



Negative Declaration

Pursuant to Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3, Article 6, Sections 15070 and 15071 of the California Code of Regulations and pursuant to the Procedures for Preparation and Processing of Environmental Documents adopted by the County of Sacramento pursuant to Sacramento County Ordinance No. SCC-116, the Environmental Coordinator of Sacramento County, State of California, does prepare, make, declare, publish, and cause to be filed with the County Clerk of Sacramento County, State of California, this Negative Declaration re: The Project described as follows:

1. **Control Number: PLNP2020-00003**
2. **Title and Short Description of Project:** 7001 Garden Highway
Development Plan Review for a new single-family residence within the boundaries of the Garden Highway SPA for a 0.7 acre property.
Design Review to comply with the Countywide Design Guidelines.
3. **Assessor's Parcel Number:** 201-0260-017-0000, 201-0260-018-0000
4. **Location of Project:** The project site is located at 7001 Garden Highway, on the Sacramento River in the unincorporated Natomas Community in Sacramento County.
5. **Project Applicant:** Indie Capital, Inc.
6. Said project will not have a significant effect on the environment for the following reasons:
 - a. It will not 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. It will not have the potential to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of long-term, environmental goals.
 - c. It will not have impacts, which are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable.
 - d. It will not have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.
7. As a result thereof, the preparation of an environmental impact report pursuant to the Environmental Quality Act (Division 13 of the Public Resources Code of the State of California) is not required.
8. The attached Initial Study has been prepared by the Sacramento Office of County Planning and Environmental Review in support of this Negative Declaration. Further information may be obtained by contacting the Office Planning and Environmental Review at 827 Seventh Street, Room 225, Sacramento, California, 95814, or phone (916) 874-6141.

[Original Signature on File]

Todd Smith

Interim Environmental Coordinator
County of Sacramento, State of California

COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
OFFICE OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW
INITIAL STUDY

PROJECT INFORMATION

CONTROL NUMBER: PLNP2020-00003

NAME: 7001 Garden Highway

LOCATION: The project site is located at 7001 Garden Highway, on the Sacramento River in the unincorporated Natomas Community in Sacramento County.

ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NUMBER: 201-0260-017-0000, 201-0260-018-0000

OWNER/APPLICANT: Indie Capital, Inc. Attn: Erica Cunningham
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(916) 835-5088

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1. **Development Plan Review** for a new single-family residence within the boundaries of the Garden Highway SPA for a 0.7 acre property.
2. **Design Review** to comply with the Countywide Design Guidelines.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

7001 Garden Highway is an undeveloped parcel in the Garden Highway SPA. The property is bound by the Sacramento River to the west, includes the Sacramento River East Levee, and is bordered by parcels containing single family homes on the north and south. The parcel is subject to periodic, temporary flooding of the Sacramento River and includes dense tree coverage. The lot contains several native oaks.

