

**Initial Study &  
Draft Negative Declaration**

**For**

Carlson Park Improvement Project

Prepared by the:



**August 2019**

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**INITIAL STUDY and DRAFT MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

**PROJECT:** Carlson Park  
**LEAD AGENCY:** City of Arcata  
736 F Street  
Arcata, CA 95521

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**PROJECT LOCATION:** Arcata, Humboldt County, CA

**PROPERTY OWNERS:** City of Arcata

**GENERAL PLAN DESIGNATION:** Natural Resource (507-141-050), Public Facility (507-531-012)

**ZONING DESIGNATION:** Natural Resource – Public Trust (507-141-050), Public Facility (507-531-012)

**ASSESSOR PARCEL NUMBER:** 507-141-050, 507-531-012, APN 507-131-091

**ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING AND SURROUNDING LAND USES**

The project site resides in the community of Valley West and is located on the north side of Giuntoli Lane, approximately 500 feet north from the intersection of Giuntoli Lane/Carlson Park Drive. It is generally bounded on the north by Mad River and on the south by Mad River Parkway East. The site is approximately 20 acres in size. Of that, approximately 4.5 acres is river bed, 9.75 acres is riparian corridor, and 5.75 is upland. The site is comprised of two parcels: 507-141-050 and 507-531-012. Caltrans purchased Parcel (507-141-050) for off-site riparian wetland habitat mitigation. In 2017, the City of Arcata acquired the parcel to provide public access to the Mad River and support outdoor recreational opportunities that are consistent with protecting the site’s riparian habitat. The portion of the site that was used by Caltrans for mitigation is restricted to passive recreation that will not negatively impact habitat. Parcel (507-531-012) is also owned by the City and does not have development restrictions.

The area surrounding the proposed project site includes mixed land use of residential, commercial, industrial, public facility, and agriculture/natural resource (open space). The dominant feature of the built environment is the Valley West / Giuntoli Lane Neighborhood Center. The neighborhood center is in the northernmost part of the City, east of State Route 101, west of State Route 299, and south of the Mad River. Existing land uses include a shopping center, commercial areas along Valley West Boulevard, a mix of residential, commercial and industrial businesses along Giuntoli Lane, and surrounding residential areas. The residential uses are a mix of apartments, condominiums, mobile homes and some single family homes.

The Mad River, including the active channel, floodway, and associated riparian forest dominates the northerly portion of project area. The southeastern portion of the project area is undeveloped and is predominantly disturbed grassland and gravel. Land uses north of the project site are all located in the County of Humboldt and include agricultural and natural resource open space.

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

The City of Arcata proposes to develop new park facilities at Carlson Park in the neighborhood of Valley West. Carlson Park is approximately 20-acres; approximately 4.5 acres is comprised of the Mad River, 9.75 is riparian corridor, and 5.75 is upland. The riparian corridor and upland areas include unsanctioned trails used for passive recreational access to the Mad River. While the majority of the property is restricted to habitat protection uses, the development of non-motorized trails is allowed within the riparian corridor, and 1.8 acres on the south east corner of the site can be developed for other recreational uses. The Carlson Park Improvement Project aims to add active recreation facilities including a playground, improved trails to the river and an ADA river lookout trail, a multiuse court, seating for family gatherings or small events, and a small parking lot with a restroom. The Carlson Park Improvement Project will connect the active park area to the existing Mad River riparian natural area with improved trails for non-motorized boating, fishing, and water access.

In addition to improvements located on City-owned property, the project will also include acquisition of an approximately 0.66-acre river access point on the adjacent parcel (APN 507-131-091) currently owned by Eureka Ready Mix. Acquisition will be through either a public access easement or by fee title purchase. Development of this area include construction of a trail leading down to the river bar on an approximately 0.66-acre area.

## **PROJECT ELEMENTS**

The design of the park includes a number of elements connected by a trail system. These elements include:

- **Multiuse Court Area.** A multi-use court area is proposed in the southeastern portion of subject parcel (-050). The multi-use court area will be connected to the parking area via an ADA accessible pathway.
- **Natural Area.** The majority of subject parcel (-050) will be maintained as a natural area to provide habitat and environmental educational values. A trail network is proposed to provide access throughout the area as well as to provide water access to the Mad River.

Invasive plants will be removed and areas revegetated with native riparian species where appropriate.

- **Picnic Area.** A small picnic area with approximately four picnic tables is proposed in the southern portion of subject parcel (-012). The space is located on the northern side of the proposed playground and will also accommodate a group picnic.
- **Playground.** A playground area for children is proposed in the southern portion of subject parcel (-012). The proposed playground will be surrounded by benches, a drinking fountain, and trash and recycling receptacles. The playground area will be connected to the parking area via an ADA accessible pathway.
- **Parking Area.** A paved parking area will be constructed along the end of Carlson Park Drive on subject parcel (-050) to accommodate approximately 15 parking spaces, including at least one ADA parking space. This parking area will provide parking for park visitors and will include landscaping, a bike rack, trash and recycling receptacles, a drinking fountain, and a small restroom with vault toilets.
- **Special Event Access Area.** A gated entry city maintenance vehicle and special event access area (paved) is proposed in the south eastern portion of subject parcel (-012). The area will be accessible via a driveway on Mad River Parkway East.
- **Temporary Non-Motorized Boat Launch.** A temporary, seasonal non-motorized boat launch will be installed during the summer low-flow periods to facilitate non-motorized boating access during the summer months. IT will

To construct park elements, some minor grading will be required. The upland area of the site is relatively flat (slopes less than 10%) requiring minimal grading for construction of the parking lot, multiuse court, and playground. A variety of construction equipment may be used for construction within upland areas, including but not limited to backhoes, dump trucks, front end loaders, generators, asphalt pavers, and rollers. Trail construction within the riparian corridor will be primarily using hand tools and some small mechanized equipment such as chainsaws, vibraplate, skid steer, or mini excavator, as needed.

## **PUBLIC AGENCIES WITH JURISDICTIONAL AUTHORITY**

The City of Arcata is the CEQA lead agency for the proposed project.

The following agencies have permit jurisdiction:

- City of Arcata

The following agencies are CEQA responsible or trustee agencies and/or endangered species consultation agencies:

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)
- North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board
- North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District
- Humboldt County

