INITIAL STUDY
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
FOR THE

REEVES SAND REMOVAL PROJECT

Quarry Permit No.: PA-1900177 (QX)

San Joaquin County, California

September 2020

Prepared for:

San Joaquin County
Community Development Department
1810 East Hazelton Ave.
Stockton, CA 95202
209-468-3121

Prepared by:

BaseCamp Environmental, Inc.
115 S. School Street, Suite 14
Lodi, CA 95240
209-224-8213

BaseCamp Environmental

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209-468-0227
Contact: Giuseppe Sanfilippo
Associate Planner

Prepared by:

BASECAMP ENVIRONMENTAL, INC.
115 S School Street, Suite 14
Lodi, CA 95240
209-224-8213

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

A. General Project Information

Project Title:	Reeves Sand Removal Project
Lead Agency Name and Address:	San Joaquin County Community Development Department 1810 East Hazelton Avenue Stockton, CA 95205
Contact Person and Phone Number:	Giuseppe Sanfilippo 209-468-0227
Project Location:	The project is located within San Joaquin County in the southwest portion of Upper Roberts Island. It is located adjacent to the south side of McDonald Island Road between Holt Road and Whiskey Slough on a parcel identified as Assessor's Parcel Number 131-060-01. The site is located on the USGS Holt California, 7.5-minute quadrangle map as being within Sections 4 and 9, Township 1 North, Range 5 East, Mt. Diablo Base and Meridian.
Project Sponsor Name and Address:	Reeves Sand and Gravel, Inc. P.O. Box 60 French Camp, Ca 95231-0060
General Plan Designation:	A/G (General Agricultural)
Zoning:	AG-80 (General Agricultural, 80-acre minimum)
Description of Project:	The project applicant requests County approval of a Quarry Excavation permit to excavate sand. The total sandy area to be excavated is 9.1 acres in size. This area would be excavated to a depth of 12 ft. The total amount of sand to be removed would be approximately 176,500 cubic yards. All of the disturbed land will be reclaimed back to agricultural use. Reclamation of the property would begin during the excavation process and be ongoing during the project timeframe; the excavated area will be filled with soil removed from other portions of the site and brought to a consistent final grade of 1%, consistent with the surrounding topography. Upon completion of sand removal, the farmer will prepare the ground with deep ripping and discing and otherwise prepare the site to be

planted. It's anticipated that the site will be planted with an almond orchard upon completion of the project.

Access to the project site would be provided via West McDonald Rd. An existing onsite dirt haul road is located along the east boundary of the project site. The project will improve the dirt road by adding rock material to the first 50 feet of road starting at the entry point on West McDonald Rd.

Surrounding Land Uses and Setting: Agricultural

Other Public Agencies Whose Approval is Required: San Joaquin County Quarry Excavation Permit

B. Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

The environmental factors checked below may be significantly affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" prior to mitigation. Mitigation measures that would avoid potential effects or reduce them to a less than significant level have been prescribed for each of these effects, as described in the checklist and narrative on the following pages, and in the Summary Table at the end of Chapter 1.0.

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

C. Lead Agency Determination

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION 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 and/or mitigation measures that would reduce potential effects to a less than significant level 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.

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Giuseppe Sanfilippo, Associate Planner

10/7/2020
Date

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Brief

The project applicant requests County approval of a Quarry Excavation permit to excavate sand from a 57.7-acre agricultural field on a 313.79-acre parcel. The total sandy area to be excavated is 9.1 acres in size. This area would be excavated to a depth of 12 ft. The total amount of sand to be removed would be approximately 176,500 cubic yards.

All of the disturbed land will be reclaimed back to agricultural use. Reclamation of the property would begin during the excavation process and be ongoing during the project timeframe; the excavated area will be filled with soil removed from other portions of the site and brought to a consistent final grade of 1%, consistent with the surrounding topography. Upon completion of sand removal, the farmer will prepare the ground with deep ripping and discing and otherwise prepare the soil to be planted. It's anticipated that the site will be planted with an almond orchard upon completion of the project.

Access to the project site would be provided via West McDonald Rd. An existing onsite dirt haul road is located along the east boundary of the project site. The project will improve the dirt road by adding rock material to the first 50 feet of road starting at the entry point on West McDonald Rd.

1.2 Purpose of Initial Study

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires that public agencies consider and document the potential environmental effects of the agency's actions that meet CEQA's definition of a "project." Briefly summarized, a "project" is an action that has the potential to result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment. A project includes the agency's direct activities as well as activities that involve public agency approvals or funding. Guidelines for an agency's implementation of CEQA are found in the CEQA Guidelines (Title 14, Chapter 3 of the California Code of Regulations).

If a project is determined to be exempt from CEQA, no further environmental analysis is required. In this case, the County wished to prepare an Initial Study to determine whether or not the project might involve "significant" environmental effects as defined by CEQA. If so, the IS would need to describe feasible mitigation measures that would avoid significant effects or reduce them to a level that would be less than significant. The IS does not identify significant effects or the need for identifies mitigation measures and would qualify for a Negative Declaration if the project is not considered exempt from CEQA.

The Initial Study describes the proposed project and its environmental setting and the potential environmental effects of the project in the following subject areas:

Aesthetics
Agricultural Resources
Air Quality
Biological Resources

Cultural Resources
Energy
Geology and Soils
Greenhouse Gas Emissions
Hazards and Hazardous Materials
Hydrology and Water Quality
Land Use and Planning
Mineral Resources
Noise
Population and Housing
Public Services
Recreation
Transportation/Traffic
Tribal Cultural Resources
Utilities and Service Systems
Wildfire
Mandatory Findings of Significance

1.3 Project Background

The project site is located within San Joaquin County in the southwest portion of Upper Roberts Island, located adjacent to the south side of McDonald Island Road between Holt Road and Whiskey Slough. The site is designated and zoned for agricultural use by San Joaquin County and is located in an area of agricultural fields, used mostly to grow annual crops. All surrounding land uses are developed cropland. The project is located within the Primary Zone of the Delta and will be subject to California Department of Conservation oversight with respect to agricultural effects and reclamation under the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA).

The project site has been subject to previous sand removal operations, which have been permitted by San Joaquin County as "agricultural excavations" per Section 9-1410 of the San Joaquin County Development Title. Excavation projects on the same site that exceed more than one hundred thousand (100,000) yards of material shall require a Quarry Excavation Permit.

The applicant, Reeves Sand and Gravel requests a Quarry Excavation Permit for the purpose of excavating approximately 176,500 cubic yards of sand from a 9.1-acre portion of an existing developed 57.7-acre agricultural field for commercial sale. Chapter 2.0, Project Description, describes this process in more detail.

1.4 Environmental Evaluation Checklist Terminology

The Initial Study repeatedly uses a few terms and acronyms that are defined here for the reader's convenience. A complete list of acronyms used in the Initial Study is shown following the Table of Contents.

IS	This Initial Study
ODS	The owners, developers and successors-in-interest, meaning the project applicant, property owners, future project owners and other parties with interest or responsibility for the project, now and in the future.

The project's potential environmental effects are evaluated in the Environmental Evaluation Checklist shown in Chapter 3. The checklist includes a list of environmental considerations against which the project is evaluated. For each question, the County determines whether the project would involve: 1) a Potentially Significant Impact, 2) a Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated, 3) a Less Than Significant Impact, or 4) No Impact.

> A Potentially Significant Impact occurs when there is substantial evidence that the project would involve a substantial adverse change to the physical environment, i.e., that the environmental effect may be significant, and mitigation measures have not yet been defined that would reduce the impact to a less than significant level. If there are one or more Potentially Significant Impact entries in the Initial Study, an EIR is required.
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>
> A determination of No Impact is self-explanatory.

This IS prescribes mitigation measures for the potentially significant environmental effects of the project. Some existing regulatory requirements established by the County and other regulatory agencies are routinely implemented in conjunction with new development. In many cases, these requirements also function minimize or avoid environmental impacts. Such requirements are described in this IS as to their impact-mitigating effect, but they are not called out as mitigation measures that need to be imposed by the Lead Agency. These requirements are established in law and/or practice and are therefore part of the existing setting of the project. If mitigation measures are identified in this document, they are necessary to address project-specific impacts that are not addressed in existing law and practice.

1.5 Summary of Environmental Effects and Mitigation Measures

The following pages contain Table 1-1, Summary of Impacts and Mitigation Measures. The table summarizes the results of the Environmental Checklist Form and associated narrative discussion shown in Chapter 3.0.

The potential environmental impacts of the proposed project are summarized in the left-most column of this table. The level of significance of each impact is indicated in the second column. Mitigation measures proposed to minimize the impacts are shown in the third column, and the significance of the impact, after mitigation measures are applied, is shown in the fourth column. However, the project does not involve potentially significant environmental effects, and no mitigation measures are required.

