Initial Study-Mitigated Negative Declaration
for the proposed
Shake Omo 2019 VMP (Rx-North-042-AEU) Project
Amador and El Dorado Counties, California

prepared by:
Patrick McDaniel, Registered Professional Forester #2679
The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
The Lead Agency Pursuant to § 21082.1 of the
California Environmental Quality Act

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MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

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STAGE OF CEQA DOCUMENT DEVELOPMENT

☐ **Administrative Draft.** This California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) document is in preparation by California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) staff.

☒ **Public Document.** This completed CEQA document has been filed by CAL FIRE at the State Clearinghouse.

☐ **Final CEQA Document.** This final CEQA document contains the changes made by the Department following consideration of comments received during the public and agency review period. The CEQA administrative record supporting this document is on file, and available for review, at CAL FIRE's Sacramento Headquarters, Environmental Protection Program.

INTRODUCTION

This initial study-mitigated negative declaration (IS-MND) describes the environmental impact analysis conducted for the proposed project. This document was prepared by CAL FIRE staff utilizing information gathered from a number of sources including research, field review of the proposed project area and consultation with environmental planners and other experts on staff at other public agencies. Pursuant to § 21082.1 of CEQA, the lead agency, CAL FIRE, has prepared, reviewed, and analyzed the IS-MND and declares that the statements made in this document reflect CAL FIRE's independent judgment as lead agency pursuant to CEQA. CAL FIRE further finds that the proposed project, which includes revised activities and mitigation measures designed to minimize environmental impacts, will not result in a significant effect on the environment.

REGULATORY GUIDANCE

This IS-MND has been prepared by CAL FIRE to evaluate potential environmental effects that could result following approval and implementation of the proposed project. This document has been prepared in accordance with current CEQA Statutes (Public Resources Code §21000 *et seq*.) and current CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations [CCR] §15000 *et seq*.)

An initial study is prepared by a lead agency to determine if a project may have a significant effect on the environment (14 CCR § 15063(a)), and thus, to determine the appropriate environmental document. In accordance with CEQA Guidelines §15070, a "public agency shall prepare…a proposed negative declaration or mitigated negative declaration…when: (a) The initial study shows that there is no substantial evidence…that the project may have a significant impact upon the environment, or (b) The initial study identifies potentially significant effects but revisions to the project plans or proposal are agreed to by the applicant and such revisions will reduce potentially significant effects to a less-than-significant level." In this circumstance, the lead agency prepares a written statement describing its reasons for concluding that the proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment and, therefore, does not require the preparation of an

environmental impact report. This IS-MND conforms to these requirements and to the content requirements of CEQA Guidelines § 15071.

PURPOSE OF THE INITIAL STUDY

CAL FIRE has primary authority for carrying out the proposed project and is the lead agency under CEQA. The purpose of this IS-MND is to present to the public and reviewing agencies the environmental consequences of implementing the proposed project and to describe the adjustments made to the project to avoid significant effects or reduce them to a less-than-significant level. This disclosure document is being made available to the public and reviewing agencies for review and comment. The IS-MND is being circulated for public and state agency review and comment for a review period of 30 days as indicated on the ***Notice of Intent to Adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration*** (NOI).

The requirements for providing an NOI are found in CEQA Guidelines §15072. These guidelines require CAL FIRE to notify the general public by providing the NOI to the county clerk for posting, sending the NOI to those who have requested it, and utilizing at least one of the following three procedures:

- Publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the area affected by the proposed project,
- Posting the NOI on and off site in the area where the project is to be located, or
- Direct mailing to the owners and occupants of property contiguous to the project.

CAL FIRE has elected to utilize **Posting the NOI on and off site in the area where the project is to be located**, the 2nd of the three notification options. An electronic version of the NOI and the CEQA document were made available for review for the entire 30-day review period through their posting at the Governor's Office of Planning and Research State Clearinghouse (link).

If submitted prior to the close of public comment, views and comments are welcomed from reviewing agencies or any member of the public on how the proposed project may affect the environment. Written comments must be postmarked or submitted on or prior to the date the public review period will close (as indicated on the NOI) for CAL FIRE's consideration. Written comments may also be submitted via email (using the email address that appears below), but comments sent via email must also be received on or prior to the close of the 30-day public comment period. Comments should be addressed to:

Patrick McDaniel
Forester I, Vegetation Management Program
CAL FIRE, Amador El Dorado Unit
2840 Mt. Danaher Road
Camino, CA 95709
Phone: (530) 647-5288
Email: Patrick.McDaniel@fire.ca.gov

After comments are received from the public and reviewing agencies, CAL FIRE will consider those comments and may (1) adopt the mitigated negative declaration and approve the proposed project; (2) undertake additional environmental studies; or (3) abandon the project.

Project Description and Environmental Setting

PROJECT LOCATION

Portions of Sections 1, 2, 3, T8N, R12E, MDB&M
Portions of Sections 4, 5, 6, 9, 13, 16, 24, 25, 33, 34, 35, & 36, T8N, R13E, MDB&M
Portions of Sections 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 29, & 30, T8N, R14E MDB&M
Portions of Section 36, T9N, R12E, MDB&M
Portions of Sections 31 & 32, T9N, R13E MDB&M

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR THE PROJECT

100+/- years of fire exclusion has created an environment that doesn't reflect the environment that the wildlife species of the area evolved with prior to modern settlement and contains dense pockets of undergrowth that pose a wildland fire hazard to human life and property. The intent of the project is to maintain shaded fuel breaks (encouragement of a well-developed overstory of larger diameter trees while removing the volatile vegetation that makes up the "fuel ladder"). that were established here 10-20 years ago establishment under prior CAL FIRE VMP's. This shaded fuel break is intended to create an environment that will provide adequate fire protection uses while encouraging forest development for wildlife resources.

The open and partially shaded conditions that are prescribed by the shaded fuel break prescription more closely reflect conditions that would have likely been present prior to modern settlement. Re-introduction of fire on a broad scale is logistically and operationally impossible. This shaded fuel break project has taken this fact into consideration and will be implemented to make the best effort possible to create an environment that not only assists with the protection of human life and private property; but will also improve the area for wildlife utilization.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

1. Create and maintain Defensible Fuel Zone Profiles (Shaded Fuel Breaks) as a part of the Community Fuel Break System which is designed to protect the community and the watershed values of the area from uncontrolled wildfire.
2. Provide a defensible location for firefighting operations and evacuations.
3. Preserve the conifer overstory.
4. Enhance wildlife habitat.

All of the treatments indicated above will be utilized individually or in combination to create the final desired condition. The final desired condition will be an open and park like condition of larger diameter trees with enough of the understory vegetation removed to prevent vertical fire spread in the event of wildland fire or defensive wildland fire fighting operations. Tree species that will be favored for retention will be Ponderosa Pine, Sugar Pine, California Incense Cedar, Black Oak, Douglas Fir, and True Fir.

PROJECT START DATE

Spring/Summer 2020

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project will be the establishment and maintenance of Defensible Fuel Zone Profiles (shaded fuel breaks) that are a part of the Community Fuel Break System in northern Amador County and southern El Dorado County. The project will consist of fuels reduction projects that will utilize fire crew brush cutting, mechanical treatments, pile burning, tractor mastication, and broadcast prescribed fire. The fuels treatment mechanism that is most favored is broadcast prescribed fire. The desired width of Defensible Fuel Zone Profiles is 500 feet however the width will be increased to a much as 1,400 feet where the topography remains under 30%.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING OF THE PROJECT REGION

Project elevation ranges from 3000 to 5,000 feet. The aspect of the project is variable, but the dominant aspect is south to southwest. Slopes within the project area range from nearly flat to moderately steep (30% to 50%).

DESCRIPTION OF THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT

The dominant vegetation community represented by the project is Sierran Mixed Conifer which is an assemblage of conifer and hardwood species that form a multilayered forest if unaltered or if fire is excluded for extensive periods. Forest stands within the project area range from very open and park like to vegetation densities that are almost impenetrable by foot traffic. The dominant tree species is Ponderosa Pine however, Incense Cedar, White Fir, Douglas Fir, Sugar Pine, California Black Oak and other hardwoods can be found in smaller concentrations throughout.

CURRENT LAND USE AND PREVIOUS IMPACTS

The dominant land use with the project area is the harvesting of timber by the primary underlying industrial landowner, Sierra Pacific Industries. Proposed treatments are maintenance of historical Amador El Dorado Unit VMP use of this ground between 1996 and 2008 that overlaps the proposed Shake Omo 2019 VMP. Past vegetation management treatments included hand crew and mechanical cutting and burning of piled vegetation, tractor mastication. In the years following initial treatment, needle cast and bear clover regrowth was used to carry broadcast prescribed fire to reduce deer brush regrowth on the ridgetop to protect timberlands and surrounding subdivisions by creating an open and park like condition of larger diameter trees with enough understory vegetation removed to prevent vertical fire spread in the event of wildland fire and to allow defensive wildland firefighting from uncontrolled wildfire.