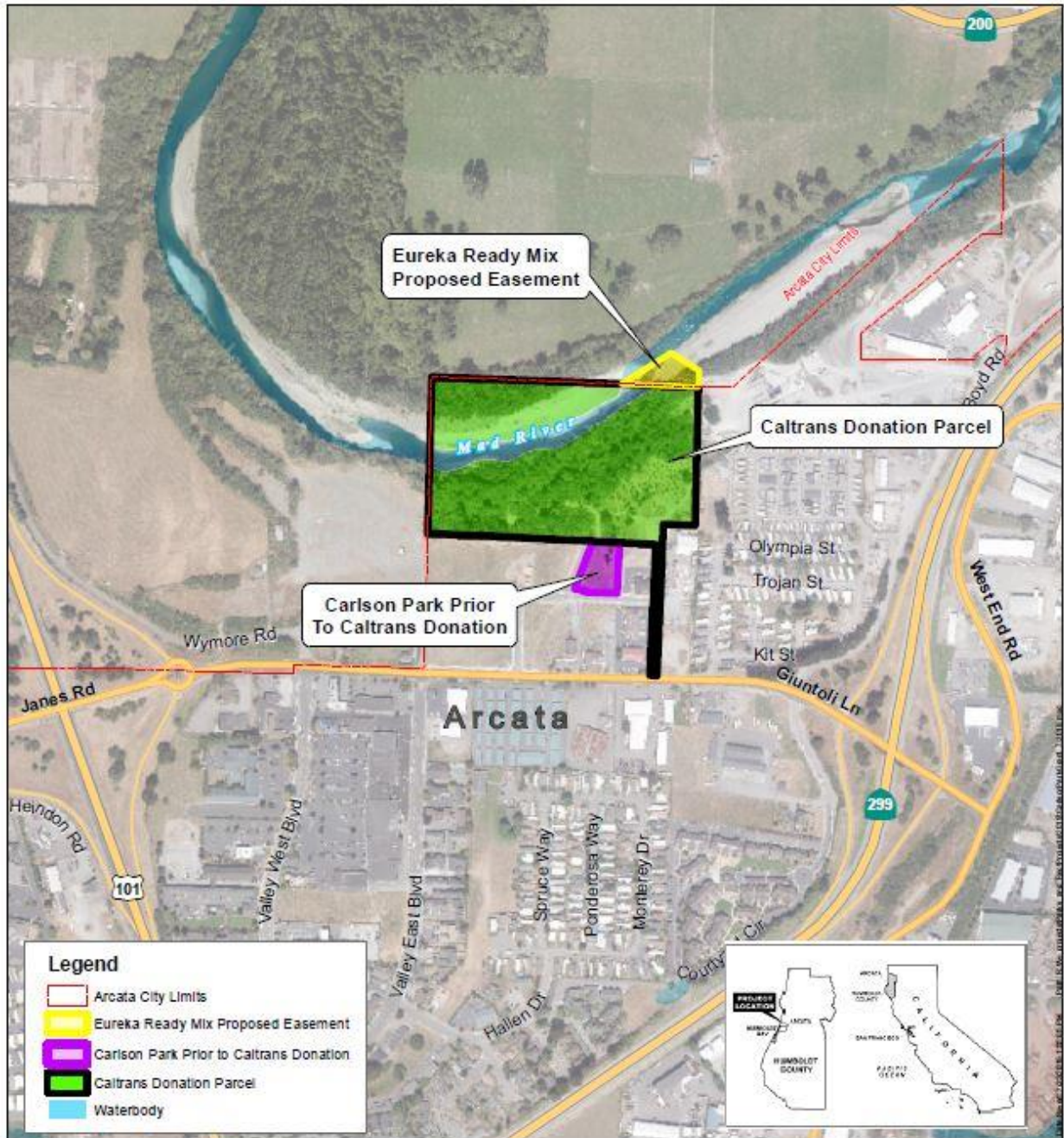


Figure 1 - Carlson Park Vicinity Map



Figure 2- Project Site Plan



**ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:**

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project. Please see the checklist beginning on page 3 for additional information.

|                                     |                            |                                     |                          |                                     |                                    |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Aesthetics                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Agriculture and Forestry | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Air Quality                        |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Biological Resources       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Cultural Resources       | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Energy                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Geology/Soils              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Greenhouse Gas Emissions | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Hazards and Hazardous Materials    |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Hydrology/Water Quality    | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Land Use/ Planning       | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Mineral Resources                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Noise                      | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Population / Housing     | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Public Services                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Recreation                 | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Transportation           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Tribal Cultural Resources          |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Utilities/ Service Systems | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Wildfire                 | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Mandatory Findings of Significance |

**DETERMINATION:** On the basis of this initial evaluation:

|                                 |  |                            |  |
|---------------------------------|--|----------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/>        | I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.  |                            |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>        | 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.   |                            |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>        | I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.   |                            |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>        | 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. |                            |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>        | 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                                    |                            |  |
| <b>Signature:</b>               |  | <b>Date:</b>               |  |
| <b>Printed Name:</b> David Loya |  | <b>For:</b> City of Arcata |  |

## 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, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. “Potentially Significant Impact” is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more “Potentially Significant Impact” entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
4. “Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated” applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from “Potentially Significant Impact” to a “Less Than Significant Impact.” The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level.
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 Analyses 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  | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|--|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>AESTHETICS:</b> Would the project:  |                                |  |                              |           |
| a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?  |                                |  |                              | X         |
| b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?   |                                |  |                              | X         |
| c) In nonurbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality? |                                |  | X                            |           |
| d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?  |                                |  | X                            |           |

**Discussion:**

a) **No Impact.** The project site is not located within an area designated as a scenic vista by the City of Arcata or State of California. The project site is relatively flat and the surrounding area is developed with residential and commercial/light industrial land uses allowing for limited views of the surrounding landscape.

Construction activities will be visible from adjacent uses and public roadways. However, the equipment required for construction will only be visible temporarily, during project construction. Upon completion, project elements would be at grade or low-standing. Therefore, there are no impacts to scenic vistas.

b) **No Impact** The project site is not located within the vicinity of a State Scenic Highway nor is it located near any rock outcroppings or historic buildings. Elements of the proposed project could require the removal of existing trees in the south eastern portion of subject parcel (-050). The site is wooded with numerous trees so that the removal of a few trees, which are of small diameter will not impact the visual character of the site or views to it. As part of the proposed project, the City will plant trees and install additional landscaping. Therefore, no impacts to

scenic resources within a State Scenic Highway would occur with implementation of the proposed project.

c) **Less Than Significant.** The project site is located in an area developed with residential, industrial, and commercial land uses. Implementation of the proposed project will provide a needed park to this community. The proposed project will not substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings. Implementation of the proposed project will construct new facilities (e.g. playground, multi-use court, trails, and a parking lot). These features will be at-grade or low-standing (less than ten feet). For the reasons described above, impacts to the existing visual character or quality of the site and will not conflict with applicable zoning. The impact is less than significant.

d) **Less Than Significant.** The project site is located in a developed area. Streetlights, vehicle head and tail lights on area roadways, and lighting associated with adjacent development are the existing sources of light and glare in the project area. The proposed project involves construction of a neighborhood park that will not be open at night. Similar to other City parks, the proposed project will be closed to the public from dusk until dawn. As part of the proposed project, a minimum amount of security/safety lighting will be installed near developed areas of the park. Lighting will consist of pole mounted light fixtures for the proposed parking area. Light levels will be sufficient to provide security/safety, but are not intended to promote use of the park after the park is closed. The City of Arcata Zoning Ordinance (Section 9.30.070) requires that all safety and security lighting and illuminated signs shall be effectively shielded to prevent beams or rays of light from being directed on the main travel way of any highway, street, road, or residence. Pursuant to the same section of the Zoning Ordinance, lighting will also be dark sky-compliant and directed away from the adjoining riparian area (Mad River) located to the north of the project. The impact is less than significant.

| Issues and Supporting Information  | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|--|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES:</b> 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? |                                |  |                              | X         |
| b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?   |                                |  | X                            |           |
| c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined  |                                |  | X                            |           |

|   |  |  |  |   |
|---|--|--|--|---|
| in Public Resources Code section 12220(g), timberland (as defined by PRC section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?                         |  |  |  |   |
| d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?  |  |  |  | X |
| e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forestland to non-forest use? |  |  |  | X |

**Discussion:**

a) **No Impact.** Maps prepared pursuant to the State’s Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program include Humboldt County as an “Area Not Mapped” and therefore do not categorize the project site as any type of recognized Farmland (California Department of Conservation 2019). The project will not convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance to a non-agricultural use. No impact will occur.

b) & c) **Less than Significant.** The majority of the project site is currently zoned Public Facility (-012) and Natural Resource – Public Trust (-050). APN 507-131-091 is zoned for Agriculture Exclusive Use, and a portion of it includes the area sited for trail development and river access. However, the parcel is currently a gravel mining operation and is not being used for agriculture. Furthermore, development of a trail and access to the river is located on a portion of the parcel that is unsuitable for agriculture and will not preclude the use of the rest of the parcel for agriculture should it be used for agriculture in the future. No Williamson Act contracts are in place on or near the project sites. The project will not conflict with agricultural or forest land zoning or Williamson Act contracts. A less than significant impact will occur.

d) & e) **No Impact.** No forest land or timberland exists at the project sites. The project will not result in the loss or conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use. No impact will occur.

| Issues and Supporting Information   | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>AIR QUALITY:</b> 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: |                                |  |                              |           |

| Issues and Supporting Information   | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-----------|
| a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?   |                                |  | X                            |           |
| 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? |                                |  | X                            |           |
| c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?  |                                |  | X                            |           |
| d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?   |                                |  | X                            |           |

**Discussion:**

The proposed project is located within the North Coast Air Basin (NCAB) which is under the jurisdiction of the North Coast Unified Air Quality Management District (NCUAQMD). The NCAB is comprised of three air districts, the NCUAQMD, the Mendocino County AQMD, and the Northern Sonoma County APCD. The NCUAQMD includes Del Norte, Humboldt, and Trinity Counties; the Mendocino County AQMD consists of Mendocino County; and the Northern Sonoma County APCD comprises the northern portion of Sonoma County.

