

# INITIAL STUDY / PROPOSED MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

## **Site Information:**

Noble Park Project SE of Pentz Road and Merrill Road Paradise, CA 95969

APNs: 050-230-060, 050-230-082 and 050-230-088

# Prepared for:

Paradise Recreation and Parks District Attn: Dan Efseaff, District Manager 6626 Skyway Paradise, CA 95969

## Prepared by:

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Prepared: April 6, 2021



#### PROJECT INFORMATION

# 1. Project Title:

Noble Park Project

## 2. Lead agency name and address:

Paradise Recreation and Parks District 6626 Skyway Paradise, CA 95969

## 3. Contact person and phone number:

Dan Efseaff, District Manager Paradise Recreation and Parks District (530) 872-6393

## 4. Project location:

The proposed Noble Park Project would be located directly southeast of the Pentz Road/Merrill Road intersection in Paradise, Butte County, California. The Project Area consists of approximately 20.5 acres and is located on three parcels designated by Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs): 050-230-060, 050-230-082 and 050-230-088. The site is situated south of Merrill Road and between Pentz Road and Shay Lane northwest Paradise. Merrill Road to the north and Pentz Road to the west are the only roads that border the proposed park. To the south is a mobile home park that was burned in the 2018 Camp Fire. Historically the parcels on the west side of the site (APNs 050-230-060 and 050-230-082) were Noble Orchards, established in 1921. This portion of the site has been undeveloped for about a decade due to Noble Orchards moving locations. There were also two structures on the southeast portion of the site (APN 050-230-082), which have subsequently burned in the Camp Fire and received a Property Clean-Up Completed status by Butte County on September 3, 2019. Currently the entire site is undeveloped.

# 5. Project sponsor's name and address:

Paradise Recreation and Parks District 6626 Skyway Paradise, CA 95969

**6. General plan designation:** Rural Residential (RR)

7. **Zoning:** Rural Residential 1 (RR1)

## 8. Description of project:

The proposed project includes the new construction of a public park in Paradise, California which would involve the construction of an adventure play and inclusive play area, a parking lot, a multi-purpose community center, and an obstacle course. It would also include the construction of a shade structure, an elevated wood platform near the wet meadow, a multi-purpose event plaza, a foot bridge over the creek, and an adventure play area, which would consist of a zip line, a climbing boulder and a



ropes course. The proposed park project also would include the construction of an overlook with a shade structure, a picnic/outdoor classroom structure, a multi-use court, a multi-use grass play area, and a picnic area. The trails that would be part of the construction of the proposed project include two trails made with crushed basalt and an accessible concrete loop trail. There would also be a concrete sidewalk constructed that would include road improvement funding. There is an existing wet meadow and creek on site, and there would be a landscape restoration area implemented as part of the project, as well as a nature corridor and buffer that would involve the construction of a small water feature. The project would also include putting a symbolic Noble Orchard on the land.

# 9. Surrounding land uses and setting:

The proposed project would be located southeast of the Pentz Road/Merrill Road intersection in Paradise, California. Directly adjacent to the site there are single-family residences located north and west of the property. To the east there are more single-family residences along with a small open field directly west of the wet meadow. To the south of the site there is a mobile home park that also was burned in the fire.

- **10.** Other public agencies whose approval is required: Not Applicable
- 11. Previous CEQA Documentation for site/surrounding area:
  Not Applicable

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED**

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

Aesthetics		Agriculture Resources	Air Quality
Biological Resources	$\boxtimes$	Cultural Resources	Geology /Soils
Hazards & Hazardous Materials	$\boxtimes$	Hydrology / Water Quality	Land Use / Planning
Mineral Resources		Noise	Population / Housing
Public Services		Recreation	Transportation/Traffic
Utilities / Service Systems		Wildfire	Mandatory Findings of Significance



# **DETERMINATION**

(To be completed by the Lead Agency) On the basis of this initial evaluation:

	I find that the proposed project COULD environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION	
	I find that although the proposed project environment, there will not be a significant ef project have been made by or agreed to be NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.	fect in this case because revisions in the by the project proponent. A MITIGATED
	I find that the proposed project MAY have a an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is	
	I find that the proposed project MAY have a "p significant unless mitigated" impact on the elbeen adequately analyzed in an earlier standards, and 2) has been addressed by ranalysis as described on attached sheets. An required, but it must analyze only the effects	nvironment, but at least one effect 1) has document pursuant to applicable legal nitigation measures based on the earlier ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is
	I find that although the proposed project environment, because all potentially signi adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE standards, and (b) have been avoided or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including reviewposed upon the proposed project, nothing	ficant effects (a) have been analyzed DECLARATION pursuant to applicable nitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or sions or mitigation measures that are
Signati	nul (fre )	5/13/2021 Date
Dan Et	iseaff	Paradise Recreation and Parks District
Printed	l Name	For

#### **EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

- 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.
- 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.
- "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 Section XVII, "Earlier Analyses," 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:
  - Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
  - b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
  - c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures, which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
- 6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.



- 7) Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
- 8) This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.
- 9) The explanation of each issue should identify:
  - a) The significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
  - b) The mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance.



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# **APPENDICES**

**APPENDIX A: SITE FIGURES** 

**APPENDIX B: SITE PHOTOGRAPHS** 



1.0 AESTHETICS	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?				$\boxtimes$
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?			$\boxtimes$	

The proposed project includes replacing an abandoned orchard that was burned in the 2018 Camp Fire with a landscaped park. The two other parcels that are part of the proposed park project are currently vacant. The new park will include new oak, sycamore, orchard trees, and new and existing willows lining an existing stream, with a multi-use field and multiple recreational areas (**Appendix A**). Scenic vistas are limited to subtle, long-distance views of the northwestern terminus of the Sierra Nevada from some part of the propped project site. This view became present after the Camp Fire. The Town of Paradise 1994 General Plan designates Pentz Road as a Scenic Highway, however it is not considered a state scenic highway. Lighting will be provided using 16 foot solar-powered light poles. Security lighting and bollard lighting will be provided in and around the park. The wetlands/trails/passive areas of the park will have minimal lighting, while the barn structure and parking lot will have security lighting. The visual character of the project area will be improved.

Site photographs demonstrating the project area and current site conditions can be found in **Appendix B**.