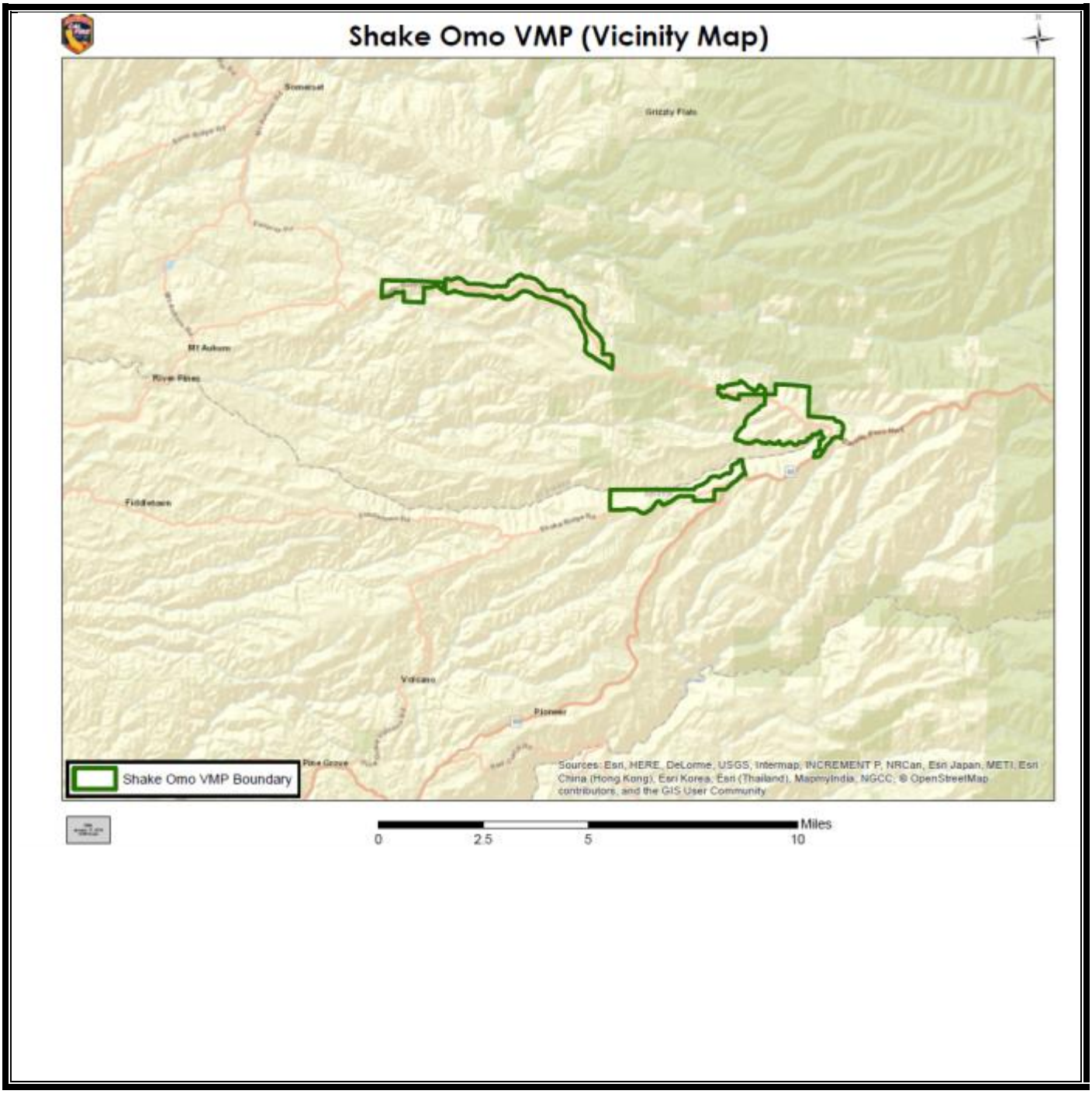

Figure 1. Project Location Map #1 of 1.

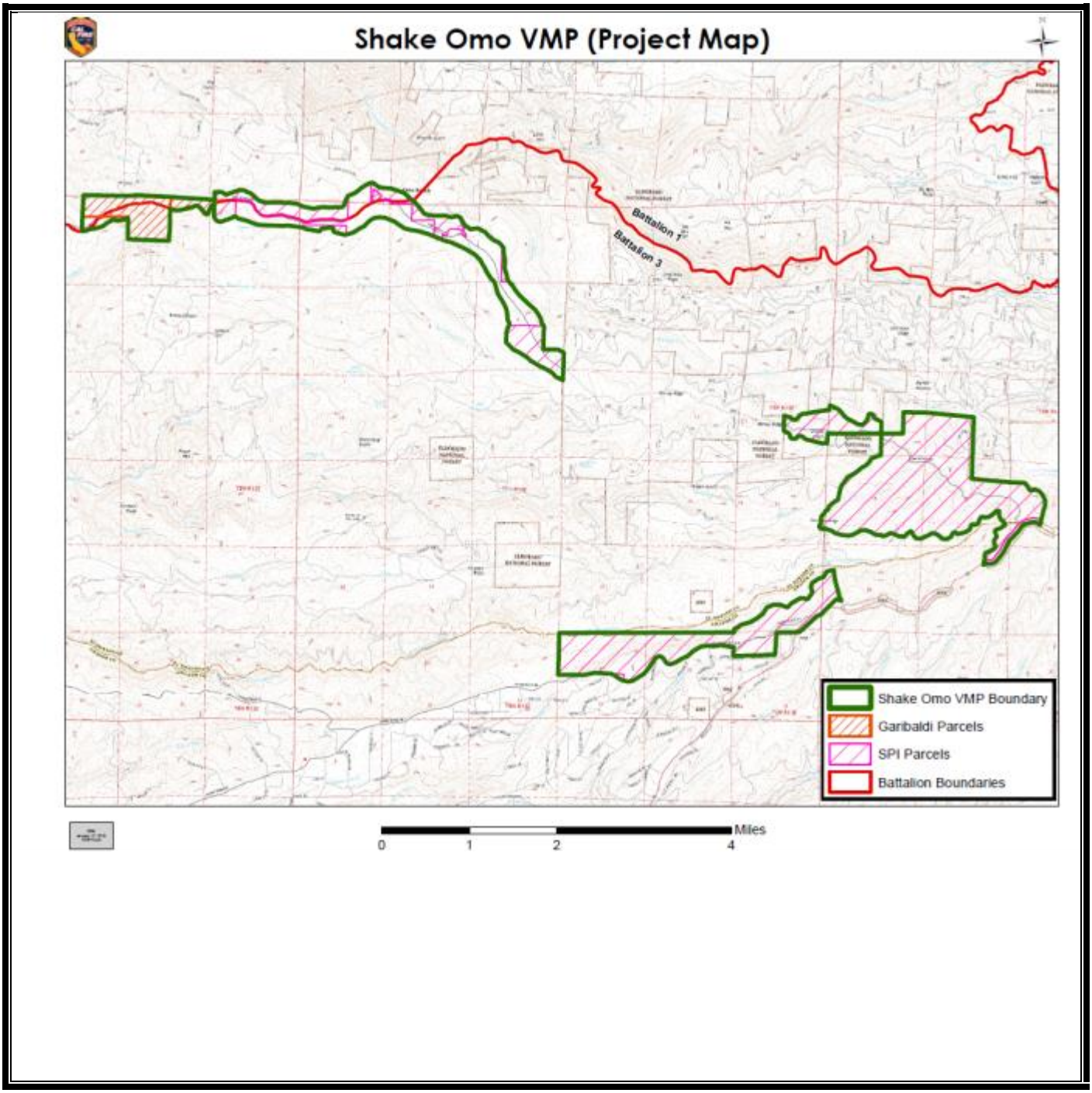

Figure 2. Project Map #1 of 1.