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FIGURE 1-1
Regional Map

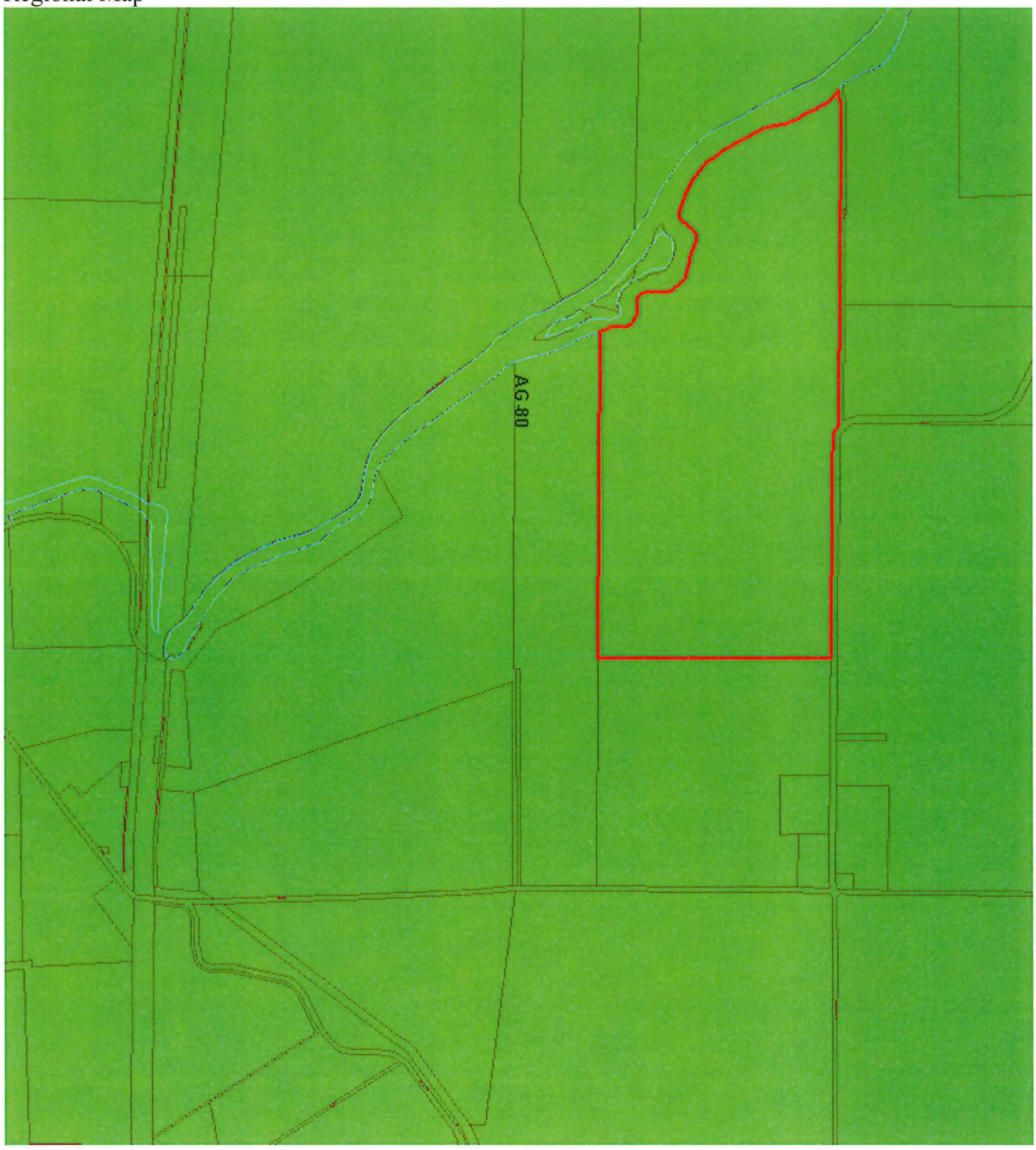

FIGURE 1-2
Vicinity Map

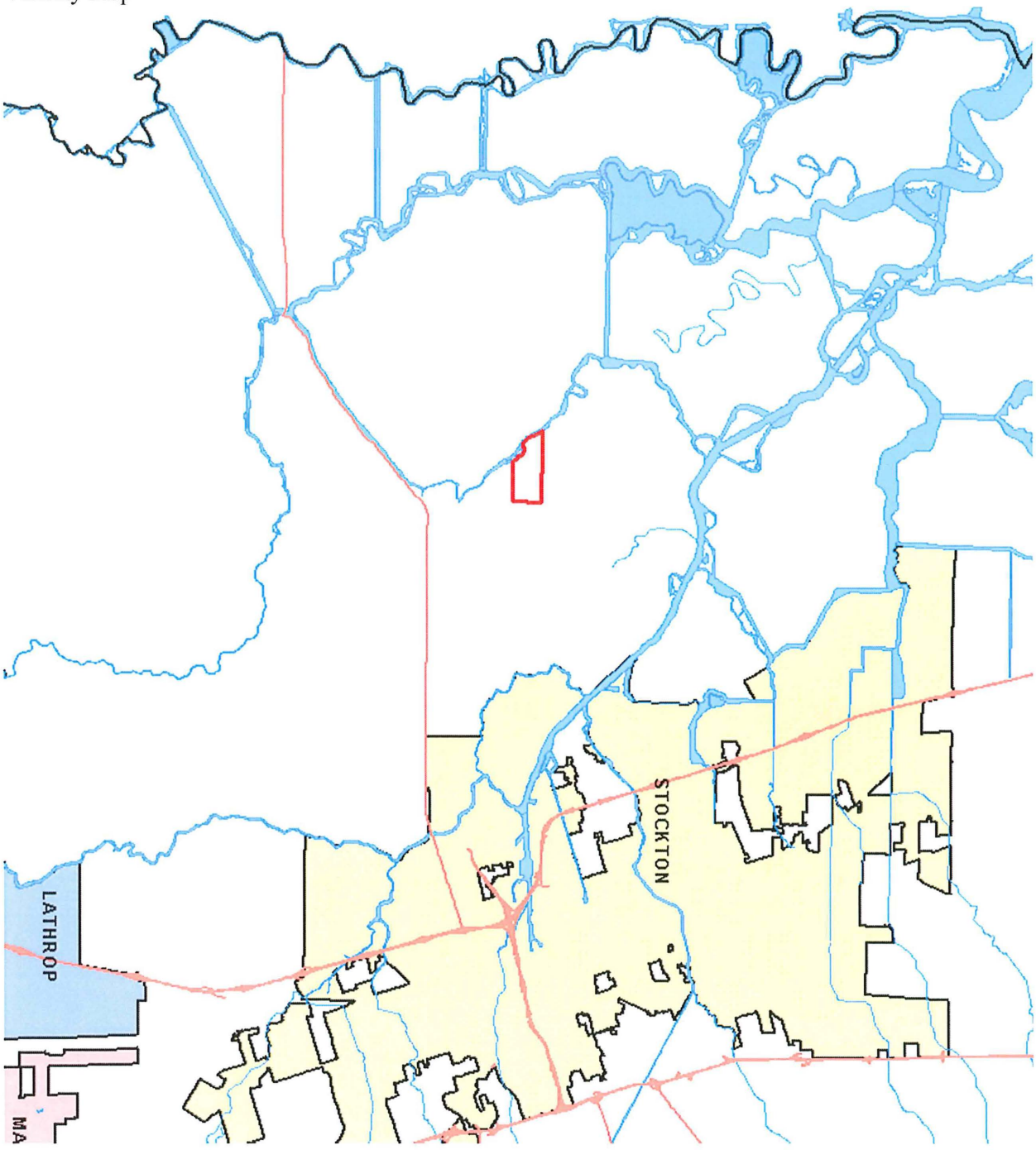

FIGURE 1-3
USGS Map

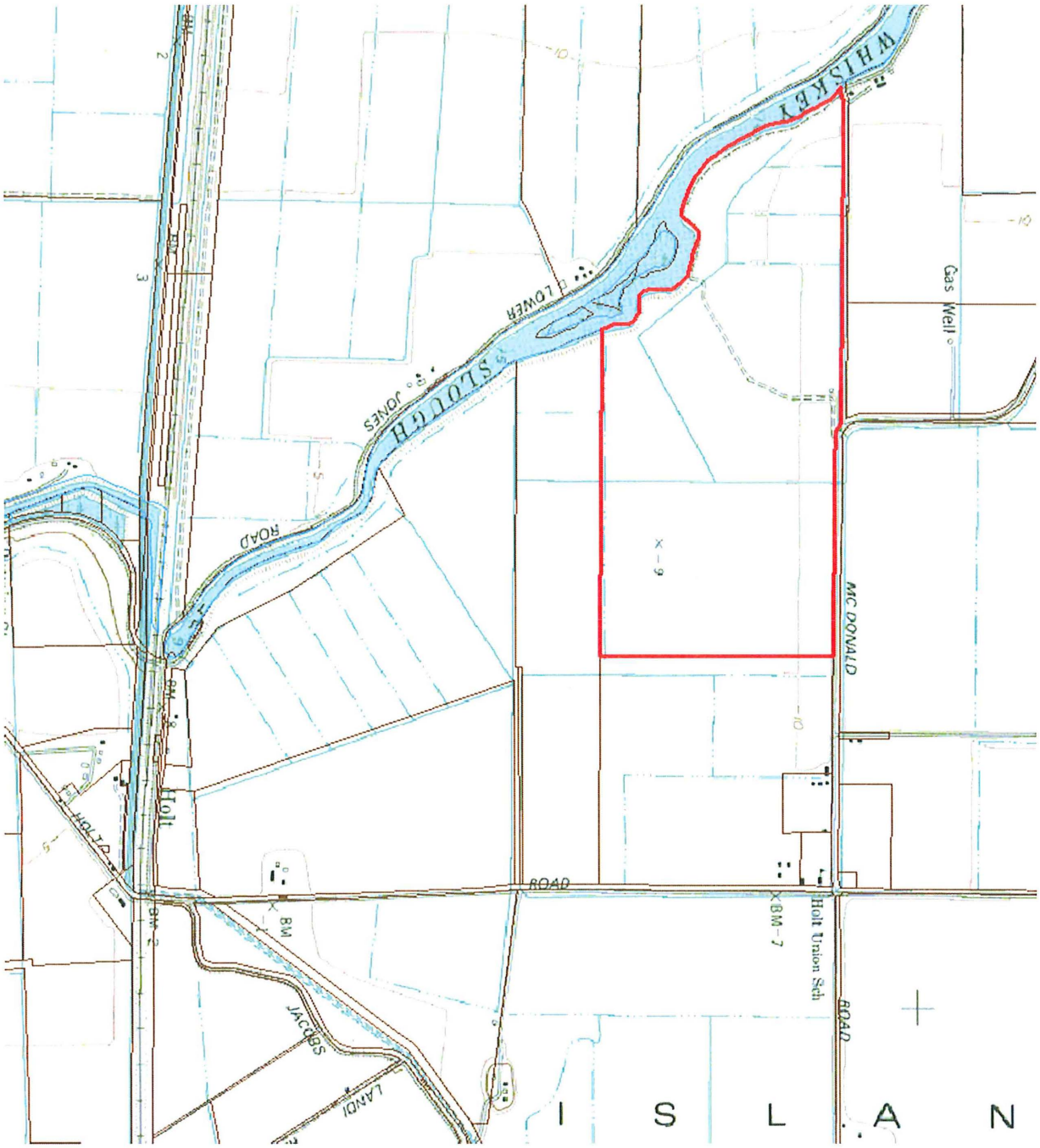

FIGURE 1-4
Aerial Photo

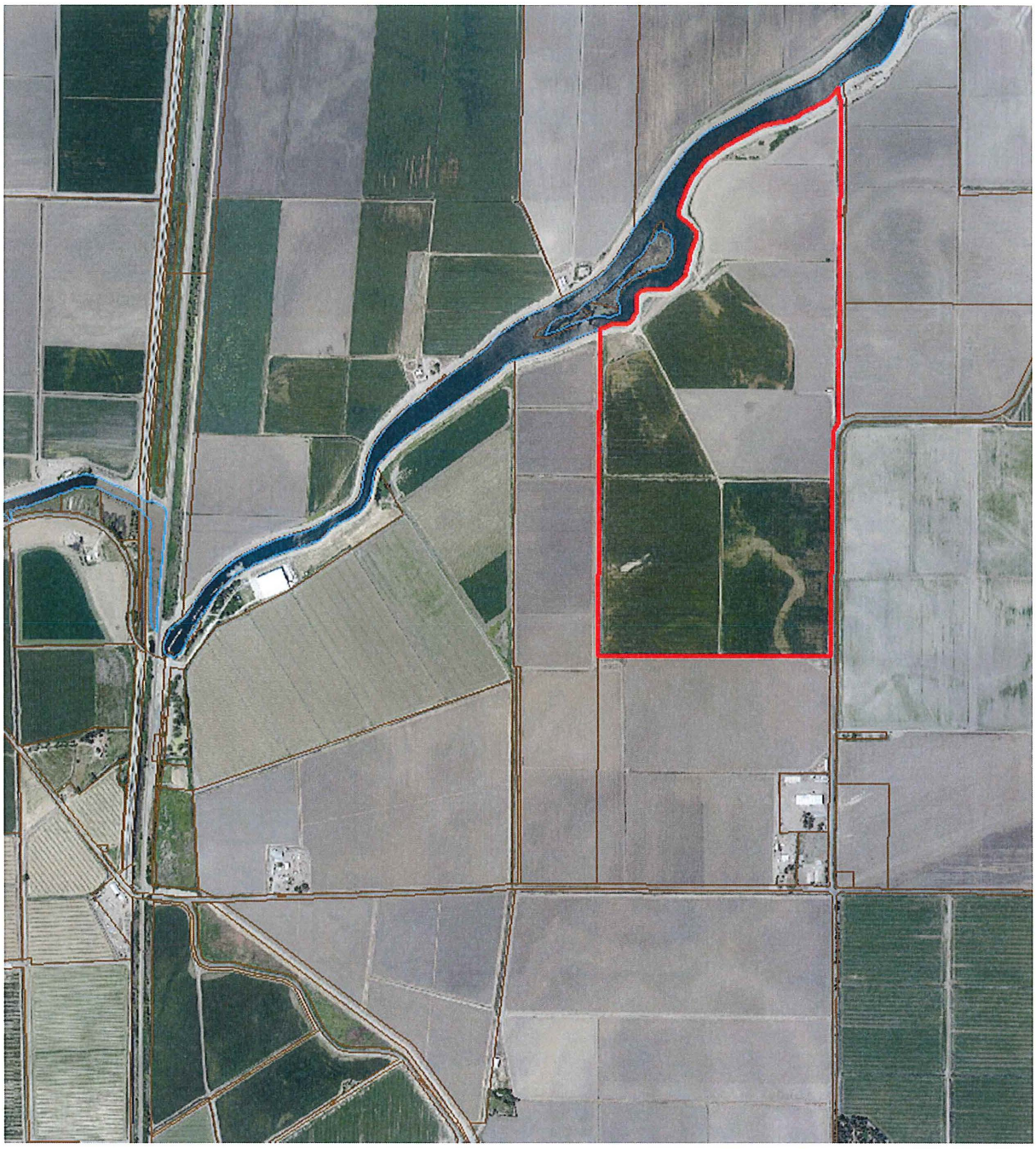

FIGURE 1-5
APN Map

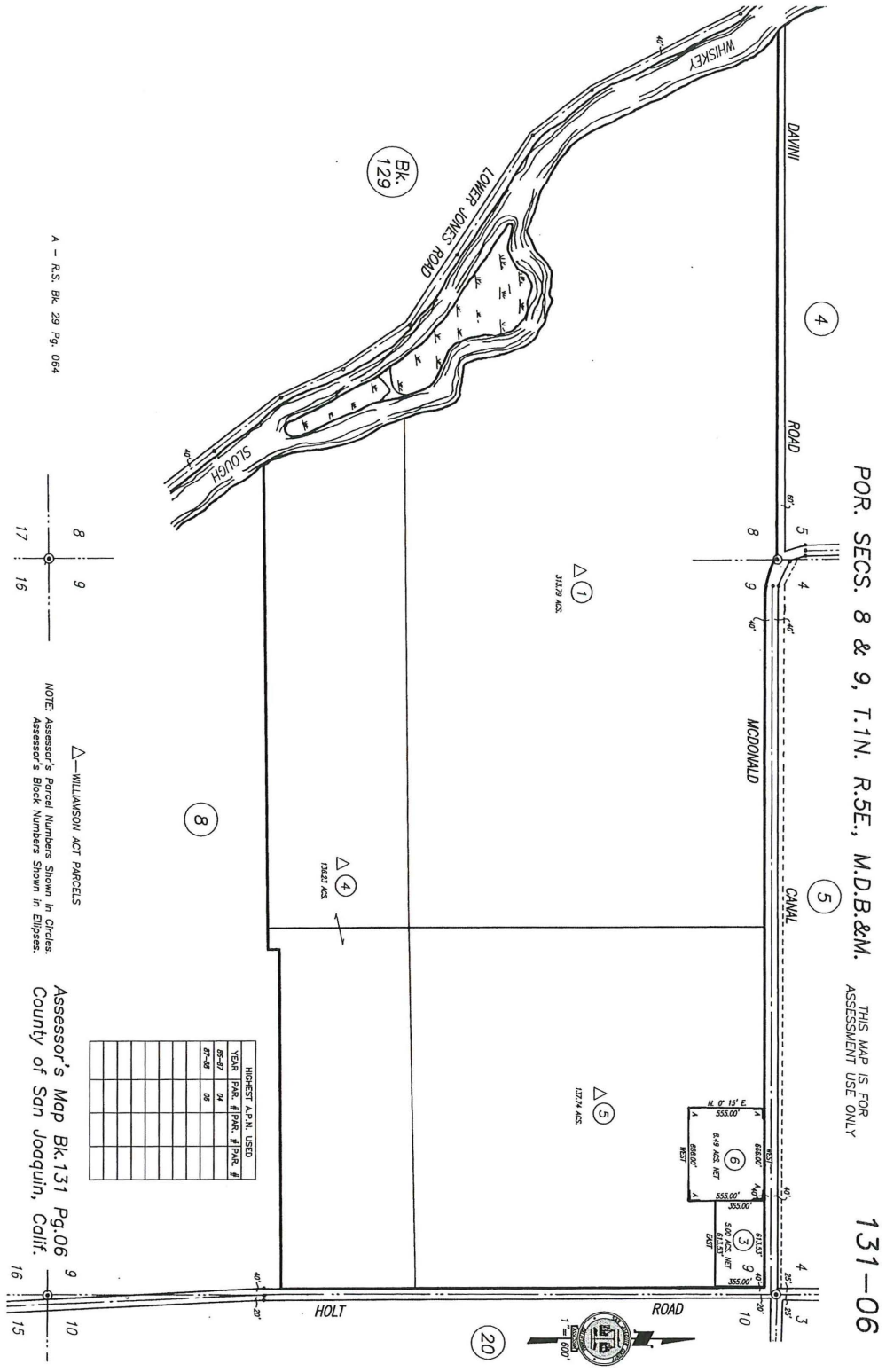

FIGURE 1-6
Site Plan: Excavation Detail

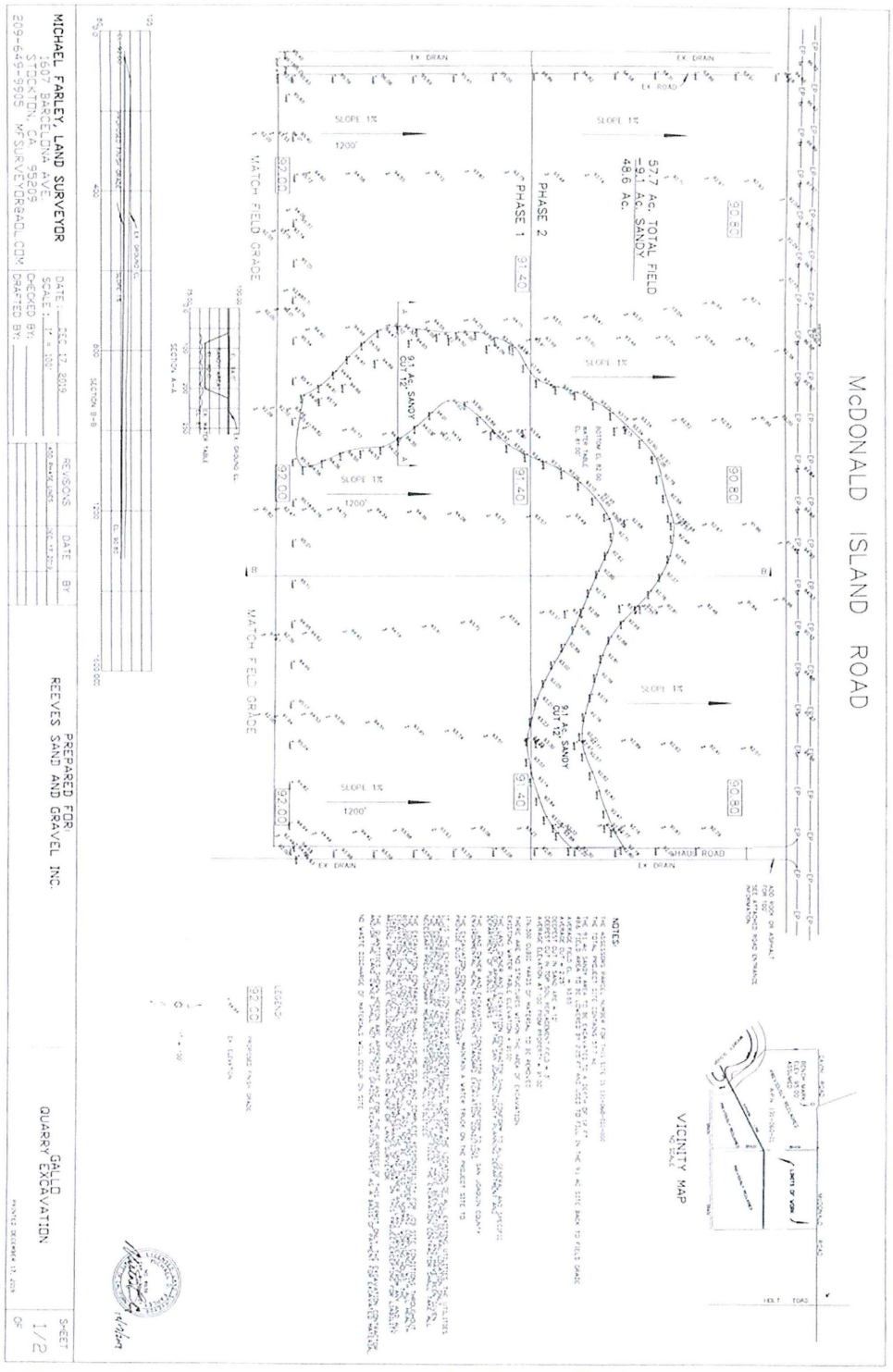

FIGURE 1-7
Site Plan: Finished Grade

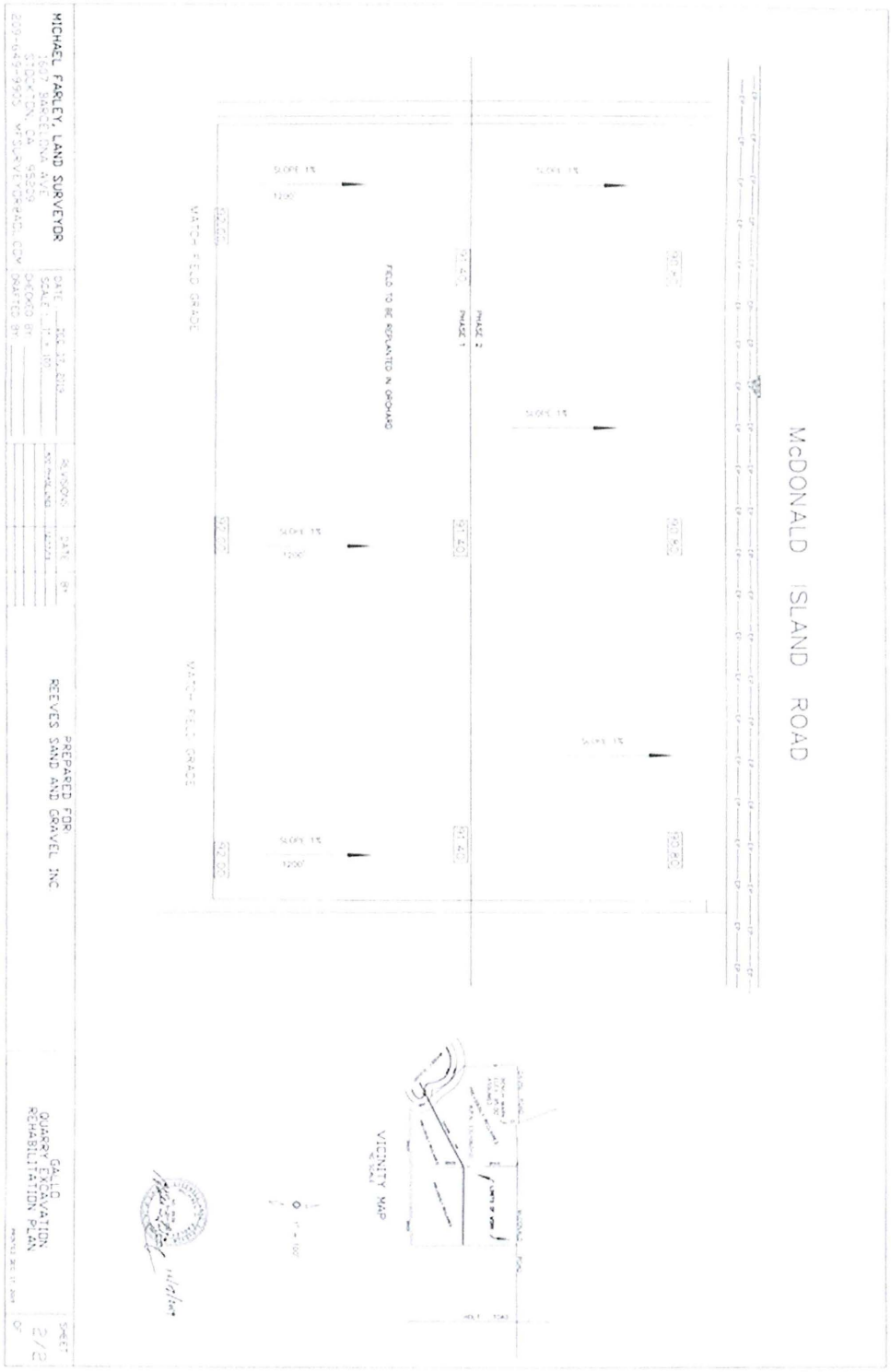

FIGURE 1-8
Driveway Detail

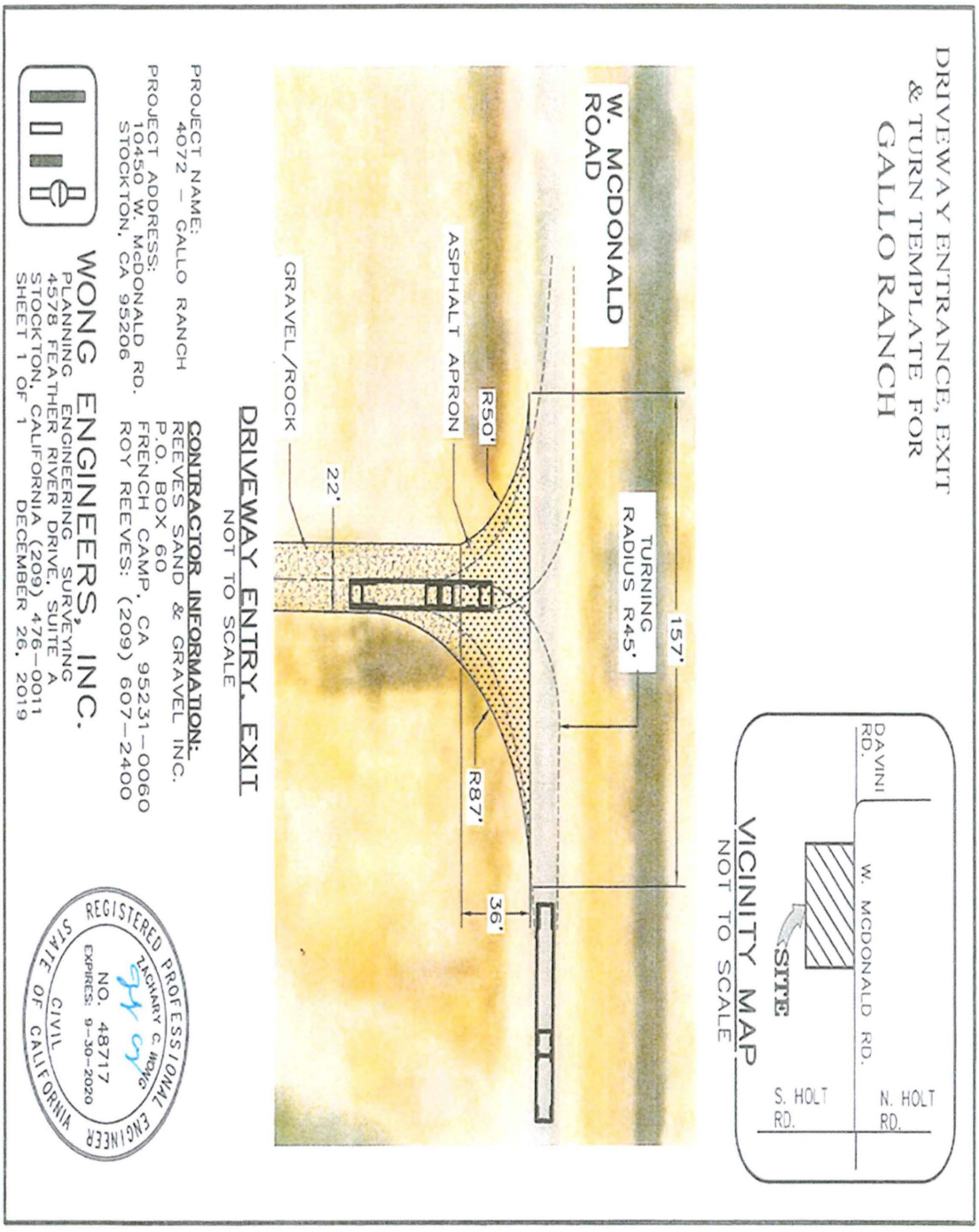

TABLE 1-1
Summary Table

TABLE 1-1
SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Potential Impact	Significance Before Mitigation Measures	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation Measures
3.1 AESTHETICS			
a) Scenic Vistas	NI	None required	
b) Scenic Routes and Resources	NI	None required	
c) Visual Character and Quality	LS	None required	
d) Light and Glare	NI	None required	
3.2 AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES			
a,b) Agricultural Land Conversion, Conflict with Williamson Act Contract	LS	None required	
c, d, e) Confliction with zoning or Conversion or loss of Farmland, Forestland, and Timberland	LS	None required	
3.3 AIR QUALITY			
a) Conflict with Air Quality Attainment Plans	LS	None required	
b) Cumulative Emissions	LS	None required	
d) Exposure of Sensitive Receptors	NI	None required	
e) Odors and Other Emissions	NI	None required	
3.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES			
a) Special-Status Species	LS	None required	
b, d) Riparian and Sensitive Habitats, Fish and Wildlife Movement	LS	None required	

LEGEND: NI = No Impact; LS = Less Than Significant; PS = Potentially Significant

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SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Potential Impact	Significance Before Mitigation Measures	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation Measures
b) Waters of the U.S and Wetlands	LS	None required	
e, f) Local Biological Requirements and Habitat Conservation Plans	PS	Participation in SJCOG Multi Species Habitat Conservation and Open Space Plan	LS
3.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES			
a) Historic Resources	PS	**CULT-1:** All construction personnel shall receive brief "tailgate" training by a qualified archaeologist in the identification of paleontological resources, buried archaeological or historic resources, including human remains, and protocol for notification should such resources be discovered during construction work. **CULT-2:** If any subsurface paleontological, historic or archaeological resources are encountered during construction of the project, all construction activities in the vicinity of the encounter shall be halted until a qualified archaeologist, or paleontologist as appropriate, can examine the materials, make a determination of their significance and, if significant, recommend further measures that would reduce potential effects to a less than significant level, consistent with the requirements of the CEQA Guidelines. The San Joaquin Development Department shall be notified in the event of a discovery and will be responsible for retaining qualified professionals, implementing recommended mitigation measures and documenting mitigations.	LS
b, c, d) Archeological and Paleontological Resources, Human Burials	PS	Mitigation Measure CULT-1 and CULT-2. As well as Mitigation Measures TCR-1, TCR-2, TCR-3 and TCR-4.	LS

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TABLE 1-1
SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Potential Impact	Significance Before Mitigation Measures	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation Measures
3.6 Energy			
a) Project Energy Consumption	LS	None required	
b) Consistency with Energy Plans	LS	None required	
3.7 GEOLOGY AND SOILS			
a-1) Fault Rupture Hazards	NI	None required	
a-2, 3, 4) Seismic Ground Shaking, Liquefaction, Landslides.	LS	None required	
b) Soil Erosion	LS	None required	
c) Soil Instability	NI	None required	
d, e) Expansive Soils, Adequacy of Soils for Wastewater Disposal	NI	None required	
3.8 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS			
a, b) Project GHG Emissions and Consistency with GHG Reduction Plans	LS	None required	
3.9 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS			
a) Hazardous Material Transport, Use, and Disposal	LS	None required	
b, c) Hazardous Emissions, Hazardous Waste near Schools	LS	None required	
d) Hazardous Materials Sites	NI	None required	

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TABLE 1-1
SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Potential Impact	Significance Before Mitigation Measures	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation Measures
e, f) Airport and Airstrip Operations	NI	None required	
g) Emergency Response and Evacuations	NI	None required	
h) Wildland Fire Hazards	NI	None required	
3.10 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY			
a, f) Water Quality Standards	LS	None required	
b) Groundwater Supplies	LS	None required	
c, d, e) Drainage and Runoff	LS	None required	
g, h) Flooding Hazards	NI	None required	
i) Dam and Levee Failure Hazards	LS	None required	
j) Seiche, Tsunami, and Mudflow Hazards	NI	None required	
3.11 LAND USE AND PLANNING			
a) Division of Established Communities	NI	None required	
b) Conflict with Applicable Plans, Policies and Regulations	NI	None required	

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TABLE 1-1
SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

c) Conflict with Habitat Conservation Plans	NI	None required
3.12 MINERAL RESOURCES		
a, b) Loss of Availability of Mineral Resources	LS	None required
3.13 NOISE		
A, b, c, d) Exceedance of Local Noise Standards and Temporary or Periodic or Permanent Increase in Ambient Noise Levels and Exposure to Ground Borne Vibrations or Noise.	LS	None required
e, f) Exposure to Airport/ Airstrip Noise	NI	None required
3.14 POPULATION AND HOUSING		
a, b, c) Population Growth, Displacement of Housing and People	NI	None required
3.15 PUBLIC SERVICES		
a, b) Fire and Police Protection	NI	None required
c) Schools	NI	None required
d, e) Parks and Other Public Facilities	NI	None required
3.16 RECREATION		
a, b) Recreational Facilities	NI	None required
3.17 TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC		
a) Conflict with Transportation Plans, Ordinances and Policies	LS	None required

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b) Conflict with Congestion Management Program	NI	None required	
c) Air Traffic Patterns	NI	None required	
d) Traffic Hazards	NI	None required	
e) Emergency Access	NI	None required	
f) Conflict with Non-vehicular Transportation Plans	NI	None required	
3.18 TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES			
Tribal Cultural Resources	PS	TCR-1: Prior to excavation activities, a professional archaeologist and/or tribal representative shall provide a brief preconstruction cultural resources awareness and training program for construction workers. The program will include information regarding sensitive tribal cultural resources, including applicable regulations, protocols for avoidance, and what to do and whom to contact if any potential archaeological resources or artifacts are encountered so that further damage to resources may be prevented. TCR-2: The project Applicant shall permit a tribal representative to monitor ground-disturbing activities within the project site to minimize the potential damage to undiscovered archaeological and tribal cultural resources. TCR-3: In the event that the Contractor encounter evidence of human burial or scattered human remains, construction in the vicinity of the encounter shall be immediately halted. The County Coroner and the Tribal Representative shall be immediately notified of the find. San Joaquin County will be responsible for compliance with the requirements of CEQA as to human remains as defined in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5, with California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5, and as directed by the	LS

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		County Coroner. If the human remains are determined to be Native American, the County Coroner shall notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), and the NAHC will notify and appoint a Most Likely Descendant. The Most Likely Descendant will work with the archaeologist to decide the proper treatment of the human remains and any associated funerary objects. TCR-4: In the event that archaeological resources, other than evidence of burials or human remains, are encountered during project construction, all excavation activities in the vicinity of the encounter shall be halted until a qualified archaeologist and tribal representative can assess the significance of the materials as defined by CEQA and make recommendations for further evaluation and treatment as necessary. If the resource is determined to be significant, the archaeologist and tribal representative shall recommend avoidance, minimization or mitigation measures that will reduce potential effects to a less than significant level. The Contractor will be responsible for retaining the archaeologist and tribal representative and for implementing the recommendations of the archaeologist, including submittal of a written report to the San Joaquin County Community Development Department and tribal representative documenting the find and its treatment.
3.19 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS		
