Print Form

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

County Clerk
County of: El Dorado
360 Fair Lane
Placerville, CA 95667

From: (Public Agency): Cameron Park Community Services District
2502 Country Club Dr
Cameron Park, CA 95682
(Address)

Project Title: Rasmussen Park Improvements Project

Project Applicant: Cameron Park Community Services District

Project Location - Specific:

Rasmussen Park in the community of Cameron Park. 38°41'18.341"N, 120°58'46.689"

Project Location - City: Cameron Park Project Location - County: El Dorado County

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project:

The proposed Project would improve turf quality and durability and field drainage conditions within the limits of the existing two sportsfields. The two baseball fields are a turfgrass area that is approximately 24,500 square feet. The proposed project would involve removing and hauling off the existing turfgrass, grading the soil, leveling the surface, importing clean fill plus 3 tons of soil conditioners to improve turf health and durability, and then seeding and fertilizing the new turfgrass. Other improvements include adding bocce ball courts and shade covers for existing picnic tables.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Cameron Park Community Services District

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: Jill Ritzman, General Manager

Exempt Status: **(check one):**

- ☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
- ☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
- ☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
- ☒ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: Class 1, Section 15301, Existing Facilities
- ☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number: _____

Reasons why project is exempt:

The Project consists of the repair, maintenance, and minor alteration of existing public park structures, facilities, and sportsfield topography, involving negligible expansion of existing uses.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Jill Ritzman, General Manager Area Code/Telephone/Extension: (530) 350-4651

If filed by applicant:

1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? Yes No

Signature: _____ Date: 6·28·2024 Title: General Manager

▪ Signed by Lead Agency Signed by Applicant

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: _____

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION FINDING

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of Project:
Rasmussen Park Improvements Project

Lead Agency Name and Address:
Cameron Park Community Services District, 2502 Country Club Dr, Cameron Park, CA 95682

Contact Person and Phone number:
Jill Ritzman, General Manager, (530) 350-4651

Project Location:
The Project is located at the end of Monukka Drive and adjacent to Mira Loma Drive within the boundary of Cameron Park Community Services District, in El Dorado County. Coordinates are 38°41'18.341"N, 120°58'46.689"W

General Plan Designation:
Rasmussen Park is designated as "Public Facility" in the El Dorado County General Plan Land Use Element (December 2019).

Zoning:
Rasmussen Park is zoned as "Recreational Facilities (RF)" by the El Dorado County General Plan (December 2019).

Project Description:
The Rasmussen Park Improvements Project (Project) would improve turf quality and durability and field drainage conditions within the limits of the existing two sportsfields. The two baseball fields are a turfgrass area that is approximately 24,500 square feet. The Project would involve removing the existing turfgrass, grading the soil, leveling the surface, hauling excess turfgrass offsite, importing clean fill plus 3 tons of soil conditioners to improve turf health and durability, and then seeding and fertilizing the new turfgrass.

The excavated turf would be removed and stockpiled at the existing paved parking lot. Excavated material would be temporarily stored in dumpsters in the parking area and hauled off-site. Approximately 110 cubic yards of new fill would be imported and blended onto the sportsfield. Excavation and truck hauling of materials into the Project site would be intermittent and limited to the hours of between 7am and 5pm on weekdays only. Existing fencing would remain around the sportsfields for the duration of heavy equipment operations and for four months following seeding of the field. The existing fencing would prevent public entry and the existing park amenities in the center of the park (playground) may also be closed intermittently. The Project heavy equipment operations would be completed in approximately 4 to 6 weeks during the months of June and July 2021.

Measures for flood protection from the adjacent intermittent stream (on the southeast border) would be added that consist of a new 6-inch drain line with catch basins to transport flood water away from the sportsfields. The drain line and catch basins would not be located within the intermittent stream zone and outside the ordinary high water mark. Best management practices will be followed that include exclusionary fencing, and fencing that prevents the transport of sediment into the stream.

Additonal Project features would include adding a basketball court, bocce ball courts, and a 25'x40' open air shelter that would cover 8 picnic tables. These features would be placed on existing improved park grounds that include the turfgrass area and area that has been actively managed for vegetation control such as mowing/trimming.

Figure 1 shows the Project's location. Figure 2 provides a detailed site map of the proposed Project features.