Currently, the NCAB meets all federal air quality standards with the exception of the state 24-hour particulate PM10 standard. The NCAB is also designated as unclassified for the state annual PM2.5 standard because available data is insufficient to support designation as attainment or non-attainment. Primary sources of particulate matter in the area include on-road vehicles, open burning of vegetation, residential wood stoves, and stationary industrial source.

a) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The air quality plan applicable to the project area is the NCUAQMD Particulate Matter Attainment Plan, which was adopted in 1995. This plan presents available information about the nature and causes of PM10 standard exceedance and identifies cost-effective control measures to reduce PM10 emissions to levels necessary to meet California Ambient Air Quality Standards. The Humboldt County General Plan calls for the County to coordinate with the NCUAQMD, which has the primary role in achieving air quality goals.

The project may generate a minor amount of particulate emissions over the duration of construction in the form of dust and vehicle emissions as a result of grading, paving, and other construction activities. The project will not cause any long term increase in the emission of particulate matter or other air pollutants. The project site is relatively flat, thus grading is anticipated to be minimal. Nonetheless, to reduce potential impacts to air quality, standard construction Best Management Practices (BMPs), including several measures that will

substantially reduce dust and other air pollutants during the construction period will be employed. Construction activities will not obstruct implementation of the NCUAQMD particulate matter attainment plan. The project will also be consistent with applicable General Plan policies related to air resources and will reduce this impact to less than significant.

b) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The only pollutant for which the region is non-attainment is PM10. Project construction may cause minor and short term production of PM10 however will not significantly increase levels. With implementation of standard construction BMPs, the project will result in a less than significant cumulative impact to air quality from criteria air pollutants and precursor emissions.

c) **Less Than Significant Impact.** The generation of fugitive dust and carbon monoxide exhaust during construction will be short-term and temporary. BMPs to control dust will reduce the exposure to sensitive receptors nearby to less than significant.

d) **Less Than Significant Impact.** During construction the various diesel-powered vehicles and equipment could create localized odors. Additionally, some materials used during construction, such as asphalt and concrete, may create objectionable localized odors. These odors will be temporary and not likely to be noticeable for extended periods of time beyond the construction zone due to atmospheric dissipation. The impact is less than significant.

| Issues and Supporting Information  | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|--|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES:</b> 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 Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service? |                                |  | X                            |           |
| b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?   |                                |  | X                            |           |

|  |  |  |   |   |
|--|--|--|---|---|
| c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means? |  |  | X |   |
| 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?                                   |  |  | X |   |
| e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?  |  |  | X |   |
| 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?   |  |  |   | X |

**Discussion:**

The project site includes a portion of the Mad River and adjacent riparian habitat. The site is located in the Arcata North Geological Survey (USGS) quadrangle. A California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) record search was conducted for this USGS Quadrangle in June, 2019. Lists of the endangered and threatened species on the United States Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) Arcata Field Office website were reviewed, and a USFWS Information for Planning and Consultation (IPAC) Species Mapper list was generated.

a) **Less than Significant** . Based on the review of the above referenced data sources, the Table BIO-1 lists the plant and animal species potentially present at the project site. While no special-status species have been observed on the project site, suitable habitat is present within the project area. Table BIO-2 provides sensitive species that were listed in on one or more of the above reference data sources, however for which there is no suitable habitat within the project area, low potential for presence and/or will be no impact.



| <b>Table BIO-1: Special Status Species That May be Present</b>   |                             |   |
|--|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Scientific Name</b>   | <b>Common Name</b>          | <b>Status</b>   |
| <b>Amphibians</b>  |                             |   |
| <i>Rana aurora</i>   | northern red-legged frog    | SSC   |
| <i>Rana boylei</i>   | foothill yellow-legged frog | SSC   |
| <b>Birds</b>   |                             |   |
| <i>Ardea herodias</i>  | great blue heron            | SSC   |
| <b>Fish</b>  |                             |   |
| <i>Entosphenus tridentatus</i>   | Pacific lamprey             | SSC   |
| <i>Oncorhynchus clarkii clarkii</i>  | coast cutthroat trout       | SSC   |
| <i>Oncorhynchus kisutch</i>  | coho salmon                 | FT, ST  |
| <i>Thaleichthys pacificus</i>  | eulachon                    | ST  |
| <b>Reptiles</b>  |                             |   |
| <i>Emys marmorata</i>  | western pond turtle         | SSC   |
| <b>FE</b> - Federal Endangered<br><b>SE</b> - State Endangered<br><b>FT</b> - Federal Threatened<br><b>ST</b> - State Threatened |                             | <b>FC</b> - Federal Candidate<br><b>SC</b> - State Candidate<br><b>SSC</b> - Species of Special Concern |

**Discussion of Potentially Present Sensitive Species**

Amphibians and Reptiles

Red-legged frogs (*Rana aurora*) are found in permanent ponds, marshes, and streams. Yellow-legged frogs (*Rana boylei*) occur in small rocky streams. Western pond turtles (*Emys marmorata*) occur in permanent and intermittent waters, including marshes, streams, rivers, ponds, and lakes. All of these species have the potential to occur within or adjacent to the Mad River. However construction activities will not be located within or adjacent to suitable habitat. Construction activities will also be limited to the dry season when outside the breeding season. Therefore, impacts to sensitive amphibian and reptile species will be less than significant.

Birds

Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*): Great Blue Heron habitat includes rookery sites in close proximity to foraging areas such as marshes, tide flats, rivers and streams, and wet meadows. The project area includes suitable habitat for this species. However, the proposed project does not include the removal of vegetation along the riparian zone of the Mad River. There are also no known rookery sites in the project vicinity.

Fish

Coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*), Coastal cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarkii*), Pacific lamprey (*Entosphenus tridentatus*) and eulachon (*Thaleichthys pacificus*) have all been documented in the Mad River. The Mad River provides suitable habitat for all these species. However, construction activities will not be located within the Mad River. Construction of trails will occur adjacent to the river bluff and will lead to the gravel bar along the river edge and will occur during the dry season so that no sediment will enter the river. With the exception of the river access trail, all development will be set back from the River and located outside the riparian area. The proposed project also includes design features such as landscaping and a storm water retention area to prevent impacts from stormwater runoff. Although the project will create access to the Mad River, access will be limited to passive recreational activities such as fishing, non-motorized boating, and water play. With implementation of best management practices to ensure that no sediment-laden water has the potential to enter the Mad River during construction, impacts to sensitive fish species will be less than significant.

**Table BIO-2: Special Status Species Not Likely Present**

| <b>Scientific Name</b>         | <b>Common Name</b>          | <b>Status</b> | <b>Discussion of Impact</b>   |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|---|
| <b>Amphibians</b>              |                             |               |   |
| <i>Ascaphus truei</i>          | Pacific tailed frog         | SSC           | <u>No Impact.</u> Habitat includes clear, cold swift-moving mountain streams with coarse substrates. Primarily in older forest sites with adequate canopy cover and cooler temperatures. The project area does not contain suitable habitat for this species.                                     |
| <i>Rhyacotriton variegatus</i> | southern torrent salamander | SSC           | <u>No Impact.</u> Habitat includes small, clear, cold mountain streams and seeps with gravels and cobbles in coastal coniferous forests. There is low potential for this species to occur as there is no suitable habitat of cold, mountain streams in mature forest present in the project area. |
| <b>Birds</b>                   |                             |               |   |
| <i>Riparia riparia</i>         | bank swallow                | ST            | <u>No Impact.</u> Bank swallows are colonial nesters. They nest primarily in riparian and other lowland habitats west of the desert, and require vertical banks/cliffs to dig nesting holes. The project area does not contain suitable habitat.  |

