Initial Study and

Public Review Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration

for the

Center Trail Bridge Project

Project # CUSE2019-0003 and CEQA2019-0004

Prepared by:
Town of Woodside
P.O Box 620005 (Mail)
2955 Woodside Road
Woodside, CA 94062

Public Review Period:
July 30, 2019 through August 29, 2019 (30 days)

Table of Contents

ATTACHMENTS

1. Use Permit Application, submitted June 25, 2019
2. Prefabricated Bridge Specifications, Allowable Stress Design (ASD), Town of Woodside Equestrian Bridge
3. Biological Resources Assessment, prepared by Coast Range Biological LLC, with Biosearch Environmental Consulting, July 2019
4. California Historical Resources Information System, letter of July 10, 2019
5. Native American Heritage Commission, Letter dated July 8, 2019

1. Project title: Center Trail Bridge Project

2. Lead agency name and address: Town of Woodside
Planning Department
P.O. Box 620005 (Mail)
2955 Woodside Road
Woodside, CA 94062

3. Contact person and phone number: Jackie Young, AICP CEP, Planning Director
(650) 851-6790

4. Project location: The proposed equestrian bridge would extend from a Town equestrian easement at the rear of 60 Why Worry Lane (APN: 072-390-040) to a trail alignment that is subject to an Equestrian Use Agreement at the rear of 3411 Woodside Road (APN: 072-191-650).

5. Project sponsor's name and address: Town of Woodside
Engineering Department
P.O. Box 620005 (Mail)
2955 Woodside Road
Woodside, CA 94062

6. Property Owners: Bear Gulch Partners and the Basso Family

7. General Plan designation: Residential - Environmentally Sensitive Area (R/ESA)

8. Zoning: Special Conservation Planning – 5 acre minimum

9. Public Review Period: July 30, 2019 through August 29, 2019 (30 days)

10. Project Location: The proposed equestrian bridge would span Bear Gulch Creek, extending from the rear of 60 Why Worry Lane, to the rear of 3411 Woodside Road (**Figure 1**, Project Vicinity Map; **Figure 2**, Project Location Map).

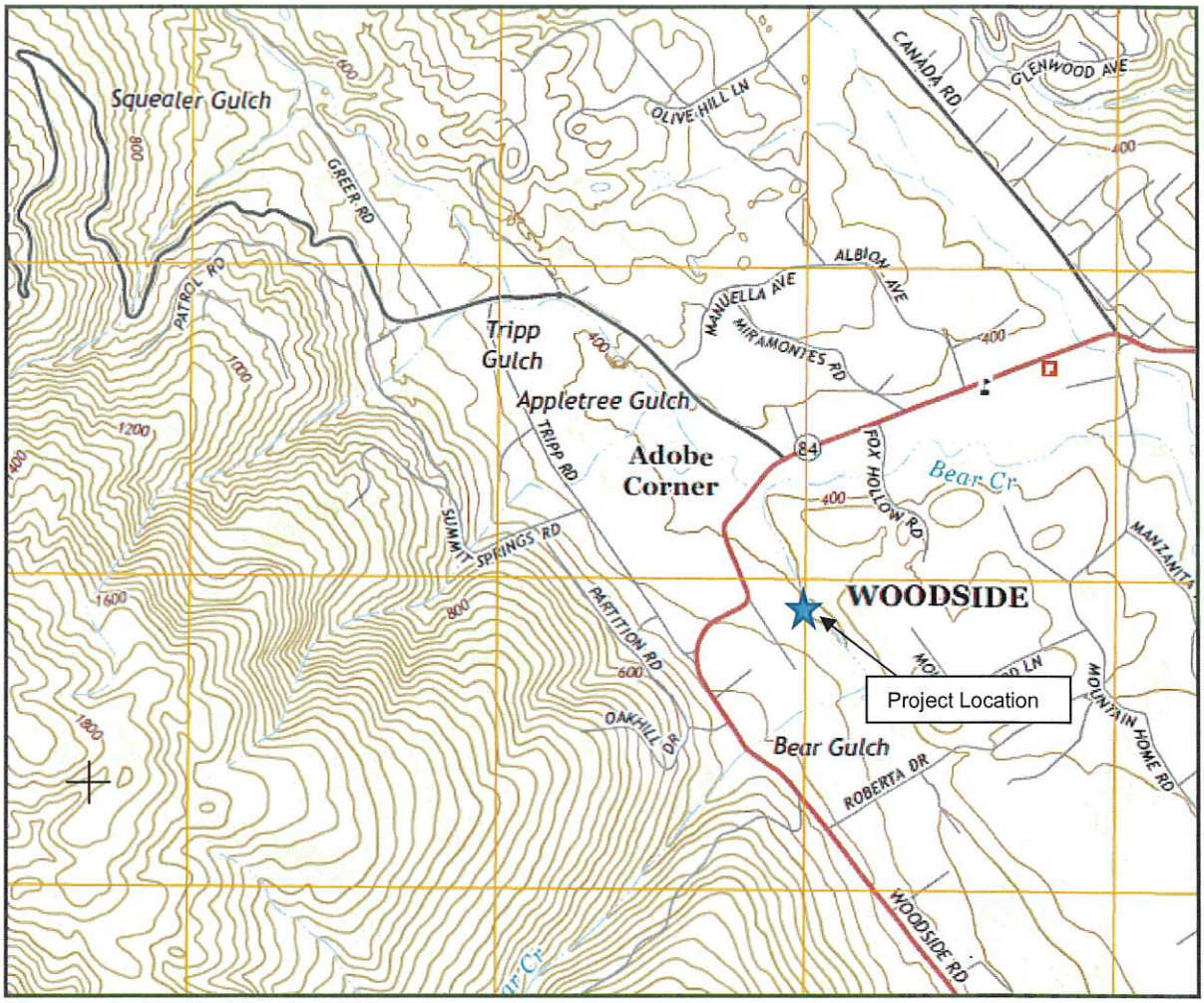

Figure 1. *Project Vicinity Map* *Source: USGS*

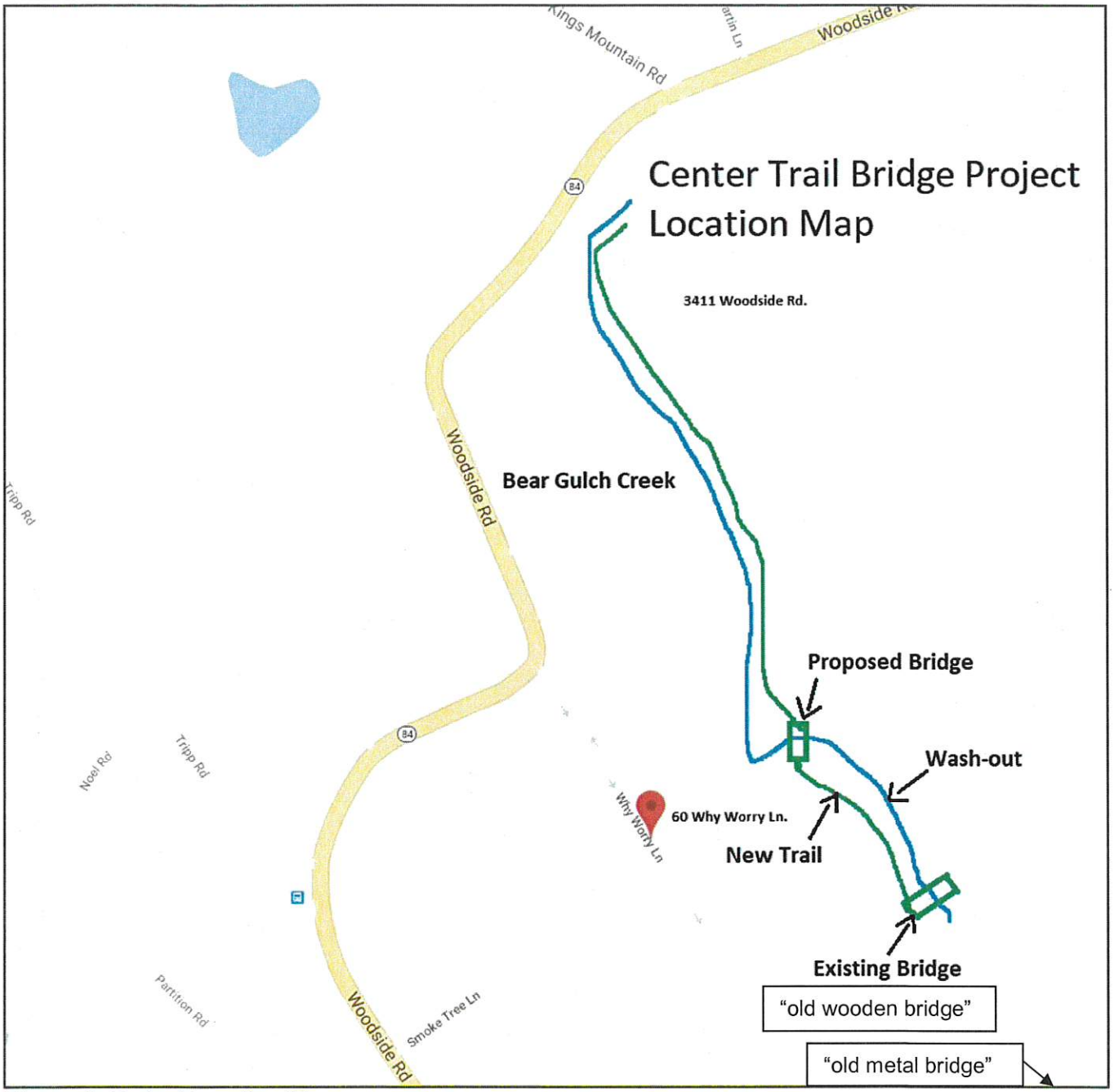

Figure 2. *Project Location Map*

11. Environmental Setting: The project site is located within the central rolling hills of the Town of Woodside. Bear Gulch Creek is a Town-designated Stream Corridor that supports extensive riparian vegetation. The proposed Center Trail Bridge is within the San Andreas Fault Zone and would be located approximately 75 feet west of the westernmost trace of the San Andreas Fault. The project is also located ≈900 feet north and downstream of an area identified as a 500-year flood zone. The properties within the Why Worry Lane subdivision are located within the Very High Severity Fire Hazard Zone. The trail provides some additional emergency egress from the neighborhood. The Center Trail is an off-road improved dedicated trail.

12. Project Description: The project consists of installing an equestrian bridge that would span Bear Gulch Creek. The bridge would extend from one private property to another but would utilize an existing Town conservation and equestrian easement on the southwest side, and would utilize a trail alignment that is subject to an Equestrian Use Agreement on the northeast side (**Figure 2,** Project Location Map**; Figure 3,** Site Plan). The bridge would be for equestrian use only, in accordance with the language of the Equestrian Use Agreement and easements (**Attachment 1**).

Figure 3. *Proposed Center Bridge location and new trail segments, connecting with the existing Center Trail.*

Project Need and Background: Equestrians have been riding the Center Trail for nearly 100 years. The trail extends from the north at Woodside Road, to the south at Portola Road. The Center Trail followed an old logging road that had been cut along the steep eastern bank of Bear Gulch Creek. About 20 years ago, a section of this bank was eroded, which closed a portion of this trail. In

response to this washout, a bridge ("old metal bridge") was constructed across the Bear Gulch Creek, upstream from the current washout area, to reopen the trail. The current washout, also on the steep eastern bank (**Figure 4**), is several hundred feet downstream from the "old metal bridge" (**Figure 5**). Upon completion of this bridge and trail extension, all of the sections of the old logging road trail along the steep eastern bank of Bear Gulch Creek will be abandoned, posted as closed, and barricaded as needed. The new trail segment south of the prefabricated bridge will be on the flat western side of the creek.

Project Objectives: The project serves to reopen the Center Trail, following a washout, as described under Project Need and Background, above. The Center Trail is one of the key equestrian trails within the Town of Woodside.

Figure 4. *The washout area upstream of the project area that closed a segment of the Center Trail, requiring the proposed Center Bridge project to reopen the trail.*

Figure 5. *The "Old Metal Bridge" upstream of the project site, constructed approximately 20 years ago after an initial washout of the Center Trail.*

The project would include the following components:

- *Equestrian Easement:* A 50-foot wide Conservation and Equestrian Easement extends along the southwest side of Bear Gulch Creek at the rear of all of the properties in the Why Worry subdivision (**Figure 6**). This easement would be used for the proposed bridge crossing and would connect to 3411 Woodside Road, on the northeastern side of Bear Gulch Creek (**Figure 7**), where the trail alignment would be subject to an Equestrian Use Agreement. The trail tread on the north and south sides of Bear Gulch Creek would be 4-feet in width.

- *Bridge Span and Trusses:* The bridge would be a 50-foot long and 6-foot wide fully engineered clear span bridge, constructed of Fiberglass Reinforced Polymer (FRP Composite Truss Span). The base of the bridge span would be approximately 12-13 feet above the creek bed/base of the channel (**Figures 8 and 9,** Bridge Crossing Location; and **Figure 10,** Bridge Prototype from another location). The bridge decking would be 3-inch x 12-inch Southern yellow pine planks. The bridge would have sloped ends designed for equestrian use, and would be green in color. **Attachment 2** provides an example of the specifications for the proposed bridge (final specifications would be subject to the California Public Contracts Code).

- *Bridge Foundation:* The bridge foundation would be set back 8-feet from the edge of the creek bank on both sides of Bear Gulch Creek. The footprint of the foundation would have dimensions of approximately 2' x 6' at the surface and would have a depth of approximately 5 feet. No work would be done below the top-of-bank on either side of the creek.

- *Trail Segments:* New trail segments would be installed on both sides of the new bridge crossing. The segment on the southwest side, within the Conservation and Equestrian Easement, would be ~170 feet. The new segment on the northeast side of Bear Gulch Creek would be ~55 feet (due to the bend in the creek at this location, the bridge is located in the north/south direction). Both segments would connect to the existing Center Trail. Three inches of soil would be removed from a four-foot wide tread area along the new segments of the trail (within the overall 10-foot trail alignment). 'Blue stone' base rock would be installed in this tread area. The trail would be graded for a smooth transition between the new bridge decking and the trail. Construction of the trail segments would require some realignment of existing fence lines. The Town would work with property owners to realign their fence lines, where impediments into the Easement exist.