Plate IS-1: County Map

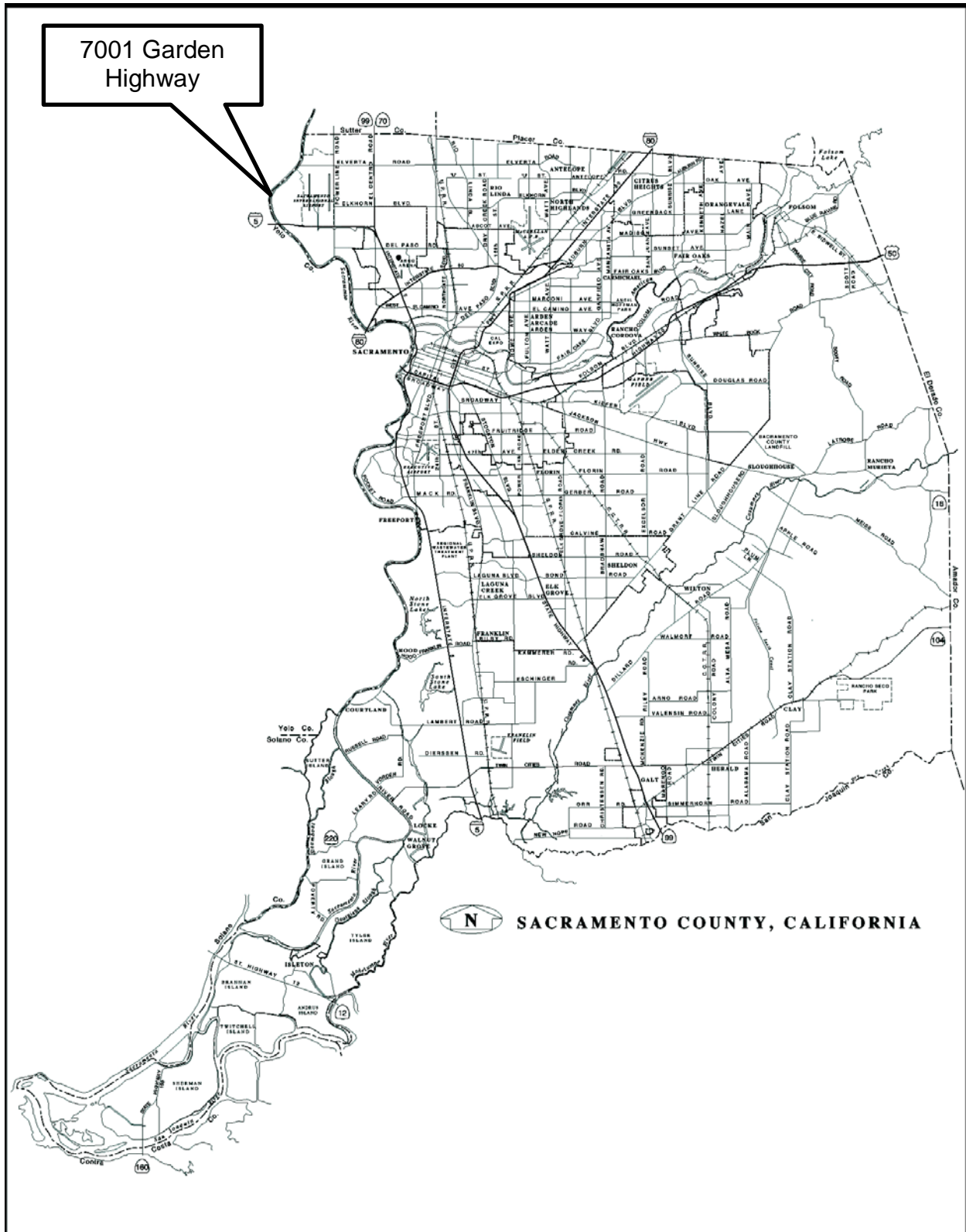


Plate IS-2: Location Map

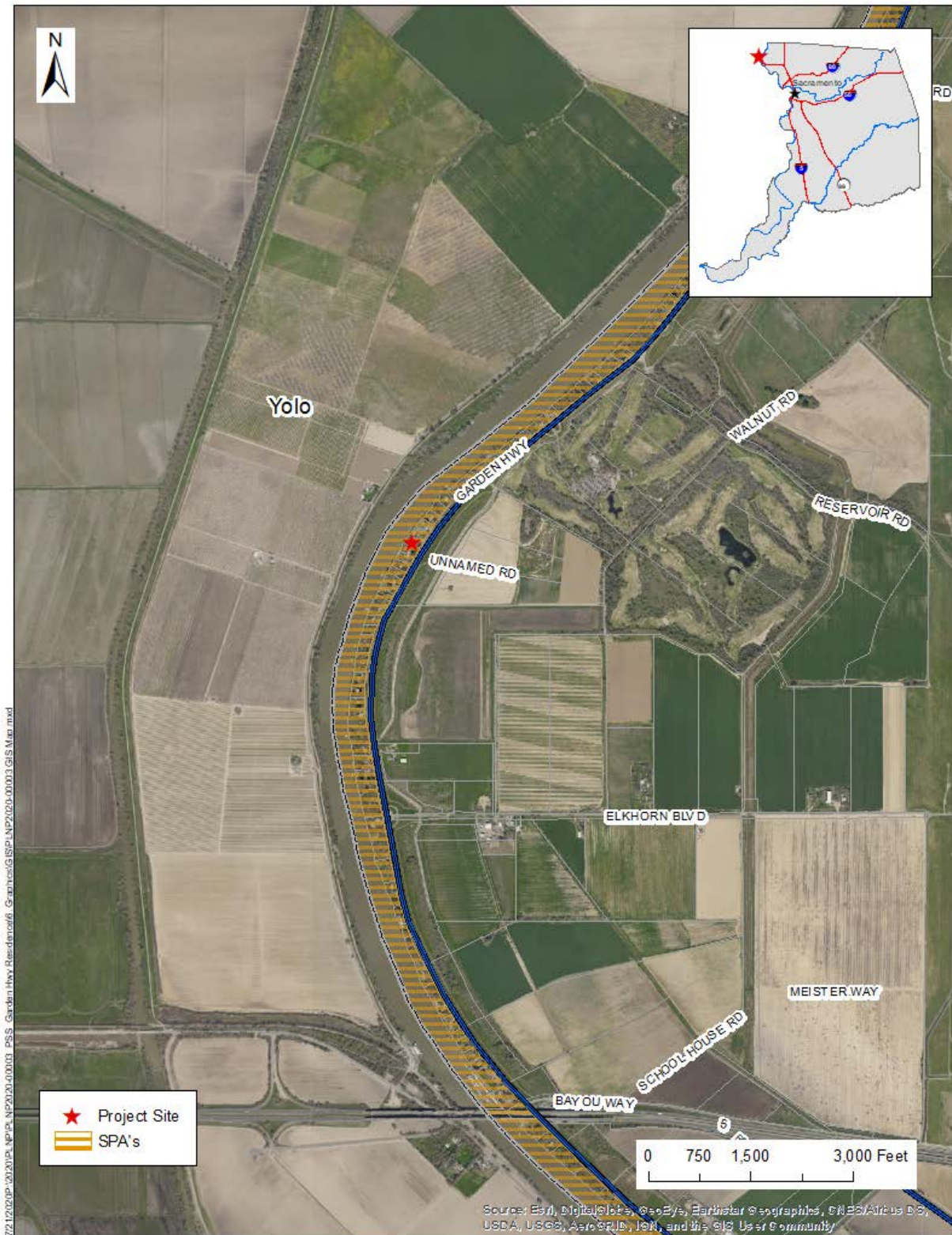


Plate IS-3: Aerial Map

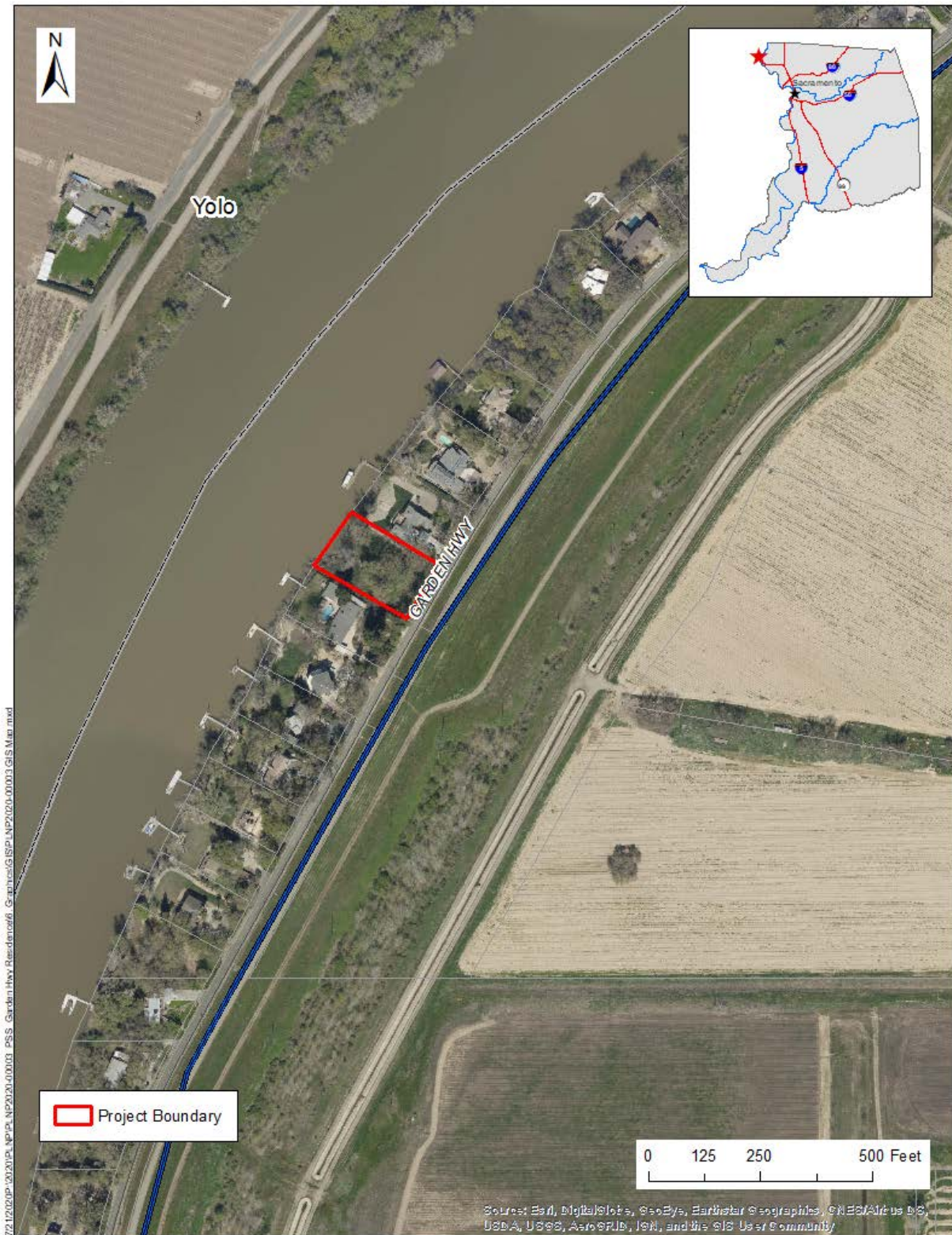
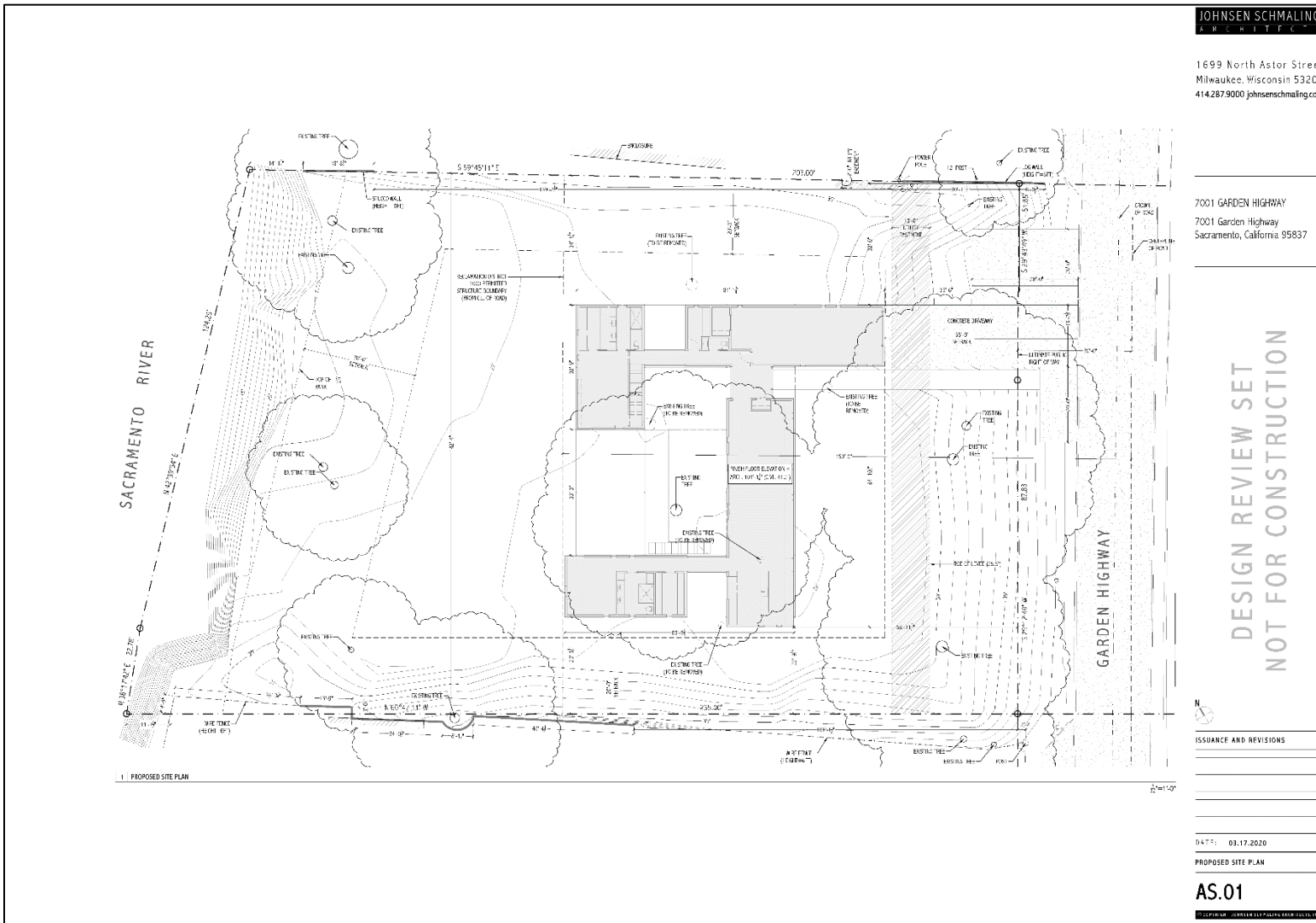


Plate IS-4: Site Plan



ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

Appendix G of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) provides guidance for assessing the significance of potential environmental impacts. Based on this guidance, Sacramento County has developed an Initial Study Checklist (located at the end of this report). The Checklist identifies a range of potential significant effects by topical area. The topical discussions that follow are provided only when additional analysis beyond the Checklist is warranted.

BACKGROUND

The application is subject to planning entitlements from Sacramento County for compliance with the Garden Highway Special Planning Area (SPA).

Prior to the County entitlement process, the applicant coordinated with the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB) to conduct geotechnical testing on the parcel. The Sacramento River East Levee is located on the subject parcel is a United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Civil Work. Permission to implement the project on a Civil Work must be obtained from the USACE pursuant to compliance with Section 14 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899, codified at 33 United States Code (USC) 408 (Section 408). Construction on the parcel is also subject to permitting from the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB).

