designated '*Eligible State Scenic Highway-Not Yet Designated*'. Highway 49 is located approximately 3 miles east of the Project and Highway 4 is a minimum of approximately 13 miles south of the Project site. Neither highway is visible from the Project area.

c) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** See discussion of a) and b) above.

d) ***Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated***. Additional permanent lighting may be needed at the new headworks building on the TMS campus. New exterior lighting for the proposed project would be minimal in nature for the purpose of safety, security, and emergency lighting. Implementation of measure AESTHETICS-1 will reducing potential impacts to less than significant.

Measure AESTHETICS-1

- *All outdoor lighting will be hooded or screened to direct the source of light downward and focus onto the property from which it originates and will not negatively impact adjacent properties or directly reflect upon any adjacent residential property.*

- *Parking lot and other security lighting will be top and side shielded to prevent the light pattern from shining onto adjacent property or roadways, excluding lights used for illumination of public roads.*
- *External lights used to illuminate a sign or billboard or the side of a building or wall shall be shielded to prevent the light from shining off of the surface intended to be illuminated.*
- *Lights that shine onto a road in a manner, which causes excessive glare and may be considered to be a traffic hazard, will be prohibited.*

4.2.2 Agricultural and Forestry Resources

II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY—In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project::	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Environmental Setting

The Project area consists of an existing WWTP facility at a public school. The Project area is outside of the area mapped as part of the States Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (California Department of Conservation 2019b). No Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance,

occur in the project area. The California Department of Conservation, Calaveras County Williamson Act FY 2012/2013 map indicates that no lands under Williamson Act contract occur in or adjacent to the Project area.

Potential Environmental Effects

a) ***No Impact.*** No Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance, or lands under Williamson Act contracts occur in the project area. The Project could result in the conversion of approximately 10.7 acres of grazing land into a spray irrigation disposal area.

b) ***No Impact.*** See response for item a).

c) ***No Impact.*** The proposed Project is consistent with the existing zoning and does not include any rezoning activities.

d) ***No Impact.*** The proposed Project will not result in a permanent loss of forest land or conversion of forest land as none occurs in the Project area.

e) ***No Impact.*** The Project will not convert farmland or timberland as neither occurs in the Project footprint.

4.2.3 Air Quality

III. AIR QUALITY— Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) 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 (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Environmental Setting

The project area is located in the Mountain Counties Air Basin (MCAB). The San Francisco Bay Area Air Basin and the Sacramento Valley Air Basin are located to the west, and the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin is located to the south. Climate in the MCAB relate to elevation and proximity to the Sierra Ridge. Precipitation is greater and temperatures are lower at higher elevations. Summer temperatures in the project area are in the mid- to upper nineties. Winter temperatures are in the upper thirties to lower forties.

The air quality of a region is determined by the air pollutant emissions (quantities and type of pollutants measured by weight) and by ambient air quality (the concentration of pollutants within a specified volume of air). Air pollutants are characterized as primary and secondary pollutants. Primary pollutants are those emitted directly into the air, for example carbon monoxide (CO), and can be traced to a single pollutant source. Secondary pollutants are those pollutants that form through chemical reactions in the atmosphere, for example reactive organic gasses (ROG) and nitrogen oxides (NO_X) combine to form ground level ozone, or smog.

Congress established much of the basic structure of the Clean Air Act in 1970, and made major revisions in 1977 and 1990. The Federal Clean Air Act established national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS). These standards are divided into primary and secondary standards. Primary standards are designed to protect public health and secondary standards are designed to protect other values. Because of the health-based criteria identified in setting the NAAQS, the air pollutants are termed "criteria" pollutants. California has adopted its own, more stringent, ambient air quality standards (CAAQS). Table 2 lists the MCAB attainment status for federal and state criteria pollutants.

Table 2. Attainment Status for MCAB in Calaveras County

Pollutant	**National Designation**	**State Designation**
Ozone	Nonattainment (8 hr.)	Nonattainment
PM_{10}	Unclassified	Nonattainment
$PM_{2.5}$	Unclassified/ Attainment	Unclassified
CO	Unclassified/ Attainment	Unclassified
NO_2	Unclassified/ Attainment	Attainment
SO_2	Unclassified/ Attainment	Attainment
Sulfates	NA	Attainment
Lead	Unclassified/ Attainment	Attainment
Hydrogen Sulfide	NA	Unclassified
Visibility Reducing Particles	NA	Unclassified

Calaveras County is currently in nonattainment status for the 8-hour ozone NAAQS. The County is in nonattainment status for and for the ozone and PM10 CAAQS.

The Calaveras County Air Quality Management District (AQMD) administers the state and federal Clean Air Acts in accordance with state and federal guidelines. The AQMD regulates air quality through its district rules and permit authority. It also participates in planning review of discretionary project applications and provides recommendations. The following District rules apply to the Project:

- **Rule 202 (Visible Emissions):** Prohibits the discharge of air containments for a period or periods aggregating more than three (3) minutes in any one (1) hour which is as dark or darker in shade as that designated as No. 1 on the Ringlemann Chart or such opacity as to obscure an observer's view to a degree equal to or greater to shade No. 1 on the Ringlemann Chart.
- **Rule 205 (Nuisance):** Prohibits the discharge of air containments which cause injury, detriment, nuisance, or annoyance.

- **Rule 207 (Particulate Matter):** A person shall not release or discharge into the atmosphere from any source or single processing unit, exclusive of sources emitting combustion contaminants only, particulate matter emissions in excess of 0.1 grains per cubic foot of dry exhaust gas at standard conditions.
- **Rule 210 (Specific Contaminants):** Limits the amount of sulfur carbon dioxide released in the atmosphere.

Calaveras County AQMD considers a significant cumulative impact to occur if the project requires a change in the existing land use designation (i.e., general plan) and would individually exceed the project-level thresholds of significance. Thresholds of significance for specific pollutants of concern are as follows:

- ROG: 150 lbs/day
- NOx: 150 lbs/day
- PM10: 150 lbs/day

Potential Environmental Effects

a) ***No Impact.*** A project is inconsistent with the applicable air quality plan if it would result in population and/or employment growth that exceeds growth estimated in the applicable air quality plan. The proposed Project does not include development of new housing or employment centers, and would not induce population or employment growth. Therefore, the proposed project would not conflict with or obstruct the implementation of any air quality plan.

b) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** Calaveras County is in nonattainment status for both federal and state ozone standards and the state PM10 CAAQS.

Project Construction: Project construction would result in temporary increases in ROG, NOx, and PM10 emissions from vehicle and equipment operation. Short-term increases in emissions from the use of heavy equipment that generate dust, exhaust, and tire-wear emissions and from paints and coatings would occur during the model generated 320 day (approximate 10.5 months of active construction) construction period. Construction emissions were estimated for the Project using CalEEMod v2016.3.2 as recommended in the State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Financial Assistance, Environmental Package Construction application. All default values (e.g. construction phase duration, worker trips, off-road equipment list etc.) in CalEEMod were retained unless noted otherwise. None of the estimated emissions exceed the County's significance thresholds (Table 3).

Dust control requires the submittal of a Dust Control Plan to the Calaveras County AQMD for approval prior to surface disturbance larger than one acre, including clearing of vegetation. The Project may disturb greater than one acre and may require a Fugitive Dust Prevention and Control be prepared, submitted and approved by Calaveras County AQMD. The conditions would be included in the General Notes and/or the Grading Plan for the project, under a descriptive heading such as "Dust Control."

Table 3. Estimated maximum construction emissions of pollutants of concern.

Pollutants of Concern	Modeled Emmssions[1, 2] Winter	Summer	Calaveras Co. Significance Thresholds (lbs/day)	Threshold Exceeded?
ROG	17.84	17.83	150	**NO**
NO_x	46.00	45.96	150	**NO**
PM10	20.70	20.70	150	**NO**

[1]Units for all values are pounds per day.

[2]Notes: Data entered to emissions model: Project Operational Year: 2020; Project Duration (model generated months): ± 10.5; Total Soil Imported/Exported (yd^3/day): 0. PM10 estimates assume 50% control of fugitive dust from watering and associated dust control measures. Total PM10 emissions are the sum of *exhaust* and *fugitive dust* emissions.

Project Operation: The wastewater treatment facility improvements would provide improved compliance with water quality standards, improved safety, and simplified operation and maintenance. The existing 1997 Waste Discharge Requirements (WDR, Order No. 97-074) states that the school will have a total of approximately 700 students. The 1997 WDR's also provide for a daily treatment and discharge of 0.0175 million gallons per day (mgd) of treated wastewater to the existing ball fields. At TMS the projected future enrollment is approximately 680 students and faculty. This is approximately 20 less students and faculty then the 1997 WDR's anticipate. Under the anticipated future conditions, the TMS facility is not expected to exceed its current maximum daily treatment and discharge of 0.0175 mgd.

In general, the amount of criteria air pollutants emitted during operation of a wastewater facility is a function of wastewater throughput and composition. The proposed Project would not increase total wastewater throughput beyond the existing treatment and disposal capacity.

While not finalized, project design may include the installation of a stand-by diesel generator that would be used in emergency situations. Occasional short-term use of a stand-by generator does not represent a potentially significant source of air pollutant emissions.

The proposed Project would not increase permanent employment at the new wastewater facility. Once constructed the new headworks/ lift station would be owned and operated by the District. Maintenance of the new headworks/ lift station will require regular visits by District staff. The number of maintenance visits required is expected to be less than or equal the existing facilities. It is anticipated that the proposed Project would not substantially change current operational emissions, and operational impacts would be less than significant.

c) ***No Impact.*** Construction-related emissions from the proposed project would not exceed the County's significance thresholds. As discussed under item b above Project will not result in an increase of operational emissions. Further, the proposed Project would not conflict with the applicable air quality plans, which addresses the cumulative emissions in the MCAB. The proposed Project would not result in a cumulatively considerable increase in emissions of nonattainment pollutants.

d) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** Sensitive individuals refer to those segments of the population most susceptible to poor air quality (i.e., children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing serious health problems affected by air quality). Sensitive land uses occur where sensitive individuals are most likely to spend time (e.g. schools and schoolyards, parks and playgrounds, day care centers, nursing homes, hospitals, and residential communities). The TMS campus is a sensitive land use and other sensitive uses including residential occur adjacent to the project. Adjacent receptors have the potential to be exposed to PM10, PM2.5, CO, ROG, and NOx during construction. These impacts are considered less than significant due to the limited nature of the Project and the short-term construction period.

The Project is not located within an area known to contain naturally occurring asbestos (NOA) or an area "more likely to contain naturally occurring asbestos" (California Department of Conservation 2000).

e) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** Construction activities would involve the use of construction equipment, which have distinctive odors. Odors from construction activities are considered less than significant because of the limited number of the public affected and the short-term nature of the emissions.

The proposed Project would not result in increased production of odors causing compounds. It is anticipated that the building exhaust at the new headwords building would be directed to an odor absorption bed located adjacent to the screening equipment. These impacts are considered less than significant.

CEQA-Plus Evaluation-Clean Air Act-General Conformity: Calaveras County is designated as 'marginal non-attainment' for the 2008 O3 NAAQS. Under the General Conformity Rule, federal agencies must work with State, Tribal and local governments in an air quality nonattainment or maintenance areas to ensure that federal actions conform to the initiatives established in the applicable SIP or tribal implementation plan. Conformity determinations are required when a department, agency or instrumentality of the Federal Government engages in, supports in any way or provides financial assistance for, license or permit, or approve any activity which does not conform to an applicable implementation plan. Emissions of attainment pollutants are exempt from conformity analyses.

The requirement for conformity determination does not apply to the following Federal actions (FedCenter 2019):

- actions where the total of direct and indirect emissions are below the specified emissions levels
- actions which would result in no emissions increase or an increase in emissions that is clearly de minimis
- actions where the emissions are not reasonably foreseeable, such as the following:
    - initial Outer Continental Shelf lease sales which are made on a broad scale and are followed by exploration and development plans on a project level
    - electric power marketing activities that involve the acquisition, sale and transmission of electric energy
- actions which implement a decision to conduct or carry out a conforming program such as prescribed burning actions which are consistent with a conforming land management plan.

When undertaking Federal actions not related to activities developed, funded, or approved under the Federal Transit Act, a conformity determination is required for each criteria pollutant or precursor where the total of direct and indirect emissions of the criteria pollutant or precursor in a nonattainment or maintenance area caused by a Federal action would equal or exceed any of the following rates (de minimis levels):

Rates in nonattainment area (NAA):

- ozone (VOCs or NOX), serious NAA's: 50 tons/yr
- ozone (VOCs or NOX), severe NAA's: 25 tons/yr
- ozone (VOCs or NOX), extreme NAA's: 10 tons/yr
- other ozone NAA's outside an ozone transport region: 50 tons/yr
- other ozone NAA's inside an ozone transport region, VOC: 50 tons/yr
- other ozone NAA's inside an ozone transport region, NOX: 100 tons/yr
- carbon monoxide, all NAA's: 100 tons/yr
- SO_2 or NO_2, All NAA's: 100 tons/yr
- PM-10, moderate NAA's: 100 tons/yr
- PM-10, serious NAA's: 70 tons/year
- PM 2.5, direct emissions: 100 tons/yr
- PM 2.5, SO2: 100 tons/yr
- PM 2.5, NOX (unless determined not to be a significant precursor): 100 tons/yr
- PM 2.5, VOC or ammonia (if determined to be significant precursor): 100 tons/yr
- Pb, all NAA's: 25 tons/yr.

Rates in maintenance areas:

- ozone (NOX, SO2, or NO2), all maintenance areas: 100 tons/yr
- ozone (VOCs), maintenance area inside an ozone transport region: 50 tons/yr
- ozone (VOCs) maintenance area outside an ozone transport region: 100 tons/yr
- carbon monoxide, all maintenance areas: 100 tons/yr
- PM-10, all maintenance areas: 100 tons/yr
- PM 2.5, direct emissions: 100 tons/yr
- PM 2.5, SO2: 100 tons/yr
- PM 2.5, NOX (unless determined not to be a significant precursor): 100 tons/yr
- PM 2.5, VOC or ammonia (if determined to be significant precursors): 100 tons/yr
- Pb, all maintenance areas: 25 tons/yr.

As discussed under item a) above the proposed project would not conflict with or obstruct the implementation of any air quality plan. As discussed under item b) above the proposed Project would not substantially change current operational emissions. Any potential change would not equal or exceed any of the de minimis emission rates. For comparative purposes the following conversions are provided: 25

ton/ year = ± 140 lbs/day, 50 ton/ year = ± 274 lbs/day, and 100 ton/ year = ± 548 lbs/day. The project would be consistent with the General Conformity rule and no further analysis is required.

4.2.4 Biological Resources

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Adversely impact, either directly or through habitat modifications, any endangered, rare, or threatened species, as listed in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (Sections 670.2 or 670.5) or in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations (Sections 17.11 or 17.12)?			✓	
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?				✓
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?			✓	
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?		✓		
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?				✓
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Conservation Community Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?				✓

Environmental Setting

Information for this section is provided by a biological assessment prepared by Moore Biological Consultants, which is available in Appendix C of this document. The biological assessment involved reviewing aerial photographs, documents, and databases such as the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and the IPaC database of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). It also involved a field survey of the project site on May 24, 2023.

General Setting

The project site consists of gently rolling hills, sloping generally to the northwest. Site elevations range from approximately 1,000 to 1,060 feet above mean sea level. The project site supports annual grassland vegetation with a small area of oak woodland located in the eastern part of the site. It also has a few seasonal wetlands and seasonal wetland swales, which are discussed in more detail below. Cattle grazing and nearby development have somewhat modified vegetation and topography in the project vicinity, including on the project site.

Vegetation communities in the project site include annual grassland and mixed oak woodland. The grasslands on the site have been subject to extensive cattle grazing, are moderately to highly disturbed, and consist of mostly non-native species. Oats, medusa-head grass, foxtail barley, soft chess brome, and ripgut brome are the dominant grasses on the site. These grasses are intermixed with other grassland species such as rose clover, tarweed, rancher's fireweed, field bindweed, and long-beaked stork's-bill.

Blue oak and interior live oak are the dominant tree species in the on-site woodlands, although there is one valley oak. Most of the oaks are large and mature. The woodland understory herbaceous layer is composed of a subset of the annual grasses and weeds occurring in the nearby grasslands. There is also a large, tree-like blue elderberry shrub in the approximate central part of the oak woodlands.

A few bird species were observed at the project site. Representative species include turkey vulture, red-tailed hawk, acorn woodpecker, black phoebe, western bluebird, and Brewer's blackbird. Given the presence of large trees and foraging habitat on and near the site, it is likely one or more pairs of raptors nest on and near the site during most years. Common birds, such as songbirds, could potentially nest in shrubs, grasslands, and vegetation on and near the site.

A few common mammals have the potential to occur on the site. While desert cottontail was the only mammal observed during the field survey, burrows from California ground squirrel and Botta's pocket gopher and track of raccoon were also observed. Other common species may occur on the project site on occasion, such as black-tailed hare, black-tailed deer, coyote, striped skunk, and Virginia opossum. Species of small rodents, including mice and voles, also likely occur on the site.

Based on habitats present, a few common reptiles and amphibians have the potential to occur on the site, although western fence lizard was the only reptile or amphibian observed on the site during the field survey. Common foothill species may occur on the site, such as western terrestrial garter snake, common king snake, western rattlesnake, and other common amphibian and reptile species.

Waters of the U.S. and Wetlands

Waters of the U.S., including wetlands, are defined under 33 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 328 to include navigable waterways, their tributaries, and adjacent wetlands. State and federal agencies regulate these habitats, and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act requires that a permit be secured prior to the discharge of dredged or fill materials into any Waters of the U.S. These permits are issued by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps).

Jurisdictional Waters of the U.S. and wetlands include, but are not limited to, most perennial and intermittent creeks and lakes, as well as adjacent wetlands such as riparian wetlands along the edges of rivers. Wetlands that are adjacent to and hydrologically very closely associated with jurisdictional lakes, rivers, streams, and tributaries can also fall under federal jurisdiction. Pursuant to a May 2023 U.S. Supreme Court decision, adjacent wetlands must have a continuous surface connection with a jurisdictional Water of the U.S. such that the wetland is indistinguishable from the adjacent water. Geographically and hydrologically isolated wetlands are outside federal jurisdiction, but are regulated by RWQCB as a "Water of the State".

There are 0.17+/- acres of potential Waters of the U.S., including wetlands, on the project site (Figure 7). There are three seasonal wetlands encompassing 0.02+/- acres and three seasonal wetland swales encompassing 0.15+/- acres. All the wetlands are seasonal - dry most of the year - and lack a continuous surface connection with nearby streams.

Special-Status Species

Special-status species are plants and animals that are legally protected under the state and/or federal Endangered Species Act or other regulations. Special-status species also include other species that are considered rare enough by the scientific community and trustee agencies to warrant special consideration, particularly regarding protection of isolated populations, nesting or denning locations, communal roosts, and other essential habitats.

Special-status plant species are those which are designated rare, threatened, or endangered and candidate species for listing by the USFWS. They also include species considered rare or endangered under the conditions of CEQA Guidelines Section 15380, such as those plant species identified on Lists 1A, 1B and 2 in the Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California maintained by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS). Finally, special-status plants may include other species that are considered sensitive or of special concern due to limited distribution or lack of adequate information to permit listing or rejection for state or federal status, such as those included on CNPS List 3.

Table 4 provides a summary of the listing status and habitat requirements of special-status species that have been documented in the greater project vicinity or for which there is potentially suitable habitat in the greater project vicinity. Table 4 also includes an assessment of the likelihood of occurrence of each of these species in the site. The evaluation of the potential for occurrence of

each species is based on the distribution of regional occurrences (if any), habitat suitability, and field observations.

TABLE 4
SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES POTENTIALLY OCCURRING IN THE PROJECT VICINITY

Common Name ***Scientific Name***	**Federal Status[1]**	**State Status[1]**	**CNPS List[2]**	**Habitat**	**Potential for Occurrence**
Plants					
Ione manzanita *Arctostaphylos myrtifolia*	T	-	1B	Ione clay soils in chaparral or cismontane woodland habitats.	Unlikely: the site does not provide suitable habitat for this species.
Big-scale balsamroot *Balsamorhiza macrolepis*	-	-	1B	Chaparral, valley and foothill grassland, and cismontane woodlands; sometimes serpentine soils.	Unlikely: while the site contains potentially suitable habitat, this species was not found on the site in a previous survey.
Bisbee Peak rush-rose *Crocanthemum suffrutescens*	-	-	3	Chaparral, often on serpentine, gabbroic, or Ione formation soils.	Unlikely: there is no chaparral habitat on the site and no areas of serpentine, gabbroic, or Ione formation soils were observed.
Stanislaus monkeyflower *Erythranthe marmorata*	-	-	1B	Cismontane woodland or lower montane coniferous forest.	Unlikely: while the site provides potentially suitable habitat, it was not found on the site in a previous survey.
Patterson's navarretia *Navarretia paradoxiclara*	-	-	1B	Meadows and seeps.	Unlikely: the site does not provide suitable habitat for this species.
Birds					
Bald eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*	-	E	-	Nests in large trees along rivers, ocean shores, and lake margins.	Unlikely: bald eagles were not observed at the site during the survey, but could conceivably fly over the site on occasion.
Tricolored blackbird *Agelaius tricolor*	-	T	-	Open water and protected nesting substrate, usually cattails and riparian scrub.	Unlikely: no tricolored blackbirds were seen during the survey, and there is no aquatic habitat in the site to support nesting by this species.
Mammals					
Townsend's big-eared bat *Corynorhinus townsendii*	-	SC	-	Desert scrub, mixed conifer forest, and pinyon-juniper or pine forest; primarily roosts in caves, mines and buildings.	Unlikely: although there is a small patch of oak woodland in the site, this area will be undisturbed as part of the project. It is possible this species may roost in trees in the site.

Common Name *Scientific Name*	Federal Status[1]	State Status[1]	CNPS List[2]	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence
Amphibians					
California tiger salamander *Ambystoma californiense*	T	T	-	Breeds in seasonal water bodies such as deep vernal pools or stock ponds. Requires small mammal burrows for summer refugia.	Unlikely: none of the seasonal aquatic features in the site are suitable for breeding. The stock pond located north of the site is perennial and likely contains predatory bullfrogs and/or fish. The site is outside of the range of this species.
California red-legged frog *Rana draytonii*	T	SC	-	Lowlands and foothills in or near permanent sources of deep water with dense, shrubby or emergent riparian vegetation.	Unlikely: the site does not provide suitable habitat; the seasonal aquatic features on the site are not suitable for this species.
Fish					
Central Valley steelhead *Oncorhynchus mykiss*	T	-	-	Riffle and pool complexes with adequate spawning substrates within Central Valley drainages.	None: the site does not provide suitable aquatic habitat for this species.
Invertebrates					
Vernal pool fairy shrimp *Branchinecta lynchi*	T	-	-	Vernal pools and seasonally inundated depressions in the Central Valley.	Unlikely: there are no vernal pools on the site, and the seasonal wetlands are too shallow to support this species.
Vernal pool tadpole shrimp *Lepidurus packardi*	E	-	-	Vernal pools and seasonally wet depressions within the Central Valley.	Unlikely: there are no vernal pools on the site, and the seasonal wetlands are too shallow to support this species.
Valley elderberry longhorn beetle *Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*	T	-	-	Elderberry shrubs in the Central Valley and surrounding foothills at elevations below 500 feet.	Unlikely: there is one blue elderberry shrub located within the oak woodland area in the site and one located within a shrubby fringe of vegetation along the south edge of the site. Neither of these shrubs will be impacted by project-related activities. The site is well above the elevation range known to support this species.
Monarch butterfly *Danaus plexippus*	C	-	-	Variety of habitats in California; larvae dependent on milkweed. Primarily associated with coastal environments.	Unlikely: this species may fly over the site during its migration, but would not be expected to occur on the site due to a lack of suitable habitat. No milkweed plants were observed on site.

Notes:

[1] T = Threatened; E = Endangered; C = Candidate for Listing; SC=State of California Species of Special Concern.

[2] CNPS List 1B includes species that are rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere; List 3 includes plants about which more information is needed.

Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

a) Special-Status Species.

As indicated in Table 4, a total of 15 special-status species were identified as potentially occurring in the project vicinity, of which five were plants and the remainder were wildlife. No special-status plants were found during the focused botanical survey conducted on May 24, 2023. Due to a lack of highly suitable habitat for any of the special-status plants in Table 4 or other special-status plant species and negative survey results, it is unlikely special-status plants occur on the site.

While the project site may have provided habitat for several special-status wildlife species at some time in the past, cattle grazing, climate change, and nearby development have substantially modified natural habitats in the greater project vicinity, including those within the site. None of the species in Table 4 have much potential to occur in the project site on more than a transitory or very occasional basis.