a, b, e) Wastewater Systems	NI	None required
d) Water Systems and Supply	NI	None required
c) Stormwater Systems	LS	None required
f, g) Solid Waste Services	LS	None required

LEGEND: NI = No Impact; LS = Less Than Significant; PS = Potentially Significant

TABLE 1-1
SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

3.20 WILDFIRE		
a) Emergency Response and Emergency Evacuation Plans	LS	None required
b) Exposure of Project Occupants to Wildfire Hazards	LS	None required
c) Installation and Maintenance of Infrastructure	LS	None required
d) Risks from Runoff, Post-Fire Slope Instability, or Drainage Changes	LS	None required
3.21 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE		
a) Findings on Biological and Cultural Resources	NI	None required
b) Findings on Individually Limited but Cumulatively Considerable Impacts	NI	None required
c) Findings on Adverse Effects on Human Beings	LS	None required

LEGEND: NI = No Impact; LS = Less Than Significant; PS = Potentially Significant

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 Project Brief

The project applicant requests County approval of a Quarry Excavation permit to remove 176,500 cubic yards of sand in two (2) phases within four (4) years. The project area for the removal of the sand will occur on 9.1-acres of a 313.79-acre parcel. The removal of the sand streak within the 9.1-acre project area is to increase the agricultural viability of the parcel for final reclamation to an almond orchard. The excavated sandy area from the 9.1 acres will have an average cut of 2.25' and once reclaimed will join the existing field elevations surrounding the project site. This area would be excavated to a depth of 12 ft. This parcel is under a Williamson Act contract.

Reclamation of the property would begin during the excavation process and be ongoing during the project timeframe; the excavated area will be filled with soil removed from other portions of the site and brought to a consistent final grade of 1%, consistent with the surrounding topography. Upon completion of sand removal, the farmer will prepare the ground with deep ripping and discing and otherwise prepare the site to be planted. It's anticipated that the site will be planted with an almond orchard upon completion of the project.

Access to the project site would be provided via West McDonald Rd. An existing onsite dirt haul road is located along the east boundary of the project site. The project will improve the dirt road by adding rock material to the first 50 feet of road starting at the entry point on West McDonald Rd.

2.2 Project Location

The project is located within San Joaquin County in the southwest portion of Upper Roberts Island. It is located adjacent to the south side of McDonald Island Road between Holt Road and Whiskey Slough on a parcel identified as Assessor's Parcel Number 131-060-01. The site is located on the USGS Holt California, 7.5-minute quadrangle map as being within Sections 4 and 9, Township 1 North, Range 5 East, Mt. Diablo Base and Meridian.

2.3 Project Objectives

The objective of the project is to permit the excavation of 176,500 cubic yards of sand for use as a construction material while reclaiming the property for ongoing agricultural use.

2.4 Project Details

The applicant, Reeves Sand and Gravel requests a Quarry Excavation permit for the purpose of excavating approximately 176,500 cubic yards of sand. Approximately 9.1 acres of a 313.79-acre parcel is affected by this sandy area. The proposed project would excavate the sandy area to a maximum depth of 12 ft.

The site is designated and zoned for agricultural use in San Joaquin County. The site is classified as Prime Farmland by the California Department of Conservation. However, a sinuous large sand

deposit (a sand "streak") runs through the middle of the property (see Figure 2-1). The excessive drainage and soil moisture retention characteristics makes this area, as characterized by the applicant, some of the poorest farm ground in the Delta. The sandy area also makes irrigation of the site difficult, as irrigation water cannot pass over the sandy area without unusually large water losses. The purpose of the project is to excavate transport the sand for commercial sale and reclaim the land for agricultural use. Agricultural productivity of the is expected to increase substantially upon completion of the project.

The proposed sand removal operation would begin in the Fall of 2020 upon approval of all required permits. The sand removal portion of the project is expected to last four years. The project would employ one full time worker over this period of time. Sand removal would occur on a year-round basis except during bad weather, with the majority of the removal occurring in dry months. Hours of operation for sand removal would be from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday with occasional work on Saturday.

Project equipment to be used would include a five cubic yard (cy) wheel loader to remove and load the sand material and a 3,000-gallon water truck for dust control. Water consumption would range from 3,000-6,000 gallons of water per day during the Summer and 1,500-3,000 gallons per day in the Fall and Spring. Dust control water would be obtained under existing riparian water rights from a siphon in nearby Whiskey Slough. A laser land leveling tractor with scraper would be used to level the disturbed areas during and upon completion of the project. Diesel fuel for the operation by the wheel loader and water truck would be stored in a 1,000-gallon self-contained storage tank on-site. All equipment will be locked and stored on-site at the end of the day.

The parcel to be improved is a part of a larger 313.79 acre farm consisting primarily of flat land, however, the elevation of the field in question has the highest elevation of the ranch. A portion of the property not involved in the excavation process (48.9 acres) would be excavated to a depth of 2.5 feet to generate fill material, which would be placed in the excavated area of the site. No outside fill material will be imported to the project site. The field as a whole would be lowered, but the overall slope of the field would remain the same. Grading of the site will result in a consistent slope of 1% after excavation in conformance with the surrounding topography.

The project would export approximately 11 truck loads of sand a day via an existing dirt haul road located along the east boundary of the site. The project would improve the haul road by adding rock material to the first 50 feet of road starting at the entry point on West McDonald Rd. and would add one employee parking spot. Onsite access roads are maintained free of overgrowth for emergency access. All access to the project would be provided by this existing road as shown on Figure 2-4. All truck loading would take place in this area of the site.

All of the disturbed land will be reclaimed back for agricultural use (almond orchard). Reclamation of the property would begin during the excavation process and be ongoing during the project timeframe. As sand is removed, the excavated area will be filled with soil material from surrounding portions of the site. Upon final removal of all the sand, the deep-ripped, disced, levelled and otherwise prepared for planting. It's anticipated that the site will be planted with an almond orchard upon completion of the project. The project will remove all known economic mineral resources from the site; upon completion of the project, no future mining is planned on the site.

The project would not create any mine waste. All excavated materials would be exported for use in off-site construction activity or used for on-site reclamation. The project site would not require any connection to service utilities. The project would be subject to California Department of Conservation oversight with respect to agricultural effects and reclamation under the Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA).

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

3.1 AESTHETICS

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

3.1.1 Environmental Setting

The project site is located in western San Joaquin County, in the western portion of Upper Roberts Island and immediately south of West McDonald Road; the site is within the Delta Planning Area. The visual characteristics on and near the project site are agricultural in nature, consisting mainly of flat row crop lands, levee systems and narrow strips of wetlands and riparian vegetation associated with the Delta waterways.

Consistent with the surroundings, the project site consists of flat agricultural land, which has been continuously used for orchards and row crops. During a June 2019 site visit, the site had been recently disked and consisted of upturned soil chunks and remnants of the agricultural products previously growing on the site. There are no agricultural ditches or canals on the site, but it is bordered by a canal on the west and irrigation ditches on the east and south. A dirt farm road runs along the east, south and west edges of the site. A row of planted live trees defines the northern edge of the site, adjacent to West McDonald Road.

From the project site, distance views of the Coast Ranges and Mount Diablo are available to the west, and views of the Sierra Nevada are available to the east. Views of these ranges constitute the major scenic vistas available in the project area, when visibility conditions permit. In the project vicinity, these vistas are permitted due to the row crop nature of the farmlands, which do not restrict views.