AESTHETICS

This section supplements the Initial Study Checklist by analyzing if the proposed project would:

- Substantially alter existing viewsheds such as scenic highways, corridors or vistas?

The Garden Highway is identified as a scenic corridor in the Circulation Element of the General Plan. To preserve and enhance the scenic qualities of the scenic corridor, which runs along the crown of the Sacramento River levee from the Sacramento City limits north to the Placer County line, the Garden Highway SPA includes development standards that must be met for new construction. Compliance with the development standards, which permit residential development on the river side of the level, include specifications for setbacks and height limits, and encourage vegetative screening of homes along the corridor will preserve the quiet residential atmosphere of the corridor. Therefore, impacts to aesthetics will be ***less than significant***.

AIRPORTS

This section supplements the Initial Study Checklist by analyzing if the proposed project would:

- Expose people residing or working in the project area to aircraft noise levels in excess of applicable standards?

The proposed project is located within the Sacramento International Airport Policy Planning Area. Although the project will be constructed outside of the 60 Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) noise contour, the new single family home shall be insulated to 45 dB CNELs. Additionally, an Aviation Easement shall be recorded by the Sacramento County Recorder's Office for the deed and the California Department of Real Estate shall disclose the easement with prospective buyers (August McNab, 1/24/2020). Compliance with these Department of Airports Conditions of Approval will ensure that **impacts are less than significant**.

HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

This section supplements the Initial Study Checklist by analyzing if the proposed project would:

- Develop within a 100-year floodplain as mapped on a federal Flood Insurance Rate Map or within a local flood hazard area?
- Place structures that would impede or redirect flood flows within a 100-year floodplain?
- Develop in an area that is subject to 200 year urban levels of flood protection (ULOP)?
- Expose people or structures to a substantial risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?

HYDROLOGY

The project is located in the 100-year floodplain (Flood Zone AE) in the Natomas Basin. Prior to the issuance of a building permit, the proposed structure shall meet minimum floor elevation (100-year and 200-year), levee setback, and other applicable requirements set forth by the current Sacramento County Floodplain Management Ordinance (Michael Durkee, Department of Water Resources, 02/03/2020). Grading or improvement plans, if required, shall comply with current Improvement Standards and Floodplain Management Ordinance, all applicable requirements set forth by the latest version of the Stormwater Quality Design Manual for the Sacramento Region, and applicable state and federal law. Therefore, impacts to the hydrology of the Natomas basin will be **less than significant**.

WATER QUALITY

The following discussion describes the Stormwater Ordinance, best management practices for erosion control, and design requirements to prevent and manage stormwater runoff. Issuance of a building permit is dependent on adherence with these measures.

CONSTRUCTION WATER QUALITY: EROSION AND GRADING

Construction on undeveloped land exposes bare soil, which can be mobilized by rain or wind and displaced into waterways or become an air pollutant. Construction equipment can also track mud and dirt onto roadways, where rains will wash the sediment into storm drains and thence into surface waters. After construction is complete, various other pollutants generated by site use can also be washed into local waterways. These pollutants include; but are not limited to: vehicle fluids, heavy metals deposited by vehicles, and pesticides or fertilizers used in landscaping.

Sacramento County has a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Stormwater Permit issued by Regional Water Board. The Municipal Stormwater Permit requires the County to reduce pollutants in stormwater discharges to the maximum extent practicable and to effectively prohibit non-stormwater discharges. The County complies with this permit in part by developing and enforcing ordinances and requirements to reduce the discharge of sediments and other pollutants in runoff from newly developing and redeveloping areas of the County.

The County has established a Stormwater Ordinance (Sacramento County Code 15.12). The Stormwater Ordinance prohibits the discharge of unauthorized non-stormwater to the County's stormwater conveyance system and local creeks. It applies to all private and public projects in the County, regardless of size or land use type. In addition, Sacramento County Code 16.44 (Land Grading and Erosion Control) requires private construction sites disturbing one or more acres or moving 350 cubic yards or more of earthen material to obtain a grading permit. To obtain a grading permit, project proponents must prepare and submit for approval an Erosion and Sediment Control (ESC) Plan describing erosion and sediment control best management practices (BMPs) that will be implemented during construction to prevent sediment from leaving the site and entering the County's storm drain system or local receiving waters. Construction projects not subject to SCC 16.44 are subject to the Stormwater Ordinance (SCC 15.12) described above.

In addition to complying with the County's ordinances and requirements, construction sites disturbing one or more acres are required to comply with the State's General Stormwater Permit for Construction Activities (CGP). CGP coverage is issued by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/construction.shtml and enforced by the Regional Water Board. Coverage is obtained by submitting a Notice of Intent (NOI) to the State Board prior to construction and verified by receiving a WDID#. The CGP requires preparation and implementation of a site-specific Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) that must be kept on site at all times for review by the State inspector.

Applicable projects applying for a County grading permit must show proof that a WDID # has been obtained and must submit a copy of the SWPPP. Although the County has no enforcement authority related to the CGP, the County does have the authority to ensure sediment/pollutants are not discharged and is required by its Municipal Stormwater Permit to verify that SWPPPs include the minimum components.

The project must include an effective combination of erosion, sediment and other pollution control BMPs in compliance with the County ordinances and the State's CGP.

Erosion controls should always be the *first line of defense*, to keep soil from being mobilized in wind and water. Examples include stabilized construction entrances, tackified mulch, 3-step hydroseeding, spray-on soil stabilizers and anchored blankets. Sediment controls are the *second line of defense*; they help to filter sediment out of runoff before it reaches the storm drains and local waterways. Examples include rock bags to protect storm drain inlets, staked or weighted straw wattles/fiber rolls, and silt fences.

In addition to erosion and sediment controls, the project must have BMPs in place to keep other construction-related wastes and pollutants out of the storm drains. Such practices include, but are not limited to: filtering water from dewatering operations, providing proper washout areas for concrete trucks and stucco/paint contractors, containing wastes, managing portable toilets properly, and dry sweeping instead of washing down dirty pavement.

It is the responsibility of the project proponent to verify that the proposed BMPs for the project are appropriate for the unique site conditions, including topography, soil type and anticipated volumes of water entering and leaving the site during the construction phase. In particular, the project proponent should check for the presence of colloidal clay soils on the site. Experience has shown that these soils do not settle out with conventional sedimentation and filtration BMPs. The project proponent may wish to conduct settling column tests in addition to other soils testing on the site, to ascertain whether conventional BMPs will work for the project.

If sediment-laden or otherwise polluted runoff discharges from the construction site are found to impact the County's storm drain system and/or Waters of the State, the property owner will be subject to enforcement action and possible fines by the County and the Regional Water Board.

Project compliance with requirements outlined above, as administered by the County and the Regional Water Board will ensure that project-related erosion and pollution impacts are ***less than significant***.

OPERATION: STORMWATER RUNOFF

Development and urbanization can increase pollutant loads, temperature, volume and discharge velocity of runoff over the predevelopment condition. The increased volume, increased velocity, and discharge duration of stormwater runoff from developed areas has the potential to greatly accelerate downstream erosion and impair stream habitat in natural drainage systems. Studies have demonstrated a direct correlation between the degree of imperviousness of an area and the degradation of its receiving waters. These impacts must be mitigated by requiring appropriate runoff reduction and pollution prevention controls to minimize runoff and keep runoff clean for the life of the project.

The County requires that projects include source and/or treatment control measures on selected new development and redevelopment projects. Source control BMPs are intended to keep pollutants from contacting site runoff. Examples include “No Dumping-Drains to Creek/River” stencils/stamps on storm drain inlets to educate the public, and providing roofs over areas likely to contain pollutants, so that rainfall does not contact the pollutants. Treatment control measures are intended to remove pollutants that have already been mobilized in runoff. Examples include vegetated swales and water quality detention basins. These facilities slow water down and allow sediments and pollutants to settle out prior to discharge to receiving waters. Additionally, vegetated facilities provide filtration and pollutant uptake/adsorption. The project proponent should consider the use of “low impact development” techniques to reduce the amount of imperviousness on the site, since this will reduce the volume of runoff and therefore will reduce the size/cost of stormwater quality treatment required. Examples of low impact development techniques include pervious pavement and bioretention facilities.

The County requires developers to utilize the *Stormwater Quality Design Manual for the Sacramento Region, 2018* (Design Manual) in selecting and designing post-construction facilities to treat runoff from the project. Regardless of project type or size, developers are required to implement the minimum source control measures (Chapter 4 of the Design Manual). Low impact development measures and Treatment Control Measures are required of all projects exceeding the impervious surface threshold defined in Table 3-2 and 3-3 of the Design Manual. Further, depending on project size and location, hydromodification control measures may be required (Chapter 5 of the Design Manual).

Updates and background on the County’s requirements for post-construction stormwater quality treatment controls, along with several downloadable publications, can be found at the following websites:

<http://www.waterresources.saccounty.net/stormwater/Pages/default.aspx>

<http://www.beriverfriendly.net/Newdevelopment/>

The final selection and design of post-construction stormwater quality control measures is subject to the approval of the County Department of Water Resources; therefore, they should be contacted as early as possible in the design process for guidance. Project compliance with requirements outlined above will ensure that project-related stormwater pollution impacts are ***less than significant***.