The seasonal aquatic habitats on the site do not contain the hydrologic and environmental attributes to support California red-legged frog or California tiger salamander. The marginal seasonal wetlands in the site do not contain suitable breeding habitat for California tiger salamander, and there are no suitable breeding ponds adjacent to the site. As the constructed stock pond located just north of the site is perennial, it is highly likely to contain predatory bullfrogs and fish, which would preclude the presence of California tiger salamander.

Special-status birds, including tricolored blackbird and bald eagle, may fly over the project site on occasion, but would not be expected to nest in the site due to a lack of suitable habitat. Townsend's big-eared bat may fly over the site on occasion and could potentially roost in the largest trees in the oak woodlands in the eastern part of the site. However, this species is more known to roost in caves, mines, and old buildings.

There are no creeks or rivers on the project site to support Central Valley steelhead or other species of fish. The seasonal wetlands in the site are marginal and extremely shallow, and they do not have a hydrological regime capable of supporting vernal pool branchiopods (i.e., fairy and tadpole shrimp). There is one blue elderberry shrub located in the oak woodlands on the site and one just off-site to the south, both of which could provide habitat for valley elderberry longhorn beetle. However, the site is well above the known elevation range to support this species, and these shrubs will not be disturbed from project-related activities. Monarch butterflies may fly over the site during their migration but would be unlikely to utilize the site in a meaningful capacity, as no extensive milkweed plants were observed and this species is primarily associated with coastal habitats.

In summary, special-status species identified in the project vicinity are unlikely to occur on the project site, due mainly to lack of habitat. Project activities are unlikely to affect special-status species or their habitats. Project impacts on special-status species would be less than significant.

b) Riparian and Other Sensitive Natural Communities.

The biological assessment did not identify any riparian vegetation on the project site. As noted, there are no creeks or rivers on the project, so riparian vegetation is unlikely to occur. The biological assessment did not identify any sensitive natural communities on the project site, such as vernal pools. The project would have no impact on riparian or other sensitive natural communities.

c) State and Federally Protected Wetlands.

As noted, six wetland features totaling approximately 0.17 acres were identified on the project site. All the wetlands are dry most of the year and lack a continuous surface connection with nearby streams. Based on the recent Supreme Court decision, these wetlands are outside federal jurisdiction and thus not subject to the permitting process of the Corps.

The wetlands on the site meet the technical definition of a Water of the State and therefore may be subject to State jurisdiction. However, the wetlands are outside the limits of grading and would not be subject to direct disturbance. Potential project changes in the hydrologic regime in the wetlands, such as being wetter more of the year, are expected to be minor. As such, the project would not affect the existing wetlands in a manner that would require State permitting. Project impacts on State and federally protected wetlands would be less than significant.

d) Fish and Wildlife Movement.

As noted, there are no streams or rivers on the project site; therefore, the project would not affect any fish movement. Well-developed riparian corridors are often utilized for movement by wildlife species such as deer, coyote, red fox, and bobcat, as well as a variety of amphibians, reptiles, and fish. No wildlife movement corridors were identified on the project site.

Trees, shrubs, and grasslands in the site could be used by other birds that are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the California Fish and Game Code. Project activities that disturb these birds during their nesting season would have a potentially significant impact. Mitigation described below would require a pre-construction survey for such birds to be conducted prior to the start of work, and avoidance of any found nests. Implementation of this mitigation measure would reduce impacts on nesting birds to a level that would be less than significant.

Level of Significance: Potentially significant

Mitigation Measures:

BIO-1: If tree removal is scheduled during the nesting season for raptors (January 1 through July 31), a pre-construction survey for nesting raptors shall be conducted by a qualified biologist throughout the project site no more than 14 days prior to the initiation of construction. If other vegetation removal or construction commences during the general avian nesting season (March 1

through July 31), a pre-construction survey for all species of nesting birds shall be conducted by a qualified biologist throughout the project site no more than 14 days prior to the initiation of construction. If active nests are discovered, then work in the vicinity of the nests shall be delayed until the young have fledged.

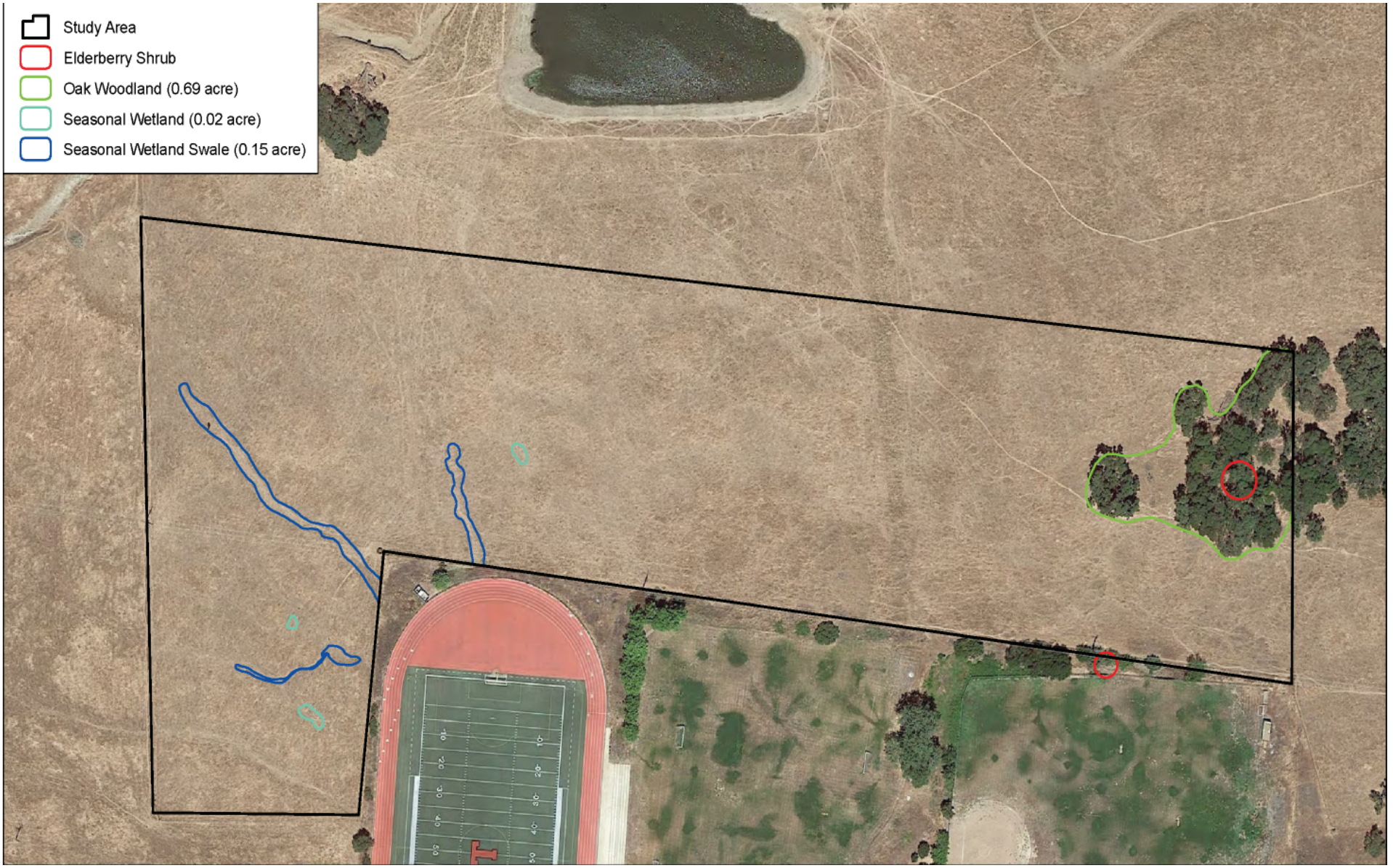
Significance After Mitigation: Less than significant

e) Local Biological Requirements.

Calaveras County does not have any local biological resource ordinances or other requirements applicable to the project. The County has Voluntary Oak Woodland Management Guidelines, but it does not have a tree preservation ordinance at this time. The project site has an oak woodland, but it would be avoided by the project. The project would have no impact on local biological requirements.

f) Conflict with Habitat Conservation Plans.

There are no Habitat Conservation Plans, Natural Community Conservation Plans, or similar plans that apply to the project site. The project would have no impact on this issue.



SOURCE: Moore Biological Consultants

Figure 7
NOTABLE HABITATS

4.2.5 Cultural Resources

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

Environmental Setting

Natural Investigations Company, Inc. (Natural Investigations) conducted a cultural resources assessment of Project area (Natural Investigations 2018). A cultural resources literature search was conducted on 27 September 2018 by the Central California Information Center (CCIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System at California State University, Stanislaus. The records maintained by the CCIC indicate no cultural resources have been previously recorded within the approximate 30.7 acre project area.

Natural Investigations contacted the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), requesting a search of their Sacred Lands File for traditional cultural resources within or near the Project. The 10 July 2018 reply from the NAHC states that the search failed to indicate the presence of Native American sacred lands in the immediate vicinity.

By letter dated 4 October 2018, Natural Investigations contacted each of the three Native American Tribes (4 individuals) provided by the NAHC, requesting any information regarding sacred lands or other heritage sites that might be impacted by the proposed Project. If no response was received, follow-up phone calls were made on 19 October 2018. Below is a summary of the Native American coordination efforts:

- Calaveras Band of Mi-Wuk Indians, Charles Wilson, Chairperson: Mr. Wilson was unavailable on 19 October 2018; a voice message was left. No response.
- Calaveras Band of Mi-Wuk Indians, Debra Grimes, Ms. Grimes was unavailable on 19 October 2018; a voice message was left. No response.
- Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, Darrel Cruz, THPO: Mr. Cruz was unavailable on 19 October 2018; a voice message was left. No response.
- Ione Band of Miwok Indians, Sara Dutschke Setchwaelo, Chairperson: By email dated October 7, 2018, Ms. Setchwaelo stated that she has forwarded on the information letter to the Tribe's Cultural Committee and would follow up with any questions they may have. Ms. Setchwaelo was unavailable on October 19, 2018; a voice message was left. No response.

An intensive-level pedestrian survey within the 30.7 acre area of potential effect (APE) was conducted by Natural Investigations on 11 October 2018. The 30.7 acre APE is located at 3412 Double Springs Road in Valley Springs CA and is separated into 2 distinct areas, the onsite TMS (20 acres) and the offsite infrastructure (10.7 acres). The TMS APE is entirely developed and contains parking lots, permanent buildings, portable buildings, recreation fields, play areas, and the existing water treatment facility and pond. The offsite APE is a 10.7 acre portion of private property adjoining the middle school on the northern and western boundary. The 10.7 acre APE was not accessible and was examined at a cursory visual level from the TMS property line. The 10.7 acre APE was found to be an existing cattle pasture with no indication of archaeological materials observable from the property boundary. No evidence of structural materials or remains were observed or any areas that are indicative of prehistoric archaeological sites. The TMS APE is surrounded on the north, east, and west by rural undeveloped property and to the south by commercial properties.

The proposed Project will have no effect on historic properties or on historical resources. No documented archaeological or built environment resources are present within the APE. The probability of discovery of buried archaeological deposits is low. Five previous studies have covered portions of the APE. Based on the results of the records search, review of archival maps and photographs, the age of underlying geologic deposits, field survey, historic and prehistoric use of the land, the potential for the discovery of buried archaeological materials within the highly disturbed APE, both onsite and offsite, is considered to be low.

Potential Environmental Effects

a) ***No Impact.*** An intensive-level pedestrian survey within the project area was conducted by Natural Investigations on 11 October 2018. No resources were identified during the survey. The proposed Project will have No Effect on historic properties or on historical resources. No documented archaeological or built environment resources are present within the APE. The probability of discovery of buried archaeological deposits is low. Five previous studies have covered portions of the APE. Based on the results of the records search, review of archival maps and photographs, the age of underlying geologic deposits, field survey, historic and prehistoric use of the land, the potential for the discovery of buried archaeological materials within the highly disturbed APE, both onsite and offsite, is considered to be low.

b) ***No Impact.*** See response to 'item a)' above.

c) ***Less Than Significant Impact*:** The Project does not occur in an area containing unique geologic features. The project would not likely impact paleontological features. There is the possibility of accidental paleontological discoveries during construction-related ground-disturbing activities. This is a less-than-significant impact because the project would implement County policies and state law to protect paleontological resources. These policies include stopping all work in the vicinity of the discovered resources and requiring that a professional paleontologist complete a determination of their significance prior to resuming any work in the area of the discovery.

d) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** The Project Cultural Resources Inventory and Effects Assessment Report (Natural Investigations 2018) documents that no known cemeteries or burials occur within the project study area. Should human remains be discovered during the excavation portion of the Project, the project description includes contract provisions that will require notification of CUSD and compliance with California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 and California Public Resources Code Section 5097.9 et seq.

4.2.6 Tribal Cultural Resources

VI. Tribal Cultural Resources:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:	☐	☐	☐	☒
i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or	☐	☐	☐	☒
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 Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	☐	☐	☐	☒

Environmental Setting

CUSD has not received in any requests in writing from California Native American tribes to be notified by through formal notification of proposed projects in the geographic area with which the tribe is traditionally and culturally affiliated. Below is an accounting of the Section 106 coordination efforts with Native American individuals/organizations

Potential Environmental Effects

a) ***No Impact (applies to items i and ii).*** By letter dated 4 October 2018, Natural Investigations contacted each of the three Native American Tribes (4 individuals) provided by the NAHC, requesting any information regarding sacred lands or other heritage sites that might be impacted by the proposed Project. If no response was received, follow-up phone calls were made on 19 October 2018. Below is a summary of the Native American coordination efforts:

- Calaveras Band of Mi-Wuk Indians, Charles Wilson, Chairperson: Mr. Wilson was unavailable on 19 October 2018; a voice message was left. No response.
- Calaveras Band of Mi-Wuk Indians, Debra Grimes, Cultural Resource Specialist: Ms. Grimes was unavailable on 19 October 2018; a voice message was left. No response.
- Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California, Darrel Cruz, THPO: Mr. Cruz was unavailable on 19 October 2018; a voice message was left. No response.
- Ione Band of Miwok Indians, Sara Dutschke Setchwaelo, Chairperson: By email dated October 7, 2018, Ms. Setchwaelo stated that she has forwarded on the information letter to the Tribe's Cultural Committee and would follow up with any questions they may have. Ms. Setchwaelo was unavailable on October 19, 2018; a voice message was left. No response.

4.2.7 Geology and Soils

VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS—Would the project:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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 offsite landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Environmental Setting

Calaveras County is located in the Sierra Nevada geomorphic province of California, east of the Great Valley province and west of the Range and Basin provinces. The Sierra Nevada geomorphic province is a tilted fault block almost 400 miles long and extends from the eastern slope to the western slope of the Sierra Nevada. Steep-sided hills and narrow rocky stream channels characterize the Sierra Nevada province. This province consists of Pliocene and older deposits that have been uplifted as a result of plate tectonics, granitic intrusion, and volcanic activity. Subsequent glaciations and additional volcanic activity are factors that led to the east-west orientation of stream channels. The Sierra Nevada geomorphic province overlies metamorphic bedrock that contains gold-bearing veins in the northwest trending Mother Lode. The Mother Lode region in the Sierra Nevada extends from El Dorado County in the north through Calaveras County, terminating in Mariposa County to the south (Calaveras County 2012b).

Seismicity is defined as the geographic and historical distribution of earthquake activity. Seismic activity may result in geologic and seismic hazards including seismically induced fault displacement and rupture, ground shaking, liquefaction, lateral spreading, landslides and avalanches, and structural hazards.

The California Department of Conservation's 2010 Fault Activity Map of California indicates the closest potentially active faults are the Haupt Creek Fault, Ione Fault, Waters Peak Fault, Bear Mountains Fault Zone (Youngs Creek Fault), and the Melones Fault Zone (Poorman Gulch Fault). The Haupt Creek fault occurs within or immediately adjacent to the Project site. The remaining faults listed above occur east and west of the Project site. These fault zones pass through the western portion of Calaveras County and are identified near Valley Springs, Mokelumne Hill, south of Melones near Jamestown, and south of Copperopolis (Calaveras County 2012b).

No mapped Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones occur in Calaveras County. Surface fault rupture is associated with being located on or within close proximity of an active fault. Because the County is not within, and does not cross, an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone, the risk of surface fault rupture within the County is considered low (Calaveras County 2012b).

Calaveras County is not located in a seismic hazard zone (Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone) and is not considered to be at risk from landslides as a result of active faulting. Portions of the County with slopes 20 percent or greater have an increased potential for non-seismic related landslides associated with high rainfall or snowmelt (Calaveras County 2012b). The Project area does not contain slopes 20 percent or greater.

The locations of ultramafic rocks have been mapped by the Division of Mines and Geology in an effort to generally identify areas likely to contain Naturally Occurring Asbestos (NOA). Ultramafic rock occurs within the western portion of Calaveras County and generally trends north to southwest following the Bear Mountain and Melones Fault Zones. Specifically, areas identified as potentially containing NOA include the following: from Pardee Reservoir extending southwest through the Valley Springs area to just southeast of New Hogan Reservoir; north of Copperopolis extending southeast through New Melones Reservoir; and in the Mountain Ranch area (Calaveras County 2012b).

Potential Environmental Effects

a) ***a-i) Less Than Significant Impact.*** Calaveras County does not occur in or adjacent to an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone. Surface fault rupture is associated with being located on or within close proximity of an active fault. Because the County is not within, and does not cross, an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone, the risk of surface fault rupture within the County is considered low (Calaveras County 2012b). Therefore, the Project will not rupture a fault mapped on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map.

a-ii) Less Than Significant Impact. Earthquake shaking hazards are calculated by projecting earthquake rates based on earthquake history and fault slip rates, the same data used for calculating earthquake probabilities (California Department of Conservation 2018a). Calculations of earthquake shaking hazard for California are part of a cooperative project between USGS and California Geologic Survey (CGS), and are part of the National Seismic Hazard Maps. CGS Map Sheet 48 (revised 2016) shows potential seismic shaking based on National Seismic Hazard Map calculations plus amplification of seismic shaking due to the near surface soils. Calaveras County is located in a region '*distant from known, active faults and will experience lower levels of shaking less frequently. In most earthquakes, only weaker, masonry buildings would be damaged. However, very infrequent earthquakes could still cause strong shaking here.*' The Project is not in a seismic hazard zone.

a-iii) No Impact. No portion of Calaveras County occurs in a Seismic Hazard Zone (i.e., regulatory zones that encompass areas prone to liquefaction and earthquake-induced landslides) based on the Seismic Hazards Mapping Program administered by the CGS. Consequently, Calaveras County and the Project site are not considered to be at risk from liquefaction hazards.

a-iv) Less Than Significant Impact. No portion of Calaveras County occurs in a Seismic Hazard Zone (i.e., regulatory zones that encompass areas prone to liquefaction and earthquake-induced landslides) based on the Seismic Hazards Mapping Program administered by the CGS. Consequently, Calaveras County and the Project site are not considered to be at risk from earthquake-induced landslides. Portions of the County with slopes 20 percent or greater have an increased potential for non-seismic related landslides associated with high rainfall or snowmelt (Calaveras County 2012b). The Project area does not contain natural slopes 20 percent or greater.

b) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** Construction of the proposed project could introduce sediments and other contaminants typically associated with construction into stormwater runoff. The SWRCB is responsible for implementing the Clean Water Act and has issued a statewide General Permit (Water Quality Order 2009-0009-DWQ) for construction activities. In the Project area, the Construction General Permit is implemented and enforced by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB). Projects resulting in disturbance of one acre or more are required to obtain coverage under the Construction General Permit. The proposed Project will require coverage under the SWRCB Construction General Permit.

In accordance with the requirements of the Construction General Permit, prior to construction of the proposed project, a risk assessment must be prepared and submitted to the CVRWQCB to determine the project's risk level and associated water quality control requirements. These requirements will, at a minimum, include the preparation and implementation of a SWPPP identifying specific best management practices (BMPs) to be implemented and maintained on the site in order to comply with the applicable effluent standards.

Compliance with the various requirements of the SWRCB statewide general permit for construction that water quality impacts during the construction phase of the proposed project would be minimized. Measure *BIO-2* requires implementation of BMPs consistent with the Caltrans Stormwater Quality Handbooks to protect water quality and minimize the potential for siltation and downstream sedimentation. Construction activities will include implementation of stormwater runoff BMPs. Application of these requirements and measures would prevent substantial erosion or topsoil loss.

c) ***No Impact.*** The California Geologic Survey '*Fault Activity Map of California*' identifies the Haupt Creek Fault within or immediately adjacent to the Project site (CDOC 2019d). Calaveras County is located in a region '*distant from known, active faults and will experience lower levels of shaking less frequently. In most earthquakes, only weaker, masonry buildings would be damaged. However, very infrequent earthquakes could still cause strong shaking here.*' (CDOC 2019a). Because the County is not within, and does not cross, an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone, the risk of surface fault rupture within the County is considered low (Calaveras County 2012b). The Project does not include activities that would result in soil units onsite becoming unstable, and potentially result in on or offsite landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse.

d) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** Expansive soils that may swell enough to cause problems with paved surfaces are generally clays falling into the AASHTO A-6 or A-7 groups, or classified as CH, MH,

or OH by the Unified Soil Classification System (USCS), and with a Plasticity Index greater than about 25 as determined by ASTM D4318. Chapter 610 of the Caltrans Highway Design Manual (2012) defines an expansive subgrade to include soils with a Plasticity Index greater than 12 (Caltrans 2012).

AASHTO group classification is a system that classifies soils specifically for geotechnical engineering purposes that are related to highway and airfield construction. It is based on particle-size distribution and Atterberg limits, such as liquid limit and plasticity index.

AASHTO and USCS classification for the soils in the Project area are listed in Table 5 (NRCS 2019). The NRCS Web Soil Survey indicates the maximum plasticity index of soils in the Project area is 15.7 (NRCS 2019). Soils in the Project area may have a moderate expansion potential.

Table 5. AASHTO and USCS soil classes for Project area

Soil Units In Project Area	**Classification**	
	AASHTO	**USCS**
Inks-Angelscreek complex, 3 to 15 percent slopes	A-6	ML-Inorganic slits and very fine sands, rock flour, silty or clayey fine sands or clayey silts with slight plasticity.
Urban land-Amador complex – 2 to 15% slopes:	No rating	No rating

The Project is being designed in accordance with Calaveras County Code Title 15 Buildings and Construction; Chapter 15.04 Uniform Codes. Because the project is being designed in accordance with the Title 15 Buildings and Construction; Chapter 15.04 Uniform Codes and will consider and address expansive soils, impacts are considered less than significant.

e) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** The existing headworks facilities located between the gym and lower soccer field will be replaced with new headworks equipment. The existing equalization basin will be retained. Flow from the existing equalization basin (± 15,000 gallon capacity) will discharge to a 3 way distribution box which will direct flows to one or two of the 5,000 gallon capacity septic tanks. One of the three septic tanks will always be available in reserve when one of the other tanks is removed from service for cleaning and pump out. The Project is being designed in accordance with Calaveras County Code Title 15 Buildings and Construction; Chapter 15.04 Uniform Codes. Because the project is being designed in accordance with the Title 15 Buildings and Construction; Chapter 15.04 Uniform Codes and will consider and address negative soil properties, impacts are considered less than significant.

4.2.8 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

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

Environmental Setting

CUSD and Calaveras County have not yet adopted CEQA significance thresholds for GHG emissions. For the purposes of this CEQA analysis, CUSD is using the Placer APCD thresholds as described below.

On October 13, 2016, the Placer County Air Pollution Control District (Placer APCD) Board of Directors adopted the Review of Land Use Projects under CEQA Policy (Policy). The Policy establishes the thresholds of significance for criteria pollutants as well as greenhouse gases and the review principles which serve as guidelines for the Placer APCD staff when the Placer APCD acts as a commenting agency to review and comment on the environmental documents prepared by the lead agencies. In developing the thresholds, the Placer APCD took into account health-based air quality standards and the strategies to attain air quality standards, historical CEQA project review data in Placer County, statewide regulations to achieve emission reduction targets for GHG, and the special geographic and land use features in Placer County.

The Placer APCD approach to developing significance thresholds for GHG emissions is to identify the emissions level for which a project would be expected to substantially contribute a mass amount of emissions and would conflict with existing statewide GHG emission reduction goal adopted by California legislation. The Placer APCD has developed a 3-step process for determining significance which includes 1) a bright-line threshold, 2) a De Minimis level, and 3) an efficiency matrix for projects that fall between the Bright-line and the De Minimis level. The Placer APCD District proposed using the bright-line threshold of 10,000 MT CO2e/yr for determining the level of significance for the land use construction phase of a Project. The State of California set the goal to reduce GHG emissions without limiting population and economic growth. The Placer APCD concept is to look for a reasonable threshold which would capture larger–scale projects with significant GHG emission contributions which should implement mitigation. Placer APCD GHG Emissions Significance Thresholds are listed in Table 6.

