Draft

Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration

Jackson Annual Creek Cleaning Project

City of Jackson
33 Broadway
Jackson, CA 95642

July 2020

PROPOSED MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

PROJECT: CITY OF JACKSON ANNUAL CREEK CLEANING PROJECT

LEAD AGENCY: CITY OF JACKSON

Under CEQA, the lead agency is the public agency with primary responsibility over approval of the project. The City of Jackson is the CEQA lead agency because it is responsible for implementation and operation of the project.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The City would continue to conduct annual maintenance activities at the locations identified in Figure 2-2. All work is performed with hand tools and mechanical vegetation cutters and shredders. Debris and dead vegetation would be removed by hand. Vegetation removal is limited to ruderal grasses and trees and shrubs less than four (4) inches diameter at breast height (DBH). Trees greater than 4 inches DBH are retained but may be trimmed. Riparian vegetation that is not obstructing flow would be retained. Additionally, some silt, sand or sediment removal may be required in the immediate vicinity of any facilities or structures that substantially obstruct water flow, reduce channel capacity, accelerate erosion or damage concrete box culvers, metal culvers or bridge structures. Work would be limited to the driest time within the channel, typically during the fall months for no more than eight weeks.

FINDINGS

An Initial Study has been prepared to assess the project's potential effects on the environment and the significance of those effects. Based on the Initial Study, it has been determined that the project would not have any significant effects on the environment once mitigation measures are implemented. The conclusion is supported by the following findings:

1. The project would have no impact related to agriculture and forestry resources, land use and planning, mineral resources, population and housing, public services, and recreation.
2. The project would have a less-than-significant impact on aesthetics, air quality, geology and soils, hydrology and water quality, and utilities and service systems.
3. Mitigation is required to reduce potentially significant impacts related to biological resources, cultural resources, hazards and hazardous materials, noise, transportation and traffic, and tribal cultural resources to less-than-significant levels.

Pursuant to Section 21082.1 of the California Environmental Quality Act, the City of Jackson has independently reviewed and analyzed the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project and finds that the Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration reflects the independent judgment of the City. The City further finds that the project mitigation measures shall be implemented as stated in the Mitigated Negative Declaration.

I hereby approve this project:

Susan Peters
City of Jackson
(to be signed upon approval of the project after the public review period is complete)

Draft
Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration
for the

Annual Creek Cleaning Project

Prepared for:

City of Jackson
33 Broadway
Jackson, CA 95642
Phone: 209.223.1646

Contact: Susan Peters, City Planner

Prepared By:

Ascent Environmental, Inc.
455 Capitol Mall, Suite 300
Sacramento, California 95814
916.444.7301

Contact: Patrick Angell

July 2020

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACES	Amador County Environmental Services
ARTS	Amador Regional Transit System
AWA	Amador Water Agency
BMP	best management practices
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CDHS	California Department of Health Services
CEC	California Energy Commission
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CH_4	Methane
City	City of Jackson
CO_2	Carbon Dioxide
CUPA	Certified Unified Program Agency
CVRWQCB	California Regional Water Quality Control Board's Central Valley Region
dB	decibels
DBH	diameter at breast height
EIA	U.S. Energy Information Administration
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EOP	Emergency Operations Plan
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FMMP	Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program
GHG	greenhouse gases

IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IS/Proposed MND	Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration
LUST	leaking underground storage tank
MCAB	Mountain Counties Air Basin
MLD	Most Likely Descendent
N_2O	nitrous oxide
NWS	National Weather Service
PRC	Public Resources Code
RMA	Routine Maintenance Agreement
SMAQMD	Sacramento Air Quality Management District's
SR	State Route
TCR	tribal cultural resources
UAIC	United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
WWTP	wastewater treatment plant

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION AND REGULATORY GUIDANCE

This Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/Proposed MND) has been prepared by the City of Jackson to evaluate potential environmental effects resulting from proposed Annual Creek Cleaning Project. Chapter 2, "Project Description," presents the detailed project information.

This document has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.) and the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations Section 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 (State CEQA Guidelines Section 15063[a]), and thus to determine the appropriate environmental document. In accordance with State CEQA Guidelines Section 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 on 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 would 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 project would not have a significant effect on the environment and, therefore, does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). By contrast, an EIR is required when the project may have a significant environmental impact that cannot clearly be reduced to a less-than-significant effect by adoption of mitigation or by revisions in the project design.

1.2 WHY THIS DOCUMENT?

As described in the environmental checklist (Chapter 3), the project would not result in any significant environmental impacts that cannot be mitigated. Therefore, an IS/Proposed MND is the appropriate document for compliance with the requirements of CEQA. This IS/Proposed MND conforms to these requirements and to the content requirements of State CEQA Guidelines Section 15071.

Under CEQA, the lead agency is the public agency with primary responsibility over approval of the project. City of Jackson is the CEQA lead agency because they are responsible for approving and implementing the project. The purpose of this document is to present to decision-makers and the public information about the environmental consequences of implementing the project. This disclosure document is being made available to the public for review and comment. This IS/Proposed MND will be available for a 30-day public review period.

Supporting documentation referenced in this document is available for review at:

City of Jackson
33 Broadway, Jackson, CA 95642

Comments should be addressed to:

Susan Peters, City Planner
City of Jackson
33 Broadway, Jackson, CA 95642

E-mail comments may be addressed to: speters@ci.jackson.ca.us

After comments are received from the public and reviewing agencies, the City may (1) adopt the MND and approve the project; (2) undertake additional environmental studies; or (3) abandon the project. If the project is approved and funded, the project proponent may proceed with the project.

1.3 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Chapter 3 of this document contains the analysis and discussion of potential environmental impacts of the project.

Based on the issues evaluated in that chapter, it was determined that the project would have either no impact or a less-than-significant impact related to most of the issue areas identified in the Environmental Checklist, included as Appendix G of the State CEQA Guidelines.

Potentially significant impacts were identified for air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hydrology and water quality, and tribal cultural resources; however, mitigation measures included in the IS/Proposed MND would reduce all impacts to a less-than-significant level.

1.4 DOCUMENT ORGANIZATION

This IS/Proposed MND is organized as follows:

Chapter 1: Introduction. This chapter provides an introduction to the environmental review process. It describes the purpose and organization of this document as well as presents a summary of findings.

Chapter 2: Project Description. This chapter describes the purpose of and need for the proposed project, identifies project objectives, and provides a detailed description of the project.

Chapter 3: Environmental Checklist. This chapter presents an analysis of a range of environmental issues identified in the CEQA Environmental Checklist and determines if project actions would result in no impact, a less-than-significant impact, a less-than-significant impact with mitigation incorporated, or a potentially significant impact. If any impacts were determined to be potentially significant, an EIR would be required. For this project, however, none of the impacts were determined to be significant after implementation of mitigation measures.

Chapter 4: References. This chapter lists the references used in preparation of this IS/Proposed MND.

Chapter 5: List of Preparers. This chapter identifies report preparers.

2 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 PROJECT OVERVIEW

The City of Jackson (City) is preparing a Mitigated Negative Declaration for a new Routine Maintenance Agreement (RMA) with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Lake and Streambed Alteration Program to allow for the routine maintenance of creek and drainage channels to continue for 12 years known as the Annual Creek Cleaning Project.

For decades the City has hired the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Juvenile Division inmates to annually clean excess vegetation and debris from Jackson Creek and some pertinent drainages and retention basins to maintain capacity in the creek and drainage channels.

2.2 PROJECT LOCATION

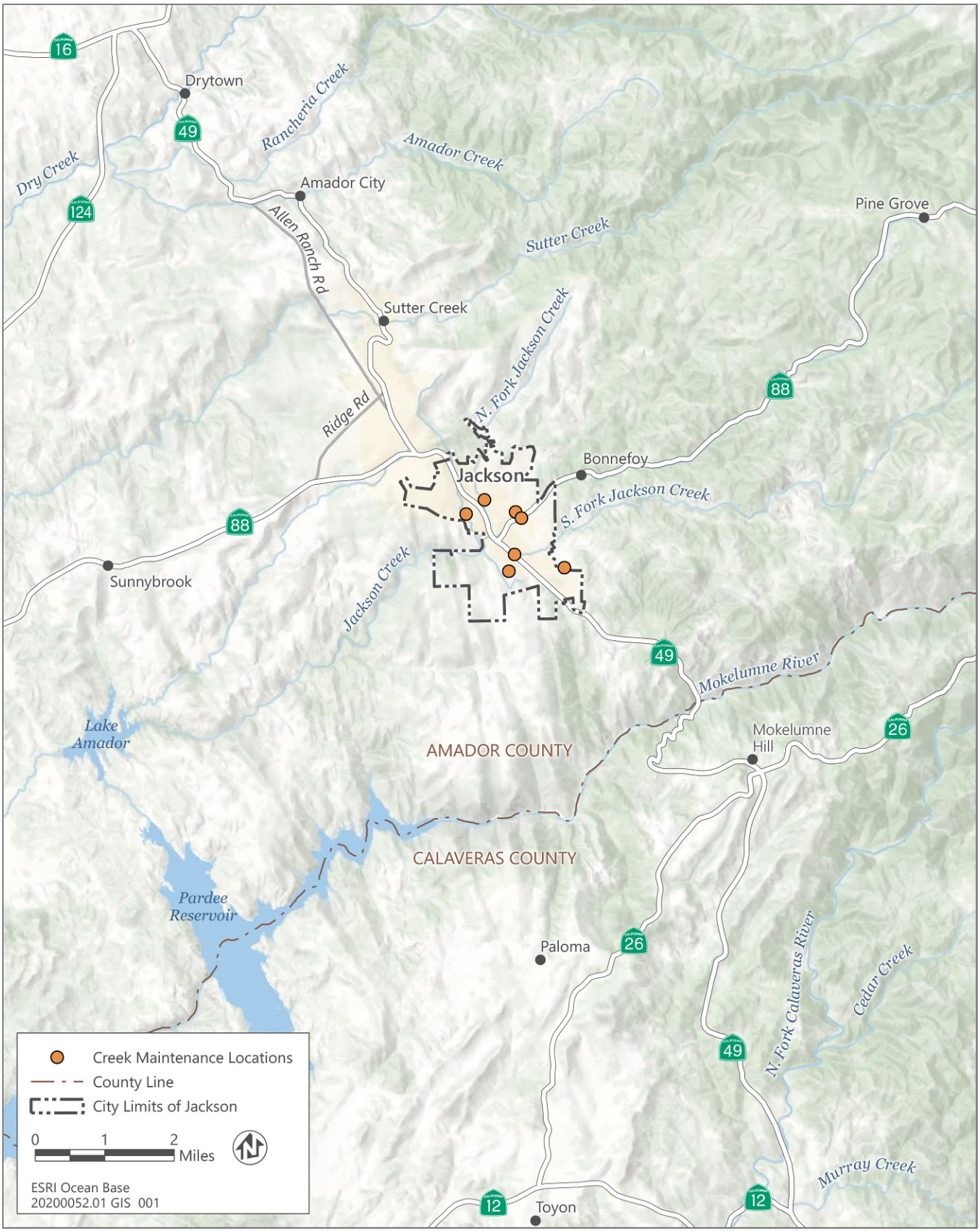
The City is in central Amador County, along the State Route (SR) 49 corridor in the Sierra Nevada foothills. Amador County is located in California's Mother Lode, which includes the central and eastern portions of California and extends from the Central Valley/Sierra Nevada foothills east, almost to the state line (Figure 2-1). The land slopes upward to an elevation of 1,200 to 1,600 feet.

Annual routine maintenance activities would take place at these various locations within the City (Figure 2-2):

1. Sutter Street Drainage, Latitude 38° 21' 9" N, Longitude 120° 46' 52.7" W;
2. North Fork Jackson Creek, Latitude 38° 21' 19.4" N, Longitude 120° 46' 35" W;
3. Court Street Drainage, Latitude 38° 21' 10" N, Longitude 120° 46' 05.5" W;
4. Middle Fork Jackson Creek, Latitude 38° 21' 05.4" N, Longitude 120° 46' 00" W;
5. South Fork Jackson Creek, Latitude 38° 20' 38.1" N, Longitude 120° 46' 07" W;
6. Scottsville Retention Pond, Latitude 38° 20' 27.7" N, Longitude 120° 45' 19.7" W; and
7. Alpine Retention Pond, Latitude 38° 20' 25.6"" N, Longitude 120° 46' 12.6" W.

2.3 EXISTING SETTING

A wide range of existing land uses characterizes the City. There are approximately 905 acres of residential development, 347 acres of commercial/retail/office, 13 acres of industrial, 59 acres of open space, 169 acres of public/institutional uses, 26 miles of streams, and approximately 1,050 acres of grazing land (City of Jackson 2007:p 4.9-1 and 4.9-2). Natural resources found in the City include annual grassland, non-native grassland, non-native shrub, mixed hardwood, gray pine, ponderosa pine, blue oak, valley oak, interior live oak, and waterways (City of Jackson 2007:p 4.4-1).



Source: adapted by Ascent Environmental in 2020

Figure 2-1 Regional Location

Source: adapted by Ascent Environmental in 2020

Figure 2-2 Maintenance Locations

2.4 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Annual Creek Cleaning Project are:

- Routine maintenance activities to facilitate water flow to avoid flooding, increase channel capacity, and decelerate erosion or damage to creek structures; and
- Conduct routine maintenance activities in a manner that protects natural habitat, species, and water quality.