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

This section supplements the Initial Study Checklist by analyzing if the proposed project would:

- Have a substantial adverse effect on any special status species, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, or threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community?

- Have a substantial adverse effect on riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities?
- Have a substantial adverse effect on streams, wetlands, or other surface waters that are protected by federal, state, or local regulations and policies?
- Adversely affect or result in the removal of native or landmark trees?

SWAINSON'S HAWK AND NESTING RAPTORS

The Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*) is listed as a threatened species by the State of California and is a candidate for federal listing as threatened or endangered. It is a migratory raptor typically nesting in or near valley floor riparian habitats during spring and summer months. Swainson's hawks were once common throughout the state, but various habitat changes, including the loss of nesting habitat (trees) and the loss of foraging habitat through the conversion of native Central Valley grasslands to certain incompatible agricultural and urban uses has caused an estimated 90% decline in their population.

Swainson's hawks feed primarily upon small mammals, birds, and insects. Their typical foraging habitat includes native grasslands, alfalfa and other hay crops that provide suitable habitat for small mammals. Certain other row crops and open habitats also provide some foraging habitat. The availability of productive foraging habitat near a Swainson's hawk's nest site is a critical requirement for nesting and fledgling success. In central California, about 85% of Swainson's hawk nests are within riparian forest or remnant riparian trees. CEQA analysis of impacts to Swainson's hawks consists of separate analyses of impacts to nesting habitat and foraging habitat.

The CEQA analysis provides a means by which to ascertain impacts to the Swainson's hawk. When the analysis identifies impacts, mitigation measures are established that will reduce impacts to the species to a less than significant level. Project proponents are cautioned that the mitigation measures are designed to reduce impacts and do not constitute an incidental take permit under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). Anyone who directly or incidentally takes a Swainson's hawk, even when in compliance with mitigation measures established pursuant to CEQA, may violate the California Endangered Species Act.

NESTING HABITAT IMPACT METHODOLOGY

For determining impacts to and establishing mitigation for nesting Swainson's hawks in Sacramento County, CDFW recommends utilizing the methodology set forth in the Recommended Timing and Methodology for Swainson's Hawk nesting Surveys in California's Central Valley (Swainson's Hawk TAC 2000). The document recommends that surveys be conducted for the two survey periods immediately prior to the **start of construction**. The five survey periods are defined by the timing of migration, courtship, and nesting in a typical year (refer to Table IS-1).

Table IS-1: Recommended Survey Periods for Swainson’s Hawk (TAC 2000)

Period #	Timeframe	# of surveys required	Notes
I.	Jan. 1 – Mar. 20	1	Optional, but recommended
II.	Mar. 20 – Apr. 5	3	
III.	Apr. 5 – Apr. 20	3	
IV.	Apr. 21 – June 10	N/A	Initiating surveys is not recommended during this period
V.	June 10 – July 30	3	

For example, if a project is scheduled to begin on June 20, three surveys should be completed in Period III and three surveys in Period V, as surveys should not be initiated in Period IV. It is always recommended that surveys be completed in Periods II, III and V.

The project site is located in a Riparian area along the Sacramento River known as a potential nesting area for Swainson’s hawk. The rural project site is adjacent to, but does not include, agricultural fields on the east side of Garden Highway that may serve as foraging habitat. If construction will occur during the nesting season of March 1 to September 15, mitigation for Swainson’s hawk and other nesting raptors involves pre-construction nesting surveys in accordance with Table 1 above to identify any active nests and to implement avoidance measures if nests are found. The number of surveys employed will be dependent on the proposed construction date of the single family home. According to the *Recommended Timing and Methodology for Swainson’s Hawk Nesting Surveys in California’s Central Valley*, prepared by the Swainson’s Hawk Technical Advisory Committee (May 2000), the risk for impacts to nesting birds is lower in environments near roadways and areas that have high human use. The purpose of the survey requirement is to ensure that construction activities do not agitate or harm nesting raptors, potentially resulting in nest abandonment or other harm to nesting success. If nests are found, the developer is required to contact California Fish and Wildlife to determine what measures need to be implemented in order to ensure that nesting raptors remain undisturbed. The measures selected will depend on many variables, including the distance of activities from the nest, the types of activities, and whether the landform between the nest and activities provides any kind of natural screening. If no active nests are found during the focused survey, no further mitigation will be required. With nesting survey mitigation, impacts to nesting raptors are ***less than significant***.

MIGRATORY NESTING BIRDS

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, which states “unless and except as permitted by regulations, it shall be unlawful at any time, by any means or in any manner, to pursue, hunt, take, capture, kill, attempt to take, capture, or kill” a migratory bird. Section 3(18) of the Federal Endangered Species Act defines the term “take” means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. Causing a bird to abandon an active nest may cause harm to egg(s) or chick(s) and is considered “take.”

Large trees in the project vicinity and along the American River provide potential nesting habitat for migratory birds. To avoid take of nesting migratory birds, mitigation has been included either to require that activities occur outside of the nesting season, or to require that nests be buffered from construction activities until the nesting season is concluded. Impacts to migratory birds are ***less than significant***.

NATIVE TREES

Sacramento County has identified the value of its native and landmark trees and has adopted measures for their preservation. The Tree Ordinance (Chapter 19.04 and 19.12 of the County Code) provides protections for landmark trees and heritage trees. The County Code defines a landmark tree as “an especially prominent or stately tree on any land in Sacramento County, including privately owned land” and a heritage tree as “native oak trees that are at or over 19” diameter at breast height (dbh).” Chapter 19.12 of the County Code, titled Tree Preservation and Protection, defines native oak trees as valley oak (*Quercus lobata*), interior live oak (*Quercus wislizenii*), blue oak (*Quercus douglasii*), or oracle oak (*Quercus morehus*) and states that “it shall be the policy of the County to preserve all trees possible through its development review process.” It should be noted that to be considered a tree, as opposed to a seedling or sapling, the tree must have a diameter at breast height (dbh) of at least 6 inches or, if it has multiple trunks of less than 6 inches each, a combined dbh of 10 inches. The Sacramento County General Plan Conservation Element policies CO-138 and CO-139 also provide protections for native trees:

CO-138. Protect and preserve non-oak native trees along riparian areas if used by Swainson’s Hawk, as well as landmark and native oak trees measuring a minimum of 6 inches in diameter or 10 inches aggregate for multi-trunk trees at 4.5 feet above ground.

CO-139. Native trees other than oaks, which cannot be protected through development, shall be replaced with in-kind species in accordance with established tree planting specifications, the combined diameter of which shall equal the combined diameter of the trees removed.

Native trees other than oaks include Fremont cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*), California sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*), California black walnut (*Juglans californica*, which is also a List 1B plant), Oregon ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*), western redbud (*Cercis occidentalis*), gray pine (*Pinus sabiniana*), California white alder (*Alnus rhombifolia*), boxelder (*Acer negundo*), California buckeye (*Aesculus californica*), narrowleaf willow

(*Salix exigua*), Gooding's willow (*Salix gooddingii*), red willow (*Salix laevigata*), arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*), shining willow (*Salix lucida*), Pacific willow (*Salix lasiandra*), and dusky willow (*Salix melanopsis*).

SITE SPECIFIC ANALYSIS

The project site has a moderate to dense tree cover Plate IS-5. An arborist report and tree inventory was prepared by Arborwell, Inc. in October 2018 for the 14 trees located on-site Table IS-2. The tree inventory and updated arborist reports are located at: <https://planningdocuments.saccounty.net/projectdetails.aspx?projectID=6749&communityID=6>

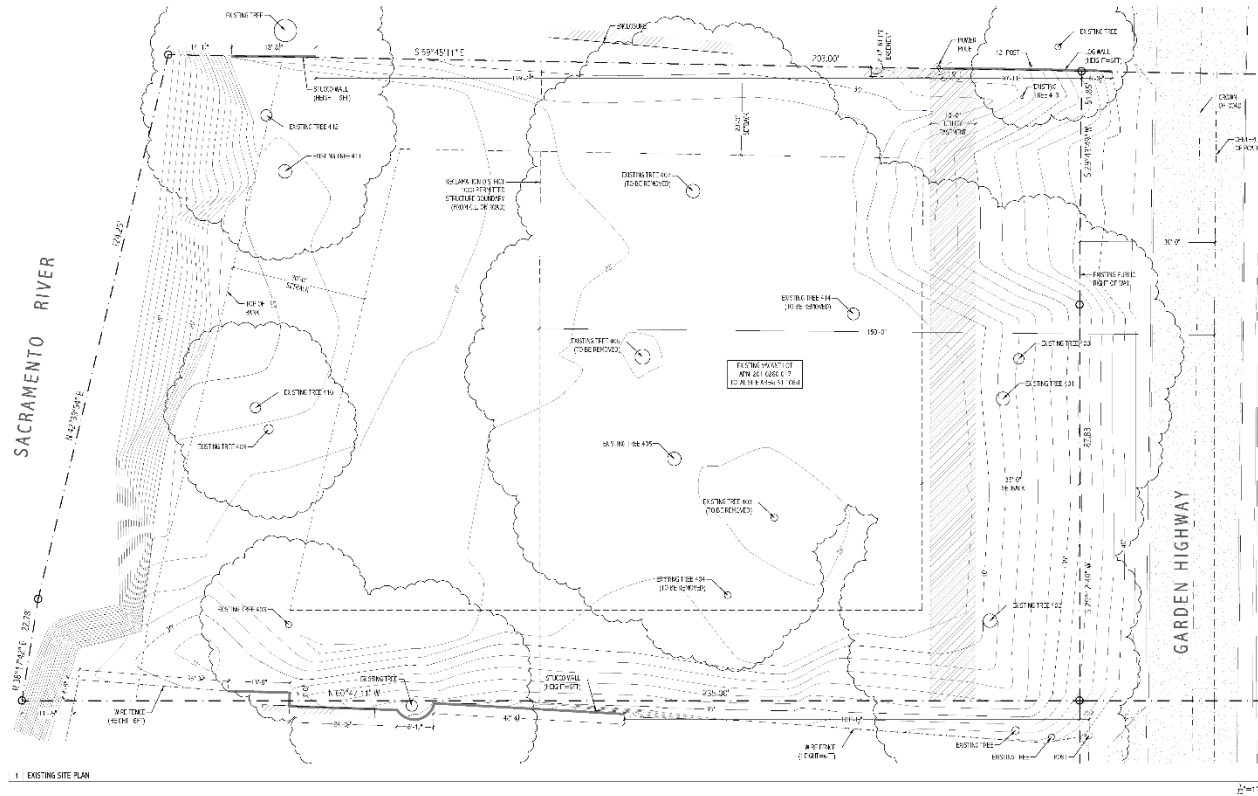
A total of six trees will be removed for construction of the single family house in the center of the lot. Two are non-native trees, which do not require mitigation. Four Valley oaks (tree numbers 406, 407, 413, and 414) will also be removed. No mitigation is required for the removal of tree numbers 407 and 414, which are in poor health. Finally, tree number 405 will be retained, but, construction of the house will encroach upon more than 20% of the tree's dripline. Mitigation is required for encroachment of more than 20% of a native oak. The tree impacts table highlights those trees for which mitigation is required Table IS-2. A total of 87.8 inches DBH will be impacted by construction.