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION FINDING

The Cameron Park Community Services District (CSD) has determined that this Project is categorically exempt under CEQA Guidelines Article 19, Section 15301 Existing Facilities. The Class 1 exemption consists of "the operation, repair, maintenance, permitting, leasing, licensing, or minor alteration of existing public or private structures, facilities, mechanical equipment, or topographical features, involving negligible or no expansion of existing or former use."

Exceptions to Categorical Exemptions

In accordance with CEQA Guidelines, Section 15300.2, and Public Resources Code, Section 21084, Cameron Park Community Services District has considered whether circumstances exist that would create an exception to this categorical exemption and has not found that any such circumstances exist. As a categorically exempt project, the CSD has made the following findings:

Yes	No	
☐	☒	Would the project have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive or special status species?
☐	☒	Would the project and successive projects of the same type in the same place result in cumulative impacts?
☐	☒	Are there "unusual circumstances" creating the reasonable possibility of significant effects?
☐	☒	Would the project result in damage to scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, or historic buildings within a state scenic highway?
☐	☒	Is the project located on a site that the Department of Toxic Substances

Control and the Secretary of the Environmental Protection have identified, pursuant to Government Code section 65962.5, as being affected by hazardous wastes or clean-up problems?

☐ ☒ Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource?

Discussion

The Project site is within a 10.1-acre community park with an existing turfgrass sportsfield approximately 0.6 acre in size. The park is located within the boundaries of Cameron Park CSD. The Park is surrounded to the north and west by mixed use development that is predominately low and high density residential. Open space surrounds the park to the south and east.

A Biological Resources Analysis (Appendix A) was completed to evaluate the potential for sensitive species to occur. This analysis included database searches and a field survey. A CNDDB database search found that most special status plants and animals prefer habitat within vernal pools or in gabbro, rescue series, and serpentine soils that exist within 5 miles of the Project in the Pine Hill area that supports protected endemic plant species. The Sensitive Species Map in Figure 3 shows that most occurrences in close proximity are on the small ridge to the south of the park. This dry ridge contains Rescue series soils with patchy chapparal that is excellent habitat for the Pine Hill endemics. The field survey found two listed species that were observed on this ridge 700 feet to the south of the park boundary: El Dorado County mule ears (Wyethia reticulata) and Pine Hill ceanothus (Ceanothus roderickii). However, within the park boundary, habitat is poor due to site characteristics found during the field survey.

There are no substantial, potentially adverse environmental impacts identified with repair and maintenance of the existing sportsfields and the additional park features, and there are no other known projects of the same type planned within the immediate area that would cause a cumulative impact. There are no known unusual circumstances that would create the reasonable possibility of any significant effects associated with the Project.

There is no State Scenic Highway in the vicinity of the Project. The Project would not remove any trees, and there are no historic buildings on or adjacent to the site that would be affected by Project activities. As shown by a search of the Department of Toxic Substances Control EnviroStor database, there are no hazardous waste sites within or proximate to the Project (DTSC 2021).

Cultural Records Search Results Letter prepared by Sharon A. Waechter, MA/RPA is provided in Appendix B. The documentation provided by the NCIC search included a cultural resources survey report prepared by a staff archaeologist at the Archeological Study Center, California State University, Sacramento. That report described the site (known at that time as the Cameron Woods Community Park) as roughly ten acres of marshy meadow land that had

been developed into two softball diamonds. The report noted that the area had been graded and the low-lying areas filled with up to three feet of earth to level the site, which was then planted in grass. The cultural survey focused on the park periphery, outside of the graded and leveled areas. The archaeologists found no evidence of archaeological materials or historic structures, and they concluded that the potential for subsurface archaeological remains was low. All indications are that the Project area no longer retains its original ground surface: the once marshy area has been graded and leveled, and a "skin" of infield material/grasses has been placed across the surface. The previous cultural survey by archaeologists from CSUS found no indications of archaeological remains or historical structures/features within the park, and those surveyors concluded that the former marshland was unlikely to contain buried cultural remains.

References

EDC 2019. El Dorado County General Plan. Adopted July 19, 2004, the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors adopted a new General Plan for the County. The last amendment for the General Plan was December 10, 2019.