Table 6. Placer APCD 2016 Approved GHG Emissions Significance Thresholds.

Greenhouse Gas Thresholds			
Bright line threshold 10,000 Metric Tons (MT) CO2e/yr			
Efficiency Matrix			
Residential		**Non-Residential**	
Urban	**Rural**	**Urban**	**Rural**
(MT CO2e/capita)		(MT/CO2e/1,000 sf)	
4.5	**5.5**	**26.5**	**27.3**
De Minimis Level 1,110 (MT) CO2e/yr			

Potential Environmental Effects

a) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** Construction of the proposed Project would generate short-term emissions of greenhouse gases. CalEEMod v2016.3.2 was utilized to estimate CO2e from the construction of the proposed Project.

Project construction is estimated to produce a total of approximately 612 metric tons (MT) of CO2e during the approximately 10.5 month (320 day) construction period. CO2e associated with construction are temporary. The County has not yet quantified thresholds for construction activities. However, the construction emissions would be well below the Placer APCD de minimis level of 1,110 (MT) CO2e/yr thresholds.

As discussed in the Air Quality section, it is anticipated that the proposed Project would not change current operational emissions. Project operation is estimated to produce a total of approximately 2,693 metric tons (MT) of CO2e per year. The operational emissions would be approximately 2.7 MT CO2e per 1,000 square foot of development, well below the Placer APCD thresholds for both residential urban and rural as well as and non-residential urban and rural (Table 6). Project impacts are considered less than significant.

b) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** Calaveras Air Quality Management District's has not yet adopted a qualified plan, policy, or regulation to reduce GHG emissions. Therefore, the most applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing GHG emissions is Assembly Bill (AB) 32, which codified the State's future GHG emissions reduction targets.

In 2006, the Legislature passed the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 [Assembly Bill 32 (AB 32)], which created a comprehensive, multi-year program to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in California. AB 32 required the California Air Resources Board (ARB) to develop a Scoping Plan that describes the approach California will take to reduce GHGs to achieve the goal of reducing emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. The Scoping Plan was first approved by the ARB in 2008 and must be updated every five years. The First Update to the Climate Change Scoping Plan was approved by the Board on May 22, 2014. In 2016, the Legislature passed SB 32, which codifies a 2030 GHG emissions reduction target of 40 percent below 1990 levels. With SB 32, the Legislature passed companion legislation AB 197, which provides additional direction

for developing the Scoping Plan. ARB is moving forward with a second update to the Scoping Plan to reflect the 2030 target set by Executive Order B-30-15 and codified by SB 32.

The 2006 California Global Warming Solutions Act establishes regulatory, reporting, and market mechanisms to achieve quantifiable reductions in GHG emissions and establishes a cap on statewide GHG emissions. CARB's Scoping Plan includes measures to achieve the GHG reductions in California required by the California Global Warming Solutions Act. Measures included in the Scoping Plan would indirectly address GHG emission levels associated with construction activities, including the phasing-in of cleaner technology for diesel engine fleets (including construction equipment) and the development of a low-carbon fuel standard. Policies formulated under the mandate of the California Global Warming Solutions Act that are applicable to construction-related activity, either directly or indirectly, are assumed to be implemented statewide and would affect the proposed project if those are policies are implemented before construction begins. The proposed Project's construction emissions would comply with any mandate or standards set forth by the Scoping Plan. Therefore, it is assumed that project construction would not conflict with the Scoping Plan.

As discussed in the Air Quality section, it is anticipated that the proposed Project would not change current operational emissions. The Project's construction related GHG emissions are well below the Placer APCD de minimis level of 1,110 (MT) CO2e/yr. The operational emissions would be approximately 2.7 MT CO2e per 1,000 square foot of development, well below the Placer APCD thresholds for both residential urban and rural as well as and non-residential urban and rural (Table 6). Implementation of the proposed project would not conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases.

4.2.9 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS—Would the project:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project	☐	☐	☐	☒

result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Environmental Setting

A hazardous material is defined by the California EPA, Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), as a material that poses a significant present or potential hazard to human health and safety or the environment if released because of its quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics (26 California Code of Regulations (CCR) 25501).

According to Title 22 of the CCR (22 CCR) Section 66261.20, the term "hazardous substance" refers to both hazardous materials and hazardous wastes; both are classified according to four properties: toxicity, ignitability, corrosiveness, and reactivity.

A hazardous material is defined by 22 CCR Section 66261.10 as a substance or combination of substances that may cause or significantly contribute to an increase in serious, irreversible, or incapacitating illness or may pose a substantial presence or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly treated, stored, transported, or disposed of, or otherwise managed.

While public health and safety is potentially at risk whenever hazardous materials are or will be used, the risk is determined by the probability of exposure and to the inherent toxicity of a material. Factors that can influence health effects when human beings are exposed to hazardous materials include the dose the person is exposed to, the frequency of exposure, the duration of exposure, the exposure pathway (route by which a chemical enters a person's body), and the individual's unique biological susceptibility.

Hazardous wastes are hazardous substances that no longer have practical use, such as materials that have been discarded, discharged, spilled, or contaminated or are being stored until they can be disposed of properly (22 CCR Section 66261.10). Soil that is excavated from a site containing hazardous materials is a hazardous waste if it exceeds specific 22 CCR criteria.

A regulatory agency database review for locations included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 (The Cortese list') was conducted as part of the Project scoping process (DTSC 2019). No listed hazardous materials or waste sites were reported within the project site. One LUST (Leaking Underground Storage Tank) site is located approximately 0.43 mile southwest of TMS at the former location of the Toyon Sawmill. The cleanup was completed and the case closed in 1991. There are no known historical uses of the project site that would indicate the potential for a previously undiscovered hazard, such as buried fuel tanks or contamination from industrial operations.

Hazardous materials transport within California is subject to various federal, state, and local regulations. The California Highway Patrol (CHP) designates through routes to be used for the transportation of

hazardous materials. Transportation of hazardous materials is generally restricted to these routes. Hazardous materials transport within the project area is subject to various federal, state, and local regulations.

The following provisions pertaining to the transportation of hazardous-related materials are included in the California Vehicle Code:

- CHP designates the routes in California which are to be used for the transportation of explosives. (Section 31616)
- The California Vehicle Code applies when the explosives are transported as a delivery service for hire, or in quantities in excess of 1,000 pounds. The transportation of explosives in quantities of 1,000 pounds or less, or other than on a public highway, is subject to the California Health and Safety Code. (Section 31601(a))
- It is illegal to transport explosives or inhalation hazards on any public highway not designated for that purpose, unless the use of the highway is required to permit delivery of, or the loading of, such materials. (Section 31602(b) and Section 32104(a))
- When transporting explosives through or into a city for which a route has not been designated by the CHP, drivers must follow routes as may be prescribed or established by local authorities. (Section 31614(a))
- Inhalation hazards and poison gases are subject to additional safeguards. These materials are highly toxic, spread rapidly, and require rapid and widespread evacuation if there is loss of containment or a fire. The CHP designates through routes to be used for the transportation of inhalation hazards. It may also designate separate through routes for the transportation of inhalation hazards composed of any chemical rocket propellant. (Section 32100 and Section 32102(b))

Potential Environmental Effects

a) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** Small amounts of hazardous materials would be used during construction and operation activities (i.e., equipment maintenance, fuel, and solvents). Implementation of the proposed Project would continue the use, transport, and disposal of potentially hazardous materials on and in the vicinity of the project site, similar to existing conditions. The Project is required to comply with federal, state, and local regulations regarding the storage, handling, transportation, disposal, and cleanup of hazardous materials. Use of hazardous materials in accordance with applicable standards ensures that any exposure of the public to hazard materials would have a less-than-significant impact.

b) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** The proposed Project could potentially result in increased storage and use of hazardous materials beyond current operations and consequently increase the risk of accidental release of hazardous materials. The California Accidental Release Prevention program, administered as part of the Unified Program by the Calaveras County Environmental Health Department, seeks to prevent accidental releases of regulated substances that potentially pose the greatest risk of immediate harm to the public and the environment. The program requires that any owner or operator of a stationary source with more than the threshold quantity of a regulated substance be evaluated to determine the potential for accidental releases. The list of substances regulated by the California Accidental Release Prevention program is located in Title 19, Article 8,

Section 2770.5 of the California Code of Regulations. As discussed in item a) above, the use, disposal, and transportation of all hazardous materials associated with the proposed project would require compliance with federal, state, and local regulations regarding hazardous materials. Management of hazardous materials in accordance with applicable standards ensures that any exposure of the public to hazard materials would have a less-than-significant impact.

c) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** Part of the proposed Project occurs on the campus of the Toyon Middle School. Per 14 CCR § 15186 (School Facilities) CEQA establishes a special requirement for certain school projects, as well as certain projects near schools, to ensure that potential health impacts resulting from exposure to hazardous materials, wastes, and substances will be carefully examined and disclosed during the CEQA process, and that the lead agency will consult with other agencies in this regard. Per 14 CCR § 15186(b) prior to certifying or adopting a CEQA documents negative declaration for a project located within one-fourth mile of a school involving the construction or alteration of a facility that might reasonably be anticipated to emit hazardous air emissions, or that would handle an extremely hazardous substance or a mixture containing extremely hazardous substances in a quantity equal to or greater than the state threshold quantity specified in subdivision (j) of Section 25532 of the Health and Safety Code, that may impose a health or safety hazard to persons who would attend or would be employed at the school, the lead agency must do both of the following:

- Consult with the affected school district or districts regarding the potential impact of the project on the school; and
- Notify the affected school district or districts of the project, in writing, not less than 30 days prior to approval or certification of the negative declaration or EIR.

Given that the CUSD is carrying out the proposed project and is the CEQA lead agency, the requirements of 14 CCR § 15186 are not applicable. As noted above, the Project would involve the short- term handling of hazardous materials during construction. Handling and storage of hazardous materials during construction would comply with all applicable local, state, and federal standards.

d) ***No Impact.*** No listed hazardous materials or waste sites were reported within the project site. One LUST (Leaking Underground Storage Tank) site is located approximately 0.43 mile southwest of TMS at the former location of the Toyon Sawmill. The cleanup was completed and the case closed in 1991 (DTSC 2019).

e) ***No Impact.*** The Project is not located within two miles of a public airport or public use airport and no private air strips occur in close proximity to the Project.

f) ***No Impact.*** See response of item e) above.

g) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** Project construction activities would be coordinated with local law enforcement and emergency services providers as applicable.

h) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** The completed Project will not expose people or structures to a new or increased significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires. Project construction activities would be coordinated with local law enforcement and emergency services providers as needed.

4.2.10 Hydrology and Water Quality

X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY—Would the project:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on or offsite?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on or offsite?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) 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?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?	☐	☐	☒	☐
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?	☐	☐	☐	☒
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☒	☐
i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?	☐	☐	☐	☒
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Environmental Setting

The Project is located in the Upper Calaveras Hydrologic Unit (hydrologic unit code 18040011). Section 13240 of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act requires each Regional Board to formulate and adopt water quality control plans, or basin plans, for all areas within the Region. The Porter-Cologne Act also requires each Regional Board to establish water quality objectives to ensure the reasonable protection of beneficial uses and a program of implementation for achieving water quality objectives within the basin plans. In California, the beneficial uses and water quality objectives are the State's water quality standards. The Project is subject to the Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) for the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins.

The existing beneficial uses of the Calaveras River identified for the New Hogan Reservoir are contact recreation, non-contact recreation, warm and cold freshwater habitat, warm-water migration, warm and

cold-water spawning habitat, and wildlife habitat (California Regional Water Quality Control Board 2018). The beneficial uses of underlying groundwater are municipal and domestic water supply, agricultural supply, industrial service supply, and industrial process supply.

At TMS raw wastewater flows by gravity pipeline to the existing wastewater treatment plant (WWTP). The raw wastewater flows through screening devices followed by an equalization basin, primary, secondary, and final clarifiers (each with intermediate trickling filtration). After the final clarifier, the effluent is delivered to a clear well, dosed with alum and then discharged through sand filters before it is disinfected and then stored for treated effluent irrigation. Treated effluent is stored in an existing effluent storage basin and is applied as irrigation during off school hours on the existing upper soccer field / baseball field and lower soccer field. The existing facilities provide for recirculation, flow equalization and returns along the treatment process. Skilled operation is required to keep the system in balance and operating at or near design conditions. These activities are carried out under California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, Order No. 97-074, Waste Discharge Requirements for Calaveras Unified School District, Toyon Middle School Wastewater Treatment Facility.

The Onsite Recirculating Sand Filter Treatment with Offsite Disposal Alternative is the CUSD preferred alternative. Both the preferred and second project alternatives include the installation of Onsite Recirculating Sand Filter Treatment. The difference between the two alternatives is the location and method of disposal. A Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) will be prepared for updated TMS facilities and revised Waste Discharge Orders will be issued by the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Potential Environmental Effects

a) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** Construction of the proposed project could introduce sediments and other contaminants typically associated with construction into stormwater runoff. Stormwater flowing over the project features during construction could carry various pollutants downstream such as sediment, nutrients, bacteria and viruses, oil and grease, heavy metals, organics, pesticides, and miscellaneous waste. These pollutants could originate from soil disturbances, construction equipment, building materials, and workers. Erosion potential and water quality impacts are always present during construction and occur when protective vegetative cover is removed and soils are disturbed. In the case of the proposed Project, it is primarily grading and the cut and fill associated with facility improvements.

The SWRCB is responsible for implementing the Clean Water Act and has issued a statewide General Permit (Water Quality Order 2009-0009-DWQ) for construction activities. In the Project area, the Construction General Permit is implemented and enforced by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB). Projects resulting in disturbance of one acre or more are required to obtain coverage under the Construction General Permit. The proposed Project will require coverage under the SWRCB Construction General Permit.

In accordance with the requirements of the Construction General Permit, prior to construction of the proposed project, a risk assessment must be prepared and submitted to the CVRWQCB to determine the project's risk level and associated water quality control requirements. These requirements will, at a minimum, include the preparation and implementation of a SWPPP identifying specific best management practices (BMPs) to be implemented and maintained on the site in order to comply with the applicable effluent standards.

The Construction General Permit requires construction sites are inspected before and after storm events and every 24 hours during extended storm events. Inspections identify any BMP maintenance requirements and determine the effectiveness of the BMPs.

Compliance with the various requirements of the SWRCB statewide general permit for construction would ensure that water quality impacts during the construction phase of the proposed project would be minimized. A Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) will be prepared for updated TMS facilities and revised Waste Discharge Orders will be issued by the Regional Water Quality Control Board.

b) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** The Project would not involve any new withdrawals from an aquifer or groundwater table and would not interfere with groundwater recharge.

c) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** The Grading of the project site and installation of the proposed improvements may result in minor changes in site drainage. The proposed Project does not include activities that will change the course of any stream or river. The statewide General Permit (Water Quality Order 2009-0009-DWQ) for construction activities will require preparation and implementation of a SWPPP identifying specific best management practices (BMPs) to be implemented and maintained through the Project to limit potential erosion.

d) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** See response to item 'c' above.

e) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** The Project could provide minor additional sources of runoff when compared with pre-project conditions. Minor increase of impervious surface area would result primarily from improvements to the headworks and installation of the recirculating sand filters on the TMS campus. The Project will not contribute to a substantial increase in water runoff from the site.

f) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** The purpose of the Project is the replacement of the existing wastewater system at TMS with the goals of improved compliance with water quality standards, improved safety, and simplified operation and maintenance. Other than the potential minor drainage changes and minor additional sources of runoff when compared with pre-project conditions the Project does not include activities that would substantially degrade water quality.

g) ***No Impact.*** The Project occurs on FEMA/FIRM panel 06009C0375F for unincorporated Calaveras County. The effective date of panel 06009C0375F is 16 May 2017. FEMA/FIRM panel 06009C0375F designates the TMS campus and 10.7 acre portion of APN 040-006-042 as Zone X (areas determined to be outside the 0.2% annual chance floodplain).

h) ***No Impact.*** See response to item g) above.

i) ***No Impact.*** The Project does not propose activities that would increase flood risk.

j) ***No Impact.*** The Project is not in an area subject to seiche or tsunami.

CEQA-Plus Evaluation-Safe Drinking Water Act, Sole Source Aquifer Protection: There are a total of 77 currently designated sole source aquifers in the U.S. Of the 77, a total 9 occur in EPA, Region 9. In California a total of 4 sole source aquifers have been designated (EPA 2019):

- Santa Margarita Aquifer, Scotts Valley (Santa Cruz County)
- Fresno County Aquifer - Recharge Area & Streamflow Source Zone (Fresno, Madera, and Tulare County's)
- Campo/Cottonwood Creek (San Diego County)

- Ocotillo-Coyote Wells Aquifer (San Diego and Imperial County's)

The Project, located in Calaveras County is not located in an area designated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9, as a Sole Source Aquifer.

4.2.11 Land Use and Planning

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

Environmental Setting

The 1996 Calaveras County General Plan is the relevant land use plan for the project area. The General Plan designation of the parcels in the Project area are listed in Table 1.

Potential Environmental Effects

a) ***No Impact.*** The Project proposes improvements to the wastewater treatment and disposal system for TMS and would not physically divide an established community.

b) ***No Impact.*** The proposed Project is consistent with the County General Plan.

c) ***No Impact.*** The Project does not occur in an area covered by a habitat or natural community conservation plan.

CEQA-Plus Evaluation-Coastal Barriers Resources Act: The Project is located in Calaveras County, California. The Coastal Barrier Resources System the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) of 1982 which designated relatively undeveloped coastal barriers along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts as part of the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS), and made these areas ineligible for most new Federal expenditures and financial assistance. The Project will not impact or be located within or near the Coastal Barrier Resources System or its adjacent wetlands, marshes, estuaries, inlets, and near-shore waters.

CEQA-Plus Evaluation-Coastal Zone Management Act: The project is not within the coastal zone.

4.2.12 Mineral Resources

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

Environmental Setting

Calaveras County is unique in that both metallic and nonmetallic mineral deposits are widespread throughout the County. County General Plan Figure IV-16 'Potential Mineral Resource Areas' indicates that potential gold bearing deposits occur within or immediately adjacent to the Project site (Calaveras County 1996). General Plan Figure IV-13 'Mineral Resources' identifies the Project as occurring in Mineral Resources Area 1 (MRA-1) which is defined as 'Lands not known to contain significant deposits. Isolated mineral occurrences may be shown within this area.' Per the State Mining and Geology Board, as of 2013, there are no lands designated in Calaveras County as mineral areas of regional or statewide significance (Calaveras County 2016).

A review of the California Department of Conservation, Division of Mine Reclamations, 'Mines Online' interactive mapper indicates that the Valley Springs Clay Pit and Snyder Clay Pit occur approximately 3.25 miles northwest of the TMS campus. Both mines are listed as idle. The 'Mines Online' interactive mapper also shows the Chili Gulch Quarry located approximately 3.75 miles northeast of TMS. The Chili Gulch Quarry is active and produces decorative rock and fill dirt (CDOC 2019c).

The Calaveras County General Plan Conservation Element (1996) describes the County's goals and policies pertaining to mineral resources:

Goal IV-5: Preserve and manage the production of minerals to meet society's needs.

Policy IV-5A: Encourage the development of mining uses on lands containing commercially valuable mineral resources.

Policy: IV-5B: Allow owners of land containing commercially valuable mineral resources outside of Mineral Resource Areas 2A and 2B to apply for appropriate mineral extraction zoning.

Implementation Measure IV-5B-1: Utilize the Mineral Extraction combining zone to identify lands with commercial mineral potential.

Implementation Measure IV-5B-2: Investigate the establishment of a Mineral Advisory Committee to make recommendations to the County regarding mineral resources potential.

Goal IV-6: Protect mineral resources from encroachment by incompatible land uses.

Policy IV-6A: Allow placement of the Mineral Extraction combining zone on lands identified for residential, commercial or industrial uses.

Implementation Measure IV-6A-1: Utilize the Mineral Extraction combining zone to identify property on which future mining activities may be proposed.

Policy IV-6B: Allow alternative uses and reduced parcel sizes on lands in Mineral Resource Areas 2A and 2B which do not contain commercially valuable mineral resources, if consistent with mining on nearby or adjacent properties.

Potential Environmental Effects

a) ***No Impact.*** The Project occurs primarily on the TMS campus which is substantially built out. The 10.7 acre portion of APN 040-006-042 could have mineral resources present. The position of the 10.7 acre immediately adjacent to an established school significantly limit the probability of using the land for mining operations. Per the State Mining and Geology Board, as of 2013, there are no lands designated in Calaveras County as mineral areas of regional or statewide significance (Calaveras County 2016). The Project would not impact the availability of mineral resources that are locally important or would be of value to the state.

b) ***No Impact.*** See response to item a).

4.2.13 Noise

XIII.NOISE—Would the project:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Environmental Setting

The 1996 Calaveras County General Plan Noise Element establishes policies and standards for noise exposures at noise sensitive land uses. The Nosie Element defines noise sensitive uses as 'Land uses on which noise may have a significant impact include residences, schools, conservation areas, and hospitals or other care facilities. The relevant GP goal, policies, and implementation measures are listed below:

Goal VI-1: Improve noise compatibility between new and existing land uses.

Policy VI-1A: Protect existing noise sensitive uses from new non-residential sources of excessive noise.

Implementation Measure VI-1A-1: Consider the potential noise impacts of nonresidential land use proposals on adjacent residential and other noise sensitive land uses to the following noise levels as measured at the property line of the noise sensitive land use:

Noise Sensitive Land Use	Maximum Noise Level (Ldn)
Single Family Residential	60
Multifamily Residential	65
Schools, Hospitals	70

Implementation Measure VI-1A-2: Site specific noise analyses should be performed where major noise sources are proposed to be located near noise sensitive land uses.

Implementation Measure VI-1A-3: Use setbacks, landscaping, earth berms and other effective measures to provide buffers and barriers between noise generators and surrounding areas.

Policy VI-1B: Restrict the development of noise sensitive land uses near identified major noise sources.

Implementation Measure VI-1B-1: Site specific noise analyses should be performed where noise sensitive land uses are proposed in proximity to major noise sources.

Implementation Measure VI-1B-2: Utilize Noise Contours in reviewing land use proposals.

Implementation Measure VI-1B-3: Require developers to use setbacks, landscaping, earth berms and other effective measures to provide buffers and barriers between the noise sensitive land uses and the existing major noise sources.

Goal VI-2: Minimize noise disturbance from ground transportation facilities

Policy VI-2A: Consider potential noise impacts in locating new residential subdivisions near highways, major county roads and rail lines.

Implementation Measure VI-2A-1: Utilize Noise Contours and noise generation projections in evaluating new residential subdivisions.

Implementation Measure VI-2A-2: Impose the provisions of the California Noise Insulation Standards and the Uniform Building Code when locating future single family residential subdivisions within the 60 dB Ldn contour.

Goal VI-3: Minimize noise disturbance from all public and private air facilities in the county.

Implementation Measure VI-3A-1: Use the County Airport Land Use Plan to guide land use decisions within the ALUP boundary.

Implementation Measure VI-3A-2: Condition airfield use permits so as to reduce noise impacts to acceptable levels.

Section 9.02.060, Chapter 9.02 (Noise Control) of the Calaveras County Code exempts several activities from the requirements of the Noise Control Chapter (Ordinance No. 3013 § III, 9-25-2012). Relevant Project related exemptions to the Noise Control chapter are listed below:

- *"Sound from any activity on a school campus during normal operating hours or in conjunction with a school event."*
- "*Sound from construction activity, provided that all construction in or adjacent to residential areas shall be limited to the daytime hours between seven a.m. and six p.m., unless otherwise subject to conditions in a valid discretionary land use permit that addresses construction noise associated with the project.*

Potential Environmental Effects

a) ***(Construction Noise) Less Than Significant Impact.*** Construction activities could increase noise levels temporarily in the vicinity of the Project. Actual noise levels would depend on the type of construction equipment involved, distance to the source of the noise, time of day, and similar factors. These increases would be temporary. Given that the Project contractor would adhere to applicable County construction-related noise standards, this impact considered less than significant.

(Operational Related Noise) Less Than Significant Impact. The post project noise levels in the Project vicinity will be substantially unchanged from the pre-project condition. Operational noise will be minimized by placing the new headworks a concrete masonry unit (CMU) building or equivalent type structure.

b) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** Project construction includes activities, such as operation of large pieces of equipment (e.g., heavy trucks) which may result in the periodic, temporary generation of ground-borne vibration. The Project does not introduce new sources of ground-borne vibration. Given the nature of any potential ground-borne vibration and given that any impacts would be temporary and periodic, potential impacts are less than significant.

c) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** See response to Item 'a' above.

d) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** See response to Item 'a' above.

e) ***No Impact.*** The Project is not located within an airport land use plan area or within two miles of a public or public use airport. The Calaveras County Airport is located approximately 7.5 miles southeast of the Project area.

f) ***No Impact***. The Project is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip.