2.5 PROPOSED MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES

The City would continue to conduct annual maintenance activities at the locations identified in Figure 2-2. All work is performed with hand tools and mechanical vegetation cutters and shredders. Debris and dead vegetation would be removed by hand. Vegetation removal is limited to ruderal grasses and trees and shrubs less than four (4) inches diameter at breast height (DBH). Trees greater than 4 inches DBH are retained but may be trimmed. Riparian vegetation that is not obstructing flow would be retained. Additionally, some silt, sand or sediment removal may be required in the immediate vicinity of any facilities or structures that substantially obstruct water flow, reduce channel capacity, accelerate erosion or damage concrete box culvers, metal culvers or bridge structures. Work would be limited to the driest time within the channel, typically during the fall months for no more than eight weeks.

2.6 REQUIRED ACTIONS

California law requires the City to comply with Section 1602 of the Fish and Game Code by notifying the CDFW before any activity that would change, divert, obstruct, or deposit any debris into the waterways. Compliance requires the City of Jackson to obtain an RMA with CDFW's Lake and Streambed Alteration Program to allow for the routine maintenance to continue for a period of 12 years. The current RMA expired on November 30, 2019.

The new RMA may include the following requirements that were included in the City's 2019 RMA:

Administrative Measures

- Documentation at Project Site. Permittee shall make this Agreement, any extensions and amendments to this Agreement, and all related notification materials and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documents, readily available at the project site at all times and shall be presented to CDFW personnel, or personnel from another state, federal, or local agency upon request.
- Providing Agreement to Persons at Project Site. Permittee shall provide copies of this Agreement and any extensions and amendments to this Agreement to all persons who will be working on the project at the project site on behalf of Permittee, including but not limited to contractors, subcontractors, inspectors, and monitors.
- Notification of Conflicting Provisions. Permittee shall notify CDFW if Permittee determines or learns that a provision in this Agreement might conflict with a provision imposed on the project by another local, state, or federal agency. In that event, CDFW shall work with the Permittee to resolve any conflict.
- Project Site Entry. Permittee agrees that CDFW personnel may enter the project site at any time to verify compliance with this Agreement.
- No Trespass. To the extent that any provisions of this Agreement provide for activities that require the Permittee to traverse another owner's property, such provisions are agreed to with the understanding that the Permittee possesses the legal right to so traverse. In the absence of such right, any such provision is void.
- Notification of Project Modification. The Permittee agrees to notify CDFW of any modifications made to the project plans submitted to CDFW.

- Change of Conditions and Need to Cease Operations. If conditions arise, or change, in such a manner as to be considered deleterious to the stream or wildlife, operations shall cease until corrective measures approved by CDFW are taken.
- Does Not Authorize "Take." This Agreement does not authorize "take" of any California Endangered Species Act (CESA) listed species. Take is defined in Fish and Game Code Section 86, as hunt, pursue, catch, capture or kill or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill. If there is potential for take of any listed species to occur, Permittee shall consult with CDFW and demonstrate compliance with CESA.

Avoidance and Minimization Measures

- Work Period in Low Rainfall / Dry Weather Only. The work period within drainages shall be restricted to periods of low rainfall (less than 0.25-inch per 24-hour period) and periods of dry weather (with less than a 50 percent chance of rain). Permittee shall monitor the National Weather Service (NWS) 72-hour forecast for the project area. No work shall occur during a dry-out period of 24 hours after the above referenced wet weather. Weather forecasts shall be provided upon request by the CDFW. All erosion control measures shall be initiated before all storm events. Revegetation, restoration and erosion control work is not confined to this work period.
- Vegetation Removal. Disturbance or removal of vegetation shall be kept to the minimum necessary to complete project related activities. No native trees with a trunk diameter at breast height (DBH) in excess of four (4) inches shall be removed or damaged without prior consultation and approval of a CDFW representative. Where native trees or woody riparian vegetation split into several trunks close to ground level, the DBH shall be measured for each trunk and calculated as one tree. Vegetation marked for protection may only be trimmed with hand tools to the extent necessary to gain access to the work sites.
- Vegetation Removal Methods. Hand tools (e.g., trimmer, chain saw, etc.) shall be used to trim vegetation to the extent necessary to gain access to the work site(s); larger equipment shall not be used for vegetation removal unless already described in the project description.

Biological Resources

- Leave Wildlife Unharmed. If any wildlife is encountered during the course of construction, said wildlife shall be allowed to leave the construction area unharmed.
- Special-Status Species encountered during work. If the Permittee encounters any special-status species during project activities, work shall be suspended, CDFW notified, and conservation measures shall be developed in agreement with CDFW before re-initiating the activity. If during project activities, the Permittee encounters any species listed pursuant to the CESA, work shall be suspended, and CDFW notified. Work may not re-initiate until the Permittee has consulted with CDFW and can demonstrate compliance with CESA.
- Nesting Bird Survey. If project-related activities are scheduled during the nesting season (typically February 1 to August 31), a focused survey for nests shall be conducted by a qualified biologist within three (3) days before the beginning of project-related activities. The qualified biologist shall survey the area within 500-foot radius around the project area. The results of the survey shall be made available upon request. If an active nest is found, the Permittee shall consult with CDFW regarding appropriate action to comply with the Fish and Game Code. If a lapse in project-related work of fifteen (15) days or longer occurs, another focused survey, and if nests are found, consultation with CDFW will be required before project work can be reinitiated. It is the Permittee's responsibility to comply with Fish and Game Code Sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3513, regardless of the time of year. This Agreement does not authorize take of birds, their nests, or their eggs.
- Invasive Species. Permittee shall conduct project activities in a manner that prevents the introduction, transfer, and spread of aquatic, riparian, and terrestrial invasive species from one work site and/or water body to another. Before entering the project area, Permittee shall inspect equipment for invasive species and, if any signs of invasive species are found, the equipment shall be cleaned to remove those species. All visible soil/mud, plant

materials, and animal remnants on equipment will be removed before entering and exiting the work site and/or between each use in different water bodies. Permittee shall notify CDFW immediately if an invasive species not previously known to occur within the work site is discovered during work activities by contacting CDFW Invasive Species Program by email at lnvasives@wildlife.ca.gov.

- Western Pond Turtle. Within 24 hours before initiation of construction or project related disturbing activities, a qualified biologist shall survey the site for western pond turtles *(Actinemys marmorata)* and their nests. If western pond turtles are found in the work area, work shall not commence until the western pond turtles are no longer present. If a nest is found, Permittee shall contact CDFW to determine appropriate avoidance measures.

Revegetation and Restoration

- Seeding. Permittee shall restore all exposed/disturbed areas and access points within the project area, by seeding with a locally native grass mix, unless otherwise agreed upon with CDFW. Revegetation shall be completed as soon as possible after construction activities.
- Native Plant Materials. Revegetation shall include only local plant materials native to the project area, unless otherwise approved by CDFW in writing.
- Prohibited Plant Species. Permittee shall not plant, seed or otherwise introduce invasive non-native plant species. Prohibited invasive non-native plant species include those identified in the California Exotic Pest Plant Council's database, which is accessible at: http://www.cal-ipc.org.

Erosion Control/Stabilization

- Erosion Control. Permittee shall actively implement best management practices (BMPs) to minimize turbidity and siltation and prevent erosion and the discharge of sediment where it may pass into waters of the state (Fish and Game Code Section 89.1), the stream bed, bank, or channel (including but not limited to dry, ponded, flowing, or wetland areas), drainages, lakes, other sensitive habitat during project activities. Precautions shall include, but are not limited to pre-construction planning to identify site specific turbidity and siltation minimization measures; best management erosion control practices during project activity; and settling, filtering, or otherwise treating silty and turbid water before discharge into a stream or storm drain. This may require the placement of silt fencing, coir logs, coir rolls, straw bale dikes, or other siltation barriers so that silt and/or other deleterious materials are not allowed to pass to downstream reaches.
    - Monitoring. BMPs shall be monitored daily and repaired if necessary to ensure maximum erosion and sediment control.
    - Materials. All fiber rolls, straw wattles, and/or hay bales utilized within and adjacent to the project site shall be free of non-native plant materials. Fiber rolls or erosion control mesh shall be made of loose-weave mesh that is not fused at the intersections of the weave, such as jute, or coconut (coir) fiber, or other products without welded weaves. Products with plastic monofilament or cross joints in the netting that are bound/stitched (such as found in straw wattles/fiber rolls and some erosion control blankets), which may cause entrapment of wildlife, shall not be allowed.
    - Implementation. Passage of sediment beyond the sediment barrier(s) is prohibited. If any sediment barrier fails to retain sediment, corrective measures shall be taken. The sediment barrier(s) shall be maintained in good operating condition throughout the construction period and the following rainy season. Maintenance includes, but is not limited to, removal of accumulated silt and/or replacement of damaged silt fencing, coir logs, coir rolls, and/or straw pale dikes. Upon the CDFW's determination that turbidity/siltation levels resulting from project-related activities constitute a threat to aquatic life, activities associated with the turbidity/siltation shall be halted until effective CDFW-approved control devices are installed or abatement procedures are initiated.

- Prohibition Against Use of Plastic Netting in Erosion Control Measures. Permittee shall not use temporary or permanent erosion control devices containing plastic netting, including photo- or bio-degradable plastic netting. These items are commonly found in straw waddles (fiber rolls) and erosion control blankets.
- Site Restoration. All areas and access points exposed or disturbed during project activities shall be restored using conditions as set forth in the Revegetation and Restoration section above. Seeded areas shall be covered with broadcast straw and/or seeded erosion control blankets.

Debris Materials and Waste

- Wash Water. Water containing mud, silt, or other pollutants from equipment washing or other activities, shall not be allowed to enter sensitive areas, or placed in locations where it may pass into waters of the state (Fish and Game Code Section 89.1 }, the stream bed, bank, or channel (including but not limited to dry, ponded, flowing, or wetland areas), drainages, lakes, other sensitive habitat.
- Isolate Wet Concrete from the Stream. The area to receive concrete shall be completely isolated to contain all and any wet cement, even if water is not present. The pH of hot concrete may be as high as 13 which is toxic to wildlife. The work area shall be isolated from the creek channel and protected with plastic sheeting and/or sandbags to prevent the material exposure to the creek. The Permittee shall maintain the isolation materials until the concrete is fully cured.
- No Pouring in Advance of Rain. No concrete or any cement product may be poured if measurable rain is forecasted within 10 days. If any concrete is poured after October 15, or if measurable rain may fall 11 to 15 days after pouring, a quick cure ingredient shall be added to the concrete mix to ensure a faster set or dying time.
- Hazardous Materials. Debris, soil, silt, sand, rubbish, construction waste, cement or concrete or washings thereof, asphalt, paint, oil or other petroleum products or any other substances which could be hazardous to aquatic life, or other organic or earthen material from project activities shall not be stored where it may pass into waters of the state (Fish and Game Code Section 89.1), the stream bed, bank, or channel (including but not limited to dry, ponded, flowing, or wetland areas), drainages, lakes, other sensitive habitat. Staging and storage areas for equipment, materials, fuels, lubricants and solvents, shall be located more than one hundred (100) feet from the waters of the state, the stream bed, bank, or channel (including but not limited to dry, ponded, flowing, or wetland areas), drainages, lakes, other sensitive habitat, unless otherwise approved by CDFW in writing. Ensure that all construction areas have proper spill clean-up materials (absorbent pads, sealed containers, booms, etc.} to contain the movement of any spilled substances. All debris shall be disposed of properly. BMPs shall be employed to accomplish these requirements. CDFW shall be notified immediately by the Permittee of any spills and shall be consulted regarding clean-up procedures.
- Removal of Debris. Materials and Rubbish. Permittee shall remove all project generated debris, building materials and rubbish from the project area following completion of project activities.

Reporting Measures

- Notification of Project Initiation. The Permittee shall notify the CDFW two (2} working days before beginning work for each construction season. Notification shall be submitted as instructed in Contact Information section below. Email submittal is preferred.
- Notification of Project Completion. Upon completion of the project activities described in this Agreement, the project activities shall be digitally photographed. Photographs shall be submitted to CDFW within fifteen {15) days of project completion. Photographs and project completion notification shall be submitted.
- Notification to the California Natural Diversity Database. If any special-status species are observed during project implementation, the Permittee shall submit the California Natural Diversity Data Base {CNDDB) Online Field Survey Form electronically at https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/data/CNDDB/submitting-data within five (5) working days of the sightings, and provide a copy of the form, survey map and/or report to the CDFWs Regional office.

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3 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

PROJECT INFORMATION

1. Project Title: Annual Creek Cleaning Project
2. Lead Agency Name and Address: City of Jackson, 33 Broadway, Jackson, CA 95642
3. Contact Person and Phone Number: Susan Peters 209.223.1646
4. Project Location: City of Jackson
5. Project Sponsor's Name and Address: Same as above
6. General Plan Designation: n/a
7. Zoning: n/a
8. Description of Project: (Describe the whole action involved, including but not limited to later phases of the project, and any secondary, support, or off-site features necessary for its implementation. Attach additional sheets if necessary.)

   Approval of a new Routine Maintenance Agreement (RMA) with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Lake and Streambed Alteration Program to allow for the routine maintenance of creek and drainage channels to continue for 12 years known as the Annual Creek Cleaning Project. See Chapter 2, "Project Description," for further details.
9. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting: (Briefly describe the project's surroundings) *There are approximately 905 acres of residential development, 347 acres of commercial/retail/office, 13 acres of industrial, 59 acres of open space, 169 acres of public/institutional uses, 26 miles of streams, and approximately 1,050 acres of grazing land in the City. Natural resources found in the City include annual grassland, non-native grassland, non-native shrub, mixed hardwood, gray pine, ponderosa pine, blue oak, valley oak, interior live oak, and waterways.*
10. Other public agencies whose approval is required: (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement) *California Department of Fish and Wildlife*
11. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1? If so, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.?
    The City of Jackson has completed tribal consultation consistent with Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages. Where checked below, the topic with a potentially significant impact will be addressed in an environmental impact report.