|  |                           |      |   |
|--|---------------------------|------|---|
| <i>Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus</i>       | western snowy plover      | FT   | <u>No Impact.</u> Habitat includes barren to sparsely vegetated sand beaches, dry salt flats in lagoons, dredge spoils deposited on beach or dune habitat, levees and flats at salt-evaporation ponds, river bars, along alkaline or saline lakes, reservoirs, and ponds. The project does not contain suitable habitat for this species and therefore will have no impact on this species. |
| <b>Bryophytes</b>                            |                           |      |   |
| <i>Fissidens pauperculus</i>                 | minute pocket moss        | 1B.2 | <u>No Impact.</u> Habitat includes coastal coniferous forests, damp coastal soils, and bare moist soil banks. There is low potential for this species to occur at most project sites. The most recent documented occurrence was in 1995 near the redwood forests. Because no vegetation removal is planned to occur in this habitat, there will be no impact.                               |
| <i>Trichodon cylindricus</i>                 | cylindrical trichodon     | 2B.2 | <u>No Impact.</u> Habitat includes Broad-leaved upland forest, meadows and seeps, upper montane coniferous forest. While suitable habitat may exist, there are no known occurrences within or adjacent to the project area.   |
| <b>Dicots</b>                                |                           |      |   |
| <i>Abronia umbellata var. breviflora</i>     | pink sand-verbena         | 1B.1 | <u>No Impact.</u> Pink sand-verbena is found in coastal dunes and coastal strand habitats. Because there is no suitable habitat within the project area, there will be no impact.   |
| <i>Castilleja ambigua var. humboldtensis</i> | Humboldt Bay owl's-clover | 1B.2 | <u>No Impact.</u> Habitat consists of Coastal salt marsh and swamps. Because there is no suitable habitat within the project area, there will be no impact.   |
| <i>Lathyrus japonicus</i>                    | seaside pea               | 2B.1 | <u>No Impact.</u> Seaside pea is found in coastal dunes and coastal strand habitats. Because there is no suitable habitat within the project area, there will be no impact.   |
| <i>Montia howellii</i>                       | Howell's montia           | 2B.2 | <u>No Impact.</u> Annual plant that flowers and fruits from February to June. Habitat includes wet disturbed sites in North coast coniferous forests, usually on compacted surfaces with minimal vegetation coverage.   |

|  |                           |              |  |
|--|---------------------------|--------------|--|
|  |                           |              | The project area does not contain suitable habitat for this  |
| <i>Oenothera wolfii</i>                | Wolf's evening-primrose   | 1B.1         | <u>No Impact.</u> Habitat includes Coastal bluff scrub, coastal dunes, coastal prairie, lower montane coniferous forest. While suitable habitat may exist, there are no known occurrences within or adjacent to the project area.  |
| <i>Sidalcea malachroides</i>           | maple-leaved checkerbloom | 4.2          | <u>No Impact.</u> Habitat includes broadleafed upland forest, coastal prairie, coastal scrub, north coast coniferous forest, and riparian forest. While suitable habitat may exist, there are no known occurrences within or adjacent to the project area.   |
| <i>Sidalcea malviflora ssp. patula</i> | Siskiyou checkerbloom     | 1B.2         | <u>No Impact.</u> Habitat includes coastal prairie, broadleafed upland forest. While suitable habitat may exist, there are no known occurrences within or adjacent to the project area.  |
| <i>Sidalcea oregana ssp. eximia</i>    | coast checkerbloom        | 1B.2         | <u>No Impact.</u> Habitat consists of freshwater marsh. While suitable habitat may exist, there are no known occurrences within or adjacent to the project area.   |
| <b>Mammals</b>                         |                           |              |  |
| <i>Arborimus pomo</i>                  | Sonoma tree vole          | SSC          | <u>No Impact.</u> Habitat consists of mixed evergreen forests; optimum habitat appears to be wet and mesic old-growth Douglas-fir forest, but this species also occurs in younger forests (e.g., Douglas-fir 47 years old). Because there is no suitable habitat in the project area, there will be no impact. |
| <i>Pekania pennanti</i>                | fisher                    | SSC          | <u>No Impact.</u> Fishers require large areas of mature conifer forest habitat, which is not located within the project area.  |
| <b>Monocots</b>                        |                           |              |  |
| <i>Layia carnosa</i>                   | beach layia               | FE, SE, 1B.1 | <u>No Impact.</u> Beach layia is found in coastal dunes. Because there is no suitable habitat within the project area, there will be no impact.  |

|  |              |              |  |
|--|--------------|--------------|--|
| <i>Lilium occidentale</i>  | western lily | FE, SE, 1B.1 | <u>No Impact.</u> Western Lily is found in coastal wetlands along the margins of ephemeral ponds and small streams, coastal scrub and prairie poorly drained soils. Because there is no suitable habitat in the project area, there will be no impact. |
| <p><b>FE</b> - Federal Endangered</p> <p><b>SE</b> - State Endangered</p> <p><b>FT</b> - Federal Threatened</p> <p><b>ST</b> - State Threatened</p> <p><b>FC</b> - Federal Candidate</p> <p><b>SC</b> - State Candidate</p> <p><b>SSC</b> - Species of Special Concern</p> <p><b>1B.1</b> - Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in CA &amp; Elsewhere; Seriously Threatened in CA</p> <p><b>1B.2</b> - Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in CA &amp; Elsewhere; Moderately threatened in CA</p> <p><b>2B.1</b> - Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in CA but more common elsewhere; Seriously threatened in CA</p> <p><b>2B.2</b> - Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in CA but more common elsewhere; Moderately threatened in CA</p> <p><b>4.2</b> - Plants of limited distribution; fairly threatened in CA</p> |              |              |  |

b) and c) ***Less than Significant.*** According to the USFWS National Wetlands Inventory, the northern section of parcel (-050) contains considerable areas of riparian vegetation, with modest areas of wetlands. The City of Arcata General Plan recognizes the Mad River as an Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Area (ESHA). Policy RC-2b requires that parcels with existing development maintain a 25-foot setback outward from the Mad River, as measured from the Top of the Bank. The policy further specifies that locations that do not possess existing development maintain a minimum setback of 100 feet from the bank on either side of the river. Furthermore, areas where riparian vegetation exceeds 100 feet in width as measured from the Top of the Bank are required to be protected in their entirety. The General Plan also states that construction and maintenance of foot trails for public access, resource restoration projects and flood control measures are all allowable uses and activities in Streamside Protections Areas (SBAs).

All riparian and wetland areas are proposed to be conserved on the subject parcel as part of the parcel's recorded development restrictions. The proposed project involves no reduction of riparian habitat, no filling of wetlands, or reductions to setbacks. In addition to the intact riparian habitat located alongside the Mad River, the proposed project includes regular habitat improvement/maintenance by removing invasive plants and revegetating with native riparian vegetation where appropriate. A formalized trail system, including an ADA trail, will be maintained within the riparian corridor, however it will be developed to minimize loss in riparian

canopy vegetation. The project site contains a large area dominated by pampas grass that will be removed and revegetated with native riparian species resulting in an expansion of native riparian habitat on the site. Much of the project area will occur on relatively flat ground where no significant grading will be needed. Trail work will be done with hand tools and small mechanized equipment and minimal grading is required. Therefore, the potential impact to riparian habitat and/or wetlands is less than significant.

d) **Less than Significant.** The nests and eggs of native bird species are protected under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Section 3503 of the California Fish and Game Code. Vegetation on or adjacent to the project site, if occupied by nesting native birds, is considered a wildlife nursery site under CEQA. Therefore, abandonment of an active nest as a result of project related activities would result in significant impact. However, vegetation removal and potential impacts resulting for project construction is limited and will not occur during the active nesting season. Therefore, impacts are less than significant.

e) **Less than Significant.** As mentioned above, the City of Arcata General Plan recognizes the Mad River as an Environmentally Sensitive Area. Approximately 9.75 acres of riparian are located on the subject parcel, and eight acres of riparian are located within the overall project footprint. Of those eight acres, less than 30 trees with diameters less than ten inches may require removal; tree removal will be minimized to the greatest extent feasible. Given the small amount of vegetation removal that will be required, a tree removal permit will not be required. Furthermore, the proposed project will comply with all other policies laid out in the General Plan intended to protect natural resources, specifically the setbacks to wetlands, riparian areas, and other sensitive habitat areas. The impact is less than significant.