Figure 6. *Portions of existing fence lines are located within Easement areas. The Town would work with property owners to realign their fence lines, where impediments into the Easement exist.*

Figure 7. *The Center Trail Bridge would extend across Bear Gulch Creek, from the rear of 60 Why Worry Lane on the south side to the rear of 3411 Woodside Road on the north side.*

Figure 8. *The proposed Center Trail Bridge crossing site at Bear Gulch Creek.*

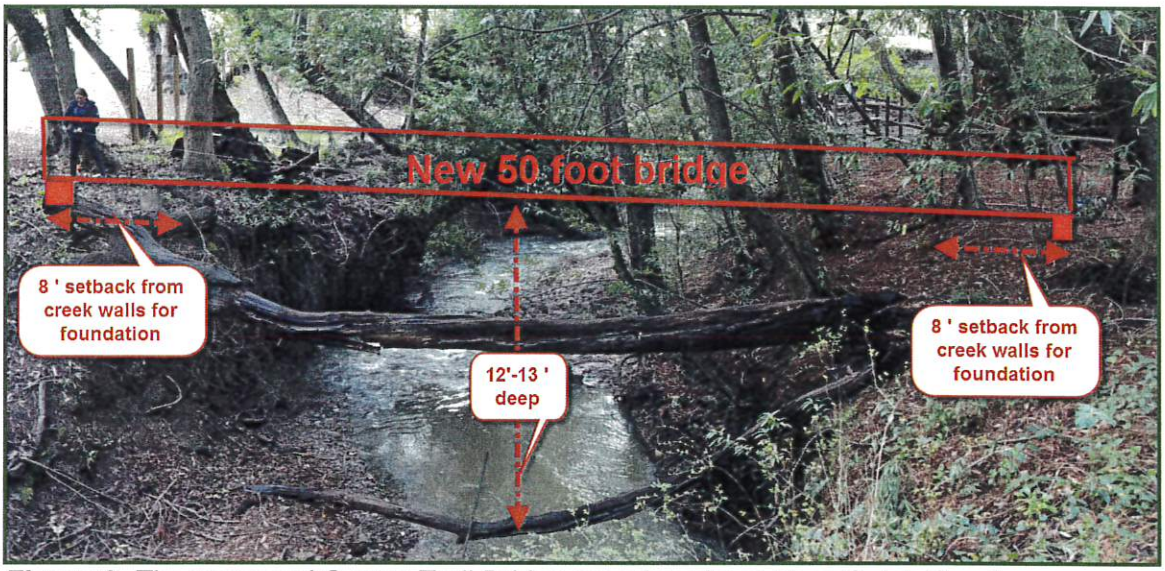

Figure 9. *The proposed Center Trail Bridge crossing site at Bear Gulch Creek.*

Figure 10. *Prototype of the proposed Fiberglass Reinforced Polymer (FRP) bridge.*

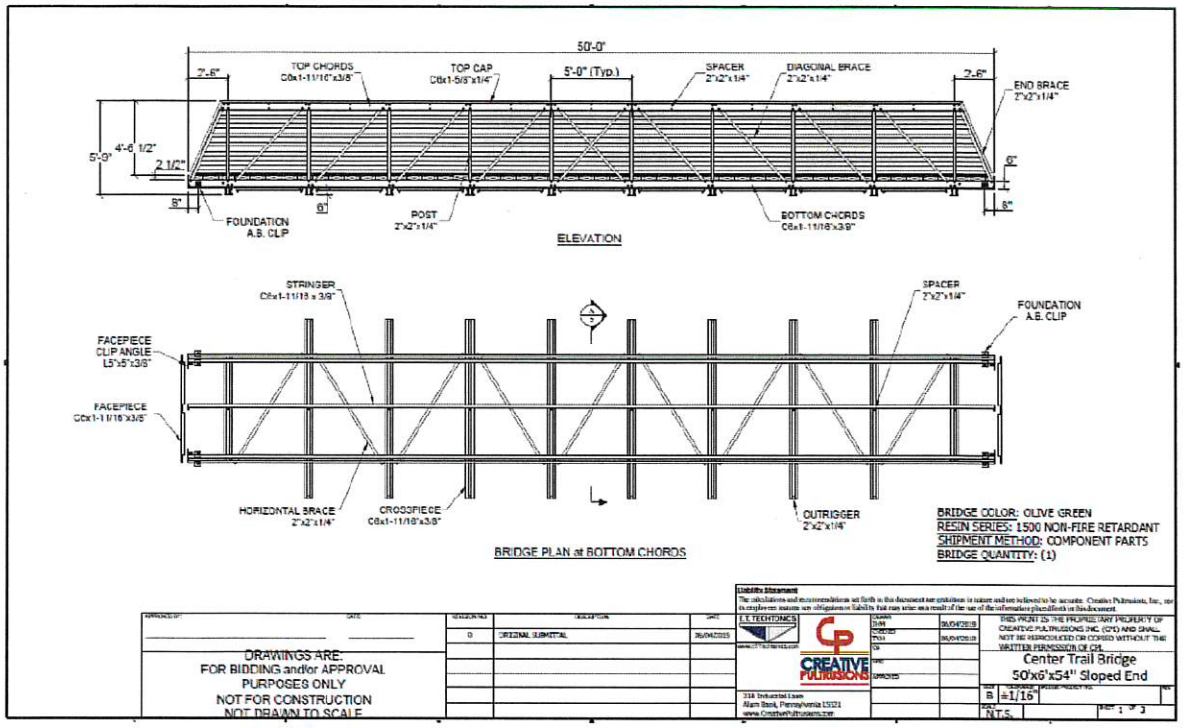

Figure 11. *The Design Details of the proposed high-strength Fiberglass Reinforced Polymer (FRP) bridge.*

- *Construction Staging:* The proposed bridge consists of components that would be walked in and assembled onsite, thereby eliminating the need for a crane for installation. The heaviest component of the bridge span is approximately 90 pounds and is therefore portable by one or two individuals. Staging would occur in the meadow on the northeast side of the bridge crossing, on the 3411 Woodside Road site. Additional access to the trail and bridge crossing location would be along the easement between 60 and 80 Why Worry Lane (**Figure 12**), on the southwestern side of Bear Gulch Creek.

Figure 12. *The existing Easement between 60 and 80 Why Worry Lane would be used for staging on the southwest side of Bear Gulch Creek.*

- *Construction Process*: The project includes the installation of bridge foundations eight feet from the top of bank on each side of Bear Gulch Creek. One truss would be assembled and installed across the creek, followed by the assembly and installation of the second truss. The remainder of the cross components and members on the trusses would then be assembled,

followed by installation of the decking. The trail would be graded to create a smooth transition between the new bridge and the trail. New trail segments would be constructed on both sides of the creek to connect the new bridge to the existing trail.

- *Construction Equipment:* The components of the bridge would be assembled onsite using standard hand tools. A small bob cat may also be used.

- *Construction Schedule:* Work would be conducted during the dry season, generally April 15th – October 15th. Construction is anticipated to occur during the late summer/early fall of 2019 or the summer of 2020 and would require approximately 10 working days (2 weeks) to complete.

- *Ongoing Maintenance*: Ongoing maintenance required for the bridge would be minimal, as high strength Fiberglass Reinforced Polymer (FRP) bridges are corrosion resistant.

13. Surrounding land uses and setting: The Center Trail Bridge would be constructed within an area of Woodside that is designated for residential development and is zoned SCP-5 (Special Conservation Planning with 5-acre minimum lot sizes). Bear Gulch Creek runs along the rear of the Why Worry subdivision.

14. Town of Woodside: The project would span Bear Gulch Creek, a Town Designated Stream Corridor. The Town of Woodside requires a Use Permit and a Building Permit, in accordance with Sections 153.444 and 150.21 of the Woodside Municipal Code (WMC).

15. Other public agencies whose approval is required: Habitat in the project vicinity is Riparian Woodland. All work within the Stream Corridor would occur above and outside of the top-of-bank on both sides of Bear Gulch Creek. Depending on the precise extent of project ground disturbance, the following agencies would potentially have jurisdiction over the project area:

    - ***California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW):*** As a project located within a Town-designated stream corridor, work would occur within the jurisdiction of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). A Streambed Alteration Agreement (SAA) may be required for the project.

    - ***Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB):*** The RWQCB has jurisdiction within the stream corridor to the top of bank. The bridge foundation would be placed eight feet from the top-of-bank on both sides of the creek, so it appears the project would be outside of the RWQCB's jurisdiction.

    - ***U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE):*** In non-tidal streams lacking wetlands ("Other Waters"), the ACOE has jurisdiction up to the Ordinary High-Water Mark (OHWM). The project would be constructed above the OHWM and would therefore not occur within ACOE's jurisdiction.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

☐ Aesthetics	☐ Mineral Resources
☐ Agricultural Resources	☒ Noise
☒ Air Quality	☐ Population and Housing
☒ Biological Resources	☐ Public Services
☒ Cultural Resources	☐ Recreation
☐ Energy	☐ Transportation
☒ Geological and Soils	☒ Tribal Cultural Resources
☐ Greenhouse Gas Emissions	☐ Utilities and Service Systems
☒ Hazards & Hazardous Materials	☐ Wildfire
☒ Hydrology and Water Quality	☐ Mandatory Findings of Significance
☐ Land Use and Planning	☐ Earlier Analyses

DETERMINATION (completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

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

Signature

7/29/19
Date

Jackie C. Young, AICP CEP, Planning Director
Printed Name

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project would not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).

2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.

3) Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.

4) "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from Section XVIII, "Earlier Analyses," may be cross-referenced).

5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:

   a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
   b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
   c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.

6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.

7) Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.

8) This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead

agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.

9) The explanation of each issue should identify:
   a) The significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
   b) The mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance.

ISSUES (AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCES)	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT UNLESS MITIGATION INCORPORATED	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
I. AESTHETICS Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☐	■
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	■
c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with the applicable zoning and other regulation governing scenic quality?	☐	☐	☐	■
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☐	■

DISCUSSION:
The project involves installing a prefabricated equestrian bridge across Bear Gulch Creek and constructing new trail segments to connect the bridge to the existing Center Trail, to allow for the reopening of the trail.

(a-c): Creek corridors are sensitive with respect to scenic resources. Project construction would occur at the rear of two existing residences and would not be visible from any of the surrounding roadways in the project vicinity. The project would not substantially affect the visual quality of the project site or vicinity. It would not have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista; and it would not substantially damage scenic resources including trees, rock outcroppings, or historic structures. Staging would occur within the meadow along the trail alignment on the eastern side of Bear Gulch Creek. Additional access to the project site would be from Why Worry Lane.

The project would not degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings. All construction staging would be temporary. The proposed equestrian bridge would contribute to the rural equestrian character of Woodside, in accordance with the Guiding Principles of the General Plan and would not adversely affect the visual quality of the site and/or Stream Corridor.

(d) The project would not involve the use of any lighting or any material resulting in glare, during construction or on an ongoing basis. The project would therefore not create a source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area.

(Source: Review of the Woodside General Plan, Municipal Code, Residential Design Guidelines)

No mitigation is necessary or required.

ISSUES (AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCES)	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT UNLESS MITIGATION INCORPORATED	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
II. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project, and the Forest Legacy Assessment, and carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:				
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 in Public Resources Code section 51104(g))?				
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest uses?	❑	❑	❑	■
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 convert forest land to non-forest use?	❑	❑	❑	■

DISCUSSION:
The project involves installing a prefabricated equestrian bridge across Bear Gulch Creek and constructing new trail segments to connect the bridge to the existing Center Trail, to allow for the reopening of the trail.

(a and b): The California Land Conservation Act ("Williamson Act") was enacted to help preserve agricultural and open space lands via a contract between the property owner and the local jurisdiction. Neither the project site nor the surrounding areas are zoned for agricultural use and are therefore not protected by Williamson Act contracts. The Project site consists of private property with a Town conservation and equestrian easement on the south side of Bear Gulch Creek (60 Why Worry Lane) and an alignment that is subject to an Equestrian Use Agreement on the north side (3411 Woodside Road). The project would not convert farmland or affect any properties under a Williamson Act contract.

(c, d, and e): There are no lands zoned as 'Forest Land' or 'Timber Production' within the Town of Woodside. The project would therefore not have the potential to convert forest land to other uses. While not designated as forest land, a large portion of the Town supports mixed oak and evergreen forests. The Town requires protection of all Significant Trees in accordance with Woodside Municipal Code §153.430. Permits are required for tree removal (Woodside Municipal Code §153.434). The project would require the removal of three bay trees. These trees are not Significant Trees as defined by WMC Section 153.005 (See Section IV, BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES). The project would not have the potential to affect timberland or convert forest land to non-forest use.

(Source: Review of the Woodside Municipal Code, Williamson Act, and Woodside General Plan)

No mitigation is necessary or required.

ISSUES (AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCES)	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT UNLESS MITIGATION INCORPORATED	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
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:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	❑	❑	❑	■
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	❑	❑	❑	■
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	❑	■	❑	❑
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	❑	❑	❑	■

DISCUSSION:

The project involves installing a prefabricated equestrian bridge across Bear Gulch Creek and constructing new trail segments to connect the bridge to the existing Center Trail, to allow for the reopening of the trail.

(a-b): The Town of Woodside is located within the southern region of the San Francisco Bay Area air basin. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) coordinates and oversees both State and federal air quality control programs in California. The management of air quality in the basin is the responsibility of the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD). Specifically, the BAAQMD is responsible for regulating stationary sources of air pollution and monitoring ambient air pollutant levels in the nine counties that surround San Francisco Bay. Through the development and implementation of attainment strategies, the BAAQMD ensures that future emissions would be within allowable State and federal standards. The proposed project would not result in any cumulatively considerable net increase of ozone, PM_{10}, or $PM_{2.5}$, the criteria pollutants for which the project region is non-attainment, under an applicable federal or State ambient air quality standard.

The proposed project is required to comply with BAAQMD's CEQA Guidelines, which identify thresholds of significance for construction emissions. BAAQMD's approach to CEQA analyses of construction impacts is to emphasize implementation of effective and comprehensive control measures rather than detailed quantification of emissions.