#### **Discussion of Impacts to Aesthetics:**

- a) c): The project includes removal of burnt trees which will be replaced with a recreational park, including a multi-use grass area surrounded by oak, sycamore, willow and orchard trees. A concrete path will lead to a crushed basalt path to a foot bridge/deck, which will provide an overlook to the preserved wetland in the eastern portion of the site. The town of Paradise 1994 General Plan designates Pentz Road as a scenic highway. Current zoning may necessitate a conditional use permit, however the project is consistent with the goals and mission of the Town of Paradise and the Paradise General Plan. The exiting scenery will be improved. Therefore, there is no impact.
- d) The project would require the installation of additional light sources. The new light sources will direct light downward to minimize impact. Directing light down and locating lights near the ground will limit the amount of light escaping into the atmosphere. Therefore, there is a less than significant impact from light and glare as a result of the project.



2.0 AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact		
In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland.						
Would the project:						
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?						
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?				$\boxtimes$		
c) Involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use?						

The site is zoned as Rural Residential (RR1) and the current site land use is classified as Rural Residential (RR) according to the most recently published General Plan (Town of Paradise, 1994). The three parcels for the proposed park project are not in a Williamson Act contract. According to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Department of Conservation (CDOC), the site is classified as Grazing Land.

## **Discussion of Impacts to Agricultural Resources:**

- **a)** According to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Department of Conservation (CDOC), the site is classified as Grazing Land. It does not qualify as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance and therefore has **no impact**.
- **b**) The site is currently zoned as Rural Residential RR1 (Town of Paradise, 1994) and is not included in a Williamson Act contract (Butte County, 2015). Therefore there is no **impact**.
- c). An orchard was grown on parcel 050-230-060-000 prior to the 2018 Camp Fire. This parcel is classified as 'Grazing Land' by California Department of Conservation. It does not qualify as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland) and therefore has **no impact**.



3.0 AIR QUALITY	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Where available, the significance criteria established by pollution control district may be relied upon to make the Would the project:			anagement o	or air
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?				
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?				
c) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard (including releasing emissions, which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?				
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?				

number of people?

e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial

Since 1970, air quality has been regulated at the federal level under the Clean Air Act (CAA). This act authorized the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to set National Ambient Air Quality Standards for air pollutants of nationwide concern. The EPA has established standards for six criteria air pollutants: ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, suspended particulate matter ( $PM_{10}$ ) and lead.

The proposed project site lies within the Northern Sacramento Valley Air Basin (NSVAB), which extends from Sacramento and Solano Counties in the south to Shasta County in the north. This air basin is generally situated in the northern portion of the Central Valley and is bounded on the west by the Coastal Range, on the north and east by the Cascade-Sierra Nevada and the Siskiyou foothills and mountains. The southern border is bounded by the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin. The floor of the basin gradually slopes upward from the south to the north. The Northern Sacramento Valley Air Basin is a natural closed basin. To the south and southwest there are two air basins which generate high amounts of ozone and its precursors: the Broader Sacramento Area Air Basin (BSAAB) and the San Francisco Bay Area Basin (SFBAB).

Pollutants from these two basins, BSAAB and SFBAB, are of concern to the NSVAB, since they are carried by wind up to the NSVAB. The "bowl" type terrain of the NSVAB acts as a trap for these pollutants, as well as those generated within the NSVAB.

The two primary agencies responsible for monitoring air quality within the NSVAB within Butte County are the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and the Butte County Air Quality Control District.



Butte County has been designated as a non-attainment area for ozone,  $PM_{10}$  and  $PM_{2.5}$ , according to California state standards (CARB 2019). For a County to be classified as non-attainment for ozone air quality goals, the annual fourth-highest daily maximum 8-hour concentration averaged over a three-year period cannot exceed 0.070 ppm. For primary  $PM_{2.5}$  air quality goals, the annual mean averaged over a three-year period cannot exceed 12.0 micrograms per meters cubed  $(\mu/m^3)$ . For primary  $PM_{10}$  air quality goals,  $150\mu/m^3$  cannot be exceeded more than once per year when averaging over a three-year period.

Ozone is considered more of a seasonal problem in the Northern Sacramento Valley Air Basin, with peak concern normally occurring April through October. Ozone production is the result of a chemical reaction that occurs between nitrogen oxides, reactive organic gases, and sunlight. Nitrogen oxides are emitted into the air as a result of fuel combustion at high temperatures (gasoline burning in automobile engines). Reactive organic gases are the result of fuel combustion and through the evaporation of organic solvents. Once these are present in the atmosphere, a photochemical reaction occurs, and ozone is formed.

Suspended particulate matter with particulates of 2.5 microns or less is more commonly known as  $PM_{2.5.}$  The primary components of these particulates are organic chemicals, dust, soot and metals. These are released into the air as a result of the fuel combustion of oil, diesel or wood products.

Suspended particulate matter with particulates of 10 microns or less is more commonly known as PM<sub>10</sub>. The primary components of these particulates are dust, nitrates, and sulfates and diesel exhaust. These are released into the air as a result of fuel combustion, dust from construction sites, agriculture and landfills, as well as brush/waste burning and wildfires, among other sources.

# **Discussion of Impacts to Air Quality:**

- a) c), e) Construction work for the proposed project includes some ground disturbance, however it is possible that construction activities may stir up dust and dirt and generate vehicle emissions for a short amount of time. Any activities resulting in release of dust or dirt into the air would be minimal and temporary in nature, resulting in a less than significant impact.
- d) Potential pollutants generated from the project include minor levels of fugitive dust and exhaust emissions. Minimal use of mechanized equipment would generate little exhaust and Best Management Practices for dust control would limit the amount of dust generated, resulting in a less than significant impact.



4.0 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?				
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game 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 Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?				

The proposed project is located on three different parcels, two of which are currently not developed, and the third parcel contains an abandoned orchard, surrounded by developed rural residential area. Construction activities will impact areas that are largely permeable. A majority of the site will remain permeable and landscaped. Native trees, a wet meadow and riparian habitat occur on the project site or project vicinity. No vernal pools are present. The 2018 Camp Fire burned most vegetation onsite.

#### Special Status Species

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) maintains the California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB), which lists positive sightings of special status plant and animal species. The database is modeled after the United States Geological Survey 1:24,000 topographic quadrangles. The project site is covered in the Paradise East quadrangle. A search of the CNDDB indicates the potential presence of the following species within the Paradise East quadrangle, as presented in **Table 1** also lists if the species is considered threatened or endangered on



the state and federal levels, a CDFW listing, and the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) rare plant rank.