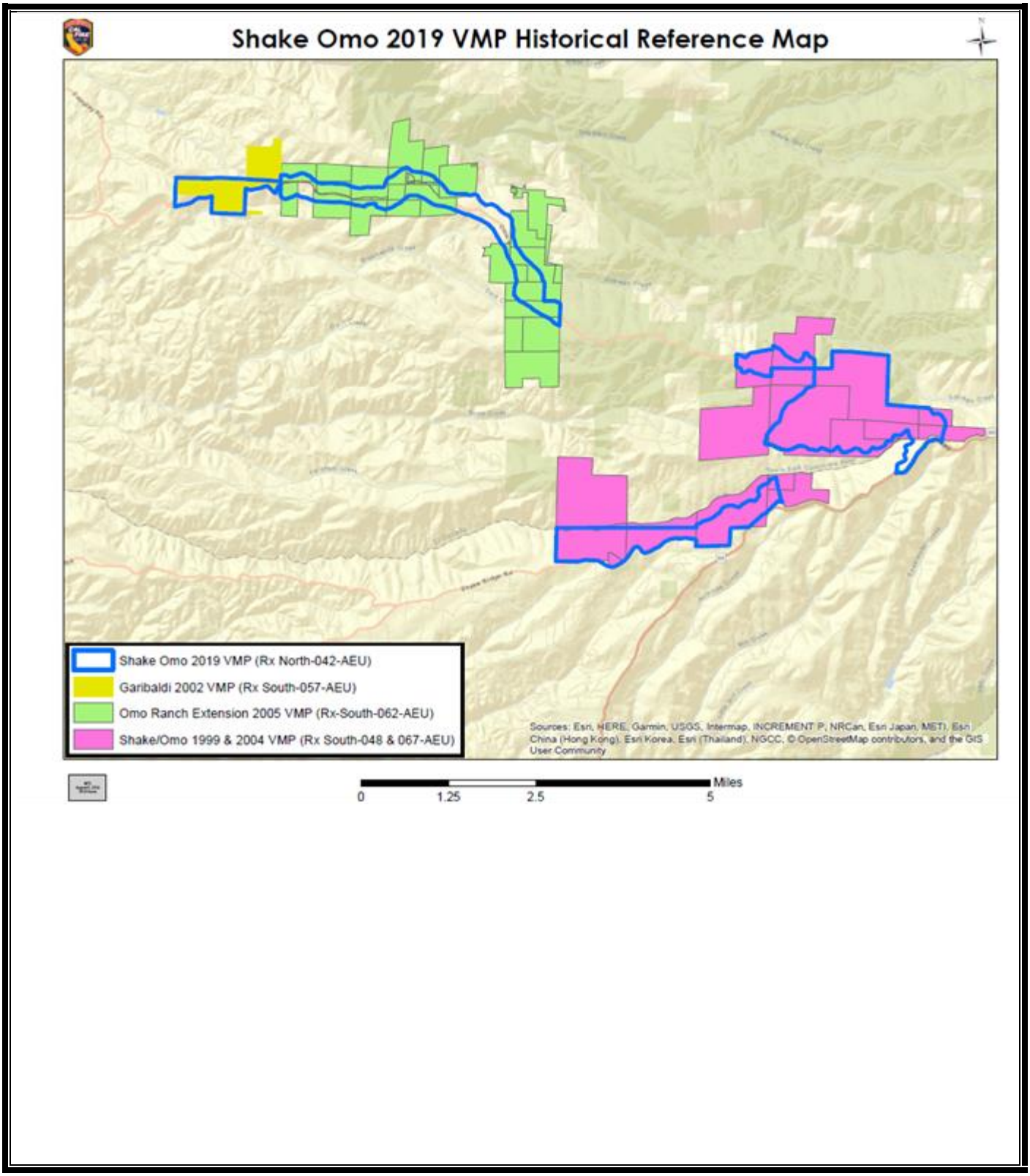

Figure 3. Historical reference map 1 or 1.

Figure 4. Typical project area in need of maintenance. Looking west from Omo Ranch Road.

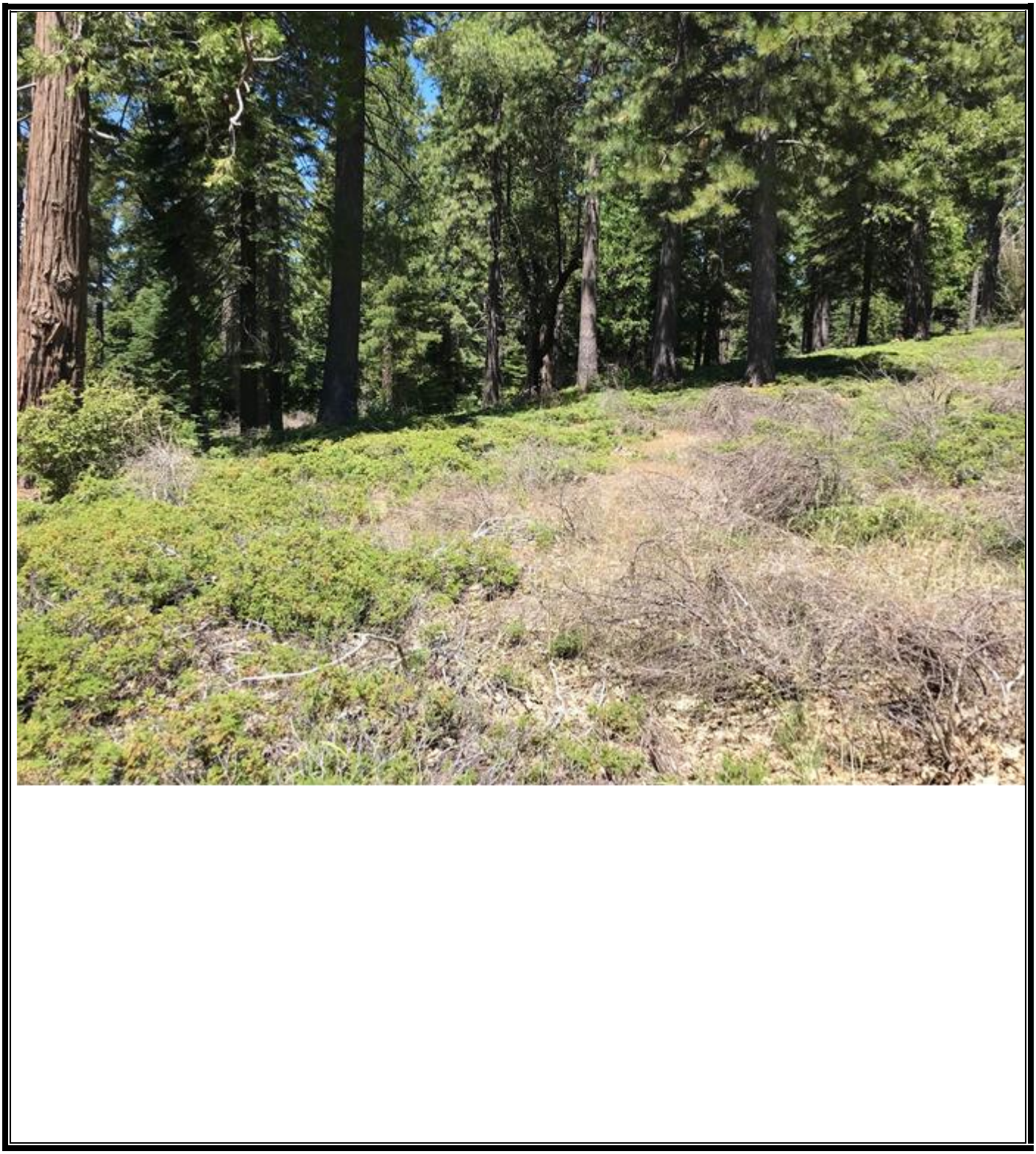

Figure 5. Project area looking north from Omo Ranch Road.

Figure 6. Typical project area in need of maintenance. Looking west from Omo Ranch Road.

Conclusion of the Mitigated Negative Declaration

ENVIRONMENTAL PERMITS

The proposed project may require the following environmental permits and CAL FIRE may be required to comply with the following state regulations:

MITIGATION MEASURES

The following three mitigation measures will be implemented by CAL FIRE to avoid or minimize environmental impacts. Implementation of these mitigation measures will reduce the environmental impacts of the proposed project to a less than significant level.

Mitigation Measure #1: Biological:

Raptors
A Sierra Pacific Industries biologist will determine occupancy status for all CA Spotted owls, Great Grey Owls and Goshawks nests known to occur within a ¼ mile of proposed VMP project activities prior to starting during the year of disturbance. If a nest is found to be occupied by brooding CA Spotted owls, Great Grey Owls and Goshawks than a disturbance buffer will be established around the nest.

- **¼ mile radius circle for CA Spotted owls, Great Grey Owls and Goshawks for the period of March 1 to August 15th.**
- **Other distances to be determined by raptor response to proposed activities**

If no occupied nest is found, then a protection zone will be established around the current activity center or the last know activity center. No VMP project activities will occur within the protection zone between March 1st and August 15th. Protection zones will vary in size and shape based on the species associated with that activity center. VMP project activities may occur outside the protection zone at any time there is no occupied nest, and may occur within the protection zone outside the March 1st to August 15th period.

CA Red Legged Frog

- **Habitat includes rivers, creeks, and coldwater ponds with emergent vegetation. Protection Measure - Establish standard WLPZ buffer, no active firing or pile burning within WLPZ, however low intensity backing fire will be allowed to enter WLPZ.**

Parry's Horkelia

- **No state or federal listing. Habitat – Grows in the Sierra Nevada Foothill. Protection - If it is observed, Parry's Horkelia will be flagged for avoidance with a 25' buffer.**

All the standards set forth in the Forest Practice Rules for watercourse and lake protection will be incorporated into the project criteria. This will include the standards for watercourse classification, overstory retention standards, understory retention standards, identification requirements, and any other restrictive practice noted in the Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations.