f) **No Impact.** No Habitat Conservation Plans, Natural Community Conservation Plans, or other habitat conservation plans exist that apply to the project site. There is no impact.

| Issues and Supporting Information   | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>CULTURAL RESOURCES:</b> Would the project:   |                                |  |                              |           |
| a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in §15064.5     |                                |  | X                            |           |
| b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5? |                                |  | X                            |           |
| c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resources or site or unique geologic feature?      |                                |  | X                            |           |
| c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?                          |                                |  | X                            |           |

**Discussion:**

a-c) *Less than Significant.* No known historical resources are located on the site as they are defined in Section 15064.5 of the Public Resources Code. However, before Euro-American settlers arrived in the mid-1800s, the Humboldt Bay region was populated by the indigenous Wiyot people, whose territory include the lower Mad River watershed. Although this area does not include any known archaeological or paleontological resources, there is potential for buried resources to be inadvertently discovered during ground disturbing construction activities. As such, standard inadvertent discovery protocols will be included in the project bid package and adhered to during ground disturbing construction activities.

d) *Less than Significant.* No human remains have been identified on the project site and it is unlikely that human remains are present. Though unlikely, it is possible that human remains are present given the long history of human activity along the Mad River. As such, standard inadvertent discovery protocol will be in place in the event that human remains are encountered during construction of the project.

| Issues and Supporting Information   | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>ENERGY:</b> 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? |                                |  | X                            |           |
| b) Conflict with or construct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?  |                                |  | X                            |           |

a) *Less than Significant.* During construction there will be a temporary consumption of energy resources required for the movement and operation of equipment and materials; however, the duration is limited due to the phasing of construction, and the area of construction is minimal. Compliance with local and State regulations such as limiting engine idling time and requiring the recycling of construction debris will reduce short-term energy demand during the project’s construction to the extent feasible. Project construction will not result in a waste or inefficient use of energy. During operation of the project, there are no foreseeable or unusual project characteristics or processes that would require the use of energy intensive equipment. The largest operating energy expenditure will be from parking lot lighting, which will use LED bulbs to improve energy efficiency. Therefore, the impact is less than significant.

b) **Less than Significant.** State and local agencies regulate the use and consumption of energy through various methods and programs. As a result of the passage of Assembly Bill 32 (AB 32) which seeks to reduce the effect of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions, a majority of state regulations are intended to reduce energy use and GHG emissions. At the local level, the City’s Building & Engineering Division enforces the applicable requirements of the Energy Efficiency Standards of Arcata adopted the Community Gas Reduction Plan (CGRP). The project will comply with all state and local plans and requirements for energy use and efficiency and will not require any exceptions. Therefore, the impact will be less than significant.

| <b>Issues and Supporting Information</b>   | <b>Potentially Significant Impact</b> | <b>Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated</b> | <b>Less Than Significant Impact</b> | <b>No Impact</b> |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>GEOLOGY AND SOILS:</b> 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. |                                       |   | X                                   |                  |
| ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?   |                                       |   | X                                   |                  |
| iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?   |                                       |   | X                                   |                  |
| iv) Landslides?  |                                       |   | X                                   |                  |
| b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?  |                                       |   | X                                   |                  |
| 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 onsite or offsite landslide, lateral   |                                       |   | X                                   |                  |



| Issues and Supporting Information  | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|--|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-----------|
| spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?   |                                |  |                              |           |
| d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial risks to life or property?                                   |                                |  | X                            |           |
| e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater? |                                |  |                              | X         |
| f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?  |                                |  | X                            |           |

a) ii-iv), c) **Less than Significant.** Surface rupture occurs when the ground surface is broken due to fault movement during an earthquake. The location of surface rupture generally can be assumed to be along an active or potentially active major fault trace. The active Mad River fault is located approximately 0.5 miles north of the property. No known faults as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map occur on the project site; therefore, the potential for fault rupture at the site is low. The project site and the entire Pacific Northwest region is in a seismically active region subject to strong seismic ground shaking. The seismicity of the Pacific Northwest has shown that the Cascadia Subduction Zone, which extends from offshore Cape Mendocino in Humboldt County, to Victoria Island in British Columbia, is considered capable of generating significant earthquakes. The most significant adverse impact associated with strong seismic shaking is potential damage to structure and improvements. However, there are no habitable structures included in the project design; only at grade or low-standing recreational features. The potential impact from strong seismic ground shaking would be limited to these low structures. Liquefaction is the transformation of saturated, loose, fine-grained sediment to a fluid-like state because of seismic ground shaking. Soils most susceptible to liquefaction are loose to medium dense, saturated sands, silty sands, sandy silts, silts and gravels with poor drainage, or those capped by or containing seams of impermeable sediment. The project site is located in an area considered to have moderate liquefaction potential (City of Arcata General Plan 2020). However, because no habitable structures are included as part of the project, the potential adverse impact to life and property from liquefaction is less than significant. Because the project site and subject parcel is located on flat-lying ground, The potential for landslides is low. Given the minimal slopes and substrate of the project, the project

location, and because the project does not include construction of any habitable structures, impacts of the project resulting in potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death are less than significant.

b) **Less than Significant.** The project site and subject parcel is located on flat-lying ground. Given the topography and minimal grading required for project construction, construction activities have minimal potential to disrupt topsoil and cause erosion. Regardless, standard BMPs will be employed during construction to prevent potential soil erosion, sedimentation, and loss of topsoil during construction and therefore impacts are less than significant.

d) **Less than Significant.** Construction of some project elements will be required to comply with the 2016 California Building Codes chapter 18. A soils report may be required to be completed by a soils engineer, unless satisfactory information exists from adjacent areas (2016 CBC section 1803.2 Exception 1) and the building official waives the requirement. The project will be construction in compliance with all recommendations of relevant soils reports and therefore there will be a less than significant impact.

e) **No Impact.** The vault toilet will be installed per standard design and specifications. The vault will be lined with concrete and serviced regularly to ensure intended operation.

f) **Less than Significant.** Paleontological resources are the fossilized remains of organisms from prehistoric environments. Paleontological resources, which include fossil remains and geologic sites with fossil-bearing strata are non-renewable and scarce and are a sensitive resource afforded protection under environmental legislation in California. Under California Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 5097.5, unauthorized disturbance or removal of a fossil locality or remains on public land is a misdemeanor. State law also requires reasonable mitigation of adverse environmental impacts that result from development of public land and affect paleontological resources (PRC Section 30244). There are no known paleontological resources on the project site. In the event that resources are inadvertently discovered during ground disturbing construction activities, standard inadvertent discovery protocol will be adhered to.

| Issues and Supporting Information  | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|--|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS:</b> Would the project:  |                                |  |                              |           |
| a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?      |                                |  | X                            |           |
| b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases? |                                |  | X                            |           |

a) **Less than Significant.** Unlike emissions of criteria and toxic air pollutants, which have local or regional impacts, emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) contribute to global climate change and have a broader global impact. Global climate change is a process whereby GHGs accumulating in the atmosphere contribute to an increase in the temperature of the earth’s atmosphere. The principal GHGs contributing to global climate change are carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), nitrous oxide (N2O), and fluorinated compounds.

GHG emissions associated with implementation of the proposed project will occur over the short-term from construction activities, consisting primarily of emissions from equipment exhaust. Exhaust emissions from on-site construction activities may vary daily as construction activity levels change. Due to the short-term duration of equipment use, the GHG emissions associated with the proposed project is relatively minor and therefore will not have a significant impact on the environment.