TABLE 1: CNDDB Results for Paradise East Quadrangle							
Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Status	State Status	CDFW Status	CA Rare Plant Rank		
Rana boylii	Foothill Yellow Legged Frog	None	Endangered	SSC	-		
Rana muscosa	Southern Mountain Yellow Legged Frog	Endangered	Endangered	WL	-		
Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bald Eagle	Delisted	Endangered	FP	-		
Strix occidentalis occidentalis	California Spotted Owl	None	None	SSC	-		
Pekania pennanti	Fisher	None	None	SSC	-		
Lasionycteris noctivagans	Silver Haired Bat	None	None	-	-		
Emys marmorata	Western Pond Turtle	None	None	SSC	-		
Allium jepsonii	Jepson's Onion	None	None	-	1B.2		
Allium sanbornii var. sanbornii	Sanborn's Onion	None	None	-	4.2		
Calycadenia oppositifolia	Butte County Calycadenia	None	None	-	4.2		
Erigeron petrophilus var. sierrensis	Northern Sierra Daisy	None	None	-	4.3		
Packera eurycephala var. lewisrosei	Lewis Rose's Ragwort	None	None	-	1B.2		
Cardamine pachystigma var. dissectifolia	Dissected-Leaved Toothwort	None	None	-	1B.2		
Calystegia atriplicifolia ssp. buttensis	Butte County Morning- Glory	None	None	-	4.2		
Hesperocyparis bakeri	Baker Cypress	None	None	-	4.2		
Carex xerophila	Chaparral Sedge	None	None	-	1B.2		
Arctostaphylos mewukka ssp. truei	True's Manzanita	None	None	-	4.2		
Fritillaria eastwoodiae	Butte County Fritillary	None	None	-	3.2		
Lilium humboldtii ssp. humboldtii	Humboldt Lily	None	None	-	4.2		
Claytonia parviflora ssp. grandiflora	Streambank Spring Beauty	None	None	-	4.2		
Clarkia gracilis ssp. albicaulis	White Stemmed Clarkia	None	None	-	1B.2		
Clarkia mildrediae ssp. lutescens	Golden Anthered Clarkia	None	None	-	4.2		
Clarkia mildrediae ssp. mildrediae	Mildred's Clarkia	None	None	-	1B.3		



Cypripedium fasciculatum	Clustered Lady's Slipper	None	None	-	4.2
Erythranthe glaucescens	Shield Bracted Monkeyflower	None	None	-	4.3
Penstemon personatus	Closed Throated Beardtongue	None	None	-	1B.2
Leptosiphon ambiguus	Serpentine Leptosiphon	None	None	-	4.2
Eriogonum umbellatum var. ahartii	Ahart's Buckwheat	None	None	-	1B.2
Polygonum bidwelliae	Bidwell's Knotweed	None	None	-	4.3
Frangula purshiana ssp. ultramafica	Caribou Coffeeberry	None	None	-	1B.2
Brodiaea sierrae	Sierra Foothills Brodiaea	None	None	-	4.3

CNDDB = California Native Diversity Database CDFW = California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

CNPS = California Native Plant Society

# **Discussion of Impacts to Biological Resources:**

- a), b), d) Proposed construction activities do include the removal of some remaining native trees that were severely burned in the 2018 Camp Fire. There is suitable wildlife habitat (including riparian habitat and wetland habitat) within the project site. The project is not in conflict with any established conservation or preservation policies or plans. The project site currently does contain habitat supporting some of the aforementioned species. Therefore, there is **less than significant impact** in regards to existing biological plans or policies.
- c) The site contains approximately 1.9 acres of a Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland habitat classified as PSSC and approximately 130 feet of an intermittent stream that includes Riverine habitat classified as R4SBC (USFWS, 2021). The intermittent stream currently flows through the property in a culvert, then flows south for approximately 2 miles before veering east and draining into the West Branch Feather River. The proposed wetland viewing platform will protect the wetland by providing a buffer from pedestrian traffic. The trails and overlooks will be on non-hydric upland soils only. Therefore, there will be a less than significant impact.
- **e,f)** Butte County does not have a voluntary tree retention/replacement policy or general preservation policies, resulting in **less than significant impact**.



5.0 CULTURAL RESOURCES	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
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 pursuant to Section 15064.5?				
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?		$\boxtimes$		

The western parcel was formerly used for an apple orchard in a rural residential neighborhood. A 2,398 square foot home and detached structure were constructed on the eastern parcel in 1921 and were burned in the 2018 Camp Fire. All parcels are currently undeveloped. Project activities do include large ground disturbing activities and trenching will occur for the installation of utilities within the project site.

## **Discussion of Impacts to Cultural Resources:**

- a) b) The proposed project will not cause any change in significance to known historical or archeological resources in the project vicinity. There are no known historical or archeological resources within the project area, resulting in **no impact**.
- c) and d) While project activities do involve large scale grading or ground disturbing activities, trenching for utilities has the potential to expose or disturb buried (unknown) archeological artifacts or human remains, which could have a **potentially significant impact**. This is considered a **less than significant with mitigation incorporated** if the following mitigation is adhered to:

**Mitigation Measure #1:** In the event that project/construction personnel encounter previously undiscovered prehistoric or historic archaeological deposits or human bone in an area subject to development activity, work in the immediate vicinity of the find should be halted and a professional archaeologist consulted. In the case of human burials, the County Coroner and the appropriate Native American descendants should be contacted.

Timing/Implementation: During construction activities

Enforcement/Monitoring: Paradise Recreation and Parks District

Adherence to this mitigation measure ensures that impacts to cultural resources as a result of the project are less than significant with mitigation incorporated.



6.0 GEOLOGY AND SOILS	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
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?				$\boxtimes$
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?				
iv) Landslides?				$\boxtimes$
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?				
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?				
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), 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?				

The topography of the site is relatively flat and generally ranges from an elevation of approximately 2083 to 2134 feet above mean sea level (msl) with a subtle south-southwest dipping slope. The site is situated in northeastern Paradise approximately 0.75 miles west of the West Branch of the Feather River and approximately 13 miles east-northeast of the city of Chico. Topographic map coverage of the site area is provided by the current United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute series topographic map (2018 Paradise East Quadrangle).