Mitigation Measure #2: Cultural:

- **As operational units are identified; archaeological survey protocol would be at a minimum to survey intensively on any mid-slope benches, along watercourses and drainages and along the ridge tops. In steeper areas, walking 1-200' transects. A phased survey approach will be used prior to operations in areas not previously surveyed and shall be carried out in consultation with a CAL FIRE archaeologist. Following archaeological survey of each operational unit, the project forester will summarize survey design and survey results, propose protection measures for identified sites, record sites as needed,**

and submit this information to a CAL FIRE archaeologist. Operations may commence within phased areas after receiving clearance from a CAL FIRE archaeologist.

- **Approximately 70% of the Shake Omo VMP search area has been previously surveyed for cultural resources and contains six (6) recorded prehistoric-period cultural resources and fifty-nine (59) recorded historic-period cultural resources listed within the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS). Given the extent of known cultural resources and the environmental setting, there is high potential for prehistoric-period cultural resources high potential for historic-period cultural resources within the project area.**
- **When proposing to treat areas not covered by previously approved survey, survey strategy including appropriate intensity and time will be determined in consultation with a CAL FIRE archaeologist**
- **The dates that previous surveys were conducted are contained in the associated individual survey reports. As Units are proposed in areas that have not been previously surveyed, a phased survey approach will be utilized. The dates of those future surveys are not knowable at this time.**
- **Survey coverage intensity of previous surveys is contained within previous individual survey reports. A phased survey approach will be used prior to operations in areas not previously surveyed and shall be carried out in consultation with a CAL FIRE archaeologist. Archaeological survey protocol would be at a minimum to survey intensively on any mid-slope benches, along watercourses and drainages and along the ridge tops. In steeper areas, walking 1-200' transects.**
- **Due to the variable ground visibility limitations, inherent in a forested setting, boot scrapes will be utilized at a rate of one boot scrape per transect, as well as inspection of road cuts, and river banks.**
- **Within areas of the Shake Omo VMP previously surveyed for cultural resources, six prehistoric cultural sites have been recorded. Three of the six prehistoric sites are located along the south fork of the Cosumnes River within a class I watercourse and lake protection zone (WLPZ) and thus will not be impacted by VMP operations**
- **For the protection of the remainig three prehistoric sites not located within a WLPZ, landowner Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) has agreed to meet on site with CAL FIRE and UAIC to come to an agreement on the site boundaries.**
- **SPI proposes to flag and avoid these three prehistoric sites as part of the mitigation for the Shake Omo VMP.**
- **SPI to accommodate UAIC's site survey/inspection after vegetation clearing to reassess the site boundary.**
- **CAL FIRE and SPI to ensure that any exposed cultural soils or cultural items are recorded and securely covered within the resource boundaries.**
- **CAL FIRE and SPI will extend an invitation to the UAIC to participate in post-work site inspection to assess and inform the condition of sites within their geographic area of cultural and traditional affiliation.**
- **Cut and pile any vegetation to be burned away from resource at such a distance so that no damage or degradation to site integrity will occur. Designate sites as Special Treatment Areas on field maps and flag 25' equipment exclusion zone with "Special Treatment Area" site mark flagging.**
- **Other relevant information – Approximately 70% of the Shake Omo VMP search area has been previously surveyed for cultural resources. Ongoing discussions occur with and past archaeological surveys records were obtained from participating landowner Sierra Pacific Industries. Known impacts to area include multiple forest management / logging entries and the four previous Amador El Dorado Unit VMP's that overlap the proposed Shake Omo 2019 VMP.**
- **Previous VMP treatments included fire crew brush cutting, pile burning, tractor mastication, dozer piling, and broadcast prescribed fire.**

Mitigation Measure #3: Tribal Cultural Resources

- **As operational units are identified; archaeological survey protocol would be at a minimum to survey intensively on any mid-slope benches, along watercourses and drainages and along the ridge tops. In steeper areas, walking 1-200' transects. A phased survey approach will be used prior to operations in areas not previously surveyed and shall be carried out in consultation with a CAL FIRE archaeologist. Following archaeological survey of each operational unit, the project forester will summarize survey design and survey results, propose protection measures for identified sites, record sites as needed,**

and submit this information to a CAL FIRE archaeologist. Operations may commence within phased areas after receiving clearance from a CAL FIRE archaeologist.

- **Approximately 70% of the Shake Omo VMP search area has been previously surveyed for cultural resources and contains six (6) recorded prehistoric-period cultural resources and fifty-nine (59) recorded historic-period cultural resources listed within the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS). Given the extent of known cultural resources and the environmental setting, there is high potential for prehistoric-period cultural resources high potential for historic-period cultural resources within the project area.**
- **When proposing to treat areas not covered by previously approved survey, survey strategy including appropriate intensity and time will be determined in consultation with a CAL FIRE archaeologist**
- **The dates that previous surveys were conducted are contained in the associated individual survey reports. As Units are proposed in areas that have not been previously surveyed, a phased survey approach will be utilized. The dates of those future surveys are not knowable at this time.**
- **Survey coverage intensity of previous surveys is contained within previous individual survey reports. A phased survey approach will be used prior to operations in areas not previously surveyed and shall be carried out in consultation with a CAL FIRE archaeologist. Archaeological survey protocol would be at a minimum to survey intensively on any mid-slope benches, along watercourses and drainages and along the ridge tops. In steeper areas, walking 1-200' transects.**
- **Due to the variable ground visibility limitations, inherent in a forested setting, boot scrapes will be utilized at a rate of one boot scrape per transect, as well as inspection of road cuts, and river banks.**
- **Within areas of the Shake Omo VMP previously surveyed for cultural resources, six prehistoric cultural sites have been recorded. Three of the six prehistoric sites are located along the south fork of the Cosumnes River within a class I watercourse and lake protection zone (WLPZ) and thus will not be impacted by VMP operations**
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- **CAL FIRE and SPI to ensure that any exposed cultural soils or cultural items are recorded and securely covered within the resource boundaries.**
- **CAL FIRE and SPI will extend an invitation to the UAIC to participate in post-work site inspection to assess and inform the condition of sites within their geographic area of cultural and traditional affiliation.**
- **Cut and pile any vegetation to be burned away from resource at such a distance so that no damage or degradation to site integrity will occur. Designate sites as Special Treatment Areas on field maps and flag 25' equipment exclusion zone with "Special Treatment Area" site mark flagging.**
- **Other relevant information – Approximately 70% of the Shake Omo VMP search area has been previously surveyed for cultural resources. Ongoing discussions occur with and past archaeological surveys records were obtained from participating landowner Sierra Pacific Industries. Known impacts to area include multiple forest management / logging entries and the four previous Amador El Dorado Unit VMP's that overlap the proposed Shake Omo 2019 VMP.**
- **Previous VMP treatments included fire crew brush cutting, pile burning, tractor mastication, dozer piling, and broadcast prescribed fire.**

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

This IS-MND has been prepared to assess the project's potential effects on the environment and an appraisal of the significance of those effects. Based on this IS-MND, it has been determined that the proposed project will not have any significant effects on the environment after implementation of mitigation measures. This conclusion is supported by the following findings:

1. The proposed project will have no effect related to Agricultural Resources, Land Use Planning, Mineral Resources, Population and Housing, Public Services, Recreation, Transportation/Traffic, and Utilities and Service Systems.

2. The proposed project will have a less than significant impact on Aesthetics, Air Quality, Biological, Cultural, Geological, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hydrology and Water Quality, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Noise, and Mandatory Findings of Significance.

3. Mitigation is required to reduce potentially significant impacts related to Biological, Cultural, Tribal Cultural.

The Initial Study-Environmental Checklist included in this document discusses the results of resource-specific environmental impact analyses that were conducted by the Department. This initial study revealed that potentially significant environmental effects could result from the proposed project. However, CAL FIRE revised its project plans and has developed mitigation measures that will eliminate impact or reduce environmental impacts to a less than significant level. CAL FIRE has found, in consideration of the entire record, that there is no substantial evidence that the proposed project as currently revised and mitigated would result in a significant effect upon the environment. The IS-MND is therefore the appropriate document for CEQA compliance.

INITIAL STUDY-ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

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

Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

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

Determination

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

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

☒ I find that although the proposed project COULD have a significant effect on the environment, there WOULD 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 would be prepared.