(c): The BAAQMD defines sensitive receptors as facilities where sensitive receptor population groups (children, the elderly, the acutely ill, and the chronically ill) are likely to be located. These land uses include residences, hospitals, schools, child-care centers, retirement centers, convalescent homes, and medical clinics. Residences bordering the Center Trail along Bear Gulch Creek would be the nearest sensitive receptors to the Project site. Project impacts would involve the generation of some dust from excavating for installing bridge foundations, grading the new trail segments, and installing base rock within the four-foot wide trail tread. Implementation of the Town's standard ***Mitigation Measure AIR-1*** would reduce potentially significant impacts related to air quality to a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation Measure AIR-1 (Construction Impacts):

- ***Cover any stockpiles of materials that can be blown by the wind.***
- ***Use dust-proof chutes for loading construction debris onto trucks.***
- ***Sweep streets daily if visible soil material is carried onto adjacent public streets, parking areas, and staging areas, as directed by the Town Engineer.***
- ***Install erosion control measures to prevent runoff from the project site from entering the creek.***
- ***Vehicle idling times shall be minimized, either by shutting equipment off when not in use, or reducing the maximum idling time to 5 minutes.***
- ***All construction equipment shall be maintained and properly tuned, in accordance with manufacturer's specifications.***

(d): Installing the Center Trail Bridge across Bear Gulch Creek is anticipated to be conducted primarily with hand tools. A small bob cat might also be required. The project would not result in other emissions, such as those leading to odors, affecting a substantial number of people. This impact would be negligible.

(Source: Review of the Woodside Municipal Code, Woodside General Plan, Bay Area Air Quality Management District website)

Upon implementation of the mitigation measure listed above, the project would not result in any residual significant adverse effect on the environment related to air quality.

ISSUES (AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCES)	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT UNLESS MITIGATION INCORPORATED	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	❑	■	❑	❑
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	❑	■	❑	❑
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	❑	❑	■	❑
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	❑	❑	■	❑
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	❑	❑	■	❑
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	❑	❑	❑	■

DISCUSSION:
The project involves installing a prefabricated equestrian bridge across Bear Gulch Creek and constructing new trail segments to connect the bridge to the existing Center Trail, to allow for the reopening of the trail.

The project site consists primarily of undeveloped areas along the Bear Gulch Creek corridor. Adjacent portions the study area, outside the project site, consist of low-density residential development and infrastructure, along with undeveloped land along Bear Gulch Creek. The project site covers ~0.03-acre and includes the approximate location of project ground disturbance. The study area covers ~1.25 acres and includes the project site and a buffer of 50-feet from the proposed trail re-route and 100 feet from the proposed bridge.[i]

The proposed project involves: (1) excavating footing locations to a length and depth of 6-feet; (2) excavating approximately 3-inches of soil along the alignment of the new trail segments for the installation of base rock (blue stone); (3) smoothing the grade of the new trail segments leading to the bridge from the north and south, so that they are level with the sloped ends of the bridge that are designed for equestrian use. A Biological Resources Assessment was prepared for the project by Coast Range Biological, LLC (**Attachment 3**). Reconnaissance level studies were conducted related to biological resources on June 27, 2019, and related to wildlife on July 9, 2019. The findings of the Biological Resources Assessment are summarized below.

"Three vegetation types/habitats are present on the study area: California Bay Forest, Redwood Forest, and Developed/Ruderal (**Figure 13; Attachment 3**, Figure 2). California Bay Forest, which together with Redwood Forest, constitute a Riparian Woodland along Bear Gulch Creek, is composed of the *Umbellularia californica* Forest Alliance[1] and covers most of the study area. California Bay Forest is dominated by a canopy of California bay (*Umbellularia californica*[2]), with occasional coast live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*), California buckeye (*Aesculus californica*), white alder (*Alnus rhombifolia*), big-leaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*), Pacific madrone (*Arbutus menziesii*), red willow (*Salix laevigata*), and walnut (*Juglans* sp.) in the canopy and subcanopy (**Attachment 3**, Appendix B-1). The understory consists of a mixture of native and non-native shrubs and herbaceous species, including poison oak (*Toxicodendron diversilobum*), blue elderberry (*Sambucus nigra*), snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*), California blackberry (*Rubus ursinus*), Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*), French broom (*Genista monspessulana*), hedge nettle (*Stachys* sp.), wood fern (*Dryopteris arguta*), sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*), Pacific snakeroot (*Sanicula crassicaulis*), blue wildrye (*Elymus glaucus*), goldback fern (*Pentagramma triangularis*), Italian thistle (*Carduus pycnocephalus*), torilis (*Torilis arvensis*), periwinkle (*Vinca major*), and English ivy (*Hedera helix*). Hydrophytic vegetation (too small to map separately) is present along scattered portions of the creek channel, including small-flower bulrush (*Scirpus microcarpus*), sedge (*Carex* sp.), and horsetail (*Equisetum* sp.). Some areas within California Bay Forest above the creek top-of-bank, particularly on the project site, are disturbed by human activity and the understory is composed of bare ground or ruderal species described below for Developed/Ruderal habitat.[ii]

[1] Alliance nomenclature follows Sawyer et al. (2009).
[2] Botanical nomenclature follows Baldwin et al. (2012) and The Jepson Flora Project (2019).

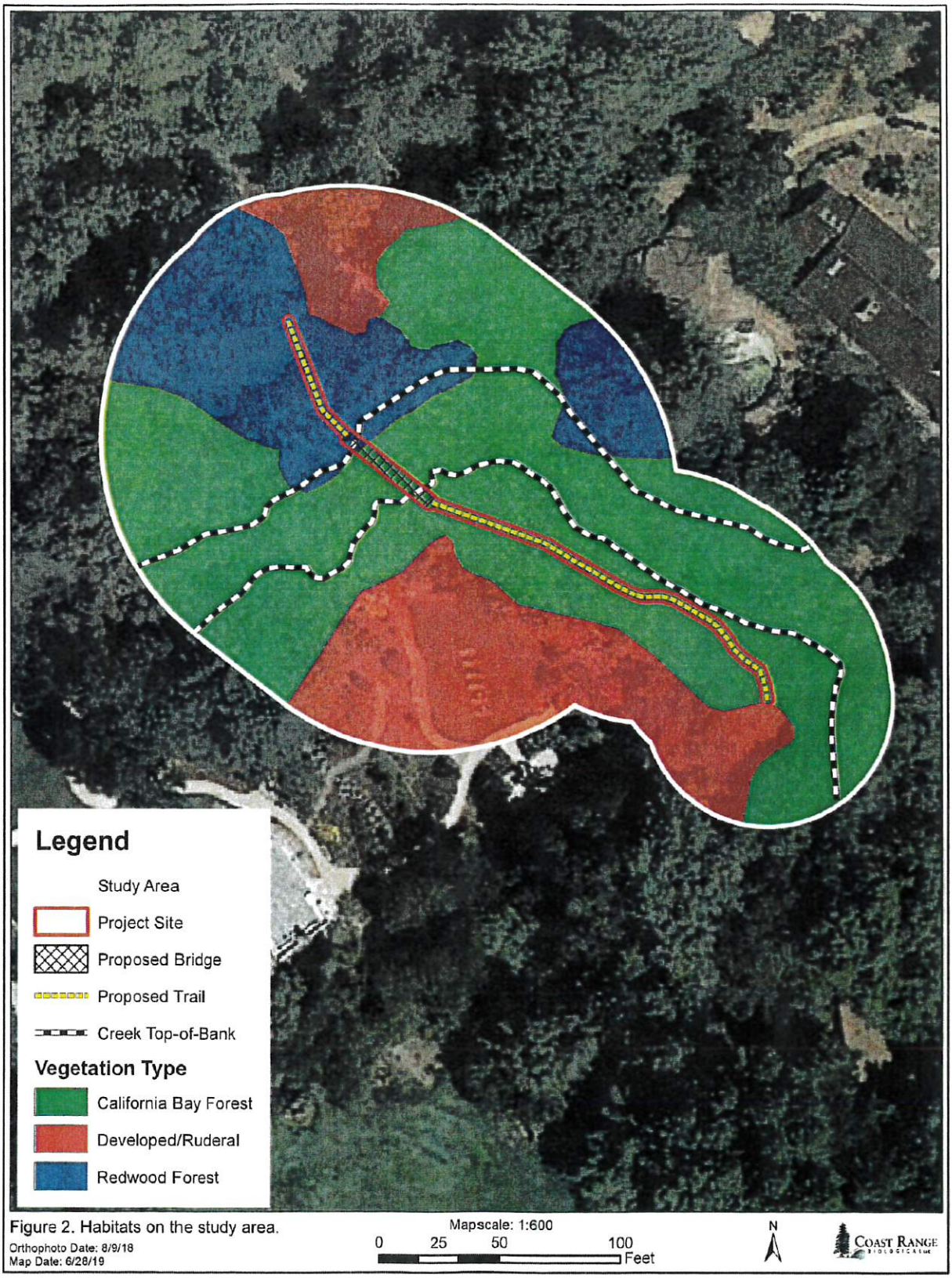

Figure 13. *Project Study Area, Project Site, and Vegetation Types.*
Source: Coast Range Biological, LLC

Wildlife expected along the Bear Gulch Creek corridor includes a variety of native species common in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*) are expected to utilize the Riparian Woodland in areas not inhibited by fencing installed to exclude them from surrounding properties. Gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*), striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), and raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) are expected. Sierran tree frog (*Pseudacris sierra*) may pass through the area but will not breed in-stream. Arboreal salamanders (*Aneides lugubris*) are likely to use the study area. Western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*) and ring-necked snake (*Diadophis punctatus*) may use areas that receive a mix of sun and shade. Resident birds seen included chestnut-backed chickadee (*Poecile rufescens*), spotted towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*), and red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*). A migrant avian species, Pacific-slope flycatcher (*Empidonax difficilis*), was observed feeding young in a nest under the over-hanging bank approximately 20-feet downstream of the proposed bridge. A list of wildlife species observed or detected by sign on the study area is included in **Attachment 3**, Appendix D.[iii]

(a): The project could result in potentially significant impacts to special status species, as described below.

Special-Status Plants

"No special-status plants were observed on the study area during the June 27, 2019 field visit (**Attachment 3**, Appendix C), but the visit occurred outside the typical blooming period of some plant species. All 33 special-status plant species identified for the region during the background literature search are unlikely to inhabit the study area because it: (1) lacks suitable habitat components (e.g., soil type, micro-habitat, plant community) for special-status plant species known from the region; and/or because (2) a species (e.g., early-summer blooming annuals, shrubs or other perennial species) should have been identifiable during the field visit and was not observed. Therefore, it is unlikely that special-status plant species occur on the study area, no impacts to special-status plants are anticipated from the project, and no mitigation measures for special-status plants are included in this BRA."[iv]

Special-Status Wildlife

Thirty-two special-status wildlife species were analyzed for their potential occurrence on the study area because they: (1) occur in habitats present in the general vicinity of the study area, and (2) have ranges that include Woodside (**Attachment 3**, Appendix A). A search of the CNDDB GIS database found no documented occurrences of special-status wildlife species on the study area (except for historic, generalized occurrences for the Woodside area), but numerous occurrences have been documented within three miles (**Figure 14**; **Attachment 3,** Figure 3). A portion of the study area, along Bear Gulch Creek, is located within designated Critical Habitat for one federally-listed wildlife species: steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*) (USFWS 2019c).

One special-status wildlife species, oak titmouse (*Baeolophus inornatus*), was observed on the study area during the field visits. In addition, steelhead are known from Bear Gulch Creek (Leidy et al. 2005), which is federally-designated Critical Habitat, and the species is therefore considered to be present on the study area. Eight other special-status wildlife species have a moderate potential to occur on the study area: California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*), Santa Cruz black salamander (*Aneides niger*), California giant salamander (*Dicamptodon ensatus*), western pond turtle (*Emys marmorata*), Allen's hummingbird (*Selasphorus sasin*), Nuttall's woodpecker (*Picoides nuttallii*), San Francisco dusky-footed woodrat (*Neotoma fuscipes annectens*), and pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*). In addition, trees, shrubs, and herbaceous vegetation on the study area could provide nesting habitat for non-listed bird species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and state Fish and Game Code.

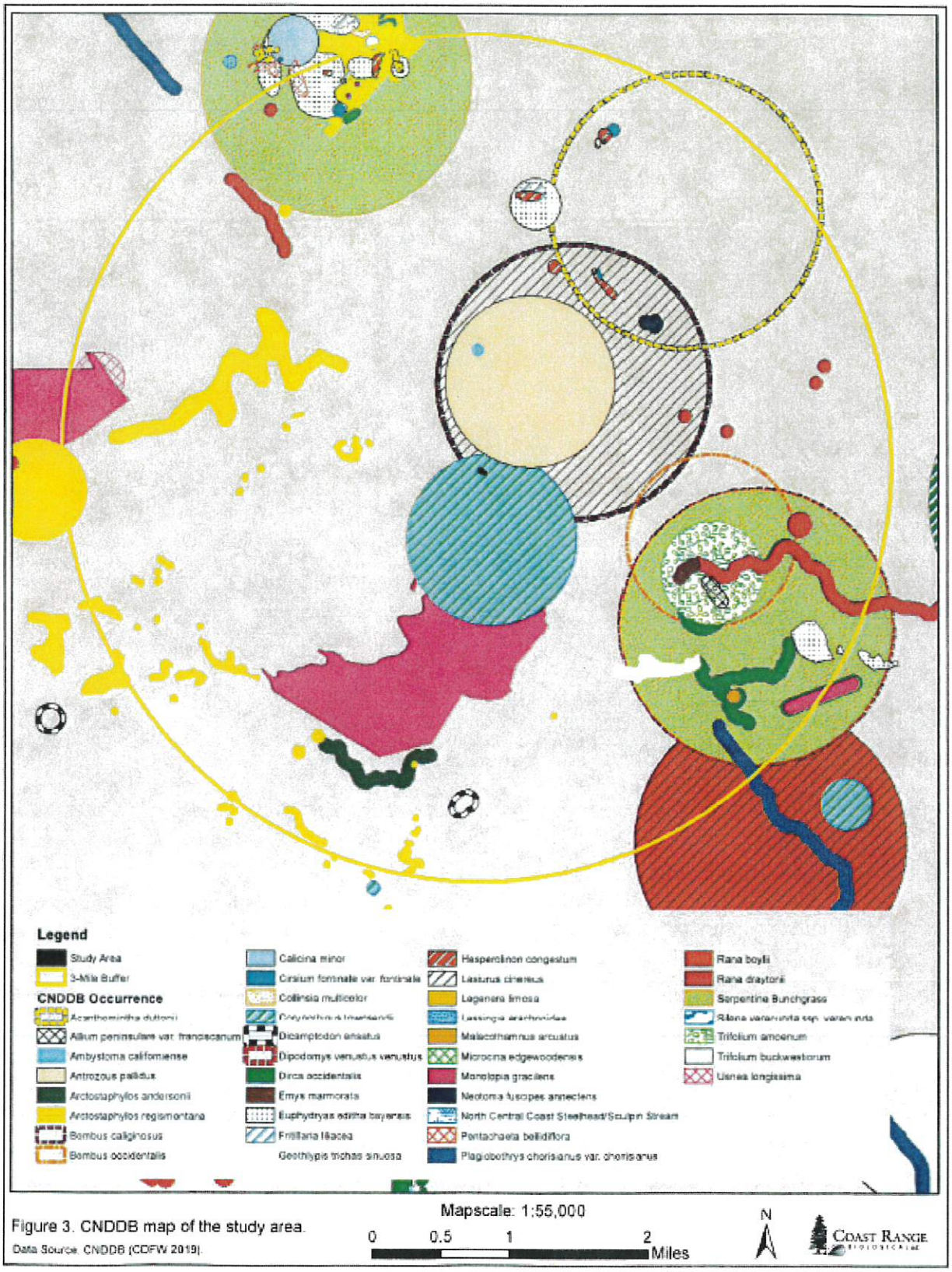

Figure 3. CNDDB map of the study area.
Data Source: CNDDB (CDFW 2019).