The subject property is located in the eastern periphery of the Sacramento Valley and the southwestern foothills of the Cascade Range. The Sacramento Valley is the northern one-third of the Central Valley of California, which extends approximately 400 miles from the Tehachapi Mountains on the south to the Klamath Mountains in the north. The Sacramento Valley trough is



strongly asymmetric with the deepest part of the trough west of the apparent surface axis of the valley. The valley is bordered to the east by the Sierra Nevada to the north by the Klamath and Cascade Ranges and to the west by the Coast Ranges.

The Sacramento Valley was formed by downwarping of the west side of the Sierran block contemporaneous to uplift and erosion of the Sierra Nevada to the east, the Klamath and Cascade ranges to the north, and the Coast Ranges to the west. The valley is underlain by a basement complex composed of Paleozoic and Mesozoic granites and metamorphic rocks. The basement complex is overlain by a thick sequence of marine and non-marine sediments ranging in age from Cretaceous to Quaternary. The upper 1000 meters of the non-marine sediments are composed of sediments of volcanic origin, which were transported into the valley from the east as mudflows and stream carried sediments.

Paradise is situated on the eastern rim of the Great Valley, defined today by the floodplains of the Sacramento River and its tributaries. Around Paradise these sediments are dominated by thick fans of Feather River sediments, but just east of this there is a thin, north-south band of late Cretaceous sediments. These sit on top of the Sierran basement, which beneath Paradise comprise greenschist-facies metavolcanic rocks of Jurassic age, giving way to granites of the Sierra batholith to the east. These are manifestations of a vigorous island arc sequence, built out over a east-dipping subduction zone of mid- to late Mesozoic age. The gold veins lace this ancient arc, remobilized by Mesozoic shearing and intrusions of igneous rock. The crystalline foothills are locally overlain by a Cenozoic sequence of Eocene clean beach sands overlain by Neogene volcanics, including the Diamond Head-like profile of Table Mountain.

The stratigraphy of the vicinity generally consists of Tertiary pyroclastic and volcanic mudflow deposits (Cascade Range) (NRCS 2021). Site soils primarily consist of Paradiso loam at 2 to 15 percent slopes primarily made up of clay loams. The clayey residuum that makes up the Paradiso loam originates from weathered volcanic rock. The soil extends down approximately 84 inches and is well-drained with a medium run-off class (NRCS 2021). These soils are generally moderately well drained with highly available water storage and negligible runoff that results in minimal flooding or ponding.

The project site is mostly located within the Feather River hydrologic unit in the West Branch Feather River watershed. A small portion of the western side of the site is located with the Butte Creek hydrologic unit in the Upper Dry Creek watershed. Shallow groundwater in the site vicinity is generally encountered more than six feet below ground surface and mostly flows southeast towards the Feather River, with a smaller portion flowing southwest towards Dry Creek, which will eventually flow into the Sacramento River. Groundwater in the site vicinity is encountered in unconfined aquifers, of which the shallow zones generally fluctuate between 15 and 35 feet below ground surface (bgs). Groundwater generally flows from the foothills in the northeast towards the Sacramento River and Feather River to the south-southwest.

The Project Site is not located within the boundaries of an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone, and no active faults are known to cross the site (Jennings and Bryant 2010).

Topography in the project area is relatively flat, with an elevation of approximately 2083 to 2134 feet above mean sea level. Site soils primarily consist of Paradiso loam, with minor parts Mountyana fine loam and Schott gravelly loam. These soils are not expansive and would not present a risk for the proposed development.



Paradise is situated approximately 49 miles south of the Mount Lassen volcanic area, however hazards associated with regional volcanism are low. The project is unlikely to impact or experience significant seismic shaking. Due to the minimal possibility of a strong intensity earthquake event, low/moderate soil plasticity index, and the depth of the groundwater, it is highly unlikely that liquefaction could occur in the project area. Landslides are typically unlikely as the slope and topography onsite is gentle, although the 2018 Camp Fire and cleanup program has removed a significant amount of the stabilizing vegetation, resulting in less stable hillsides. There is no historical documentation of asbestos or ultramafic rocks likely to contain asbestos in the site vicinity, though some does exist to the northeast of the site in a steep-sided canyon that contains the West Branch of the Feather River.

Tsunami is highly unlikely to occur as the project site is not located in close proximity to an ocean. Likewise, the nearest large water bodies are Lake Oroville and Lake Almanor, which are located approximately 5 miles to the south and 38 miles to the north, respectively. Dam failure and seiche hazards are unlikely. Also, although Lake Oroville is fairly close to the project site, a dam breach at Lake Oroville would occur at the southwest side of the lake, and would not threaten the proposed site, which is north-northwest of the dam and is over 1000 feet higher in elevation.

## Discussion of Impacts to Geology and Soils:

- a), c) d) The project area is not located in the vicinity of known active faults, in an area that could be subject to landslides or tsunamis; adverse impacts related to large-scale geologic conditions are considered a **no impact**. Site soils primarily consist of Paradiso loam. Paradiso loam is classified as a Class 3e soil. These soils are not expansive and would not present a risk for the proposed development.
- b) Implementation of the proposed project would not result in long-term increases in erosion or soil loss; however, construction-related activities will result in temporary disturbance of the ground surface. These activities may expose disturbed and loosened soils to erosion from wind. Short-term increases in soil erosion could occur due to construction activities, however the site is largely level, will be landscaped and would not result in significant erosion, resulting in a less than significant impact. These impacts will be further reduced by the mitigation measure presented in the Water Quality section (Preparation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan approved of by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB)). All exposed soils will be landscaped using native plants to reduce potential for erosion.
- **c)** Site soils consist of Paradiso loam, which is well drained, and has a low expansive potential, resulting in **no impact.**
- **e)** No wastewater treatment provider currently serves the project area therefore the site will be serviced by septic. At least one septic tank will be installed to service the restrooms located at the proposed multipurpose center. The project has not been evaluated for an on-site septic system, however the house that was previously on the property located at 6667 Nedry Dr (APN: 050-230-088) was a 3-bedroom, 3-bathroom home that was served by septic and was determined to have adequate soil conditions. It is presumed that soils near the proposed multi-purpose center would be adequate to accommodate a septic system resulting in **no impact**. As a condition for project approval, a design plan from a certified septic system designer would be required as part of the permitting approval process for a new on-site wastewater system.



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

Several gases in the earth's atmosphere impact temperatures and play a critical role in determining the earth's climate. These gases are referred to as "greenhouse gasses" and primarily include: carbon dioxide ( $CO_2$ ), methane ( $CH_4$ ), nitrous oxide ( $N_2O$ ), sulfur hexafluoride ( $SF_6$ ), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs). Although many of these gases occur naturally (via solar radiation and tectonic events), anthropogenic activities such as large-scale mining and fossil fuel consumption greatly contribute to greenhouse gas emissions and expedited changes in the climate.