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

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

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

Pat McDaniel

Patrick McDaniel, RPF #2679
Forester I
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

4-3-20

Date

Environmental Checklist and Discussion

AESTHETICS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Except as provided in Public Resources Code § 21099, would the project have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☒	☐

The project is not expected to have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista. A short-term change in the aesthetics of the area is anticipated. Some scorching and blackening of the vegetation will be visible from Shake Ridge and Omo Ranch Roads. However, within one growing season after burning, annual needle cast and regrowth of understory vegetation will lessen the visual impacts along the public roads within the project area. The project area will appear park like within one or two growing seasons after burning.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Except as provided in Public Resources Code § 21099, would the project substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☒	☐

The project is not expected to substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway. A short-term change in the aesthetics of the area is anticipated. Some scorching and blackening of the vegetation will be visible from Shake Ridge and Omo Ranch Roads. However, within one growing season after burning, annual needle cast and regrowth of understory vegetation will lessen the visual impacts along the public roads within the project area. The project area will appear park like within one or two growing seasons after burning.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Except as provided in Public Resources Code § 21099, <u>in non-urbanized areas</u>, would the project 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 <u>in an urbanized area</u>, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	☐	☐	☒	☐

The project is not expected to substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings A short-term change in the aesthetics of the area is anticipated. Some scorching and blackening of the vegetation will be visible from Shake Ridge and Omo Ranch Roads. However, within one growing season after burning, annual needle cast and regrowth of understory vegetation will lessen the visual impacts

along the public roads within the project area. The project area will appear park like within one or two growing seasons after burning.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Except as provided in Public Resources Code § 21099, would the project create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☒	☐

The project is not expected to create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area. A short-term change in the aesthetics of the area is anticipated. Some scorching and blackening of the vegetation will be visible from Shake Ridge and Omo Ranch Roads. However, within one growing season after burning, annual needle cast and regrowth of understory vegetation will lessen the visual impacts along the public roads within the project area. The project area will appear park like within one or two growing seasons after burning.

AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒

N/A – No impacts to agricultural resources are expected to occur. The project will not 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

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Would the project conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	☒

N/A – No impacts to agricultural resources are expected to occur. The project does not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Would the project conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code §12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code §4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code §51104(g))?	☐	☐	☐	☒

N/A – No impacts to agricultural resources are expected to occur.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Would the project result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒

N/A – No impacts to agricultural resources are expected to occur. The project does not conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code §12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code §4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code §51104(g))

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
e) Would the project involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of farmland to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒

N/A – No impacts to agricultural resources are expected to occur. The project does nott involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use.

AIR QUALITY

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐

No long-term impact on air quality will result from this project. The project is not expected to conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan. Best available control measures will be utilized to minimize short term impacts of smoke emissions from the project. A smoke management plan will be submitted for approval to the Amador County Air Pollution Control Districts, burning on designated burn days and partitioning burn units in small units (40 – 60 acres) will minimize short term smoke impacts.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Would the project 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?	☐	☐	☒	☐

No long-term impact on air quality will result from this project. The project is not expected to result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions which exceed

quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors). Best available control measures will be utilized to minimize short term impacts of smoke emissions from the project. A smoke management plan will be submitted for approval to the Amador County Air Pollution Control Districts, burning on designated burn days and partitioning burn units in small units (40 – 60 acres) will minimize short term smoke impacts.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Would the project expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☒	☐

No long-term impact on air quality will result from this project. The project is not expected to expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. CAL FIRE will post signs along major road ways on the morning prior to the commencement of burning operations. The community around the project area is very accustomed to the project work however prior to each spring and fall burning seasons CAL FIRE will publish a public interest notification in the local newspapers describing project operations.

Best available control measures will be utilized to minimize short term impacts of smoke emissions from the project. A smoke management plan will be submitted for approval to the Amador County Air Pollution Control Districts, burning on designated burn days and partitioning burn units in small units (40 – 60 acres) will minimize short term smoke impacts.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Would the project result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☒	☐

No long-term impact on air quality will result from this project. The project is not expected to create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people. Best available control measures will be utilized to minimize short term impacts of smoke emissions from the project. A smoke management plan will be submitted for approval to the Amador County Air Pollution Control Districts, burning on designated burn days and partitioning burn units in small units (40 – 60 acres) will minimize short term smoke impacts. Burning operations will only occur in this area if wind conditions are favorable to smoke dispersion. This will typically be when winds are from the southwest. The desired wind condition for the Shake Ridge Road and Omo Ranch Road area will be southwest, however if atmospheric instability favors smoke dispersal, any wind with a western influence can be utilized. Test burning at the project site will be utilized to make the final determination. Public road ways will be signed warning traffic of the burning operations. Road signage will be posted the morning prior to the commencement of burning operations and will remain until all operations are completed.

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project 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 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?				

The project is not expected to 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 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. CAL FIRE notified CDFW biologist Sarah Lose of VMP project by letter dated February 20, 2018 and in a series of emails between March 5th and March 12th, the following measures were developed and agreed to by her:

Raptors
A Sierra Pacific Industries biologist will determine occupancy status for all CA Spotted owls, Great Grey Owls and Goshawks nests known to occur within a ¼ mile of proposed VMP project activities prior to starting during the year of disturbance. If a nest is found to be occupied by brooding CA Spotted owls, Great Grey Owls and Goshawks than a disturbance buffer will be established around the nest.

- **¼ mile radius circle for CA Spotted owls, Great Grey Owls and Goshawks for the period of March 1 to August 15th.**
- **Other distances to be determined by raptor response to proposed activities**

If no occupied nest is found, then a protection zone will be established around the current activity center or the last know activity center. No VMP project activities will occur within the protection zone between March 1st and August 15th. Protection zones will vary in size and shape based on the species associated with that activity center. VMP project activities may occur outside the protection zone at any time there is no occupied nest, and may occur within the protection zone outside the March 1st to August 15th period.

CA Red Legged Frog

- **Habitat includes rivers, creeks, and coldwater ponds with emergent vegetation. Protection Measure - Establish standard WLPZ buffer, no active firing or pile burning within WLPZ, however low intensity backing fire will be allowed to enter WLPZ.**

Parry's Horkelia

- **No state or federal listing. Habitat – Grows in the Sierra Nevada Foothill. Protection - If it is observed, Parry's Horkelia will be flagged for avoidance with a 25' buffer.**

All the standards set forth in the Forest Practice Rules for watercourse and lake protection will be incorporated into the project criteria. This will include the standards for watercourse classification, overstory retention standards, understory retention standards, identification requirements, and any other restrictive practice noted in the Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations.

b) Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated ☒	Less Than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☐

The project is not expected to have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations or by the California Department

of Fish and Wildlife or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. All the standards set forth in the Forest Practice Rules for watercourse and lake protection will be incorporated into the project criteria. This will include the standards for watercourse classification, overstory retention standards, understory retention standards, identification requirements, and any other restrictive practice noted in the Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations. Fuel reduction activities will occur within Watercourses Protection Zones (WLPZ's), however pile burning will only occur outside such zones. Ignitions will not occur within WLPZ's, however low intensity broadcast prescribed fire will be allowed to back burn (creep) into WLPZ's. ~90% of material > 1" generated within Class I and Class II watercourse and lake protection zones will be piled for burning outside of Watercourse and Lake Protection Zones.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☒	☐	☐

The project is not expected to 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. All the standards set forth in the Forest Practice Rules for watercourse and lake protection will be incorporated into the project criteria. This will include the standards for watercourse classification, overstory retention standards, understory retention standards, identification requirements, and any other restrictive practice noted in the Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations. Fuel reduction activities will occur within Watercourses Protection Zones (WLPZ's), however pile burning will only occur outside such zones. Broadcast burning ignitions will not be occur within WLPZ's, however broadcast prescribed fire will be allowed to back burn (creep) into WLPZ's. ~90% of material > 1" generated within Class I and Class II watercourse and lake protection zones will be piled for burning outside of Watercourse and Lake Protection Zones.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Would the project interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	☐	☒	☐	☐

The project is not expected to 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. CAL FIRE notified CDFW biologist Sarah Lose of VMP project by letter dated February 20, 2018 and in a series of emails between March 5th and March 12th, the following measures were developed and agreed to by her:

Raptors
The occupancy status will be determined for all CA Spotted owls, Great Grey Owls and Goshawks nests know to occur within a ¼ mile of proposed VMP project activities prior to starting during the year of disturbance. If a nest is found to be occupied by brooding CA Spotted owls, Great Grey Owls and Goshawks than a disturbance buffer will be established around the nest.

- **¼ mile radius circle for CA Spotted owls, Great Grey Owls and Goshawks for the period of March 1 to August 15th.**
- **Other distances to be determined by raptor response to proposed activities**

If no occupied nest is found, then a protection zone will be established around the current activity center or the last know activity center. No VMP project activities will occur within the protection zone between March 1st and August 15th. Protection zones will vary in size and shape based on the species associated with that activity center. VMP project activities may occur outside the protection zone at any time there is no occupied nest, and may occur within the protection zone outside the March 1st to August 15th period.