4.2.14 Population and Housing

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

Potential Environmental Effects

a) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** The TMS wastewater treatment and disposal improvements will not induce substantial population growth.

b) ***No Impact.*** The Project does not include any activities that would result in the displacement of housing or people.

c) ***No Impact.*** See response to item b).

CEQA-Plus Evaluation- Environmental Justice: Adverse environmental effects to minority, low-income, or indigenous populations, tribes or communities are often associated with siting or continued operations involving the use, manufacture, storage, or disposal of hazardous materials. Another frequent cause of adverse environmental effects to minority, low-income, or indigenous populations, tribes, or communities is the development of environmentally beneficial projects that impose aesthetic or use limitation burdens upon these communities. The proposed project does not involve any of the above issues. The purpose of the Project is the improvement of the wastewater treatment and disposal system at TMS with the goals of improved compliance with water quality standards, improved safety, and simplified operation and maintenance. The proposed project is not likely to be of particular interest to or have particular impact upon minority, low-income, or indigenous populations, or tribes.

4.2.15 Public Services

XV. PUBLIC SERVICES—Would the project:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to	☐	☐	☐	☒

maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
Fire protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Police protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Parks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Environmental Setting

The purpose of the Project is the improvement of the of the existing wastewater treatment and disposal system at TMS with the goals of improved compliance with water quality standards, improved safety, and simplified operation and maintenance.

Potential Environmental Effects

a) ***No Impact.*** The Project makes improvements to a public facility. The potential environmental impacts of those improvements are evaluated in this document. No other new or physically altered governmental facilities would be needed.

4.2.16 Recreation

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

Environmental Setting

The existing TMS soccer field, baseball field, basketball courts, and football field/ running track are the only recreation facilities within or adjacent to the proposed Project.

Potential Environmental Effects

a) ***No Impact.*** Onsite disposal via UDD is proposed if the portion of privately held APN 040-006-042 is not acquired. Installation of the UDD system would require the turf on the existing soccer and baseball fields to be removed and the existing irrigation piping either protected or replaced.

Once complete the fields would be restored to their previous uses. The Project would not increase the use of existing parks in the area and does not include the construction of any recreational facilities.

b) ***No Impact.*** See response to item a above.

4.2.17 Transportation/Traffic

XVII. TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC—Would the project:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
a) Cause an increase in traffic which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Result in inadequate parking capacity?	☐	☐	☒	☐
g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Environmental Setting

The purpose of the Project is the improvement of the of the existing wastewater treatment and disposal system at TMS with the goals of improved compliance with water quality standards, improved safety, and simplified operation and maintenance.

Potential Environmental Effects

a) ***No Impact.*** The Project would not change the amount of traffic on SR 12, SR 26, or other local roads because it is not a new development or growth inducing project. A temporary minor increase in traffic during Project construction could occur as the result of worker trips to the site, materials delivery, and spoils hauling. Project construction activities would be coordinated with local law enforcement and emergency services providers as applicable.

b) ***No Impact.*** See response to Item a) above.

c) ***No Impact.*** The Project would not result in a change in air traffic patterns.

d) ***No Impact.*** The Project does not include features that introduce or exacerbate any transportation of traffic hazards due to a design feature.

e) ***No Impact.*** Project construction activities would be coordinated with local law enforcement and emergency services providers as applicable.

f) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** Construction of the Project may temporary interrupt parking and internal circulation on the TMS campus. The Project would not result in an increase in demand for parking in the vicinity of the Project. Any impacts to parking and internal circulation are considered less than significant due to their minimal nature and short duration.

g) ***No Impact.*** The Project does not include activities that would conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation. The 2015 *Calaveras County Regional Bicycle, Pedestrian and Safe Routes to School Master Plan* does not show any existing bicycle facilities in the Project area (Calaveras Council of Governments 2015). The 2015 Master Plan identifies SR 26 adjacent to TMS as a 'Share the Road' facility. No other potential future bike routes are shown in the Project area (Calaveras Council of Governments 2015).

4.2.18 Utilities/ Service Systems

XVIII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS—Would the project:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Environmental Setting

The existing 1997 Waste Discharge Requirements (Order No. 97-074) states that the school will have a total of approximately 700 students. The 1997 WDR's also provide for a daily treatment and discharge of

0.0175 mgd of treated wastewater to the existing ball fields. At TMS the projected future enrollment is approximately 680 students and faculty. This is approximately 20 less students and faculty then the 1997 WDR's anticipate. Under the anticipated future conditions, the TMS facility is not expected to exceed its current maximum daily treatment and discharge of 0.0175 mgd. A Report of Waste Discharge (ROWD) will be prepared for updated TMS facilities and revised Waste Discharge Orders will be issued by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (KASL 2019).

Potential Environmental Effects

a) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** The wastewater treatment and disposal improvements at TMS will require a Waste Discharge Order. Since the TMS facilities will have an average daily dry weather flow less than 100,000 gpd, they will be permitted pursuant to State Water Resource Control Board Order WQ 2014-0153-DWQ "General Waste Discharge Requirements for Small Domestic Wastewater Treatment Systems." Under this General Order, discharges with flow rates less than 20,000 gpd are not required to meet a nitrogen effluent limit. For the wastewater facilities recommended at TMS, tertiary level turbidity standards will not be applied. Based on the performance of similar, small community, recirculating sand filtration systems, the upgrade improvements recommended at TMS will regularly achieve the secondary level effluent coliform and turbidity waste discharge standards which will be issued for this facility.

b) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** The Project includes improvements to the existing TMS wastewater treatment and disposal system, with the goals of improved compliance with water quality standards, improved safety, and simplified operation and maintenance. This document evaluates the potential environmental effects and proposes measures to reduce any potentially significant impacts to less than significant. The Project would not require the use of additional water supplies during construction or operation. The proposed Project does not require or result in the construction of other new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of other existing facilities.

c) ***No Impact.*** The Project does not include construction of new stormwater facilities nor does it include the expansion of existing stormwater facilities.

d) ***No Impact.*** The Project would not require new or expanded water service. Available water supplies are sufficient for construction of the Project as well as current and future operations.

e) ***No Impact.*** The 1997 WDR's provide for a daily treatment and discharge of 0.0175 million gallons per day (mgd) of treated wastewater to the existing ball fields. At TMS the projected future enrollment is approximately 680 students and faculty. This is approximately 20 less students and faculty then the 1997 WDR's anticipate. Under the anticipated future conditions, the TMS facility is not expected to exceed its current maximum daily treatment and discharge of 0.0175 mgd.

f) ***No Impact.*** Solid waste generated by the Project would be limited to construction debris. Solid waste disposal would occur in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations. Disposal would occur at permitted landfills. Therefore, the Project would not generate the need for new solid waste facilities.

g) ***No Impact.*** The Project would conform to all applicable state and federal solid waste regulations.

4.2.19 Mandatory Findings of Significance

XIX. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE (To be filled out by Lead Agency if required)	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively 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?	☐	☐	☒	☐

a) ***Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.*** Through the use of Best Management Practices and the mitigation measures noted previously, the Project will not degrade the quality of the environment.

b) ***Less than Significant.*** The Project is consistent with the General Plan and would not result in individually limited but collectively significant impacts. Therefore, the project would not cause any additional environmental effects or significantly contribute to a cumulative impact.

c) ***Less than Significant.*** The Project would not result in substantial direct or indirect adverse effects from noise, either during project construction or operation, nor would it result in impacts to air quality, water quality or utilities and public services. Therefore, the Project would not cause substantial adverse effects on human beings.

5. Initial Study Findings (Determination)

5.1 Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

This Initial Study has determined that in the absence of mitigation the proposed Project could have. the potential to result in significant impacts associated with the factors checked below. Mitigation measures are identified in this Initial Study that would reduce all potentially significant impacts to less-than- significant levels.

- ✓ Aesthetics
- Agricultural Resources Air Quality
- ✓ Biological Resources Cultural Resources Geology and Soils Greenhouse Gas Emissions Hazards and Hazardous Materials Hydrology and Water Quality Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources Noise Population and Housing Public Services Recreation Transportation/Traffic Utilities and Service Systems
- ✓ Mandatory Findings of Significance None Identified

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

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

I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because the project-specific mitigation measures described in Section III have been added to the project. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

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

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

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

Signature: Original signed by Mark Campbell, Superintendent

Date: June 8, 2023

[THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY BLANK]

6. Supporting Information Sources

6.1 Report Preparation

Calaveras Unified School District, CEQA Lead Agency

Mark Campbell	Superintendent

Weber, Ghio & Associates Civil Engineering Consultant

Matt Ospital, PE	President

Sycamore Environmental Consultants, Inc.

Jeffery Little	Project Manager, Vice President
Adam Forbes	Planner
Aramis Respall	CAD/GIS Analyst

Natural Investigations Company, Inc.

Cindy Arrington, M.S., RPA	Principal

6.2 References

California Department of Conservation. August 2000. A general location guide for ultramafic rocks in California – Areas more likely to contain naturally occurring asbestos. Division of Mines and Geology, open-file report 2000-19. ftp://ftp.consrv.ca.gov/pub/dmg/pubs/ofr/ofr_2000-019.pdf

California Department of Conservation, California Geologic Survey. Accessed December 2019 (2019a). Regional Geologic Hazards and Mapping Program, Probabilistic Seismic Hazard Assessment web page. https://www.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/Pages/PSHA/shaking-assessment.aspx

California Department of Conservation. Accessed March 2019 (2019b). Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program. https://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp/Pages/county_info.aspx

California Department of Conservation, Division of Mine Reclamation. Accessed March 2019 (2019c). Mines Online https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/mol/index.html

California Department of Conservation, California Geologic Survey. Accessed March 2019 (2019d). Fault Activity Map of California (2010), interactive web mapper. https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/fam/app/

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). 15 October 2018. California Natural Community List. Biogeographic Data Branch, CNDDB, Sacramento, CA. https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=153398&inline

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). Accessed March 2019. California Scenic Highway Mapping System, Calaveras County. http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LandArch/16_livability/scenic_highways/index.htm

California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). Last Revised 2 November 2012. Highway Design Manual, Chapter 610 Pavement Engineering Considerations.

California Department of Toxic Control (DTSC). Accessed March 2019. EnviroStor data management system. https://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Statutes. 1970. Public Resources Code Section 21000, et seq.

California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region. Approved May 2018. The Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) for the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region, Fifth Edition, Revised May 2018 (with approved amendments)

Calaveras County Department of Public Works (Calaveras County). 17 August 2011. Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration Jenny Lind Safe Routes to Schools Project. San Andreas, CA. Prepared by Michael Brandman Associates. Sacramento, CA.

Calaveras County. 7 November 1974. Valley Springs Community Area General Plan, Calaveras County, CA.

Calaveras County. 9 December 1996 (last updated). General plan, Volumes I-VII.

Calaveras County. June 2018. Calaveras County Draft General Plan, Draft Environmental Impact Report, SCH# 2017012043. Volumes I and II.

Calaveras County. December 2012 (2012a). Calaveras County Design Manual, Grading, Drainage, and Erosion Control for Unincorporated Calaveras County.

Calaveras County. December 2012 (2012b). Preliminary Draft General Plan Environmental Impact Report. Prepared by: Raney Planning & Management and Calaveras County Planning Department Staff.

Calaveras County. January 2007. Voluntary Oak Woodland Management Guidelines.

Calaveras County Council of Governments. June 2015. Regional Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Safe Routes to Schools Plan

Calaveras County. 22 September 2016. Calaveras County Planning Commission Recommended Draft General Plan, Chapter 5, Resources Production Element.

Fed Center. Accessed March 2019. General Conformity Rule description and info. https://www.fedcenter.gov/_kd/go.cfm?destination=Page&pge_id=3578&printable=1

Google, Inc. Accessed January 2019. Google Earth (Version 7.1.2.2041) [Software]. Available from www.google.com/earth/

Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR). 19 June 2008. Technical advisory: CEQA and climate change: Addressing climate change through California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Review. Sacramento, CA. http://www.opr.ca.gov/ceqa/pdfs/june08-ceqa.pdf.

KASL Consulting Engineers. June 2018. Alternatives analysis report Calaveras Unified School District wastewater plant upgrades at Jenny Lind Elementary School and Toyon Middle School, CWSRF PROJECT NO. C-06-8378-110.

KASL Consulting Engineers. January 2019. Preliminary design report for Calaveras Unified School District system upgrades at Jenny Lind Elementary School and Toyon Middle School. CWSRF PROJECT NO. C-06-8378-110.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). 18 December 2014. Fisheries off west coast states; west coast salmon fisheries; amendment 18 to the salmon fishery management plan; final rule. Federal Register 79(243): 75449-75454; 50 CFR Part 660. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Natural Investigations Company. 19 November 2018. Cultural resources inventory and effects assessment for the Calaveras Unified School District, Toyon Middle School project. Calaveras County, CA.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Accessed March 2019. Web soil survey for Calaveras County. National Soil Survey Center, Lincoln, NE. https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx

Sawyer, J. O., T. Keeler-Wolf, and J. M. Evens. 2009. A manual of California vegetation, 2nd ed. California Native Plant Society, Sacramento, CA.

Sycamore Environmental Consultants, Inc. January 2019. Biological Assessment for the Toyon Middle School Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Upgrade Project, Calaveras Unified School District, Calaveras County, CA

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). 1 July 2012. Title 33 - Navigation and navigable waters. CFR 328.3 – Definitions of Waters of the United States. Corps of Engineers, Department of the Army, Department of Defense.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). January 2016. Minimum standards for acceptance of preliminary wetlands delineations. Regulatory Branch, U.S. Army Engineer District Sacramento, Sacramento, CA.

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Accessed January 2019. Sole Source Aquifers for Drinking Water. https://www.epa.gov/dwssa

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). 2002. Recovery plan for the California red-legged frog (Rana aurora draytonii). U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, OR.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). June 2017. Recovery Plan for the Central California Distinct Population Segment of the California Tiger Salamander (Ambystoma californiense). U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pacific Southwest Region, Sacramento, California. v + 69pp.

Appendix A: Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan

REVISED

MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PLAN TOYON MIDDLE SCHOOL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE PROJECT

CEQA LEAD AGENCY:

Calaveras Unified School District

PREPARED:

June 2023

ADOPTED BY CUSD ON: _____

Introduction

Purpose

The Calaveras Unified School District (CUSD or District) is in the process of obtaining a State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Grant to replace the wastewater system at the Toyon Middle School (TMS). The TMS Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) was constructed in 1997 and is in need of replacement.

As described in the IS/MND, the Project itself incorporates a number of measures to minimize adverse effects on the environment. The IS/MND also identified several mitigation measures that are required to reduce potentially significant impacts to levels that are less than significant. This Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP) describes a program for ensuring that these mitigation measures are implemented in conjunction with the Project. CUSD, as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), is responsible for overseeing the implementation and administration of this MMRP. CUSD will designate a staff member to manage the MMRP. Duties of the staff member responsible for program coordination will include conducting routine inspections and reporting activities, coordinating with the Project construction contractor, coordinating with regulatory agencies, and ensuring enforcement measures are taken.

Regulatory Framework

California Public Resources Code Section 21081.6 and California Code of Regulations Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15097 require public agencies to adopt mitigation monitoring or reporting plans when they approve projects under a MND. The reporting and monitoring plans must be adopted when a public agency makes its findings pursuant to CEQA so that the mitigation requirements can be made conditions of Project approval.

Format of This Plan

The MMRP summarizes the impacts and mitigation measures identified and described in the Project IS/MND. Each of the impacts discussed within this MMRP is numbered based on the sequence in which they are discussed in the IS/MND. A summary of each impact with the corresponding specific mitigation measures are provided. Mitigation measures are followed by an implementation description, the criteria used to determine the effectiveness of the mitigation, the timeframe for implementation, and the party responsible for monitoring the implementation of the measure.

Implementation of mitigation measures is ultimately the responsibility of the CUSD; during construction, the delegated responsibility is shared by CUSD's contractors. Each mitigation measure in this plan contains a "Verified By" signature line, which will be signed by the CUSD's Project manager when the measure has been fully implemented and no further actions or monitoring are necessary for the implementation or effectiveness of the measure.

Impacts and Associated Monitoring or Reporting Measures

4.2.1. Aesthetics

Impact (d): Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

New exterior lighting will be designed in accordance with the draft County Lighting Ordinance (not yet adopted) reducing potential impact to less than significant.

Measure AESTHETICS-1

- *All outdoor lighting will be hooded or screened to direct the source of light downward and focus onto the property from which it originates and will not negatively impact adjacent properties or directly reflect upon any adjacent residential property.*
- *Parking lot and other security lighting will be top and side shielded to prevent the light pattern from shining onto adjacent property or roadways, excluding lights used for illumination of public roads.*
- *External lights used to illuminate a sign or billboard or the side of a building or wall shall be shielded to prevent the light from shining off of the surface intended to be illuminated.*
- *Lights that shine onto a road in a manner, which causes excessive glare and may be considered to be a traffic hazard, will be prohibited.*

Implementation:	The CUSD will implement the measures as described above.
Effectiveness Criteria:	The CUSD will prepare and keep on file documentation verifying the implementation of the above-referenced measures.
Timing:	Pre-Construction and Construction Phases
Verified By:	_____ Date: _____ District Project Manager

4.2.4. Biological Resources

Impact (d): Project may result in impacts on migratory birds

Pre-construction surveys will be conducted by a qualified biologist to determine the presence or absence of protected bird species and protected as recommended by the biologist

Measure BIO-1

If tree removal is scheduled during the nesting season for raptors (January 1 through July 31), a pre-construction survey for nesting raptors shall be conducted by a qualified biologist throughout the project site no more than 14 days prior to the initiation of construction. If other vegetation removal or construction commences during the general avian nesting season (March 1 through July 31), a pre-construction survey for all species of nesting birds shall be conducted by a qualified biologist throughout the project site no more than 14 days prior to the initiation of construction. If active nests are discovered, then work in the vicinity of the nests shall be delayed until the young have fledged.

Implementation:	The CUSD will implement the measures as described above.
Effectiveness Criteria:	The CUSD will prepare and keep on file documentation verifying the implementation of the above-referenced measures.
Timing:	Pre-Construction and Construction Phases
Verified By:	_____ Date: _____ District Project Manager

Appendix B: Comments and Responses

Calaveras Unified School District
Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Upgrade Project
(SCH # 2019029121)

Section 1. List of Comment Letters Received

Two (2) comment letters were received. The table below lists the names of the individuals, organizations, and agencies that provided comments on the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration. The comment letters are included followed by a response to the comment(s).

Comment Letters Received

Letter	Commenter
1	Caltrans
2	Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

Section 2. Responses to Comments

Comment Letter 1: Caltrans

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DISTRICT 10
P.O. BOX 2048, STOCKTON, CA 95201
(1976 E. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BOULEVARD 95205)
PHONE (209) 948-7325
FAX (209) 948-3670
TTY 711
www.dot.ca.gov

Making Conservation a California Way of Life.

April 12, 2019

CAL-12-PM 14.41
Toyon Middle School
Wastewater Treatment Plant
Upgrade Project
IS/MND

Mark Campbell, Superintendent
Calaveras Unified School District
P.O Box 788 - 3304 Highway 12
San Andreas, CA 95249

Dear Mr. Campbell,

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) appreciates the opportunity to review and comment on the Toyon Middle School Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND). The project parcel is located at northeast of the intersection of State Route (SR) 12 and SR 26 on 30.7 acre at APN 040-004-038, 040-006-043 and 040-006-042. The Calaveras Unified School District is in the process of obtaining a State Water Resources Control Board Clean Water State Revolving Fund Grant to replace the wastewater system at the Toyon Middle School.

Caltrans contacted Sycamore Environmental Consultants in addition to reviewing the IS/MND and has the following comments:

Caltrans has no comment regarding the wastewater treatment plant upgrade project, as there will be no construction activities within the State Right of Way (ROW). There will be no project staging allowed within the ROW or in areas that may block intersection sight distance for the traveling public.

If project construction activities will encroach into Caltrans right of way, the project proponent must submit an application for an Encroachment Permit to the Caltrans Permit Office. Appropriate environmental studies must be submitted with this application. These studies will include an analysis of potential impacts to any cultural sites, biological resources, hazardous waste locations, and/or other resources within Caltrans right of way at the project site(s). CEQA documentation with supporting technical studies required when submitting the Encroachment Permit.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at (209) 948-7325 (email gregoria.ponce@dot.ca.gov) or Kevin Schroder (209) 941-1947 (email kevin.schroder@dot.ca.gov) if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Gregoria Ponce, Office Chief
Office of Rural Planning

Cc: Peter Maurer, Planning Director
Amber Collins, Calaveras Council of Government

Response 1: Caltrans

Response to Caltrans Comment 1

The proposed Project does not include activities that would require a Caltrans encroachment permit. Should project requirements change and a Caltrans encroachment permit is needed the CUSD or its Contractor would include temporary lane closures information, staging details, drainage details, and existing environmental studies/ documents for any proposed work within Caltrans right-of-way as part of its encroachment application package.

Comment Letter 2: Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB)

12 April 2019

Mark Campbell
Calaveras Unified School District
P.O. Box 788
San Andreas, CA 95249

CERTIFIED MAIL
7014 2120 0001 4292 3693

COMMENTS TO REQUEST FOR REVIEW FOR THE MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION, TOYON MIDDLE SCHOOL WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT UPGRADE PROJECT, SCH#2019039117, CALAVERAS COUNTY

Pursuant to the State Clearinghouse's 21 March 2019 request, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) has reviewed the *Request for Review for the Mitigated Negative Declaration* for the Toyon Middle School Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project, located in Calaveras County.

Our agency is delegated with the responsibility of protecting the quality of surface and groundwaters of the state; therefore our comments will address concerns surrounding those issues.

I. Regulatory Setting

Basin Plan

The Central Valley Water Board is required to formulate and adopt Basin Plans for all areas within the Central Valley region under Section 13240 of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. Each Basin Plan must contain water quality objectives to ensure the reasonable protection of beneficial uses, as well as a program of implementation for achieving water quality objectives with the Basin Plans. Federal regulations require each state to adopt water quality standards to protect the public health or welfare, enhance the quality of water and serve the purposes of the Clean Water Act. In California, the beneficial uses, water quality objectives, and the Antidegradation Policy are the State's water quality standards. Water quality standards are also contained in the National Toxics Rule, 40 CFR Section 131.36, and the California Toxics Rule, 40 CFR Section 131.38.

The Basin Plan is subject to modification as necessary, considering applicable laws, policies, technologies, water quality conditions and priorities. The original Basin Plans were adopted in 1975, and have been updated and revised periodically as required, using Basin Plan amendments. Once the Central Valley Water Board has adopted a Basin Plan amendment in noticed public hearings, it must be approved by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board), Office of Administrative Law (OAL) and in some cases,

the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). Basin Plan amendments only become effective after they have been approved by the OAL and in some cases, the USEPA. Every three (3) years, a review of the Basin Plan is completed that assesses the appropriateness of existing standards and evaluates and prioritizes Basin Planning issues.

For more information on the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins*, please visit our website:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/basin_plans/

Antidegradation Considerations

All wastewater discharges must comply with the Antidegradation Policy (State Water Board Resolution 68-16) and the Antidegradation Implementation Policy contained in the Basin Plan. The Antidegradation Implementation Policy is available on page 74 at:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/basin_plans/sacsjr_201805.pdf

In part it states:

> *Any discharge of waste to high quality waters must apply best practicable treatment or control not only to prevent a condition of pollution or nuisance from occurring, but also to maintain the highest water quality possible consistent with the maximum benefit to the people of the State.*
>
> *This information must be presented as an analysis of the impacts and potential impacts of the discharge on water quality, as measured by background concentrations and applicable water quality objectives.*

The antidegradation analysis is a mandatory element in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System and land discharge Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) permitting processes. The environmental review document should evaluate potential impacts to both surface and groundwater quality.

II. Permitting Requirements

Construction Storm Water General Permit

Dischargers whose project disturb one or more acres of soil or where projects disturb less than one acre but are part of a larger common plan of development that in total disturbs one or more acres, are required to obtain coverage under the General Permit for Storm Water Discharges Associated with Construction Activities (Construction General Permit), Construction General Permit Order No. 2009-009-DWQ. Construction activity subject to this permit includes clearing, grading, grubbing, disturbances to the ground, such as stockpiling, or excavation, but does not include regular maintenance activities performed to restore the original line, grade, or capacity of the facility. The Construction General Permit requires the development and implementation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP).