DTSC, 2021. The California Dept. of Toxic Substances Control EnviroStor Database. Searched April 15, 2021. http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/

Figure 1: Project Location

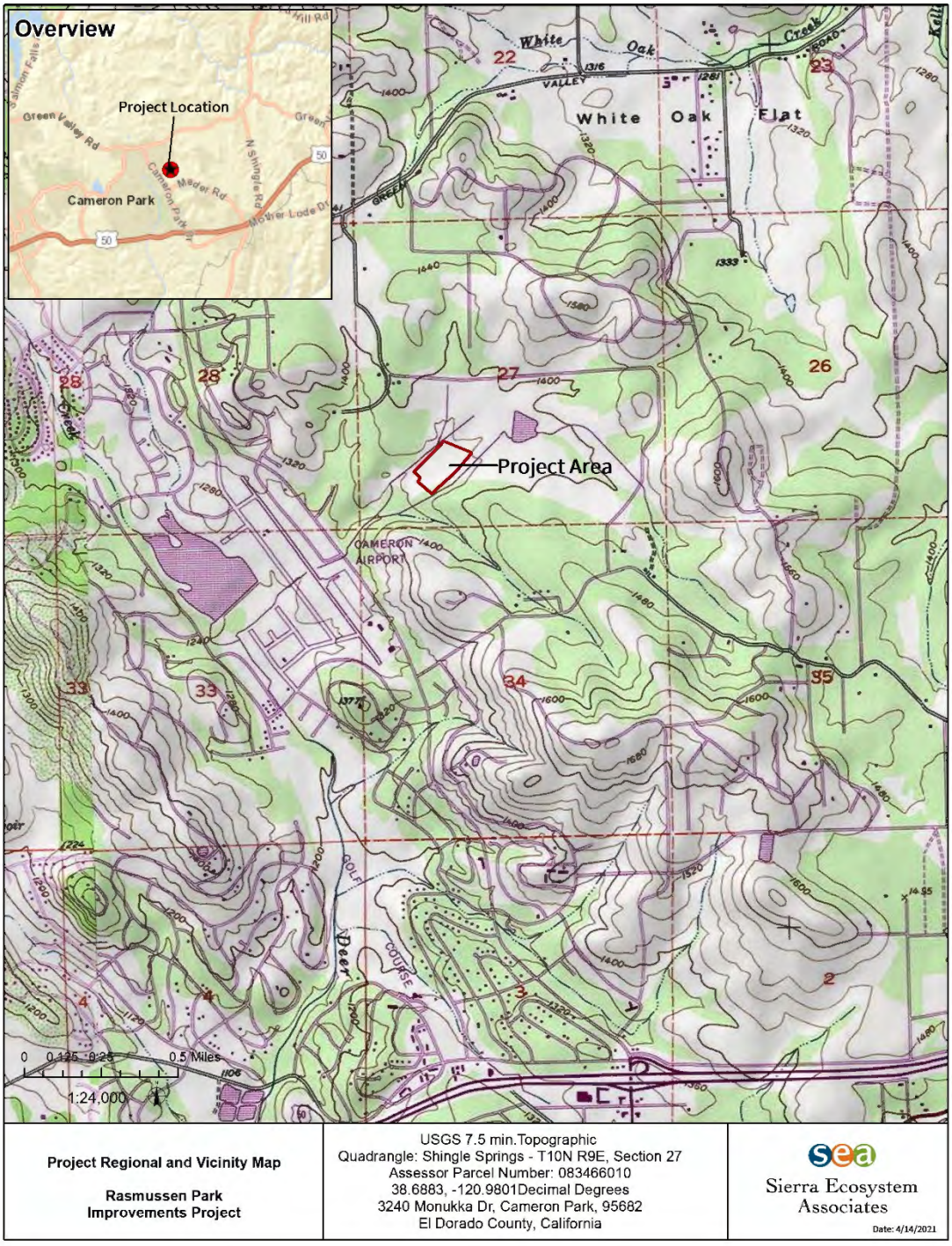
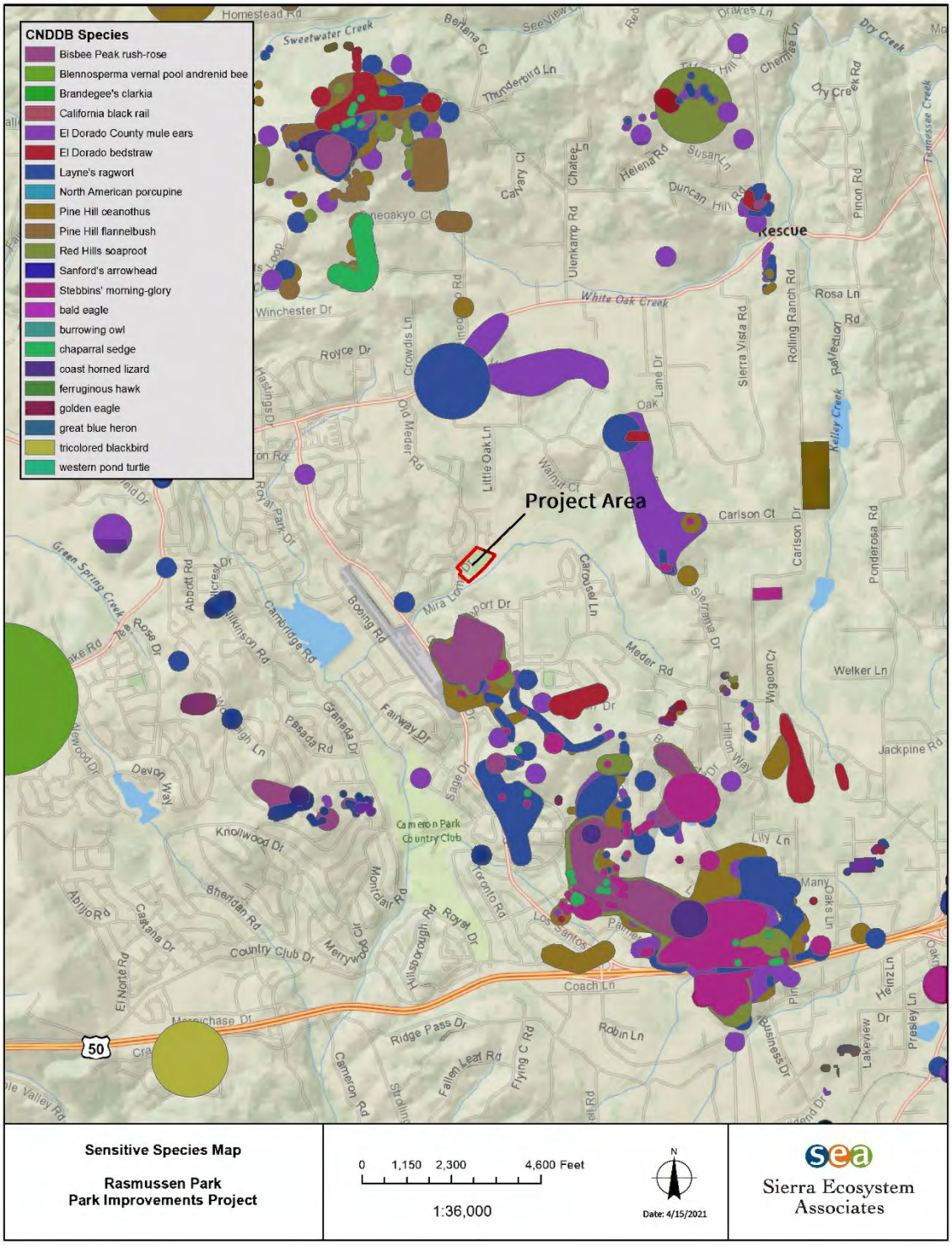