☐ Aesthetics	☐ Agriculture and Forest Resources	☐ Air Quality
☐ Biological Resources	☐ Cultural Resources	☐ Energy
☐ Geology / Soils	☐ Greenhouse Gas Emissions	☐ Hazards / Hazardous Materials
☐ Hydrology / Water Quality	☐ Land Use / Planning	☐ Mineral Resources
☐ Noise	☐ Population / Housing	☐ Public Services
☐ Recreation	☐ Transportation	☐ Tribal Cultural Resources
☐ Utilities / Service Systems	☐ Wildfire	☐ Mandatory Findings of Significance
	☐ None	☒ None with Mitigation Incorporated

DETERMINATION (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

☐ I find that the proposed project could not have a significant effect on the environment, and a **NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.

☒ I find that although the proposed project COULD have a significant effect on the environment, there WILL NOT be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A **MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION** will be prepared.

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

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

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

Signature	07.16.2020
	Date
Susan Peters	City Planner
Printed Name	Title
City of Jackson	
Agency	

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

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

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

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

4. "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level (mitigation measures from "Earlier Analyses," as described in (5) below, may be cross-referenced).

5. Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. State CEQA Guidelines Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
   a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
   b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
   c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.

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

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

8. This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.

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

3.1 AESTHETICS

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
I. Aesthetics.				
Except as provided in Public Resources Code section 21099 (where aesthetic impacts shall not be considered significant for qualifying residential, mixed-use residential, and employment centers), would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage points.) If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.1.1 Environmental Setting

The City is located in the Sierra Nevada foothills at an elevation between 1,200 to 1,600 feet. The primary land uses in the City are commercial, residential, and open space. The views in this region are of vast open spaces and hillsides, vegetative cover and thin ribbons of riparian woodlands along the major streams. Jackson Creek traverses the City.

The view of the historic Kennedy Mine area and open space to the south of that area with the backdrop of Butte Mountain is a designated scenic vista point on SR 49 north of the entrance to the City.

3.1.2 Discussion

a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

No impact. Routine maintenance activities involve minor vegetation removal and occur in areas that have been previously maintained. Maintenance activities would be nearly indistinguishable from existing conditions since activity would occur within the creek channel and other water features, and alignment of the creek and the overall vegetation conditions would not be altered. The proposed activities would be topographically hidden or shielded by trees and vegetation and are not within public viewsheds. The proposed routine activities would not impact the designated scenic vistas on SR 49 north of the entrance to the City, because the extent of vegetation modification would be minor and the maintenance sites are over 0.80 miles from the vista and obscured from public view by vegetation, buildings and topography.

b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

No impact. The primary transportation corridors in the project are SR 49, SR 88, and other local road networks in Amador County. Based on Review of Caltrans scenic highway database information, there are no designated state scenic highways in the City. The proposed maintenance activities would occur within the creek and in immediate vicinity of the creek. Neither the alignment of the creek nor the roadway crossings would be altered. For these reasons, no aesthetic impacts to scenic highways are anticipated with the project.

c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage points.) If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?

Less than significant impact. Maintenance activities would be nearly indistinguishable from existing conditions since activity would occur within the creek channel and other water features, and alignment of the creek and the overall vegetation conditions would not be altered. Routine maintenance activities would not degrade or alter this visual transition; however, some vegetation removal may be necessary along some of these natural corridors. Vegetation removal would be limited to only what is necessary to perform routine maintenance activities and would only occur within the creek and immediate vicinity of the creek. Vegetation removal is limited to ruderal grasses and trees and shrubs less than four inches diameter at DBH. Trees greater than 4 inches DBH will be retained but may be trimmed. Therefore, overall, the open and natural resource conditions of the creek and drainage areas are expected to remain intact and not substantially degrade the visual character.

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

No impact. Routine maintenance activities would not create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views as these activities are conducted during daylight hours and would not install new permanent sources of light.

3.2 AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES

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

3.2.1 Environmental Setting

The Important Farmland Inventory System, initiated in 1975 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service (now known as the Natural Resources Conservation Service [NRCS]), classifies land according to soil and climatic characteristics. To be shown on the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program's (FMMP) Important Farmland Maps as Prime Farmland and Prime Farmland of Statewide Importance, the land must have been used for irrigated agricultural production at some time during the four years prior to the Important Farmland Map date. The California Land Conservation Act of 1965 (commonly known as the Williamson Act) established a voluntary tax incentive program for preserving agricultural and open space lands. A property owner enters into a 10-year contract with the County, which places restrictions on the land in exchange for tax savings.

There are approximately 1,050 acres designated as grazing land within the City; no lands are designated as any type of farmland. The qualities of the soils are characterized as "poorly suited" to "not suited" for agricultural uses based on the Storie Index. The agricultural land within the city limits is used primarily for cattle grazing and wildlife habitat. There are approximately 8.3 acres within the City that are categorized with a soil type considered under the Farmland Classification as Farmland of Statewide Importance; however, the acreage is within an urban setting, partially developed, and is not identified on the Important Farmlands Map. (City of Jackson 2007: 4.2-9)

The City of Jackson consists of urban and rural land uses and does not contain designated forest land or timberland.

3.2.2 Discussion

a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?

No impact. There are no designated Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance within the City. Routine maintenance activities are situated primarily within creek and other water features and would not permanently convert any farmlands to non-agricultural use.

b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract?

No impact. Routine maintenance activities would not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract because it would not alter or permanently convert land use conditions.

c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?

No impact. The City does not have any designated forestland or timberland.

d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

No impact. Commercial or publicly-owned forests are not located in the City. Routine maintenance activities would not result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use.

e) Involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

No impact. Routine maintenance activities would not involve other changes in the existing environment or land use conditions that could result in the permanent conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use.

3.3 AIR QUALITY

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
III. Air Quality.				
Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied on to make the following determinations.				
Are significance criteria established by the applicable air district available to rely on for significance determinations?	☐ Yes		☒ No	
Would the project:				
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.3.1 Environmental Setting

The City of Jackson is located in the Mountain Counties Air Basin (MCAB). Air quality in the MCAB is regulated by several jurisdictions including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), California Air Resources Board (CARB), and the Amador Air District. Air quality conditions in the area are determined by natural factors such as topography, meteorology, and climate, coupled with atmospheric stability conditions and the presence of inversions. Air quality issues within the Basin are primarily due to migration of pollutants from the Bay Area and Central Valley.

Both the Federal and State clean air laws require the identification and designation of areas that either do or do not meet ambient air quality standards. An attainment designation for an area signifies that pollutant concentrations did not violate the standard for that pollutant in that area. A non-attainment designation indicates that a pollutant concentration violated the standard at least once, excluding those occasions when a violation(s) was caused by an exceptional event, as defined in the criteria. Areas for which there is insufficient data available are designated unclassified.

Under the Federal Clean Air Act, Amador County has been designated attainment or unclassified for all national ambient air quality standards, with the exception of the 8-hour standard for ozone, for which the County is designated non-attainment. Under the California Clean Air Act, Amador County is designated non-attainment for the California 1-hour ambient air quality standard for ozone and attainment or unclassified for the remaining pollutants.

Amador Air District regulates stationary emission sources through its Rules and Regulations. The District has not established any CEQA thresholds of significance for projects.

3.3.2 Discussion

a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?

Less than significant with mitigation proposed. The project would generate short-term emissions as the routine maintenance would for no more than eight weeks at seven different locations. Since Amador Air District does not have CEQA thresholds or guidelines for air quality analysis to determine consistency with attainment plans and efforts, the Sacramento Air Quality Management District's (SMAQMD) Guide to Air Quality Assessment in Sacramento County (Guide) were used in evaluating this project given the City's proximity to Sacramento County and similar attainment issues associated with ozone and particulate emissions (SMAQMD 2019). The seven maintenance sites are anticipated to consist of no more than one acre of activity that would be below the 35-acre screening level of SMAQMD Guide. Construction of a project that does not exceed this screening level, meets all the screening parameters, and implements the District's Basic Construction Emission Control Practices (also known as Best Management Practices (BMPs)) is considered by SMAQMD to have a less-than-significant impact on air quality. These BMPs include dust control measures, minimizing idle times for construction equipment, and compliance with the CARB construction equipment standards. The project does not specifically propose any BMPs to control temporary air emissions for maintenance activities so the following mitigation measure is proposed. City Development Code Section 17.30.030 (Air Emissions) includes air quality BMP measures similar to SMAQMD BMPs in its Guide that are designed to minimize temporary air pollutant emissions and avoid conflicts with attainment efforts.

Mitigation Measure 3.3-1: Air Emission Controls Consistent with City Development Code Section 17.30.030
Creek maintenance activities shall comply with the applicable provisions of City Development Code Section 17.30.030 that include:

- Fugitive dust control measures that consist of water to prevent visible dust emissions or other dust-preventive measures.
- Clearing, earth-moving, excavation operations shall cease when the sustained winds are above 15 miles per hour.
- Maintain equipment engines in good condition and in proper tune in compliance with manufacturer's specifications and by not allowing equipment to be left idling for long periods of time.
- Open burning of vegetation from site clearing shall be prohibited.

b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?

Less than significant impact. Emissions derived from routine maintenance activities already occur annually, would be minor, and are not expected to exceed Amador Air District standards set forth in its Rules and Regulations or result in significant emissions based on the SMAQMD Guide described in Item (a) above. Further, maintenance activities would be conducted over a 12-year period at various creeks and drainages within the City and are therefore not anticipated to be concentrated at a particular location or point in time. Considering all maintenance activities are temporary, are anticipated to be short in duration, and the implementation of the proposed air quality BMPs, maintenance activities would not have a cumulatively significant net increase in criteria pollutants.

c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

Less than significant impact. Air pollutant emissions associated with the proposed project would occur over the short term at seven different sites in the City. Most of the maintenance sites are within the vicinity of residential areas, Sutter Street drainage is near Jackson Junior High, and none are near hospitals. In context of the existing practices, the minor disturbance areas, moist soils, and brief nature of the work, the emissions from the maintenance activities would not exceed Amador Air District standards set forth in its Rules and Regulations or result in significant emissions based on the SMAQMD Guide. Because of its short duration, health risks from potential construction emissions of

diesel particulate would be less than significant. No new, long-term regional emissions would result from implementation of the project.

d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?

No impact. The routine maintenance activities include vegetation and some sand and silt removal. These activities do not create other emissions, such as objectionable odors, that would impact a substantial number of people or subject people to objectionable odors.

3.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
IV. Biological Resources.				
Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.4.1 Environmental Setting

Habitats and vegetation types in the City of Jackson include annual grassland, nonnative grassland, nonnative shrub, mixed hardwood, gray pine (*Pinus sabiniana*), ponderosa pine (*Pinus ponderosa*), blue oak (*Quercus douglasii*), valley oak (*Quercus lobata*), interior live oak (*Quercus wislizeni*), aquatic habitat, and urban or otherwise developed lands (City of Jackson 2007). Habitats in the vicinity of routine maintenance activity locations are characterized generally by urban, residential, commercial, and industrial development (e.g., buildings, paved roads, sidewalks, parking lots). However, some of these locations contain or are adjacent to natural habitats, including oak savanna, oak woodland, riparian woodland, and grassland; and all of these locations contain aquatic habitat features (e.g., streams, ponds).

SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES

Tables 3.4-1 and 3.4-2 provide lists of the special-status plant and wildlife species, respectively, that have been documented in the project site or within the nine U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute quadrangles surrounding the project site (Irish Hill, Amador City, Pine Grove, Ione, Jackson, Mokelumne Hill, Wallace, Valley Springs, and San Andreas). The tables describe the species' regulatory status, habitat, and potential for occurrence on the site. Of the 17 special-status plant species that could occur within the nine USGS quadrangles surrounding the project site, six species may occur (CNDDB 2020, CNPS 2020, Table 3.4-1). Of the 14 special-status wildlife species that could occur within the nine USGS quadrangles surrounding the project site, eight may occur (CNDDB 2020, Table 3.4-2).

Table 3.4-1 Special-Status Plant Species Known to Occur in the Project Vicinity and Their Potential for Occurrence in the Project Site

Species	Listing Status[1]			Habitat	Potential for Occurrence[2]
	Federal	State	CRPR		
Henderson's bent grass *Agrostis hendersonii*	–	–	3.2	Moist places in grassland or vernal pool habitat. 213–3,379 feet in elevation. Blooms April–June.	Not expected to occur. The project site does not contain vernal pool habitat.
Ione manzanita *Arctostaphylos myrtifolia*	FT	–	1B.2	On Ione clay with chaparral associates. Often comprises 50-80 percent cover. 295–1,837 feet in elevation. Blooms November–March.	Not expected to occur. The project site does not contain Ione clay soils.
Big-scale balsamroot *Balsamorhiza macrolepis*	–	–	1B.2	Chaparral, valley and foothill grassland, cismontane woodland. Sometimes on serpentine. 115–4,806 feet in elevation. Blooms March–June.	May occur. The Sutter Street drainage site contains potentially suitable grassland and woodland habitat for this species.
Hoover's calycadenia *Calycadenia hooveri*	–	–	1B.3	On exposed, rocky, barren soil. 230–853 feet in elevation. Blooms July–September.	Not expected to occur. The project site is outside of the elevation range of this species.
Red Hills soaproot *Chlorogalum grandiflorum*	–	–	1B.2	Chaparral, cismontane woodland. Occurs frequently on serpentine or gabbro, but also on non-ultramafic substrates; often on "historically disturbed" sites. 804–4,068 feet in elevation. Blooms May–June.	May occur. The Sutter Street drainage contains potentially suitable oak woodland habitat for this species.
Bisbee Peak rush-rose *Crocanthemum suffrutescens*	–	–	3.2	Often on serpentine, gabbroic, or Ione formation soils; in openings in chaparral. 148–2,756 feet in elevation. Blooms April–August.	Not expected to occur. The project site does not contain serpentine, gabbroic, or Ione formation soils, and does not contain chaparral habitat.
Ione buckwheat *Eriogonum apricum* var. *apricum*	FE	SE	1B.1	In gravelly openings on Ione formation soil. 279–492 feet in elevation. Blooms July–October.	Not expected to occur. The project site does not contain Ione formation soil.
Irish Hill buckwheat *Eriogonum apricum* var. *prostratum*	FE	SE	1B.1	Gravelly openings on Ione formation soils. 295–328 feet in elevation. Blooms June–July.	Not expected to occur. The project site does not contain Ione formation soil.
Jepson's coyote-thistle *Eryngium jepsonii*	–	–	1B.2	Vernal pools, valley and foothill grassland. Clay. 10–984 feet in elevation. Blooms April–August.	Not expected to occur. The project site does not contain vernal pool habitat and is outside of the elevation range of this species.
Tuolumne button-celery *Eryngium pinnatisectum*	–	–	1B.2	Volcanic soils; vernal pools and mesic sites within other natural communities. 230–3,002 feet in elevation. Blooms May–August.	Not expected to occur. The project site does not contain vernal pool habitat.
Stanislaus monkeyflower *Erythranthe marmorata*	–	–	1B.1	Cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest. 328–2,953 feet in elevation. Blooms March–May.	Not expected to occur. This species is thought to be extirpated in California (CNPS 2020).