For more information on the Construction General Permit, visit the State Water Resources Control Board website at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/constpermits.shtml

Phase I and II Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permits[1]

The Phase I and II MS4 permits require the Permittees reduce pollutants and runoff flows from new development and redevelopment using Best Management Practices (BMPs) to the maximum extent practicable (MEP). MS4 Permittees have their own development standards, also known as Low Impact Development (LID)/post-construction standards that include a hydromodification component. The MS4 permits also require specific design concepts for LID/post-construction BMPs in the early stages of a project during the entitlement and CEQA process and the development plan review process.

For more information on which Phase I MS4 Permit this project applies to, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/storm_water/municipal_permits/

For more information on the Phase II MS4 permit and who it applies to, visit the State Water Resources Control Board at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/phase_ii_municipal.shtml

Industrial Storm Water General Permit

Storm water discharges associated with industrial sites must comply with the regulations contained in the Industrial Storm Water General Permit Order No. 2014-0057-DWQ.

For more information on the Industrial Storm Water General Permit, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/storm_water/industrial_general_permits/index.shtml

Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit

If the project will involve the discharge of dredged or fill material in navigable waters or wetlands, a permit pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act may be needed from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). If a Section 404 permit is required by the USACE, the Central Valley Water Board will review the permit application to ensure that discharge will not violate water quality standards. If the project requires surface water drainage realignment, the applicant is advised to contact the Department of Fish and Game for information on Streambed Alteration Permit requirements.

[1] Municipal Permits = The Phase I Municipal Separate Storm Water System (MS4) Permit covers medium sized Municipalities (serving between 100,000 and 250,000 people) and large sized municipalities (serving over 250,000 people). The Phase II MS4 provides coverage for small municipalities, including non-traditional Small MS4s, which include military bases, public campuses, prisons and hospitals.

If you have any questions regarding the Clean Water Act Section 404 permits, please contact the Regulatory Division of the Sacramento District of USACE at (916) 557-5250.

Clean Water Act Section 401 Permit – Water Quality Certification

If an USACE permit (e.g., Non-Reporting Nationwide Permit, Nationwide Permit, Letter of Permission, Individual Permit, Regional General Permit, Programmatic General Permit), or any other federal permit (e.g., Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act or Section 9 from the United States Coast Guard), is required for this project due to the disturbance of waters of the United States (such as streams and wetlands), then a Water Quality Certification must be obtained from the Central Valley Water Board prior to initiation of project activities. There are no waivers for 401 Water Quality Certifications.

For more information on the Water Quality Certification, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/water_quality_certification/

Waste Discharge Requirements – Discharges to Waters of the State

If USACE determines that only non-jurisdictional waters of the State (i.e., "non-federal" waters of the State) are present in the proposed project area, the proposed project may require a Waste Discharge Requirement (WDR) permit to be issued by Central Valley Water Board. Under the California Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, discharges to all waters of the State, including all wetlands and other waters of the State including, but not limited to, isolated wetlands, are subject to State regulation.

For more information on the Waste Discharges to Surface Water NPDES Program and WDR processes, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/waste_to_surface_water/

Dewatering Permit

If the proposed project includes construction or groundwater dewatering to be discharged to land, the proponent may apply for coverage under State Water Board General Water Quality Order (Low Risk General Order) 2003-0003 or the Central Valley Water Board's Waiver of Report of Waste Discharge and Waste Discharge Requirements (Low Risk Waiver) R5-2013-0145. Small temporary construction dewatering projects are projects that discharge groundwater to land from excavation activities or dewatering of underground utility vaults. Dischargers seeking coverage under the General Order or Waiver must file a Notice of Intent with the Central Valley Water Board prior to beginning discharge.

For more information regarding the Low Risk General Order and the application process, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/board_decisions/adopted_orders/water_quality/2003/wqo/wqo2003-0003.pdf

For more information regarding the Low Risk Waiver and the application process, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/waivers/r5-2013-0145_res.pdf

Regulatory Compliance for Commercially Irrigated Agriculture

If the property will be used for commercial irrigated agricultural, the discharger will be required to obtain regulatory coverage under the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. There are two options to comply:

1. **Obtain Coverage Under a Coalition Group.** Join the local Coalition Group that supports land owners with the implementation of the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program. The Coalition Group conducts water quality monitoring and reporting to the Central Valley Water Board on behalf of its growers. The Coalition Groups charge an annual membership fee, which varies by Coalition Group. To find the Coalition Group in your area, visit the Central Valley Water Board's website at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/irrigated_lands/regulatory_information/for_growers/coalition_groups/ or contact water board staff at (916) 464-4611 or via email at IrrLands@waterboards.ca.gov.

2. **Obtain Coverage Under the General Waste Discharge Requirements for Individual Growers, General Order R5-2013-0100**. Dischargers not participating in a third-party group (Coalition) are regulated individually. Depending on the specific site conditions, growers may be required to monitor runoff from their property, install monitoring wells, and submit a notice of intent, farm plan, and other action plans regarding their actions to comply with their General Order. Yearly costs would include State administrative fees (for example, annual fees for farm sizes from 11-100 acres are currently $1,277 + $8.53/Acre); the cost to prepare annual monitoring reports; and water quality monitoring costs. To enroll as an Individual Discharger under the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program, call the Central Valley Water Board phone line at (916) 464-4611 or e-mail board staff at IrrLands@waterboards.ca.gov.

Limited Threat General NPDES Permit

If the proposed project includes construction dewatering and it is necessary to discharge the groundwater to waters of the United States, the proposed project will require coverage under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Dewatering discharges are typically considered a low or limited threat to water quality and may be covered under the General Order for *Limited Threat Discharges to Surface Water* (Limited Threat General Order). A complete Notice of Intent must be submitted to the Central Valley Water Board to obtain coverage under the Limited Threat General Order.

For more information regarding the Limited Threat General Order and the application process, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/board_decisions/adopted_orders/general_orders/r5-2016-0076-01.pdf

NPDES Permit

If the proposed project discharges waste that could affect the quality of surface waters of the State, other than into a community sewer system, the proposed project will require coverage under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. A complete Report of Waste Discharge must be submitted with the Central Valley Water Board to obtain a NPDES Permit.

For more information regarding the NPDES Permit and the application process, visit the Central Valley Water Board website at:
https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/help/permit/

If you have questions regarding these comments, please contact me at (916) 464-4812 or Jordan.Hensley@waterboards.ca.gov.

Jordan Hensley
Environmental Scientist

cc: State Clearinghouse unit, Governor's Office of Planning and Research, Sacramento

Response 2: Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

This letter reiterates standard requirements that are included in the MND document and mitigation measures. No response is necessary.

Appendix C: 2023 Biological Assessment

June 2, 2023

Mr. Matt Ospital
WGA Civil Engineering Consultant
394 East St. Charles Street
San Andreas, CA 95249

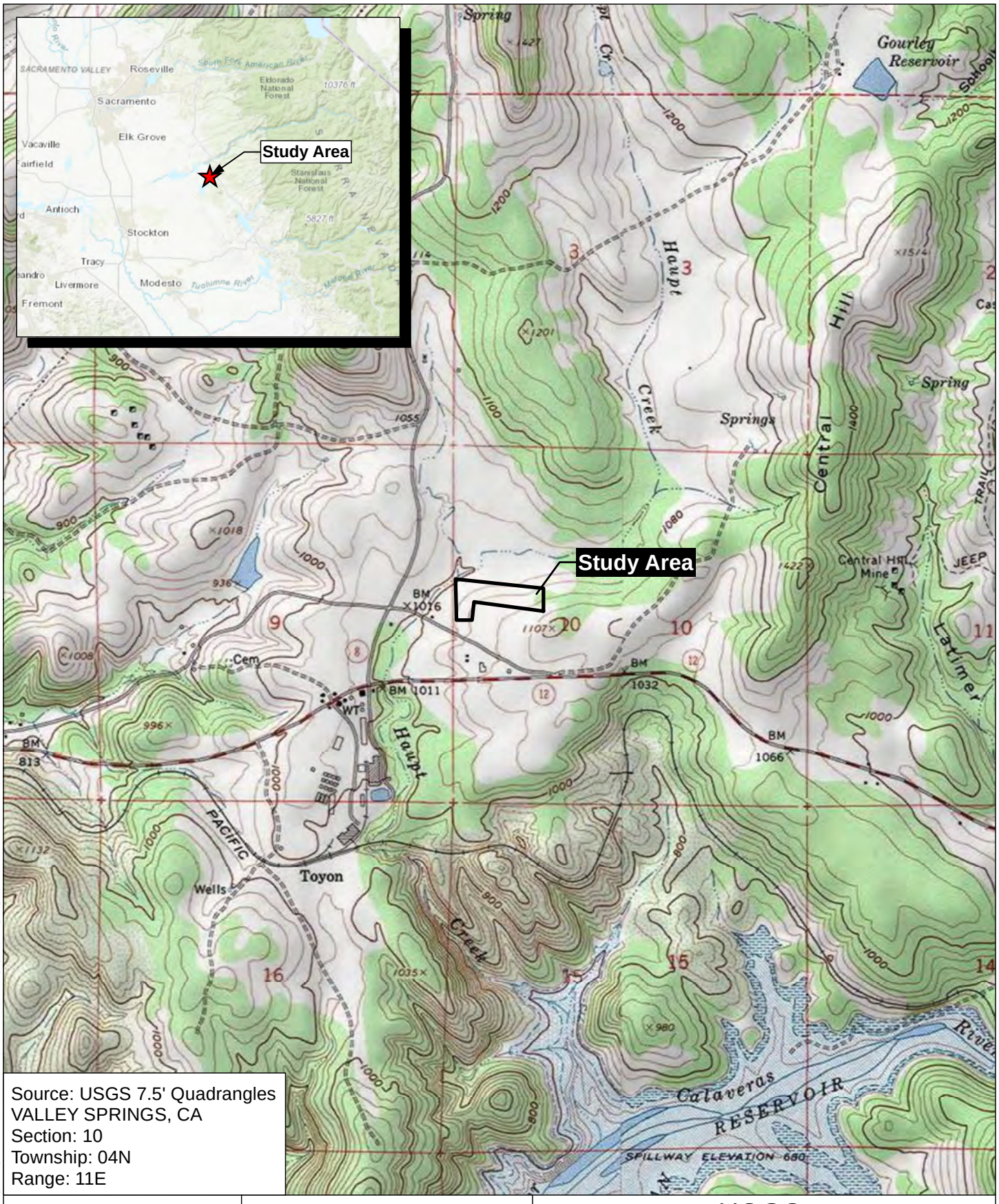
Subject: "TOYON MIDDLE SCHOOL SPRAY FIELDS", CALAVERAS COUNTY, CALIFORNIA: BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Dear Matt:

Thank you for asking Moore Biological Consultants to assist with this project at the Toyon Middle School, in Calaveras County, California (Figures 1 and 2 and Site Plan in Attachment A). The purposes of the BA are to describe existing biological resources in the project site, identify potentially significant impacts to biological resources from the project, and provide recommendations for how to reduce those impacts to a less-than-significant level. The work involved reviewing databases, aerial photographs, and documents, and conducting field surveys to document vegetation communities, potentially jurisdictional Waters of the U.S. and/or wetlands, and potentially suitable habitat for or presence of special-status species. This report details the methodology and results of our investigation.

Methods

Prior to the field survey, we conducted a search of California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB, 2023). The CNDDB search included the USGS 7.5-minute Valley Springs and San Andreas topographic quadrangles, which encompass approximately 120 square miles surrounding the site. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)



Source: USGS 7.5' Quadrangles
VALLEY SPRINGS, CA
Section: 10
Township: 04N
Range: 11E

Figure 1

Moore Biological Consultants

Map Date: 05/25/2023

USGS

Toyon Middle School Sprayfields

Calaveras County, CA

C:\EFC_INC\Projects\Moore Biological\Toyon_Middle_School\MXD\toyon_middle_school_sprayfields_usgs_figure_1.mxd

Figure 2

Moore Biological Consultants

0 100 200
Feet

N
W E
S

Map Date: 05/25/2023
Aerial Source: Google Earth (06/2018)

AERIAL

Toyon Middle School Sprayfields

Calaveras County, CA

C:\EFC_INC\Projects\Moore Biological\Toyon_Middle_School\MXD\toyon_middle_school_aerialfields_figure_2.mxd

IPaC Trust Report of Federally Threatened and Endangered species that may occur in or be affected by projects in the project vicinity was also reviewed (Attachment B). This information was used to identify wildlife and plant species that have been previously documented in the project vicinity or have the potential to occur based on suitable habitat and geographical distribution. Additionally, the CNDDB depicts locations of sensitive habitats. The USFWS on-line maps of designated critical habitat were also downloaded.

Diane S. Moore, M.S., and Colleen Laskowski, M.S. conducted a field survey on May 24, 2023. The survey consisted of walking throughout the site making observations of habitat conditions and noting surrounding land uses, vegetation types, and plant and wildlife species.

Vegetation communities in the site, such as oak woodland and annual grassland, were identified in the field and mapped on high-resolution aerial photographs. We also assessed and confirmed the boundaries of wetlands mapped by others during 2019 biological inventory at the site (SEC 2019). The vegetation and wetland boundaries were then combined with a 2018 Google Earth color aerial photograph in ArcGIS to quantify acreages and create a map of habitat types.

The surveys included a search for special-status species and potentially suitable habitat for special-status species (e.g., areas with unusual soils, vernal pools, caves). Additionally, trees in and near the site were assessed for the potential use by nesting raptors and the site was also searched for burrowing owls (*Athene cunicularia*) or ground squirrel burrows that could be utilized by burrowing owls.

Under contract to Moore Biological, Salix Consulting, Inc. conducted a survey for special-status plants in the project site. Botanist Jeff Glazner conducted the botanical surveys on the same day as the field survey, May 24, 2023.

Results

GENERAL SETTING: The 12+/- acre "Toyon Middle School Sprayfields" site is northeast of Valley Springs, in Calaveras County, California. The site is in Section 10, in Township 4 North, Range 11 East of the USGS 7.5-minute Valley Springs topographic quadrangle (Figure 1). The project site consists of gently rolling hills, sloping generally to the northwest; site elevations range from approximately 1000 to 1,060 feet above mean sea level.

The site primarily consists of gently rolling hills supporting annual grassland vegetation with a small area of oak woodland located in the east part of the site (Figure 2). There are also a few seasonal wetlands and seasonal wetland swales in the site. Cattle grazing and nearby development have somewhat modified vegetation and topography within the project vicinity, including that in the site.

Surrounding land uses in this portion of Calaveras County are primarily open space used for cattle grazing. The site is bounded to the south by Toyon Middle School and the remaining edges of the site are bounded by open grassland and patches of oak woodlands, similar to that found in the site. There is a pocket of industrial development a little further west of the site and Highway 12 is located just south of the school.

VEGETATION AND HABITAT TYPES: The site is comprised of open grassland, a patch of oak woodlands, and a few seasonal aquatic features (Figure 3 and photographs in Attachment C). Vegetation communities in the project site include annual grassland and oak woodland, which generally correspond to the California Annual Grassland and Mixed Oak series (Sawyer and Keeler-Wolf, 1995). There are also three isolated seasonal wetlands and three seasonal wetland swales in the site.

Study Area
Elderberry Shrub
Oak Woodland (0.69 acre)
Seasonal Wetland (0.02 acre)
Seasonal Wetland Swale (0.15 acre)

0 100 200
Feet

N
W E
S

Figure 3

Moore Biological Consultants

Map Date: 05/30/2023
Aerial Source: Google Earth (06/2018)

NOTABLE HABITATS

Toyon Middle School Sprayfields

Calaveras County, CA

C:\FEC_INC\Projects\Moore Biological\Toyon_Middle_School\MXD\toyon_middle_school_sprayfields_habitat_figure_3.mxd

Annual Grassland: Historically, the California Annual Grassland series was the most widespread upland vegetation type occurring in the greater project vicinity and was comprised of native grass and weed species. In contrast, the grasslands in the site have been subject to extensive cattle grazing, are moderately to highly disturbed, and comprised of mostly non-native species (Figure 3 and photographs in Attachment C).

Oats (*Avena fatua*), medusa-head grass (*Taeniatherum caput-medusae*), foxtail barley (*Hordeum murinum*), soft chess brome (*Bromus hordeaceus*), and ripgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*) are the dominant grasses in the site. Other grassland species such as rose clover (*Trifolium hirtum*), tarweed (*Holocarpha virgata*), rancher's fireweed (*Amsinckia menziesii*), field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*), and long-beaked stork's-bill (*Erodium botrys*) are intermixed with the grasses. Table 1 is a list of representative plant species in the site. A complete list of all plant species documented in the site during the botanical survey is included in Attachment E.

Mixed Oak Woodlands: The Mixed Oak series (Sawyer and Keeler-Wolf, 1995) best describes the oak woodland habitat in the site. The project site contains 0.69+/- acres of mixed oak woodland vegetation (Figure 3 and photographs in Attachment C). This series is found at relatively low elevations in the Sierra Nevada, coastal range, and other locations in the state. Blue oak (*Quercus douglasii*) and interior live oak (*Quercus wislizeni*) are the dominant tree species in the on-site woodlands; there is only one valley oak (*Quercus lobata*). Most of the oaks are large and mature.

The woodland understory herbaceous layer is composed of a subset of the annual grasses and weeds occurring in nearby grasslands. There is also a large and arborescent blue elderberry shrub (*Sambucus nigra ssp. cerulea*) situated in the approximate central part of the oak woodlands (see Figure 3).

TABLE 1

REPRESENTATIVE PLANT SPECIES IN THE SITE

Acmispon americanus	Spanish clover
Aira caryophyllea	common silver hair grass
Amsinckia menziesii	rancher's fireweed
Avena sp.	oat
Briza minor	little quaking grass
Brodiaea elegans	elegant cluster lily
Bromus diandrus	ripgut brome
Bromus hordeaceus	soft chess brome
Bromus madritensis	compact brome
Carduus pycnocephalus	Italian thistle
Centaurea solstitialis	yellow star thistle
Claytonia perfoliata	miner's lettuce
Convolvulus arvensis	field bindweed
Cynodon dactylon	Bermuda grass
Cynosurus echinatus	dogtail
Deschampsia danthonioides	annual hairgrass
Epilobium brachycarpum	annual fireweed
Erodium botrys	long-beaked stork's-bill
Holocarpha virgata	tarweed
Hordeum marinum	Mediterranean barley
Hordeum murinum	foxtail barley
Leontodon saxatilis	long-beaked hawkbit
Lolium perenne	perennial ryegrass
Lupinus bicolor	miniature lupine
Melilotus indicus	annual yellow sweetclover
Navarretia squarrosa	California stinkweed
Plagiobothrys stipitatus	stalked popcorn flower

TABLE 1 (continued)
REPRESENTATIVE PLANT SPECIES IN THE SITE

Polypogon monspeliensis	annual rabbit's foot grass
Quercus douglasii	blue oak
Quercus lobata	valley oak
Quercus wislizeni	interior live oak
Rubus armeniacus	Himalayan blackberry
Rumex crispus	curly dock
Sambucus nigra ssp. caerulea	blue elderberry
Sinapis arvensis	wild mustard
Taeniatherum caput-medusae	medusa-head grass
Trifolium depauperatum	balloon sack clover
Trifolium hirtum	rose clover
Trifolium variegatum	white tip clover
Vicia sativa	garden vetch

Seasonal Wetlands: The site contains three seasonal wetlands, which encompass 0.02+/- acres and are located in the west part of the site (Figure 3 and photographs in Attachment C). Vegetation within the seasonal wetlands includes species such as perennial ryegrass, Mediterranean barley, and stalked popcorn flower (*Plagiobothrys stipitatus*).

Seasonal Wetland Swales: The site contains 0.15+/- acres of seasonal wetland swales (Figure 3 and photographs in Attachment C). The wetland swales in the site contain a similar composition of vegetation found in seasonal wetlands in the site.

Although located just off-site to the south, there is a fringe of shrubby vegetation along the fence line associated with landscaping of the middle school (see photographs in Attachment C). Representative vegetation within this fringe includes Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*), coyote brush (*Baccharis pilularis*), a few ornamental species, and a blue elderberry shrub.

WILDLIFE: A few bird species were observed in the site. Representative species include turkey vulture (*Cathartes aura*), red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), acorn woodpecker (*Melanerpes formicivorus*), black phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*), western bluebird (*Sialia mexicana*), and Brewer's blackbird (*Euphagus cyanocephalus*). Table 2 is a list of birds and other wildlife observed in the site.

There are several large trees in the site and near the site that are suitable for nesting raptors. Given the presence of large trees in and near the site and raptor foraging habitat (i.e., open fields) in and near the site, it is likely one or more pairs of raptors nest in and near the site during most years. Common birds, such as songbirds, could potentially nest in shrubs, grasslands, and vegetation in and near the site.

A few common mammals have potential to occur in the site and a few were seen during field survey. While desert cottontail (Sy*lvilagus bachmani*) was the only mammal observed in the site during the survey, burrows from California ground squirrel (*Otospermophilus beecheyi*) and Botta's pocket gopher (*Thomomys bottae*), as well as track of raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) were also observed. Other common species such as black-tailed hare (*Lepus californicus*), black-tailed deer (*Odocoileus hemionus columbianus*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), and Virginia opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*) may occur in the project site on occasion. A number of species of small rodents including mice (*Mus musculus, Reithrodontomys megalotis,* and *Peromyscus maniculatus*), and voles (*Microtus californicus*) also likely occur in the site.

TABLE 2

WILDLIFE SPECIES DOCUMENTED IN THE SITE

Birds	
Canada goose	*Branta canadensis*
Turkey vulture	*Cathartes aura*
Red-tailed hawk	*Buteo jamaicensis*
Mourning dove	*Zenaida macroura*
Acorn woodpecker	*Melanerpes formicivorus*
Black phoebe	*Sayornis nigricans*
Western kingbird	*Tyrannus verticalis*
Tree swallow	*Tachycineta bicolor*
California scrub jay	*Aphelocoma californica*
American crow	*Corvus brachyrhynchos*
Northern mockingbird	*Mimus polyglottos*
Western bluebird	*Sialia mexicana*
Brewer's blackbird	*Euphagus cyanocephalus*
Mammals	
California ground squirrel	*Otospermophilus beecheyi*
Botta's pocket gopher	*Thomomys bottae*
Desert cottontail	*Sylvilagus bachmani*
Raccoon	*Procyon lotor*
Reptiles and Amphibians	
Western fence lizard	*Sceloporus occidentalis*

Based on habitats present, a few common reptiles and amphibians have potential to occur in the site and western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*) was the only reptile or amphibian observed in the site during the field survey. Common foothill species, particularly snakes, may occur in the site. Species such

as western terrestrial garter snake (*Thamnophis elegans*), common king snake (*Lampropeltis getulus*), western rattlesnake (*Crotalis viridis*), and other common amphibian and reptile species may also occur on-site.

WATERS OF THE U.S. AND WETLANDS: Waters of the U.S., including wetlands, are defined under 33 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 328 to include navigable waterways, their tributaries, and adjacent wetlands. State and federal agencies regulate these habitats and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act requires that a permit be secured prior to the discharge of dredged or fill materials into any Waters of the U.S. The California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) implements Section 401 of the Clean Water Act by issuing 401 Certification in support of 404 permits. Many jurisdictional Waters of the U.S. in California also fall under the jurisdiction of CDFW.

"Waters of the U.S.", as defined in 33 CFR 328.4, encompasses Territorial Seas, Tidal Waters, and Non-Tidal Waters; Non-Tidal Waters includes interstate and intrastate rivers and streams, their tributaries, and their adjacent wetlands. The limit of federal jurisdiction of Non-Tidal Waters of the U.S. extends to the "ordinary high water mark" (OHWM). The OHWM is established by physical characteristics such as a natural water line impressed on the bank, presence of shelves, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, or the presence of litter and debris.

Wetlands are vegetated areas that meet specific vegetation, soil, and hydrologic criteria defined by the ACOE *Wetlands Delineation Manual* and Regional Supplement (ACOE, 1987; 2008). Wetlands that are adjacent to and hydrologically very closely associated with jurisdictional lakes, rivers, streams, and tributaries can also fall under ACOE jurisdiction as "adjacent wetlands". Pursuant to a May 2023 Supreme Court decision, adjacent wetlands must have a continuous surface connection with a jurisdictional Water of the U.S. such that the wetland is indistinguishable from the adjacent water. Geographically and

hydrologically isolated wetlands are outside federal jurisdiction, but are regulated by RWQCB as a “Water of the State”.

Jurisdictional Waters of the U.S. and wetlands include, but are not limited to, most perennial and intermittent creeks and lakes, as well as adjacent wetlands such as riparian wetlands along the edges of rivers. Waters of the U.S., wetlands, and other aquatic habitats provide critical habitat components, such as nest sites and a reliable source of water, for a wide variety of wildlife species.

There are 0.17+/- acres of wetlands in the site (Figure 3). This total includes three seasonal wetland swales and three seasonal wetlands. The remainder of the site is vegetated in ruderal upland grassland vegetation, with soils that appear well draining. The wetlands in the site meet the technical definition of a Water of the State but are outside federal jurisdiction because they are seasonal, dry most of the year, and lack a continuous surface connection with nearby streams.