Plate IS-5: Tree Site Plan

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DESIGN REVIEW SET
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

ISSUANCE AND REVISIONS

DATE: 10.13.2020
EXISTING SITE PLAN

AS.00

Table IS-2: Project Site Trees

Species	Common Name	Number On Site	Protected Native Tree?
<i>Salix babylonica</i>	Willow	4	No
<i>Nyssasylvatica</i>	Tupelo	2	No
<i>Quercus wislizeni</i>	Interior live oak	1	Yes
<i>Quercus lobata</i>	Valley oak	7	Yes

Table IS-3: Native Oaks to be Removed

Tree No.	Condition	DBH in inches
403	Non-native. Critical health: Central leader has broken off the tree. Immediate removal is recommended.	
404	Non-native. Critical health: Tree has a major trunk wound.	
405	Valley oak. Excellent health: tree has a lot of adventitious growth with excellent structure.	39.3
406	Valley oak. Fair health: tree has deadwood, which should be pruned out. There is a minor trunk wound that should be monitored for decay. This tree has leaf rust, which should be treated after construction is completed.	39.7
407	Valley oak. Poor health: tree has poor structure including a significant lean and co-dominant leaders with included bark. Removal is recommended. There is dieback and major deadwood and dieback within the canopy and epicormic growth throughout.	
413	Valley oak. Good health: tree is in excellent condition with adventitious growth and good structure.	8.8
414	Valley oak. Poor health: Tree is in very poor condition with nearly a complete lack of adventitious growth. The tree has very poor structure with a significant lean and included bark at co-dominant leaders. Trunk wound is present. Removal is recommended.	

Other trees may be slightly encroached upon with pier footings, but the impact to the trees from the footings is minimal. Mitigation is also included to protect native oak trees during construction. Therefore, with mitigation, impacts associated with the removal of native trees are ***less than significant***.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

This section supplements the Initial Study Checklist by analyzing if the proposed project would:

- Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource?
- Have a substantial adverse effect on an archaeological resource?
- Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

Under CEQA, lead agencies must consider the effects of projects on historical resources and archaeological resources. A “historical resource” is defined as a resource listed in, or determined to be eligible for listing in, the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR), a resource included in a local register of historical resources, and any object, building, structure, site, area, place, record, or manuscript which a lead agency determines to be historically significant (Section 15064.5[a] of the Guidelines). Public Resources Code (PRC) Section 5042.1 requires that any properties that can be expected to be directly or indirectly affected by a proposed project be evaluated for CRHR eligibility. Impacts to historical resources that materially impair those characteristics that convey its historical significance and justify its inclusion or eligibility for the NRHP or CRHR are considered a significant effect on the environment (CEQA guidelines 15064.5)).

In addition to historically significant resources, an archeological site may meet the definition of a “unique archeological resource” as defined in PRC Section 21083.2(g). If unique archaeological resources cannot be preserved in place or left in an undisturbed state, mitigation measures shall be required (PRC Section 21083.2 (c)).

CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 (e) outlines the steps the lead agency shall take in the event of an accidental discovery of human remains in any location other than a dedicated cemetery.

CULTURAL SETTING

A Cultural Resources Investigation was prepared for the project by Arsenault and Associates, dated June 8, 2020. The report was prepared to fulfill California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements for permitting by the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106) because the parcel includes the Sacramento River East Levee, a United States Army Corps (USACE) Civil Work. The following information and analysis is based on this report.

A search of records and historical information on file at the North Central Information Center (NCIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) was conducted in spring of 2020 for the project area and a 1/2 mile buffer. The records search identified 3 previously recorded resources within or directly adjacent to the project site: CA-SAC-1133, P-34-5225, and P-34-5251.

Table IS-4: Cultural Resources within or adjacent to the Subject Parcel

Trinomial	Primary No.	Type	Age
n/a	P-57-0132	Mixed Valley Oak Stand	Prehistoric/ Historic-Era
CA-SAC-1131H	P-34-3850	Single Family Property	Historic Era
CA-SAC-1132	P-34-3851	Habitation Site	Prehistoric
CA-SAC-1133*	P-34-3852	Habitation Site	Prehistoric
CA-SAC-1137/H	P-34-3856	Artifact Concentration	Prehistoric/ Historic-Era
CA-SAC-1148	P-34-4285	Habitation Site	Prehistoric
n/a	P-34-5225*	Tribal Cultural Landscape	Prehistoric/ Historic-Era
n/a	P-34-005251	Eastern Sacramento Levee	Historic Era

*The recorded Tribal Cultural Landscape (P-34-5225) is discussed below in the Tribal Cultural Resources section of this environmental document.

Site P-34-005251, the Eastern Sacramento Levee, was recorded by Melinda A. Peak in June 1997, is a historic era site. The levee was built to its current specifications between 1912 and 1916, although minor components were added after 1916 (Peak 1997; Wilson 2011). The levee's development was a part of a larger trend in the management of California's water ways and swamplands. The Jackson Report, delivered to congress in 1911, detailed the plan that eventually cumulated in the construction of the levee on which the project parcel is located. The site is significant at the state level for the period from 1911 to 1939 (Peak 1997) as an infrastructural system employed for flood control management.

On May 22, 2020, Arsenault and Associates conducted an intensive pedestrian survey and Extended Phase I (XPI) testing on the parcel to identify the horizontal extent of CA-SAC-1133 within the proposed geotechnical bore locations. The archaeologists walked parallel transects of 10 meter separation. Soil visibility ranged from 0-10. XPI excavations were limited to five 4-inch diameter manually excavated auger probes, four of which were conducted in the locations geotechnical bores are proposed and one in the center of the project area. Geologic materials recovered from the 300 centimeters below surface (approximately 9.8 feet) XPI excavations were reduced through a 1/8 inch (3.175 mm) wire mesh screen. The material obtained from the auger probes were negative for cultural material.

PROJECT IMPACTS

Although the levee (P-34-005251) is located on the subject parcel, the proposed project will not impact those character-defining features for which the historic era site is significant. The levee will remain in its original location and will continue to function in its intended capacity. The proposed driveway and parking pad will not structurally impact the levee. The Reclamation District 1000 (P-34-005251) is located immediately east of the subject parcel. The proposed project will not directly or indirectly impact the District. Therefore, the proposed project will not impact built or archaeological resources.

The XPI testing conducted prior to geotechnical testing of the site did not reveal culturally sensitive material. Although the testing was limited, it demonstrated that CA-SAC-1133 is not present at the limits (or in the center) of the proposed construction where the geotechnical boring will occur. Therefore, the proposed project will not impact a known archaeological site.

The project is unlikely to impact human remains buried outside of formal cemeteries; however, human remains have been discovered approximately 0.25 miles from the project site. If human remains are encountered during construction, mitigation is included specifying how to comply with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5 (e), Sections 5097.97 and 5097.98 of the State Public Resources Code, and Section 7050.5 of the State Health and Safety Code. Therefore, with mitigation, project impacts to cultural resources will be **less than significant**.

TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

This section supplements the Initial Study Checklist by analyzing if the proposed project would:

- 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 a cultural value to a California Native American tribe, that is:

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

Under PRC Section 21084.3, public agencies shall, when feasible, avoid damaging effects to any tribal cultural resource. California Native American tribes traditionally and

culturally affiliated with a geographic area may have expertise concerning their tribal cultural resources (21080.3.1(a)).

TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCE SETTING

Arsenault & Associates submitted a Sacred Lands File Search (SLFS) request to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on April 13, 2020. The NAHC responded on April 6, 2020 that there was a negative SLFS for the project site. Arsenault & Associates sent notification letters on behalf of the CVFPB and USACE to the tribes identified in the NAHC letter on April 13, 2020. In response to the notification letters, the United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC) requested consultation and provided tribal monitoring during Extended Phase 1 (XPI) testing at the site.