In 2012 the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) adopted a plan to reduce greenhouses gases and slow human-induced climate change. As part of that plan, construction emission thresholds were established to distinguish between typical construction projects and Extraordinary Construction Projects, which meet either of the following:

- 1) the project emits more than 25,000 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> during the construction phase of the project, or
- 2) The project emits more than 12,500 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> in any single year of construction.

#### **Discussion of Impacts to Greenhouse Gases:**

a) – b) The proposed project includes the installation of recreational facilities and a landscaped park including native and ornamental trees and is unlikely to result in significant emissions of greenhouse gases. Construction will require the use of large gas- and diesel- powered equipment, however these additional greenhouse gas emissions will be temporary and minimal. This small project does not conflict with cumulative greenhouse gas reduction goals, plans or policies, resulting in less than significant impact.



8.0 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?				
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and 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?				

The completed project will not generate or store large-quantities of hazardous materials; however, hazardous materials including equipment fuels, lubricants and greases may be used during construction of the structures. Onsite activities may require or result in the use and/or spill of hazardous materials, however the materials would not be used or stored in quantities that would pose a significant safety hazard or environmental threat. Similarly, acutely hazardous materials such as cleaners, solvents and paints may be used in the buildings following construction activities. These materials will be stored in small quantities and in compliance with established state and federal requirements. The closest airport is the Paradise Airport, 5.2 miles southwest of the site.



## Discussion of Impacts to Hazards and Hazardous Materials:

- a) There is a minor potential for a spill hazard to occur along roads surrounding the project site, and/or along roads within the project site. However, the transportation of hazardous materials is strictly regulated by various state and federal agencies. Thus, the possibility of a spill or leak at any given time is low. In the event of a hazardous material leak or spill, the Paradise Fire Department would respond first to manage the emergency, and other agencies would respond shortly thereafter. Depending upon the type and extent of the leak or spill, remediation action would be taken. Impacts, therefore, are considered **less than significant**.
- **b)** The proposed project does not involve the construction of a facility or structure associated with the routine transport, use, or disposal of significant quantities of hazardous materials. No releases of hazardous materials or substances are expected to occur during the implementation of the proposed project. Construction and maintenance of the project does not involve the use of large quantities of hazardous materials. Impacts are therefore considered **less than significant**.
- c) The proposed project area is located 0.13 miles south of Children's Community Charter School and 0.24 miles north of Ponderosa Elementary School. Based on the information provided in responses a) and b), and the fact that minimal maintenance of mechanized vehicles and hazardous materials will be used during project activities, the impacts are considered less than significant.
- **d)** The Noble Park Project proposed site is not listed in any cleanup or hazardous waste databases, resulting with **no impact**.
- e) f) The closest airport is the Paradise Airport, approximately 5.2 miles southwest of the site. Since the airport is over 2 miles away, CalTrans will not need to be notified of the project as per PUC Section 21655. Since the project involves minimal change in use and there are no private airstrips in the area, there is **no impact**.
- **g)** The implementation of the proposed project would not add any housing or impair or otherwise impede any emergency evacuation or emergency response plans or activities, resulting in **less than significant impact**.
- h) The project is located in a rural urban area, which has been identified by Cal-Fire as being within an area containing wildfire threats, resulting in a potentially significant impact.



9.0 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements?		$\boxtimes$		
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 or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?				
f) Otherwise substantially degrade water quality?			$\boxtimes$	
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 the failure of a levee or dam?				
j) Inundation by seiche, tsunami, or mudflow?				



## Discussion of Impacts to Hydrology and Water Quality:

a) The project site is in the jurisdiction of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB). The area to be disturbed by the proposed project is approximately 20.5 acres. Pursuant to Section 402 of the Clean Water Act, the EPA has established regulations under the NPDES program to control direct stormwater discharges. In California, the State Water Resources Control Board administers the NPDES permitting program and is responsible for developing NPDES permitting requirements. The NPDES program regulates industrial pollutant discharges, including construction activities for sites larger than one acre. The proposed project would disturb a significant area during the course of the project, including paving of surfaces. This could contribute sediment and other pollutants to stormwater runoff, generating a potentially significant impact. Implementation of the following mitigation measure will reduce these impacts to less than significant with mitigation incorporated:

**Mitigation Measure #2:** Prepare and implement a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), approved of by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB).

The RWQCB will require that, prior to construction activities, a SWPPP be prepared that identifies Best Management Practices (BMPs) to reduce erosion of disturbed soils during construction activities. The SWPPP will describe measures to be used to minimize wind and water erosion and transport of sediments during course construction. The SWPPP is subject to approval by the RWQCB, pursuant to the State's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction Permit and Clean Water Act, Section 401. The plan will be prepared and approved before construction activities begin. At a minimum, the plan will include the following measures:

- Retain onsite the sediments generated on or brought to the project site, using treatment control or structural BMPs.
- Retain construction-related materials and wastes, spills, and residues at the project site and prevent discharges to streets, drainage facilities, the MS4, receiving waters, or adjacent properties.
- Contain non-storm runoff from equipment and vehicle washing at the project site.
- Control erosion from slopes and channels through BMPs such as: limitation of grading during the wet season; inspection of graded areas during rain events; planting and maintenance of vegetation on slopes, if any; and covering any slopes susceptible to erosion.
- Surface disturbance of soil and vegetation will be kept to a minimum, existing access and roads will be used wherever feasible.
- Any stockpiled soil would be placed and sloped so that it would not be subject to accelerated erosion.
- After ground-disturbing activities are complete, all disturbed areas will be replanted or covered with paving stones to prevent erosion.