Seasonal Wetlands: There are three seasonal wetlands encompassing 0.02+/- acres (Figure 3 and photographs in Attachment C). Seasonal wetlands in the site are shallow and marginal, and appear to pond water to a maximum depth of approximately 2 to 4 inches for only a few weeks during heaving rainfall years.

Seasonal Wetland Swales: There are three seasonal wetland swales in the project site encompassing 0.15+/- acres (Figure 3 and photographs in Attachment C). The swales are in topographically low areas and have directional flow during and following rain events. A few low pockets in the swales may pond water, but only to a maximum depth of approximately 2 inches.

SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES: Special-status species are plants and animals that are legally protected under the state and/or federal endangered species acts or other regulations. The Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) of 1973 declares that

all federal departments and agencies shall utilize their authority to conserve endangered and threatened plant and animal species. The California Endangered Species Act (CESA) of 1984 parallels the policies of FESA and pertains to native California species.

Special-status species also include other species that are considered rare enough by the scientific community and trustee agencies to warrant special consideration, particularly with regard to protection of isolated populations, nesting or denning locations, communal roosts, and other essential habitats. The presence of species with legal protection under CESA and/or FESA often represents a major constraint to development, particularly when the species are wide-ranging or highly sensitive to habitat disturbance and where proposed development would result in a take of these species.

Special-status plants are those which are designated rare, threatened, or endangered and candidate species for listing by the USFWS. Special-status plants also include species considered rare or endangered under the conditions of Section 15380 of the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines, such as those plant species identified on Lists 1A, 1B and 2 in the Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California (CNPS, 2023). Finally, special-status plants may include other species that are considered sensitive or of special concern due to limited distribution or lack of adequate information to permit listing or rejection for state or federal status, such as those included on CNPS List 3.

The likelihood of occurrence of listed, candidate, and other special-status species in the site is extremely low. Table 3 provides a summary of the listing status and habitat requirements of special-status species that have been documented in the greater project vicinity or for which there is potentially suitable habitat in the greater project vicinity. This table also includes an assessment of the likelihood of occurrence of each of these species in the site. The evaluation of the potential

TABLE 3

SPECIAL-STATUS PLANT AND WILDLIFE SPECIES DOCUMENTED IN THE GREATER PROJECT VICINITY

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status[1]	State Status[1]	CNPS List[2]	Habitat	Likeliness of Occurrence in the Project Site
PLANTS						
Ione manzanita	*Arctostaphylos myrtifolia*	T	None	1B	Ione clay soils in Chaparral or Cismontane woodland habitats.	Unlikely: the site does not provide suitable habitat for Ione manzanita. No Ione chaparral habitats or Ione formation soils were observed in the site and this species was not found in the site during special-status plant surveys (Salix Consulting, Inc., 2023). The nearest occurrence of Ione manzanita in the CNDDB (2023) search area is approximately 4.5 miles west of the site.
Big-scale balsamroot	*Balsamorhiza macrolepis*	None	None	1B	Chaparral, valley and foothill grassland and cismontane woodland; sometimes serpentine soils.	Unlikely: the site contains potentially suitable habitat for big-scale balsamroot. However, this species was not found in the site (Salix Consulting, Inc., 2023). The nearest occurrence of this species in the CNDDB (2023) is approximately 12 miles northwest of the site.
Bisbee Peak rush-rose	*Crocanthemum suffrutescens*	None	None	3	Chaparral, often on serpentine, gabbroic or Ione formation soils.	Unlikely: there is no chaparral habitat in the site and no areas of serpentine, gabbroic, or Ione formation soils were observed. Bisbee Peak rush-rose was not found in the site (Salix Consulting, Inc., 2023). The nearest occurrence of this species in the CNDDB (2023) search area is approximately 5 miles northeast of the site.
Stanislaus monkeyflower	*Erythranthe marmorata*	None	None	1B	Cismontane woodland or lower montane coniferous forest.	Unlikely: while the site provides potentially suitable habitat for Stanislaus monkeyflower, it was not found in the site (Salix Consulting, Inc., 2023). The nearest occurrence of Stanislaus monkeyflower in the CNDDB (2023) is approximately 6.5 miles northeast of the project site.
Patterson's navarretia	*Navarretia paradoxiclara*	None	None	1B	Meadows and seeps.	Unlikely: the site does not provide suitable habitat for Patterson's navarretia. This species was not found in the site (Salix Consulting, Inc., 2023). The nearest occurrence of this species in the CNDDB (2023) search area is approximately 3 miles northeast of the site.

TABLE 3

SPECIAL-STATUS PLANT AND WILDLIFE SPECIES DOCUMENTED IN THE GREATER PROJECT VICINITY

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status[1]	State Status[1]	CNPS List[2]	Habitat	Likeliness of Occurrence in the Project Site
WILDLIFE						
BIRDS						
Bald eagle	*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*	None	E	N/A	Nests in large trees along rivers, ocean shores, and lake margins.	Unlikely: bald eagles were not observed at the site during the survey, but could conceivably fly over the site on occasion. The nearest occurrence of this species in the CNDDB (2023) search area is approximately 4.5 miles southwest of the site at New Hogan Reservoir.
Tricolored blackbird	*Agelaius tricolor*	None	T	N/A	Open water and protected nesting substrate, usually cattails and riparian scrub.	Unlikely: no tricolored blackbirds were seen during the survey and there is no aquatic habitat in the site to support nesting by this species. Tricolored blackbird may fly over the site on occasion. The nearest occurrence of tricolored blackbirds in the CNDDB (2023) search area is approximately 3 miles southwest of the site.
MAMMALS						
Townsend's big-eared bat	*Corynorhinus townsendii*	None	SC	N/A	Desert scrub, mixed conifer forest, and pinyon-juniper or pine forest; primarily roosts in caves, mines and buildings.	Unlikely: although there is a small patch of oak woodland in the site, this area will be undisturbed as part of the project. It is possible this species may roost in trees in the site. The nearest occurrence of Townsend's big-eared bat in the CNDDB (2023) search area is approximately 2.5 miles east of the site.
AMPHIBIANS						
California tiger salamander	*Ambystoma californiense*	T	T	N/A	Breeds in seasonal water bodies such as deep vernal pools or stock ponds. Requires small mammal burrows for summer refugia.	Unlikely: none of the seasonal aquatic features in the site are suitable for breeding by California tiger salamander. Further, the stock pond located north of the site is perennial and likely contains predatory bullfrogs and/or fish. The site is also outside of (east) the range of this species. The nearest record of California tiger salamander recorded in the CNDDB (2023) search area is approximately 2.5 miles northwest of the site. The site is not within an area designated critical habitat for this species (USFWS, 2005a).

TABLE 3

SPECIAL-STATUS PLANT AND WILDLIFE SPECIES DOCUMENTED IN THE GREATER PROJECT VICINITY

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status[1]	State Status[1]	CNPS List[2]	Habitat	Likeliness of Occurrence in the Project Site
California red-legged frog	*Rana aurora draytonii*	T	SC	N/A	Lowlands and foothills in or near permanent sources of deep water with dense, shrubby or emergent riparian vegetation.	Unlikely: the site does not provide suitable habitat for California red-legged frog; the seasonal aquatic features in the site are not suitable for this species. The nearest record of this species in the CNDDB (2023) search area is approximately 1.5 miles northwest, within Youngs Creek. The site is just east of designated critical habitat for California red-legged frog (USFWS, 2006).
FISH						
Central Valley steelhead	*Oncorhynchus mykiss*	T	None	N/A	Riffle and pool complexes with adequate spawning substrates within Central Valley drainages.	None: the site does not provide suitable aquatic habitat for this species. The nearest occurrence of Central Valley steelhead in the CNDDB (2023) search area is approximately 5.5 miles southwest of the site. The site is not in designated critical habitat for Central Valley steelhead (NOAA, 2005).
INVERTEBRATES						
Vernal pool fairy shrimp	*Branchinecta lynchi*	T	None	N/A	Vernal pools and seasonally inundated depressions in the Central Valley.	Unlikely: there are no vernal pools in the site and the seasonal wetlands are too shallow to support vernal pool fairy shrimp. The site is also situated east of the species' range; the nearest occurrence of vernal pool fairy shrimp in the CNDDB (2023) search area is approximately 3 miles southwest of the site. The site is not in designated critical habitat for this species (USFWS, 2005b).
Vernal pool tadpole shrimp	*Lepidurus packardi*	E	None	N/A	Vernal pools and seasonally wet depressions within the Central Valley.	Unlikely: there are no vernal pools in the site and the seasonal wetlands are too shallow to support vernal pool tadpole shrimp. The site is also situated east of the species' range. There are no occurrences of vernal pool tadpole shrimp in the CNDDB (2023) search area. The site is not within designated critical habitat for this species (USFWS, 2005a).

TABLE 3

SPECIAL-STATUS PLANT AND WILDLIFE SPECIES DOCUMENTED IN THE GREATER PROJECT VICINITY

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status[1]	State Status[1]	CNPS List[2]	Habitat	Likeliness of Occurrence in the Project Site
Valley elderberry longhorn beetle	*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*	T	None	N/A	Elderberry shrubs in the Central Valley and surrounding foothills at elevations below 500 feet.	Unlikely: there is one blue elderberry shrub located within the oak woodland area in the site and one located within a shrubby fringe of vegetation along the south edge of the site. Neither of these shrubs will be impacted by project-related activities. The site is well above the elevation range known to support valley elderberry longhorn beetle. There are no occurrences of valley elderberry longhorn beetle recorded in the CNDDB (2023) search area.
Monarch butterfly	*Danaus plexippus*	C	None	N/A	Variety of habitats in California; larvae dependent on milkweed. Primarily associated with coastal environments.	Unlikely: monarch butterfly may fly over the site during its migration, but would not be expected to occur in the site due to a lack of suitable habitat; no milkweed plants were observed in site. There are no occurrences of this species in the CNDDB (2023) search area.

Notes:

1 T = Threatened; E = Endangered; C = Candidate for Listing; SC=State of California Species of Special Concern.

2 CNPS List 1B includes species that are rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere; List 3 includes plants about which more information is needed.

for occurrence of each species is based on the distribution of regional occurrences (if any), habitat suitability, and field observations.

SPECIAL-STATUS PLANTS: Three species of special-status plants were identified in the CNDDB (2023) search area: Ione manzanita (*Arctostaphylos myrtifolia*), Bisbee Peak rush-rose (*Crocanthemum suffrutescens*), and Patterson's navarretia (*Navarretia paradoxiclara*) (Table 3 and Attachment B). No additional special-status plant species are identified in the USFWS IPaC Trust Report (Attachment B). Although not recorded in close proximity to the site in the CNDDB, big-scale balsamroot (*Balsamorhiza macrolepis*) and Stanislaus monkeyflower (*Erythranthe marmorata*) were added to Table 3 because they were identified as potentially occurring species in the 2019 biological inventory at the site (SEC 2019).

Special-status plants generally occur in relatively undisturbed areas in vegetation communities such as vernal pools, marshes and swamps, chenopod scrub, seasonal wetlands, riparian scrub, and areas with specialty soils. The grasslands in the site have been moderately disturbed by grazing and development on adjacent parcels. No specialty soils or chaparral habitats were observed in the site to support Ione manzanita or Bisbee Peak rush-rose and no meadows or seeps were observed to support Patterson's navarretia.

No special-status plants were found during the focused botanical survey conducted on May 24, 2023 (Attachment E). Due to a lack of highly suitable habitat for any of the special-status plants in Table 3 or other special-status plant species and negative survey results, it is unlikely special-status plants occur in the site.

SPECIAL-STATUS WILDLIFE: The potential for intensive use of the site by special-status wildlife species is very low. Only seven special-status wildlife species were recorded in project area in the CNDDB (2023) query: tricolored blackbird

(*Agelaius tricolor*), bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*), California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*), California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*), central valley steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irrideus*), and vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*). Vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardi*), valley elderberry longhorn beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*), and monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) are not recorded in the CNDDB within the search area, but are on the USFWS IPaC Trust Report (Attachment B).

While the project site may have provided habitat for several special-status wildlife species at some time in the past, cattle grazing, climate change, and nearby development have substantially modified natural habitats in the greater project vicinity, including those within the site. None of the species in Table 3 have much potential to occur in the project site on more than a transitory or very occasional basis.

SPECIAL-STATUS AMPHIBIANS: The seasonal aquatic habitats in the site do not contain the hydrologic and environmental attributes to support California red-legged frog or California tiger salamander. California red-legged frog may occur in more perennial and/or cooler creeks higher in to the foothills, but is not expected to occur on site. There is one record of California red-legged frog in the CNDDB (2023) search area located approximately 1.5 miles northwest of the site, found within Youngs Creek. This record is from 2003 and mentions three adults being found in this ephemeral creek, which is fed from a spring. There are no other records of California red-legged frog in the 120-square mile CNDDB search area surrounding the site.

The marginal seasonal wetlands in the site do not contain suitable breeding habitat for California tiger salamander and there are no suitable breeding ponds adjacent to the site. As the constructed stock pond located just north of the site is perennial, it is highly likely to contain predatory bullfrogs and fish, precluding

the presence of California tiger salamander. The nearest occurrence of California tiger salamander in the CNDDB (2023) search area is approximately 2.5 miles northwest of the site. The site is also located outside of (east) of the range of California tiger salamander.

OTHER SPECIAL-STATUS WILDLIFE SPECIES: Special-status birds including tricolored blackbird and bald eagle may fly over the site on occasion, but would not be expected to nest in the site due to a lack of suitable habitat. For example, bald eagles usually nest in close proximity to large bodies of water and tricolored blackbirds require dense emergent wetland vegetation near open water environments for nesting habitat.

Townsend's big-eared bat may fly over the site on occasion and could potentially roost in the largest trees in the oak woodlands in the east part of the site, however, this species is more known to roost in caves, mines, and old buildings.

There are no creeks or rivers in the site to support central valley steelhead or other species of fish. The seasonal wetlands in the site are marginal and extremely shallow, and do not have a hydrological regime capable of supporting vernal pool branchiopods (i.e., fairy and tadpole shrimp).

There is one blue elderberry shrub located in the oak woodlands in the site and one just off-site to the south, but the site is well above the known elevation range to support valley elderberry longhorn beetle and these shrubs will not be disturbed from project-related activities. Lastly, monarch butterflies may fly over the site during their migration, but would be unlikely to utilize the site in a meaningful capacity as no extensive milkweed plants were observed and this species is primarily associated with coastal habitats.

CRITICAL HABITAT: The site is not in designated critical habitat of California red-legged frog (USFWS, 2006), California tiger salamander (USFWS, 2005a),

federally listed vernal pool shrimp or plants (USFWS, 2005b), or Central Valley steelhead (NOAA, 2005) (Attachment F).

California red-legged frog Critical Habitat Unit CAL-1 is located northwest of the site, beyond Highway 26 (Attachment F). This habitat unit surrounds the population of California red-legged frog in a spring-fed section of Young's Creek, approximately 1.5 miles northwest of the site (CNDDB, 2023). The site is separated from Youngs Creek by two ridges (see USGS map, Figure 2). Most critical habitat designations include significant buffers of land around known populations of listed species. Biologically, the proximity of the site to California red-legged frog Critical Habitat Unit CAL-1 has little relevance; the site does not provide habitat for the species.

WILDLIFE MOVEMENT CORRIDORS: Well-developed riparian corridors are often utilized for movement by wildlife species such as deer, coyote, red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), and bobcat (*Felis rufus*), as well as a variety of amphibians, reptiles, and fish. There are no wildlife movement corridors in the site.

HABITAT CONSERVATION PLANS: The project will not conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

Conclusions and Recommendations

- The site is comprised of open grassland, a small patch of oak woodland, and a few seasonal aquatic features.

- The oak woodlands are situated outside the limits of grading and will not be impacted or disturbed by project related activities.

- There are 0.17+/- acres of seasonal wetlands and seasonal wetland swales in the west part of the site. All of the wetlands are seasonal, dry most of the year, and lacking a continuous surface connection with nearby streams. The wetlands in the site meet the technical definition of a Water of the State but are outside federal jurisdiction because they are seasonal, dry most of the year, and lack a continuous surface connection with nearby streams.

- The wetlands are outside the limits of grading and will be not be subject to direct disturbance. Potential project changes in the hydrologic regime in the wetlands (i.e., being wetter more of the year) are expected to be minor and are viewed as a less than significant impact.

- Due to a lack of suitable habitat, no special-status plants are expected to occur in the site. No special-status plants were located in the site during the 2023 rare plant survey.

- No special-status wildlife species are expected to occur in the project site on more than a transitory or very occasional basis.

- The site is not within designated critical habitat for any federally listed species.

- The project will not result in adverse impact to wildlife movement corridors.

- The project will not conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

- Trees, shrubs, and grasslands in the site could be used by other birds protected by the MBTA and FGCC. If tree removal is scheduled during the nesting season of raptors (January 1 through July 31), a pre-construction survey

for nesting raptors is recommended. If other vegetation removal or construction commences during the general avian nesting season (March 1 through July 31), a pre-construction survey for all species of nesting birds is recommended. If active nests are found, work in the vicinity of the nests should be delayed until the young fledge.

We hope this information is useful. Please call me at (209) 745-1159 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Diane S. Moore, M.S.
Principal Biologist

References and Literature Consulted

ACOE (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers). 1987. Technical Report Y87-1. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Waterways Experiment Station, Vicksburg, MI.

ACOE. 2008. Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Arid West Region. U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center, Vicksburg, MS. September.

CNDDB (California Natural Diversity Database). 2023. California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Natural Heritage Program, Sacramento, California.

California Native Plant Society, Rare Plant Program. 2023. Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California (online edition, v9-01 1.0). Website http://www.rareplants.cnps.org.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). 2005. Endangered

and Threatened Species; Designation of Critical Habitat for Seven Evolutionarily Significant Units of Pacific Salmon and Steelhead in California; Final Rule. Federal Register 70 (170): 52488-52585. September 2, 2005.

Sawyer & Keeler-Wolf. 1995. A Manual of California Vegetation. California Native Plant Society, Sacramento. California.

SEC (Sycamore Environmental Consultants, Inc.). 2019. Biological Assessment for the Toyon Middle School Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Upgrade Project. Prepared for Calaveras Unified School District. January.

USFWS (2005a). Part II, Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, 50 CFR Part 17: Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for the California Tiger Salamander, Central Population; Final Rule. Federal Register Vol. 70, No. 162, pp. 49390 – 49458. August 23.

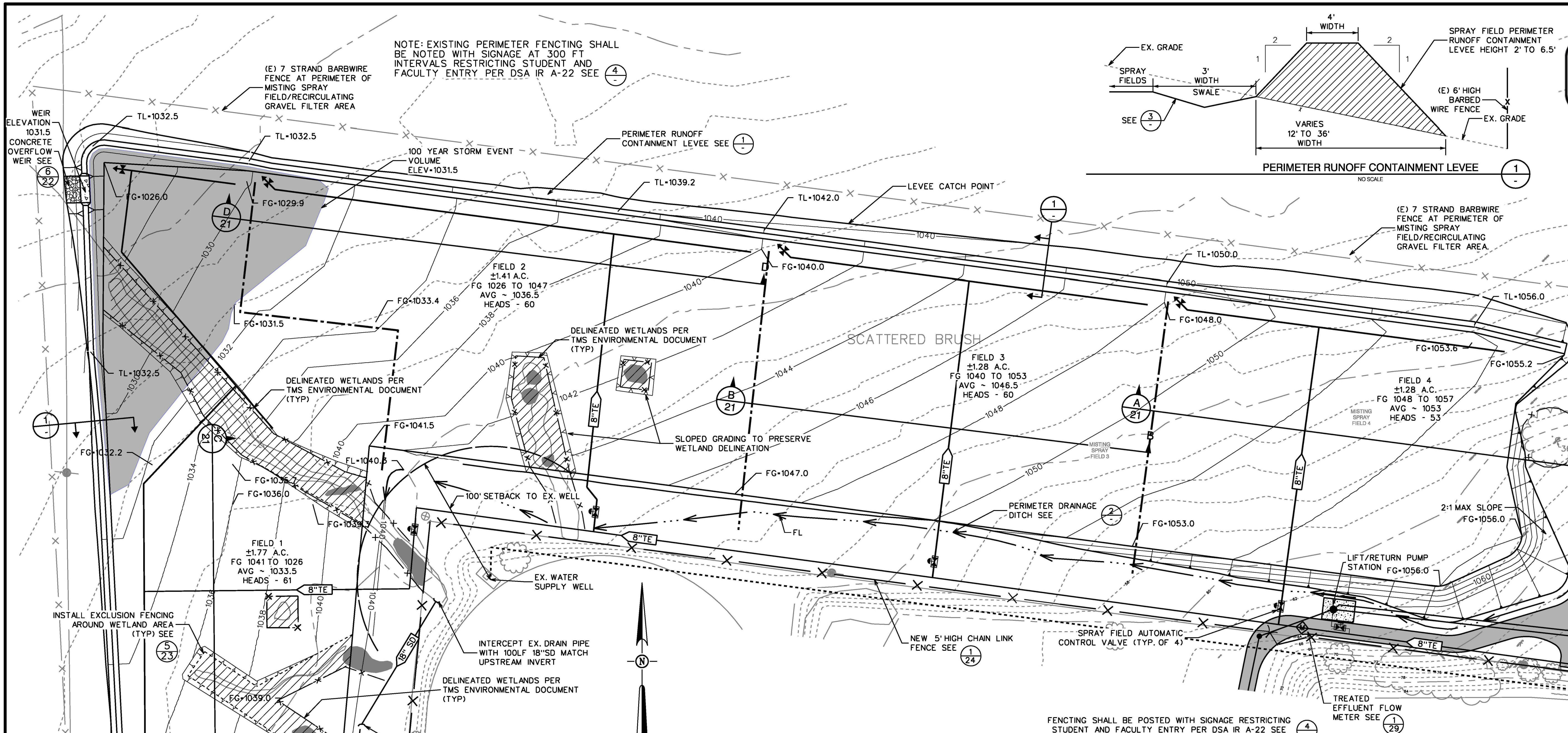
USFWS. 2005b. Part II, Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service. 50 CFR Part 17: Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Final Designation of Critical Habitat for Four Vernal Pool Crustaceans and Eleven Vernal Pool Plants in California and Southern Oregon; Evaluation and Economic Exclusions from August 2003 Final Designation, Final Rule. Federal Register Vol. 70, No. 154, August 11.

USFWS. 2006. Part II, Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service. 50 CFR Part 17: Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for California Red-Legged Frog, and Special Rule Exemption Associated with Final Listing for Existing Routine Ranching Activities, Final Rule. Federal Register Vol. 71, No. 71, April 13.

USFWS. 2017. Framework for Assessing Impacts to the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*). U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Sacramento, California. 28pp.