In support of the entitlements required to build within the Garden Highway SPA, the County sent notification letters to those tribes who had previously requested to be notified of Sacramento County projects as codified in Section 21080.3.1 of CEQA. The letters were sent via email on July 22, 2020. On August 4, 2020, Wilton Rancheria requested consultation. In communication with tribal representatives on August 20, 2020, Wilton stated that the project is located in an area sensitive to tribal cultural resources and is located in proximity to at least six known sites. Rather than conduct additional testing on the parcel, they have requested that a tribal monitor be present during ground disturbing work.

DISCUSSION OF PROJECT IMPACTS – TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

Through AB52 consultation with the County, Wilton Rancheria confirmed that the project area is highly sensitive to tribal cultural resources of significance. The tribes and lead agency mutually agreed that tribal cultural resources mitigation measures were appropriate and feasible for the project. With the monitoring in place, project impacts to tribal cultural resources will be ***less than significant***.

ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION MEASURES

MITIGATION MEASURE A: SWAINSON'S HAWK AND NESTING RAPTORS

If construction, grading, or project-related improvements are to commence between February 1 and September 15, focused surveys for Swainson's hawk nests shall be conducted by a qualified biologist within a ½-mile radius of project activities, in accordance with the Recommended Timing and Methodology for Swainson's Hawk Nesting Surveys in California's Central Valley (Swainson's Hawk TAC 2000). To meet the minimum level of protection for the species, surveys should be completed for the two survey periods immediately prior to commencement of construction activities in accordance with the 2000 TAC recommendations. If active nests are found, CDFW shall be contacted to determine appropriate protective measures, and these measures shall be implemented prior to the start of any ground-disturbing activities. If no active nests are found during the focused survey, no further mitigation will be required.

MITIGATION MEASURE B: MIGRATORY BIRD NEST PROTECTION

To avoid impacts to nesting migratory birds the following shall apply:

1. If construction activity (which includes clearing, grubbing, or grading) is to commence within 50 feet of nesting habitat between February 1 and August 31, a survey for active migratory bird nests shall be conducted no more than 14 day prior to construction by a qualified biologist.
2. Trees slated for removal shall be removed during the period of September through January, in order to avoid the nesting season. Any trees that are to be removed during the nesting season, which is February through August, shall be surveyed by a qualified biologist and will only be removed if no nesting migratory birds are found.
3. If active nest(s) are found in the survey area, a non-disturbance buffer, the size of which has been determined by a qualified biologist, shall be established and maintained around the nest to prevent nest failure. All construction activities shall be avoided within this buffer area until a qualified biologist determines that nestlings have fledged, or until September 1.

MITIGATION MEASURE C: OAK TREE PROTECTION

For the purpose of this mitigation measure, a native tree is defined as an oak having a diameter at breast height (dbh) of at least 6 inches, or if it has multiple trunks of less than 6 inches each, a combined dbh of at least 10 inches. The following four trees will be retained: 400 – 402, and 408.

All native trees on the project site, all portions of adjacent off-site native trees which have driplines that extend onto the project site, and all off-site native trees which may be impacted by utility installation and/or improvements associated with this project, shall be preserved and protected as follows:

1. A circle with a radius measurement from the trunk of the tree to the tip of its longest limb shall constitute the dripline protection area of the tree. Limbs must not be cut back in order to change the dripline. The area beneath the dripline is a critical portion of the root zone and defines the minimum protected area of the tree. Removing limbs which make up the dripline does not change the protected area.
2. Chain link fencing or a similar protective barrier shall be installed one foot outside the driplines of the native trees prior to initiating project construction, in order to avoid damage to the trees and their root system.
3. No signs, ropes, cables (except cables which may be installed by a certified arborist to provide limb support) or any other items shall be attached to the native trees.

4. No vehicles, construction equipment, mobile home/office, supplies, materials or facilities shall be driven, parked, stockpiled or located within the driplines of the native trees.
5. Any soil disturbance (scraping, grading, trenching, and excavation) is to be avoided within the driplines of the native trees. Where this is necessary, an ISA Certified Arborist will provide specifications for this work, including methods for root pruning, backfill specifications and irrigation management guidelines.
6. All underground utilities and drain or irrigation lines shall be routed outside the driplines of native trees. Trenching within protected tree driplines is not permitted. If utility or irrigation lines must encroach upon the dripline, they should be tunneled or bored under the tree under the supervision of an ISA Certified Arborist.
7. Drainage patterns on the site shall not be modified so that water collects or stands within, or is diverted across, the dripline of oak trees.
8. No sprinkler or irrigation system shall be installed in such a manner that it sprays water within the driplines of the oak trees.
9. Tree pruning that may be required for clearance during construction must be performed by an ISA Certified Arborist or Tree Worker and in accordance with the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) A300 pruning standards and the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) "Tree Pruning Guidelines".
10. Landscaping beneath the oak trees may include non-plant materials such as boulders, decorative rock, wood chips, organic mulch, non-compacted decomposed granite, etc. Landscape materials shall be kept two (2) feet away from the base of the trunk. The only plant species which shall be planted within the driplines of the oak trees are those which are tolerant of the natural semi-arid environs of the trees. Limited drip irrigation approximately twice per summer is recommended for the understory plants.
11. Any fence/wall that will encroach into the dripline protection area of any protected tree shall be constructed using grade beam wall panels and posts or piers set no closer than 10 feet on center. Posts or piers shall be spaced in such a manner as to maximize the separation between the tree trunks and the posts or piers in order to reduce impacts to the trees.
12. For a project constructing during the months of June, July, August, and September, deep water trees by using a soaker hose (or a garden hose set to a trickle) that slowly applies water to the soil until water has penetrated at least one foot in depth. Sprinklers may be used to water deeply by watering until water begins to run off, then waiting at least an hour or two to resume watering (provided that the sprinkler is not wetting the tree's trunk. Deep water every 2 weeks and suspend watering 2 weeks between rain events of 1 inch or more.

MITIGATION MEASURE D: NATIVE TREE REMOVAL

The removal of 87.8 inches dbh of native trees (405, 406, 413) shall be compensated for by planting in-kind native trees equivalent to the dbh inches lost, based on the ratios listed below, at locations that are authorized by the Environmental Coordinator. The total "removal" number includes mitigation for tree #405, upon which the project will encroach more than 20%. On-site preservation of native trees that are less than 6 inches (<6 inches) dbh, may also be used to meet this compensation requirement. Native trees include: valley oak (*Quercus lobata*), interior live oak (*Quercus wislizenii*), blue oak (*Quercus douglasii*), or oracle oak (*Quercus morehus*), California sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*), California black walnut (*Juglans californica*, which is also a List 1B plant), Oregon ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*), western redbud (*Cercis occidentalis*), gray pine (*Pinus sabiniana*), California white alder (*Alnus rhombifolia*), boxelder (*Acer negundo*), California buckeye (*Aesculus californica*), narrowleaf willow (*Salix exigua*), Gooding's willow (*Salix gooddingii*), red willow (*Salix laevigata*), arroyo willow (*Salix lasioides*), shining willow (*Salix lucida*), Pacific willow (*Salix lasiandra*), and dusky willow (*Salix melanopsis*).

Replacement tree planting shall be completed prior to approval of grading or improvement plans, whichever comes first. A total of # inches will require compensation.

Equivalent compensation based on the following ratio is required:

- one preserved native tree < 6 inches dbh on-site = 1 inch dbh
- one D-pot seedling (40 cubic inches or larger) = 1 inch dbh
- one 15-gallon tree = 1 inch dbh
- one 24-inch box tree = 2 inches dbh
- one 36-inch box tree = 3 inches dbh

Prior to the approval of Improvement Plans or Building Permits, whichever occurs first, a Replacement Tree Planting Plan shall be prepared by a certified arborist or licensed landscape architect and shall be submitted to the Environmental Coordinator for approval. The Replacement Tree Planting Plan(s) shall include the following minimum elements:

1. Species, size and locations of all replacement plantings and < 6-inch dbh trees to be preserved
2. Method of irrigation
3. If planting in soils with a hardpan/duripan or claypan layer, include the Sacramento County Standard Tree Planting Detail L-1, including the 10-foot deep boring hole to provide for adequate drainage

4. Planting, irrigation, and maintenance schedules;
5. Identification of the maintenance entity and a written agreement with that entity to provide care and irrigation of the trees for a 3-year establishment period, and to replace any of the replacement trees which do not survive during that period.
6. Designation of 20-foot root zone radius and landscaping to occur within the radius of trees < 6 inches dbh to be preserved on-site.

No replacement tree shall be planted within 15 feet of the driplines of existing native trees or landmark size trees that are retained on-site, or within 15 feet of a building foundation or swimming pool excavation. The minimum spacing for replacement native trees shall be 20 feet on-center. Examples of acceptable planting locations are publicly owned lands, common areas, and landscaped frontages (with adequate spacing). Generally unacceptable locations are utility easements (PUE, sewer, storm drains), under overhead utility lines, private yards of single family lots (including front yards), and roadway medians.