There will be no adverse long-term impacts to GHG emissions. After construction, the project will be operated and maintained as a recreational park. The only GHG-emitting potential is through the energy consumption of park lighting, which will be minimal. In addition, lighting will be LED and City operations rely on 100% renewable energy resources. Furthermore, Carlson Park will provide a park in a neighborhood that is severely lacking in recreational opportunities and is isolated by Highway 101 and Highway 299. Because there are not safe non-motorized transportation routes to and from the neighborhood, residents currently rely on motorized transportation to access recreational opportunities. Once the project is complete, neighborhood residents will be able to access a nearby recreation facility using non-motorized transportation methods, thereby reducing the associated GHG emissions.

b) **Less than Significant.** The City developed a Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan (August 2006) to reduce locally generated GHGs. In this plan, the City committed to decrease its GHG emissions by 20% below 2000 levels by the year 2010. As indicated above, the project will not generate significant operational or construction GHG emissions. Furthermore, the project does not conflict with any of the recommendations and implementation measures in the GHG Reduction Plan. Therefore, it can be found to be consistent with local plans, policies, and regulations adopted for the purpose of reducing GHG emissions and the project will result in a less than significant impact.

| Issues and Supporting Information   | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS:</b> Would the project:  |                                |  |                              |           |
| a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials? |                                |  | X                            |           |

| Issues and Supporting Information  | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|--|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-----------|
| 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?  |                                |  | X                            |           |
| c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?  |                                |  |                              | X         |
| 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?                                   |                                |  | X                            |           |
| e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area? |                                |  |                              | X         |
| f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?  |                                |  | X                            |           |
| g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?  |                                |  | X                            |           |

**Discussion:**

A, b) *Less than Significant*. The proposed project will not introduce potentially hazardous materials during normal operations. While gas and diesel fuel will be used by construction vehicles, any use, storage, transport, and disposal of hazardous materials during construction activities will be performed in accordance with existing local, state, and federal hazardous material regulations. In addition standard spill prevention and response protocols will be followed

to ensure that hazardous materials are not release into the environment. Impacts associated with the potential to create a significant hazard to the public or the environment are less than significant.

c) **Less than Significant.** The nearest school to the project site is Little Learners Preschool located at 5050 Valley East Blvd, approximately 0.25 miles southwest of the project site. As described above, the proposed project will require the use of hazardous materials in the form of fuels, lubricants, paints, and solvents. However, implementation of standard BMPS and spill prevention and cleanup protocols will ensure impacts will be less than significant.

d) **Less Than Significant.** The project is not located on the list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. In addition, an Initial Site Assessment was completed in 2015, which included review of six previous hazardous and/or contamination studies and reports that included portions of the project area. These studies included a Phase I and II Site Assessment, Subsurface Investigation Report, Geophysical Survey, Phase II Investigation of original Carlson Park area, Soil Sampling Report, and Asbestos and Lead-Containing Paint Survey Report. The Initial Site Assessment determined that there are no hazardous materials onsite that pose a threat to the public or environment. The Initial Site Assessment also reviewed potential groundwater contamination and determined that in the event of a groundwater contamination event by any nearby sites, the groundwater gradients are away from the subject parcel and therefore would not result in a contamination event on the subject parcel.

e) **No Impact.** The project site is not located within 2 miles of an airport or airstrip, either public, or private. The Arcata/Eureka Airport (ACV) in McKinleyville is more than 5 miles to the north of this site.

f) **Less than Significant.** The project will not impair or interfere with any emergency response of evacuation plans. It does not involve construction of any physical barriers that could obstruct evacuation or construction of any signals of sound-emitting materials that could interfere with emergency messaging.

g) **Less than Significant.** The Mad River riparian forest dominates the northerly portion of the project parcel. Vegetation height is tallest within the riparian zone of the Mad River. The vegetative characteristics of the project site present only a low fire hazard. Construction of project elements will not increase risk of fire hazard. The potential impact of the project on the exposure to people or structures to wildland fires is less than significant.

| Issues and Supporting Information                         | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY:</b> Would the project:    |                                |  |                              |           |
| a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge |                                |  | X                            |           |

| Issues and Supporting Information  | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|--|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-----------|
| requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?   |                                |  |                              |           |
| b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?                                  |                                |  | X                            |           |
| c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would: |                                |  |                              |           |
| i) result in a substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site;   |                                |  | X                            |           |
| ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;   |                                |  | X                            |           |
| 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                             |                                |  | X                            |           |
| iv) impede or redirect flood flows?  |                                |  | X                            |           |
| d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?  |                                |  | X                            |           |
| e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?  |                                |  |                              | X         |

**Discussion:**

a) & e) *Less than Significant.* The proposed project will not violate water quality standards or discharge requirements. However, the proposed project could potentially result in short-term

(construction) water quality impacts. Construction activities may generate dust, sediment, litter, oil, paint, and other pollutants that could temporarily contaminate runoff from the site. However, through implementation of stormwater best management practices, the project will not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements, or substantially degrade water quality. The impact is less than significant.

b) **Less than Significant.** The proposed project will not significantly alter existing topography or result in creation of a significant amount of impervious surface. Approximately 18 acres (located on APN -050) of the ± 20 acre project area will remain undisturbed, aside from some trail development. Of the area to be developed, on-site drainage and detention facilities will allow stormwater to infiltrate and groundwater to recharge.

c) i-iv) **Less than Significant.** The proposed project will not alter the Mad River or any of its nearby tributaries. The northern portion subject parcel includes a riparian buffer and no significant (less than 20 trees, and understory vegetation) riparian vegetation along the Mad River will be removed. The proposed project is not expected to cause on- or off-site flooding given that the project will not substantially increase impervious surface area and stormwater will infiltrate on-site. Existing drainage patterns on site will not be altered because

d) **Less than Significant.** The subject parcel is within the inundation area of the Mad River in the event of the failure of the R.W. Matthews Dam. However, as the project site is approximately 90 miles downstream of the R.W. Matthews Dam, ample time is expected to be available to allow for the orderly evacuation of the site, if necessary. Additionally, emergency response and evacuation planning in the project area is the responsibility of the City of Arcata Police Department (APD) and the Arcata Fire Protection District (AFPD). The APD and AFPD provide critical emergency response services and leadership, and serve as the community’s primary response agencies under the City’s Emergency Response Plan. The Plan outlines response responsibilities during events such as flooding, and includes evacuation planning. Therefore, the impact is less than significant.

e) **Less than Significant.** There is currently no sustainable groundwater management plan encompassing the project area. The proposed project will comply with all MS4 permit requirements with regard to construction site BMPs and post-construction stormwater requirements. Therefore, there will be no impact.

| Issues and Supporting Information                | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|--|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>LAND USE AND PLANNING:</b> Would the project: |                                |  |                              |           |
| a) Physically divide an established community?   |                                |  |                              | X         |

|  |  |  |  |   |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| 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? |  |  |  | X |
|--|--|--|--|---|

**Discussion:**

According to the City of Arcata General Plan, two of the project subject parcels (-012) and (-050) were once part of a single parcel known as 507-141-042 and was originally zoned as Industrial-Limited (I-L). At that time, this parcel had a special consideration allowing for a public facility use type to accommodate a future City park along the Mad River and included potential dual use activities. In 2010, the parcel (-042) was subdivided into multiple lots and designated the newly created parcel (-012) as Public Facility (PF) and parcel (-050) as Natural Resources – Public Trust (NR-PT). In April 2010, Caltrans purchased parcel (-050) and in 2017 it was acquired by the City. The future public access easement on APN 507-131-091 is located within Humboldt County. APN 507-131-091 has a Conservation Floodway and Industrial General Land Use Designation and is zoned for Agriculture Exclusive. The Development of a trail within this type of land use and zoning designation is allowable with a Conditional Use Permit.

a) **No Impact.** The physical division of an established community typically refers to the construction of a physical feature, such as an interstate highway or railroad tracks, or removal of a means of access, such as a local road or bridge that would impair mobility within an existing community, or between a community and outlying areas. The proposed project is to construct a neighborhood park within an established community. The project will serve the developing Mad River industrial park area, as well as existing nearby multi-family developments. The proposed project will not physically divide the community, and there will be no impact.