Attachment A

Site Plan

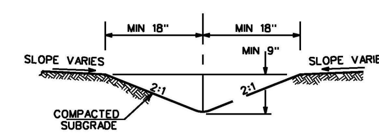

NOTE: EXISTING PERIMETER FENCING SHALL BE NOTED WITH SIGNAGE AT 300 FT INTERVALS RESTRICTING STUDENT AND FACULTY ENTRY PER DSA IR A-22 SEE 4
(E) 7 STRAND BARBWIRE FENCE AT PERIMETER OF MISTING SPRAY FIELD/RECIRCULATING GRAVEL FILTER AREA
WEIR ELEVATION 1031.5 CONCRETE OVERFLOW WEIR SEE 6/22
TL-1032.5
100 YEAR STORM EVENT VOLUME ELEV-1031.5
PERIMETER RUNOFF CONTAINMENT LEVEE SEE 1
TL-1039.2
LEVEE CATCH POINT
TL-1042.0
FG-1026.0
FG-1029.9
FG-1040.0
TL-1050.0
FIELD 2 ±1.41 A.C. FG 1026 TO 1047 AVG ~ 1036.5 HEADS - 60
FG-1033.4
FG-1031.5
DELINEATED WETLANDS PER TMS ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT (TYP)
SCATTERED BRUSH
FIELD 3 ±1.28 A.C. FG 1040 TO 1053 AVG ~ 1046.5 HEADS - 60
FG-1048.0
TL-1056.0
FG-1053.6
FG-1055.2
FIELD 4 ±1.28 A.C. FG 1048 TO 1057 AVG ~ 1053 HEADS - 53
TL-1032.5
FG-1041.5
SLOPED GRADING TO PRESERVE WETLAND DELINEATION
FG-1032.2
FL-1040.5
FG-1047.0
100' SETBACK TO EX. WELL
FL
PERIMETER DRAINAGE DITCH SEE 2
FG-1053.0
2:1 MAX SLOPE
FG-1056.0
FG-1036.0
FG-1039.3
FIELD 1 ±1.77 A.C. FG 1041 TO 1026 AVG ~ 1033.5 HEADS - 61
EX. WATER SUPPLY WELL
LIFT/RETURN PUMP STATION
FG-1056.0
INSTALL EXCLUSION FENCING AROUND WETLAND AREA (TYP) SEE 5/23
INTERCEPT EX. DRAIN PIPE WITH 100LF 18"SD MATCH UPSTREAM INVERT
NEW 5' HIGH CHAIN LINK FENCE SEE 1/24
SPRAY FIELD AUTOMATIC CONTROL VALVE (TYP. OF 4)
DELINEATED WETLANDS PER TMS ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT (TYP)
TREATED EFFLUENT FLOW METER SEE 1/29
FG-1039.0
FENCING SHALL BE POSTED WITH SIGNAGE RESTRICTING STUDENT AND FACULTY ENTRY PER DSA IR A-22 SEE 4
TL-1037.6
FG-1035.6
CONSTRUCT OUTLET WITH FES
FG-1039.6
FL-1036.0
STORM DRAIN RELEASE
FG-1036.4
FG-1036.5
FG-1040.9
FL-1037.9
INTERCEPT EX. STORM WATER RUNOFF
FL-1036.8
PERIMETER DRAINAGE DITCH 2
(E) 7 STRAND BARBWIRE PERIMETER FENCE
FENCING SHALL BE POSTED WITH SIGNAGE RESTRICTING STUDENT AND FACULTY ENTRY PER DSA IR A-22 SEE 4
0' 10' 20' 40' 80'
SCALE 1"=40'
4' WIDTH
EX. GRADE
SPRAY FIELDS
3' WIDTH SWALE
SEE 3
SPRAY FIELD PERIMETER RUNOFF CONTAINMENT LEVEE HEIGHT 2' TO 6.5'
(E) 6' HIGH BARBED WIRE FENCE
EX. GRADE
VARIES 12' TO 36' WIDTH
PERIMETER RUNOFF CONTAINMENT LEVEE 1
NO SCALE

NOTE

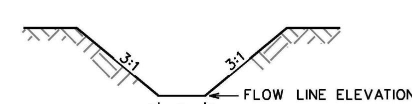
1. SEE SHEET 21 FOR SECTIONS

LEGEND

8"SS	(GRAVITY) SANITARY SEWER
4"FM	(FORCE MAIN) SANITARY SEWER
4"FE	(GRAVITY) FILTERED EFFLUENT
8"TE	(LOW PRESSURE) TREATED EFFLUENT
4"FM-FE	(FORCE MAIN) FILTERED EFFLUENT
●	SANITARY SEWER MANHOLE SEE 1/23
	AUTOMATIC CONTROL VALVE SEE 1/15
1050	(P) ELEVATION CONTOUR
76	(E) ELEVATION CONTOUR +1000FT
	FIELD BOUNDARY
—x—x—	NEW PRIMETER FENCING WITH SIGNAGE POSTED PER DSA IR A-22 AND DETAIL 4



EARTHEN SWALE 3
NO SCALE



PERIMETER DRAINAGE DITCH 2
NOT TO SCALE

SIGN TO BE POSTED ON PERIMETER FENCE AT HEADWORKS SPRAY FIELD, TREATMENT PLANT AND TREATED EFFLUENT RESERVOIR . POST SIGN EACH SIDE OF ENCLOSURE. SIGN SPACING SHALL NOT EXCEED 300FT

RESTRICTED ENTRY SIGN 4
NOT TO SCALE

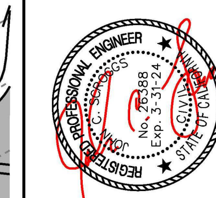
SIGN TO CONFORM TO DSA IR A-22

IDENTIFICATION STAMP DIV. OF THE STATE ARCHITECT
APP: 02-120351 INC:
REVIEWED FOR
SS ☑ FLS ☐ ACS ☑
DATE: 09/20/2022

REVISIONS
NO. | DESCRIPTION | BY

CONFORMED SET

RELEASE 5
DATE: MAY 2023
SCALE:
JOB NO. 1337-02



IMPROVEMENT PLANS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF
TMS WWTP UPGRADE PROJECT
CALAVERAS COUNTY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

GRADING PLAN - MISTING SPRAY FIELDS

KASL CONSULTING ENGINEERS
7777 Greenback Lane Suite 104 Citrus Heights, CA 95610
Tel. (916) 722-1800
Fax (916) 722-4595
CIVIL - WATER RESOURCES - SURVEYING

Attachment B

CNDDB Summary Report

& USFWS IPaC Trust Resource Report

Selected Elements by Scientific Name

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

California Natural Diversity Database

Query Criteria: Quad IS (Valley Springs (3812027) OR San Andreas (3812026))

Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
Agelaius tricolor tricolored blackbird	ABPBXB0020	None	Threatened	G1G2	S2	SSC
Ambystoma californiense pop. 1 California tiger salamander - central California DPS	AAAAA01181	Threatened	Threatened	G2G3T3	S3	WL
Arctostaphylos myrtifolia Ione manzanita	PDERI04240	Threatened	None	G1	S1	1B.2
Branchinecta lynchi vernal pool fairy shrimp	ICBRA03030	Threatened	None	G3	S3	
Corynorhinus townsendii Townsend's big-eared bat	AMACC08010	None	None	G4	S2	SSC
Crocanthemum suffrutescens Bisbee Peak rush-rose	PDCIS020F0	None	None	G2?Q	S2?	3.2
Haliaeetus leucocephalus bald eagle	ABNKC10010	Delisted	Endangered	G5	S3	FP
Ione Chaparral Ione Chaparral	CTT37D00CA	None	None	G1	S1.1	
Navarretia paradoxiclara Patterson's navarretia	PDPLM0C150	None	None	G2	S2	1B.3
Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus pop. 11 steelhead - Central Valley DPS	AFCHA0209K	Threatened	None	G5T2Q	S2	
Rana draytonii California red-legged frog	AAABH01022	Threatened	None	G2G3	S2S3	SSC

Record Count: 11

Ione Chaparral
Ione Chaparral
Ione Chaparral
Parry's horkelia
Ione manzanita
Ione Chaparral
Ione manzanita
Ione Chaparral
Hoover's calycadenia
Patterson's navarretia
Patterson's navarretia
Patterson's navarretia
Patterson's navarretia
Bisbee Peak rush-rose
Ione manzanita
Ione Chaparral
Bisbee Peak rush-rose
Ione manzanita
Ione Chaparral
Patterson's navarretia
Parry's horkelia
Study Area

IONE
JACKSON
MOKELUMNE HILL
RAIL ROAD FLAT
WALLACE
VALLEY SPRINGS
SAN ANDREAS
CALAVERITAS
JENNY LIND
SALT SPRING VALLEY

Red Hills soaproot

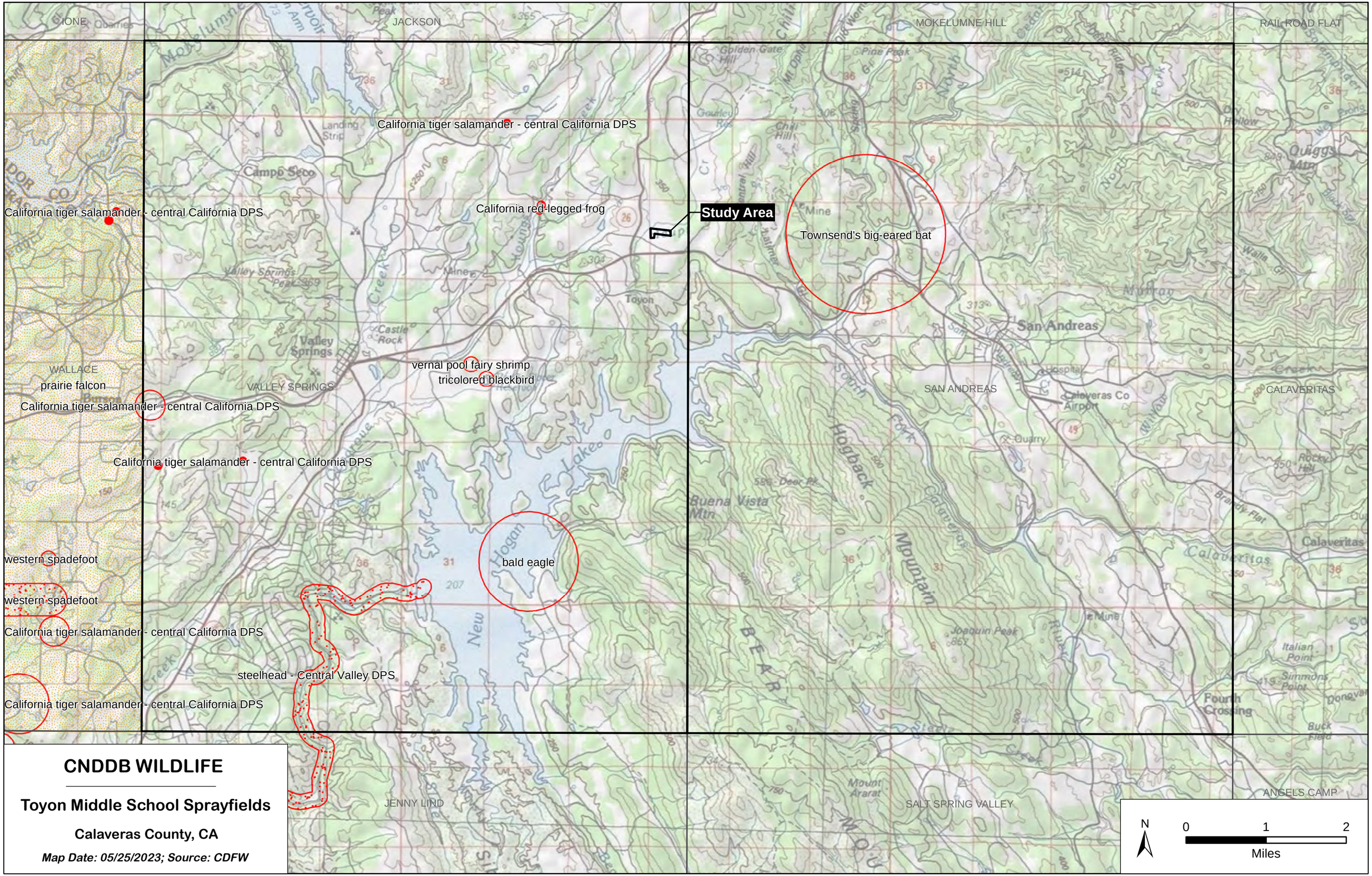
CNDDB PLANT

Toyon Middle School Sprayfields

Calaveras County, CA

Map Date: 05/25/2023; Source: CDFW

N
0 1 2
Miles



CNDDB WILDLIFE

Toyon Middle School Sprayfields

Calaveras County, CA

Map Date: 05/25/2023; Source: CDFW

IPaC **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

IPaC resource list

This report is an automatically generated list of species and other resources such as critical habitat (collectively referred to as *trust resources*) under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) jurisdiction that are known or expected to be on or near the project area referenced below. The list may also include trust resources that occur outside of the project area, but that could potentially be directly or indirectly affected by activities in the project area. However, determining the likelihood and extent of effects a project may have on trust resources typically requires gathering additional site-specific (e.g., vegetation/species surveys) and project-specific (e.g., magnitude and timing of proposed activities) information.

Below is a summary of the project information you provided and contact information for the USFWS office(s) with jurisdiction in the defined project area. Please read the introduction to each section that follows (Endangered Species, Migratory Birds, USFWS Facilities, and NWI Wetlands) for additional information applicable to the trust resources addressed in that section.

Location

Calaveras County, California

Local office

Sacramento Fish And Wildlife Office

(916) 414-6600
(916) 414-6713

Federal Building

Federal Building
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605
Sacramento, CA 95825-1846

Endangered species

This resource list is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an analysis of project level impacts.

The primary information used to generate this list is the known or expected range of each species. Additional areas of influence (AOI) for species are also considered. An AOI includes areas outside of the species range if the species could be indirectly affected by activities in that area (e.g., placing a dam upstream of a fish population even if that fish does not occur at the dam site, may indirectly impact the species by reducing or eliminating water flow downstream). Because species can move, and site conditions can change, the species on this list are not guaranteed to be found on or near the project area. To fully determine any potential effects to species, additional site-specific and project-specific information is often required.

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act **requires** Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of such proposed action" for any project that is conducted, permitted, funded, or licensed by any Federal agency. A letter from the local office and a species list which fulfills this requirement can **only** be obtained by requesting an official species list from either the Regulatory Review section in IPaC (see directions below) or from the local field office directly.

For project evaluations that require USFWS concurrence/review, please return to the IPaC website and request an official species list by doing the following:

1. Draw the project location and click CONTINUE.
2. Click DEFINE PROJECT.
3. Log in (if directed to do so).
4. Provide a name and description for your project.
5. Click REQUEST SPECIES LIST.

Listed species[1] and their critical habitats are managed by the Ecological Services Program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the fisheries division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Fisheries[2]).

Species and critical habitats under the sole responsibility of NOAA Fisheries are **not** shown on this list. Please contact NOAA Fisheries for species under their jurisdiction.

---

1. Species listed under the Endangered Species Act are threatened or endangered; IPaC also shows species that are candidates, or proposed, for listing. See the listing status page for more information. IPaC only shows species that are regulated by USFWS (see FAQ).

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

The following species are potentially affected by activities in this location:

Amphibians

NAME	STATUS
California Red-legged Frog Rana draytonii Wherever found There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2891	Threatened
California Tiger Salamander Ambystoma californiense There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2076	Threatened
Foothill Yellow-legged Frog Rana boylii No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5133	Proposed Endangered

Insects

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly Danaus plexippus Wherever found No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Candidate

Crustaceans

NAME	STATUS
Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp Branchinecta lynchi Wherever found There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/498	Threatened

Flowering Plants

NAME	STATUS

Ione Manzanita Arctostaphylos myrtifolia Threatened

Wherever found

No critical habitat has been designated for this species.
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1806

Critical habitats

Potential effects to critical habitat(s) in this location must be analyzed along with the endangered species themselves.

There are no critical habitats at this location.

You are still required to determine if your project(s) may have effects on all above listed species.

Migratory birds

Certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act[1] and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act[2].

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described below.

1. The Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918.
2. The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940.

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Birds of Conservation Concern https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-birds/species
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf

The birds listed below are birds of particular concern either because they occur on the USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) list or warrant special attention in your project location. To learn more about the levels of concern for birds on your list and how this

list is generated, see the FAQ below. This is not a list of every bird you may find in this location, nor a guarantee that every bird on this list will be found in your project area. To see exact locations of where birders and the general public have sighted birds in and around your project area, visit the E-bird data mapping tool (Tip: enter your location, desired date range and a species on your list). For projects that occur off the Atlantic Coast, additional maps and models detailing the relative occurrence and abundance of bird species on your list are available. Links to additional information about Atlantic Coast birds, and other important information about your migratory bird list, including how to properly interpret and use your migratory bird report, can be found below.

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, click on the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY at the top of your list to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.	Breeds Jan 1 to Aug 31
Bullock's Oriole *Icterus bullockii* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA	Breeds Mar 21 to Jul 25
California Thrasher *Toxostoma redivivum* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds Jan 1 to Jul 31
Cassin's Finch *Carpodacus cassinii* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9462	Breeds May 15 to Jul 15
Golden Eagle *Aquila chrysaetos* This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1680	Breeds Jan 1 to Aug 31

Lawrence's Goldfinch Carduelis lawrencei — Breeds Mar 20 to Sep 20
This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9464

Nuttall's Woodpecker Picoides nuttallii — Breeds Apr 1 to Jul 20
This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9410

Oak Titmouse Baeolophus inornatus — Breeds Mar 15 to Jul 15
This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9656

Olive-sided Flycatcher Contopus cooperi — Breeds May 20 to Aug 31
This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3914

Tricolored Blackbird Agelaius tricolor — Breeds Mar 15 to Aug 10
This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3910

Western Grebe aechmophorus occidentalis — Breeds Jun 1 to Aug 31
This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6743

Wrentit Chamaea fasciata — Breeds Mar 15 to Aug 10
This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.

Probability of Presence Summary

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read and understand the FAQ "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (■)

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. (A year is represented as 12 4-week months.) A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort (see below) can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score. One can have higher confidence in the presence score if the corresponding survey effort is also high.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

1. The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.
2. To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is 0.25/0.25 = 1; at week 20 it is 0.05/0.25 = 0.2.
3. The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

To see a bar's probability of presence score, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

Breeding Season (▬)
Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

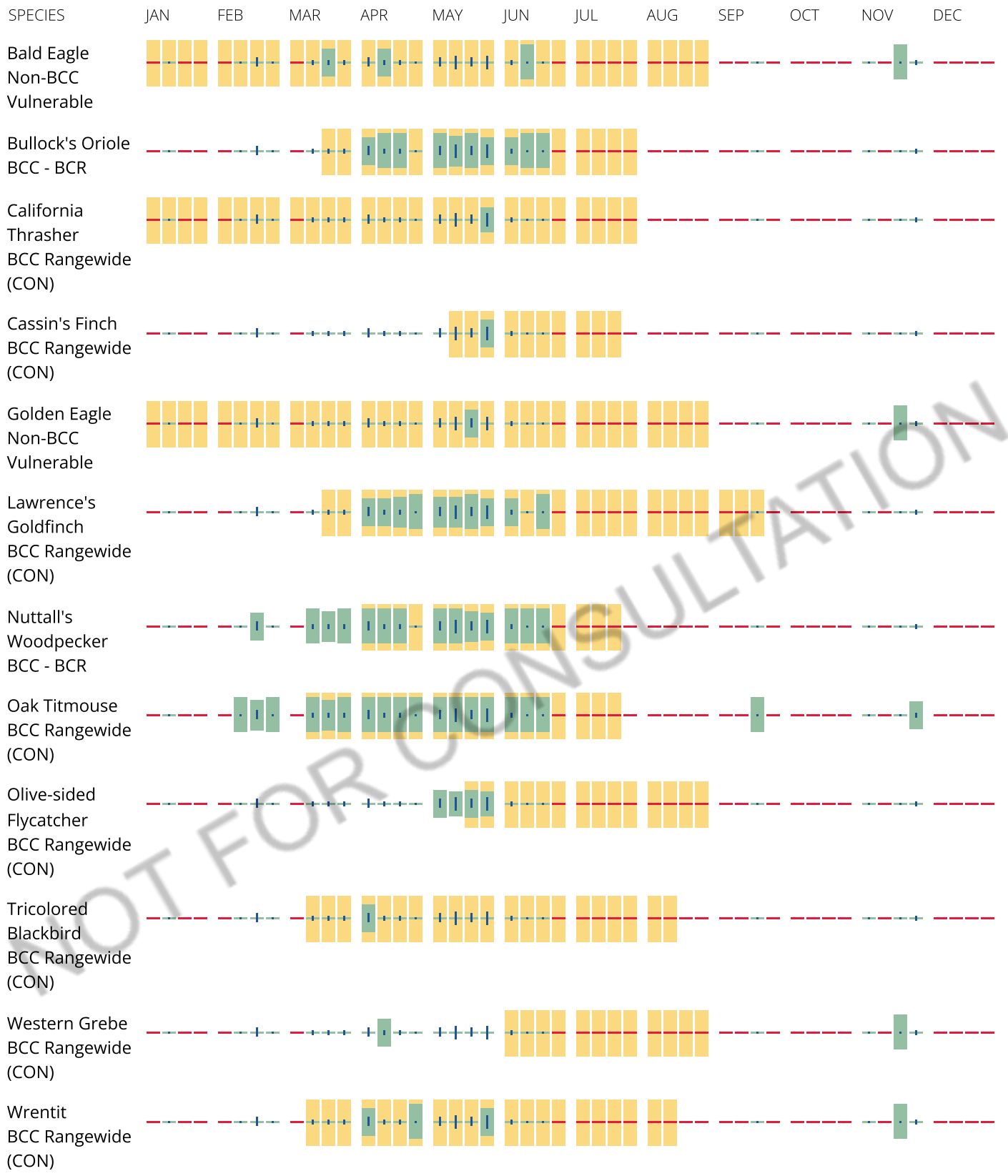
Survey Effort (|)
Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps. The number of surveys is expressed as a range, for example, 33 to 64 surveys.

To see a bar's survey effort range, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

No Data (–)
A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

Survey Timeframe
Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.

▬ probability of presence ▬ breeding season | survey effort – no data



Tell me more about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds.

Nationwide Conservation Measures describes measures that can help avoid and minimize impacts to all birds at any location year round. Implementation of these measures is particularly important when birds are most likely to occur in the project area. When birds may be breeding in the area, identifying the locations of any active nests and avoiding their destruction is a very helpful impact minimization measure.

To see when birds are most likely to occur and be breeding in your project area, view the Probability of Presence Summary. Additional measures or permits may be advisable depending on the type of activity you are conducting and the type of infrastructure or bird species present on your project site.

What does IPaC use to generate the list of migratory birds that potentially occur in my specified location?

The Migratory Bird Resource List is comprised of USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) and other species that may warrant special attention in your project location.

The migratory bird list generated for your project is derived from data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are a BCC species in that area, an eagle (Eagle Act requirements may apply), or a species that has a particular vulnerability to offshore activities or development.

Again, the Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in your project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in your project area. To get a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the Rapid Avian Information Locator (RAIL) Tool.

What does IPaC use to generate the probability of presence graphs for the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?

The probability of presence graphs associated with your migratory bird list are based on data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). This data is derived from a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets.

Probability of presence data is continuously being updated as new and better information becomes available. To learn more about how the probability of presence graphs are produced and how to interpret them, go the Probability of Presence Summary and then click on the "Tell me about these graphs" link.

How do I know if a bird is breeding, wintering or migrating in my area?

To see what part of a particular bird's range your project area falls within (i.e. breeding, wintering, migrating or year-round), you may query your location using the RAIL Tool and look at the range maps provided for birds in your area at the bottom of the profiles provided for each bird in your results. If a bird on your migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it, if that bird does occur in your project area, there may be nests present at some point within the timeframe specified. If "Breeds elsewhere" is indicated, then the bird likely does not breed in your project area.

What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?

Migratory birds delivered through IPaC fall into the following distinct categories of concern:

1. "BCC Rangewide" birds are Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) that are of concern throughout their range anywhere within the USA (including Hawaii, the Pacific Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands);
2. "BCC - BCR" birds are BCCs that are of concern only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA; and
3. "Non-BCC - Vulnerable" birds are not BCC species in your project area, but appear on your list either because of the Eagle Act requirements (for eagles) or (for non-eagles) potential susceptibilities in

offshore areas from certain types of development or activities (e.g. offshore energy development or longline fishing).

Although it is important to try to avoid and minimize impacts to all birds, efforts should be made, in particular, to avoid and minimize impacts to the birds on this list, especially eagles and BCC species of rangewide concern. For more information on conservation measures you can implement to help avoid and minimize migratory bird impacts and requirements for eagles, please see the FAQs for these topics.

Details about birds that are potentially affected by offshore projects

For additional details about the relative occurrence and abundance of both individual bird species and groups of bird species within your project area off the Atlantic Coast, please visit the Northeast Ocean Data Portal. The Portal also offers data and information about other taxa besides birds that may be helpful to you in your project review. Alternately, you may download the bird model results files underlying the portal maps through the NOAA NCCOS Integrative Statistical Modeling and Predictive Mapping of Marine Bird Distributions and Abundance on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf project webpage.

Bird tracking data can also provide additional details about occurrence and habitat use throughout the year, including migration. Models relying on survey data may not include this information. For additional information on marine bird tracking data, see the Diving Bird Study and the nanotag studies or contact Caleb Spiegel or Pam Loring.

What if I have eagles on my list?

If your project has the potential to disturb or kill eagles, you may need to obtain a permit to avoid violating the Eagle Act should such impacts occur.

Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report

The migratory bird list generated is not a list of all birds in your project area, only a subset of birds of priority concern. To learn more about how your list is generated, and see options for identifying what other birds may be in your project area, please see the FAQ "What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location". Please be aware this report provides the "probability of presence" of birds within the 10 km grid cell(s) that overlap your project; not your exact project footprint. On the graphs provided, please also look carefully at the survey effort (indicated by the black vertical bar) and for the existence of the "no data" indicator (a red horizontal bar). A high survey effort is the key component. If the survey effort is high, then the probability of presence score can be viewed as more dependable. In contrast, a low survey effort bar or no data bar means a lack of data and, therefore, a lack of certainty about presence of the species. This list is not perfect; it is simply a starting point for identifying what birds of concern have the potential to be in your project area, when they might be there, and if they might be breeding (which means nests might be present). The list helps you know what to look for to confirm presence, and helps guide you in knowing when to implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize potential impacts from your project activities, should presence be confirmed. To learn more about conservation measures, visit the FAQ "Tell me about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds" at the bottom of your migratory bird trust resources page.