Native trees <6 inches dbh to be retained on-site shall have at least a 20-foot radius suitable root zone. The suitable root zone shall not have impermeable surfaces, turf/lawn, dense plantings, soil compaction, drainage conditions that create ponding (in the case of oak trees), utility easements, or other overstory tree(s) within 20 feet of the tree to be preserved. Trees to be retained shall be determined to be healthy and structurally sound for future growth, by an ISA Certified Arborist subject to Environmental Coordinator approval.

If tree replacement plantings are demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Environmental Coordinator to be infeasible for any or all trees removed, then compensation shall be through payment into the County Tree Preservation Fund. Payment shall be made at a rate of \$325.00 per dbh inch removed but not otherwise compensated, or at the prevailing rate at the time payment into the fund is made.

MITIGATION MEASURE E: CULTURAL RESOURCES UNANTICIPATED DISCOVERIES

In the event that human remains are discovered in any location other than a dedicated cemetery, work shall be halted and the County Coroner contacted. For all other potential tribal cultural resources [TCRs], archaeological, or cultural resources discovered during project's ground disturbing activities, work shall be halted until a qualified archaeologist and/or tribal representative may evaluate the resource.

1. **Unanticipated human remains.** Pursuant to Sections 5097.97 and 5097.98 of the State Public Resources Code, and Section 7050.5 of the State Health and Safety Code, if a human bone or bone of unknown origin is found during construction, all work is to stop and the County Coroner and the Office of

Planning and Environmental Review shall be immediately notified. If the remains are determined to be Native American, the coroner shall notify the Native American Heritage Commission within 24 hours, and the Native American Heritage Commission shall identify the person or persons it believes to be the most likely descendent from the deceased Native American. The most likely descendent may make recommendations to the landowner or the person responsible for the excavation work, for means of treating or disposition of, with appropriate dignity, the human remains and any associated grave goods.

2. **Unanticipated cultural resources.** In the event of an inadvertent discovery of cultural resources (excluding human remains) during construction, all work must halt within a 100-foot radius of the discovery. A qualified professional archaeologist, meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for prehistoric and historic archaeology, shall be retained at the Applicant's expense to evaluate the significance of the find. If it is determined due to the types of deposits discovered that a Native American monitor is required, the Guidelines for Monitors/Consultants of Native American Cultural, Religious, and Burial Sites as established by the Native American Heritage Commission shall be followed, and the monitor shall be retained at the Applicant's expense.
 - a. Work cannot continue within the 100-foot radius of the discovery site until the archaeologist and/or tribal monitor conducts sufficient research and data collection to make a determination that the resource is either 1) not cultural in origin; or 2) not potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places or California Register of Historical Resources.
 - b. If a potentially-eligible resource is encountered, then the archaeologist and/or tribal monitor, Planning and Environmental Review staff, and project proponent shall arrange for either 1) total avoidance of the resource, if possible; or 2) test excavations or total data recovery as mitigation. The determination shall be formally documented in writing and submitted to the County Environmental Coordinator as verification that the provisions of CEQA for managing unanticipated discoveries have been met.

MITIGATION MEASURE F: NATIVE AMERICAN MONITOR

Prior to any ground disturbance, the Project applicant shall hire a Native American construction monitor from Wilton Rancheria to monitor earthwork associated with the excavation and removal of soil. If a potentially significant tribal resource is uncovered during construction, the Native American monitor shall be allowed to temporarily halt ground disturbing activities within 100 feet of the resource to determine appropriate next

steps. The Project applicant will be required to implement any mitigation deemed necessary for the protection of the tribal resources.

MITIGATION MEASURE COMPLIANCE

Comply with the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) for this project as follows:

1. The proponent shall comply with the MMRP for this project, including the payment of a fee to cover the Office of Planning and Environmental Review staff costs incurred during implementation of the MMRP. The MMRP fee for this project is \$ 6,100. This fee includes administrative costs of \$948.00.
2. Until the MMRP has been recorded and the administrative portion of the MMRP fee has been paid, no final parcel map or final subdivision map for the subject property shall be approved. Until the balance of the MMRP fee has been paid, no encroachment, grading, building, sewer connection, water connection or occupancy permit from Sacramento County shall be approved.

INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

Appendix G of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) provides guidance for assessing the significance of potential environmental impacts. Based on this guidance, Sacramento County has developed the following Initial Study Checklist. The Checklist identifies a range of potential significant effects by topical area. The words "significant" and "significance" used throughout the following checklist are related to impacts as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act as follows:

- 1 Potentially Significant indicates there is substantial evidence that an effect MAY be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant" entries an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required. Further research of a potentially significant impact may reveal that the impact is actually less than significant or less than significant with mitigation.
- 2 Less than Significant with Mitigation applies where an impact could be significant but specific mitigation has been identified that reduces the impact to a less than significant level.
- 3 Less than Significant or No Impact indicates that either a project will have an impact but the impact is considered minor or that a project does not impact the particular resource.

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant	No Impact	Comments
1. LAND USE - Would the project:					
a. Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?			X		The project is located on an undeveloped parcel within the Garden Highway SPA designated for residential use and described in Section 501-265. The project is consistent with environmental policies of the Sacramento County General Plan, Garden Highway Special Planning Area, and Sacramento County Zoning Code.
b. Physically disrupt or divide an established community?				X	The project will not create physical barriers that substantially limit movement within or through the community.
2. POPULATION/HOUSING - Would the project:					
a. Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area either directly (e.g., by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (e.g., through extension of infrastructure)?			X		The project will neither directly nor indirectly induce substantial unplanned population growth; the proposal is consistent with existing land use designations.
b. Displace substantial amounts of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				X	The project will not result in the removal of existing housing, and thus will not displace substantial amounts of existing housing.
3. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES - Would the project:					
a. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance or areas containing prime soils to uses not conducive to agricultural production?				X	The project site is not designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance on the current Sacramento County Important Farmland Map published by the California Department of Conservation. The site does not contain prime soils.
b. Conflict with any existing Williamson Act contract?				X	No Williamson Act contracts apply to the project site.

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant	No Impact	Comments
c. Introduce incompatible uses in the vicinity of existing agricultural uses?				X	The project does not occur in an area of agricultural production.
4. AESTHETICS - Would the project:					
a. Substantially alter existing viewsheds such as scenic highways, corridors or vistas?			X		Given its nature, the project is not expected to substantially alter the viewshed associated with the Garden Highway Scenic Corridor. See the Aesthetics discussion above.
b. In non-urbanized area, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings?				X	The project is not located in a non-urbanized area.
c. If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?			X		The project meets the Design Guidelines (c) of the Garden Highway Special Planning Area (Section 501-257); therefore, it is concluded that the project would not substantially degrade the visual character or quality of the project site or vicinity.
d. Create a new source of substantial light, glare, or shadow that would result in safety hazards or adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?				X	The project will not result in a new source of substantial light, glare or shadow that would result in safety hazards or adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area.
5. AIRPORTS - Would the project:					
a. Result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the vicinity of an airport/airstrip?				X	The project occurs outside of any identified public or private airport/airstrip safety zones.
b. Expose people residing or working in the project area to aircraft noise levels in excess of applicable standards?			X		The project is located within the Sacramento International Airport Planning Policy Area, but is located outside the 60 Community Noise Equivalent Level (CNEL) noise contour. Refer to the Airports discussion in the Environmental Effects section above.

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant	No Impact	Comments
c. Result in a substantial adverse effect upon the safe and efficient use of navigable airspace by aircraft?				X	The project will not result in an adverse effect upon the safe and efficient use of navigable airspace.
d. 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?				X	The project does not involve or affect air traffic movement.
6. PUBLIC SERVICES - Would the project:					
a. Have an adequate water supply for full buildout of the project?			X		Private wells would be required to provide potable water to future development. As proposed, the project could result in the addition of up to 1 new water well to serve the project. The introduction of 1 well would add incrementally to a documented decline in the groundwater table in the County but it would not in itself constitute a significant environmental impact.
b. Have adequate wastewater treatment and disposal facilities for full buildout of the project?			X		A septic systems will be required, which requires review and approval from the Environmental Management Department prior to the issuance of a building permit.
c. Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?			X		The Kiefer Landfill has capacity to accommodate solid waste until the year 2050.
d. Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the construction of new water supply or wastewater treatment and disposal facilities or expansion of existing facilities?				X	The project will not require construction or expansion of new water supply, wastewater treatment, or wastewater disposal facilities.
e. Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of storm water drainage facilities?				X	Project construction would not require the addition of new stormwater drainage facilities.

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant	No Impact	Comments
f. Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of electric or natural gas service?			X		Minor extension of utility lines would be necessary to serve the proposed project. Existing utility lines are located along existing roadways and other developed areas, and the extension of lines would take place within areas already proposed for development as part of the project. No significant new impacts would result from utility extension. The project does not include natural gas connections.
g. Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of emergency services?			X		The project would incrementally increase demand for emergency services, but would not cause substantial adverse physical impacts as a result of providing adequate service.
h. Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of public school services?			X		The project would result in minor increases to student population; however, the increase would not require the construction/expansion of new unplanned school facilities. Established case law, <i>Goleta Union School District v. The Regents of the University of California</i> (36 Cal-App. 4 th 1121, 1995), indicates that school overcrowding, standing alone, is not a change in the physical conditions, and cannot be treated as an impact on the environment.
i. Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of park and recreation services?			X		The project will result in increased demand for park and recreation services, but meeting this demand will not result in any substantial physical impacts.
7. TRANSPORTATION - Would the project:					
a. Conflict with or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b) – measuring transportation impacts individually or cumulatively, using a vehicles miles traveled standard established by the County?			X		The project will not increase vehicle trips.
b. Result in a substantial adverse impact to access and/or circulation?			X		No changes to existing access and/or circulation patterns would occur as a result of the project.