Figure 14. *California Natural Diversity Data Base map of the study area.*
Source: Coast Range Biological, LLC

The San Francisco garter snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis tetrataenia*), though considered to have a low potential to occur on the study area, is also discussed in the BRA (**Attachment 3**) due to its Endangered and Fully Protected status and documented occurrences in Woodside. Steelhead, California red-legged frog, Santa Cruz black salamander, California giant salamander, San Francisco garter snake, western pond turtle, Allen's hummingbird, Nuttall's woodpecker, oak titmouse, San Francisco dusky-footed woodrat, and pallid bat are discussed in **Attachment 3**, and are summarized below, as relevant to potential impacts.

The remaining special-status wildlife species analyzed are considered absent or to have a low potential to inhabit the project site or study area, and it is therefore unlikely they would be adversely impacted by the proposed project (**Attachment 3,** Appendix A). These species are not discussed further. In addition, numerous special-status wildlife species documented from the region in the CNDDB and/or USFWS species list were not included in Appendix A because their current range does not include Woodside and/or suitable habitat is clearly absent from the project site and study area, such as marine organisms (e.g., green sea turtle [*Chelonia mydas*], tidewater goby [*Eucyclogobius newberryi*], and Delta Smelt [*Hypomesus transpacificus*]).[v]

Central California Coast Steelhead DPS (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*): Federal Status: Threatened; State Status: None

Steelhead typically inhabit coastal streams that contain water all year round for spawning and rearing. Both natural and man-made barriers often restrict movements, especially during drought years (Alley 1999). The Central California coast population is recognized as a Distinct Population Segment (DPS) by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), which regulates the fishery (NMFS 2011; CDFW 2019).

Steelhead are known from Bear Gulch Creek in the Woodside area (Leidy et al. 2005), and Bear Gulch Creek falls within federally-designated Critical Habitat for the species (USFWS 2019c). The project will take place above top-of-bank of Bear Gulch Creek, and no impacts to steelhead or its habitat are anticipated from the project with the incorporation of Best Management Practices and other measures to ensure no construction personnel, material, or ground disturbance enters the creek.[vi] Potential impacts to steelhead and steelhead habitat would be potentially significant. Implementation of ***Mitigation Measure BIO-1(a) – (c)*** would reduce potential impacts to a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation Measure BIO-1 (Steelhead and California Red-legged Frog):
(a): Prior to project construction, the boundaries of the work area shall be clearly delineated using orange-colored plastic construction fencing combined with existing fencing, to prevent workers or equipment from inadvertently straying from the work area. All construction personnel, equipment, and vehicle movement shall be confined to designated construction and staging areas. Staging areas are restricted to those delineated on the project plans and encompassed by the fencing. All orange-colored construction fencing shall be removed when surface-disturbing actions are completed.

(b): Prior to the start of construction, a worker education program shall be presented at the project site by a qualified biologist. Associated written material shall be distributed. It shall be the onsite foreman's responsibility to ensure that all construction personnel and subcontractors receive a copy of the education program. The education program shall include a description of steelhead (along with CRLF as described below) and their habitat, the general provisions of the Endangered Species Act, the necessity of adhering to the Act to avoid penalty, and measures implemented to avoid affecting steelhead and CRLF specific to the project associated work boundaries. The qualified biologist will

designate an individual that will be onsite daily during project construction to inspect the work area for special-status species before work begins. If special-status species are observed at any time prior to or during construction, a qualified biologist and the Town of Woodside will be contacted for guidance.

(c): Best Management Practices shall be implemented during all phases of project ground disturbance to reduce impacts to Bear Gulch Creek and steelhead habitat. All permit requirements by the regulatory agencies shall be followed. These measures shall include, but are not limited, to the following:

1. ***To the maximum extent practicable, ground disturbing work shall be conducted during the dry season (typically May 1 to October 15). If work must be conducted during the rainy season, excavation and grading shall be avoided during wet weather and immediately preceding expected wet weather.***

2. ***Erosion control measures, such as silt-fencing and straw wattles, shall be installed above the creek top-of-bank as necessary prior to ground disturbance and maintained throughout the duration of construction to prevent erosion and subsequent sedimentation into Bear Gulch Creek. Exposed soils shall be covered. No debris, soil, silt, sand, bark, slash, sawdust, cement, concrete, washings, petroleum products or other organic or earthen material shall be allowed to enter into or be placed where it may be washed by rainfall or runoff into water of the U.S./State or aquatic habitat.***

3. ***Machinery shall be refueled at least 60 feet from any aquatic habitat. All vehicles shall be inspected for leaks daily. If any leakage of material occurs into the creek bed, work shall cease immediately and cleanup initiated.***

4. ***After work is complete, all disturbed areas shall be restored to their previous condition. Prior to the onset of the rainy season, all bare soil areas shall be seeded with a native seed mix consisting of plant species native to Woodside and adapted to California Bay Forest and/or Redwood Forest habitats.***

California Red-legged Frog (*Rana draytonii*), Federal Status: Threatened; State Status: Species of Special Concern

The California red-legged frog (CRLF) is a large (85-138 mm), nocturnal species that historically occupied much of central and southern California. The species requires still or slow-moving water during the breeding season, where it deposits large egg masses, usually attached to submerged or emergent vegetation. Breeding typically occurs between December and April, depending on annual environmental conditions and locality. Eggs require 6 to 12 days before hatching and metamorphosis occurs 3.5 to 7 months after hatching (Stebbins 2003). Following metamorphosis between July and September, juveniles generally do not travel far from aquatic habitats. Movements of individuals generally begin with the first rains of the weather-year, in response to receding water or following the breeding season (Fellers and Kleeman 2007). Radio-telemetry data indicates that individuals generally engage in straight-line movements irrespective of riparian corridors and can move up to two miles (Bulger et al. 2003; Fellers and Kleeman 2007). California red-legged frogs utilize a variety of water sources during the non-breeding season, and females are more likely than males to depart from perennial ponds shortly after depositing eggs (Fellers and Kleeman 2007). They may take refuge in small mammal burrows, leaf litter or other moist areas during periods of inactivity or whenever it is necessary to avoid desiccation (Rathbun et al. 1993; Jennings and Hayes 1994). Occurrence of this frog has shown to be negatively correlated with presence of introduced bullfrogs (Moyle 1973; Hayes and Jennings 1986, 1988), but both species coexist at some

locations, particularly along the coast. Genetic studies indicate that the nominal subspecies *draytonii* and *aurora* represent separate lineages and are therefore distinct species (Shaffer et al. 2004).

Eight CRLF occurrences are documented within three miles of the study area in the CNDDB (CDFW 2019) (**Figure 14**; **Attachment 3**, Figure 3). The nearest documented CRLF occurrence is located ~1.5-miles ENE of the study area (CDFW 2019). Additional CRLF occurrences are located ~1.6-miles southeast, ~1.7-miles east, and ~2.1-miles northwest of the study area. Bear Gulch Creek and adjacent areas could provide foraging and sheltering habitat for CRLF, particularly during the summer months. No breeding habitat for CRLF is present. Due to the presence of suitable habitat along the creek, and the mobility of the species, CRLF could occur on or adjacent to the project site. Implementation of ***Mitigation Measure BIO-2*** below would reduce potentially significant impacts to CRLF to a less-than-significant level. See also ***Mitigation Measure BIO-1***, above.

Mitigation Measure BIO-2 (California Red-legged Frog):
(a): Within seven days prior to ground disturbance, a qualified biologist shall conduct a preconstruction survey instream for CRLF. Either a day or night survey may be conducted, depending on the judgment of the biologist. If a CRLF is observed during the preconstruction survey or at any time during project construction, work shall cease within 50-feet and a qualified biologist contacted. If the CRLF can't be avoided, the USFWS and CDFW shall be contacted for guidance.

(b): A qualified biologist shall monitor initial grading and vegetation removal. Depending on the results of the preconstruction survey and initial monitoring and agency permit requirements, additional biological monitoring may be required (such as limited to inspecting all suitable areas for CRLF prior to work each day). Permit conditions related to CRLF in the work area for the project (from CDFW as part of a Streambed Alteration Agreement, if necessary), shall be followed.

Santa Cruz Black Salamander (*Aneides flavipunctatus niger*), Federal Status: None; State Status: Species of Special Concern and California Giant Salamander (*Dicamptodon ensatus*), Federal Status: None; State Status: Species of Special Concern

"The Santa Cruz black salamander subspecies occurs in moist microhabitats in a variety of vegetation communities including deciduous woodlands, coniferous forests, open oak woodlands and meadows."[vii] "The California giant salamander is an endemic species with a limited range restricted to coastal areas north and south of San Francisco Bay from southern Mendocino County to south Santa Cruz County, including San Mateo County (Thomson et al. 2016)...It is a terrestrial species that lives in coastal chaparral, oak woodlands and coniferous forest and breeds in perennial and some seasonal streams, often in headwaters (Thomson et al. 2016)."[viii]

The study area provides habitat for the Santa Cruz black salamander and California giant salamander. Ground disturbance during project construction, particularly along the Bear Gulch Creek corridor, could result in Santa Cruz black salamander and/or California giant salamander mortality (such as by crushing with equipment), if one or both species are present. Implementation of ***Mitigation Measure BIO-3*** would reduce potential impacts to the Santa Cruz Black Salamander and California Giant Salamander to less-than-significant levels.

Mitigation Measure BIO-3 (Santa Cruz Black Salamander; California Giant Salamander): Within seven days prior to ground disturbance, a qualified biologist shall conduct a daytime preconstruction survey for Santa Cruz black salamanders and California giant salamanders. Methods shall include carefully searching under woody debris, moveable rocks, and rock piles. Assuming the biologist is appropriately permitted, dip netting may be used to sample for California giant salamander larva. Permit conditions

related to Santa Cruz black salamanders and California giant salamanders in the work area (if required by CDFW as part of a Streambed Alteration Agreement) shall be followed. This may include relocating Santa Cruz black salamanders and/or California giant salamander larva to the nearest appropriate habitat either up or downstream based on the judgment of the qualified biologist.

Oak Titmouse, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Allen's Hummingbird, and other Native Nesting Bird Species: Suitable habitat for the oak titmouse, Nuttall's woodpecker, Allen's hummingbird, and other native nesting bird species protected under the MBTA and CDFW Code is present in trees, shrubs, and herbaceous vegetation on the study area. In addition, an active Pacific-slope flycatcher nest was observed under an over-hanging bank approximately 20-feet downstream of the proposed bridge location. Vegetation removal, or noise and disturbance during construction, could result in direct or indirect disturbance to nesting bird species, if present, potentially resulting in nest destruction or abandonment.

Implementation of ***Mitigation Measure BIO-4*** would reduce impacts to the oak titmouse, Nuttall's woodpecker, Allen's hummingbird, and other native nesting bird species to less-than-significant levels.

Mitigation Measure BIO-4 (Oak Titmouse, Nuttall's Woodpecker, Allen's hummingbird, and other native nesting bird species): If feasible, tree removal and ground disturbance shall take place outside of the February 1 to August 31 breeding bird season. If the project is conducted during the breeding bird season, a qualified biologist shall conduct a preconstruction breeding bird survey throughout areas of suitable habitat up to 300 feet from the project site within 15 days prior to the onset of any construction activity. If bird nests are observed, buffer zones shall be established around all active nests to protect nesting adults and their young from construction disturbance. Buffer zone distances, which depend to some degree on the species and shall be established in consultation with CDFW, are typically 25 to 50-feet around native passerines, 100-feet around special-status passerines, and 300 to 1,000-feet or more around raptors, depending on the species. Work within the buffer zone shall be postponed until all the young are fledged, as determined by a qualified biologist.

San Francisco Dusky-footed Woodrat (*Neotoma fuscipes annectens*), Federal Status: None; State Status: Species of Special Concern

"The San Francisco dusky-footed woodrat (SFDW) occurs from San Francisco Bay south through the Santa Cruz Mountains to Elkhorn Slough and inland to the Diablo Range (Hall 1981). The species is most common in riparian, oak woodland and scrub habitats (Carraway and Verts 1991; Slowik 2015). It typically constructs houses, which are often referred to as nests or middens, out of sticks and other debris. They are constructed on the ground, in trees, and rocky outcrops, and are often found in concentrations along riparian corridors. The species can also live in hollows in logs or trees and colonize man-made structures that provide appropriate protection from predators. Houses are often reused by successive generations and some can grow to be six feet or more in height, while others are well-hidden and easily overlooked. Houses are used for rearing young, protection from predators, resting, food storage, thermal protection and social interaction (Carraway and Verts 1991). Cranford (1977) reported that an adult averaged 1.8 houses per home range but Innes et al. (2009) revealed use of between 2-11 houses during radio-telemetry studies.

Suitable habitat is present for SFDW in California Bay Forest and along the Redwood Forest ecotone in areas with suitable cover. No SFDW houses were observed on the study area during the field visits, though they could be present in un-surveyed areas along the Bear Gulch Creek Corridor, particularly under the over-hanging banks and where California bay root-balls are exposed. Woodrats could colonize additional

areas in proximity to or within the project disturbance envelope, and ground disturbance associated with the project could adversely impact SFDW houses by crushing or removal."[ix]

Although no SFDW houses were observed on the study area, because suitable habitat is present, the project could result in potentially significant impacts to the San Francisco Dusky-footed Woodrat. Implementation of ***Mitigation Measure BIO-5*** would reduce potential impacts to SFDW a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation Measure BIO-5 (San Francisco Dusky-footed Woodrat): Within 30 days prior to project construction, a qualified biologist shall inspect the project disturbance envelope and adjacent areas within 50-feet for SFDW houses. An exclusion zone shall be erected around SFDW houses occurring within 25-feet of the project disturbance envelope, using flagging or a temporary fence that does not inhibit the natural movements of wildlife (such as steel T-posts and a single strand of yellow rope or similar materials). Efforts will be made to avoid impacting SFDW houses, even if avoidance is by only a few feet. If SFDW houses can't be avoided, CDFW shall be contacted for approval to relocate individuals by live-trapping and building a nearby artificial structure as a release site. Approval to relocate must be acquired from CDFW.