b) **No Impact.** The project complies with policies and land use designations of the Arcata General Plan, as well as the parcels’ development restrictions. The project does not seek to reduce to the setbacks to the Mad River or the surrounding wetlands or riparian corridor. The project will follow all standards outlined in General Plan policies related to the protection of natural resources, water quality, cultural resources, visual resources, air quality public safety from natural and human-caused hazards, provision of public services, noise and traffic and will not require any exceptions to standards. Furthermore, the project will comply with state and local development and construction requirements and will not require any exceptions, deviations from standards, or mitigation. Therefore, there will be no impact.



| Issues and Supporting Information   | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>MINERAL RESOURCES:</b> 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?                                |                                |  | X                            |           |
| 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? |                                |  | X                            |           |

**Discussion:**

a & b) **No Impact.** While areas along the Mad River, within and upstream of the City’s Sphere of Influence, are currently used for aggregate resource extraction, there are no known valuable or locally-important mineral resources on the project site. As part of the project, the City will acquire public access to the Mad River on an approximately 0.6-acre portion APN 507-131-091, which is currently part of a parcel of land used for a gravel mining operation. However, the public access area will not impact surface mining operations, and the access agreement has been voluntarily negotiated between the City and the parcel owners. Therefore, the proposed project will not have a significant impact resulting in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource.

| Issues and Supporting Information   | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>NOISE:</b> 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? |                                |  | X                            |           |

| Issues and Supporting Information   | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-----------|
| b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?   |                                |  | X                            |           |
| 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? |                                |  |                              | X         |

**Discussion:**

Noise consists of any sound that may produce physiological or psychological damage and/or interfere with communication, work, rest, recreation, or sleep. The primary existing noise source in the project is vehicle traffic on roadways in the project area. The level of vehicular noise generally varies with the volume of traffic, the number of vehicles, the speed of traffic and the distance from the roadway. Roadways surrounding the project site that could contribute to ambient noise in the project site vicinity include Mad River Parkway East, Carlson Park Drive, and Giuntoli Lane. Giuntoli Lane, located south of the project site, has been identified in the Noise Element of the General Plan as a potentially significant source of noise. Sensitive receptors in the project area include residences, with the closest being less than 0.10 miles away.

a) **Less than Significant Impact.** Construction of the proposed project will add short-term and intermittent noise from use of equipment and vehicles. Noise impacts from construction crew commutes and the transport of construction equipment and materials to the project site may temporarily increase noise levels on access roads leading to the site. Potential noise impacts will be temporary and intermittent and will be less than significant.

Residences towards the west of the project site and visitors to adjacent commercial facilities may encounter significant noise levels. To minimize noise impacts, hours of construction will be limited between 7:00 AM and 6:00 PM, Monday through Friday, and 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM on Saturdays. No construction will be allowed on Sundays, except in an emergency and with City approval. Equipment and on-site vehicles used for construction will use standard noise control techniques such as improved mufflers and minimizing idling time.

The proposed Carlson Park will be open during daytime hours, from sunrise to sunset. Operation of the proposed park may include noise generated by maintenance staff and park visitors. Park maintenance will include landscaping, occasional invasive species removal, and maintaining

public facilities. Park maintenance will occur during the daytime and will not result in significant increase in ambient noise levels. The Park will not allow use of motorized vehicles for recreation. Park visitors may generate noise intermittently that would not exceed the applicable standards. Therefore, the proposed project would not expose persons to noise levels excess of local standards.

b) **Less than Significant.** Construction activities include site preparation, grading, and paving. The construction of the project may generate moderate and temporary vibration on the site when heavy equipment is used. However, vibration will be limited to the project site and will only occur construction phases; therefore the potential impact is less than significant.

c) **No Impact.** The project site is not located within an airport land use plan, or within two miles of a public or private airstrip. Therefore, the proposed project will not have an impact on people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels caused by aircraft or other aviation-related activities.

| Issues and Supporting Information   | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>POPULATION AND HOUSING:</b> 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)? |                                |  |                              | X         |
| b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?   |                                |  |                              | X         |

**Discussion:**

a) **No Impact.** The proposed project will improve the project site as a local park. No new housing, commercial or industrial space will be developed as part of the proposed project. Therefore, the proposed project will not directly or indirectly induce substantial population growth.

b) **No Impact.** The proposed project is located within an existing undeveloped park, which does not contain housing and is not residentially zoned. Therefore, the proposed project will not displace existing housing or displace substantial numbers of people.

| Issues and Supporting Information  | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|--|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>PUBLIC SERVICES:</b> Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services: |                                |  |                              |           |
| a) Fire protection?  |                                |  | X                            |           |
| b) Police protection?  |                                |  | X                            |           |
| c) Schools?  |                                |  |                              | X         |
| d) Parks?  |                                |  | X                            |           |
| e) Other public facilities?  |                                |  |                              | X         |

**Discussion:**

a) & b) *Less than Significant.* Implementation of the proposed project will improve the site as a local park to serve the Valley West area. Use of the site could increase as a result of proposed improvements. However, visitors to the site are anticipated to come primarily from the local neighborhood which will not result in an increased demand for services. Proposed improvements will be for recreation, and will not include housing units or other structures. Therefore there will be no substantial adverse impacts to fire protection services or police protection services .

c) *No Impact.* Implementation of the proposed project will not result in any local or regional population increase. Therefore, the project will not require the construction of new schools in the area, or result in schools exceeding their existing capacities.

d) *Less than Significant.* The proposed project is the development of a public park which will provide park and recreational opportunities for the local community. Therefore, the proposed project will not have a significant impact on park facilities.

e) *No Impact.* Implementation of the proposed project will not result in any local or regional population increase. Therefore, the project will not result in substantial adverse impacts associated with the provision of other public facilities.

| Issues and Supporting Information | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>RECREATION:</b>                |                                |  |                              |           |

|  |  |  |   |  |
|--|--|--|---|--|
| 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? |  |  | X |  |
| 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?                        |  |  | X |  |

**Discussion:**

a) **Less than Significant Impact.** The proposed project will not directly or indirectly result in any local or regional population increase. The proposed project is to construct improvements to a currently underused and inappropriately used park. As the goal of the project is to improve and increase sanctioned use of Carlson Park, the City is prepared to operate and maintain the park such that physical deterioration of the park does not occur. Therefore, impacts will be less than significant.

b) **Less than Significant.** The proposed project will improve the project site for recreational use. Potential adverse effects on the environment related to the development of park facilities have been identified and evaluated in this Initial Study and impacts have been determined to be less than significant.

| Issues and Supporting Information   | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC:</b> Would the project:   |                                |  |                              |           |
| a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities? |                                |  | X                            |           |
| b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines § 15064.3, subdivision (b)?   |                                |  | X                            |           |
| c) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or  |                                |  | X                            |           |

|   |  |  |   |  |
|---|--|--|---|--|
| dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)? |  |  |   |  |
| d) Result in inadequate emergency access?                             |  |  | X |  |

**Discussion:**

The project site is located along Mad Riverway Parkway East and Carlson Park Drive. Mad River Parkway East and Carlson Park Drive are adjacent to the property and are two lane arterial roadways.

a) **Less than Significant.** The proposed project will replace currently vacant land that may be subject to passive recreational use by nearby residents. The focus of the proposed project is to address the park and recreation needs of the Valley West community.

Travel modes other than automobile, such as walking and biking, will be possible from nearby residential neighborhoods. Roadways in the vicinity of the project site provide both sidewalks and bike lanes. A bus stop is located at the intersection of Boyd Road/Giuntoli Lane within a short walking distance from the project site. Access to these alternative modes of transportation has the potential to limit additional automobile trips.