Figure 2: Project Location - Detail

Figure 3: Sensitive Species Map



CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION FINDING

Appendix A

Biological Resources Analysis

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The following report addresses the potential biological resources effects of the proposed Rasmussen Park Improvements Project (Project). The Cameron Park Community Services District (CSD) proposes to perform repairs of the 0.6 acre turfgrass sportsfields, protect the fields from seasonal flooding, and add park ammenities.

1.1 Project Description

The Rasmussen Park Improvements Project (Project) would improve turf quality and durability and field drainage conditions within the limits of the existing two sportsfields. The two baseball fields are a turfgrass area that is approximately 24,500 square feet. The Project would involve removing the existing turfgrass, grading the soil, leveling the surface, hauling excess turfgrass offsite, importing clean fill plus 3 tons of soil conditioners to improve turf health and durability, and then seeding and fertilizing the new turfgrass.

The excavated turf would be removed and stockpiled at the existing paved parking lot. Excavated material would be temporarily stored in dumpsters in the parking area and hauled off-site. Approximately 110 cubic yards of new fill would be imported and blended onto the sportsfield. Excavation and truck hauling of materials into the Project site would be intermittent and limited to the hours of between 7am and 5pm on weekdays only. Existing fencing would remain around the sportsfields for the duration of heavy equipment operations and for four months following seeding of the field. The existing fencing would prevent public entry and the existing park amenities in the center of the park (playground) may also be closed intermittently. The Project heavy equipment operations would be completed in approximately 4 to 6 weeks during the months of June and July 2021.

Measures for flood protection from the adjacent intermittent stream (on the southeast border) would be added that consist of a new 6-inch drain line with catch basins to transport flood water away from the sportsfields. The drain line and catch basins would not be located within the intermittent stream zone and outside the ordinary high water mark. Best management practices will be followed that include exclusionary fencing, and fencing that prevents the transport of sediment into the stream.

Additonal Project features would include adding a basketball court, bocce ball courts, and a 25'x40' open air shelter that would cover 8 picnic tables. These features would be placed on existing improved park grounds that include the turfgrass area and area that has been actively managed for vegetation control such as mowing/trimming.

Figure 1 provides a site map of the Project area.

1.2 Survey Dates and Personnel

EN2 Resources, Inc. (EN2) staff Senior Ecologist, Jeremy Waites (J. Waites), and Natural Resource Analyst, Kristen Hunter visited the Project site and completed a pedestrian field survey of the area on April 14, 2021. The field survey focused on vegetation: completing a habitat assessment for sensitive species and surveying vegetation cover types. Prior to the site visit, EN2 staff completed a desktop evaluation of published resources with information regarding the site and the surrounding area. Photos taken during the site visit are included in Appendix A.

2.0 METHODOLOGY

Development of this biological report involved 1) a desktop evaluation and 2) a field survey. The methodology for each is described below.

2.1 Desktop Evaluation

The desktop evaluation of the Project site consisted of the review of current database maintained by CDFW to identify special-status species which could occur on the Project site (CDFW 2021). In addition, J. Waites completed a search of database records in the CNDDB for reported occurrences of special status species. The CNDDB search included the Project site and a 5-mile buffer around the Project site. Table 1 summarizes the species identified in this focused query (CDFW 2021).

Table 1. CNDDB Species

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Listing	CA Listing	Habitat	Habitat Present
Agelaius tricolor	tricolored blackbird	N	T	Agricultural, marshes, grasslands	Poor
Andrena blennospermatis	Blennosperma vernal pool andrenid bee	N	N	Vernal Pools	None
Aquila chrysaetos	golden eagle	N	N	Open mountains, foothills, plains	Poor
Ardea herodias	great blue heron	N	N	Open water shores, wetlands	None
Athene cunicularia	burrowing owl	N	N	Agricultural lands, deserts, grasslands, prairies	None
Buteo regalis	ferruginous hawk	N	N	Arid plains and intermountain regions. Open country with scattered trees	Poor
Calystegia stebbinsii	Stebbins' morning-glory	E	E	serpentinite, gabbroic soils	None
Carex xerophila	chaparral sedge	N	N	serpentinite, gabbroic soils	None
Ceanothus roderickii	Pine Hill ceanothus	E	R	serpentinite, gabbroic soils	None
Chlorogalum grandiflorum	Red Hills soaproot	N	N	serpentinite, gabbroic soils	None

Clarkia biloba ssp. brandegeeae	Brandegee's clarkia	N	N	Roadcuts, chaparral, montane coniferous forest	None
Crocanthemum suffrutescens	Bisbee Peak rush-rose	N	N	gabbroic and Ione soils	None
Emys marmorata	western pond turtle	N	N	Vegetated lakes, rivers	None
Erethizon dorsatum	North American porcupine	N	N	Coniferous and Shrubby areas	None
Fremontodendron decumbens	Pine Hill flannelbush	E	RR	serpentinite, gabbroic soils	None
Galium californicum ssp. sierrae	El Dorado bedstraw	E	R	serpentinite, gabbroic soils	
Haliaeetus leucocephalus	bald eagle	D	E	Areas near open water and mature nesting trees	None
Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus	California black rail	N	T	Marshes	None
Packera layneae	Layne's ragwort	T	R	Chapparal in serpentine and gabbroic soils	None
Phrynosoma blainvillii	coast horned lizard	N	N	Open areas of sandy soil and low vegetation in valleys, foothills and semiarid mountain	None
Sagittaria sanfordii	Sanford's arrowhead	N	N	Shallow, freshwater marshes and swamp	None
Wyethia reticulata	El Dorado County mule ears	N	N	serpentinite, gabbroic soils	None

Notes: E = Endangered T = Threatened D = Delisted N = None R = Rare

2.2 Pedestrian Field Survey

The field assessment included a habitat analysis and a floristic botanical survey in which every plant species was identified, meaning that every plant taxon was identified to the taxonomic level necessary to determine if potential sensitive plant species could occur. Unknown species were identified using a taxonomic key in the Jepson Manual (Jepson 2020). The survey extent was comprehensive over the entire park and a portion of the adjacent Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land on the eastern side of the park.