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant	No Impact	Comments
c. Result in a substantial adverse impact to public safety on area roadways?			X		The project will be required to comply with applicable access and circulation requirements of the County Improvement Standards and the Uniform Fire Code. Upon compliance, impacts are less than significant.
d. Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?				X	The project does not conflict with alternative transportation policies of the Sacramento County General Plan, with the Sacramento Regional Transit Master Plan, or other adopted policies, plans or programs supporting alternative transportation.
8. AIR QUALITY - Would the project:					
a. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is in non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?			X		The project does not exceed the screening thresholds established by the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District and will not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is in non-attainment.
b. Expose sensitive receptors to pollutant concentrations in excess of standards?			X		See Response 8.a.
c. Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?				X	The project will not generate objectionable odors.
9. NOISE - Would the project:					
a. Result in generation of a temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established by the local general plan, noise ordinance or applicable standards of other agencies?			X		The project is in the Sacramento International Airport Policy Planning Area; however, the completed project will not result in exposure of persons to, or generation of, noise levels in excess of applicable standards. See Airports discussion.

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant	No Impact	Comments
b. Result in a substantial temporary increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity?			X		Project construction will result in a temporary increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity. This impact is less than significant due to the temporary nature of these activities, limits on the duration of noise, and evening and nighttime restrictions imposed by the County Noise Ordinance (Chapter 6.68 of the County Code).
c. Generate excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels.				X	The project will not involve the use of pile driving or other methods that would produce excessive groundborne vibration or noise levels at the property boundary.
10. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY - Would the project:					
a. Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or substantially interfere with groundwater recharge?			X		The project will not substantially increase water demand over the existing use.
b. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the project area and/or increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on- or off-site?			X		Compliance with applicable requirements of the Sacramento County Floodplain Management Ordinance, Sacramento County Water Agency Code, and Sacramento County Improvement Standards will ensure that impacts are less than significant.
c. Develop within a 100-year floodplain as mapped on a federal Flood Insurance Rate Map or within a local flood hazard area?			X		The project is within a 100-year floodplain as mapped on a federal Flood Insurance Rate Map (Flood Zone AE). The Sacramento County Floodplain Management Ordinance, Sacramento County Water Agency Code, and Sacramento County Improvement Standards require that the project be located outside or above the floodplain, and will ensure that impacts are less than significant. Refer to the Hydrology discussion in the Environmental Effects section above.

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant	No Impact	Comments
d. Place structures that would impede or redirect flood flows within a 100-year floodplain?			X		Although the project is within a 100-year floodplain, compliance with the Sacramento County Floodplain Management Ordinance, Sacramento County Water Agency Code, and Sacramento County Improvement Standards will ensure that impacts are less than significant.
e. Develop in an area that is subject to 200 year urban levels of flood protection (ULOP)?			X		The project is located in an area subject to 200-year urban levels of flood protection (ULOP). Refer to the Hydrology discussion in the Environmental Effects section above.
f. Expose people or structures to a substantial risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?			X		The project will not expose people or structures to a substantial risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam.
g. Create or contribute runoff that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems?			X		Adequate on- and/or off-site drainage improvements will be required pursuant to the Sacramento County Floodplain Management Ordinance and Improvement Standards.
h. Create substantial sources of polluted runoff or otherwise substantially degrade ground or surface water quality?			X		Sacramento County Code Chapters 6.28 and 6.32 provide rules and regulations for water wells and septic systems that are designed to protect water quality. The Environmental Health Division of the County Environmental Management Department has permit approval authority for any new water wells and septic systems on the site. Compliance with existing regulations will ensure that impacts are less than significant.
11. GEOLOGY AND SOILS - Would the project:					
a. Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including risk of loss, injury or death involving rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault?			X		Sacramento County is not within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone. Although there are no known active earthquake faults in the project area, the site could be subject to some ground shaking from regional faults. The Uniform Building Code contains applicable construction regulations for earthquake safety that will ensure less than significant impacts.

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant	No Impact	Comments
b. Result in substantial soil erosion, siltation or loss of topsoil?			X		Compliance with the County's Land Grading and Erosion Control Ordinance will reduce the amount of construction site erosion and minimize water quality degradation by providing stabilization and protection of disturbed areas, and by controlling the runoff of sediment and other pollutants during the course of construction.
c. Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, soil expansion, liquefaction or collapse?			X		Pursuant to Title 16 of the Sacramento County Code and the Uniform Building Code, a soils report will be required prior to building construction. If the soils report indicates that soils may be unstable for building construction then site-specific measures (e.g., special engineering design or soil replacement) must be incorporated to ensure that soil conditions will be satisfactory for the proposed construction.
d. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available?			X		All septic systems must comply with the requirements of the County Environmental Management Department, Environmental Health Division, as set forth in Chapter 6.32 of the County Code. Compliance with County standards will ensure impacts are less than significant.
e. Result in a substantial loss of an important mineral resource?				X	The project is not located within an Aggregate Resource Area as identified by the Sacramento County General Plan Land Use Diagram, nor are any important mineral resources known to be located on the project site.
f. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?			X		No known paleontological resources (e.g. fossil remains) or sites occur at the project location.

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant	No Impact	Comments
12. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES - Would the project:					
a. Have a substantial adverse effect on any special status species, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, or threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community?		X			The project site contains suitable habitat for special status species. Mitigation is included to reduce impacts to less than significant levels. Refer to the Biological Resources discussion in the Environmental Effects section above.
b. Have a substantial adverse effect on riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities?		X			The project site is located within a riparian corridor east of the Sacramento River. Mitigation is included to reduce impacts to less than significant levels. Refer to the Biological Resources discussion in the Environmental Effects section above.
c. Have a substantial adverse effect on streams, wetlands, or other surface waters that are protected by federal, state, or local regulations and policies?			X		The Sacramento River is located adjacent to the project site, but no construction activities are proposed within the water. Refer to the Biological Resources discussion in the Environmental Effects section above.
d. Have a substantial adverse effect on the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species?			X		Resident and/or migratory wildlife may be displaced by project construction; however, impacts are not anticipated to result in significant, long-term effects upon the movement of resident or migratory fish or wildlife species, and no major wildlife corridors would be affected.
e. Adversely affect or result in the removal of native or landmark trees?			X		Native and/or landmark trees occur on the project site and/or may be affected by on and/or off-site construction. Mitigation is included to ensure impacts are less than significant. Refer to the Biological Resources discussion in the Environmental Effects section above.
f. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources?			X		The project is consistent with local policies/ordinances protecting biological resources.

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant	No Impact	Comments
g. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan or other approved local, regional, state or federal plan for the conservation of habitat?				X	There are no known conflicts with any approved plan for the conservation of habitat.
13. CULTURAL RESOURCES - Would the project:					
a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource?			X		A cultural resources study was conducted for the project site. Refer to the Cultural Resources discussion.
b. Have a substantial adverse effect on an archaeological resource?		X			A cultural resources study was conducted for the project site. Refer to the Cultural Resources discussion.
c. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?			X		No known human remains exist on the project site. Nonetheless, mitigation has been recommended to ensure appropriate treatment should remains be uncovered during project implementation.
14. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES - Would the project:					
a. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource as defined in Public Resources Code 21074?		X			Notification pursuant to Public Resources Code 21080.3.1(b) was provided to the tribes and request for consultation was received. Tribal cultural resources have not identified in the project area. Refer to the Cultural Resources discussion in the Environmental Effects section above.
15. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS - Would the project:					
a. Create a substantial hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?				X	The project does not involve the transport, use, and/or disposal of hazardous material.
b. Expose the public or the environment to a substantial hazard through reasonably foreseeable upset conditions involving the release of hazardous materials?				X	The project does not involve the transport, use, and/or disposal of hazardous material.

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant	No Impact	Comments
c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?				X	The project does not involve the use or handling of hazardous material.
d. Be located on a site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5, resulting in a substantial hazard to the public or the environment?				X	The project is not located on a known hazardous materials site.
e. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response or emergency evacuation plan?				X	The project would not interfere with any known emergency response or evacuation plan.
f. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to or intermixed with urbanized areas?				X	The project is within the urbanized area of the unincorporated County. There is no significant risk of loss, injury, or death to people or structures associated with wildland fires.
16. ENERGY – Would the project:					
a. Result in potentially significant environmental impacts due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction?			X		While the project will introduce one new home and increase energy consumption, compliance with Title 24, Green Building Code, will ensure that all project energy efficiency requirements are net resulting in less than significant impacts.
b. Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?			X		The project will comply with Title 24, Green Building Code, for all project efficiency requirements.
17. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS – Would the project:					
a. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?			X		The development of one single family home will not exceed the Draft 2030 County threshold of 0.78 annual metric tons of CO ₂ e per capita for the residential energy sector.

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant	No Impact	Comments
b. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation for the purpose of reducing the emission of greenhouse gases?			X		The project is consistent with County policies adopted for the purpose of reducing the emission of greenhouse gases.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

LAND USE CONSISTENCY	Current Land Use Designation	Consistent	Not Consistent	Comments
General Plan	Agricultural – Urban Reserve	X		
Community Plan	Residential	X		
Land Use Zone	Residential	X		

INITIAL STUDY PREPARERS

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