If the aforementioned BMPs and stormwater controls included in **Mitigation Measure #2** are properly implemented at the site, the proposed project would not violate water quality standards or waste discharge requirements, resulting in a **less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated**.

b) The project site is east of the Sacramento Valley Groundwater Basin, and is served by Paradise Irrigation District. The proposed project would convert currently pervious area to impervious area through the construction of structures. The project site will remain mostly pervious with a combination of ornamental and native vegetation. The project site does not have any wells or direct groundwater connections. Therefore, project implementation would not result in net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table. No direct impacts to groundwater



would occur. Implementation of the proposed project would not substantially interfere with groundwater recharge, resulting in **less than significant impact**.

c) The proposed project would will minimize irrigated turf to one area programmed for multi-use (free play, sports fields, picnicking, etc.). Other irrigated areas will be planted with low and medium water use plants and watered with drip irrigation and temporary drip irrigation to self-sustaining native plants. Use of water efficient irrigation system includes a rain sensor, evapotranspiration (ET) controllers, flow sensors, and shut-off valves to manage accidental line ruptures. The site will use point source irrigation to have very efficient subsurface drip (90% efficiency) falling well within the MAWA calculations. The design will include an efficient irrigation controller, equipped with a rain sensor and weather monitoring relay service via cellular reception. These additions ensure irrigation does not occur during precipitation. By incorporating weather/wind and evaporation data, the irrigation controller automatically adjusts run times accordingly.

The park is designed to manage stormwater using bio-swales, flow-through planters, pervious surfaces, grading to direct water to percolation areas. Pervious paving in in the parking stalls cleans and infiltrates runoff from paved roads and facilitates ground water recharge. These areas can be used to educate the community and visitors of the importance of treating and infiltrating storm water.

Storm water around the turf area will be captured and percolated in bioswales to prevent turf area runoff from flowing to other areas. Crushed basalt as part of our main circulation (30%) in around the natural area of the site, this surfacing is less costly, more appropriate for these areas, and will protect the wet meadow by reducing runoff and absorbing surface water.

The slope to the wet meadow is revegetated with self-sustaining native plants and natural materials to minimize storm water pollutants. The vegetation will slow runoff and increase infiltration before underground flows reach the wet meadow. The additions of new impermeable structures would result in an increase of stormwater runoff and potential to erode. Implementation of applicable BMPs discussed in **Mitigation Measure #2** would ensure that erosion or siltation impacts are reduced to a less than significant level, resulting in a **less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated**.

- d) The project site is currently undeveloped and does not have an available stormwater connection. The increase in impervious area at the project site would not substantially alter drainage patterns or increase the volume and rate of stormwater flow entering the municipal drainage system. The municipal drainage system is managed by the Town of Paradise Public Works Department, which require specific construction specifications that would prevent on- or offsite flooding, resulting in **less than significant impact**.
- **e)** Due to the conversion of pervious areas to impervious areas, the proposed project would slightly increase the volume and rate of stormwater flow and contribute additional sources of potentially polluted runoff to the drainage system. However, implementation of required BMPs during construction would ensure that impacts are reduced to a less than significant level, resulting in a **less than significant impact**.
- **f)** Provided that standard BMPs are implemented, as discussed in Mitigation Measure #2, the proposed project would not substantially degrade the water quality. No additional mitigation measures are required, resulting in **less than significant impact**.



- **g)** and h) The project site is not located within the boundaries of a 100-year flood zone and does not include construction of residences, resulting in **no impact**.
- **I)** The area is outside the 100-year flood plain and not prone to flooding, therefore there is **no impact** in terms of flooding, resulting in **no impact**.
- j) Tsunamis are defined as sea waves created by undersea fault movement. A seiche is an oscillation of the surface of a lake or landlocked sea. Tsunami is highly unlikely to occur as the project site is not located in close proximity to an ocean. Likewise, the nearest large water bodies are Lake Oroville and Lake Almanor, which are located approximately 5 miles to the south and 38 miles to the north, respectively. Dam failure and seiche hazards are unlikely. Also, although Lake Oroville is fairly close to the project site, a dam breach at Lake Oroville would occur at the southwest side of the lake, and would not threaten the proposed site, which is north-northwest of the dam and is over 1000 feet higher in elevation. The lack of steep slopes in this area of Paradise makes the possibility of mudflow unlikely, as mudflows typically occur in mountainous or hilly terrain. Therefore, there is **no impact** related to seiche, inundation, or mudflow.

10.0 LAND USE AND PLANNING	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
a) Physically divide an established community?				$\boxtimes$
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 community conservation plan?				$\boxtimes$

# **Discussion of Impacts to Land Use and Planning:**

- **a) and b)** The project would not result in the physical division of an established community, nor would it involve any changes in land use, General Plan designation, or zoning. Though the Town of Paradise 1994 General Plan designates Pentz Road as a scenic highway (OCP-9), and current zoning may necessitate a conditional use permit, the project is consistent with the goals and mission of the Town of Paradise and the Paradise General Plan. Therefore, there is **no impact**.
- **c)** Currently, there are no adopted Habitat Conservation Plans, Natural Community Conservation Plans, or state habitat conservation plans that apply to the project site, resulting in **no impact**.



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

According to the California Department of Resources Conservation, the project area does not extend into a Surface Mining And Reclamation Act (SMARA) study area.

# **Discussion of Impacts to Mineral Resources:**

a)- b) Based upon the absence of evidence of mineral resources on the subject site, the project would not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that will be of value of the region, resulting in **no impact**.



12.0 NOISE	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project result in:				
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?				

Noise consists of any sound that may produce physiological or psychological damage and/or interfere with communication, work, rest, recreation, and sleep. Noise impacts can be described in three categories: The first is audible impacts that refer to increases in noise levels noticeable to humans. Audible increases in noise levels generally refer to a change of 3.0 decibels (dB) or greater since this level has been found to be barely perceptible in exterior environments. The second category, potentially audible, refers to a change in the noise level between 1.0 and 3.0 dB. This range of noise levels has been found to be noticeable only in laboratory environments. The last category is changes in noise level of less than 1.0 dB that are inaudible to the human ear. Only audible changes in existing ambient or background noise levels are considered potentially significant.

The existing noise environment in the area of the proposed project is minimal as the site is not developed or currently in use. Noise originates from streets and roads in the project vicinity. Noise will be generated in the project area during operational hours; however the noise will not be significantly greater than the noise prior to the proposed project. Temporary noise will be produced during construction activities, however the duration and intensity is minimal.



#### **Discussion of Noise Impacts:**

- **a) d)** The proposed project will result in the generation of temporary construction-related noise and ground borne vibration during utility trenching and construction activities;. Residences are located north and east and west of the project area and motorized construction equipment operation will only occur between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM. Onsite construction workers will wear appropriate hearing protection during noise-generating activities. The proposed project might result in minor long-term or permanent noise level increases (such as increased vehicular traffic, recreational events) that will not likely exceed local noise standards, resulting in **less than significant impact**.
- **e)** The project area is situated approximately 5 miles north of the Paradise Municipal Airport; however it is outside the flight path and noise survey area, and the proposed project would not impact exposure to noise during or following construction, resulting in **less than significant impact**.
- f) The project area is not situated in vicinity to a private airstrip, resulting in **no impact**.