3.0 RESULTS BASED ON DESKTOP EVALUATION AND FIELD SURVEY

The following section provides details on the specific habitat characteristics at the site, conditions which influence those habitats, and includes information gathered during the April 2021 site visit.

The local topography surrounding the Project site is in a relatively flat area surrounded by wetlands to the northeast and southeast, low density residential to the north and west, and upland oak woodland and chapparal to the east. The surrounding area that is not developed contains depositional soils with annual grasses in the low areas and oak woodland in the upland areas.

The CNDDB database search found that special status plants and animals and their habitats are present in vernal pools or in gabbro, Rescue series, and serpentine soils that exist within 5 miles of

the Project in the Pine Hill area that supports protected endemic plant species. As shown in Table 1, there is potential habitat for special status species within or near the Project site. The Sensitive Species Map in Appendix A shows that most occurrences in close proximity are on the small ridge to the south of the park. This dry ridge contains Rescue series soils with patchy chapparal that is excellent habitat for the Pine Hill endemics. During the field survey, two listed species were observed on this ridge 700 feet to the south of the park boundary: El Dorado County mule ears (*Wyethia reticulata*) and Pine Hill ceanothus (*Ceanothus roderickii*). However, within the park boundary, habitat is poor or nonexistent.

3.1 Wetland Features

The park is in a low-lying area in which overland water flow is diverted around the southeast and northwest sides of the park. Both drainages were flowing during the time of the survey. Theses drainages contained wetland obligate and facultative plants such as willow *(Salix ssp.*), sedges (*Carex ssp.*), and cattail (*Typha ssp.*). Project activities do not include the encroachment or fill of any wetland features.