Species	Listing Status[1]			Habitat	Potential for Occurrence[2]
	Federal	State	CRPR		
Parry's horkelia *Horkelia parryi*	–	–	1B.2	Openings in chaparral or woodland; especially known from the Ione formation in Amador County. 279–3,658 feet in elevation. Blooms April–September.	May occur. The Sutter Street drainage contains potentially suitable habitat within openings in oak woodland habitat for this species.
Hair-leaved rush *Juncus supiniformis*	–	–	2B.2	Marshes and swamps, bogs and fens. 66–328 feet in elevation. Blooms April–May.	Not expected to occur. The project site is outside of the elevation range of this species.
Legenere *Legenere limosa*	–	–	1B.1	In beds of vernal pools. 3–2,887 feet in elevation. Blooms April–June.	Not expected to occur. The project site does not contain vernal pool habitat.
Pincushion navarretia *Navarretia myersii* ssp. *myersii*	–	–	1B.1	Clay soils within non-native grassland. 148–328 feet in elevation. Blooms April–May.	Not expected to occur. The project site is outside of the elevation range of this species.
Patterson's navarretia *Navarretia paradoxiclara*	–	–	1B.3	Serpentinite, openings, vernally mesic, often drainages. 492–1,411 feet in elevation. Blooms May–June.	Not expected to occur. The project site does not contain serpentine soils.
Prairie wedge grass *Sphenopholis obtusata*	–	–	2B.2	Open moist sites, along rivers and springs, alkaline desert seeps. 984–6,562 feet in elevation. Blooms April–July.	May occur. The project site contains potentially suitable moist habitat along streams.

Notes: CRPR = California Rare Plant Rank

1. Legal Status Definitions

Federal:

FE Federally Listed as Endangered (legally protected by ESA)
FT Federally Listed as Threatened (legally protected by ESA)

State:

SE State Listed as Endangered (legally protected by CESA)

California Rare Plant Ranks:

1B Plant species considered rare or endangered in California and elsewhere (protected under CEQA, but not legally protected under ESA or CESA)
2B Plant species considered rare or endangered in California but more common elsewhere (protected under CEQA, but not legally protected under ESA or CESA)
3 Plant species that cannot be assigned to other ranks or rejected due to a lack of necessary information.

Threat Ranks:

0.1 Seriously threatened in California (over 80% of occurrences threatened; high degree and immediacy of threat)
0.2 Moderately threatened in California (20-80% occurrences threatened; moderate degree and immediacy of threat)
0.3 Not very threatened in California (less than 20% of occurrences threatened / low degree and immediacy of threat or no current threats known)

2. Potential for Occurrence Definitions

Not expected to occur: Species is unlikely to be present because of poor habitat quality, lack of suitable habitat features, or restricted current distribution of the species.

Could occur: Suitable habitat is available; however, there are little to no other indicators that the species might be present.

Likely to occur: Suitable habitat is available and there have been nearby recorded occurrences of the species.

Sources: CNDDB 2020; CNPS 2020

Table 3.4-2 Special-Status Wildlife Species Known to Occur in the Project Vicinity and Their Potential for Occurrence in the Project Site

Species	Listing Status[1]		Habitat	Potential for Occurrence[2]
	Federal	State		
Amphibians and Reptiles				
California red-legged frog *Rana draytonii*	FT	SSC	Lowlands and foothills in or near permanent sources of deep water with dense, shrubby or emergent riparian vegetation. Requires 11-20 weeks of permanent water for larval development. Must have access to estivation habitat.	May occur. The nearest known occurrence of this species is approximately 8.5 miles southwest of the project site within Youngs Creek (CNDDB 2020). Potentially suitable breeding habitat for California red-legged frog is present within the Alpine Retention Pond. Jackson Creek does not contain suitable habitat for this species because the creek contains and is regularly stocked with fish, which prey on frogs. The Scottsville Retention Pond does not appear to retain water for a sufficient period or contain suitable emergent vegetation for this species.
California tiger salamander *Ambystoma californiense*	FT	ST	Need underground refuges, especially ground squirrel burrows, and vernal pools or other seasonal water sources for breeding.	Not expected to occur. The project site does not contain suitable vernal pool habitat for this species.
Foothill yellow-legged frog *Rana boylii*	–	ST	Partly-shaded, shallow streams and riffles with a rocky substrate in a variety of habitats. Need at least some cobble-sized substrate for egg-laying. Need at least 15 weeks to attain metamorphosis.	Not expected to occur. There are several historic occurrences of foothill yellow-legged frog within the vicinity of the City of Jackson; however, the species is presumed to be extirpated from this area (CNDDB 2020). The stream habitat within the project site does not provide suitable habitat for this species.
Western pond turtle *Actinemys marmorata*	–	SSC	An aquatic turtle of ponds, marshes, rivers, streams and irrigation ditches, usually with aquatic vegetation, below 6,000 feet elevation. Need basking sites and suitable (sandy banks or grassy open fields) upland habitat up to 0.3 mile from water for egg-laying.	May occur. The project site contains potentially suitable stream habitat for this species, and there are several known occurrences within Jackson Creek and within ponds in the City of Jackson (CNDDB 2020).
Western spadefoot *Spea hammondii*	–	SSC	Occurs primarily in grassland habitats but can be found in valley-foothill hardwood woodlands. Vernal pools are essential for breeding and egg-laying.	Not expected to occur. The project site does not contain suitable vernal pool habitat and is outside of the known range of this species.
Birds				
Bald eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*	FD	SE FP	Most nests within 1 mile of water. Nests in large, old-growth, or dominant live tree with open branches, especially ponderosa pine. Roosts communally in winter.	Not expected to occur. The project site does not contain suitable nesting habitat for this species, and the nearest large water bodies (e.g., Pardee Reservoir, Camanche Reservoir, Lake Amador) are 5 to 10 miles west of the project site.
Northern harrier *Circus hudsonius*	–	SSC	Nest and forage in grasslands, from salt grass in desert sink to mountain cienagas. Nests on ground in shrubby vegetation, usually at marsh edge; nest built of a large mound of sticks in wet areas.	May occur. The project site contains potentially suitable grassland nesting habitat for this species.
Tricolored blackbird *Agelaius tricolor*	–	ST SSC	Highly colonial species, most numerous in Central Valley and vicinity. Largely endemic to California. Requires open water, protected	May occur. The project site contains potentially suitable riparian nesting habitat for this species.

Species	Listing Status[1]		Habitat	Potential for Occurrence[2]
	Federal	State		
			nesting substrate, and foraging area with insect prey within a few kilometers of the colony.	
White-tailed kite *Elanus leucurus*	–	FP	Rolling foothills and valley margins with scattered oaks and river bottomlands or marshes next to deciduous woodland. Open grasslands, meadows, or marshes for foraging close to isolated, dense-topped trees for nesting and perching.	May occur. The project site contains potentially suitable riparian woodland and oak woodland nesting habitat for this species.
Fish				
Steelhead – Central Valley DPS *Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus* pop. 11	FT	–	Populations in the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers and their tributaries.	Not expected to occur. The project site is outside of the known range of this species.
Invertebrates				
Valley elderberry longhorn beetle *Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*	FT	–	Occurs only in the Central Valley of California, in association with blue elderberry (*Sambucus nigra* ssp. *Caerulea*). Prefers to lay eggs in elderberries 2-8 inches in diameter; some preference shown for "stressed" elderberries.	May occur. There is a recent (2014) known occurrence of valley elderberry longhorn beetle approximately 0.4 mile west of the Alpine Retention Pond routine maintenance activity location (CNDDB 2020). Mature elderberry shrubs were observed within the Sutter Street drainage during a reconnaissance-level survey on June 30, 2020. Habitat potentially suitable for elderberry shrubs is also present within the North, Middle, and South Fork of Jackson Creek.
Vernal pool fairy shrimp *Branchinecta lynchi*	FT	–	Endemic to the grasslands of the Central Valley, Central Coast mountains, and South Coast mountains, in astatic rain-filled pools. Inhabit small, clear-water sandstone-depression pools and grassed swale, earth slump, or basalt-flow depression pools.	Not expected to occur. The project site does not contain suitable vernal pool habitat for this species.
Mammals				
Pallid bat *Antrozous pallidus*	–	SSC	Most common in open, dry habitats with rocky areas for roosting. Roosts must protect bats from high temperatures. Very sensitive to disturbance of roosting sites.	May occur. The project site contains potentially suitable tree roosting habitat for this species.
Townsend's big-eared bat *Corynorhinus townsendii*	–	SSC	Throughout California in a wide variety of habitats. Most common in mesic sites. Roosts in the open, hanging from walls and ceilings. Roosting sites limiting. Extremely sensitive to human disturbance.	May occur. The project site contains potentially suitable roosting habitat on human-made structures, such as bridges.

Notes: CNDDB = California Natural Diversity Database; DPS = distinct population segment.

[1] Legal Status Definitions

Federal:

FT Federally Listed as Threatened (legally protected)
FC Federal Candidate Species

State:

FP Fully protected (legally protected)
SSC Species of special concern (no formal protection other than CEQA consideration)
SE State Listed as Endangered (legally protected)
ST State Listed as Threatened (legally protected)
SC State Candidate for listing (legally protected)

[2] Potential for Occurrence Definitions

Not expected to occur: Species is unlikely to be present because of poor habitat quality, lack of suitable habitat features, or restricted current distribution of the species.

May occur: Suitable habitat is available; however, there are little to no other indicators that the species might be present.

Likely to occur: Suitable habitat is available and there have been nearby recorded occurrences of the species.

Sources: CNDDB 2020

SENSITIVE NATURAL COMMUNITIES

Sensitive natural communities are those native plant communities defined by California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) as having limited distribution statewide or within a county or region and that are often vulnerable to environmental effects of projects (CDFW 2018). These communities may or may not contain special-status plants or their habitat (CDFW 2018). CDFW designates sensitive natural communities based on their state rarity and threat ranking using NatureServe's Heritage Methodology. Natural communities with rarity ranks of S1 to S3, where S1 is critically imperiled, S2 is imperiled, and S3 is vulnerable, are considered sensitive natural communities to be addressed in the environmental review processes of CEQA and its equivalents (CDFW 2018). Riparian habitat and certain oak woodland habitats (e.g., valley oak woodland) within the project site would be considered sensitive natural communities.

STATE OR FEDERALLY PROTECTED WETLANDS

The project site contains stream habitat in portions of Jackson Creek (i.e., North Fork, Middle Fork, South Fork) and other drainages, as well as pond habitat within retention ponds. Most of these features would likely qualify as waters of the State or waters of the United States.

3.4.2 Discussion

a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

Less than significant with mitigation incorporated. The following analysis addresses potential impacts to special-status species by the project.

Special-status Plants

A total of four special-status plant species have potential to occur within the maintenance sites: big-scale balsamroot (*Balsamorhiza macrolepis*), Red Hills soaproot (*Chlorogalum grandiflorum*), Parry's horkelia (*Horkelia parryi*), and prairie wedge grass (*Sphenopholis obtusata*; Table 3.5-1). Big-scale balsamroot, Red Hills soaproot, and Parry's horkelia only have potential to occur within the Sutter Street drainage, due to the relatively intact nature of the habitat within the maintenance site. Prairie wedge grass has potential to occur within Sutter Street drainage, Court Street drainage, and the North, South, and Middle Forks of Jackson Creek. These species typically occur within grassland, woodland, and streamside habitats (Table 3.5-1). Proposed annual maintenance activities include removal of vegetation with hand tools and mechanical vegetation cutters and shredders. While vegetation removal would be limited to ruderal grasses and trees and shrubs less than 4 inches diameter at breast height (DBH), special-status plant species, if present, could be inadvertently removed during vegetation removal activities, or inadvertently crushed, trampled, or otherwise disturbed by personnel, equipment, or vehicles. Implementation of the following mitigation measure would reduce impacts to special-status plants to less than significant by avoiding project activities within potential habitat for these species.

Mitigation Measure 3.4-1: Avoid Special-Status Plant Habitat

The following avoidance measures shall be implemented during project activities:

- All vehicle, equipment, and personnel staging shall be limited to unvegetated areas, including impervious surfaces (e.g., asphalt, cement), or areas with bare earth.
- Vegetation removal shall be completely limited to the main stream channel, and will not occur on the banks of the stream channel or upland areas surrounding the stream.