CA Red Legged Frog

- **Habitat includes rivers, creeks, and coldwater ponds with emergent vegetation. Protection Measure - Establish standard WLPZ buffer, no active firing or pile burning within WLPZ, however low intensity backing fire will be allowed to enter WLPZ.**

Parry's Horkelia

- **No state or federal listing. Habitat – Grows in the Sierra Nevada Foothill. Protection - If it is observed, Parry's Horkelia will be flagged for avoidance with a 25' buffer.**

All the standards set forth in the Forest Practice Rules for watercourse and lake protection will be incorporated into the project criteria. This will include the standards for watercourse classification, overstory retention standards, understory retention standards, identification requirements, and any other restrictive practice noted in the Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
e) Would the project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The project is not expected to conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
f) Would the project conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

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

CULTURAL RESOURCES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to § 15064.5?	☐	☒	☐	☐

The project is not expected to cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5. Archaeological procedures for CAL FIRE projects were undertaken in the preparation of this project. Notification letters were sent to groups listed on CAL FIRE's Native American

Contact List in El Dorado and Amador Counties. In addition, an Archaeological Records Check was conducted by the North Central Information Center resulting in Archaeological records check AMA-18-12 dated 3/1/18. An archaeological addendum was completed by RPF Patrick McDaniel. An AB52 consultation process was initiated and the United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC) requested formal consultation:

- **As operational units are identified; archaeological survey protocol would be at a minimum to survey intensively on any mid-slope benches, along watercourses and drainages and along the ridge tops. In steeper areas, walking 1-200' transects. A phased survey approach will be used prior to operations in areas not previously surveyed and shall be carried out in consultation with a CAL FIRE archaeologist. Following archaeological survey of each operational unit, the project forester will summarize survey design and survey results, propose protection measures for identified sites, record sites as needed, and submit this information to a CAL FIRE archaeologist. Operations may commence within phased areas after receiving clearance from a CAL FIRE archaeologist.**
- **Approximately 70% of the Shake Omo VMP search area has been previously surveyed for cultural resources and contains six (6) recorded prehistoric-period cultural resources and fifty-nine (59) recorded historic-period cultural resources listed within the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS). Given the extent of known cultural resources and the environmental setting, there is high potential for prehistoric-period cultural resources high potential for historic-period cultural resources within the project area.**
- **When proposing to treat areas not covered by previously approved survey, survey strategy including appropriate intensity and time will be determined in consultation with a CAL FIRE archaeologist**
- **The dates that previous surveys were conducted are contained in the associated individual survey reports. As Units are proposed in areas that have not been previously surveyed, a phased survey approach will be utilized. The dates of those future surveys are not knowable at this time.**
- **Survey coverage intensity of previous surveys is contained within previous individual survey reports. A phased survey approach will be used prior to operations in areas not previously surveyed and shall be carried out in consultation with a CAL FIRE archaeologist. Archaeological survey protocol would be at a minimum to survey intensively on any mid-slope benches, along watercourses and drainages and along the ridge tops. In steeper areas, walking 1-200' transects.**
- **Due to the variable ground visibility limitations, inherent in a forested setting, boot scrapes will be utilized at a rate of one boot scrape per transect, as well as inspection of road cuts, and river banks.**
- **Within areas of the Shake Omo VMP previously surveyed for cultural resources, six prehistoric cultural sites have been recorded. Three of the six prehistoric sites are located along the south fork of the Cosumnes River within a class I watercourse and lake protection zone (WLPZ) and thus will not be impacted by VMP operations**
- **For the protection of the remainig three prehistoric sites not located within a WLPZ, landowner Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) has agreed to meet on site with CAL FIRE and UAIC to come to an agreement on the site boundaries.**
- **SPI proposes to flag and avoid these three prehistoric sites as part of the mitigation for the Shake Omo VMP.**
- **SPI to accommodate UAIC's site survey/inspection after vegetation clearing to reassess the site boundary.**
- **CAL FIRE and SPI to ensure that any exposed cultural soils or cultural items are recorded and securely covered within the resource boundaries.**
- **CAL FIRE and SPI will extend an invitation to the UAIC to participate in post-work site inspection to assess and inform the condition of sites within their geographic area of cultural and traditional affiliation.**
- **Cut and pile any vegetation to be burned away from resource at such a distance so that no damage or degradation to site integrity will occur. Designate sites as Special Treatment Areas on field maps and flag 25' equipment exclusion zone with "Special Treatment Area" site mark flagging.**
- **Other relevant information – Approximately 70% of the Shake Omo VMP search area has been previously surveyed for cultural resources. Ongoing discussions occur with and past archaeological surveys records were obtained from participating landowner Sierra Pacific Industries. Known impacts to area include multiple forest management / logging entries and the four previous Amador El Dorado Unit VMP's that overlap the proposed Shake Omo 2019 VMP.**

- **Previous VMP treatments included fire crew brush cutting, pile burning, tractor mastication, dozer piling, and broadcast prescribed fire.**

b) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5?	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	☐	☒	☐	☐

The project is not expected to cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5. Archaeological procedures for CAL FIRE projects were undertaken in the preparation of this project. Notification letters were sent to groups listed on CAL FIRE's Native American Contact List in El Dorado and Amador Counties. In addition, an Archaeological Records Check was conducted by the North Central Information Center resulting in Archaeological records check AMA-18-12 dated 3/1/18. An archaeological addendum was completed by RPF Patrick McDaniel. An AB52 consultation process was initiated and the United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC) requested formal consultation:

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- **Due to the variable ground visibility limitations, inherent in a forested setting, boot scrapes will be utilized at a rate of one boot scrape per transect, as well as inspection of road cuts, and river banks.**
- **Within areas of the Shake Omo VMP previously surveyed for cultural resources, six prehistoric cultural sites have been recorded. Three of the six prehistoric sites are located along the south fork of the Cosumnes River within a class I watercourse and lake protection zone (WLPZ) and thus will not be impacted by VMP operations**
- **For the protection of the remaining three prehistoric sites not located within a WLPZ, landowner Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) has agreed to meet on site with CAL FIRE and UAIC to come to an agreement on the site boundaries.**
- **SPI proposes to flag and avoid these three prehistoric sites as part of the mitigation for the Shake Omo VMP.**
- **SPI to accommodate UAIC's site survey/inspection after vegetation clearing to reassess the site boundary.**

- **CAL FIRE and SPI to ensure that any exposed cultural soils or cultural items are recorded and securely covered within the resource boundaries.**
- **CAL FIRE and SPI will extend an invitation to the UAIC to participate in post-work site inspection to assess and inform the condition of sites within their geographic area of cultural and traditional affiliation.**
- **Cut and pile any vegetation to be burned away from resource at such a distance so that no damage or degradation to site integrity will occur. Designate sites as Special Treatment Areas on field maps and flag 25' equipment exclusion zone with "Special Treatment Area" site mark flagging.**
- **Other relevant information – Approximately 70% of the Shake Omo VMP search area has been previously surveyed for cultural resources. Ongoing discussions occur with and past archaeological surveys records were obtained from participating landowner Sierra Pacific Industries. Known impacts to area include multiple forest management / logging entries and the four previous Amador El Dorado Unit VMP's that overlap the proposed Shake Omo 2019 VMP.**
- **Previous VMP treatments included fire crew brush cutting, pile burning, tractor mastication, dozer piling, and broadcast prescribed fire.**

c) Would the project disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	☐	☒	☐	☐

The project is not expected disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries. Archaeological procedures for CAL FIRE projects were undertaken in the preparation of this project. Notification letters were sent to groups listed on CAL FIRE's Native American Contact List in El Dorado and Amador Counties. In addition, an Archaeological Records Check was conducted by the North Central Information Center resulting in Archaeological records check AMA-18-12 dated 3/1/18. An archaeological addendum was completed by RPF Patrick McDaniel. An AB52 consultation process was initiated and the United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC) requested formal consultation:

- **As operational units are identified; archaeological survey protocol would be at a minimum to survey intensively on any mid-slope benches, along watercourses and drainages and along the ridge tops. In steeper areas, walking 1-200' transects. A phased survey approach will be used prior to operations in areas not previously surveyed and shall be carried out in consultation with a CAL FIRE archaeologist. Following archaeological survey of each operational unit, the project forester will summarize survey design and survey results, propose protection measures for identified sites, record sites as needed, and submit this information to a CAL FIRE archaeologist. Operations may commence within phased areas after receiving clearance from a CAL FIRE archaeologist.**
- **Approximately 70% of the Shake Omo VMP search area has been previously surveyed for cultural resources and contains six (6) recorded prehistoric-period cultural resources and fifty-nine (59) recorded historic-period cultural resources listed within the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS). Given the extent of known cultural resources and the environmental setting, there is high potential for prehistoric-period cultural resources high potential for historic-period cultural resources within the project area.**
- **When proposing to treat areas not covered by previously approved survey, survey strategy including appropriate intensity and time will be determined in consultation with a CAL FIRE archaeologist**
- **The dates that previous surveys were conducted are contained in the associated individual survey reports. As Units are proposed in areas that have not been previously surveyed, a phased survey approach will be utilized. The dates of those future surveys are not knowable at this time.**
- **Survey coverage intensity of previous surveys is contained within previous individual survey reports. A phased survey approach will be used prior to operations in areas not previously surveyed and shall be carried out in consultation with a CAL FIRE archaeologist. Archaeological survey protocol would be at a minimum to survey intensively on any mid-slope benches, along watercourses and drainages and along the ridge tops. In steeper areas, walking 1-200' transects.**

- **Due to the variable ground visibility limitations, inherent in a forested setting, boot scrapes will be utilized at a rate of one boot scrape per transect, as well as inspection of road cuts, and river banks.**
- **Within areas of the Shake Omo VMP previously surveyed for cultural resources, six prehistoric cultural sites have been recorded. Three of the six prehistoric sites are located along the south fork of the Cosumnes River within a class I watercourse and lake protection zone (WLPZ) and thus will not be impacted by VMP operations**
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- **Cut and pile any vegetation to be burned away from resource at such a distance so that no damage or degradation to site integrity will occur. Designate sites as Special Treatment Areas on field maps and flag 25' equipment exclusion zone with "Special Treatment Area" site mark flagging.**
- **Other relevant information – Approximately 70% of the Shake Omo VMP search area has been previously surveyed for cultural resources. Ongoing discussions occur with and past archaeological surveys records were obtained from participating landowner Sierra Pacific Industries. Known impacts to area include multiple forest management / logging entries and the four previous Amador El Dorado Unit VMP's that overlap the proposed Shake Omo 2019 VMP.**
- **Previous VMP treatments included fire crew brush cutting, pile burning, tractor mastication, dozer piling, and broadcast prescribed fire.**

ENERGY

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	☐	☐	☐	☐

N/A the project would not result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Would the project conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	☐	☐	☐	☐

N/A The project would not conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency.