(b): The project would be located within the California Bay Forest dripline (which, together with Redwood Forest, forms a Riparian Woodland considered a sensitive habitat under CEQA). Three California bay trees (located above the top-of-bank but within the California Bay Forest) are proposed for removal. In addition, several California bay saplings and branches may need to be trimmed below the creek top-of-bank along the bridge alignment. Other minor vegetation disturbance will take place within this area for the trail alignment and bridge foundations, though these project elements would occur primarily in existing disturbed areas within the California Bay Forest dripline (**Attachment 3**, Appendix B). Minor disturbance of the Riparian Woodland would be addressed through the seeding of native species in disturbed areas. Implementation of ***Mitigation Measure BIO-1(c)***, indicated above, would reduce potential impacts to the Riparian Woodland to a less-than-significant level.

Resource Agency Jurisdiction:

Bear Gulch Creek is located within the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Cops of Engineers (ACOE) up to the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM); within the jurisdiction of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to the top-of-bank of the creek or riparian dripline, whichever is greater; and within the jurisdiction of the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) below the top-of-bank of the creek. Based on current project plans (assuming no work or any material associated with construction enters below the top-of-bank of Bear Gulch Creek), work would take place outside the jurisdiction of the ACOE and RWQCB, and therefore permits from these agencies would not typically be required for the project. The project could require a Streambed Alteration Agreement from CDFW, depending on the precise nature of the work. Implementation of ***Mitigation Measure BIO-6*** would reduce potential impacts under the jurisdiction of resource agencies to less-than-significant levels.

Mitigation Measure BIO-6 (Resource Agency Jurisdiction): The CDFW shall be Notified to determine if a Streambed Alteration Agreement is required for the project. If CDFW requires a Streambed Alteration Agreement, all conditions of the Agreement shall be followed. Approval shall be obtained from the Town of Woodside for work within the stream corridor.

Town of Woodside:

Bear Gulch Creek falls within the Town of Woodside's jurisdiction as a "stream corridor", as identified on **Figure 15**. In accordance with Woodside Municipal Code (WMC) Section 153.442, "*A stream or creek bank*

is defined as the point at which the break in slope occurs, and a stream corridor is defined as a horizontal distance of 50 feet, measured from each side of the center line of the stream, or a horizontal distance of 25 feet, measured from the top of the stream or creek bank, whichever is greater. The Planning Commission may establish greater horizontal measurements for specific stream corridors." Bridges and roads proposed within a stream corridor require a Conditional Use Permit from the Town of Woodside (WMC Section 153.444) (**Attachment 1**).

(c): The proposed project would not have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands. "Bear Gulch Creek flows through the study area and the proposed project would take place above the bed and banks of the creek (**Figure 13; Attachment 3**, Figure 2).[3] The creek is deeply incised, with a bed, bank, and Ordinary High-Water Mark (OHWM), and generally lacks vegetation below the OHWM. Due to the presence of a bed, bank, and OHWM, and <5 percent cover of vegetation, Bear Gulch Creek would qualify as a potential jurisdictional "other waters" by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) under Section 404 of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA). "Other waters" are seasonal or perennial water bodies, such as lakes, stream channels (including intermittent or ephemeral streams), drainages, ponds, and other surface water features that exhibit an OHWM but lack positive indicators of one or more of the three wetland parameters (hydrophytic vegetation, wetland hydrology, hydric soils) (Federal Register 1986)."[x] All work would be conducted above the top-of-bank for this project; therefore, the project would not result in impacts to "other waters" or wetland areas.

(d): "Projects that "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" could result in significant impacts under CEQA. The Bear Gulch Creek corridor is used as a movement corridor for some native wildlife (**Attachment 3**, Section 4.3.2). Although the project is located above the creek top-of-bank, a portion of the adjacent property owner's mesh fence, which inhibits the movements of deer and other wildlife, will be relocated as part of the project. While the relocated fencing will not result in significant adverse impacts to wildlife movement or require mitigation because the fencing will be relocated further from the creek than the current configuration, the existing wildlife corridor would be improved if the mesh fence was replaced, modified with openings, or elevated ~4-inches above grade to allow a greater diversity of wildlife access along the Riparian Woodland."[xi]

(e): Three California bay trees, with diameters of four to six inches,[xii] located above the top-of-bank but within the California Bay Forest, are proposed for removal. These trees would not be Significant Trees, as defined in WMC Section 153.005. The project would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance. See ***Mitigation Measures BIO-1(c)***, above.

(f): The project is not known to conflict with any Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or State habitat conservation plan. Streams are known to function as wildlife corridors. The project would result in some enlargement of the corridor where the fence would be shifted back within the conservation and equestrian easement to accommodate the trail.

[3] The creek centerline and top-of-bank in relation to the project site shown in **Figure 13** (**Attachment 3**, Figure 2) are approximate and for general planning purposes only. To determine the precise boundaries of project impacts in relation to the OHWM and top-of-bank, these features would need to be flagged on the ground and surveyed by a licensed surveyor and incorporated into the project site plan. In addition, the regulatory agencies make the final determination on the precise location and extent of their jurisdiction based on the results of an aquatic resource delineation and subsequent verification by the applicable agencies.

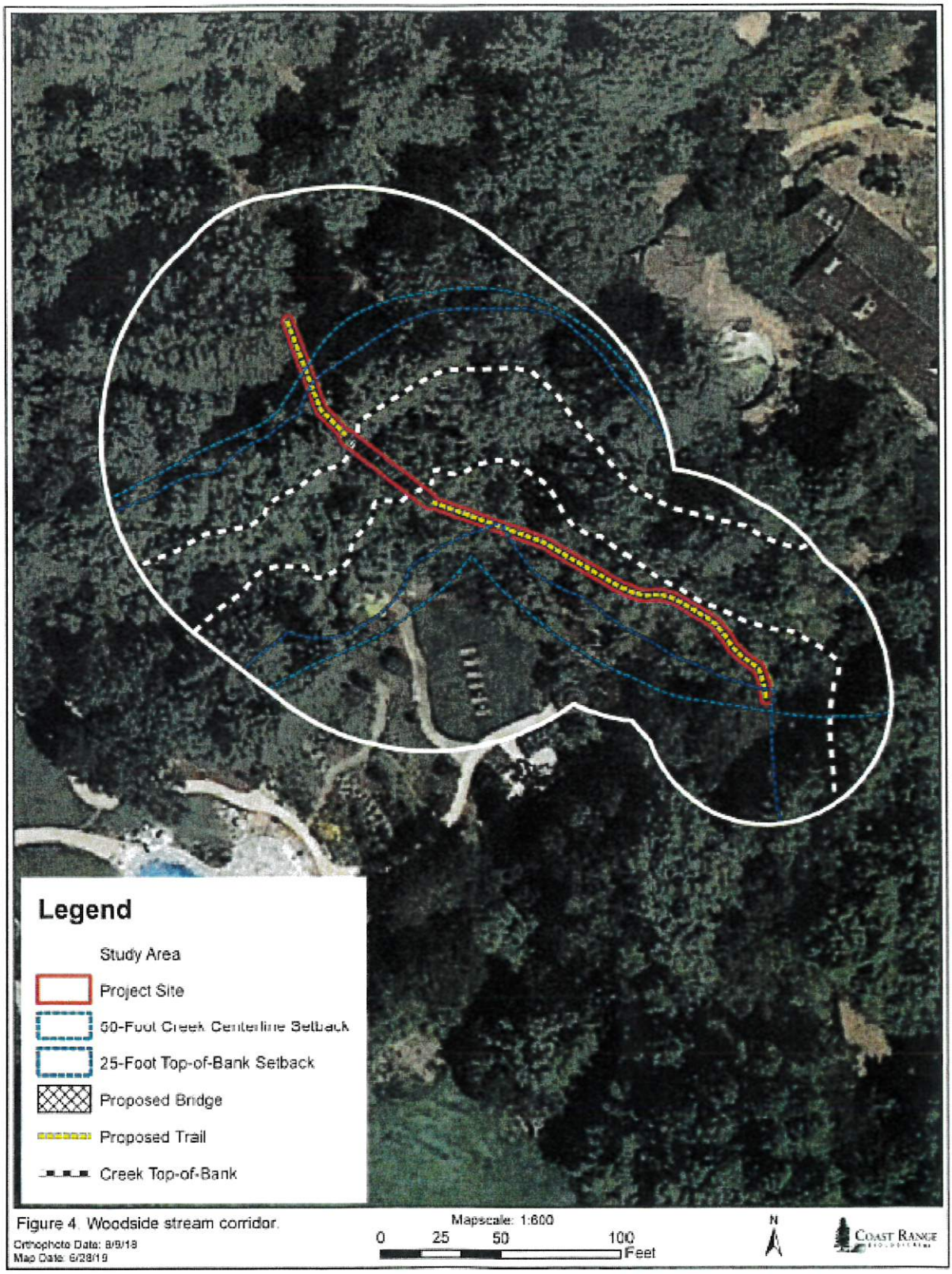

Figure 15. *Identification of Top-of-Bank, Centerline, and Creek Setbacks for Bear Gulch Creek*
Source: Coast Range Biological, LLC

(Sources: Biological Resources Assessment prepared by Coast Range Biological LLC, the Woodside Municipal Code; and Woodside General Plan)

Upon implementation of the mitigation measures listed above, the project would not result in any residual significant adverse effect on the environment related to biological resources.

ISSUES (AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCES)	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT UNLESS MITIGATION INCORPORATED	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
V. CULTURAL RESOURCES Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	■
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5?	☐	■	☐	☐
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	☐	■	☐	☐

DISCUSSION:
The project involves installing a prefabricated equestrian bridge across Bear Gulch Creek and constructing new trail segments to connect the bridge to the existing Center Trail, to allow for the reopening of the trail.

(a): The State Office of Historic Preservation Historic Property Directory (OHP HPD) (which includes listings of the California Register of Historical Resources, California State Historical Landmarks, California State Points of Historical Interest, and the National Register of Historic Places) lists no recorded buildings or structures within or adjacent to the proposed project area. In addition to these inventories, the NWIC base maps show no recorded buildings or structures within the proposed project area. There are no known historical resources in the project area; therefore, the project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.

(b): The California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) notes that there has been one cultural resource study that covers approximately 50% of the Center Trail Bridge project area. This project area contains no recorded archaeological resources; however, the author noted burned rocks in close proximity to the project area. "Based on an evaluation of the environmental setting and features associated with known sites, Native American resources in this part of San Mateo County have been found in areas adjacent to intermittent and perennial water courses, and on ridges, midslope benches, in valleys and near ecotones. The Center Trail Bridge project area contains valley lands on both sides of Bear Gulch Creek. Given the similarity of one or more of these environmental factors and the noted burned rock in proximity to the project area, there is a high potential for unrecorded Native American resources in the proposed Center Trail Bridge project area. In the event that archaeological resources are encountered during construction,

implementation of ***Mitigation Measures CULTURAL-1*** and ***CULTURAL-2*** would reduce potential impacts related to archaeological resources to a less-than-significant level:

Mitigation Measure CULTURAL-1 (Archaeological Monitor During Ground Disturbance: A certified archaeologist shall monitor all ground-disturbing activities.

Mitigation Measure CULTURAL-2 (Archaeological Resources):

a. ***The following practices shall be followed during all phases of site preparation and construction activities: If archaeological resources are encountered during construction, construction personnel should be instructed to immediately suspend all activity in the immediate vicinity of the suspected resources, and the Town and a licensed archaeologist should be contacted to evaluate the situation. Project personnel should not collect cultural resources. A licensed archaeologist should be retained to inspect the discovery and make any necessary recommendations to evaluate the find under current CEQA guidelines, prior to the submittal of a resource mitigation plan and monitoring program to the Town for review and approval; and prior to the continuation of any on-site construction activity. Native American resources include but are not limited to: chert or obsidian flakes, projectile points, mortars, and pestles; and dark friable soil containing shell and bone dietary debris, heat-affected rock, or human burials. Historic-period resources include stone or adobe foundations or walls; remains and structures with square nails; and refuse deposits or bottle dumps, often located in old wells or privies.***

b. ***Any identified cultural resources shall be recorded on DPR 523 historic resource recordation forms available from the Office of Historic Preservation.***

(c): No human remains are known to exist on the project site. Should human remains be discovered during project construction, implementation of ***Mitigation Measure CULTURAL-3*** would reduce potentially significant impacts to a less-than-significant level:

Mitigation Measure CULTURAL-3 (Construction Impacts - Cultural Resources): In the event a human burial or skeletal element is identified during excavation or construction, work in that location should stop immediately until the find can be properly treated. The Town of Woodside and the San Mateo County Coroner's office should be notified. If deemed prehistoric, the Coroner's office would notify the Native American Heritage Commission who would identify a "Most Likely Descendant (MLD)." The archeological consultant and MLD, in conjunction with the project sponsor, should formulate an appropriate treatment plan for the find, which might include, but not be limited to, respectful scientific recording and removal, being left in place, or removal and reburial on site, or elsewhere. Associated grave goods are to be treated in the same manner (See also, Mitigation Measure CULTURAL-1). If a human burial or skeletal element is identified, procedures in Mitigation Measure TRIBAL CULTURAL-4 shall be followed.

(Source: Woodside Municipal Code, Woodside General Plan, California Office of Historic Preservation website, and the California Historical Resources Information System, Native American Heritage Commission)

Upon implementation of the above mitigation measures, the project would not result in any residual significant adverse effect on the environment related to cultural resources.

Issues (and Supporting Information Sources)	Potentially Significant Impact	Potentially Significant Impact Unless Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VI. ENERGY. Would the project:				
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources during project construction or operation?	❑	❑	❑	■
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	❑	❑	❑	■

DISCUSSION:
The project involves installing a prefabricated equestrian bridge across Bear Gulch Creek and constructing new trail segments to connect the bridge to the existing Center Trail, to allow for the reopening of the trail.