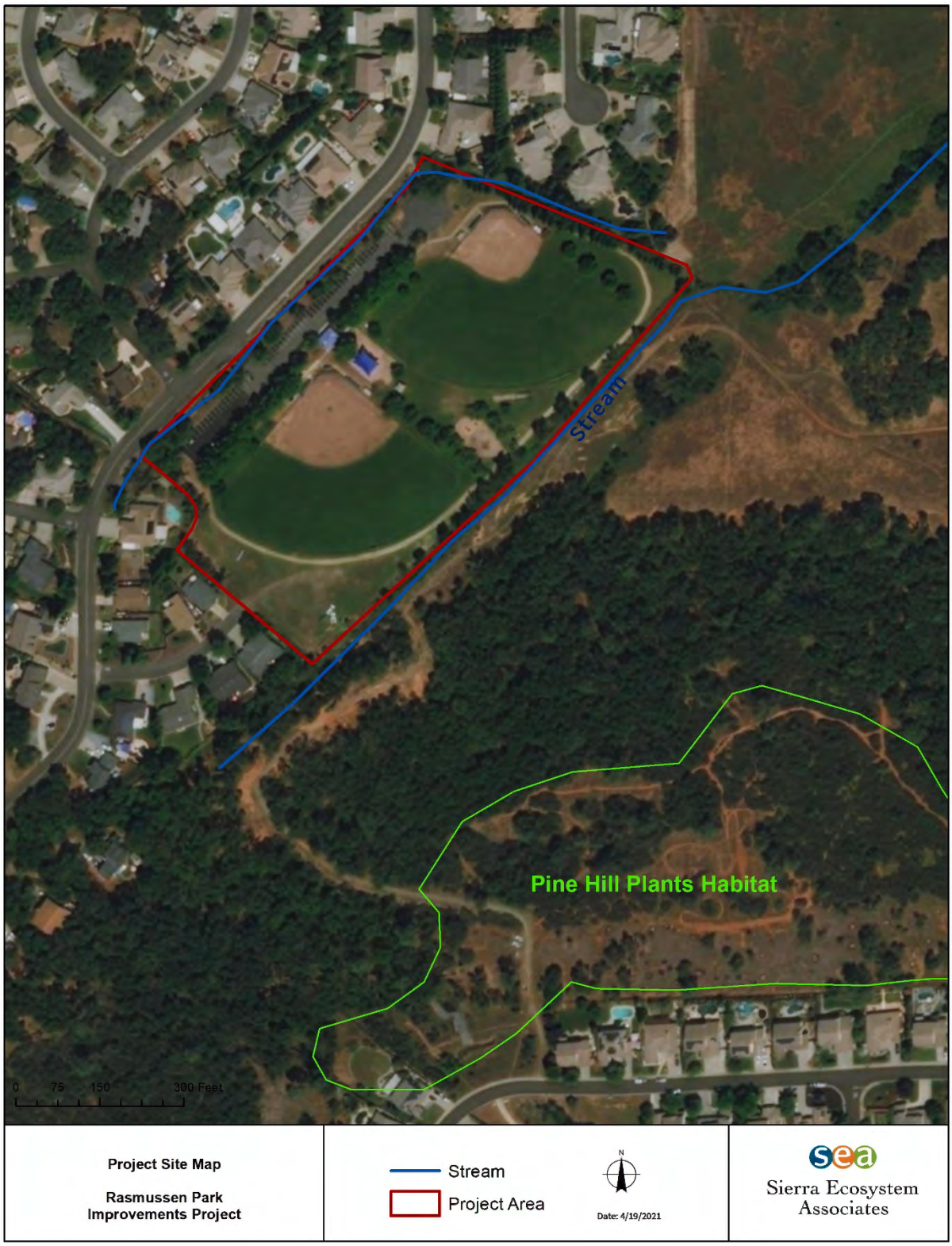
3.2 Vegetation Classification

The Project vicinity contains Mixed Oak Woodland. The park is mostly developed and planted with *maple (Acer ssp.)*, willow (*salix ssp.*), London plane (*Platanus hispanica*), eucalyptus, and non-native annual grasses. To the southeast, the park is bordered by a stream flowing from Rasmussen Pond towards Cameron Park Drive. Cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*) and riparian species including (*Salix ssp*.) can be found in this area. Surrounding the Project area to the northeast and southeast, the area is oak woodland containing blue oak (*Quercus douglasii*), interior live oak (*Quercus wislizeni*) and valley oak (*Quercus lobata*).

4.0 DISCUSSION

Based on the existing conditions of the Project area, no vernal pools exist within the Project boundary. The soil within the Project area is listed as Rescue sandy loam and Rescue clay, 2 to 9 percent slopes. The soils in Project area have been modified to support turfgrass and compacted to support pedestrian and machinery traffic. In the undeveloped area in the immediate vicinity, soils have been altered by erosion and alluvial sedimentation. The soil characteristics, increased competition, and habitat conditions are unlikely to support the Pine Hill endemic plants. Project activities would be contained within the existing turfgrass area and would be unlikely to affect sensitive plant species. No sensitive plants were found within park boundaries during the survey on April 14, 2021.

Figure 1. Sensitive Species Map



Photograph Log

Photograph 1. Proposed bocce ball court placement

Photograph 2. Existing flood protection by adjacent stream along the southeastern boundary

Photograph 3. Proposed basketball court placement

Photograph 4. Drainage on the northwestern side of the park between the parking area and Mira Loma Drive

Photograph 5. Proposed area for a shade structure

Photograph 6. Existing turfgrass area on sportsfield

CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION FINDING

Appendix B

Cultural Records Search Results Letter prepared by Sharon A. Waechter, MA/RPA

April 29, 2021

Mr. Jeremy Waites
Project Manager/Ecologist
Sierra Ecosystems Associates
1024 Simon Drive – Suite G
Placerville CA 95667

Re: Rasmussen Park Infield Skin Renovation and Drainage Project, Cameron Park

Dear Jeremy,

As requested, I have completed a cultural resources records search and literature review for the Rasmussen Park project (Figure 1). These tasks included a request for records search information from the North Central Information Center (NCIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System and a review of the records search results, and an examination of on-line historical maps for Township 10 North/Range 9 East, Section 27. Because the area was surveyed previously and is now an active park, and because disturbance will be limited to already disturbed areas, I recommend that no new cultural survey is needed.