GEOLOGY AND SOILS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? (Refer to California Geological Survey Special Publication 42.)	☐	☐	☐	☒

The project is not expected to directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? (Refer to California Geological Survey Special Publication 42.)

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The project is not expected to directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving strong seismic ground shaking.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The project is not expected to directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving landslides?	☐	☐	☒	☐

The project is not expected to directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving landslides.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
e) Would the project result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☒	☐

The project is not expected to result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
f) Would the project be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?	☐	☐	☒	☐

The project is not located on a geologic unit or soil that is known to be unstable, or is thought would become unstable because of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
g) Would the project be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994, as updated), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☒	☐

The is not known to be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994, as updated), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
h) Would the project have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	☐	☐	☐	☒

N/A - The use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems is not proposed for this project.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
i) Would the project directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The project is not expected to directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature.

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐

The project is not expected to generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment. On average, the combined aboveground carbon storage of California forests is about 40 tons/acre (Christensen et al. 2007). In California the largest forest carbon stock pools is in soil (45 percent), followed by biomass (30 percent), and forest floor and coarse woody debris (20 percent) (Birdsey and Lewis 2002). At some point the carbon stored in the above ground portion of the plants will be released through respiration, decay or combustion. Although some of the carbon will be added to the soil most will be released to the atmosphere.

Over time the carbon that is stored in vegetation will be released as part of the normal carbon cycle. Carbon will also be sequestered overtime as new vegetation grows if the land remains productive. Prescribed fire is a tool to help maintain those carbon stocks over time. By reducing the probability of catastrophic wildfire prescribed fire can increase the probability of survival of the overstory trees allowing them to continue to sequester carbon. The carbon released by the prescribed fire will be resequestered by the remaining living trees and new vegetation following the burn. This has the potential to reduce the massive increase in short term emissions from wildfire and spread the emissions over a longer period while allowing sequestration to occur in the remaining vegetation.

Prescribed burning is generally used to reduce the fuel load of the forest floor and coarse woody debris, as well as a portion of the above ground biomass. The purpose of the fire is to reduce the risk of large damaging fires by creating conditions that increase the effectiveness of fire suppression. Prescribed fire typically does not affect soil carbon due to lower burn temperatures than wildfire and limits carbon releases because it typically affects only understory plants and ladder fuels. Prescribed burning returns some carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and particulate matter to the atmosphere. Combustion generally is more complete than wildfire, which releases higher concentrations of the other greenhouse gasses and particulate matter (Mader 2007). Actively managed forests with fuels management generally exhibit below-average fire frequency (Eckert 2007).

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Would the project conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☒	☐

The project is not expected to conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases.

HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☒	☐

The project is not expected to create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and/or accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐

The project is not expected to create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and/or accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Would the project emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☒	☐

The project is not expected to emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school. Indian Diggins school is within one mile of the project area and burns will be coordinated with the school to ensure school is not in session when burning occurs within ¼ mile of its location.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Would the project be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code § 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒

N/A - The project is not located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code §65962.5 which thus, would create a significant hazard to the public or the environment.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒

N/A - Project is not 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 and thus the project would not result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
f) Would the project impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

N/A - Project is not expected to impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
g) Would the project expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires?	☐	☐	☐	☒

N/A - The project is not expected to expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires.

HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board was sent notification about the project by letter dated February 20, 2018 and did not provide any comment. The project is not expected to violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Would the project substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede				

sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board was sent notification about the project by letter dated February 20, 2018 and did not provide any comment. The project is not expected to substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would result in substantial on- or off-site erosion or siltation?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board was sent notification about the project by letter dated February 20, 2018 and did not provide any comment. The project is not expected to substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would result in substantial on- or off-site erosion or siltation?

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in on- or off-site flooding?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board was sent notification about the project by letter dated February 20, 2018 and did not provide any comment. The project is not expected to 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, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in on- or off-site flooding.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
e) Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or	☐	☐	☐	☒

provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?				

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board was sent notification about the project by letter dated February 20, 2018 and did not provide any comment. The project will not 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, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would 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.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
f) Would the project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would impede or redirect flows?	☐	☐	☐	☒

N/A - the project is not expected to 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, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would impede or redirect flows.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
g) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, would the project risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	☐	☐	☐	☒

N/A – Project is not located in a flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zone.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
h) Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

N/A - The project is not expected to conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan.

LAND USE AND PLANNING

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒

N/A – The project will not physically divide an established community.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Would the project cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☐	☒

N/A - The project is not expected to 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.

MINERAL RESOURCES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

N/A - The project is not expected to 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.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Would the project result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

N/A - The project is not expected to 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.

NOISE

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project result in 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 in other applicable local, state, or federal standards?	☐	☐	☐	☒

N/A - The project is not expected to result in 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 in other applicable local, state, or federal standards.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Would the project result in generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒

N/A - The project is not expected to result in generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

N/A - project is not 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.

POPULATION AND HOUSING

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☐	☒

N/A - The project will not induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Would the project displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒

N/A - The project will not displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere.

PUBLIC SERVICES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for fire protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒

N/A - The project would not result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for fire protection.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for police protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒

N/A - The project will not result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for police protection.

c) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for schools?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated ☐	Less Than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

N/A - The project will not result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for schools.

d) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for parks?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated ☐	Less Than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

N/A - The project will not result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for parks.

e) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for other public facilities?	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated ☐	Less Than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☒

N/A - The project will not result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for other public facilities.

RECREATION

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	☐	☐	☐	☒

N/A - the project will not increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Would the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒

N/A - The project does not include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

TRANSPORTATION

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Approximately 90% of the project is within industrial timberland. The project does not conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines § 15064.3(b)?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The project does not conflict nor is it inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines § 15064.3(b).

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Would the project substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐		☐	☒

	☐

N/A the project would not substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Would the project result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☐	☒

TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code § 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code § 5020.1(k)?	☐	☒	☐	☐

The project is not expected to cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code § 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code § 5020.1(k).

Archaeological procedures for CAL FIRE projects were undertaken in the preparation of this project. Notification letters were sent to groups listed on CAL FIRE's Native American Contact List in El Dorado and Amador Counties. In addition, an Archaeological Records Check was conducted by the North Central Information Center resulting in Archaeological records check AMA-18-12 dated 3/1/18. An archaeological addendum was completed by RPF Patrick McDaniel.:

- **As operational units are identified; archaeological survey protocol would be at a minimum to survey intensively on any mid-slope benches, along watercourses and drainages and along the ridge tops. In steeper areas, walking 1-200' transects. A phased survey approach will be used prior to operations in areas not previously surveyed and shall be carried out in consultation with a CAL FIRE archaeologist.**

Following archaeological survey of each operational unit, the project forester will summarize survey design and survey results, propose protection measures for identified sites, record sites as needed, and submit this information to a CAL FIRE archaeologist. Operations may commence within phased areas after receiving clearance from a CAL FIRE archaeologist.