Special-status Wildlife

A total of eight special-status wildlife species have potential to occur within the maintenance sites: California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*), western pond turtle (*Actinemys marmorata*), northern harrier (*Circus hudsonius*), tricolored blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*), white-tailed kite (*Elanus leucurus*), valley elderberry longhorn beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*), pallid bat (*Antrozous pallidus*), and Townsend's big-eared bat (*Corynorhinus townsendii*; Table 3.4-2). Additionally, common native nesting birds that are protected under Sections 3503 and 3503.4 of California Fish and Game Code and the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act could nest in trees and shrubs within or adjacent to the project site.

Proposed annual maintenance activities include removal of vegetation (e.g., trees, shrubs, grasses) with hand tools and mechanical vegetation cutters and shredders. Additionally, silt, sand, or sediment removal may be conducted at some routine maintenance activity locations. Activities within or adjacent to stream or pond habitat could result in inadvertent disturbance, injury, or mortality to California red-legged frog (within the Alpine Retention Pond only) or western pond turtle, if present. Vegetation removal could result in inadvertent removal of elderberry (*Sambucus nigra caerulea*) shrubs, which could result in direct loss of valley elderberry longhorn beetle, if present. Additionally, removal of shrubs or trees could result in direct loss of special-status or other bird nests, and activity within close proximity of nests could result in disturbance to the nests potentially resulting in abandonment and loss of eggs or chicks. Proposed annual maintenance activities could also result in adverse effects to special-status bats if active roosts are disturbed by the presence of personnel or vehicles.

As described in Section 2.5, "Proposed Maintenance Activities" project activities would be limited to the driest time within the channel, typically during the fall months. Conducting project activities during the dry period of the year would minimize most of the potential impacts on California red-legged frogs and western pond turtle, if present, as these species would likely not be present within the dry streams, drainages, and ponds. Additionally, the seasonal timing of project activities would avoid the sensitive period of life history of the species with potential to occur, including nesting birds (nesting season; February 1 to August 31), California red-legged frogs (the period during which egg masses and tadpoles would be present; late winter to early spring), and special-status bats (maternity season; April 1 to August 31), which would further minimize potential impacts on these species.

Implementation of the following mitigation measures would reduce residual impacts on California red-legged frog, western pond turtle, special-status and other birds, valley elderberry longhorn beetle, and special-status bats to less than significant by avoiding activities that could result in inadvertent impacts on special-status wildlife or conducting pre-activity surveys if these activities cannot be avoided.

Mitigation Measure 3.4-2: Avoid California Red-Legged Frog

The following measures shall be implemented during project activities in the Alpine Retention Pond:

- Vegetation removal shall include only hand cutting of vegetation (e.g., no disturbance of the bed of the pond).
- Vegetation removal shall involve as few personnel as possible to complete the work.
- If water is present within the pond during project activities, no vegetation removal shall occur within ponded areas.

Mitigation Measure 3.4-3: Avoid Western Pond Turtle

The following measures shall be implemented during project activities:

- No dredging activities will be conducted within ponded areas in any of the maintenance sites.
- If a turtle is observed during project activities, all work shall cease. Prior to continuing project activities in the maintenance site, CDFW shall be notified and consulted for guidance on appropriate measures to reduce impacts on western pond turtles. These measures may include pre-activity surveys or the presence of a biological monitor during project activities.

Mitigation Measure 3.4-4: Avoid Elderberry Shrubs

The following measures shall be implemented during project activities:

- All vehicle, equipment, and personnel staging shall be limited to unvegetated areas, including impervious surfaces (e.g., asphalt, cement), or areas with bare earth.
- Vegetation removal shall be completely limited to the main stream channel, and will not occur on the banks of the stream channel or upland areas surrounding the stream.
- Within Sutter Street Drainage and the North, Middle, and South Forks of Jackson Creek, vegetation removal shall be limited to grasses and herbaceous species. Trees and shrubs will not be removed or trimmed.
    - If removal or trimming of trees and shrubs cannot be avoided within these four maintenance sites, a pre-activity survey by a qualified biologist shall be required to identify and flag elderberry shrubs within the project site. Elderberry shrubs identified during pre-activity surveys and a buffer of 20 feet from the dripline of the shrubs shall be avoided completely during project activities.

Mitigation Measure 3.4-5: Avoid Nesting Bird Season or Conduct Pre-Activity Nesting Bird Surveys and Implement Avoidance Measures and Mitigation

The following avoidance measures shall be implemented during project activities:

- To minimize the potential for loss of northern harrier, tricolored blackbird, white-tailed kite, other nesting raptors, and other native nesting birds, vegetation (e.g., tree, shrub, grass) removal activities shall occur only during the nonbreeding season (September 1–January 31). If this sensitive period is avoided, further mitigation would not be required.
- If project activities cannot be avoided during the nesting bird breeding season, prior to removal of any vegetation or other ground-disturbing activities between February 1 and August 31, a qualified biologist shall conduct pre-activity surveys for nesting special-status birds, other raptors, and other native nesting birds within all suitable nesting habitat (e.g., trees, shrubs, grasses) and shall identify active nests within 500 feet of the project site. The surveys shall be conducted between February 1 and August 31, no more than one week prior to the start of project activities. If project activity lapses for more than two weeks after the initial survey, another survey shall be conducted.
    - If no nests are detected during the pre-activity survey, then further mitigation is not required.
    - If nests are identified during the pre-activity survey, impacts to nesting birds, including direct impacts and indirect impacts (e.g., noise, presence of work crews) shall be avoided by establishing appropriate buffers around active nest sites identified during the pre-activity survey. Factors to be considered for determining buffer size will include the presence of natural buffers provided by vegetation or topography; nest height; locations of foraging territory; and baseline levels of noise and human activity. Buffer size may be adjusted if the qualified biologist and the applicant, in consultation with CDFW, determine that such an adjustment would not be likely to adversely affect the nest. The buffer areas shall be protected with construction fencing, and no activity shall occur within the buffer areas until the qualified biologist has determined, in coordination with CDFW, that the young have fledged, the nest is no longer active, or reducing the buffer would not likely result in nest abandonment. Monitoring of the nest by a qualified biologist during project activities (e.g.,

ground disturbance, vegetation removal) will be required if the activity has potential to adversely affect the nest.

Mitigation Measure 3.4-6: Avoid Potential Special-Status Bat Roosts

The following measures shall be implemented during project activities:

- To minimize the potential for disturbance of pallid bat or Townsend's big-eared bat, project activities shall not occur during the bat maternity season (April 1 to August 31).
- Project activity under bridges shall be avoided to the extent feasible.
- If project activities must occur under or directly adjacent to bridges to achieve project objectives, and bats are seen or begin to emerge in response to the presence of personnel, project activities shall cease. Prior to continuing project activities in the maintenance site, CDFW shall be notified and consulted for guidance on appropriate measures to reduce impacts on special-status bats. These measures may include no-disturbance buffers or the presence of a biological monitor during project activities.

b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?

Less than significant with mitigation incorporated. The project site contains riparian habitat along the banks of Jackson Creek and oak woodland habitat is present adjacent to much of the maintenance sites. These habitats are considered sensitive natural communities. Proposed annual maintenance activities include removal of vegetation (e.g., trees, shrubs, grasses) with hand tools and mechanical vegetation cutters and shredders. Direct removal or oak woodland habitat is not expected to occur, as it is not an objective of this project. Implementation of the following mitigation measures would reduce impacts to riparian habitat and oak woodland to less than significant by avoiding removal of habitat and revegetation for disturbed areas.

Mitigation Measure 3.4-7: Avoid Sensitive Riparian and Oak Woodland Habitat

The following measures shall be implemented during project activities:

- All vehicle, equipment, and personnel staging shall be limited to unvegetated areas, including impervious surfaces (e.g., asphalt, cement), or areas with bare earth.
- Vegetation removal shall be completely limited to the main stream channel, and will not occur on the banks of the stream channel or upland areas surrounding the stream.

For project activities that would affect the bed, bank, channel, or associated riparian habitat subject to CDFW jurisdiction under California Fish and Game Code Section 1602, a Streambed Alteration Notification for Routine Maintenance shall be submitted to CDFW, pursuant to Section 1600 et seq. of the California Fish and Game Code. If proposed activities are determined to be subject to CDFW jurisdiction, the applicant shall abide by the conditions of any executed agreement prior to any ground disturbance or vegetation maintenance. These conditions shall include, but are not limited to:

- Seeding. Permittee shall restore all exposed/disturbed areas and access points within the project area, by seeding with a locally native grass mix, unless otherwise agreed upon with CDFW. Revegetation shall be completed as soon as possible after construction activities.
- Native Plant Materials. Revegetation shall include only local plant materials native to the project area, unless otherwise approved by CDFW in writing.
- Prohibited Plant Species. Permittee shall not plant, seed or otherwise introduce invasive non-native plant species. Prohibited invasive non-native plant species include those identified in the California Exotic Pest Plant Council's database, which is accessible at: http://www.cal-ipc.org.

c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

Less than significant impact. The maintenance sites contains aquatic habitat within Jackson Creek, other drainages, and two retention ponds; all of which likely qualify as waters of the state and United States. Proposed annual maintenance activities include removal of vegetation (e.g., trees, shrubs, grasses) with hand tools and mechanical vegetation cutters and shredders, and some removal of silt, sand, or sediment to maintain capacity and flow within these features. These activities would typically occur during the driest periods within these features. Project implementation would not result in fill or removal of these aquatic features, nor would it result in hydrological interruption of these features. This impact would be less than significant and no mitigation is required.

d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?

Less than significant impact. Jackson Creek and the undeveloped habitat within and in the vicinity of the City provides connectivity to surrounding natural habitats for wildlife species, including terrestrial wildlife and fish. Proposed annual maintenance activities include removal and trimming of vegetation to maintain capacity in the creek and drainage channels. Project implementation is not expected to significantly change the character of the riparian habitat or aquatic habitat associated with Jackson Creek, or prevent wildlife from moving through the area. Project activities may interfere with wildlife species movement while proposed annual maintenance activities are underway, however; the activities would be temporary and the project site will be restored to original conditions. This impact would be less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

Less than significant impact. Chapter 17.40 of the City of Jackson Municipal Code consists of provisions for the protection and replacement of trees. Specifically, the Code requires the placement of protective fencing along the outside of the dripline of trees to be retained and replacement requirements of 3:1 of any tree 16 inches in diameter (at a trunk height of 4.5 feet) or greater. In addition, the Code requires Planning Commission approval of removal of any tree 8 inches in diameter and greater. While proposed annual maintenance activities may include removal of trees, no trees greater than 4 inches DBH would be removed. Therefore, project activities would not result in conflict with the City of Jackson Municipal Code, impacts would be less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?

No impact. The City of Jackson is not a participant in any adopted habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan. Thus, there would be no impact and no mitigation is required.

3.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
V. Cultural Resources.				
Would the project:				
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	☐	☒	☐	☐

3.5.1 Environmental Setting

Numerous cultural resources studies have been conducted for various projects and other local government plans and private development projects in and near the City. Information from the 2007 Jackson Land Use, Circulation and Zoning Project Update EIR was used in this analysis.

The City lies within the traditional territory of the Eastern Me-Wuk speaking groups in the late prehistoric and early ethnographic periods. With the discovery of gold in 1848, Me-Wuk groups were largely displaced during the Gold Rush. By 1849, Northern California was overrun with miners hoping to find gold and Mokelumne River and its tributaries in Amador County became a key waterway for gold mining. The community of Jackson was formed and had seven buildings and 100 citizens as of 1850. The economy later diversified to include farming, viticulture, and cattle ranching.

A records search was performed at the Northwest Information Center on March 25, 2020. Results from the records search indicate that no structures, features, and/or sites are located within the project areas and that 37 features have been identified within a 0.25-mile buffer of the project areas. Of these features, 36 are historic-era and one is prehistoric. Of the 36 historic-era features, 25 are buildings and structures, while the remainder are various sites (including cemeteries). Four previous reports have been conducted within the project area and 23 have been conducted within a 0.25-mile buffer of the project area.

3.5.2 Discussion

a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?

No impact. There are numerous historical buildings, places, and resources located within the City based on review of past studies. Given the location of the historic properties outside of the routine maintenance sites and the nature of the project activities proposed, routine operations and maintenance activities in this project would not cause direct or indirect impact to these know historical resources. All the maintenance sites are within the creek channel and in immediate vicinity of the other water features and there are few physical structures near these facilities. Routine operation and maintenance actions would not impair the eligibility of resources for listing in historical registers nor cause any direct or indirect impacts to the historic integrity of the properties.

b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?

Less than significant with mitigation incorporated. There is potential for inadvertent discovery of archeological artifact during minor grading and earthwork, therefore implementation of Mitigation Measure 3.5-1 would reduce this impact to less than significant by stopping project activities to properly identify the resource and develop specific measures to protect the archaeological resource or tribal cultural resource.

Mitigation Measure 3.5-1: Inadvertent Discoveries When No Archaeological or Tribal Monitor is Present

The following mitigation measure applies to CEQA Guidelines Section 15370 and is intended to address inadvertent discoveries made by construction personnel, agencies, or consultants at the work site when no archaeological or tribal monitor is present during ground disturbing activities.

If a potential tribal cultural resources (TCRs), archaeological resources are discovered during ground disturbing activities, all work shall cease within 100 feet of the find (or an appropriate distance based on the apparent distribution of the TCR). A qualified cultural resources specialist meeting the *Secretary of Interior's Standards and Qualifications for Archaeology*, as well as Native American representatives from traditionally and culturally affiliated Native American tribes for discovered TCRs that have engaged in consultation for the project will assess the significance of the find and make recommendations for further evaluation and treatment as necessary. Culturally appropriate treatment may include, but is not limited to, processing materials for reburial, minimizing handling of cultural objects, leaving objects in place within the landscape, or returning objects to a location within the project area where they will not be subject to future impacts.