(a) The project consists of installing a prefabricated equestrian bridge that would be assembled at the project site. The bridge is required to reopen the Center Trail after a washout occurred on the eastern slope in 2017. The project would reestablish use of an existing trail that allows an alternative mode of transportation, thereby resulting in energy savings over the long-term. Having access to trails in the vicinity of residential neighborhoods also reduces the need to trailer horses to trailheads. The project would not result in a potentially significant impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources during project construction or operation. Over the long term, the project would result in a beneficial impact related to energy.

(b) The project involves installation of a prefabricated equestrian bridge. It would not conflict with or obstruct a State or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency.

(Source: Review of the Woodside General Plan, the Woodside Climate Action Plan, and the Woodside Municipal Code)

No mitigation is necessary or required.

ISSUES (AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCES)	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT UNLESS MITIGATION INCORPORATED	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS Would the project:				
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	❑	❑	■	❑
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	❑	■	❑	❑
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	❑	❑	■	❑
iv) Landslides?	❑	❑	■	❑
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	❑	■	❑	❑
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	❑	■	❑	❑
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	❑	❑	■	❑
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste-water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	❑	❑	❑	■
f. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	❑	■	❑	❑

DISCUSSION:
The project involves installing a prefabricated equestrian bridge across Bear Gulch Creek and constructing new trail segments to connect the bridge to the existing Center Trail, to allow for the reopening of the trail. The project was reviewed in relation to the Town's Geologic Map, prepared by Cotton Shires in January 2017.

(a): The project site is located within the seismically active San Francisco Bay Area.

(a.i.) The proposed bridge would be located approximately 75 feet from the 1906 trace of the San Andreas Fault (west of the '1906 active San Andreas trace') (GP Map, NH2: Fault Zones). The project site is also located within the larger Alquist Priolo Study Zone. As a recreation project, impacts are anticipated to be less-than-significant.

(a.ii.) Moderate to large earthquakes are probable along several active faults in the greater Bay Area over the design life of the project. Strong ground shaking should therefore be expected several times during the (ongoing) use of the Center Trail Bridge project, as is typical for sites throughout the Bay Area. The bridge would be designed to withstand ground shaking, to minimize the likelihood that the bridge and adjoining trail would become impassible in the event of an earthquake or other emergency. Implementation of ***Mitigation Measure GEO-1*** would reduce potentially significant impacts related to seismicity to less-than-significant levels.

Mitigation Measure GEO-1 (Geotechnical Conditions): The project would be constructed in accordance with the recommendations from the Geotechnical Investigation required for the project.

(a.iii.) The proposed project site is located within the 'Geologic Hazard Zone A', as mapped in the General Plan (GP Map NH1: Geologic Hazard Zones). Zone A includes standard constraints. The Zone encompasses regions that are not included in the other hazard zones. Surficial deposits on the site are identified as alluvium (Qal) (**Figure 16**). Impacts related to ground failure, including liquefaction, are anticipated to be less-than-significant.

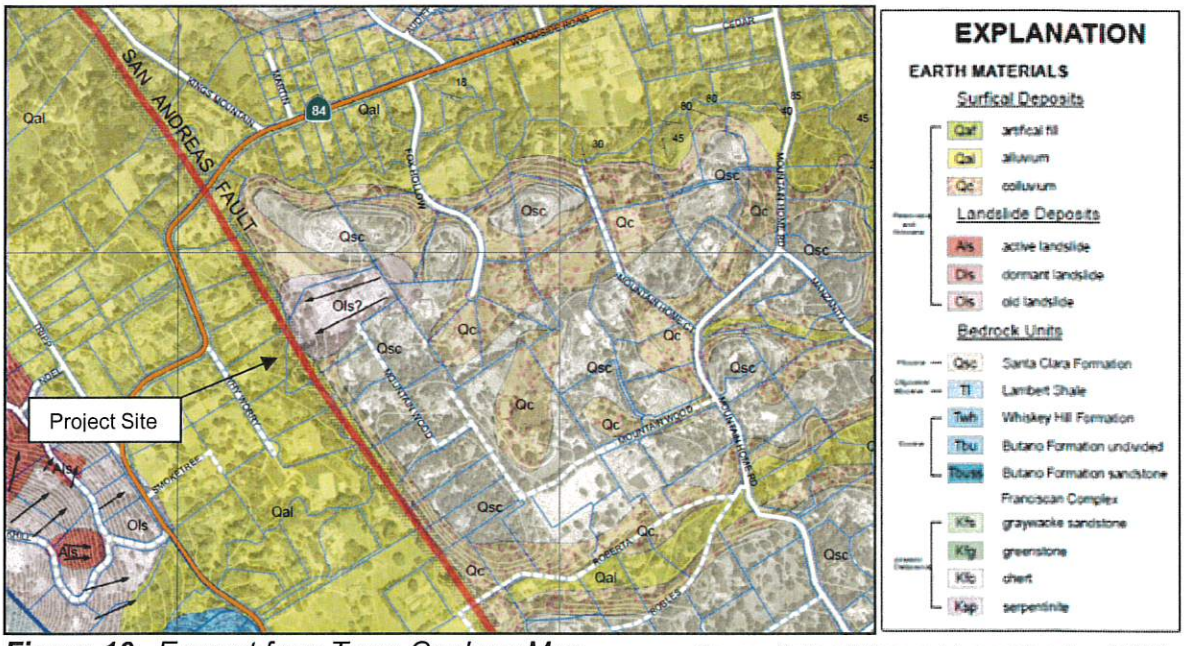

Figure 16. *Excerpt from Town Geology Map* *Source: Cotton Shires and Associates, Inc. (2017)*

(a.iv.) The project area is already subject to some slope failure along Bear Gulch Creek. The proposed project would not exacerbate this condition. Impacts would be less-than-significant.

(b): The proposed project involves the installation of a prefabricated equestrian bridge spanning Bear Gulch Creek. The foundations for the bridge would be located eight feet from the top of bank on both sides of the creek. The study area is underlain by sandstone and conglomerate of Miocene-Pleistocene age (California Geological Survey 2010). Average annual precipitation in the area is 29.59 inches, occurring primarily between October and May (Western Regional Climate Center 2019). One soil type has been mapped on the study area (NRCS 2019a): Francisquito-Urban land complex, 5 to 15 percent slopes. The soils are well-drained, derived from alluvium from mixed sources, and is found on terraces. A typical profile of the Francisquito component consists of loam from 0 to 16 inches, clay loam from 16 to 26 inches, and clay and/or clay loam from 26 to 50 inches. The depth to water table and a restrictive feature is > 80 inches. This soil is not listed as a hydric soil for San Mateo County (NRSC2019b).[xiii] The creek banks in the project vicinity have been subject to erosion during periods of high-water flow. The proposed project area would be subject to similar conditions; however, installing a clear span bridge outside of the creek banks, would not exacerbate these conditions. Implementation of ***Mitigation Measure GEO-2*** would reduce potential impacts related to erosion to a less-than-significant level. See also, ***Mitigation Measure BIO-1(c)***.

Mitigation Measure GEO-2 (Erosion Control): Erosion control measures including erosion control fabric, wattles, fiber rolls, silt fences, berms, and other measures would be installed to ensure that sediment and other debris do not enter the stream channel during or following the construction period.

(c and d): As indicated under (a) above, the project is located within Hazards Zone A, an area characterized by standard constraints (GP Table NH1: Potential Hazards). As described under (b) above, soils on-site are the Francisquito-Urban land complex.[xiv] The proposed bridge crossing is being located downstream to avoid a washout on the eastern bank of Bear Gulch Creek. The bridge would be designed in accordance with the geotechnical recommendations developed for the project. Implementation of ***Mitigation Measure GEO-1,*** above, would reduce potential impacts related to slope stability to a less-than-significant level.

(e): The project involves installing a prefabricated equestrian bridge and would not result in any septic related impacts.

(f) There are no known paleontological resources (fossils) at the project site. Streambeds, characterized by continually moving alluvium, are not sensitive with respect to fossils which are most often found in sedimentary beds; however, all excavation projects have some potential of unearthing paleontological resources. In the event that paleontological resources are encountered during the construction process, implementation of ***Mitigation Measure GEO-3*** would reduce potential impacts to less-than-significant levels.

Mitigation Measure GEO-3 (Paleontological Resources): The following practices shall be followed during all phases of site preparation and construction activities: If paleontological resources are encountered during construction, construction personnel should be instructed to immediately suspend all activity in the immediate vicinity of the suspected resources, and the Town and a licensed paleontologist should be contacted to evaluate the situation. Project personnel should not collect paleontological resources. A licensed paleontologist should be retained to inspect the discovery and make any necessary recommendations to evaluate the find under current CEQA guidelines, prior to the submittal of a resource mitigation plan and monitoring program to the Town for review and approval prior to the continuation of any on-site construction activity.

(Source: Review of the San Mateo County Soil Survey, the Woodside Town Geology Map (January 2017), Woodside Municipal Code, Woodside General Plan)

Upon implementation of the mitigation measures indicated above, the project would not result in any residual significant adverse effect on the environment related to geology and soils.

ISSUES (AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCES)	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT UNLESS MITIGATION INCORPORATED	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS Would the project:				
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	❑	❑	■	❑
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	❑	❑	❑	■

DISCUSSION:
The project involves installing a prefabricated equestrian bridge across Bear Gulch Creek and constructing new trail segments to connect the bridge to the existing Center Trail, to allow for the reopening of the trail.

(a): The project has been designed to allow equestrians to avoid a washout area along the creek that occurred in 2017, so that the Center Trail through Woodside can be reopened. The Town of Woodside will continue to adopt all new State Residential Building Codes to address green building requirements, consistent with the "Addressing the Climate Change at the Project Level" document prepared by the California Attorney General's Office (available at http://ag.ca.gov/globalwarming/pdf/GW_mitigation_measures.pdf). In addition, the Town of Woodside has significant policy language in the General Plan concerning environmentally conscious design and conservation of environmental resources, including air quality, habitat restoration, and open space conservation. All development is required to conform to these policies. The Town also adopted a Climate Action Plan that identifies measures for implementation that would result in the reduction of greenhouse gases. Impacts related to generation of greenhouse gas emissions would be less-than-significant. Implementation of ***Mitigation Measure AIR-1*** in Section III of this Initial Study would further reduce the level of impact. No additional mitigation is required or recommended.

(b): The proposed project does not conflict with any locally adopted applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases.

(Source: Review of the Woodside Municipal Code, Woodside General Plan, Woodside Climate Action Plan, California Attorney General's Office website)

No mitigation is necessary or required.

ISSUES (AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCES)	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT UNLESS MITIGATION INCORPORATED	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
VIX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	❑	❑	■	❑
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	❑	■	❑	❑
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	❑	❑	❑	■
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	❑	❑	❑	■
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	❑	❑	❑	■
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	❑	❑	❑	■
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	❑	❑	❑	■

DISCUSSION:
The project involves installing a prefabricated equestrian bridge across Bear Gulch Creek and constructing new trail segments to connect the bridge to the existing Center Trail, to allow for the reopening of the trail.

(a and b): The project would be required to be constructed in accordance with State and federal hazardous materials regulations and current best management practices (BMPs) for construction activities. The equipment used to deliver and install the project construction materials is equipment that is regulated by the State Department of Motor Vehicles and contains the appropriate vehicle emissions systems that are intended to minimize pollutants. ***Mitigation Measure HAZ-1*** would prevent construction materials from entering into Bear Gulch Creek and would reduce potentially significant impacts related to hazardous materials and sediment to a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation Measure HAZ-1 (Creek Protection from Hazardous Materials): Construction materials would be handled and stored in accordance with applicable local and State laws to prevent them from entering Bear Gulch Creek. See also Mitigation Measures AIR-1, BIO-1(c), and GEO-1.

(c): The proposed project would not emit hazardous emissions or involve the handling of hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within ¼ mile of an existing or proposed school. The closest school to the project site is Woodside Elementary School which is located ~1/2 miles northeast of project site. Most of the work conducted for the project would be done with hand tools. A small bobcat might also be used. Project installation may potentially involve the use of fuels for operating equipment but would not involve the handling of acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste. See ***Mitigation Measure HAZ-1***.

(d): The proposed project site is not listed on the California Department of Toxic Substance Control's Hazardous Waste and Substances Sites List, compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5, and therefore it would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment. There are no sites on the list within the Town of Woodside.[xv]

(e): The project is not located within the vicinity of an airport land use plan or within two miles of an airport. The project is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip.

(f): The project would result in the reopening of the Center Trail through Woodside. Once reopened, the trail could be used as an emergency route to remove horses from properties in the event of a wildland fire or other emergency; therefore, the project would result in a beneficial impact related to the emergency evacuation plan for the project vicinity.

(g): The Town of Woodside is considered a "Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Area" and two areas within the Town are mapped as "Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone" (VHFHSZ) on the California Department of Forestry and Fire's state-adopted fire maps. The property on the west side of Bear Gulch Creek (60 Why Worry Lane), is located within the "Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone". The property on the west side of the Center Trail Bridge is not within the "Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone". Installing the Center Trail Bridge and reopening the Center Trail would help to ensure that an evacuation route for equestrians remains open in an emergency.

(Source: Review of the Woodside Municipal Code, Woodside General Plan, California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection website, Woodside Fire Protection District)

Upon implementation of the mitigation measures indicated above, the project would not result in any residual significant adverse effect on the environment related to hazards and hazardous materials.

ISSUES (AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCES)	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT UNLESS MITIGATION INCORPORATED	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?	❑	■	❑	❑
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	❑	❑	❑	■
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:				
i. Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;	❑	■	❑	❑
ii. Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site;	❑	❑	■	❑
iii. Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	❑	❑	❑	■
iv. Impede or redirect flood flows?	❑	❑	❑	■
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	❑	❑	■	❑

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

DISCUSSION:
The project involves installing a prefabricated equestrian bridge across Bear Gulch Creek and constructing new trail segments to connect the bridge to the existing Center Trail, to allow for the reopening of the trail.

"The principal hydrologic sources for the study area are direct precipitation, surface and near surface runoff from surrounding uplands, and drainage through Bear Gulch Creek. Bear Gulch Creek drains into Bear Creek and eventually San Francisquito Creek, which discharges into San Francisco Bay (USGS 1991)."[xvi]

"Bear Gulch Creek is mapped as a "blue line" stream in the USGS Woodside 7.5' topographic quadrangle (USGS 1991), and is mapped as an intermittent stream in the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD)(USGS 2019). The reach of Bear Gulch Creek on the study area is mapped as a Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland in the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) (USFWS 2019b). Bear Gulch Creek had ~3 to ~6 inches of flowing water at the time of the June 27, 2019 field visit.[xvii]

(a): The project involves installing a prefabricated equestrian bridge across Bear Gulch Creek. The project would be assembled on-site using primarily hand tools. A small bobcat may also be used. Project impacts related to the routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous materials are anticipated to be negligible. Construction projects, however, have some potential for affecting water quality. Implementation of ***Mitigation Measure HYDRO-1*** would ensure that any potentially significant impacts to water quality are reduced to a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation Measure HYDRO-1 (Water Quality): Implementation of Mitigation Measures AIR-1, BIO-1(c), GEO-2, and HAZ-1 would reduce potentially significant impacts to water quality to a less-than-significant level.