San Joaquin County has designated 26 local roadways within the County as scenic routes (San Joaquin County 2016). None of these local scenic routes are in the immediate project vicinity. No State scenic highways have been designated in the vicinity (Caltrans 2015). There are no existing night lights at the project site.

3.1.2 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

a). Scenic Vistas

The project would involve excavation of existing sand deposits and eventual re-grading of the site in conjunction with reclamation. The project involves no above-ground elements other than the temporary presence of trucks and equipment. The project would not substantially alter existing access to existing views of the Coast Ranges and Sierra Nevada from the site or lands near the site. The proposed project would have no impacts on scenic vistas.

b) Scenic Routes and Resources

There are no scenic highways in the vicinity, and, aside from open space values, there are no identifiable scenic resources located on or in the vicinity of the site. Project-related work would be confined to the nine-acre existing excavation, a portion of the overall agricultural parcel. The project would have no effect on existing scenic resources; the project would not affect nearby sloughs or irrigation districts, or the wetlands and riparian vegetation associated with them. The project would have no impact on scenic resources.

c) Visual Character and Quality

The project would involve minor and temporary aesthetic changes to the existing field as excavation, soil removal and eventual reclamation of the site proceed over the estimated four-year term of the project; however, project-related changes are consistent with common activities on surrounding agricultural lands. During the sand removal phase of the project, a water truck and excavator equipment will be the typical equipment used on the site; large machinery and farm equipment use is typical on agricultural lands in the project vicinity. Site access will be provided by an existing haul road is identified on the Site Plan, (Figure 2-1); additional 50 feet of rock surfacing will be added to this existing section, resulting in a temporarily visible change but no long-term visual effect.

As the sand removal project progresses, the excavated area will be filled with soil from the remainder of the site to match the existing grade of the surrounding property. This temporary disturbance would be similar in nature to commonly-visible tilled fields on other lands in the vicinity and would not involve a significant adverse visual effect. The site would be returned to agricultural use in the long-term with no adverse visual effects and the surrounding area.

d) Light and Glare

The project site and vicinity have very low levels of lighting. The proposed project does not involve the addition of any new lighting features to the project site or vicinity. Sand removal would occur during daylight hours and would not require lighting. The project would have no impacts on light and glare.

3.2 AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?			√	
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?			√	
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forestland (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 forestland or conversion of forestland 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 forestland to non-forest use?				√

3.2.1 Existing Environment

The project site is presently in agricultural use, consistent with land uses in the project vicinity. Agricultural use of the site has, however, been hindered by the presence of the sand deposits proposed for mining as a part of the proposed project. Sand deposits limit the ability to maintain adequate soil moisture in the meandering 9.1-acre portion of the site as well as the ability to consistently irrigate the remainder of the property; irrigation water directed through the sandy area tends to percolate rapidly into the soil.

The Important Farmland Maps, prepared by the California Department of Conservation as part of its Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP), designate the viability of lands for farmland use, based on the physical and chemical properties of the soils and level of development. The maps categorize farmland, in decreasing order of soil quality, as "Prime Farmland," "Farmland of Statewide Importance," "Unique Farmland," and "Farmland of Local Importance." Collectively, these categories are referred to as "Important Farmland." There are also designations for grazing land and for urban/built-up areas, among others.

According to the 2016 FMMP Important Farmland Map for San Joaquin County, the project vicinity, including the site, is designated as Prime Farmland (California Department of Conservation 2016).

The proposed project site is currently under Williamson Act contract No. WA-00-C1-0011. The contract restricts development to uses that are compatible with the Williamson Act and Development Title Section 9-1805. "Compatible use" as defined in the Williamson Act includes uses determined by the County to be compatible with the agricultural, recreational, or open-space use of land within the preserve and subject to contract. (Government Code Section 51201[e]) (Development Title Section 9-1810.3[b]).

Pursuant to Development Title Section 9-1810.3 (b)[1][w] quarry excavation permits on properties under a Williamson Act Contract are permitted provided the site is rehabilitated for agricultural uses. There will not be a conversion of prime farmland as a result of the quarry excavation because the site will be reclaimed to agriculture. According to the reclamation plan provided by the applicant the project area will be reclaimed to an almond orchard.

There are no forest or timber lands on or near the project site. There are no lands designated for forest land or timberland production in the project vicinity.

3.2.2 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

a, b) Agricultural Land Conversion, Conflict with Williamson Act contract

The project site and lands in the vicinity are designated as Prime Agricultural land. The proposed project would involve removal 176,500 cubic yards of sandy material. However, as discussed in Chapter 2.0, following removal of the sandy material, remaining soils on the entire project would be regraded to provide a more uniform soil substrate that would be of improved overall agricultural value.
The project will involve the temporary removal of the existing 9.1 acres of sandy soil from agricultural use. Reclamation of the excavation areas for farming, and the opportunity to utilize these lands for agriculture and conserve irrigation water will be ongoing during and after the project. As a result, the project will reduce or eliminate the existing agricultural impairment of the site. It is anticipated that the site soils will be ripped and amended to support orchard use.

As a result, the project would in short-term removal of approximately 9.1 acres of agricultural land from production but would result in a net long-term improvement in the agricultural value of the project site. The overall agricultural effect of the project would be to enhance farming and increase farm production as well as water conservation. The proposed project would benefit the property and future agricultural use, and , therefore, the project would have a less than significant effect on conversion of agricultural land.

Pursuant to Government Code Section 51238.1, uses approved on contracted lands shall be consistent with the following three principles of compatibility.

1. The use will not significantly compromise the long-term productive agricultural capability of the subject contracted parcel or parcels or on other contracted lands in agricultural preserves.

- **This Principle of Compatibility can be made because a Quarry Excavation to increase the agricultural viability of a property is beneficial for agricultural use. After reclamation is complete, the use on the subject property will remain in agriculture and will therefore not significantly compromise the long term productive capability of the subject contracted parcel or other contracted lands in agricultural preserves. The use is an approved use on contracted land pursuant to Development Title Section 9-1810.3. (b)[1][w].**

2. The use will not significantly displace or impair current or reasonably foreseeable agricultural operations on the subject contracted parcel or parcels or on other contracted land in agricultural preserves. Uses that significantly displace agricultural operations on the subject contracted parcel or parcels may be deemed compatible if they relate directly to the production of commercial agricultural products on the subject contracted parcel or parcels or neighboring lands including activities such as harvesting, processing, or shipping.

    - **This Principle of Compatibility can be made because the subject property will be reclaimed to agriculture. The Reclamation Plan states the land will be laser leveled and reclaimed to agriculture. Additionally, the removal of 176,500 cubic yards of sand will increase the land's agricultural viability. Therefore, this Quarry excavation is a compatible use for a Williamson Act contracted parcel.**

3. The use will not result in the significant removal of adjacent contracted land from agricultural or open-space use. In evaluating compatibility a board or council shall consider the impacts on non-contracted lands in the agricultural preserve or preserves.

    - **This Principle of Compatibility can be made because the Quarry Excavation use type is a permitted use on property under contract, is consistent with the A/G (General Agriculture) General Plan Designation, and is a conditionally permitted use on parcels with an AG-80 (General Agriculture, 80-acre minimum) zoning designation subject to an approved Quarry Excavation application. Therefore, the Quarry Excavation will not negatively impact agricultural uses on adjacent contracted lands and will not result in the significant removal of adjacent contracted land from agricultural or open-space.**

The project will not affect any agricultural uses, nor will it affect properties under Williamson Act contracts to the north, south, east, and west. Therefore, the proposed application will have a less than significant impact on agriculture. The proposed project does not conflict with any existing or planned uses as the zoning and General Plan designations will remain the same. Therefore, this project will not set a significant land use precedent in the area. There are no applicable Master Plans, Specific Plans, or

Special Purpose Plans in the vicinity. Referrals have been sent to the Department of Conservation for review and no comments were received.

c, d, e) Conflict with Zoning or Conversion or Loss of Farmland, Forestland, and Timberland

The proposed project site is existing farmland, but the site is of limited utility due to the sandy nature of 9.1 acres of the project site; this area hinders agricultural use of the property, making irrigation as well as growing difficult. After completion of the project, the entire project site will be returned to unhindered active agricultural use.

The proposed quarry permit is allowable under the existing agricultural zoning and would ultimately make the land more viable for farming. There is no forest land or timber land in the project vicinity. Therefore, the project would have no impacts on the conversion or loss of farmlands, forestlands, or timberlands.

3.3 AIR QUALITY

Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable Air Quality Attainment 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 Existing Environment

The project area is within the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin. The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD), which includes San Joaquin County, has jurisdiction over most air quality matters in the Air Basin. The SJVAPCD is tasked with implementing programs and regulations required by both the federal and California Clean Air Acts. Under their respective Clean Air Acts, both the State of California and the federal government have established ambient air quality standards for six criteria air pollutants: ozone, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and lead. California has four additional criteria pollutants under its Clean Air Act.

Table 3-1 shows the current attainment status of the Air Basin relative to the federal and State ambient air quality standards for criteria pollutants. Except for ozone and

particulate matter, which are discussed below, the Air Basin is in attainment of, or unclassified for, all federal and State ambient air quality standards.

TABLE 3-1
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY AIR BASIN ATTAINMENT STATUS

	Designation/Classification	
Criteria Pollutant	**Federal Primary Standards**	**State Standards**
Ozone - One hour	No Federal Standard	Nonattainment/Severe
Ozone - Eight hour	Nonattainment/Extreme	Nonattainment
PM_{10}	Attainment	Nonattainment
$PM_{2.5}$	Nonattainment	Nonattainment
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	Attainment/Unclassified	Attainment/Unclassified
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_x)	Attainment/Unclassified	Attainment
Sulfur Dioxide (SO_x)	Attainment/Unclassified	Attainment
Lead	No Designation/Classification	Attainment
Hydrogen Sulfide	No Federal Standard	Unclassified
Sulfates	No Federal Standard	Attainment
Visibility Reducing Particles	No Federal Standard	Unclassified
Vinyl Chloride	No Federal Standard	Attainment

Source: SJVAPCD 2018.

The San Joaquin Valley Air Basin is designated a non-attainment area for ozone. Ozone is not emitted directly into the air; instead, it is formed when reactive organic gases (ROG) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) react in the atmosphere in the presence of sunlight. The SJVAPCD currently has a 2007 Ozone Plan and a 2013 Plan for the Revoked 1-Hour Ozone Standard for the Air Basin in order to attain federal ambient air quality standards for ozone.

The Air Basin is also designated a non-attainment area for respirable particulate matter, a mixture of solid and liquid particles suspended in air, including dust, pollen, soot, smoke, and liquid droplets. In San Joaquin County, particulate matter is generated by a mix of rural and urban sources, including agricultural operations, industrial emissions, dust suspended by vehicle traffic, and secondary aerosols formed by reactions in the atmosphere. The SJVAPCD currently has a 2015 $PM_{2.5}$ Plan for the 1997 federal $PM_{2.5}$ standard, a 2012 $PM_{2.5}$ Plan for the 2006 federal $PM_{2.5}$ standard, a 2016 Moderate Area Plan for the 2012 federal $PM_{2.5}$ standard, and a 2007 PM_{10} Maintenance Plan to maintain the SJVAB's attainment status of the federal PM_{10} standard.

In addition to the criteria pollutants, the California Air Resources Board (ARB) has also identified other air pollutants as toxic air contaminants (TACs) - pollutants that are carcinogenic (i.e., cause cancer) or that may cause other adverse short-term or long-term health effects. Diesel particulate matter, considered a carcinogen, is the most common

TAC, as it is a product of combustion in diesel engines. Other TACs are less common and are typically associated with industrial operations.

The SJVAPCD regulations that are potentially applicable to the project are summarized below.

Regulation VIII (Fugitive Dust PM_{10} Prohibitions)

Rules 8011-8081 are designed to reduce PM_{10} emissions (predominantly dust/dirt) generated by human activity, including construction and demolition activities, road construction, bulk materials storage, paved and unpaved roads, carryout and track out, landfill operations, etc.

Rule 2201 (New and Modified Stationary Source Review)

Rule 2201 applies to new or modified stationary sources of pollutant emissions. One of the purposes of this rule is to allow for the review of new and modified stationary sources of air pollution and to provide mechanisms, including emission trade-offs, by which Authorities to Construct such sources may be granted, without interfering with the attainment or maintenance of Ambient Air Quality Standards. Another purpose is to ensure no net increase in emissions above specified thresholds from new and modified Stationary Sources of all nonattainment pollutants and their precursors. Rule 2201 establishes standards for when Best Available Control Technology for pollutants shall be required.

Rule 4101 (Visible Emissions)

This rule prohibits emissions of visible air contaminants to the atmosphere and applies to any source operation that emits or may emit air contaminants.

3.3.2 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

In 2015, the SJVAPCD adopted a revised Guide for Assessing and Mitigating Air Quality Impacts (GAMAQI). GAMAQI defines an analysis methodology, thresholds of significance, and mitigation measures for the assessment of air quality impacts for projects within SJVAPCD's jurisdiction.

Table 3-2 shows the CEQA thresholds of significance for pollutant emissions of projects within the SJVAPCD. The SJVAPCD significance thresholds, which apply to emissions from both construction activities and project operations, are based on offset thresholds established under the New Source Review (SJVAPCD Rule 2201). The thresholds of significance for criteria pollutants are applied to evaluate regional impacts of project-specific emissions of air pollutants. Regional impacts of a project can be characterized in terms of total annual emissions of criteria pollutants and their impact on SJVAPCD's ability to reach attainment (SJVAPCD 2015).

TABLE 3-2
SJVAPCD SIGNIFICANCE THRESHOLDS
AND ESTMATED PROJECT EMISSIONS

	ROG	NO_x	CO	SO_x	PM_{10}	$PM_{2.5}$
SJVAPCD Significance Thresholds (tons per year)	**10**	**10**	**100**	**27**	**15**	**15**
Project Emissions (total tons)	0.39	2.92	4.18	0.01	0.16	0.15
Above Threshold?	*No*	*No*	*No*	*No*	*No*	*No*

Sources: Road Construction Emissions Model; SJVAPCD 2015.

a) Conflict with Air Quality Attainment Plans.

Emissions associated with the project would primarily be generated by sand extraction operations. The proposed grading of the project site after extraction is completed is expected to generate fewer emissions. The project's construction emissions were estimated using the Road Construction Emissions Model (RCEM), developed by the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District. Although the RCEM was initially developed for road construction projects, it has since been adapted for use on any projects that are linear in character.

Table 3-2 shows the results of the RCEM run. As indicated by Table 3-2, total project air pollutant emissions would be below the significance thresholds adopted by the SJVAPCD, which are based on emissions per year. As described above, project-specific emissions below SJVAPCD significance thresholds would not interfere with attainment plans that would bring SJVAPCD into consistency with national and State ambient air quality standards. Based on this, impacts of the proposed project regarding consistency with the applicable air quality attainment plans would be less than significant.

Dust emissions would be reduced through the required implementation of SJVAPCD Regulation VIII, enforcement of which is the responsibility of the SJVAPCD. Regulation VIII contains the following dust emission control measures:

- Air emissions related to the project shall be limited to 20% opacity (opaqueness, lack of transparency) or less, as defined in SJVAPCD Rule 8011. The dust control measures specified below shall be applied as required to maintain the Visible Dust Emissions standard.
- The contractor shall pre-water all land clearing, grubbing, scraping, excavation, land leveling, grading, cut and fill, and phase earthmoving.
- The contractor shall apply water, chemical/organic stabilizer/suppressant, or vegetative ground cover to all disturbed areas, including unpaved roads,

throughout the period of soil disturbance.

- The contractor shall restrict vehicular access to the disturbance area during periods of inactivity.
- The contractor shall apply water or chemical/organic stabilizers/suppressants, construct wind barriers and/or cover exposed potentially dust-generating materials.
- When materials are transported off-site, the contractor shall stabilize and cover all materials to be transported and maintain six inches of freeboard space from the top of the container.
- The contractor shall remove carryout and trackout of soil materials on a daily basis unless it extends more than 50 feet from site; carryout and trackout extending more than 50 feet from the site shall be removed immediately. The use of dry rotary brushes is expressly prohibited except where preceded or accompanied by sufficient wetting to limit the visible dust emissions. Use of blower devices is expressly forbidden. If the project would involve more than 150 construction vehicle trips per day onto the public street, additional restrictions specified in Section 5.8 of SJVAPCD Rule 8041 would apply.

Conformance with SJVAPCD dust control standards would further reduce project impacts, which already are considered less than significant.

b) Cumulative Emissions.

As described in a) above, project emissions would not exceed the SJVAPCD significance thresholds. Pursuant to the SJVAPCD's guidance, if project-specific emissions would be less than the thresholds of significance for criteria pollutants, the project would not be expected to result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the SJVAPCD is in nonattainment under applicable federal or State ambient air quality standards. On this basis, the project would not contribute to a cumulative net increase of any criteria air pollutant emissions. Project impacts would be less than significant.

c) Exposure of Sensitive Receptors.

"Sensitive receptors" refer to those segments of the population most susceptible to poor air quality (i.e., children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing serious health problems affected by air quality). Land uses where sensitive individuals are most likely to spend time also may be called sensitive receptors; these include schools and schoolyards, parks and playgrounds, daycare centers, nursing homes, hospitals, and residential communities (SJVAPCD 2015).

The project is in an area that is predominantly agricultural fields. There are no sensitive receptors as defined in the GAMAQI that are near the project site. Holt Elementary School, approximately one-half mile to the east, formerly held classes but is now closed.

Project emissions, therefore, would not affect any sensitive receptors. The project would have no impact on sensitive receptors.

d) Odors and Other Emissions.

Odors are more of a nuisance than an environmental hazard. Nevertheless, the Environmental Checklist in CEQA Guidelines Appendix G regards objectionable odors as a potentially significant environmental impact. In accordance with this, the GAMAQI states that a project should be evaluated to determine the likelihood that it would result in nuisance odors (SJVAPCD 2015). Proposed project development is not expected to generate significant odors or other emissions. As noted in c) above, there are no sensitive receptors near the project site. The project would have no impact related to odors and other emissions.