13.0 POPULATION AND HOUSING	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
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?				

## **Environmental Setting:**

There are currently no residential properties on site. Two structure on parcel 050-230-088-000 appear to have burned in the 2018 Camp Fire and have not been re-built. North of parcel 050-230-088-000 and east of parcel 050-230-060-000 seven houses remain on Chris Court All houses to the north along Merrill Road and south of the property have been destroyed by the 2018 Camp Fire. One single-family home remains to the west of the property. The proposed park will not add any new housing and will not significantly extend road or other infrastructure.

#### **Discussion of Impacts to Population and Housing:**

**a) - c)** The proposed project would not result in the construction of housing or structures that would attract additional residents to the area. The proposed project would not displace existing housing or people, nor would it necessitate the construction of housing elsewhere. Therefore, **no impact** on population and housing would occur.



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 accept service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:  Fire protection?  Police protection?	14.0 PU	BLIC SERVICES	Significant Impact	Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Significant Impact	Impact				
Police protection?  Schools?  Parks?	a) 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:									
Schools?	Fir	re protection?				$\boxtimes$				
Parks?	Po	olice protection?								
	Sc	chools?								
Other public facilities?	Pa	arks?								
	Ot	ther public facilities?								

#### Fire Protection

Fire protection in the Paradise area is provided by the Paradise Fire Department located at 747 Birch Street and the Butte County Fire Station 35 located at 1464 Forest Service Road in Paradise, CA.

#### Police Protection

The Paradise Police Department provides security Services for the Paradise area. The Police Department's headquarters are located at 5595 Black Olive Drive in Paradise, CA.

#### Schools

The proposed project is in the Paradise Unified School District and will not result in increased number of students. There are no schools in the vicinity that will be adversely impacted by this project.

#### Parks

The proposed project would benefit Paradise by providing an additional park to the area. There are no parks in the vicinity that would be adversely impacted by the proposed project.

#### Other Public Facilities

There are no other public facilities that would be adversely impacted by the proposed project.

#### **Discussion of Impacts to Public Services:**

a) The proposed project would not extend the service area of the City or County's fire department, nor would the projects necessitate construction of new fire protection facilities or the alternation of existing facilities. The proposed project is not expected to result in an increase in the need for police response, nor would it necessitate the construction of new police protection facilities or the alternation of existing facilities. The proposed project does not include any residential uses, nor would it increase the number of residents in the area, which would in turn increase the number of students or requirements for construction of new school facilities. The proposed project would not add residences to the project area that could result in increased demand for additional community



or county parks or contain any components that would lead to increased demand on other parks in the community, resulting in **no impact**.

15.0 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?				

# **Environmental Setting and Discussion of Impacts to Recreation:**

- a) The proposed project would not result in an increase in use of existing neighborhood or regional parks or other recreational facilities, resulting in no impact to this community resource.
- b) The proposed project would result in the development of a park and recreational facility in a residential neighborhood zoned RR1 (Rural Residential). The proposed project would replace an apple orchard and undeveloped land that was burned in the 2018 Camp Fire. The development is minimal and will not have a significant adverse physical effect on the environment, result in a less than significant impact.



16.0 TRANSPORTATION/TRAFFIC	Potentiall y Significan t Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impac
Would the project:				
a) Cause an increase in traffic, which is substantial in relation to the existing traffic load and capacity of the street system (i.e., result in a substantial increase in either the number of vehicle trips, the volume to capacity ratio on roads, or congestion at intersections)?	,			
b) Exceed, either individually or cumulatively, a level of service standard 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 due 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) Result in inadequate parking capacity?				
g) Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?				

The site currently does not include any paved access roads or parking access. The proposed project's main entrance is on the west side of the project along Pentz Road. An emergency/maintenance access road is planned to access the eastern portion of the site from the north along Nedry Drive. The proposed project includes an asphalt drive aisle and gravel stall, including 272 spaces.

## **Discussion of Impacts to Transportation/Traffic:**

**a) - g)** The proposed project will not cause any significant changes in congestion, vehicular traffic, air traffic patterns, or result in inadequate parking, emergency access or police programs, resulting in **no impact**. In contrast, the project includes parking areas and loading/unloading areas to reduce traffic and congestion.



17.0 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
Would the project:				
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 storm water drainage facilities or expansion of existing facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental effects?				
d) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, or are new or expanded entitlements needed?				
e) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?				
f) Be 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?				

a) – b) The proposed additions include construction of 800 square feet of restrooms at the proposed Multi-Purpose Community Center, a multi-purpose grass area, a symbolic orchard, concrete paths, asphalt parking, and landscaped areas. These new facilities would connect to a septic tank that will be installed on the property for discharge and disposal of domestic waste in accordance with applicable Regional Water Quality Control Board regulations. The use of a County-approved wastewater disposal septic system will be reflected as a condition of approval, and is enforceable through the terms of the condition. The project would additionally require expanded infrastructure including natural gas, electrical and water services.

The proposed additions are minimal and would not result in a significant increase of infrastructure, resulting in **less than significant impact**.

c) The proposed project is sited on sloping terrain that drains towards an adjacent property. The site has burned and has been logged to remove dead and dangerous trees. New vegetative cover will restore the site to capture storm water and reduce run off. The park is designed to manage stormwater using bio-swales, flow-through planters, pervious surfaces, grading to direct water to percolation areas. Pervious paving in in the parking stalls cleans and infiltrates runoff from paved



roads and facilitates ground water recharge. These areas can be used to educate the community and visitors of the importance of treating and infiltrating storm water. Storm water around the turf area will be captured and percolated in bioswales to prevent turf area runoff from flowing to other areas.

Crushed basalt as part of our main circulation (30%) in around the natural area of the site, this surfacing is less costly, more appropriate for these areas, and will protect the wet meadow by reducing runoff and absorbing surface water.

The slope to the wet meadow is revegetated with self-sustaining native plants and natural materials to minimize storm water pollutants. The vegetation will slow runoff and increase infiltration before underground flows reach the wet meadow.