The types of treatment that protects, preserves or restores the integrity of a TCR may include tribal monitoring, or recovery of cultural objects, and reburial of cultural objects or cultural soil that is done in a culturally appropriate manner. Recommendations of the treatment of a TCR will be documented in the project record. For any recommendations made by traditionally and culturally affiliated Native American tribes that are not implemented, a justification for why the recommendation was not followed will be provided in the project record.

If adverse impacts to TCRs, unique archeology, or other cultural or archaeological resources occurs, then consultation shall commence with culturally affiliated Native American tribes. To coordinate for compensation for the impact to a TCR, the tribal consultation will be regarding mitigation contained in the Public Resources Code sections 21084.3(a) and (b).

If articulated or disarticulated human remains are discovered during ground disturbing construction activities or ground disturbing activities, all work shall cease within 100 feet of the find, and the provisions provided in the Health and Safety Code Section 7054 and Public Resources Code 5097.98, 5097.99. 5097.991, and compliance with the provisions of CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(e)(1) and (2) shall be implemented.

c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

Less than significant with mitigation incorporated. Archaeological and historical investigations have been conducted within the City, but the entire City has not been subjected to investigation. No human burials have been discovered during the previous routine maintenance activities by the City. However, there is potential for routine maintenance activities and operations to inadvertently unearth a human burial during activities. Implementation of Mitigation Measure 3.5-2 would reduce this impact to less than significant through identification and proper handling of remains.

Mitigation Measure 3.5-2: Stop Work if Human Remains are Discovered

In accordance with the California Health and Safety Code, if human remains are uncovered all work within the area will stop and the Amador County Coroner and a professional archaeologist will be contacted to determine the nature of the remains. The county coroner is required to examine all discoveries of human remains within 48 hours of receiving a notice of discovery on private or state lands (Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5[b]). If the coroner determines that the remains are those of a Native American, he or she will contact the NAHC by phone within 24 hours of making that determination (Health and Safety Code Section 7050[c]). Following the coroner's findings, the archaeologist and the NAHC-designated Most Likely Descendent (MLD) shall determine the ultimate treatment and disposition of the remains and take appropriate steps to ensure that additional human interments are not disturbed.

3.6 ENERGY

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VI. Energy.				
Would the project:				
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.6.1 Environmental Setting

Natural gas and electricity service in the project area is provided by the Pacific Gas & Electric Company. California relies on a regional power system composed of a diverse mix of natural gas, petroleum, renewable, hydroelectric, and other energy resources noted below:

- Petroleum: Petroleum products (gasoline, diesel, jet fuel) are consumed almost exclusively by the transportation sector, and account for almost 99 percent of the energy used in California by the transportation sector, with the rest provided by ethanol, natural gas, and electricity (Bureau of Transportation Statistics 2015). Between January 2007 and May 2016, an average of approximately 672 billion gallons of gasoline were purchased in California (California State Board of Equalization 2016). Gasoline and diesel fuel sold in California for motor vehicles is refined in California to meet specific formulations required by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) (U.S. Energy Information Administration [EIA] 2020).
- Natural Gas: Almost two-thirds of California households use natural gas for home heating, and about half of California's utility-scale net electricity generation is fueled by natural gas (EIA 2020).
- Electricity and Renewables: The California Energy Commission (CEC) estimates that 34 percent of California's retail electricity sales in 2018 will be provided by RPS-eligible renewable resources (CEC 2019). California regulations require that electricity consist of 33 percent renewables by 2020 and 50 percent renewables by 2030 for all electricity retailers in the state.
- Alternative Fuels: Conventional gasoline and diesel may be replaced (depending on the capability of the vehicle) with many alternative transportation fuels (e.g., biodiesel, hydrogen, electricity, and others). Use of alternative fuels is encouraged through various statewide regulations and plans (e.g., Low Carbon Fuel Standard, Assembly Bill [AB] 32 Scoping Plan).

3.6.2 Discussion

a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?

Less than significant impact. Energy would be consumed during routine maintenance activities to operate and maintain equipment, transport materials, and for worker commute. However, most of the work would be performed with hand tools that would not require energy consumption. In addition, all maintenance activities are temporary and are short in duration. These maintenance activities occur annually and the continuation of these activities would not

result in an increase in the consumption of energy beyond annual maintenance operations of the City. Therefore, this would not be an inefficient, wasteful, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources.

b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?

No impact. Applicable plans include the 2015 Jackson Energy Action Plan which focuses on expanding energy efficiency and renewable energy efforts underway in the City of Jackson. The Plan builds upon energy-efficiency efforts and work conducted by the Sierra Business Council in 2010. As discussed in criterion (a), the project consists of the continuation of annually maintenance activities and would not be considered an inefficient, wasteful, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources. Thus, it would not conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency.

3.7 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
VII. Geology and Soils.				
Would the project:				
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? (Refer to California Geological Survey Special Publication 42.)	☐	☐	☐	☒
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☐	☒
iv) Landslides?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994, as updated), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☒	☐	☐

3.7.1 Environmental Setting

Jackson and Amador County are in the Sierra Nevada foothills of central California. A west to east cross section through California at Jackson would reveal three major geomorphic provinces. These consist of the Coast Ranges, Great Valley, and Sierra Nevada geomorphic provinces. Beyond the Great Valley to the east are the granitic plutons and metamorphic rocks which form the Sierra Nevada geomorphic province. Younger volcanic and sedimentary deposits are also present in the Sierra Nevada. The project lies within the Sierra foothill metamorphic belt which consists of a strip Mesozoic sedimentary and volcanic rocks which have been highly metamorphosed by the orogenic processes which formed the Sierra Nevada.

SEISMIC HAZARDS

Seismic hazards refer to earthquake-induced ground rupture, ground shaking, liquefaction, or water movement. The City is generally located approximately 2 miles north of the closest fault (Poorman Gulch fault) in the Bear Mountains Fault zone and approximately 29 miles northwest of the closest fault (Raw Hide East fault) in the Melones Fault zone. There are no Alquist-Priolo fault zones located in Amador County. Active faults are located approximately 80 miles to the east of the City and along the easterly margin of the Sierra Nevada province. These structures have a long history of producing moderate to large earthquakes. The Bear Mountains Fault zone located approximately two to five miles to the south delineates the west side of this westerly concentration of faults. The Melones Fault Zone, located approximately 29 miles southeast of the City, defines the easterly margin of these faults.

In the past, the Foothills fault system was considered an inactive system with no known creep or displacement of geologic features since the late Cretaceous period. However, in August of 1975, a northern subordinate structure of the fault system located near Oroville experienced a magnitude 5.7 earthquake. Since that time, it has been proposed that the Foothills fault system is capable of producing earthquakes of magnitude up to 6.5. However, as discussed in the Jackson General Plan it is estimated that the recurrence interval for the projected "maximum event" is on the order of 25,000 years. Therefore, it appears that the City has a very low probability of being subjected to a maximum event during the life of the project. Additionally, the Amador County General Plan states the expected earthquake intensity for the area surrounding the site is considered as minor to moderate.

According to the CDMG Geologic Data Map No. 6, all known faults located in the vicinity of the City are not active, since no movement has taken place along them within the past 10,000 years or during Holocene time. However, all subordinate faults to the Foothills Fault system should be considered potentially active with low seismic potential because the Foothills Fault system (includes the Bear Mountain and Melones Fault zones) has experienced movement along one of its other subordinate faults located near this system's northerly terminus.

3.7.2 Discussion

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

i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? (Refer to California Geological Survey Special Publication 42.)

No impact. There are no Alquist-Priolo fault zones located in Amador County nor are there any active faults located in the vicinity of the City, as classified by a State Geologist. Active faults are located approximately 80 miles to the east of the City and along the easterly margin of the Sierra Nevada province. The proposed project involves removal of vegetation and debris from Jackson Creek, pertinent drainages, and retention basins for a short duration of time, which is highly improbable to cause rupture of a known earthquake fault. The proposed routine maintenance activities would occur for a short duration of time and would not increase hazards associated with faults above current conditions.

ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?

No impact. As discussed in criterion (ai) above, the project sites are not located in a Alquist-Priolo fault zone, nor are there any active faults in vicinity of the project sites or City. The routine maintenance activities include vegetation and debris removal, which would not cause and expose people to strong seismic ground shaking. The proposed routine maintenance activities would occur for a short duration of time and would not increase seismic hazards above current conditions.

iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

No impact. As discussed in criterion (ai) above, the project sites are not located in a Alquist-Priolo fault zone, nor are there any active faults in vicinity of the project sites or City. The routine maintenance activities include vegetation and debris removal, which are highly improbably to cause and expose people to seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction. The proposed routine maintenance activities would occur for a short duration of time that would not increase seismic hazards above current conditions.

iv) Landslides?

No impact. Risk of landslide would not be increased as a result of any of the ongoing or future routine maintenance activities identified as these activities would occur along creeks and other water features not within steep slope areas.

b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

Less than significant with mitigation incorporated. Routine maintenance activities involve vegetation and debris removal, which could disturb soil conditions that result in soil erosion and sedimentation of creeks and other water features. Implementation of Mitigation Measure 3.7-1 would require the implementation of erosion control measures to avoid the potential for soil erosion and sedimentation of creeks.

Mitigation Measure 3.7-1: Implement Erosion Control Measures

The City shall actively implement best management practices (BMPs) to minimize turbidity and siltation and prevent erosion and the discharge of sediment where it may pass into creeks and other water features. Precautions shall include, but are not limited to pre-construction planning to identify site specific turbidity and siltation minimization measures; best management erosion control practices during project activity; and settling, filtering, or otherwise treating silty and turbid water prior to discharge into a stream or storm drain. This may require the placement of silt fencing, coir logs, coir rolls, straw bale dikes, or other siltation barriers so that silt and/or other deleterious materials are not allowed to pass to downstream reaches.

- BMPs shall be monitored daily and repaired if necessary to ensure maximum erosion and sediment control.
- All fiber rolls, straw wattles, and/or hay bales utilized within and adjacent to the sites shall be free of non-native plant materials. Fiber rolls or erosion control mesh shall be made of loose-weave mesh that is not fused at the intersections of the weave, such as jute, or coconut (coir) fiber, or other products without welded weaves. Products with plastic monofilament or cross joints in the netting that are bound/stitched (such as found in straw wattles/fiber rolls and some erosion control blankets), which may cause entrapment of wildlife, shall not be allowed.
- If any sediment barrier fails to retain sediment, corrective measures shall be taken. The sediment barrier(s) shall be maintained in good operating condition throughout the construction period and the following rainy season. Maintenance includes, but is not limited to, removal of accumulated silt and/or replacement of damaged silt fencing, coir logs, coir rolls, and/or straw pale dikes.
- All areas and access points exposed or disturbed during project activities shall be restored as set forth in Mitigation Measure 3.4-7.

c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?

No impact. Unstable geologic units or soils are generally not present at the maintenance sites. The project would not create new geologic stability impacts because vegetation and silt removal would not substantial excavation or grading.

d) 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?

No impact. Routine maintenance activities would not involve the construction of structures that could be damaged from expansive soil conditions.

e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?

No impact. Routine maintenance activities include vegetation and debris removal for a short duration of time and would not require the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems.

f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

Less than significant with mitigation incorporated. No fossils or paleontological artifacts have been found during previous maintenance activities. There is potential for inadvertent discovery of paleontological resources or geologic features during minor grading and earthwork. Implementation of Mitigation Measure 3.7-2 would reduce this impact to less than significant through protection and/or recovery of discovered resources.

Mitigation Measure 3.7-2: Stop Work if Fossils or Other Artifacts are Inadvertently Discovered

The City shall stop construction and excavation activities if fossils or other geological features are observed or unearthed during construction activities and retain a qualified professional paleontologist to document and record the artifacts found at the site. Artifacts may be retained and archived by the City, given to the County Museum or the U.C. Berkeley Museum of Paleontology as museum specimens for display. The professional paleontologist will prepare a brief report documenting the fossils and their final disposition to the City.

3.8 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

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

3.8.1 Environmental Setting

GHGs of most concern include the following compounds:

- Carbon Dioxide (CO_2). Anthropogenic CO_2 emissions are primarily generated by fossil fuel combustion from stationary and mobile sources. Due to the emergence of industrial facilities and mobile sources over the past 250 years, the concentration of CO_2 in the atmosphere has increased 35 percent. Carbon dioxide is also generated by natural sources such as cellular respiration, volcanic activity, decomposition of organisms, and forest fires. Carbon dioxide is the most widely emitted GHG. In 2004, 82.8 percent of California's GHG emissions were CO_2.
- Methane (CH_4). Methane is emitted from biogenic sources (i.e., resulting from the activity of living organisms), incomplete combustion in forest fires, landfills, manure management, and leaks in natural gas pipelines. In the US, the top three sources of CH_4 are landfills, natural gas systems, and enteric fermentation. Methane is the primary component of natural gas, which is used for space and water heating, steam production, and power generation.
- Nitrous Oxide (N_2O). Nitrous oxide is produced by natural and human-related sources. Primary human-related sources include agricultural soil management, animal manure management, sewage treatment, mobile and stationary combustion of fossil fuel, adipic acid production, and nitric acid production.

Climate change is defined as any significant change in climate metrics, including temperature, precipitation, and wind patterns, over a period of time (U.S. EPA Glossary of Climate Change Terms, http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/glossary.html#C). The effects of climate change most people refer to today stems from "global warming," a relatively recent phenomenon of rising average temperatures across the globe. The temperature increase is thought to be due in large part to the human-induced increase in greenhouses gas emissions released into the atmosphere as a result of combustion. Common greenhouse gases (GHG) such as carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide trap radiant heat from the earth causing the average temperature to rise. Climate change research in reports from the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) (www.ipcc.ch), U.S. Climate Change Science Program's Science Synthesis and Assessment Products, and the U.S. Global Change Research Program, conclude that earth's climate is already changing. This change is expected to accelerate and human GHG emissions, primarily CO_2, are the main source of accelerated climate change. This rise in temperature changes the climate worldwide and have already and will continue to cause or increase the severity of droughts, flooding, wildfires, and food and water shortages.