3.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Adversely impact, either directly or through habitat modifications, any endangered, rare, or threatened species, as listed in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (Sections 670.2 or 670.5) or in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations (Sections 17.11 or 17.12)?		√		
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or US Fish and Wildlife Service?		√		
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?		√		
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?		√		
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?		√		
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Conservation Community Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?		√		

3.4.1 Environmental Setting

During the preparation of this Initial Study, Vollmar Natural Land Consulting was retained by the applicant to prepare a Biological Assessment describing the existing biological resources of the project site, identifying potentially significant impacts to biological resources from the project, and providing recommendations for how to reduce those impacts to a less-than-significant level. The Biological Assessment involved reviewing databases, aerial photographs, and documents, and conducting a field survey to document vegetation communities, potentially jurisdictional Waters of the U.S. and/or wetlands, and potentially suitable habitat for or presence of special-status species. A copy of the Vollmar Natural Land Consulting study, shown in Appendix A, details the study methodology and results.

The project site and surrounding land uses are developed agricultural fields in San Joaquin County. A field survey of the project site on May 9, 2019 found the site to be a leveled agricultural field that had been recently disked. The soil consisted of upturned soil chunks and remnants of the plants that had been growing on the site. There are no agricultural ditches or canals on the site, but it is bordered by a canal on the west end, and by irrigation ditches along the east and south lines. A dirt road runs along the east, south and west edges. A row of planted trees runs along the north edge of the site,

There are no potential jurisdictional wetlands or waters on the site. Vollmar Natural Land Consulting did not observe any small mammal burrows that would be suitable as western burrowing owl nesting sites nor were any owls observed on or around the site. The site provides very low-quality potential foraging habitat for burrowing owl or other raptors due the general lack of a small mammal prey base. The site itself is actively farmed and disked which generally keeps small mammals and other wildlife from establishing burrows or nests on the site.

San Joaquin County adopted the San Joaquin County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation and Open Space Plan (SJMSCP) in 2000-2001 after considering the Final EIR/EIS prepared for the plan (SJCOG 2000). The Final EIR/EIS for the SJMSCP was certified by the San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG) on December 7, 2000 San Joaquin County and other municipalities require participation in the SJMSCP for new development projects.

The SJMSCP includes an overall inventory of the special-status biological resources of the County, an analysis of the potential biological impacts of land development and other activities that would result in loss or conversion of habitats, and a plan for habitat acquisition and enhancement that will reduce the potential biological effects of various habitat conversion activities to a less than significant level. SJMSCP covered species include those ordinarily occurring on the project site. The SJMSCP involves the payment of fees and implementation of Incidental Take Minimization Measures (ITMMs) to avoid

impacts on nesting birds and other special-status species. The project is subject to the SJMSCP and is located within the unmapped land use area.

3.4.2 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

a) Special-Status Species

The project site is within an area of intensive agricultural use and has low wildlife habitat value of any kind. The site itself has been previously supported vineyards or orchards and an assessment of the biology of the site indicates that use of the site by rare, threatened, or endangered species is unlikely. Potential project impacts on special-status species are considered less than significant.

Due to a lack of suitable habitat, it is unlikely that special-status plants occur in the site. The project will have no effect on special-status plants.

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

The project site is not within or near areas that are designated as critical habitat for federally-listed species. The project will have no effect on designated critical habitat.

The project is required as a matter of County policy to participate in the San Joaquin County Multi-Species Open Space and Habitat Conservation Plan (SJMSCP). Pursuant to the *Final EIR/EIS for San Joaquin County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation and Open Space Plan (SJMSCP),* dated November 15, 2000, and certified by SJCOG on December 7, 2000, implementation of the SJMSCP is expected to reduce impacts to biological resources resulting from the proposed project to a level of less-than-significant. The applicant has confirmed he will participate in the SJMSCP, and by participating in the plan this would reduce potential impacts on special-status plant and animal species to a less-than-significant level.

b, d) Riparian and Sensitive Habitats, Fish and Wildlife Movement

There are no streams, riparian areas or sensitive habitats located on or adjacent to the project site, therefore the proposed project would not adversely affect these habitats or alter the movement or migration of fish or wildlife species.

b) Waters of the U.S and Wetlands

There are no Waters of the U.S. located on or near the project site. The project would have no impact on Waters of the U.S. and/or wetlands

e, f) Local Biological Requirements and Habitat Conservation Plans

The project does not propose the removal of any existing trees on site, therefore the project would not conflict with the County's ordinance to protect mature trees.

As noted above, the project site is located in an area that has been designated by the SJMSCP as unmapped land. The project will be required to participate in the SJMSCP and the project applicant has indicated they will participate in the habitat conservation plan.

3.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5?				√
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a unique archaeological resource (i.e., an artifact, object, or site about which it can be clearly demonstrated that, without merely adding to the current body of knowledge, there is a high probability that it contains information needed to answer important scientific research questions, has a special and particular quality such as being the oldest or best available example of its type, or is directly associated with a scientifically recognized important prehistoric or historic event or person)?		√		
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?		√		
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?		√		

3.5.1 Environmental Setting

During the preparation of this Initial Study, a cultural resource record search of the site was obtained from the Central California information Center, at California State University, Stanislaus. The record search did not identify any records of historical or archaeological resources located on or in the vicinity of the project site. A small portion of the eastern edge of the project site has been subject to cultural resource investigation in the past with negative results. Based on these results, the CCIC advises that the project area has a "low" sensitivity for the discovery of historical resources. The CCIC advises that all work be stopped, and appropriate steps taken if any historical resources are discovered during the course of project construction; these recommendations are addressed in the following mitigation measures. No cultural resources survey was completed in conjunction with the preparation of this Initial Study.

Prehistoric Background

The project site lies within territory claimed by the Northern Valley Yokuts. The Yokuts occupied an extensive area, from the Coast Ranges to the Sierra Nevada foothills, and from the American River to the upper San Joaquin River. Yokut villages typically consisted of a scattering of small structures and were often located on elevated features adjoining streams. Villages were predominantly inhabited by the Yokuts during the winter months; however, warmer months were spent living in temporary camps established at higher elevation. Economic life revolved around hunting, fishing, and plant collection, with deer, acorns, and avian and aquatic resources representing primary staples. The Yokuts used local resources to manufacture an array of primary and secondary tools and implements, including a wide variety of wooden, bone, and stone artifacts to collect and process food. Only fragmentary evidence of their material culture remains, due to perishability and to impacts on archaeological sites resulting from later land uses.

Historic Background

Catholic missionaries and soldiers of Spain entered southern California from Mexico in 1769 and founded San Diego. They subsequently established a chain of 21 missions, as well as presidios, secular cattle ranches, and villages northward along the coast. Their presence in the Central Valley, however, was limited to occasional expeditions and forays undertaken to capture Native Americans who had fled the coastal missions. The Spanish explored the Central Valley in a cursory way but failed to build missions there and did not venture into the Sierra Nevada. Juan Crespi and Pedro Fages in 1772 were the first to see the San Joaquin River, followed by Jose Moraga, who probably reached the vicinity of the mouth of the Calaveras River in 1776. Other explorers followed, but Spain gradually declined as an imperial power, and its influence in California ended in 1821, followed by the ascendancy of Mexico. The Mexican Period lasted from 1822-1848, (San Joaquin County 2016).

American exploration of the Central Valley began with the arrival of trappers, traders, and explorers, including Jedediah Smith in 1827, the Ewing-Young expedition in 1832–1833, and the J. R. Walker party in 1834. In 1844, John Frémont and his party headed south through the San Joaquin Valley. The mountain men experienced numerous clashes with Native Americans along the Mokelumne and Calaveras rivers. John Marshall's epochal discovery of gold in the tailrace of Sutter's Mill in January 1848 brought thousands of gold-seekers to the Sierra Nevada "Mother Lode" region. One of the indirect but far-reaching consequences of the Gold Rush was occupation of the valley by ferry operators, storekeepers, innkeepers, and others who supplied the miners with goods and services. Numerous ferries operated along the San Joaquin and its tributaries. Most appeared overnight and disappeared just as quickly when the flow of Sierra-bound miners and prospectors dwindled. In 1850, the few settlements in San Joaquin County included Stockton, San Joaquin City, French Camp, Chalmer's Ranch, and the ranchos. San Joaquin City, an agricultural settlement established in 1849, consisted of several one-story houses and numerous tents. It served as a terminal for boats traveling along the San Joaquin River between Stockton and Tuolumne City in Stanislaus County. French Camp,

founded by French-Canadian trappers, was the southernmost camp of the Hudson's Bay Company and the western terminus of the Oregon Trail from about 1832 to approximately 1845. French Camp is a California State Historic Landmark, Range (San Joaquin County 2016).

Paleontological Resources

The vast majority of paleontological specimens from San Joaquin County have been found in rock formations in the foothills of the Diablo Mountain Range, but remains of extinct animals, such as mammoth, can be found virtually anywhere in the County, especially along watercourses such as the San Joaquin River and its tributaries (San Joaquin County 2009). Geological materials underlying the project site include the recent (Quaternary) sedimentary deposits of the Modesto Formation (Wagner et al. 1981). Numerous vertebrate fossil sites have been associated with the Modesto Formation in the Central Valley, including land mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians (California High Speed Rail Authority 2012).

AB 52 Consultation

Recently, the California Legislature enacted AB 52, which focuses on consultation with Native American tribes on land use issues potentially affecting the tribes. The intent of this consultation is to avoid or mitigate potential impacts on "tribal cultural resources," which are defined as "sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe." Under AB 52, when a tribe requests consultation with a CEQA lead agency on projects within its traditionally and culturally affiliated geographical area, the lead agency must provide the tribe with notice of a proposed project within 14 days of a project application being deemed complete or when the lead agency decides to undertake the project if it is the agency's own project. The tribe has up to 30 days to respond to the notice and request consultation; if consultation is requested, then the local agency has up to 30 days to initiate consultation.

3.5.2 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

a) Historic Resources

The project site has not been designated or identified as historic in previous cultural resource surveys or reports, or other cultural resource determination as revealed in the record search conducted for this project. The project site is not listed in the California Register of Historical Resources or any federal, state, or local historic registries. The San Joaquin General Plan does identify the project site as historic or having substantial historical value.

Approval of the proposed quarry permit would not result in significant impacts on any known historic resources. There are no historic or potentially historic resources located on the project site. The project is not expected to result in any significant historic resources effects.

Historic archaeological materials may nonetheless be present beneath the site surface and could be potentially affected by the project. Implementation of Mitigation Measures CULT-1 and CULT-2 described below would reduce this potential effect to a less than significant level.

Mitigation Measures:

CULT-1: All construction personnel shall receive brief "tailgate" training by a qualified archaeologist in the identification of paleontological resources, buried archaeological or historic resources, including human remains, and protocol for notification should such resources be discovered during construction work.

CULT-2: If any subsurface paleontological, historic or archaeological resources are encountered during construction of the project, all construction activities in the vicinity of the encounter shall be halted until a qualified archaeologist, or paleontologist as appropriate, can examine the materials, make a determination of their significance and, if significant, recommend further measures that would reduce potential effects to a less than significant level, consistent with the requirements of the CEQA Guidelines. The San Joaquin Community Development Department shall be notified in the event of a discovery. The applicant will be responsible for retaining qualified professionals, implementing recommended mitigation measures and documenting mitigations.

b, c, d) Archeological and Paleontological Resources, Human Burials

As previously noted, there are no records of any prehistoric archaeological resources that would be considered "unique" and therefore cause significant effects under CEQA. However, the potential exists to unearth buried and/or previously undiscovered archaeological resources during construction. The disturbance of any archaeological resources has the potential to involve a significant cultural resources effect.

Potential for significant archaeological impacts will be reduced by the implementation of Mitigation Measures CULT-1 and CULT-2 as well as by Mitigation Measures TCR-1, TCR-2, TCR-3 and TCR-4, described in Section 3.17. These measures would require notification of San Joaquin County, the County Coroner, and tribal representatives as appropriate, and trigger inspection, significance evaluation, and the provision of recommendations for treatment by qualified professionals as well as implementation of recommendations by the project proponent. Compliance with these measures will reduce potential archaeological effects to a less than significant level.

No unique geologic features are located on the project site, nevertheless, it is conceivable that excavation associated with the project could unearth paleontological materials of unknown significance. Mitigation Measures CULT-1 and CULT-2 provide for interruption of the project in such an event, inspection of resources encountered by a qualified paleontologist and mitigation of potential effects as specified by the

paleontologist. Mitigation measures CULT-1 and CULT-2 will reduce potential paleontological effects to a less than significant level.

3.6 ENERGY

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impacts 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?			√	

NARRATIVE DISCUSSION

Environmental Setting

According to the latest information from the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), California consumed 7,830 trillion British thermal units (BTUs) of energy in 2016. Only Texas consumed more energy. However, consumption per capita in California was 197 million BTUs, which was 49th among all states and the District of Columbia. Transportation accounted for approximately 39.8% of the energy consumed in California, followed by industrial with 23.7%, commercial with 18.9%, and residential with 17.7% (EIA 2017). Electricity is a major energy source for residences and businesses in California. In 2016, electricity consumption in California totaled approximately 285,701 gigawatt-hours (GWh) (CEC 2018a). Natural gas is another major energy source. In 2016, natural gas consumption in California totaled approximately 12,750 million therms (CEC 2018a). Motor vehicle use accounts for substantial energy usage. The SJCOG estimated countywide vehicle miles traveled (VMT) daily was 17,868,785 miles in 2015, which led to the consumption of approximately 511 million gallons of gasoline and diesel fuel in 2015 (SJCOG 2018).

California has implemented numerous energy efficiency and conservation programs that have resulted in substantial energy savings. The State has adopted comprehensive energy efficiency standards as part of its Building Standards Code, California Codes of Regulations, Title 24, and in its Green Building Standards Code, also known as CALGreen. The 2016 versions of both Title 24 and CALGreen have been adopted by the County. California also has adopted a Renewables Portfolio Standard, which requires electricity retailers in the state to generate 33% of electricity they sell from renewable energy sources (i.e., solar, wind, geothermal, hydroelectric from small generators, etc.) by the end of 2020. In 2018, SB 100 was signed into law, which increases the electricity generation requirement from renewable sources to 60% by 2030 and requires all the state's electricity to come from carbon-free resources by 2045.

Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

a) Project Energy Consumption.

Project operations would involve primarily fuel consumption. Sand extraction equipment typically runs on diesel fuel or gasoline. The same fuels typically are used for vehicles that transport equipment and workers to and from the project site. In some cases, electricity may be used for equipment involved in project operations.

Fuel and electricity consumption would be finite, lasting only as long as extraction operations, which are not expected to be long-term. This energy use would be consistent with projects of a similar character. Moreover, under California's Renewables Portfolio Standard, a greater share of electricity would be provided from renewable energy sources over time, so less fossil fuel consumption to generate electricity for any electrical equipment would occur.

Overall, project operations would not consume energy resources in a manner considered wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary. Project impacts related to energy consumption are considered less than significant.

b) Consistency with Energy Plans.

As noted in a) above, the project would not consume energy in a manner considered wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary. An increasing share of electricity used by the project would be provided by renewable sources. The project would not conflict with applicable state and local plans to reduce fossil fuel consumption. Project impacts would be less than significant.

3.7 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.				√
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?				√

iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?			√	
iv) Landslides?				√
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?			√	
c) Be located on strata 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, creating substantial 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?				√

3.7.1 Environmental Setting

Project Site Soils

The project is located in the northern San Joaquin Valley, which is in the southern portion of the Great Valley Geomorphic Province. The Great Valley, also known as the Central Valley, is a topographically flat, northwest-trending, structural trough (or basin) about 50 miles wide and 450 miles long. It is bordered by the Tehachapi Mountains on the south, the Klamath Mountains on the north, the Sierra Nevada on the east, and the Coast Ranges on the west. The San Joaquin Valley, the southern portion of the Great Valley, is filled with thick sedimentary rock sequences that were deposited as much as 130 million years ago. Large alluvial fans have developed on each side of the Valley. The larger and more gently sloping fans are on the east side of the Valley and overlie metamorphic and igneous basement rocks. These basement rocks are exposed in the Sierra Nevada foothills and consist of metasedimentary, volcanic, and granitic rocks.

The project site is located at an elevation of approximately 9 feet above mean sea level within the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. The Delta is an expansive inland river delta and estuary formed by the confluence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers just east of where the rivers enter Suisun Bay. Upper Roberts island is a portion of the extensive emergent marshes that historically made up the majority of the Delta. In historic times, the island has been reclaimed from wetlands to agricultural use by the construction of levees. Ongoing agricultural use of these lands, due to their location at or below sea level, requires installation and operation of subsoil drainage systems.

Different soil types exist within San Joaquin County that are closely associated with alluvial action and deposition. Sand to gravel soils have been deposited along waterways and the ancient course of the San Joaquin River. Areas in between waterways are

typically rich in fine grained clays and silts with extensive peat deposits present in the Delta. Silt and clay soils are fertile and support agriculture within San Joaquin County for a wide variety of crops. These fertile silts and clays pose some risk to structures, as they can be expansive and cause significant damage. Peat deposits are subject to compaction through extraction of groundwater, oil and gas, loading, or natural causes. Peat compaction can lead to subsidence and significant damage to structures (San Joaquin County 2014).

The Soil Survey of San Joaquin County shows that the project site has five (5) different types of soil classifications. Valdez silty loam, Webile Muck, Rindge Muck, Ryde clay loam, and Kingile Muck. Valdez silty loam is a deep, moderately well drained, nearly level soil, formed in alluvium derived from mixed rock sources. The surface layer is grayish brown loamy sand about 15 inches thick. Permeability is moderately rapid in the Valdez silty loam and available water capacity is moderate. This unit is well suited to irrigated row and field crops. The capability units are IIIw irrigated and IVw non irrigated.