(b): Installation of the bridge foundations together would result in the addition of ~12 square feet of impervious surface. The project would not decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge, such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management. Impacts to groundwater would be negligible.

(c): The project would not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area. The project would introduce foundations of approximately 12 square feet of impervious surface. The new path segments would also introduce approximately 900 square feet (4-foot wide tread over a distance of ~225 feet) of semi-pervious crushed "blue stone" (three inches thick) as equestrian path material.

(c.i.): Project construction would have the potential to result in erosion or siltation on- or off-site. Implementation of ***Mitigation Measure GEO-1*** would ensure that potentially significant impacts related to the drainage pattern and erosion or siltation are reduced to less-than-significant levels.

(c.ii): The project would not result in a substantial increase in the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on-or off-site.

(c.iii): The project would not 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. The addition of ~12 square feet of impervious surface along the stream corridor would be negligible.

(c.iv): The project consists of a clear span bridge. All work would be conducted outside of the top of bank. The project would not impede or redirect flood flows.

(d): The proposed prefabricated equestrian bridge is a clear span bridge that would be located outside of the Flood Zone (**Figure 17**), according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps dated October 16, 2012 (Panel 06081C0292E).[xviii] It is within a 'Zone X' area, identified as having minimal flood hazard. The project is not located in a flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zone and therefore would not be subject to inundation beyond that related to high flows during wet weather periods, or be subject to risks associated with the release of pollutants due to project inundation. As described under (c) above, the project would not alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, or the course of Bear Gulch Creek. The project would not increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on– or off-site.

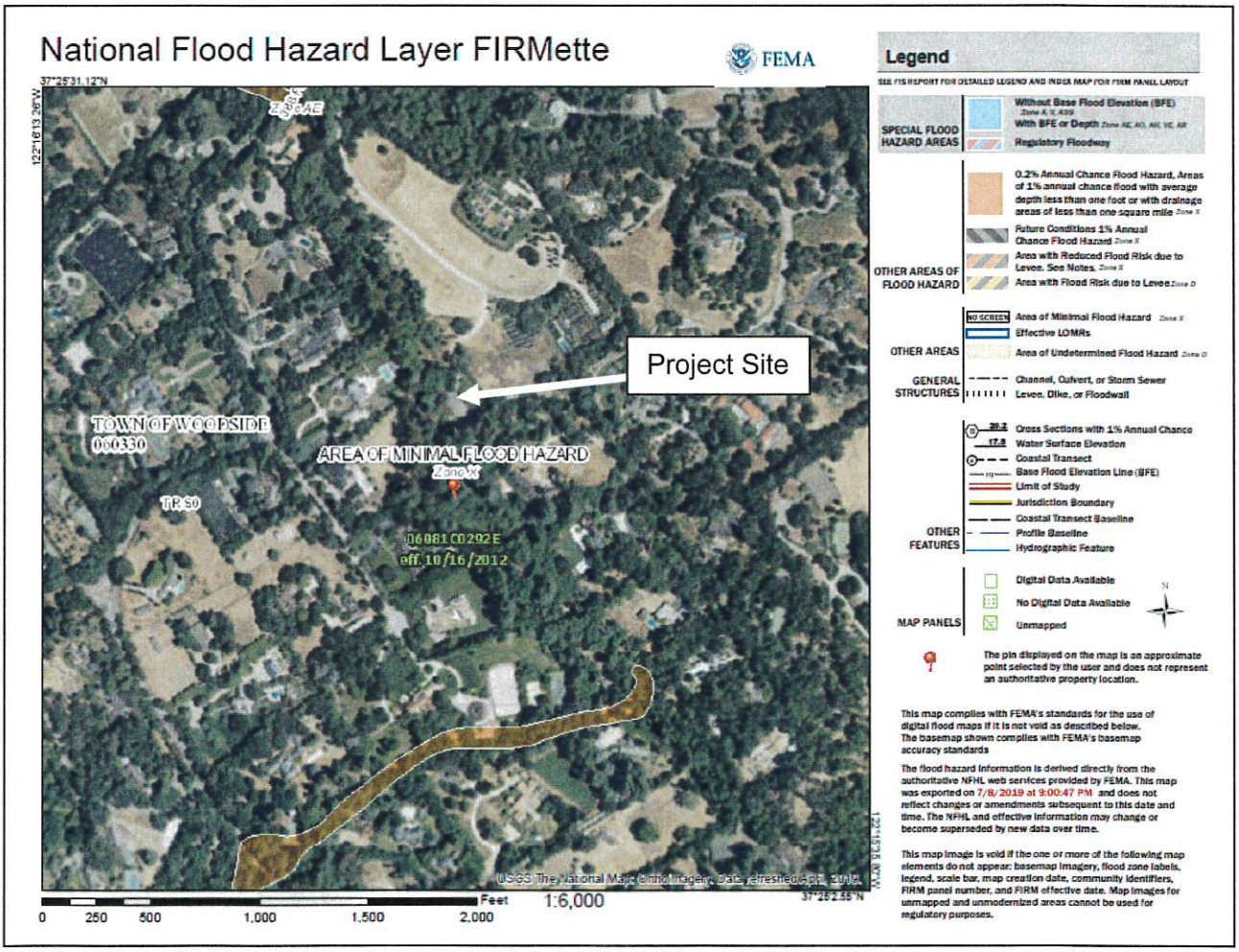

Figure 17. *The Flood Zone south of the Project Site.*

(e): The project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan. The project area is not subject to a groundwater management plan at this time. As a project that would be constructed entirely above the top-of-bank, it would not be subject to the jurisdiction of the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB).

(Source: Review of the Woodside Municipal Code, Woodside General Plan, Regional Water Quality Control Board website, FEMA website, Biological Resources Assessment discussion of Hydrology)

Upon implementation of the mitigation measures listed above in air quality, biological resources, geological resources, hazards and hazardous materials, and hydrology, the project would not result in any residual significant adverse effect on the environment related to hydrology and water quality.

ISSUES (AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCES)	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT UNLESS MITIGATION INCORPORATED	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	❑	❑	❑	■
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	❑	❑	❑	■

DISCUSSION:
The project involves installing a prefabricated equestrian bridge across Bear Gulch Creek and constructing new trail segments to connect the bridge to the existing Center Trail, to allow for the reopening of the trail.

(a): The project would not physically divide an established community. As a project that would allow for the reopening of the Center Trail, it would result in a beneficial impact by helping to reconnect an established community with an equestrian trail that has been used for more than 100 years.

(b): The project is located along Bear Gulch Creek, which runs along the rear of the Why Worry subdivision and residences located on Woodside Road. The residential area is designated as Residential / Environmentally Sensitive Area (R/ESA) on the Woodside General Plan land use diagram and is zoned Special Conservation Planning, 5-acre minimum (SCP-5). The project involves installing a prefabricated equestrian bridge and constructing new trail segments to connect the bridge with the existing Center Trail. The project is consistent with the purposes of the SCP-5 zoning district, by enhancing equestrian use of the residential properties, and connecting them with other parts of the Town of Woodside. The project would not conflict with any land use plan adopted to mitigate an environmental impact. It would implement a key project in the Town's Capital Improvement Plan.

(Source: Review of the Woodside Municipal Code and Woodside General Plan)

No mitigation is necessary or required.

ISSUES (AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCES)	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT UNLESS MITIGATION INCORPORATED	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
XII. MINERAL RESOURCES Would the project:				
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?	❑	❑	❑	■

DISCUSSION:
The project involves installing a prefabricated equestrian bridge across Bear Gulch Creek and constructing new trail segments to connect the bridge to the existing Center Trail, to allow for the reopening of the trail.

(a and b): The project would not involve the removal of any potential mineral resources in the area. There are no known mineral resources at the project site.

(Source: Review of the Woodside Municipal Code and Woodside General Plan)

No mitigation is necessary or required.

ISSUES (AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCES)	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT UNLESS MITIGATION INCORPORATED	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
XIII. NOISE Would the project result in:				
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	❑	■	❑	❑
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	❑	❑	■	❑
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	❑	❑	❑	■

DISCUSSION:
The project involves installing a prefabricated equestrian bridge across Bear Gulch Creek and constructing new trail segments to connect the bridge to the existing Center Trail, to allow for the reopening of the trail.

(a and b): The project would not result in a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies. Some noise may be audible during construction as the bridge is assembled over a two-week period at the project site, and the adjoining trail segments are constructed. Hand tools would be used for assembling the bridge. Chain saws would be used for the removal of three trees, and hand digging and possibly a small bob cat would be used for grading the new trail segments. Project construction would result in a temporary increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity for the duration of the project, which is anticipated to occur over a two-week period. During construction, some noise would occur, but the project would be limited by the current Woodside regulations. Implementation of ***Mitigation Measure NOISE-1*** would reduce potentially significant temporary construction impacts related to noise to a less-than-significant level:

Mitigation Measure NOISE- 1 (Construction Noise):

- ***Construction activities shall be limited to weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., and Saturdays between 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. No construction should take place on Sundays or holidays. At all times, broadcast, recorded, or amplified music is not allowed to be audible beyond the property lines of any construction site.***

- ***All construction equipment with internal combustion engines used on the project site shall be properly muffled and maintained in good working condition.***
- ***Unnecessary idling of internal combustion engines shall be strictly prohibited.***
- ***All stationary noise-generating construction equipment, such as air compressors and portable power generators, shall be located as far as possible from noise-sensitive receptors such as existing residences.***
- ***Prior to the issuance of a Building Permit, the project site shall be posted with the name and contact number of the lead contractor in a location visible from the public street so that the contractor can be made aware of noise complaints.***
- ***A Construction Staging Plan shall be submitted with a schedule that includes materials storage locations and parking.***

(c): The project is not located within the vicinity of an airport land use plan or within two miles of an airport. The project is not located within the vicinity of a private airstrip.

(Source: Review of the Woodside Municipal Code and Woodside General Plan)

Upon implementation of the mitigation measure listed above, the project would not result in any residual significant adverse effect on the environment related to noise.

ISSUES (AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCES)	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT UNLESS MITIGATION INCORPORATED	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING Would the project:				
a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	❑	❑	❑	■
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	❑	❑	❑	■

DISCUSSION:
The project involves installing a prefabricated equestrian bridge across Bear Gulch Creek and constructing new trail segments to connect the bridge to the existing Center Trail, to allow for the reopening of the trail.

(a to c): The project involves installing a prefabricated equestrian bridge across Bear Gulch Creek and constructing new trail segments to connect the bridge to the existing Center Trail. The project would not induce unplanned growth directly or indirectly. The project would not induce population growth, nor displace existing housing units or people.

(Source: Review of the Woodside Municipal Code and Woodside General Plan)

No mitigation is necessary or required.

ISSUES (AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCES)	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT UNLESS MITIGATION INCORPORATED	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
XV. PUBLIC SERVICES Would the project:				
a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
Fire protection?	❑	❑	❑	■
Police protection?	❑	❑	❑	■
Schools?	❑	❑	❑	■
Parks?	❑	❑	❑	■
Other public facilities?	❑	❑	❑	■

DISCUSSION:
The project involves installing a prefabricated equestrian bridge across Bear Gulch Creek and constructing new trail segments to connect the bridge to the existing Center Trail, to allow for the reopening of the trail.

(a): The project involves installing a prefabricated equestrian bridge across Bear Gulch Creek and constructing new trail segments to connect the bridge to the existing Center Trail. The project would be used exclusively by equestrians, in accordance with the Equestrian Use Agreement and Easements. The project would not involve the need for any public services beyond what is already provided and available to the residential neighborhoods in the project vicinity. Construction of the proposed project would not change the level of demand from what is currently required by the project site. The project would therefore not result in any changes to existing services or require additional public services.

(Source: Review of the Woodside Municipal Code and Woodside General Plan)

No mitigation is necessary or required.

ISSUES (AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCES)	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT UNLESS MITIGATION INCORPORATED	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
XVI. RECREATION				
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	❑	❑	❑	■
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	❑	❑	❑	■

DISCUSSION:
The project involves installing a prefabricated equestrian bridge across Bear Gulch Creek and constructing new trail segments to connect the bridge to the existing Center Trail, to allow for the reopening of the trail.

(a and b): The project involves installing a prefabricated equestrian bridge across Bear Gulch Creek and constructing new trail segments to connect the bridge to the existing Center Trail, to allow for the reopening of the trail. The project would not result in changes to the existing level of demand for recreation facilities. The Center Trail was used for more than 100 years before the most recent washout and trail closure. The project would result in the reopening of this trail to again allow for this use. The project would not increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities, such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated. The project would not result in recreation-related impacts.

(Source: Review of the Woodside Municipal Code and Woodside General Plan)

No mitigation is necessary or required.

ISSUES (AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCES)	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT UNLESS MITIGATION INCORPORATED	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
XVII. TRANSPORTATION Would the project:				
a) Conflict with a plan, ordinance, or policy the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	❑	❑	❑	■
b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines § 15064.3 (b)?	❑	❑	❑	■
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	❑	❑	❑	■
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	❑	❑	❑	■

DISCUSSION:
The project involves installing a prefabricated equestrian bridge across Bear Gulch Creek and constructing new trail segments to connect the bridge to the existing Center Trail, to allow for the reopening of the trail.

(a-c): Installing the prefabricated bridge and adjoining trail segments would allow for the reopening of the Center Trail. The Center Trail allows equestrians to travel from the north at Woodside Road, south to Portola Road. The Center Trail is one of the most important equestrian routes through the community and allows equestrians to travel directly from their residences to many places in Woodside without the need to trailer their horses. The trail would therefore result in at least a slight decrease in vehicle miles traveled (VMT) on existing roads. The project would not result in changes to parking capacity, or air traffic patterns, or the circulation system. No new traffic generation would occur as a result of the project. The project would not conflict with adopted policies, plans or programs regarding public transit, bicycle or pedestrian facilities.