Facilities

National Wildlife Refuge lands

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the National Wildlife Refuge system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

There are no refuge lands at this location.

Fish hatcheries

There are no fish hatcheries at this location.

Wetlands in the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)

Impacts to NWI wetlands and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District.

Wetland information is not available at this time

This can happen when the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) map service is unavailable, or for very large projects that intersect many wetland areas. Try again, or visit the NWI map to view wetlands at this location.

Data limitations

The Service's objective of mapping wetlands and deepwater habitats is to produce reconnaissance level information on the location, type and size of these resources. The maps are prepared from the analysis of high altitude imagery. Wetlands are identified based on vegetation, visible hydrology and geography. A margin of error is inherent in the use of imagery; thus, detailed on-the-ground inspection of any particular site may result in revision of the wetland boundaries or classification established through image analysis.

The accuracy of image interpretation depends on the quality of the imagery, the experience of the image analysts, the amount and quality of the collateral data and the amount of ground truth verification work conducted. Metadata should be consulted to determine the date of the source imagery used and any mapping problems.

Wetlands or other mapped features may have changed since the date of the imagery or field work. There may be occasional differences in polygon boundaries or classifications between the information depicted on the map and the actual conditions on site.

Data exclusions

Certain wetland habitats are excluded from the National mapping program because of the limitations of aerial imagery as the primary data source used to detect wetlands. These habitats include seagrasses or submerged aquatic vegetation that are found in the intertidal and subtidal zones of estuaries and nearshore coastal waters. Some deepwater reef communities (coral or tuberficid worm reefs) have also been excluded from the inventory. These habitats, because of their depth, go undetected by aerial imagery.

Data precautions

Federal, state, and local regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands may define and describe wetlands in a different manner than that used in this inventory. There is no attempt, in either the design or products of this inventory, to define the limits of proprietary jurisdiction of any Federal, state, or local government or to establish the geographical scope of the regulatory programs of government agencies. Persons intending to engage in activities involving modifications within or adjacent to wetland areas should seek the advice of appropriate Federal, state, or local agencies concerning specified agency regulatory programs and proprietary jurisdictions that may affect such activities.

Attachment C

Photographs

Seasonal wetland swale in the southwest part of the site, looking southwest; 05/24/23. The edges of the seasonal wetlands and seasonal wetland swales in the site are marginal and barely discernible.

Seasonal wetland swale in the west part of the site, looking north from the south end of the swale; 05/24/23.

Upstream end of the largest seasonal wetland swale in the site, looking northeast; 05/24/23. Drainage water from the adjacent school is directed into this culvert.

Upstream end of the largest seasonal wetland swale in the site, looking northwest from just downstream of the culvert; 05/24/23.

Isolated seasonal wetland in the west part of the site, looking north; 05/24/23.

Isolated seasonal wetland in the southwest part of the site, looking northwest; 05/24/23.

Oak woodland in the east part of the site, looking southwest from the northeast corner of the site; 05/24/23.

Notable oak tree in the west part of the site, looking northwest; 05/24/23.

North edge of the site, looking west from the northeast corner of the site; 05/24/23.

West edge of the site, looking south from the northwest corner of the site; 05/24/23.

Blue elderberry shrub (circled) located in a shrubby fringe of vegetation along the south fence line, looking southwest; 05/24/23.

Blue elderberry shrub (circled) located in the central part of the oak woodland in the west part of the site, looking northwest; 05/24/23. None of the blue elderberry shrubs in the site will be impacted or disturbed by project related activities.

West edge of the site, looking north from the southeast corner of the site; 05/24/23.

South edge of the site, looking west from the southeast corner of the site; 05/24/23.

Open grassland in the body of the site, looking southeast from the northwest corner of the site; 05/24/23.

Attachment D

National Wetland Inventory Map

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
National Wetlands Inventory

NWI - Toyon Middle School Sprayfields

June 1, 2023

Wetlands

- Estuarine and Marine Deepwater
- Estuarine and Marine Wetland
- Freshwater Emergent Wetland
- Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland
- Freshwater Pond
- Lake
- Other
- Riverine

Attachment E

Rare Plant Survey

MEMORANDUM

To: Dianne Moore

From: Jeff Glazner, Botanist

Date: June 2, 2023

Subject: Rare Plant Survey– Toyon Middle School Sprayfields, Calaveras County

At your request, I have conducted a rare plant survey for the presence of special-status plants on the ±11-acre Toyon Middle School Sprayfields Project located along Double Springs Road near State Route 12 in the community of Valley Springs in Calaveras County, California (a portion of APN 040-006-042). The site is located in the Valley Springs USGS topographic quadrangle (T4N, R11E, Section 10) and the approximate coordinates for the center of the property are 38.214108, -120.757153 (Figures 1 and 2).

A survey was conducted on May 24, 2023. The survey was floristic in nature, although there was a focus on three potentially occurring species that are known from the area.

The botanical survey was conducted in accordance with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife *Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special-Status Native Plant Populations and Natural Communities* (CDFW 2018). These guidelines require that rare plant surveys be conducted at the proper time of year when special status species are both evident and identifiable. The rare plant survey was floristic in nature, with an emphasis on searching for each of the target species identified in the database search and/or the 2019 biological survey report by others (SEC 2019). The site was systematically searched by walking meandering transects throughout the site. Representative ground photographs were taken of the site and are presented in Figures 4a and 4b. Plants observed are listed at the end of this report.

Study Area Description

The study area is entirely annual grassland, except for an oak grove in the eastern portion. The most common species observed in the grassland include filaree (*Erodium botrys*), soft chess (*Bromus hordeaceus*), virgate tarweed (*Holocarpha virgata*), Italian ryegrass (*Festuca perennis*), wild oat (*Avena fatua*), and medusa head (*Elymus caput-medusa*).

The oak woodland is mostly interior live oak (*Quercus wislizeni*) and blue oak (*Quercus douglasii*). There are two valley oaks (*Quercus lobata*) along the western edge of the grove. These trees are mature and lack a woody understory although there is one large elderberry shrub (*Sambucus nigra ssp. caerulea*) among the oaks.

Soils

Inks – Angelscreek complex, 3 to 15% slopes.

The Inks series consists of shallow, well drained soils that formed in colluvium and residuum from consolidated or cemented sediments from volcanic rocks. This soil series is not serpentinite.

Special Status Plant Species

To determine if any special-status plant species had potential to occur within or near the study area, Salix biologists queried the California Natural Diversity Data Base (CDFW 2023), the California Native Plant Society Inventory (CNPS 2023), and the US Fish and Wildlife Service Information for Planning and Consultation (USFWS IPaC 2023) database for reported occurrences of special-status plant species in the region surrounding the study area. These searches provided a list of regionally-occurring special-status plant species and were used to determine which species had at least some potential to occur within or near the study area. In addition, the 2019 biological survey report by others (SEC 2019) was reviewed to corroborate the target species and ensure all were considered.

The approximate locations of reported occurrences of special-status plants within a five-mile radius of the study area (CNDDB 2023) are presented in Figure 3. The four target species identified through the screening process as the focus of this survey are described below.

Ione manzanita (*Arctostaphylos myrtifolia*)
Ione manzanita is a federally Threatened species and a CNPS rare plant rank 1B.2 plant species. It is a woody shrub found in acidic sandy or clay soils in chaparral in Amador and Calaveras Counties between 200 and 1900 feet. It blooms in the wintertime. The study area does not provide suitable habitat for this species.

Big-scale balsamroot (*Balsamorhiza macrolepis)*
Big-scale balsamroot is a CNPS rare plant rank 1B.2 plant species. It is a perennial herb found in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and valley and foothill grassland, sometimes on serpentine soils, from 300 to 5,100 feet. It blooms March through July. The grassland areas of this project site provide potential habitat for this species.

Stanislaus monkeyflower (*Erythranthe marmorata*)
Stanislaus monkeyflower is a CNPS rare plant rank 1B.1 plant species. It is an annual herb found in cismontane woodland and lower coniferous forest from 330 to 2,950 feet. It blooms from March through May. The vernally mesic areas of the project site are potential habitat for this species.

Patterson's Navarretia (*Navarretia paradoxiclara*)
Patterson's navarretia is a CNPS rare plant rank 1B.1 species. It is an annual species that occurs in open, seasonally wet areas, meadows, often on serpentine soils. It blooms May through June. Although this species favors serpentine soils, which are not present, it occurs nearby and was therefore included as a target species of this survey.

Findings

None of the target species were found in the site. No other special status plant species were identified during this floristic survey or are expected to occur on the site. No further botanical surveys are warranted.

References

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). 20 March 2018. Protocols for surveying and evaluating impacts to special status native plant populations and natural communities. California Natural Resources Agency, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Sacramento, CA.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). Accessed May 2023. Biogeographic Information and Observation System: BIOS. https://wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CNDDB/Maps-and-Data#43018408-cnddb-in-bios

California Native Plant Society (CNPS). Accessed May 2023. Inventory of rare and endangered plants. California Native Plant Society, Sacramento, CA. http://www.rareplants.cnps.org/

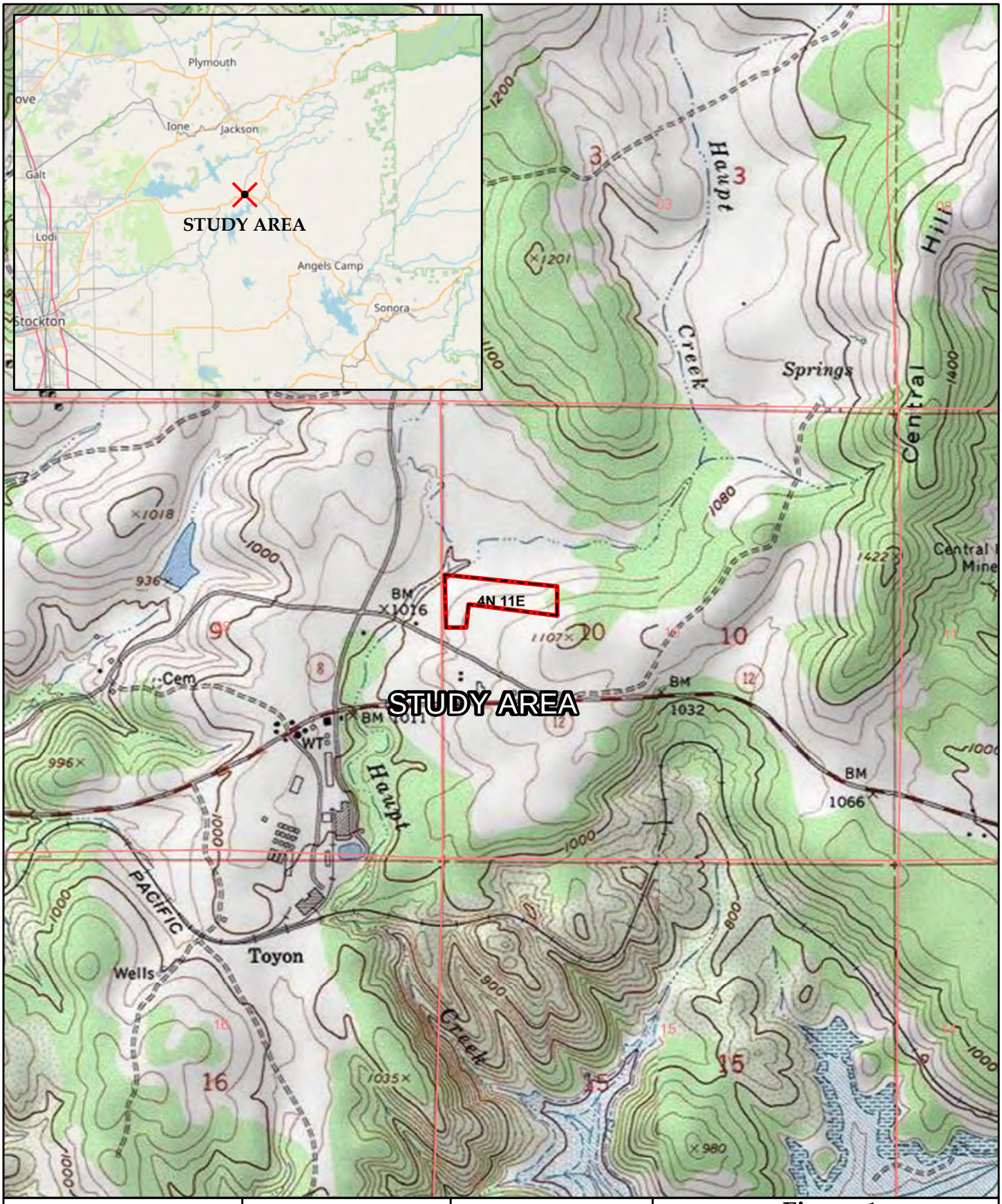
Sycamore Environmental Consultants, Inc. January 2019. Biological Assessment for the Toyon Middle School Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Upgrade Project, Calaveras County, CA

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2023. Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC). https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/. Accessed May 2023.

Toyon Middle School Sprayfields
List of Plant Species Observed
May 24, 2023

Scientific Name	Common Name
Acmispon americanus var. americanus	Spanish lotus
Aegilops triuncialis	Goatgrass
Aira caryophyllea	Silvery hairgrass
Amsinckia menziesii	Fiddleneck
Avena fatua	Wildoats
Brassica nigra	Black mustard
Brodiaea elegans ssp. elegans	Harvest brodiaea
Bromus diandrus	Ripgut brome
Bromus hordeaceus	Soft chess
Bromus madritensis	Foxtail chess, foxtail brome
Calochortus luteus	Yellow mariposa
Carduus pycnocephalus ssp. pycnocephalus	Italian thistle
Castilleja attenuata	Narrow leaved owl's clover
Centaurea solstitialis	Yellow starthistle
Centromadia fitchii	Spikeweed
Chlorogalum pomeridianum var. pomeridianum	Common soaproot
Clarkia purpurea	Purple clarkia
Convolvulus arvensis	Field bindweed
Deschampsia danthonioides	Annual hairgrass
Elymus caput-medusae	Medusa head
Epilobium brachycarpum	Willow herb
Erodium botrys	Big heron bill
Erodium cicutarium	Coastal heron's bill
Festuca bromoides	Brome fescue
Festuca myuros	Rattail sixweeks grass
Festuca perennis	Italian rye grass
Galium aparine	Cleavers
Geranium dissectum	Wild geranium
Holocarpha virgata ssp. virgata	Narrow tarplant
Hordeum marinum ssp. gussoneanum	Barley
Hordeum murinum	Foxtail barley
Juncus capitatus	Leafy bracted dwarf rush
Lasthenia californica	Goldfields
Logfia gallica	Narrowleaf cottonrose
Lupinus bicolor	Lupine
Lysimachia arvensis	Scarlet pimpernel
Navarretia intertexta	Interwoven navarretia
Phoradendron leucarpum	American mistletoe
Poa annua	Annual blue grass
Poa bulbosa	Bulbous blue grass
Polypogon monspeliensis	Annual beard grass
Psilocarphus brevissimus	Woolly marbles
Quercus douglasii	Blue oak

Quercus lobata	Valley oak
Quercus wislizeni	Interior live oak, chapparal oak
Ranunculus californicus	Common buttercup
Ranunculus muricatus	Buttercup
Raphanus sativus	Jointed charlock
Rubus armeniacus	Himalayan blackberry
Rumex acetosella	Sheep sorrel
Rumex pulcher	Fiddleleaf dock
Sambucus nigra ssp. caerulea	Blue elderberry
Toxicodendron diversilobum	Poison oak
Trifolium depauperatum	Dwarf sack clover
Trifolium dubium	Shamrock
Trifolium hirtum	Rose clover
Triphysaria eriantha	Butter 'n' eggs
Triteleia hyacinthina	Wild hyacinth
Triteleia laxa	Ithuriel's spear
Vicia sativa	Spring vetch



Salix consulting, inc.

N

0 1,000 2,000

Feet

Source Map:
USGS Topographic Map
Valley Springs Quad 1:24,000
S10 T04N R11E

Figure 1

SITE AND VICINITY MAP

Toyon Middle School Sprayfields

Calaveras County, CA

Salix consulting, inc.

N

0 100 200

Feet

Study Area (±11.8 acres)

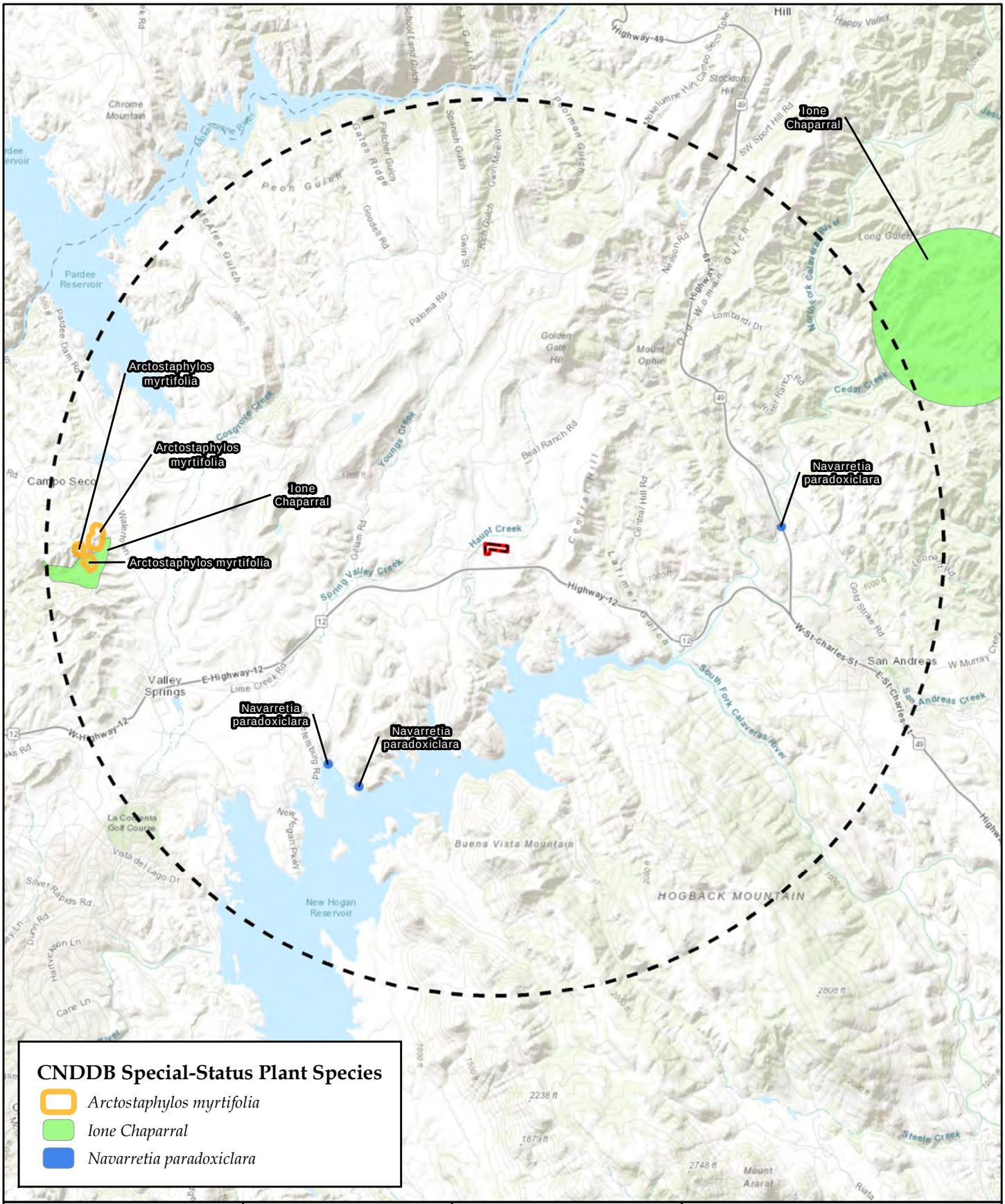
Aerial Source: Google Earth (06/2018)

Figure 2

AERIAL MAP

Toyon Middle School Sprayfields

Calaveras County, CA



Salix consulting, inc.

N

0 5,000 10,000

Feet

Study Area

5-Mile Radius

Figure 3

CNDDB OCCURRENCES MAP

Toyon Middle School Sprayfields

Calaveras County, CA

Looking east along southern study area line.
Photo date: May 24, 2023

Looking west over grassland and vernally moist swale.
Photo date: May 24, 2023

Salix consulting, inc.

Figure 4a

SITE PHOTOS

Toyon Middle School Sprayfields

Calaveras County, CA

Looking north from southwest corner of site.
Photo date: May 24,, 2023

Oak grove in eastern area of site.
Photo date: May 24, 2023

Salix consulting, inc.

Figure 4b

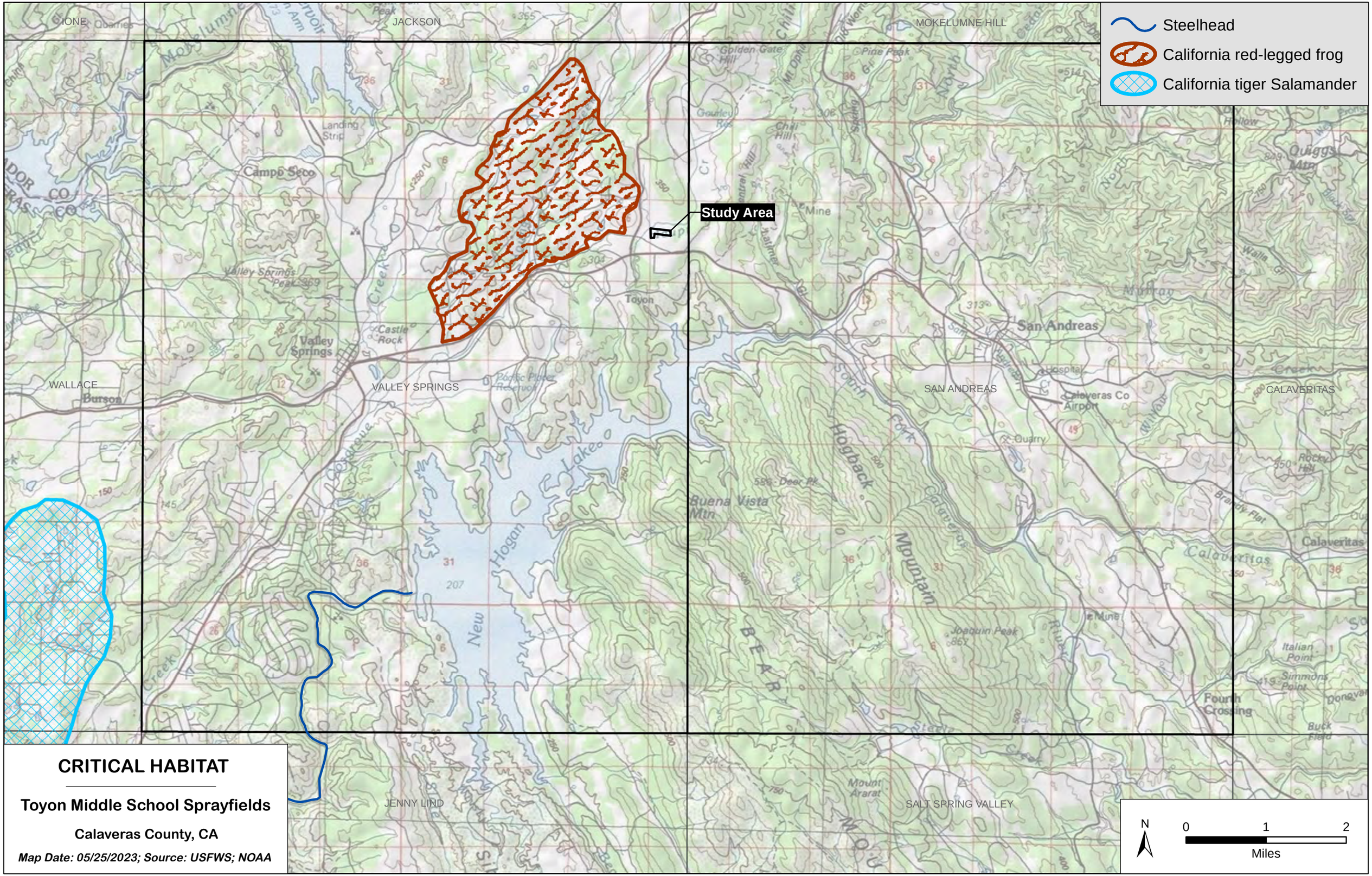
SITE PHOTOS

Toyon Middle School Sprayfields

Calaveras County, CA

Attachment F

Designated Critical Habitat



CRITICAL HABITAT

Toyon Middle School Sprayfields

Calaveras County, CA

Map Date: 05/25/2023; Source: USFWS; NOAA