Climate change in the City is anticipated to increase frequency and alter timing of flooding which would increase risk to agriculture, people, ecosystems and infrastructure. Potential impacts on water resources include reduced mountain snowpack, delayed snow accumulation, earlier snow melting and ultimately shortages in runoff and water supply. Extended droughts may increase wildland fire risk.

The City of Jackson General Plan does not include specific policies dealing with greenhouse gas emissions.

3.8.2 Discussion

a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?

Less than significant impact. The continuance of routine maintenance operations and activities would generate emissions primarily from worker vehicles traveling to and from the various sites throughout the City. All worker vehicles and contractor vehicles are registered and meet air emissions standards California Air Resources Board (CARB) designed to minimize greenhouse gas emissions. The use of gasoline or diesel powered vehicles would result in daily emissions of GHG; however, CO_2 generated would not increase from previous annual maintenance activities.

b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

Less than significant impact. As discussed in criterion (a), the project would not create new greenhouse gas emissions. There are no City adopted GHG reduction plans. Vehicles and equipment used in maintenance activities are subject to emission standards set forth by CARB.

3.9 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
IX. Hazards and Hazardous Materials.				
Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and/or accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.9.1 Environmental Setting

Hazardous materials include all flammable, reactive, corrosive, or toxic substances, which, because of these properties, pose potential harm to the public or environment. Hazardous materials include, but are not limited to, agricultural chemicals, natural gas and petroleum, explosives, radioactive materials, and various commercial substances that are used, stored, or produced.

Hazardous waste is a waste, or a combination of wastes that either cause or significantly contribute to an increase in mortality or an increase in serious irreversible, or incapacitating reversible illness, or pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or environment when improperly treated, stored, transported, or disposed of.

Numerous Federal and State laws regulate hazardous materials and waste such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and California Department of Health Services (CDHS). However, depending on the waste, the Air Resources Board or the State Water Resources Control Board or another agency may be involved. Locally, the Amador County Environmental Health Department has responsibility for enforcing some state standards and is the local Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA).

The CUPA issues permits for hazardous material storage, the generation of hazardous waste, and underground and aboveground storage tanks in Amador County. The department also administers the Hazardous Material Release Response Plan and Inventory (Business Plan) and California Accidental Release Prevention programs.

3.9.2 Discussion

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

Less than significant impact. No acutely hazardous materials would be routinely transported, used, or disposed through the implementation of routine maintenance activities.

b) 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?

Less than significant impact. No hazardous materials would be used as part of the implementation of routine maintenance activities.

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

No impact. While routine maintenance activities may occur within one quarter mile of existing or proposed schools, the routine maintenance activities would not involve the use or handling of hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste.

d) 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?

No impact. GeoTracker was reviewed to determine if any hazardous materials sites occur on or near maintenance sites (State Water Resources Control Board 2020). GeoTracker is the State Water Resources Control Boards' data management system for sites that require cleanup, such as leaking underground storage tank (LUST) sites, Department of Defense sites, and cleanup program sites. GeoTracker also contains records for various unregulated projects as well as permitted facilities that include oil and gas production, operating permitted USTs, and land disposal sites. No hazardous material sites were identified at the maintenance sites.

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?

No impact. The closest airport to the City is the Amador County (Westover Field) Airport located over two miles to the north. The project would not generate new airport safety hazard or excessive noise to people residing or working in the vicinity of the airport because the project activities are limited to maintenance activities creeks and other water features.

f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

No impact. Amador County maintains a Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan and is currently revising the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). The routine maintenance activities include vegetation and debris removal from the creek and in immediate vicinity of the creek and other water features for a short duration of time. No roadway closures that could conflict with emergency response or evacuation operations are anticipated during the routine maintenance activities.

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

No impact. The project would consist of vegetation thinning and removal that would provide benefit in reducing fire fuels and would not expose people or structures to new or increased risk from wildland fires.

3.10 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
X. Hydrology and Water Quality.				
Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:				
i) Result in substantial on- or offsite erosion or siltation;	☐	☒	☐	☐
ii) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;	☐	☐	☐	☒
iii) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	☐	☒	☐	☐
iv) Impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	☐	☒	☐	☐
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	☐	☒	☐	☐

3.10.1 Environmental Setting

Most of the City is encompassed within three principal watersheds: Jackson Creek, Jackass Gulch, and Lake Tabeaud. The two major rivers are the North Fork Mokelumne River and Jackson Creek.

GROUNDWATER RESOURCES

Within the foothill region of the Sierra Nevada Mountains, groundwater resources are highly variable with respect to quantity, depth, dependability, and quality. Annual rainfall for the area is approximately 30 inches and soils are relatively thin with shallow underlying bedrock. Since deep alluvium is absent, groundwater resources reside mostly in fractures within underlying bedrock. According to studies by the U. S. Geology Survey in foothill areas of the Sierra

Nevada Mountains. The fracture front in underlying bedrock normally terminates at depths of about 215 feet and porosity ranges between 0 to 5 percent for more massive volcanic rocks.

FLOODING

The City's flood concerns occur mostly where portions of Jackson Creek flow through the City. The City is located where the upper branches of Jackson Creek connect to form a main channel. There are no major dams located within the upper reaches of the Jackson Creek watershed area located up gradient from the City. Therefore, no flood control structures exist above the City. Historical flooding has been confined to narrow areas along streams typically less than 150-feet wide. The Jackson Creek channel is constrained by walls and in a few places covered over with buildings located within the City's central business district area. The majority of the City is located outside of the 100-year floodplain as determined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Portions of the Planning Area located along the branches of Jackson Creek and Oneida Creek are within the 100-year floodplain.

SURFACE WATER QUALITY

The Upper Mokelumne hydrologic unit is part of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board's Central Valley Region (CVRWQCB). The Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River Basin and the San Joaquin River Basin (Basin Plan) addresses surface and groundwater quality within the basins. The Upper Mokelumne hydrologic unit, which contains both the Sutter and Jackson Creek watersheds was determined to have no existing water quality impairments. The Basin Plan determined that the Upper Mokelumne does not have significant water quality problems; however, its vulnerability to potential problems was found to be relatively high. As part of operation of the City's wastewater treatment plant (WWTP), the City has conducted surface water quality sampling of Jackson Creek on a quarterly basis since 2002. This sampling data includes water quality information associated with volatile organics, semi-volatile organics, inorganics, pesticides, and other constituents (e.g., total dissolved solids, nitrate and nitrite, phosphorus and pH).

3.10.2 Discussion

a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?

Less than significant with mitigation incorporated. Some routine maintenance activities have the potential to discharge sediments and pollutants into local surface waters that could conflict with the Basin Plan. As described in Section 3.7, "Geology and Soils," Implementation of Mitigation Measure 3.7-1 would require the implementation of erosion control measures to avoid the potential for soil erosion and sedimentation of creeks.

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

No impact. The routine maintenance activities include vegetation and debris removal which would have no impact on groundwater supplies as groundwater supplies would not be needed to support these activities nor would these activities impact groundwater resources.

c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:

i) Result in substantial on- or offsite erosion or siltation;

Less than significant with mitigation incorporated. Some routine maintenance activities have the potential to discharge sediments and pollutants into creeks and other water features. As described in Section 3.7, "Geology and Soils," Implementation of Mitigation Measure 3.7-1 would require the implementation of erosion control measures to avoid the potential for soil erosion and sedimentation of creeks.

ii) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;

No impact. The routine maintenance activities consist of vegetation and debris removal from the creek corridors and other water features to maintain or improve surface water flows and avoid flooding. No new flooding impacts would occur from these activities.

iii) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or

Less than significant with mitigation incorporated. Some routine maintenance activities have the potential to discharge sediments and pollutants into creeks and other water features. As described in Section 3.7, "Geology and Soils," Implementation of Mitigation Measure 3.7-1 would require the implementation of erosion control measures to avoid the potential for soil erosion and sedimentation of creeks. The routine maintenance activities consist of vegetation and debris removal from the creek corridors and other water features to maintain or improve surface water flows and avoid flooding. No new flooding impacts would occur from these activities.

iv) Impede or redirect flood flows?

No impact. The routine maintenance activities consist of vegetation and debris removal from the creek corridors and other water features to maintain or improve surface water flows and avoid flooding. No new flooding impacts would occur from these activities.

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

Less than significant with mitigation incorporated. The routine maintenance activities consist of vegetation and debris removal from the creek corridors and other water features to maintain or improve surface water flows and avoid flooding. No new flooding impacts would occur from these activities. The City is not located in a tsunami or seiche zone. As described in Section 3.7, "Geology and Soils," Implementation of Mitigation Measure 3.7-1 would require the implementation of erosion control measures to avoid the potential for soil erosion and sedimentation of creeks.

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

Less than significant with mitigation incorporated. Some routine maintenance activities have the potential to discharge sediments and pollutants into local surface waters that could conflict with the Basin Plan. As described in Section 3.7, "Geology and Soils," Implementation of Mitigation Measure 3.7-1 would require the implementation of erosion control measures to avoid the potential for soil erosion and sedimentation of creeks. The City of Jackson is not subject to a sustainable groundwater management plan.

3.11 LAND USE AND PLANNING

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XI. Land Use and Planning.				
Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.11.1 Environmental Setting

The City of Jackson General Plan is the guiding planning document for land uses in the project region. The General Plan Land Use Element was adopted in 2011 and provides the guiding planning policies and objectives for land uses in the City. The routine operations and maintenance activities generally do not require changes in land use or zoning or any discretionary permits from the City.

3.11.2 Discussion

a) Physically divide an established community?

No impact. The routine maintenance activities consist of vegetation and debris removal from the creek corridors and other water features to maintain or improve surface water flows and avoid flooding. These activities would not create a new physical feature that would divide the City.

b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

No impact. The routine maintenance activities consist of vegetation and debris removal from the creek corridors and other water features to maintain or improve surface water flows and avoid flooding. The routine maintenance activities would not conflict with the General Plan or adopted regulations because it would not alter land uses or environmental protection standards of the City.

3.12 MINERAL RESOURCES

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

3.12.1 Environmental Setting

Areas within and around the City of Jackson have historically been the site of gold mining activities, including the Argonaut Mine and Amador De Oro sites within the City. The California Geological Survey and the State Mining and Geology Board do not designate any areas of the City as containing, or potentially containing, significant mineral resources (City of Jackson 2007:4.6-9).

3.12.2 Discussion

a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?

No impact. No areas of the City are designated by the State of containing, or potentially containing, significant mineral resources. Thus, routine maintenance activities would not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of regional and statewide value.

b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?

No impact. No areas of the City are designated by the State or the City General Plan of containing, or potentially containing, significant mineral resources. The proposed project would not convert any lands from current mineral resources use to other uses. Thus, routine maintenance activities would not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of regional, statewide, or local value.

3.13 NOISE

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XIII.Noise.				
Would the project result in:				
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or in other applicable local, state, or federal standards?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.13.1 Environmental Setting

The background noise levels in the vicinity of the project sites vary but are relatively quiet in nature. Several sources of noise that could affect residents were identified within the City of Jackson. These sources include noise generated from stationary activities (e.g., commercial and industrial uses), and traffic on major roadways and highways. Community ambient noise surveys were conducted in March 2006 for the purpose of documenting and measuring the existing noise environment in various areas in and around the City. Major noise sources noted during the community noise surveys included traffic on local roadways, occasional aircraft overflights, and residential neighborhood activities (e.g., people talking, children playing, dogs barking). Based on the monitoring conducted, average daily noise levels within the City ranged from the low 40 decibels (dB) to the upper 60 dBs, dependent primarily on distance from area roadways.

Noise is addressed in the Noise Element of the City of Jackson General Plan. Chapter 17.44 of the Jackson Municipal Code establishes standards for the elimination and regulation of noise disturbances to protect the health, safety, welfare, and living/working environments of those living and working in the City.

3.13.2 Discussion

a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or in other applicable local, state, or federal standards?

No impact. A temporary increase in noise is expected to be generated by equipment, vehicles, and personnel during routine maintenance activities, however, this impact would be temporary in nature and is noise from routine maintenance activities that has been annually occurring in the City. Per the City of Jackson Development Code Section 17.44.070 (E), the project is exempt from noise standards because it involves maintenance operations consisting of debris and limb removal, thus no impact would occur.

17.44.070 (E): Public health, safety, and welfare activities. The provisions of this Section shall not apply to construction or maintenance and repair operations conducted by public agencies and/or utility companies or their contractors which are deemed necessary to serve the best interests of the public and to protect the public health, safety, and welfare, including debris and limb removal, removal of downed wires, repairing of gas lines, oil lines, roads, sewers, sidewalks, storm drains, traffic signals, water hydrants and mains, restoring electrical service, street sweeping, unplugging sewers, vacuuming catch basins, etc.

b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

No impact. As discussed in criterion (a), the routine maintenance activities would create a temporary increase in noise, however, the noise is from routine maintenance activities that have been routinely occurring in the City and the routine maintenance activities are exempt from noise standards. None of these activities would involve construction impact tools (e.g., jack hammers and pile drivers) that could create vibration.

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?

No impact. The closest airport to the City is the Amador County (Westover Field) Airport located over two miles to the north. The project would not generate new airport noise sources to people residing or working in the vicinity of the airport because the project activities are limited to maintenance activities creeks and other water features.