Project Description

It is my understanding that the proposed project will include the following elements:

- Removal of the top few inches of existing material ("infield mix");
- Addition of new infield mix and "infield conditioners";
- Removal and regrading of portions of the "infield skin" to remove build-up;
- Laser leveling of the infield skin; and
- Installation of a new six-inch drain line and catch basins.

Based on our email correspondence, I also understand that there will be no ground disturbance outside of the existing disturbed area, and no subsurface disturbance of more than six inches below the present ground surface.

Records Search Review

The documentation provided by the NCIC included a cultural resources survey report prepared by a staff archaeologist at the Archeological Study Center, California State University, Sacramento (CSUS; Dougherty 1988). That report described the site (known at that time as the Cameron Woods Community Park) as roughly ten acres of marshy meadow land that had been developed into two softball diamonds. The report noted that the area had been graded and the low-lying areas filled with up to three feet of earth to level the site, which was then planted in grass. The cultural survey focused on the park periphery, outside of the graded and leveled areas. The archaeologists found no evidence of archaeological materials or historic structures, and they concluded that the potential for subsurface archaeological remains was low.

Other surveys conducted in the surrounding area (Farber 1995; Peak & Associates 1997; Supernowicz 1992, 1998) have recorded both prehistoric/Native American sites and historical features (earthen ditches). No resources have been recorded within the current project area.

Historical Map Review

I examined available historical General Land Office (GLO) plats and USGS topographic maps for the project area. The 1866 GLO plat showed a house, two ditches, and several "board fences" in the southwest quarter of Section 27, in the vicinity of the project area. These features were absent from the subsequent USGS topographic maps (1891-1893 1:250,000 Placerville Quad; 1949 and later 1:24,000 Shingle Springs Quad), indicating that they had been abandoned and/or removed by that time. Any traces of these features that might have existed within the project area almost certainly would have been destroyed when the park was graded and leveled. If any such traces had survived, they would have been noted during the CSUS survey.

Summary and Recommendations

All indications are that the project area no longer retains its original ground surface: the once marshy area has been graded and leveled, and a "skin" of infield material/grasses has been placed across the surface. The previous cultural survey by archaeologists from CSUS found no indications of archaeological remains or historical structures/features within the park, and those surveyors concluded that the former marshland was unlikely to contain buried cultural remains. I concur with that assessment and recommend no additional cultural resources study for the proposed project as it is currently defined.

However, previous cultural surveys in the vicinity of the project have identified both prehistoric and historic-period resources, indicating that the larger area does have archaeological sensitivity. Should the project plans change to add areas of previously undisturbed ground, or to include subsurface disturbance more than six inches below the present ground surface, additional cultural study may be necessary.

Sharon A Waechter, MA/RPA
Consulting Archaeologist

References Cited:

Dougherty, John

1988 *Archaeological Survey of the Cameron Woods Community Park*. Archeological Study Center, California State University, Sacramento. NCIC report No. 004545.

Peak & Associates, Inc.

1997 *Cultural Resource Assessment and Site Boundary Definition of Three Cultural Resources Located within the Proposed Cameron Meadows Subdivision, El Dorado County, California*. NCIC report No. 004586.

Supernowicz, Dana E.

1992 *Archaeological Survey Report of APN 83:466:06, 83:456:22 and 83:456:23, Cameron Woods, Unit 1, El Dorado County, California*. NCIC report No. 001434.

1998 *Archaeological Survey Report for Assessor's Parcel Number 083-020-19 (Parcel 1 PM 46-75) Sunset Heights Subdivision, Cameron Park, El Dorado County, California.* NCIC report No. 004563.

Project Regional and Vicinity Map

Rasmussen Park Improvements Project

USGS 7.5 min.Topographic
Quadrangle: Shingle Springs - T10N R9E, Section 27
Assessor Parcel Number: 083466010
38.6883, -120.9801Decimal Degrees
3240 Monukka Dr, Cameron Park, 95682
El Dorado County, California

Sierra Ecosystem Associates

Date: 4/14/2021

Project Regional and Vicinity Map

Rasmussen Park Improvements Project

USGS 7.5 min.Topographic
Quadrangle: Shingle Springs - T10N R9E, Section 27
Assessor Parcel Number: 083466010
38.6883, -120.9801Decimal Degrees
3240 Monukka Dr, Cameron Park, 95682
El Dorado County, California

Sierra Ecosystem Associates

Date: 4/14/2021