Webile Muck is a very deep, very pooly drained, nearly level soil on deltas, formed in hydrophytic plant remains derived from reeds and tules and in alluvium derived from mixed rock sources. The surface layer is very dark gray and about 39 inches thick. Permeability is rapid and available water capacity is very high. This unit is suited to irrigated row and field crops, and may also provide wetland functions and values. The capability units are IIIw irrigated and IVw nonirrigated.

Rindge Muck is a very deep, very poorly drained, nearly level soil on deltas, formed in hydrophilic plant remains derived from reeds and tules and in alluvium derived from mixed rock sources. The surface layer is very dark gray and about 13 inches thick. Permeability is rapid and available water capacity is very high. This unit is suited to irrigated row and field crops, and may also provide wetland functions and values. The capability units are IIIw irrigated and IVw nonirrigated.

Ryde clay loam is a very deep, poorly drained, nearly level soil on flood plains and deltas, formed in hydrophilic plant remains and in alluvium derived from mixed rock sources. The surface layer is grayish brown and dark gray, mottled clay loam about 24 inches thick. Permeability is moderately slow and available water capacity is very high. This unit is suited to irrigated row and field crops. The capability units are IIIw irrigated and IVw nonirrigated.

Kingile Muck is a very deep, very poorly drained, nearly level soil on deltas, formed in hydrophytic plant remains derived from reeds and tules and the underlying alluvium derived from mixed rock sources. The surface layer is dark gray and brown muck about 17 inches think. Permeability is slow and available water capacity is very high. The unit is suited to irrigated row and field crops. The capability units are IIIw irrigated and IVw nonirrigated.

This Quarry Excavation permit intends to improve the agricultural viability of the project site and soil by removing the sandy materials and improving the drainage. Therefore, this project will have a less than significant impact on existing geology and soils.

Potential erosion associated with construction and development activities, and resulting potential impacts on water quality, are addressed by State of California storm water permit requirements and corresponding local implementation plans, ordinances and standards, including those adopted jointly by San Joaquin County and the City of Stockton. Erosion and related storm water pollution prevention controls are addressed in detail in Section 3.10 Hydrology and Water Quality.

Seismic and Geologic Hazards

There are no mapped fault systems located at or near the site. There are no active faults within San Joaquin County. The California Geological Survey does not include the project site in an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone (California Geological Survey 2015). The project site, along with the rest of San Joaquin County, is subject to seismic shaking from fault features east and west of the County, including the Hayward/Rodgers Creek, San Andreas, and Calaveras Faults (San Joaquin County 2009). In the Stockton area, ground shaking equivalent to an intensity of VIII or IX on the Modified Mercalli Scale may occur. Intensity VIII earthquakes can cause structure damage that ranges from "slight" in specially-designed structures to "great" in poorly-built structures (CDMG 1973).

Soil compaction and settlement can result from seismic ground shaking. If the sediments that compact during an earthquake are saturated, soils may lose strength and become fluid – a process called liquefaction. Based on known information, areas of the County with groundwater less than 50 feet from ground surface in unconsolidated sediment are susceptible to liquefaction, including lands near river courses (San Joaquin County 2016). The depth to groundwater at the site is approximately 25 feet. According to the California Geological Survey, the site is not within a designated Liquefaction Zone and liquefaction is a low to moderate hazard, due to the site being a greater distance from the more active Hayward and Calaveras Fault zones and the degree of ground shaking expected to occur from those faults.

3.7.2 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

a-1) Fault Rupture Hazards

There are no active or potentially active faults within or near the project site. The closest known active fault is the Antioch fault, approximately 30 miles to the west. As noted above, the project site is not within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone. The project would have less than a significant impact related to fault rupture.

a-2, 3, 4) Seismic Ground Shaking, Liquefaction, Landslides

The project site, along with the rest of the County, is subject to seismic shaking from fault features east and west of the County. The project will not construct any structures and is a developed agricultural field, therefore there would be no impacts on public health and safety.

The probability of soil liquefaction actually taking place in the County is considered to be a low to moderate hazard, due to the substantial distance from the more active Hayward and Calaveras Fault zones and the degree of ground shaking expected to occur from those faults (California Geological Survey 2015). But for the stability of cut slopes within the excavation area, however, the project would not be subject to geologic hazard concerns. The project would have a less than significant impact on seismic hazards.

b) Soil Erosion, Loss of Topsoil

The Valdez silt loam soil associations on the project site have a low potential for erosion by itself. Project would loosen the soil, leaving it exposed to potential water and wind erosion. The eroded soils, in turn, could conceivably be transported off the project site by runoff to waters of the state. However, the project site is relatively level and runoff if any is directed to the island drainage system. Runoff from the excavation during mining activity, and from the site during reclamation as it is transitioned to agricultural use, will be contained within the closed drainage system of Upper Roberts Island. In addition, water truck will be used in conjunction with removal of the sand as a dust control and wind erosion reduction measure.

Measures associated with SJVAPCD Regulation VIII, which is discussed in Chapter 6.0, Air Quality, would reduce potential wind erosion impacts. Also, projects that disturb one or more acres of soil are required to obtain the Construction General Permit, administered by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). The Construction General Permit requires preparation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to address potential water quality issues associated with construction discharges. The SWPPP includes a site map and description of construction activities and identifies the Best Management Practices (BMPs) that will be employed to prevent soil erosion and discharge of other construction-related pollutants that could contaminate nearby water resources. A monitoring program is generally required to ensure that BMPs are implemented according to the SWPPP and are effective at controlling discharges of stormwater-related pollutants.

Compliance with the requirements of SJVAPCD Regulation VIII and the Construction General Permit would minimize the amount of erosion that may occur because of soil disturbance associated with project construction. Once construction work is completed and the site is returned to agriculture, no acute soil erosion problems are expected to occur. Project impacts related to soil erosion would be less than significant.

Existing topsoil in the proposed excavation area is exceedingly sandy and unsuitable for agriculture. The project includes removal and replacement of the existing topsoil with more suitable materials from the remainder of the site. No outside fill material will be used to fill and level the excavated area to prepare it for future agricultural use. Project

impacts related to loss of topsoil would be less than significant. The end result of the project would be the availability of additional topsoil availability for agricultural use.

c) Soil Instability

The proposed project would removal and replacement of approximately 12 vertical feet of sandy material from a 9.1-acre portion of an existing agricultural field. No demolition or construction of new structures is proposed. After completion of the reclamation portion of the project, the site will be returned to agricultural use. After excavation, fill and re-grading, the elevation of the site will conform with the surrounding topography and have a uniform northward slope of 1%. The project would have a less than significant impact in this issue area.

d, e) Expansive Soils, Adequacy of Soils for Wastewater Disposal

The proposed project is not located in an area with expansive soils and does not involve the use of septic systems. The project would involve no impacts in this issue area.

3.8 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

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

3.8.1 Environmental Setting

GHG Background

Greenhouse gases (GHGs) are gases that absorb and emit radiation within the thermal infrared range, trapping heat in the earth's atmosphere. GHGs are both naturally occurring and are emitted by human activity. GHGs include carbon dioxide, the most abundant GHG, as well as methane, nitrous oxide and other gases. GHG emissions in California in 2016 were estimated at 429.33 million metric tons carbon dioxide equivalent (CO_2e) – a decrease of approximately 13.0% from the peak level in 2004. Transportation was the largest contributor to GHG emissions in California, with approximately 41% of total emissions. Other significant sources include industrial activities, with 21% of total emissions, and electric power generation, both in-state and imported, with 16.0% of total emissions (ARB 2018).

Increased atmospheric concentrations of GHGs are considered a primary contributor to global climate change, which is a subject of concern for the State of California. Potential impacts of global climate change in California include reduced Sierra Nevada snowpack, increased wildfire hazards, greater number of hot days with associated decreases in air quality, and potential decreases in agricultural production (Climate Action Team 2010).

Unlike the criteria air pollutants described in Section 3.3, Air Quality, GHGs have no "attainment" standards established by the federal or State government. In fact, GHGs are not generally thought of as traditional air pollutants because their impacts are global in nature, while air pollutants mainly affect the general region of their release to the atmosphere (SJVAPCD 2015). Nevertheless, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has found that GHG emissions endanger both the public health and public welfare under Section 202(a) of the Clean Air Act due to their impacts associated with climate change (EPA 2009).

GHG Emission Reduction Plans

The State of California has implemented GHG emission reduction strategies through Assembly Bill (AB) 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, which requires total statewide GHG emissions to reach 1990 levels by 2020, or an approximately 29% reduction from 2004 levels. In compliance with AB 32, the State adopted the Climate Change Scoping Plan in 2008 and updated it in 2014. Primary strategies addressed in the original Scoping Plan included new industrial and emission control technologies; alternative energy generation technologies; advanced energy conservation in lighting, heating, cooling and ventilation; fuels with reduced carbon content; hybrid and electric vehicles; and methods for improving vehicle mileage (ARB 2008). The 2014 update highlights California's progress toward meeting the 2020 GHG emission reduction goal of the original Scoping Plan, and it establishes a broad framework for continued emission reductions beyond 2020, on the path to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050 (ARB 2014). In 2016, total GHG emissions in California were approximately two million metric tons CO_2e below the 2020 target established by AB 32 (ARB 2018).

In 2016, Senate Bill (SB) 32 was enacted. SB 32 extends the GHG reduction objectives of AB 32 by mandating statewide reductions in GHG emissions to levels that are 40% below 1990 levels by the year 2030. In 2017, an updated Scoping Plan was adopted that sets forth strategies for achieving the SB 32 target. The 2017 Scoping Plan continues many of the programs that were part of the previous Scoping Plans, including the cap-and-trade program, low-carbon fuel standards, renewable energy, and methane reduction strategies. It also addresses for the first time GHG emissions from the natural and working lands of California, including the agriculture and forestry sectors (ARB 2017). Recently, the State Legislature extended the cap-and-trade program from its original expiration date in 2020 to 2030.

The SJVAPCD adopted a Climate Change Action Plan in 2008 and issued guidance for development project compliance with the plan in 2009. The guidance adopted an approach that relies on the use of Best Performance Standards to reduce GHG emissions.

Projects implementing Best Performance Standards would be determined to have a less than cumulatively significant impact. For projects not implementing Best Performance Standards, demonstration of a 29% reduction in project-specific (i.e., operational) GHG emissions from business-as-usual conditions is required to determine that a project would have a less than cumulatively significant impact (SJVAPCD 2009).

San Joaquin County currently does not have a GHG emission reduction plan, also known as a Climate Action Plan. Policy PHS-6.2 of the recently updated County General Plan states the County shall reduce community GHG emissions by 15% below 2005 levels by 2020 and shall strive to reduce GHG emissions by 40% and 80% below reduced 2020 levels by 2035 and 2050, respectively.

3.8.2 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

a, b) Project GHG Emissions and Consistency with GHG Reduction Plans

The RCEM model (see Section 3.3, Air Quality) estimated the total GHG emissions associated with the project at approximately 641 tons of CO2, 0.11 tons of methane, and 0.01 tons of nitrous oxide spread over the approximately four-year life of the project.

Neither the State nor SJVAPCD has established significance thresholds for GHG emissions from construction activities or from project operations. However, project GHG emissions would cease once sand extraction and subsequent grading of the project site is completed, so emissions would be short term. Project impacts related to GHG emissions are considered less than significant.

3.9 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?			√	
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?			√	
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?				√
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?				√
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or,				√

where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the project area?				√
g) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				√
h) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands?				√

3.9.1 Environmental Setting

The following section discusses the use, transport, or disposal of hazardous materials, potential hazardous emissions, or environmental contamination that may threaten construction workers or potential users of the project site.

Federal and state databases such as the GeoTracker database, maintained by the SWRCB, and the EnviroStor database, maintained by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), were among several databases that were reviewed to evaluate hazards and hazardous materials. There are no hazardous waste or disposal sites, and specifically no Cortese sites (Government Code Section 65962.5), located on the project site or in the project vicinity. There is one Leaking Underground Storage Tank (LUST) DTSC cleanup site located in the general project vicinity (DTSC 2019) approximately 0.24 miles east of the project site and is associated with Brookside Development Company. The leak contained gasoline discovered in November of 1989. The leak was remediated in 1991, and the status of the site is "closed."

The generation and handling of hazardous waste in the region is monitored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board; San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Management District; and the Environmental Health Department (EHD). Businesses that generate hazardous waste or have hazardous waste stored on site are either Large Quantity Generators (e.g., heavy industrial or commercial facilities) or Small-Quantity Generators (e.g., dry cleaners, automotive repair shops, etc.); these businesses require an EPA identification number used to monitor and track hazardous waste activities.

The closest public airport to the project site is the Stockton Metropolitan Airport, located approximately 14 miles southwest of the project site. The closest private airport to the project is the Atlantic Aviation Airport located in approximately in the same location.

The project is not located within two miles of an existing airport or within an Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan area.

3.8.2 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

a) Hazardous Materials Transportation, Use, and Disposal

The project will involve no substantial transportation, storage, disposal or use of hazardous materials. Sandy soil material to be transported off-site consists of naturally-occurring mineral and organic materials and is non-hazardous in nature. This project will have no impact in this issue area.

b, c) Hazardous Emissions, Hazardous Waste Near Schools

Proposed excavation and handling of sand materials, as well as re-grading of the site could result in fugitive dust emissions. The implementation of the fugitive dust controls listed in Section 3.3, Air Quality, would reduce potential dust emissions and impacts on public and worker safety. These emissions are, however, non-hazardous and would be controlled in accordance with adopted air quality rules and regulations.

Operation of the wheel loader, leveling tractor and water truck would involve minor and temporary emissions of diesel particulate matter. There are no sensitive receptors within 0.25 miles of the site. Soil removal and replacement activities would not generate any significant hazardous emissions.

There are no schools located within 0.25 miles of the project site, and project operations would not involve any substantial generation or handling of hazardous materials or waste.

d) Hazardous Materials Sites

The project is not located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. A search of all hazardous materials databases identified one DTSC LUST cleanup site located in the general project vicinity, however, this site has been remediated and closed (DTSC 1991, SWRCB 1991) and represents no environmental threat to the project site. The project site is surrounded by agricultural land and will not involve any inhabited buildings or residences. Therefore, the project would involve no impacts related to hazardous materials sites.

e, f) Airport and Airstrip Operations

There are no public use airports or private airstrips within two miles of the project area. The project would have no impact in this issue area.

g) Emergency Response and Evacuation

Primary access, and emergency access, to the project site is available from West McDonald Road and North Holt Road. The project would not require the closure of either

road or otherwise interfere in vehicle access to and from the site; emergency access would be maintained at all times. The proposed project would not physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. The project would involve no impacts in this issue area.

h) Wildland Fire Hazards

The project site is located in an intensively irrigated and maintained agricultural area. With the exception of a line of olive trees along West McDonald Road, the project area is devoid of trees and large amounts of brush. The project is located in a very low risk area for potential wild land fires. The project would have a less than significant effect in this issue area.

3.10 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?			√	
b) Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level (e.g., the production rate of pre-existing nearby wells would drop to a level which would not support existing land uses or planned uses for which permits have been granted)?			√	
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?			√	
d) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?				√
e) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems?				√
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?			√	
g) Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood Hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?				√
h) Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures which would impede or redirect flood flows?				√

i) Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of a levee or dam?			√	
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?				√

3.10.1 Environmental Setting

Environmental Setting

Surface Waters

The project site is within the legally-defined primary zone of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta is a 600-square-mile area of waterways and islands of reclaimed land at the confluence of the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers. The Delta receives runoff from a watershed that covers approximately 45 percent of the State's land area, including flows from the Sacramento, San Joaquin, Mokelumne, and Cosumnes Rivers (Lund et al. 2007). The Delta supports agricultural and recreational uses, is the focal point for water distribution throughout the southern half of the State, and provides habitat for many species of fish, birds, mammals, and plants.

The project site is in an essentially flat area of developed agricultural fields. Whiskey Slough, which is contained within the levee system surrounding Upper Roberts Island, is located approximately 0.3 miles to the southwest. Whiskey Slough is a part of the complex Delta network of surface waters, which have multiple sources and beneficial uses, which are beyond the scope of this document to define. The ownership within which the project is located has riparian rights to withdraw water from Whiskey Slough when needed. There are no agricultural ditches or canals on the site, however it is bordered on the west by a canal and on the east and south by irrigation ditches.

Surface water quality in the Valley and Delta regions is managed by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) by means of The Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento River and San Joaquin River Basins, revised in June 2015. The beneficial uses of surface waters in the region include municipal and domestic water supply; industrial service and process supply; agricultural irrigation; groundwater recharge; navigation; contact and non-contact recreation; commercial and sport fishing; migration of aquatic organisms; wildlife habitat; and habitat for rare, threatened, and endangered species. (RWQCB 2015).

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program is established under Section 402(p) of the federal Clean Water Act. Although the EPA oversees the NPDES program, actual implementation of the program in California is the responsibility of the SWRCB and the RWQCBs. The NPDES program requires a permit for stormwater discharges from municipal separate storm sewer systems, industrial activities, construction activities, and designated dischargers that are considered significant contributors of pollutants to Waters of the U.S.

Of relevance to the project is the Construction General Permit, issued under the NPDES program by the SWRCB through the jurisdictional RWQCB. The Construction General Permit (SWRCB Order 2009-0009-DWQ) applies to projects that disturb one acre or more or disturb less than one acre but are part of a larger common plan of development. It also applies to linear projects that disturb one or more acres of land. The Construction General Permit requires the discharging activity to develop and implement a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) that identifies the sources of sediment and other pollutants that affect the quality of stormwater discharges, and describes the Best Management Practices the discharging activity will employ to reduce or eliminate sediment and other pollutants in stormwater and non-stormwater discharges.