- **Approximately 70% of the Shake Omo VMP search area has been previously surveyed for cultural resources and contains six (6) recorded prehistoric-period cultural resources and fifty-nine (59) recorded historic-period cultural resources listed within the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS). Given the extent of known cultural resources and the environmental setting, there is high potential for prehistoric-period cultural resources high potential for historic-period cultural resources within the project area.**
- **When proposing to treat areas not covered by previously approved survey, survey strategy including appropriate intensity and time will be determined in consultation with a CAL FIRE archaeologist**
- **The dates that previous surveys were conducted are contained in the associated individual survey reports. As Units are proposed in areas that have not been previously surveyed, a phased survey approach will be utilized. The dates of those future surveys are not knowable at this time.**
- **Survey coverage intensity of previous surveys is contained within previous individual survey reports. A phased survey approach will be used prior to operations in areas not previously surveyed and shall be carried out in consultation with a CAL FIRE archaeologist. Archaeological survey protocol would be at a minimum to survey intensively on any mid-slope benches, along watercourses and drainages and along the ridge tops. In steeper areas, walking 1-200' transects.**
- **Due to the variable ground visibility limitations, inherent in a forested setting, boot scrapes will be utilized at a rate of one boot scrape per transect, as well as inspection of road cuts, and river banks.**
- **Within areas of the Shake Omo VMP previously surveyed for cultural resources, six prehistoric cultural sites have been recorded. Three of the six prehistoric sites are located along the south fork of the Cosumnes River within a class I watercourse and lake protection zone (WLPZ) and thus will not be impacted by VMP operations**
- **For the protection of the remaining three prehistoric sites not located within a WLPZ, landowner Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) has agreed to meet on site with CAL FIRE and UAIC to come to an agreement on the site boundaries.**
- **SPI proposes to flag and avoid these three prehistoric sites as part of the mitigation for the Shake Omo VMP.**
- **SPI to accommodate UAIC's site survey/inspection after vegetation clearing to reassess the site boundary.**
- **CAL FIRE and SPI to ensure that any exposed cultural soils or cultural items are recorded and securely covered within the resource boundaries.**
- **CAL FIRE and SPI will extend an invitation to the UAIC to participate in post-work site inspection to assess and inform the condition of sites within their geographic area of cultural and traditional affiliation.**
- **Cut and pile any vegetation to be burned away from resource at such a distance so that no damage or degradation to site integrity will occur. Designate sites as Special Treatment Areas on field maps and flag 25' equipment exclusion zone with "Special Treatment Area" site mark flagging.**
- **Other relevant information – Approximately 70% of the Shake Omo VMP search area has been previously surveyed for cultural resources. Ongoing discussions occur with and past archaeological surveys records were obtained from participating landowner Sierra Pacific Industries. Known impacts to area include multiple forest management / logging entries and the four previous Amador El Dorado Unit VMP's that overlap the proposed Shake Omo 2019 VMP.**
- **Previous VMP treatments included fire crew brush cutting, pile burning, tractor mastication, dozer piling, and broadcast prescribed fire.**

b) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code § 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is	Potentially Significant Impact ☐	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact ☐	No Impact ☐

	geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is: A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code § 5024.1? In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code § 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	☒

The project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code § 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is: A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code § 5024.1? In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code § 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.
Archaeological procedures for CAL FIRE projects were undertaken in the preparation of this project. Notification letters were sent to groups listed on CAL FIRE's Native American Contact List in El Dorado and Amador Counties. In addition, an Archaeological Records Check was conducted by the North Central Information Center resulting in Archaeological records check AMA-18-12 dated 3/1/18. An archaeological addendum was completed by RPF Patrick McDaniel.:

- **As operational units are identified; archaeological survey protocol would be at a minimum to survey intensively on any mid-slope benches, along watercourses and drainages and along the ridge tops. In steeper areas, walking 1-200' transects. A phased survey approach will be used prior to operations in areas not previously surveyed and shall be carried out in consultation with a CAL FIRE archaeologist. Following archaeological survey of each operational unit, the project forester will summarize survey design and survey results, propose protection measures for identified sites, record sites as needed, and submit this information to a CAL FIRE archaeologist. Operations may commence within phased areas after receiving clearance from a CAL FIRE archaeologist.**
- **Approximately 70% of the Shake Omo VMP search area has been previously surveyed for cultural resources and contains six (6) recorded prehistoric-period cultural resources and fifty-nine (59) recorded historic-period cultural resources listed within the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS). Given the extent of known cultural resources and the environmental setting, there is high potential for prehistoric-period cultural resources high potential for historic-period cultural resources within the project area.**
- **When proposing to treat areas not covered by previously approved survey, survey strategy including appropriate intensity and time will be determined in consultation with a CAL FIRE archaeologist**
- **The dates that previous surveys were conducted are contained in the associated individual survey reports. As Units are proposed in areas that have not been previously surveyed, a phased survey approach will be utilized. The dates of those future surveys are not knowable at this time.**
- **Survey coverage intensity of previous surveys is contained within previous individual survey reports. A phased survey approach will be used prior to operations in areas not previously surveyed and shall be carried out in consultation with a CAL FIRE archaeologist. Archaeological survey protocol would be at a minimum to survey intensively on any mid-slope benches, along watercourses and drainages and along the ridge tops. In steeper areas, walking 1-200' transects.**

- **Due to the variable ground visibility limitations, inherent in a forested setting, boot scrapes will be utilized at a rate of one boot scrape per transect, as well as inspection of road cuts, and river banks.**
- **Within areas of the Shake Omo VMP previously surveyed for cultural resources, six prehistoric cultural sites have been recorded. Three of the six prehistoric sites are located along the south fork of the Cosumnes River within a class I watercourse and lake protection zone (WLPZ) and thus will not be impacted by VMP operations**
- **For the protection of the remaining three prehistoric sites not located within a WLPZ, landowner Sierra Pacific Industries (SPI) has agreed to meet on site with CAL FIRE and UAIC to come to an agreement on the site boundaries.**
- **SPI proposes to flag and avoid these three prehistoric sites as part of the mitigation for the Shake Omo VMP.**
- **SPI to accommodate UAIC's site survey/inspection after vegetation clearing to reassess the site boundary.**
- **CAL FIRE and SPI to ensure that any exposed cultural soils or cultural items are recorded and securely covered within the resource boundaries.**
- **CAL FIRE and SPI will extend an invitation to the UAIC to participate in post-work site inspection to assess and inform the condition of sites within their geographic area of cultural and traditional affiliation.**
- **Cut and pile any vegetation to be burned away from resource at such a distance so that no damage or degradation to site integrity will occur. Designate sites as Special Treatment Areas on field maps and flag 25' equipment exclusion zone with "Special Treatment Area" site mark flagging.**
- **Other relevant information – Approximately 70% of the Shake Omo VMP search area has been previously surveyed for cultural resources. Ongoing discussions occur with and past archaeological surveys records were obtained from participating landowner Sierra Pacific Industries. Known impacts to area include multiple forest management / logging entries and the four previous Amador El Dorado Unit VMP's that overlap the proposed Shake Omo 2019 VMP.**
- **Previous VMP treatments included fire crew brush cutting, pile burning, tractor mastication, dozer piling, and broadcast prescribed fire.**

UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	☒

N/A - The project is not expected to 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.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Would the project have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The project is expected to have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Would the project result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand, in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The project will not require the use of a wastewater treatment provider and thus, no determination by such a provider is expected..

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) Would the project generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	☐	☐	☐	☒

N/A - The project is not expected to 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

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
e) Would the project comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The project will comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

WILDFIRE

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The project aims to create and maintain a shaded fuel break which would aide firefighters in the control of wildfire. It would not substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The project aims to create and maintain a shaded fuel break which would aide firefighters in the control of wildfire. It would not due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒

The project aims to create and maintain a shaded fuel break which would aide firefighters in the control of wildfire. However, the project will not require the installation or maintenance roads, 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.

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
d) If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	☐	☐	☐	☒

N/A – The project will not expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, because of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes

MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would 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 an endangered, rare, or threatened species, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	

b) Would 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.)	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	☐	☒	☐	☐

c) Would the project have environmental effects that would cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
	☐	☒	☐	☐

APPENDIX A

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan

In accordance with CEQA Guidelines § 15074(d), when adopting a mitigated negative declaration, the lead agency will adopt a mitigation monitoring and reporting plan (MMRP) that ensures compliance with mitigation measures required for project approval. CAL FIRE is the lead agency for the above-listed project and has developed this MMRP as a part of the final IS-MND supporting the project. This MMRP lists the mitigation measures developed in the IS-MND that were designed to reduce environmental impacts to a less-than-significant level. This MMRP also identifies the party responsible for implementing the measure, defines when the mitigation measure must be implemented, and which party or public agency is responsible for ensuring compliance with the measure.

POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

The following is a list of the resources that will be potentially affected by the project and the mitigation measures made part of the Initial Study-Mitigated Negative Declaration.

Mitigation Measure #1: Biological
Schedule: Prior to operations
Responsible Party: CAL FIRE
Verification of Compliance:
Monitoring Party: CAL FIRE
Initials: _____
Date: _____

Mitigation Measure #2: Cultural
Schedule: Prior to operations
Responsible Party: CALFIRE
Verification of Compliance:
Monitoring Party: CAL FIRE
Initials: _____
Date: _____

Mitigation Measure #3: Tribal Cultural
Schedule: Prior to operations
Responsible Party: CAL FIRE
Verification of Compliance:
Monitoring Party: CAL FIRE
Initials: _____
Date: _____

A copy of the completed MMRP will be forwarded to: CAL FIRE Environmental Protection Program, P.O. Box 944246, Sacramento, CA 94244.

PREPARERS OF THIS DOCUMENT

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- Craig Ostergard, Registered Professional Forester, Sierra Pacific Industries.
- Chris Cochrane, California Regional Water Quality Control Board

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