The proposed project will most likely increase pedestrian and bicycle activity in the vicinity of the project. Currently, roadways near the project site provide both sidewalks and bicycle facilities. The proposed project does not conflict with the City of Arcata Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan or any other local regulatory documents relating to transportation and circulation. Impacts are less than significant.

b) **Less than Significant.** The project site is located within a half mile of a bus stop. In addition, the development of Carlson Park will be most heavily used by residents living in the Valley West neighborhood where the park is located, who will likely rely on non-motorized forms of transportation. Carlson Park is also located within a mile of State Highway 299 and US Highway 101. Visitors traveling through the area will not significantly increase their vehicle miles to reach Carlson Park from the highway. Because the project is located in close proximity to a public transit stop, two highways, and will primarily serve the surrounding neighborhood, impacts are less than significant.

c) **Less than Significant.** The proposed project includes constructing a parking lot on the project site off of Carlson Park Drive, which is a dead end road with minimal traffic. The parking lot will be designed with established engineering standards and have adequate geometry to serve the project. Existing roadways being used to serve the proposed project have not been found to be hazardous. Therefore, this impact is less than significant.

d) The proposed project involves construction of a public parking lot in addition to a temporary event staging area which will serve as secondary emergency vehicle access. Both lots will be designed to accommodate standard emergency vehicles. Therefore, the impact will be less than significant.

| Issues and Supporting Information  | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|--|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES:</b> Would the project result in 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 values to a California Native American tribe, and 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 Resource Code section 5020.1(k), or  |                                |  |                              | X         |
| b) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to the criteria set for in subdivision (c) of the Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American Tribe   |                                |  | X                            |           |

**Discussion:** Pursuant to AB52, the City consulted with local Tribal Heritage Preservation Officers (THPOs) on June 26, 2019 regarding potentially significant impacts to historical, paleontological, and tribal cultural resources. The City received responses from two of the three local THPOs, who concurred that there were no known resources on the project site.

a) **No Impact.** There are no tribal cultural resources located on the project site that are either listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resource Code section 5020.1(k). Therefore, there will be no impact.

b) **Less than Significant.** As discussed in the Cultural Resources section of this document, no cultural resources as defined in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 502.14 were noted within the specific boundaries of the project. According to the local THPOs, the Wiyot who lived along the Mad River were understood to be among the highest population density. However, according to LL Loud, the Mad River channel has changed significantly and therefore there are not any known cultural resources in the project area. Therefore, there will be a less than significant impact.

| Issues and Supporting Information  | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|--|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS:</b> 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? |                                |  | X                            |           |
| b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?  |                                |  | X                            |           |
| c) Result in a determination by the waste water 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?  |                                |  | X                            |           |
| 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?  |                                |  | X                            |           |
| e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?   |                                |  | X                            |           |

a) **Less than Significant.** The proposed project includes construction of new park improvements, including one restroom with a vault toilet near the parking lot and two drinking fountains. The drinking fountains will be connected to the existing waterline along Carlson Park Drive and Mad River Parkway East. These connections are not be considered “major water lines” because these improvements will be made as additions to the already existing water infrastructure. Although the proposed project will likely result in an increase in water demand over the existing level, the demand would be minor because it will be for drinking only. Furthermore, it will not exceed the capacity of the water service provider. Implementation of the proposed project will not result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities. The proposed project will be designed to drain and infiltrate stormwater onsite in compliance with MS4 permit requirements and will not have an impact on the larger stormwater



infrastructure system. The project does not include construction of natural gas, telecommunications, or electric power facilities or infrastructure. Therefore, these impacts are less than significant.

b) **Less than Significant.** As mentioned above, drinking fountains will be connected to the existing waterline along Carlson Park Drive and Mad River Parkway East. These connections are not considered “major water lines” because they rely on already existing water infrastructure. Water demand will be minimal, as it will only include water needed for drinking onsite. The proposed project will result in an increase in water demand over the existing level, however the demand increase will not exceed the capacity of the water service provider; the impact is less than significant.

c) **Less than Significant.** The proposed project includes construction of one restroom with a vault toilet. Vault toilets are not connected to the city’s wastewater treatment system and servicing is independently contracted. Therefore, there will be no difficulties or shortfalls in terms of transport or treatment of wastewater. The impact is less than significant.

d) **Less than Significant.** Operation of the proposed project is not anticipated to generate significant amount of solid waste. Users of the park may dispose of garbage, but not in amounts that would greatly exceed average per capita garbage generation rates. In addition, recycling receptacles and doggie-pot receptacles will be located throughout the park, allowing the proposed project to be in full compliance with waste diversion goals set by the City of Arcata’s Zero Waste Action Plan and goals mandated by the California Integrated Waste Management Act. The amount of solid waste will not exceed the capacity of local solid waste management infrastructure. Solid waste disposal off-site will comply with all local, state, and federal requirements. Therefore, the impacts related to solid waste disposal are considered less than significant.

e) **Less than Significant.** The proposed project will promote recycling on-site in accordance with the City’s Zero Waste Action Plan. Receptacles for recyclable waste will be provided as part of proposed improvements and serviced by City Staff. The City is in contract with the Recology for the processing of recyclable waste. The proposed project will not be in conflict with any local, state, or federal regulations related to solid waste, and potential impacts are considered to be less than significant.

| Issues and Supporting Information   | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>WILDFIRE:</b> If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project: |                                |  |                              |           |

| Issues and Supporting Information  | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|--|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-----------|
| a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?   |                                |  | X                            |           |
| 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?  |                                |  | X                            |           |
| 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? |                                |  |                              | X         |
| 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?  |                                |  | X                            |           |

a) **Less than Significant.** Emergency preparedness, response, and evacuation planning in the project area is the responsibly of the City of Arcata Police Department (APD) and the Arcata Fire District (AFDP). The APD and AFDP provide critical emergency response services and serve as the community’s primary response agencies in emergency situations. Additionally, the city adopted an Emergency Operations Plan in 2008. The Plan outlines response and responsibilities during seismic events, tsunamis, slope failure, storms, fires, hazardous waste spills, and include evacuation planning.

The proposed project will not interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency plan because it will not close any existing roadways, intersections, driveways, or obstruct evacuation routes. Construction vehicle and equipment staging will be coordinated such that emergency vehicles will be able to access the site should the need arise. The proposed project does not include habitable structures that will significantly increase the number of people exposed to potential emergencies. Therefore, the project is less than significant.

b) & d) **Less than Significant.** The project is not located in a state responsibility area for wildfire. It is located in the local responsibility area with a moderate risk of fire according to CalFire’s Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps. According to the Community Fire Mapping Project,

it is not located within a risk/hazard area. The project is located on a flat area that is upslope of the Mad River. Implementation of the proposed project will not change the degree of exposure to wildfire or flooding due to the project location and because no new housing or businesses will be constructed. The impact is less than significant.

c) **No Impact.** The proposed project does not include the installation or maintenance of fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines, or roads. Therefore, there is no impact.

| Issues and Supporting Information  | Potentially Significant Impact | Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|--|--------------------------------|--|------------------------------|-----------|
| <b>MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE</b>  |                                |  |                              |           |
| 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? |                                |  | X                            |           |
| 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.)   |                                |  | X                            |           |
| c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?  |                                |  | X                            |           |

a-c) **Less than Significant.** Certain mandatory findings of significance must be made to comply with CEQA Guidelines §15065. The proposed project has been analyzed, and it has been

determined that with implementation of the mitigation measures recommended in this Initial Study, it would not:

- Substantially degrade environmental quality;
- Substantially reduce fish or wildlife habitat;
- Cause a fish or wildlife population to fall below self-sustaining levels;
- Threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community;
- Reduce the numbers or range of a rare, threatened, or endangered species;
- Eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or pre-history;
- Achieve short term goals to the disadvantage of long term goals; or
- Have environmental effects that will directly or indirectly cause substantial adverse effects on human beings.
- Have possible environmental effects that are individually limited but cumulatively considerable when viewed in connection with past, current, and reasonably anticipated future projects;

With implementation of standard best management practices, the Project as a whole does not have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, including air quality, fish or wildlife species or their habitat, plant or animal communities, important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory, geologic resources, hazards, water resources, land use compatibility, noise, traffic movement, or other adverse effects on human beings. The Project's impacts will not add appreciably to any existing or foreseeable future significant cumulative impact, such as visual quality, historic resources, traffic impacts, or air quality degradation. Incremental impacts, if any, would be negligible and undetectable. The project will not result in any population growth and therefore will not impact community services or greenhouse gas emissions significantly. The project is consistent with its general plan land use designation and zoning and will not require any exceptions to City, state, or federal standards. Therefore, the project will have a less than significant impact.

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