3.14 POPULATION AND HOUSING

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

3.14.1 Environmental Setting

From 1960–1970, there was a 3.89 percent growth in population in the City according to the U.S. Census. However, after 1970, the City's population increased rapidly. In 2000, the City of Jackson had a population of 3,989. Using the 0.7 percent per year growth projection, the City is expected to have a population of 4,748 by the year 2025. The main employment categories are educational services and health care; professional, scientific, and management; retail trade; recreation services; and public administration.

3.14.2 Discussion

a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?

No impact. The proposed project would not affect population and housing. Routine maintenance activities in the creek and in immediate vicinity of the creek and other water features would maintain capacity of the creek and drainage features and would not directly or indirectly induce population growth. No permanent employment would be created.

b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

No impact. Routine maintenance activities would not displace people, remove housing, or necessitate construction of replacement housing.

3.15 PUBLIC SERVICES

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XV. Public Services.				
Would the project:				
a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, 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 any of the public services:				
Fire protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Police protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Parks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.15.1 Environmental Setting

Fire protection within the City is provided by the Jackson Fire Department, a full-time and volunteer organization providing fire protection and suppression and emergency response to the residents of Jackson and surrounding areas. Police protection is provided by the Jackson Police Department, which consists of the following broad programs: Patrol, Traffic Enforcement, Parking Enforcement, Detective Division, and Community Oriented Policing. Law enforcement coverage is provided 24-hours-a-day, seven-days-a-week. Education services in the City are provided by the Amador County Unified School District, which provides education for preschool to high school and adult education. The City owns and operates four park facilities. Amador County Library system operates a main branch in Jackson, as well as several other regional branches throughout the county.

3.15.2 Discussion

a) 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 any of the public services:

Fire protection?

No impact. The routine maintenance activities consist of vegetation and debris removal, which would not result in substantial adverse physical impact to existing service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for fire protection. Vegetation thinning and removal would provide benefit in reducing fire fuels. Thus, the project would not result in a development requiring expanded services that could create physical environmental impacts.

Police protection?

No impact. The routine maintenance activities consist of vegetation and debris removal, which would not result in substantial adverse physical impact to existing service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for law enforcement. Thus, the project would not result in a development requiring expanded services that could create physical environmental impacts.

Schools?

No impact. The routine maintenance activities consist of vegetation and debris removal, which would not result in substantial adverse physical impact to existing capacities or other performance objectives for schools. Thus, the project would not result in a development requiring expanded services that could create physical environmental impacts.

Parks?

No impact. The routine maintenance activities consist of vegetation and debris removal, which would not result in substantial adverse physical impact to existing capacities or other performance objectives for parks. Thus, this project would not result in a development requiring expanded services that could create physical environmental impacts.

Other public facilities?

No impact. The routine maintenance activities consist of vegetation and debris removal, which would not result in substantial adverse physical impact to existing service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for other public facilities. Thus, the project as it would not result in a development requiring expanded services that could create physical environmental impacts.

3.16 RECREATION

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVI. Recreation.				
Would the project:				
a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.16.1 Environmental Setting

The City owns and operates four park facilities to enhance recreation opportunities for citizens. These vary from a plaza style gathering place at the south end of the historic downtown Jackson area to an active recreation park that includes the City's municipal pool, a youth baseball diamond and play structure.

3.16.2 Discussion

a) 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?

No impact. Maintenance activities are temporary and are anticipated to be short in duration, the activities would not increase the use of existing parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration occurs or is accelerated.

b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

No impact. The routine maintenance activities would not result in the use of existing parks or recreational facilities nor would it create the need for new construction of recreational facilities.

3.17 TRANSPORTATION

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVII. Transportation.				
Would the project:				
a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.17.1 Environmental Setting

The project sites are located throughout the City along and near Jackson Creek. Regional access to the City is provided by State Route (SR) 49, SR 88, and SR 104 (Ridge Road). Amador Regional Transit System (ARTS) is the only public transit service in the County. ARTS provides fixed-route/demand responsive bus service throughout the western portion of the County. Service can extend up to one-half mile from the designated routes. Currently, there are few designated bicycle routes in Amador County and the City. Only a small percentage of the local population (approximately 1 percent) is using their bicycles in lieu of autos for transportation. This is largely because of the population's preference for automobiles, and the County's widely disbursed pattern of urbanization combined with its hilly terrain and traffic hazards. Rail service in the City is no longer in service since closure of the Ione Branch of the Amador Foothills Railroad.

3.17.2 Discussion

a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities?

No impact. The routine maintenance activities would occur within and along creeks and other water features and would not alter transportation facilities or conflict with circulation policies or programs.

b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3(b), which pertains to vehicle miles travelled?

No impact. The annual routine maintenance activities would continue in a manner similar to previous years and would not result in increases in existing vehicle trips. Because the project would not change the amount of development projected for the City, it would not alter anticipated VMT conditions for the City or the County.

c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

No impact. The project includes routine maintenance activities such as vegetation cutting and debris removal and would not result in modifications to roadways.

d) Result in inadequate emergency access?

No impact. The routine maintenance activities include vegetation and debris removal from the creek and in immediate vicinity of the creek and other water features for a short duration of time. No roadway closures that could conflict with emergency access during the routine maintenance activities.

3.18 TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XVIII. Tribal Cultural Resources.				
Has a California Native American Tribe requested consultation in accordance with Public Resources Code section 21080.3.1(b)?	☐ Yes			☒ No
Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
a) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe?	☐	☒	☐	☐

3.18.1 Environmental Setting

A records search was performed at the Northwest Information Center on March 25, 2020. Results from the records search indicate that no structures, features, and/or sites are located within the project area and that 37 features have been identified within a 0.25-mile buffer of the project area. Of these features, 36 are historic-era and one is prehistoric. Of the 36 historic-era features, 25 are buildings and structures, while the remainder are various sites (including cemeteries). Four previous reports have been conducted within the project area and 23 have been conducted within a 0.25-mile buffer of the project area.

The City sent requests for tribal consultation under AB-52 to five Native American groups/individuals on September 10, 2019: the Jackson Band of Mi-Wuk Indians, Ione Band of Miwok Indians, Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria (UAIC), and the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians. The consultation request letter described the project and requested information or concerns be communicated via email, phone, or regular mail and began the required 30-day period request for consultation period, pursuant to PRC 21080.3.1(d), which closed on October 15, 2019. The consultation is consistent with Public Resources Code (PRC) 21080.3.1 and Chapter 532 Statutes of 2014 (AB 52).

The Jackson Band of Mi-Wuk Indians and the UAIC did not request formal consultation and requested they be sent all environmental documentation.

3.18.2 Discussion

Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:

a) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k)?

No impact. The cultural resources record search prepared for the project included a search of the Sacred Lands File database that did not yield any records of sacred lands or other tribal cultural resources. Therefore, there are no sites containing tribal cultural resources which are listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historic Resources near the maintenance sites.

b) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe?

Less than significant with mitigation incorporated. The cultural resources record search prepared for the project included a search of the Sacred Lands File database that did not yield any records of sacred lands or other tribal cultural resources. As required by AB 52, letters were sent to the tribes affiliated with the project area. No tribes have requested consultation and there are no records of any tribal cultural resources in the project areas.

Because the location of grave sites and Native American remains can occur outside of identified cemeteries or burial sites, there is a possibility that unmarked, previously unknown Native American or other graves could be present within the project site and could be uncovered by project-related activities. Mitigation Measure 3.5-1 and 3.5-2 would reduce this impact to less than significant by stopping project activities to properly identify the resource and develop specific measures to protect the tribal cultural resources and/or human remains.

3.19 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XIX. Utilities and Service Systems.				
Would the project:				
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunication facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.19.1 Environmental Setting

STORM DRAINAGE

Storm water runoff is that portion of rainfall not absorbed into the soil that leaves a site by surface flow. A storm drainage system designed to prevent flooding can consist of both natural and man-made structures used to collect, convey, and store rainwater during storms. The captured storm water is eventually discharged to a natural body of water via the terminal basin

WATER SUPPLY

The City purchases treated water from the Amador Water Agency (AWA), which comes from the Mokelumne River. Surface water is subject to a complex federal and state legal system establishing the rights of individual and agencies to water flows through permits, licenses, court decrees, and contracts, and federally prescribed flood control regulations.

WASTEWATER

The City provides wastewater conveyance and treatment services.

SOLID WASTE

The City contracts with Amador County Environmental Services (ACES) for solid waste collection, disposal, and recycling services for all residential, commercial, and industrial customers. The Potrero Hills Landfill has an estimated capacity of 83,100,000 cubic yards and is projected to remain in operation until year 2048 based on its Solid Waste Facility Permit.

3.19.2 Discussion

a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunication facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?

No impact. The project is restricted to the routine maintenance activities and would not result in the relocation or construction of expanded water, wastewater treatment, electric power, natural gas or telecommunication facilities requirements. Routine maintenance activities would result in the maintenance of drainage channels and ultimately would improve storm water drainage to the region. No new storm water drainage facilities would be required as a result of the routine maintenance activities.

b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?

No impact. The project consists of routine maintenance activities including vegetation and debris removal from the creek and other water features, which would not increase water supply demand.

c) 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?

No impact. The project consists of routine maintenance activities including vegetation and debris removal from the creek and other water features, which would not involve wastewater treatment or facilities.

d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?

Less than significant impact. Although the project would generate some solid waste as a result of silt, gravel, and sediment removal, quantities are not anticipated to be in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure and would occur for a short duration of. Because project activities would not significantly increase solid waste disposal in excess and would occur for a short duration of time, the impact is less than significant.

e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

No impact. The project consists of routine maintenance activities and would comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

3.20 WILDFIRE

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XX. Wildfire.				
Is the project located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as high fire hazard severity zones?				
If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:		☐ Yes		☒ No
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Require the installation of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.20.1 Environmental Setting

The project sites, including the City, are located within the local responsibility area that is a non-Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. The lands surrounding the City are within the local responsibility area in a moderate fire hazard severity zone. Lands located southwest of the City along Jackson River and lands south of the City along Middle Bar Road are within the state responsibility area and are classified as high fire hazard severity zones. No portions of the project sites are located in or near lands classified as high fire hazard severity zones (CAL FIRE 2008).

3.20.2 Discussion

a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

No impact. Amador County maintains a Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan and is currently revising the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). The routine maintenance activities include vegetation and debris removal from the creeks and in immediate vicinity of the creek and other water features for a short duration of time. No roadway closures are anticipated during the routine maintenance activities.

b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?

No impact. The routine maintenance sites are located within the creek and in immediate vicinity of the creek and would not result in any alterations to slope, wind, or other factors. The project would consist of vegetation thinning and removal that would provide benefit in reducing fire fuels. Therefore, wildfire risk would not be exacerbated and would not expose project occupants to the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire.

c) Require the installation 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?

No impact. The routine maintenance activities consist of vegetation and debris removal and would not require the installation of any infrastructure or utilities that may exacerbate fire risk. Because the project is short in duration and would not require any infrastructure or utility installation there is no impact.

d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?

No impact. The project would not result in an increase in population, nor would the project include the construction of residential or commercial structures. The routine maintenance activities are being performed to remove excessive vegetation and debris from the creek and drainage channels to increase channel capacity and reduce the risk of flooding. The project would not result in a substantial change in runoff or post-fire slope instability that would expose people or structures to significant risks.

3.21 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
XX. Mandatory Findings of Significance.				
a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of an endangered, rare, or threatened species, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Does the project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☐	☒

3.21.1 Discussion

a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of an endangered, rare, or threatened species, or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

Less than significant with mitigation incorporated. The impact of routine maintenance activities would not substantially degrade the quality of the environment nor result in reducing the habitat or population of fish and wildlife species to drop below the self-sustaining levels nor substantially impact important examples of the major historical and cultural resources. While some routine maintenance activities could potentially result in removal of sensitive resources for the purposes of ensuring the structural integrity and capacity of channels to prevent loss of life and property, these impacts would be mitigated through implementation of mitigation measures 3.3-1, 3.4-1 through 3.4-7, 3.5-1, 3.5-2, and 3.7-1 as identified in Sections 3.3, "Air Quality," 3.4, "Biological Resources," 3.5, "Cultural Resources," and 3.7, "Geology and Soils."

b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.)

Less than significant impact. The routine maintenance activities do not contribute to potential cumulative impacts as the activities are to maintain existing creek channels to ensure structural integrity and design capacity for flood flow purposes. Implementation of mitigation measures 3.3-1, 3.4-1 through 3.4-7, 3.5-1, 3.5-2, and 3.7-1 would offset environmental impacts through avoidance and protection of natural and cultural resources, best management practices to avoid significant air pollutant emissions, restoration of habitat conditions, and water quality control measures.

c) Does the project have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

No impact. The routine maintenance activities would not have any environmental effects which would cause direct or indirect substantial adverse effects on human beings as one of the beneficial factors of maintaining channels is to ensure structural integrity and design capacity for flood flow purposes to prevent loss of property and human beings. Therefore, there would be no impact.

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4 REFERENCES

1 Introduction

No references cited in this chapter.

2 Project Description

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3 Environmental Checklist

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3.2 Agriculture and Forest Resources

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3.3 Air Quality

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3.7 Geology and Soils

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3.8 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

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3.9 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

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3.10 Hydrology and Water Quality

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3.11 Land Use and Planning

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3.12 Mineral Resources

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3.13 Noise

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3.14 Population and Housing

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3.15 Public Services

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3.16 Recreation

No references cited in this section.

3.17 Transportation

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3.18 Tribal Cultural Resources

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3.19 Utilities and Service Systems

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3.20 Wildfire

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5 REPORT PREPARERS

Susan Peters, City Planner, City of Jackson

Patrick Angell, Principal-in-Charge, Ascent Environmental

Haley Rundle, Environmental Planner, Ascent Environmental

Allison Fuller, Biologist, Ascent Environmental

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