The proposed project will not add new stormwater drainage facilities, resulting in **no impact**.

d) The proposed project would not result in significantly more water consumption, existing entitlements and resources. The park will minimize irrigated turf to one area programmed for multiuse (free play, sports fields, picnicking, etc.). Other irrigated areas will be planted with low and medium water use plants and watered with drip irrigation and temporary drip irrigation to self-sustaining native plants. Use of water efficient irrigation system includes a rain sensor, evapotranspiration (ET) controllers, flow sensors, and shut-off valves to manage accidental line ruptures. The site will use point source irrigation to have very efficient subsurface drip (90% efficiency) falling well within the MAWA calculations.

The design will include an efficient irrigation controller, equipped with a rain sensor and weather monitoring relay service via cellular reception. These additions ensure irrigation does not occur during precipitation. By incorporating weather/wind and evaporation data, the irrigation controller automatically adjusts run times accordingly.

The site was previously used as an irrigated apple orchard. The site receives water from the Paradise Irrigation District, which has sufficient water supplies available to serve the project from existing entitlements and resources, and no new or expanded entitlements would be needed, resulting in **less than significant impact**.

- e) At least one septic tank will be installed to service the restrooms located at the proposed multipurpose center. The project has not been evaluated for an on-site septic system, however the house that was previously on the property located at 6667 Nedry Dr (APN: 050-230-088) was a 3 bedroom 3 bathroom home that was served by septic and was determined to have adequate soil conditions. It is presumed that soils near the proposed multi-purpose center would be adequate to accommodate a septic system. As a condition for project approval, a design plan from a certified septic system designer would be required as part of the permitting approval process for a new on-site wastewater system. The project area is not served by a wastewater treatment plant, resulting in **no impact**.
- f) g) The project area is served by the Neal Road Landfill on Neal Road in Paradise. The proposed project would generate minimal additional solid waste in the region; the project will be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs. The site would adhere to the Town of Paradise requirements related to solid waste collection, and the project would comply with federal, state, and local statues and regulations related to solid waste, resulting in **no impact.**



18.0 WILDFIRE	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?				

**a-d)** The proposed project exists within a high severity burn scar as the result of the 2018 Camp in land classified as very high fire hazard severity zone. The project will not substantially impair emergency response plans or emergency evacuation plans and will not require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure. The proposed project and includes irrigated landscaping which will reduce the existing risk downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, will reduce the post-fire slope instability, provide better drainage, and reduce the risk of wildfire in this area, resulting in **no impact**.



19.0 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 will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?				

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- **a)** Without mitigation, the proposed project has the potential (although unlikely) to have short-term significant impacts on cultural resources and hydrology/water quality. Mitigation measures have been developed to address these concerns. Implementation of these measures will reduce potential short-term impacts to **less than significant with mitigation incorporated**. In the long term, the proposed project would now impact the quality of the environment in the project area. No permanent impacts would result from project construction.
- **b) c)** The proposed project could result in significant impacts to cultural resources and hydrology/water quality; however, implementation of mitigation measures as discussed herein would avoid the effects or mitigate the effects to a point where the effects would appear to be less than cumulatively considerable. In addition, the project does not have potentially negative cumulative impacts and would not cause any substantial adverse environmental effects on human beings either directly or indirectly, resulting in **less than significant impact**.



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FIGURE 1: PROJECT AREA – CURRENT SITE CONDITIONS NOBLE PARK PROJECT EAST OF PENTZ ROAD AND SOUTH OF MERRILL ROAD, PARADISE, CA



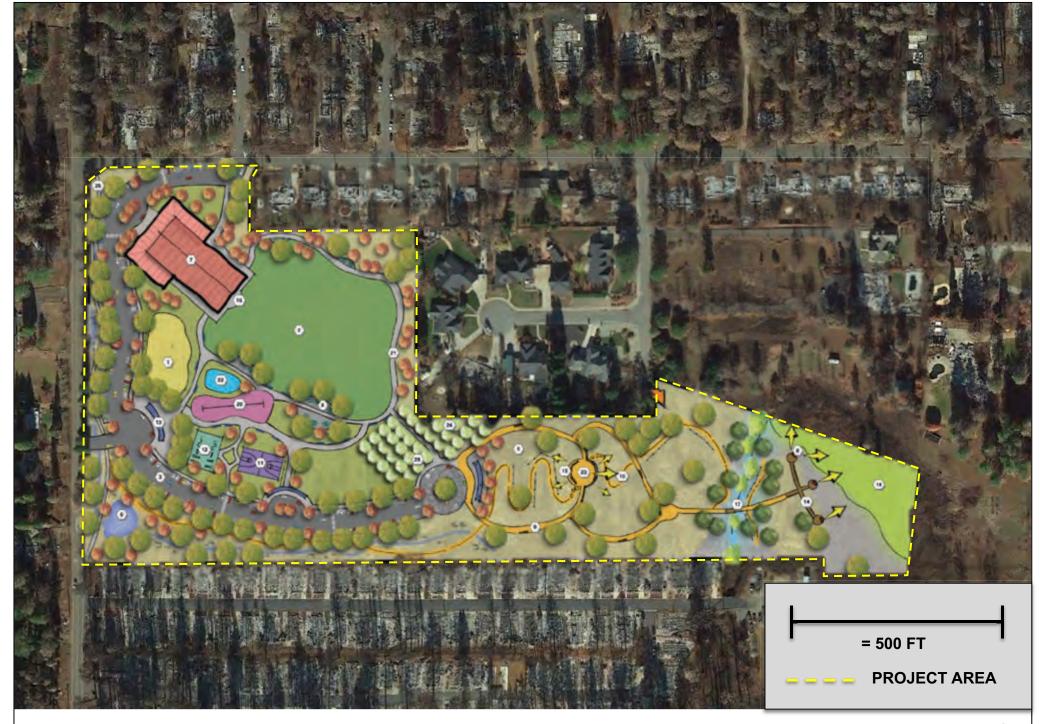


FIGURE 1: PROJECT AREA – CURRENT SITE CONDITIONS NOBLE PARK PROJECT EAST OF PENTZ ROAD AND SOUTH OF MERRILL ROAD, PARADISE, CA



# **APPENDIX B: SITE PHOTOGRAPHS**



SITE PHOTOGRAPHS – APRIL 8, 2020 NOBLE PARK PROJECT EAST OF PENTZ ROAD AND SOUTH OF MERRILL ROAD, PARADISE, CA





SITE PHOTOGRAPHS – APRIL 8, 2020 NOBLE PARK PROJECT EAST OF PENTZ ROAD AND SOUTH OF MERRILL ROAD, PARADISE, CA





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