Groundwater

The Central Valley portion of the Program Area contains significant groundwater resources within the deep alluvial deposits of the area. The San Joaquin Valley groundwater basin occupies a total of more 13,700 square miles, including all of the valley portions of the Program Area. Estimated storage at depths of less than 1,000 feet is over 570 million acre-feet with useable storage exceeding 80 million acre-feet. Water quality and well volume vary widely by local conditions; average well yields are about 1,100 gallons per minute.

The project is located within the Tracy Subbasin of the San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin. The Tracy Subbasin is bounded by the San Joaquin River to the east, the Diablo Range to the west, the San Joaquin-Stanislaus County line to the south, and the Mokelumne and San Joaquin Rivers to the north – a surface area of 539 square miles. Data on groundwater usage are not available; however, data from wells indicate that groundwater levels in the Tracy Subbasin have remained relatively stable (DWR 2006). Areas of poor water quality exist throughout the subbasin, with most such areas in the vicinity of the city of Tracy. Elevated chloride levels have been identified along the San Joaquin River (DWR 2006).

In general, shallow groundwater conditions and extensive groundwater-surface water interaction characterize the Delta region. Spring runoff increases flows in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers, which causes groundwater levels near the rivers to rise. Surface water flows from the San Francisco Bay due to high tides also increases groundwater levels in the Delta. Groundwater levels in the central Delta are very shallow, and land subsidence on several islands has resulted in naturally-occurring groundwater levels close to the ground surface (DWR et al. 2013). Upper Roberts Island and other low-lying Delta islands are actively managed with drains and pumping systems to reduce groundwater levels in order to preserve the agricultural viability of these lands.

Flooding Hazards

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has prepared maps identifying areas within a 100-year floodplain – an area that would be covered by a flood that would occur once every 100 years on average. A Flood Insurance Rate Map prepared by FEMA

indicates that the project is within Zone AE. Zone AE delineates the 100-year floodplain for which base flood elevations were determined.

In 2007, the State of California approved SB 5 and a series of related Senate and Assembly bills intended to set new flood protection standards for urban areas. The SB 5 Bills establish the State standard for flood protection in Central Valley urban areas as protection from the 200-year frequency flood. The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) has drafted Best Available Maps depicting 200-year floodplain areas. The non-urban project site is potentially subject to 200-year flooding but is not subject to SB 5 requirements.

3.10.2 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

a, f) Water Quality Standards

The project site does not include, and is not adjacent to, any streams or bodies of surface water other than irrigation and drainage canals and ditches; none of these features would be affected by proposed sand removal and site reclamation. Potential discharges from the project would not reach any surface waters, particularly with the required preparation and implementation of a SWPPP. Project operations would lead to no direct discharges into surface waters. The project would have no direct impact on surface waters or water quality.

Dust control water will be obtained by pumping via a temporary siphon pipe from available surface water in nearby Whiskey Slough. Withdrawn at a rate of up to 6,000 gallons per day, the project would involve an incidental and less than significant effect on water volumes in Whiskey Slough.

b) Groundwater Supplies

The project will involve daily watering of proposed excavation and grading areas; a 3,000-gallon water truck will be used for dust control and will remain on site as all times until the completion of san removal and reclamation, approximately four years. Daily consumption of water will range from 3,000-6,000 gallons per day during the Summer months and 1,500-3,000 gallons per day in the Fall; there will be no water use in the winter. Total annual water demand is estimated at approximately one acre-foot per year.

Dust control water would be applied to disturbed areas at rates of up to 6,000 gallons per day. Distributed as required, it is not anticipated that dust control would involve over-watering or potential contribution to the underlying groundwater system. Even if applied entirely to the groundwater system, annual water demand would be incidental, amounting to approximately 0.002 feet over the site as a whole; this is a fraction of annual recharge to the site from rainfall. The project would have a less than significant effect in this issue area.

c, d, e) Drainage and Runoff

There are no streams, lakes, or waterbodies located on or near the project site or in the project vicinity. The project does not involve potential for direct discharges to surface water.

g, h) Flooding Hazards

As previously noted, the project is within an identified 100-year floodplain, however, no residences or other structures would be constructed on site, and no people or buildings would be exposed to flood hazards. The project would involve the use of mobile equipment, which can be relocated to a flood safe area in the event of anticipated flooding. The project would have a less than significant impact on these issue areas.

i) Dam and Levee Failure Hazards

The proposed project is within the potential inundation zones of New Melones Dam, San Luis Dam, and New Hogan Dam were any of them to fail. The probability of dam failure at any given time is low, and these facilities are regularly inspected for any issues that potentially could lead for failure. The project would have no change on the potential hazard posed by dam failure within the project area, particularly since no residences or other structures are or would be constructed on the project site. The project's effect would be less than significant in this issue area.

j) Seiche, Tsunami and Mudflow Hazards

The project area is in a topographically flat area and a considerable distance away from large bodies of water. As a result, the project would not be subject to seiche, tsunami or mudflow hazards. The project would have no impact on this issue.

3.11 LAND USE AND PLANNING

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

3.11.1 Environmental Setting

The project site is developed agricultural land and has been farmed continually for over 50 years. Existing lands surrounding the site are also in agricultural use. There are widely-scattered rural residential homes and outbuildings in the general vicinity.

The General Plan designation for the project site is A/G (General Agricultural) and OS/RC (Resource Conservation). Surrounding areas to the north, south, east and west are also all designated for Agricultural use. The project site is zoned by the County as AG-80 (General Agricultural, 80-acre minimum). Adjoining lands surrounding the site in all directions are also all zoned for agricultural purposes.

3.11.2 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

a) Division of Established Communities.

The project would occur entirely within a developed agricultural parcel and would not expand onto adjacent parcels or streets. Therefore, it would not create any physical divisions in the area. There are no established communities in the immediate project vicinity. The project would have no impact related to division of an established community.

b) Conflict with Applicable Plans, Policies and Regulations.

The project request is for a Quarry Excavation Permit. Pursuant to Development Title Section 9-854, a Quarry Excavation Permit is a conditionally permitted use in the AG-80 zone. If approved the permit would not conflict with the General Plan policies and regulations regarding Mineral Resources, Goal NCR-4, pg.3.4-8.

The project site is located within the Primary Zone of the San Joaquin Delta. In addition to General Plan requirements in order to approve a project located within the Primary Zone, the project must meet the requirements of both the Delta Protection Commission Land Use and Resource Management Plan and the Delta Stewardship Council Delta Plan.

The following are findings for the Delta Protection Commission Land Use and Resource Management Plan, which can be made in the affirmative.

1. The Development will not result in wetland or riparian loss.

    - **This Finding can be made because the project will not result in a loss of riparian habitat on or near the project site. The applicant will participate in the San Joaquin County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation and Open Space Plan (SJMSCP).**

2. The Development will not result in the degradation of water quality.

   - **This Finding can be made because the project will meet the ruels and regulations of the Environmental Health Department and the Regional Water Quality Control Board. All recommended requirements as part of the project approval will be included in the final conditions of approval.**

3. The Development will not result in increased non-point source pollution or soil erosion, including subsidence or sedimentation

   - **This Finding can be made because there will not result in an increased non-point source pollution. There will be no runoff into streams or waterways. The site is level and all runoff must remain on site.**

4. The Development will not result in degradation or reduction of Pacific Flyway habitat.

   - **This Finding can be made because the project will not significantly reduce Pacific Flyway habitat. The applicant has confirmed participation in the San Joaquin County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation and Open Space Plan (SJMSCP).**

5. The Development will not result in reduced public access, provided that access does not infringe upon private property rights.

   - **This Finding can be made because all ground disturbance will be on private land and will not result in reduced public access.**

6. The Development will not expose the public to increased flood hazards.

   - **This Finding can be made because all grading will meet the requirements of the Flood Control Division of the Public Works Department. All excavation plans shall be prepared by a Registered Civil Engineer in accordance to Development Title Section 9-1605.12 (a), (b), and (c).**

7. The Development will not adversely impact agricultural lands or increase the potential for vandalism, trespass, or creation of public or private nuisances on public or private land.

   - **This Finding can be made because this project is an agricultural use to increase the agricultural viability of the parcel in an agricultural**

zone. There are very few houses in the vicinity and no public access will be permitted to the site. The equipment area will be locked when employees are not present or on-site therefore decreasing the potential for vandalism, trespassing, or the creation of public or private nuisances.

8. The Development will not result in the degradation or impairment of levee integrity.

   - **This Finding can be made because the project is not near an existing or proposed levee and no portion of the construction activities will require any changes to levees.**

9. The Development will not adversely impact navigation.

   - **This Finding can be made because the project will not impact water navigation because no bridges or waterways will need to be crossed. All site work will be performed on the project applicant's property and not within navigable waters.**

10. The development will not result in any increased requirements or restrictions upon agricultural practices in the primary zone.

    - **This Finding can be made because the proposed Quarry Excavation project will increase the agricultural viability of the parcel by removing the sand. The surrounding uses are also agricultural and the project will not affect adjacent agricultural uses. According to the reclamation plan provided by the applicant the project area will be reclaimed to an almond orchard.**

The project, although not statutory exempt from regulation does not meet the definition of a Covered Action under the Delta Stewardship Council Delta Plan because all four of the following Screening Criteria do not apply, specifically Screening Criteria Number 4:

The plan, program, or project:

1. Is "…a plan, program, or project as defined pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21065."

   This Screening Criteria can be met. The proposed project is an activity defined under Public Resources Code Section 21065. The application will require approval from the San Joaquin County Community Development Department and a component of the project is grading and excavation, which will result in a direct or indirect physical change in the environment.

2. Will occur, in whole or in part, within the boundaries of the Delta or Suisun Marsh.

   This Screening Criteria can be met. The location of the project site is within the boundaries of the Delta Primary Zone as defined in the Delta Plan.

3. Will be carried out, approved, or funded by the State or a local public agency.

   This Screening Criteria can be met. The proposed project will require approval from the San Joaquin County Community Development Department and is subject to yearly inspections and reports as required by SMARA and the Division of Mine Reclamation.

4. Will have a significant impact on the achievement of one or both of the coequal goals or the implementation of a government-sponsored flood control program to reduce risks to people, property, and State interests in the Delta;

   This Screening Criteria cannot be met. The project will have no effect on the implementation on a government-sponsored flood control program. Moreover, it will not have a significant negative impact on the Delta ecosystem or the reliability of the water supply. The project will not have a significant impact on the achievement of the coequal goals because it is merely removing sandy soil to increase the agricultural viability of the parcel.

Because all four Screening Criteria cannot be met, the project, for the purposes of the Delta Plan, it does not meet the definition of a Covered Action. Referrals have been sent to the Delta Protection Commission and Delta Stewardship Council for review.

The proposed project does not conflict with any existing or planned uses, Master Plan, Specific Plan, or Special Purpose Plan, and any other applicable plan adopted by the County. Also, the California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA) covers mining activities that impact or disturb the surface of the land.

The Departments of Public Works and Community Development review reclamation efforts and permit new mine sites and operations in the county. The permit requirement for each mine operation is locally regulated under 9-1415. The proposed project will also be required to comply with the requirements of SMARA.

c) Conflict with Habitat Conservation Plans.

As discussed in Section 3.4, Biological Resources, the project is within the jurisdictional area of the SJMSCP. Adopted County policy requires development projects to participate in the SJMSCP. The project applicant has indicated they will participate in the plan and as a result, the project will be consistent with the SJMSCP. As a result of the project applicant participating in the plan any impacts related to sensitive species will be reduced to less than significant.

3.12 MINERAL RESOURCES

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

3.12.1 Environmental Setting

Based on U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) data for 2015, California ranked sixth after Nevada, Arizona, Texas, Minnesota, and Wisconsin in the value of non-fuel mineral production, accounting for approximately 4.2 percent of the nation's total. The market value of non-fuel mineral production for California was $3.6 billion. It led the nation in the production of construction sand and gravel and diatomite, and was second behind Texas in portland cement production. There were 717 active mines in California producing non-fuel minerals during 2015 (California Office of Mine Reclamation). Construction-grade sand and gravel was California's leading mineral commodity in terms of dollar value in 2015. California produced 107 million tons of construction sand and gravel worth $1.29 billion in 2015.

The primary mineral resources in San Joaquin County are sand and gravel aggregate. Limited extraction of peat, gold, and silver is also known to occur. Aggregate deposits are most commonly found in channel, floodplain, and alluvial fan deposits. Aggregate is used extensively in road and building construction, and consists of sand, gravel, and crushed stone, (San Joaquin County 2014).

The California Division of Mines and Geology, now part of the California Geological Survey, has classified portions of the state into Mineral Resource Zones. The lands within and surrounding the project site are not classified within a Mineral Resource Zone, indicating that no significant mineral deposits have been identified (San Joaquin County

2016). However, onsite analysis and mapping has identified a sandy area of approximately 9.1 acres in size to a depth of 12 ft on the project site totaling approximately 176,500 cubic yards of sand.

As discussed above, the California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA) regulates mining activities such as the proposed project. SMARA requirements are embodied in San Joaquin County ordinances with which the project will need to comply. No oil, natural gas, or geothermal fields have been identified in the vicinity of the project site (DOGGR 2001).

3.12.2 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

a, b) Loss of Mineral Resource Availability.

Special Report 199 (SR 199) was released in May of 2012 as an update to 1988 SR 160, provides estimates of aggregate demand and reserves. The estimated 50-year demand for construction grade aggregate was 687 million tons and permitted aggregate reserves totaled 232 million tons. Based on these estimates, the report anticipates that current aggregate reserves will last through the year 2033 (DOC, 2012b) (San Joaquin County).

The San Joaquin General Plan 2035 accounts for environmental impacts on mining of sand. The project operation includes the excavation of approximately 176,500 cubic yards of sand on developed agricultural land. Upon completion of all sand removal, the property owner will prepare the ground to plant an orchard. The project site will remain in agricultural or open space use until the extraction of the sand and reclamation are complete.

The mineral resource to be developed by the project was not previously delineated on an MRZ map, local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan. The project would involve beneficial use of this existing resource and would involve no effect on future development of mineral resources on or near the project site. The project would have a less then significant effect on mineral resources.

3.13 NOISE

Would the project result in:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Exposure of persons to or generation of noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?			√	
b) Exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?				√
c) A substantial permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the			√	

project?				
d) A substantial temporary or periodic increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity above levels existing without the project?			√	
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				√
f) For a project within the vicinity of a private airstrip, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?				√

3.13.1 Environmental Setting

Noise is often described as unwanted sound, which is any pressure variation in air that the human ear can detect. Since measuring sound by pressure would require a large and awkward range of numbers, the decibel (dB) scale was devised. This scale is typically adjusted for perception of loudness by the standardized A-weighting network, which provides a strong correlation between A-weighted sound levels (expressed as dBA) and community noise.

Community noise is described in terms of the "ambient" noise level, which is defined as the all-encompassing noise level associated with a given noise environment. A common statistical tool to measure the ambient noise level is the average, or equivalent, sound level (Leq), which corresponds to a steady-state, dBA sound level containing the same total energy as a time-varying signal over a given time period (usually one hour). The Leq shows very good correlation with community response to noise, and it is the basis for other noise descriptors such as the Day-Night Average Sound Level (Ldn). The Ldn represents an average sound exposure over a 24-hour period, with noise occurring between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. weighted more heavily to account for people's increased sensitivity to noise during those times.

The ambient noise environment at the project site is relatively quiet, due to the predominant agricultural uses in the vicinity. The primary sources of noise that affect the project site and vicinity are periodic use of farm equipment and traffic on West McDonald Road. The closest noise data available, as described in the San Joaquin County General Plan, at the intersection of Davini Road and West McDonald Road; the estimated Ldn for the intersection is 49 dB, which is well below adopted noise standards for noise-sensitive land uses.

Sensitive Noise Receptors

Some land uses are considered more sensitive to noise than others. Land uses often associated with sensitive receptors include residences, schools, libraries, hospitals, and

recreational areas. Noise sensitive land uses are typically given special attention in order to achieve protection from excessive noise. There are no sensitive noise receptors on or in the vicinity of the project site.

Groundborne Vibrations

While vibration is related to noise, it differs in that noise is generally considered to be pressure waves transmitted through air, whereas vibration usually consists of the application of energy to a structure or surface. Vibration involves a source, a transmission path, and a receiver. As with noise, vibration consists of an amplitude and frequency. Vibration can be measured in terms of acceleration, velocity, or displacement. A person's perception to vibration depends on their individual sensitivity to vibration, the amplitude and frequency of the vibration source, and the response of the system which is vibrating. Human and structural response to different vibration levels is influenced by a number of factors, including ground type, distance between source and receptor, duration, and the number of perceived vibration events.

San Joaquin County does not have specific policies pertaining to vibration levels. There are no known existing vibrations sources located on the project site.

3.13.2 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

a, b, c, d) Exceedance of Local Noise Standards and Temporary or Periodic or Permanent Increase in Ambient Noise levels and Exposure to Ground Borne Vibrations or Noise.

The proposed project would not involve demolition or construction of new structures. The project excavation of sand from the site followed by reclamation of the site for agricultural purposes. Sand removal activities would involve use of a water truck and a 5 cubic yard wheel loader. Reclamation activity will be ongoing with the removal of the sand and would involve use of a laser land leveling tractor with scraper. Upon completion of the project, future land use of the site will return to agricultural use and most likely be planted with an almond orchard. The project will result in a minor increase in the ambient noise levels on and in the immediate vicinity of the site for the approximately four-year project duration. However, truck tractor and other heavy equipment noise are a common occurrence on agricultural land, and there are no sensitive receptors on the project site or in the vicinity.

Development Title Section 9-1025.9(b)(2) states that proposed projects that will create new stationary noise sources or expand existing stationary noise sources shall be required to mitigate the noise levels from these stationary noise sources so as not to exceed the noise level standards specified in Development Title Table 9-1025.9. Table 9-1025.9, Part II: Stationary Noise Sources shows that for outdoor activity areas, during the daytime (7 a.m-10 p.m.), the hourly equivalent sound level (Leq) is 50 dB, and the maximum sound level (Lmax) is 70 dB. During the nighttime (10 p.m. to 7 a.m.), the hourly equivalent sound level (Leq) is 45 dB and the maximum sound level (Lmax) is 65 dB. The project operations are not expected to exceed the stationary noise thresholds as

specified in Development Title Table 9-1025.9 and any impact from noise from this site on adjacent land uses would be less than significant.
e, f) Exposure to Airport/Airstrip Noise

There are no public airports or private airstrips in the vicinity. The project would have no impact related to this issue.