(d): The project would not result in adverse impacts to emergency access. Impacts related to emergency access would be beneficial, as equestrians would have an additional route for moving their horses in the event of a wildland fire, earthquake or other emergency.

(Source: Review of the Woodside Municipal Code and Woodside General Plan)

No mitigation is necessary or required.

ISSUES (AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCES)	POTENTIALLY SIGNFICANT IMPACT	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT UNLESS MITIGATION IS INCORPORATED	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES Would the project:				
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 that is:				
a) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or	❑	❑	■	❑
b) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	❑	■	❑	❑

DISCUSSION:
The project involves installing a prefabricated equestrian bridge across Bear Gulch Creek and constructing new trail segments to connect the bridge to the existing Center Trail, to allow for the reopening of the trail.

(a): No tribal cultural resources that are listed, eligible for listing, or are within a local register of historical resources, are located at the project site.

(b): The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) provided a list of Native American Tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with lands in the project area and completed a Sacred Land File search (**Attachment 5**). The NAHS does not indicate the presence of known resources. The results of the Sacred Land File (SLF) check conducted through the NAHC was negative. While the Town has not been contacted

by any local tribe representative for formal consultation, the CHRIS search indicated that one cultural resource study was conducted that covers approximately 50% of the Center Trail Bridge project area (Jones 2006:S-31608). According to the study, the project area contains no recorded archaeological resources, but the author noted the presence of burned rocks in close proximity to the project area. There are no Native American resources in or adjacent to the proposed project area referenced in the ethnographic literature. "Based on an evaluation of the environmental setting and features associated with known sites, Native American resources in this part of San Mateo County have been found in areas adjacent to intermittent and perennial watercourses, and on ridges, midslope benches, in valleys, and near ecotones. The Center Trail Bridge project area contains valley lands on both sides of Bear Gulch Creek. Given the similarity of one or more of these environmental factors and the noted burned rock in close proximity to the project area, there is a high potential for unrecorded Native American resources in the proposed Center Trail Bridge project area."[xix] (**Attachment 4**). Implementation of ***Mitigation Measures TRIBAL CULTURAL-1, TRIBAL CULTURAL-2, TRIBAL CULTURAL-3*** **and** ***TRIBAL CULTURAL-4*** would ensure proper care is taken with any tribal cultural resources that may be found during project construction, to reduce potentially significant impacts to a less-than-significant level.

Mitigation Measure TRIBAL CULTURAL-1 (Culturally Affiliated Native American Monitor During Ground Disturbance): A culturally affiliated Native American with knowledge of cultural resources shall monitor all ground-disturbing activities.

Mitigation Measure TRIBAL CULTURAL-2 (Ground Disturbance): Planning for construction shall include avoidance of any encountered resources and protection of the cultural and natural context. Native American resources include, but are not limited to: chert or obsidian flakes, projectile points, mortars, and pestles; and dark friable soil containing shell and bone dietary debris, heat-affected rock, or human remains.

Mitigation Measure TRIBAL CULTURAL-3 (Disposition of Recovered Cultural Items): Any resource encountered shall require stopping of construction to consult with any Native American tribe culturally affiliated with the area for recommendations to appropriately care for the discovered resources. Any resource encountered shall be treated with culturally appropriate dignity, taking into account the tribal cultural values and meaning of the resource, including, but not limited to:

- ***Protecting the cultural character and integrity of the resource;***
- ***Protecting the traditional use of the resource; and,***
- ***Protecting the confidentiality of the resource.***

Mitigation Measure TRIBAL CULTURAL-4 (Inadvertently Discovered Native American Human Remains): Any Native American human remains and associated grave artifacts shall be repatriated in consultation with any Native American tribe culturally affiliated with the area. The process outlined below shall be followed to be consistent California Health and Safety Code §7050.5 and Public Resources Code §5097.98:

Specifically, there shall be no further excavation or disturbance of the site or any nearby area reasonably suspected to overlie adjacent remains until the corner of the county in which the human remains are discovered has been determined and that the remains are not subject to the provisions of Section 27491 of the Government Code or another related provision of law concerning investigation of the circumstances, manner or cause of any death, and the recommendations concerning the treatment and disposition of the human remains have been made to the person responsible for the excavation or to his or her authorized representative (Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5).

The coroner shall make his or her determination within two working days from the time the person responsible for the excavation, or his or her authorized representative, notifies the coroner of the discovery or recognition of the human remains.

If the coroner determines that the remains are not subject to his or her authority and if the coroner recognizes the human remains to be those of a Native American, or has reason to believe that they are those of a Native American, he or she shall contact, by telephone within 24 hours, the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC).

(a) Whenever the NAHC receives notification of a discovery of Native American human remains from a county coroner, pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5(c), it shall immediately notify those persons it believes to be most likely descended from the deceased Native American (Most Likely Descendant (MLD)). The descendants may, with the permission of the owner of the land, or his or her authorized representative, inspect the site of the discovery of the Native American human remains and may recommend to the owner, or the person responsible for the excavation work, means for treatment or disposition, with appropriate dignity of the human remains and any associated grave goods. The descendants shall complete their inspection and make recommendations or preferences for treatment within 48 hours of being granted access to the site (Public Resources Code Section 5097.98).

(b) Upon the discovery of Native American remains, the landowner shall ensure that the immediate vicinity, according to generally accepted cultural or archaeological standards or practices, where the Native American human remains are located, is not damaged or disturbed by further development activity until the landowner has discussed and conferred, as prescribed in this section, with the most likely descendants regarding their recommendations, if applicable, taking into account the possibility of multiple human remains. The landowner shall discuss and confer with the descendants all reasonable options regarding the descendants' preferences for treatment.

1. ***The descendants' preferences for treatment may include the following:***
   - ***A. The nondestructive removal and analysis of human remains, and items associated with Native American human remains.***
   - ***B. Preservation of Native American human remains and associated items in place.***
   - ***C. Relinquishment of Native American human remains and associated items to the descendants for treatment.***
   - ***D. Other culturally appropriate treatment.***

2. ***The parties may also mutually agree to extend discussions, taking into account the possibility that additional or multiple Native American human remains, as defined in this section, are located in the project area, providing a basis for additional treatment measures.***

(c) For purposes of this section, "conferral" or "discuss and confer" means the meaningful and timely discussion and careful consideration of the views of each party, in a manner that is cognizant of all parties' cultural values, and where feasible, seeking agreement. Each party shall recognize the other's needs and concerns for confidentiality of information provided to the other.

(d) Human remains of a Native American may be an inhumation or cremation, and in any state of decomposition or skeletal completeness. Any items associated with human remains that are placed or buried with the Native American human remains are to be treated in the same manner as the remains, but do not by themselves constitute human remains.

(e) Whenever the NAHC is unable to identify a descendent, or the descendants identified fail to make a recommendation, or the landowner or his or her authorized representative rejects the recommendations of the descendants and the mediation provided for (in subdivision (k) of Section 5097.94) fails to provide measures acceptable to the landowner, the landowner or his or her authorized representative shall reinter the human remains and items associated with the Native American human remains with appropriate dignity on the property in a location not subject to further and future subsurface disturbance. To protect these sites, the landowner should do one or more of the following:

1. ***Record the site with the NAHC or the appropriate information Center.***
2. ***Utilize an open-space or conservation zoning designation or easement.***
3. ***Record a document with the County in which the property is located. The document shall be titled "Notice of Reinternment of Native American Remains" and shall include a legal description of the property, the name of the owner of the property, and the owner's acknowledged signature, in addition to any other information required by this section. The document shall be indexed as a notice under the name of the owner.***

(f) Upon the discovery of multiple Native American human remains during a ground disturbing land development activity, the landowner may agree that additional conferral with the descendants is necessary to consider culturally appropriate treatment of multiple Native American human remains. Culturally appropriate treatment of the discovery may be ascertained from a review of the site utilizing cultural and archeological standards. Where the parties are unable to agree on the appropriate treatment measures, the human remains and items associated and buried with Native American human remains shall be reinterred with appropriate dignity, pursuant to subdivision (e).

(g) Measures taken to address human remains found would be exempt from review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

(Source: Review of the Woodside Municipal Code and Woodside General Plan, California Historical Resources Information Service, Native American Heritage Commission)

Upon implementation of the mitigation measures listed above, the project would not result in any residual significant adverse effect on the environment related to Tribal Cultural Resources.

ISSUES (AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCES)	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT UNLESS MITIGATION INCORPORATED	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
XVIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS Would the project:				
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	❑	❑	❑	■
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	❑	❑	❑	■
c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	❑	❑	❑	■
d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	❑	❑	❑	■
e) Comply with federal, State, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	❑	❑	❑	■

DISCUSSION:
The project involves installing a prefabricated equestrian bridge across Bear Gulch Creek and constructing new trail segments to connect the bridge to the existing Center Trail, to allow for the reopening of the trail.

(a): The project would not require wastewater treatment facilities and therefore would not exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the Regional Water Quality Control Board. It would not result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or the expansion of existing facilities. The project would not require or result in the construction of new storm water drainage facilities or the expansion of existing facilities. The project would not affect electric power, natural gas, or

telecommunications facilities, the construction of which could cause significant impacts. The project would not require a source of energy over the long-term.

(b): Water service in the project area is provided by the California Water Service (Cal Water). As an equestrian bridge project, water service is not needed for the project site. The project would not affect the existing water service or result in the need for additional service.

(c): The project is located within the Bear Gulch Stream Corridor. No sewer or septic service is required for the project. As a bridge repair project, it would not have any effect on sewer service.

(d and e): Solid waste disposal in the Town of Woodside is provided by GreenWaste Recovery. The project would result in negligible solid waste disposal during the construction period. The project would comply with regulations regarding solid waste.

(Source: Review of the Woodside Municipal Code and Woodside General Plan)

No mitigation is necessary or required.

ISSUES (AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCES)	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT UNLESS MITIGATION INCORPORATED	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
XX. WILDFIRE. If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:				
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	❑	❑	❑	■
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	❑	❑	❑	■
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	❑	❑	❑	■
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability or drainage changes?	❑	❑	❑	■

DISCUSSION:
The project involves installing a prefabricated equestrian bridge across Bear Gulch Creek and constructing new trail segments to connect the bridge to the existing Center Trail, to allow for the reopening of the trail.

(a): The project would not result in adverse impacts to emergency access. Impacts related to emergency access would be beneficial, as equestrians would have an additional route for moving their horses in the event of a wildland fire or other emergency.

(b): The project would not have the potential to expose people to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or uncontrolled spread of a wildfire, as a result of slope, prevailing winds or other factors that might exacerbate wildfires.

(c): The project would not require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water resources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment. Impacts related to emergency access during a wildfire or other emergency would be beneficial, as equestrians would have an additional route for moving their horses to other parts of the Town, without the need to travel on local roads that may be congested evacuation routes.

(d): The project would not expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability or drainage changes.

(Source: Review of the Woodside Municipal Code and Woodside General Plan)

No mitigation is necessary or required.

ISSUES (AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCES)	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT UNLESS MITIGATION INCORPORATED	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE				
a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	❑	■	❑	❑
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)	❑	❑	❑	■
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	❑	❑	❑	■

DISCUSSION:
(a): With implementation of identified mitigation measures, the project would not result in significant adverse impacts to the environment. All potential impacts have been reduced to a less-than-significant level with the identified mitigation measures.

(b to c): The project would not result in cumulative impacts or impacts that would degrade the quality of the environment or cause adverse effects on human beings.

ISSUES (AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION SOURCES)	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACT UNLESS MITIGATION INCORPORATED	LESS THAN SIGNIFICANT IMPACT	NO IMPACT
XXII. EARLIER ANALYSES Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, one or more effects have been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or Negative Declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a discussion should identify the following on attached sheets:				
a) Earlier analyses used. Identify earlier analyses and state where they are available for review.	❑	❑	❑	■
b) Impacts inadequately addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.	❑	❑	❑	■
c) Mitigation measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.	❑	❑	❑	■

DISCUSSION:

No earlier environmental analyses were reviewed for the preparation of this Mitigated Negative Declaration. Woodside Town staff provided an independent environmental analysis based on the proposed project.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Use Permit Application, submitted June 25, 2019
2. Prefabricated Bridge Specifications, Allowable Stress Design (ASD), Town of Woodside Equestrian Bridge
3. Biological Resources Assessment, prepared by Coast Range Biological LLC, with Biosearch Environmental Consulting, July 2019
4. California Historical Resources Information System, letter of July 10, 2019
5. Native American Heritage Commission, Letter dated July 8, 2019

Town of Woodside Municipal Code and Woodside General Plan can be found online at www.woodsidetown.org.

---

[i] Biological Resources Assessment, Coast Range Biological, LLC, July 2019, p. 5.
[ii] Biological Resources Assessment, Coast Range Biological, LLC, July 2019, p. 5.
[iii] Biological Resources Assessment, Coast Range Biological, LLC, July 2019, p. 6.
[iv] Biological Resources Assessment, Coast Range Biological, LLC, July 2019, p. 7.
[v] Biological Resources Assessment, Coast Range Biological, LLC, July 2019, pp. 7-9.
[vi] Biological Resources Assessment, Coast Range Biological, LLC, July 2019, p. 9-10.
[vii] Biological Resources Assessment, Coast Range Biological, LLC, July 2019, p. 11.
[viii] Biological Resources Assessment, Coast Range Biological, LLC, July 2019, p. 11.
[ix] Biological Resources Assessment, Coast Range Biological, LLC, July 2019, pp. 14-15.
[x] Biological Resources Assessment, Coast Range Biological, LLC, July 2019, pp. 15-16.
[xi] Biological Resources Assessment, Coast Range Biological, LLC, July 2019, p. 17.
[xii] Biological Resources Assessment, Coast Range Biological, LLC, July 2019, p. 1.
[xiii] Biological Resources Assessment, Coast Range Biological, LLC, July 2019, p. 6.
[xiv] Biological Resources Assessment, Coast Range Biological, LLC, July 2019, p. 6.
[xv] Department of Toxic Substance, Hazardous Waste and Substances Site, accessed July 11, 2019. (http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/SiteCleanup/Cortese_List.cfm) Waterboard Geo-tracker, accessed July 11, 2019; (https://geotracker.waterboards.ca.gov/map/?global_id=T10000011034)
[xvi] Biological Resources Assessment, Coast Range Biological, LLC, July 2019, p. 7.
[xvii] Biological Resources Assessment, Coast Range Biological LLC, July 2019, p. 7.
[xviii] FEMA Flood Zone Mapping, accessed July 8, 2019.
[xix] California Historical Resources Information System, July 10, 2019, p. 1-2.