3.14 POPULATION AND HOUSING

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

3.14.1 Environmental Setting

As of January 1, 2020, the population of San Joaquin County was 773,632 people (California Department of Finance 2020) http://www.dof.ca.gov/Forecasting/Demographics/Estimates/e-1/ which represents a 1.1% increase since 2019. The County had an estimated 245,541 housing units as of July 1, 2018. The project area is very lightly populated. There are no residences on or in the vicinity of the site. The nearest residence is approximately 1,000 feet from the site.

3.14.2 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

a, b, c) Population Growth, Displacement of Housing and People

The project does not propose any new homes, businesses, or buildings that would result in a direct or indirect increase in population. There are no existing residences located on the project site or in the vicinity of the project. The project would have no impacts related to population and would involve no displacement of housing or people.

3.15 PUBLIC SERVICES

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

3.15.1 Environmental Setting

Fire protection services for the unincorporated areas of San Joaquin County are provided by independent special district fire departments, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), and in some cases through contracted service with city fire departments. Collectively, there are 22 fire protection districts protecting the San Joaquin County region, which are staffed with paid firefighters, reserve firefighters, volunteer firefighters, and administrative staff that provide support services (LAFCo, 2011). National and state guidelines call for urban fire departments to respond within five to six minutes of receiving an emergency call at least 90 percent of the time (San Joaquin County 2016). The project site is not, however, located within an organized fire protection district. If needed, fire protection services would be provided by Cal Fire.

The County Sheriff's Office has the primary responsibility for protecting the life and property of the citizens living in the unincorporated areas of San Joaquin County. This responsibility covers an estimated 21 percent of the total County population. The Sheriff's Office also provides other law enforcement services as needed. The Sheriff's Office consists of seven divisions: Civil and Custody Division, Coroner's Office, Internal Affairs Division, Public Information and Records Division, Administration Division, Investigations Division, and Operations Services Division. The unincorporated county is divided into eight districts, or "beat areas," that are staffed around the clock by Deputy Sheriffs who provide emergency response capability to citizens in their beat area. The proposed project is located in Beat 6, (San Joaquin County 2016). The average response time it takes for an officer to respond to calls, within the county is around 15 minutes and increases to 24 minutes for non-emergency calls

The project site is within the Tracy Unified School District. Tracy Unified School District and currently serves over 15,906 students in grades K-12 (California Department of Education 2018). There are 11 elementary schools, two middle school, four high school, and four continuation school in the District. The nearest existing school to the site is Holt Union Elementary School located approximately 0.46 miles to the east. .

3.15.2 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

a, b) Fire and Police Protection

The proposed project would not cause a change or increase in the need for emergency services, which are already being provided to the project site by Cal Fire. The proposed project would involve sand removal and earthmoving on a developed agricultural property, which is in an area of relatively low fire risk. No structures are proposed that would require additional service. Operation of the project would not affect service ratios or response times. Emergency access to the project site would be maintained at all times. County emergency management agencies have adequate personnel and services to accommodate foreseeable needs in the project area should an environmental or public emergency occur. The project would involve no impacts related to fire and police protection.

c) Schools

Impacts on schools are generally related to new development which generates a potential increase in student load. The project does not propose any new development or otherwise affect school demand. There are no schools in the immediate vicinity of the project site. Therefore, the project would have no impacts on schools.

d, e) Parks and Other Public Facilities

The project would not result in an increase in residents that would generate a demand for new or expanded park facilities or services, or other public services such as libraries. The project would have no impact on demand for parks or other public facilities.

3.16 RECREATION

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

3.15.1 Environmental Setting

There are four federal and state wildlife facilities located within San Joaquin County that provide protection for special-status species and opportunities for public wildlife viewing. The County also has several regional park facilities that offer a wide variety of recreational opportunities; including hiking and fishing, sports fields, boat launching, zoos, gardens, museums, and amusement parks.

The California Delta serves as an important recreational opportunity for the County as well. The Delta provides a wide variety of both land-based and water-based recreational and tourism activities. In addition to the Delta, the county has several waterway recreation areas where residents can go fishing, boating, water skiing, swimming, and hiking, among other activities. There are no existing County recreational facilities located adjacent to or near the project site. There are no Delta-related recreational facilities in the project vicinity.

3.15.2 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

a, b) Recreational Facilities

The project would not generate an increase in population that would result in increased demand for or use of existing parks and recreational facilities. The project would not require new or expanded recreational facilities or services and would have no impacts related to recreation. The project would not involve physical effects on any known existing park or recreation facilities.

3.17 TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with an applicable plan, ordinance or policy establishing measures of effectiveness for the performance of the circulation system, taking into account all modes of transportation including mass transit and non-motorized travel and relevant components of the circulation system, including but not limited to intersections, streets, highways and freeways, pedestrian and bicycle paths, and mass transit?			√	
b) Conflict with an applicable congestion management program, including but not limited to level of service standards and travel demand measures, or other standards established by the county congestion management agency for designated roads or highways?				√
c) Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?				√
d) Substantially increase hazards to a design feature (e g.,				√

sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e g, farm equipment)?				
e) Result in inadequate emergency access?				√
f) Conflict with adopted policies, plans or programs regarding public transit, bicycle or pedestrian facilities, or otherwise decrease the performance or safety of such facilities?				√

3.17.1 Environmental Setting

The project site is in a rural agricultural area of San Joaquin County. Roadways adjacent to and in the vicinity of the site are typically two-lane paved roads lacking shoulders and in various states of maintenance and repair. Access to the area is limited. The project is adjacent to and south of West McDonald Road/Davini Road, a two-lane street that runs east/west, which is classified as a collector street in the current San Joaquin General Plan 2035. Access between nearby State Route 4 and West McDonald Road are other similar rural roads including Holt Road, South Inland Drive and West Jacobs Road. Traffic associated with the project site and other lands in the general vicinity is primarily agricultural in nature, consisting of agricultural workers, managers, property owners and trucks that carry supplies or produce off site for distribution into the marketplace.

The most recent traffic counts for West McDonald Road were conducted in 2005. The Average Daily Traffic, (ADT) at that time was 1,327. Traffic counts on Holt Road (ADT 496), South Inland Drive (ADT 1,040) and West Jacobs Road (ADT 62) traffic counts were last conducted in 1995.

There are six bus service providers that operate in San Joaquin County. The largest public transit service for San Joaquin County is provided by the San Joaquin Regional Transit District (SJRTD). Other than available Dial-A-Ride services, there is no transit service in the project area.

There are no sidewalks or bike lanes in the project vicinity.

3.17.2 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

a) Conflict with Transportation Plans, Ordinances and Policies.

The proposed project would add an estimated maximum of 10 truck loads per day to local roads, for a total of 20 trip ends. This additional traffic would be a small contribution to existing traffic and would not result in any significant effect on road conditions or capacity. Truck traffic would access West McDonald Road at the existing access point; haul trucks would use the existing road located on the east boundary of the project site. The project was screened for a Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) analysis and it was

determined that since the proposed project would generate less than 110 vehicle trips per day, project impacts would be less than significant.

b) Conflict with Congestion Management Program.

SJCOG adopted the latest version of its Regional Congestion Management Plan in 2012. The Regional Congestion Management Plan is designed to coordinate land use, air quality and transportation planning to reduce potential congestion from traffic generated by development (SJCOG 2012). The Plan has designated a roadway and intersection network on which traffic congestion would be monitored and programs to reduce congestion would be targeted. None of the streets adjacent to the project site are part of the congestion management network. The project would have no impact in this issue area.

c) Air Traffic Patterns.

As noted in Section 3.8, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, there are no public airports in the project vicinity. Proposed activities on the project site are not expected to generate air traffic. The project would have no impact on this issue.

d) Traffic Hazards.

As noted above, the proposed project would not change existing conditions related to streets or access to the project site. Adequate site distance is available along West McDonald Road at the existing access point. Project impacts in this issue area would be less than significant.

e) Emergency Access.

As discussed in Section 3.8, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, the project would have no impact on emergency access.

f) Conflict with Non-vehicular Transportation Plans.

There currently are no public transit systems, bicycle or pedestrian facilities adjacent to or near the project site. The project would have no impact to non-vehicular transportation plans and systems.

3.18 TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

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:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact

a) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(k), or	√		
b) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1? In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	√		

3.18.1 Environmental Setting

In 2014, the California Legislature enacted AB 52, which focuses on consultation with Native American tribes on land use issues potentially affecting the tribes. The intent of this consultation is to avoid or mitigate potential impacts on "tribal cultural resources," which are defined as "sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe." More specifically, Public Resources Code Section 21074 defines tribal cultural resources as:

- Sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that are included or determined to be eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources, or included in a local register of historical resources; or

- 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 [i.e., eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources].

Under AB 52, when a tribe requests consultation with a CEQA lead agency on projects within its traditionally and culturally affiliated geographical area, the lead agency must provide the tribe with notice of a proposed project within 14 days of a project application being deemed complete or when the lead agency decides to undertake the project if it's the agency's own project. The tribe has up to 30 days to respond to the notice and request consultation; if consultation is requested, then the local agency has up to 30 days to initiate consultation.

San Joaquin County provided AB 52 notice of the proposed project and on March 5, 2020, the Community Development Department received a response from the Northern Valley Yokuts Tribe requesting more information regarding the proposed excavation, specifically pertaining to cultural resources. On March 25, 2020, the applicant met with the Tribe and agreed to provide notice to the tribe prior to the commencement of excavation and periodic spot checks throughout the mining activity. Additionally, that applicant has agreed to the following Tribal Cultural Resources mitigation measure to

reduce any potential impacts on Tribal Cultural resources to a less than significant level. These measures will be incorporated into the project's Conditions of Approval.

3.18.2 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

a, b) Tribal Cultural Resources

In the event that tribal cultural resources, human burials, or scattered human remains are found during demolition, the implementation of the following mitigation measures would reduce potential impacts on tribal cultural resources to a less than significant level.

> **TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES:** The applicant shall retain a qualified archaeologist to conduct testing of the proposed construction area for potential cultural resources, including tribal cultural resources. If any subsurface historical, archaeological, or paleontological resources, including human burials and associated funerary objects, are encountered during construction, all construction activities within a 50-foot radius of the encounter shall be immediately halted until a qualified archaeologist and/or paleontologist can examine these materials, initially evaluate their significance and, if potentially significant, recommend measures on the disposition of the resource. The project applicant shall be immediately notified in the event of a discovery, and if burial resources or tribal cultural resources are discovered, the project applicant shall notify the appropriate Native American representatives. The contractor shall be responsible for retaining qualified professionals, implementing recommended mitigation measures and documenting mitigation efforts in written reports to the project applicant.
>
> (1) The project applicant shall permit the Northern Valley Yokuts tribe, which has geographical and cultural connections to the project site, to a pre-excavation inspection of the project site.
>
> (2) The project applicant shall permit the Northern Valley Yokuts tribe to perform spot inspections of the project site during the excavation process.
>
> (3) If project construction encounters evidence of human burial or scattered human remains, the contractor shall immediately notify the County Coroner and the project applicant, which shall in turn notify the Yokuts tribal representative. The project applicant shall notify other federal and State agencies as required.
>
> (4) If tribal cultural resources other than human remains and associated funerary objects are encountered, the project applicant shall be immediately notified of the find, and shall notify the Yokuts tribal representative.

3.19 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Exceed wastewater treatment requirements of the applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board?				√
b) Require or result in the construction of new water or wastewater treatment facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?				√
c) Require or result in the construction of new stormwater drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?			√	
d) Are sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?				√
e) Has the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project determined that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?				√
f) Is the project served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?			√	
g) Comply with federal, state and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste?			√	

3.19.1 Environmental Setting

The project site is located in an unincorporated area of San Joaquin County devoted to large-scale agriculture, which lacks any substantial population. The project site and vicinity are not serviced by any existing water district, irrigation district, domestic water providers, wastewater treatment facilities or stormwater drainage providers. Electrical and communication facilities are available from overhead utilities along project area roads.

Solid waste collection in the San Joaquin County is handled by a franchise collector. Wastes are transported to the Covanta Waste to Energy Facility in Crows Landing and/or the Forward Inc. landfill in south Stockton.

3.19.2 Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

a, b, e) Wastewater Systems

The project will involve no wastewater demand. Therefore, the project would have no effect related to wastewater systems.

d) Water Systems and Supply

The proposed project would not involve any domestic water demand. Therefore, the project would have no effect related to potable water systems. Non-potable water would be drawn from nearby Whiskey Slough for dust control purposes.

c) Storm Water Systems

The project will involve sand removal and re-grading of the site for agricultural use. Other than reducing the permeability of the sandy soil areas, the project would have no effect on runoff from the project site or demand for storm drainage. Impacts related to storm water would be less than significant.

f, g) Solid Waste Services

The project is unlikely to create any substantial solid waste. If debris is generated, it would be in small relative amounts and would be disposed on-site if feasible pursuant to applicable regulations or removed and transported to one of the available sanitary landfills in San Joaquin County. Impacts related to solid waste would be less than significant.

3.20 WILDFIRE

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?			√	
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?			√	
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?			√	

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

NARRATIVE DISCUSSION

Environmental Setting

Wildland fires are an annual hazard in San Joaquin County. Wildland fires burn natural vegetation on undeveloped lands and include rangeland, brush, and grass fires. Long, hot, and dry summers with temperatures often exceeding 100°F add to the county's fire hazard. Human activities are the major causes of wildland fires, while lightning causes the remaining wildland fires. High hazard areas for wildland fires are the grass-covered areas in the east and the southwest foothills of the county (San Joaquin County 2016b).

The Fire and Resource Assessment Program, managed by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire), identifies fire threat based on a combination of two factors: 1) fire frequency, or the likelihood of a given area burning, and 2) potential fire behavior (hazard). These two factors are combined in determining the following Fire Hazard Severity Zones: Moderate, High, Very High, Extreme. These zones are mapped for two separate areas: State Responsibility Areas are where the State of California is financially responsible for the prevention and suppression of wildfires, while Local Responsibility Areas are where fire protection is typically provided by city fire departments, fire protection districts, counties, or by Cal Fire under contract to local government (Cal Fire 2007).

The project site is not within a State Responsibility Area and has not been placed in a Fire Hazard Severity Zone. The area surrounding the project site is likewise not in any designated fire hazard zone.

Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

a) Emergency Response and Emergency Evacuation Plans.

As discussed in Section 3.9, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, project operations would not obstruct emergency vehicles or any evacuations that may occur in the area. Impacts of the revised project related to emergency response or evacuations would be less than significant.

b) Exposure of Project Occupants to Wildfire Hazards.

The project site is not part of a State Responsibility Area. It is within an agricultural area that is not in a Fire Hazard Severity Zone as identified by Cal Fire. The project site is not within an area the County General Plan identifies as having a high wildfire risk. The nearest wildlands are along Whiskey Slough, less than one mile to the west. Trees and other wildland along this segment of Whiskey Slough is limited, so fires and smoke produced by them would likewise be limited. In addition, only employees of the extraction operation would be potentially exposed to smoke, and these employees can be

evacuated from the project site without difficulty. Project impacts would be less than significant.

c) Installation and Maintenance of Infrastructure.

The project proposes a sand extraction operation. The project would not require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure that may exacerbate fire risk. As discussed in b) above, the project site is not in an area at high wildfire risk. Project impacts would be less than significant.

d) Risks from Runoff, Post-Fire Slope Instability, or Drainage Changes.

The project site is in a topographically flat area in the center of a valley region. The project site is not located near foothills, and no streams from the foothill region traverse the project site. As such, it is not expected that the project site would be exposed to significant risks from changes resulting from fires in steeper areas, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides. Project impacts would be less than significant.

3.21 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

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

a) Findings on Biological and Cultural Resources.

The proposed project would not degrade or substantially reduce the habitat or effect any fish or wildlife species, or impact any rare, threatened, or endangered plant or animals, or

eliminate important examples of the major periods of California. The project will participate in the San Joaquin County Multi-Species Open Space and Habitat Conservation Plan, which will reduce potential biological effects to a less than significant level. If cultural resources are inadvertently affected, any potential impacts will be reduced to less than significant with mitigation measures. The proposed project would have no impacts on these resources.

b) Findings on Cumulatively Considerable Impacts.

The project itself is not expected to result in any substantial adverse environmental effects; the project site is developed agricultural land that will be reclaimed to agricultural use after the excavation of the sand on site. The lands surrounding the project site have been subject to sand removal and successfully reclaimed to agriculture. Thus, the project would not involve any cumulatively adverse agriculture impact. Impacts that have been determined in this Initial Study to be less than significant are not in an amount that, when combined with other projects in San Joaquin County, would be considered cumulatively considerable. No other projects have been identified that would involve environmental effects similar to the proposed project and with which the project's effects could combine.

c) Findings on Adverse Effects on Human Beings

Potential adverse effects on human beings were discussed in Section 3.8, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, however these adverse effects are not considered substantial. The project would have no other known substantial adverse impacts on human beings.

4.0 REFERENCES

4.1 DOCUMENT PREPARERS

This IS/MND was prepared by BaseCamp Environmental, Inc. The following persons were involved in preparation of the IS/MND:

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4.4 PERSONS CONSULTED

Reeves, Roy. Owner. Reeves Sand and Gravel.

5.0 NOTES RELATED TO 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. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:

   a) Earlier Analyses Used: Identify and state where they are available for review.

   b) Impacts Adequately Addressed: Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.

   c) Mitigation Measures: For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures, which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document, and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.

6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a

previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.

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

8) The checklist in CEQA Guidelines Appendix G 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.