Office of Planning and Environmental Review
Leighann Moffitt, Director

Interim County Executive
Ann Edwards

Mitigated Negative Declaration

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

1. **Control Number:** PLNP2020-00215

2. **Title and Short Description of Project:** Golden Gate Avenue Parcel Map
   The proposed project request is a request for the following land use entitlements:

   A Tentative Parcel Map to divide approximately 10 gross acres into four lots and a remainder lot
   A Design Review to comply with the Countywide Design Guidelines.

   As proposed, the project would result in the subdivision of the parcel into five parcels (four new parcels and a remainder parcel where the existing home is located. Parcel 1 will have access off Golden Gate Avenue. Parcels 2 & 3 will draw access from Peerless Avenue. Parcel 4 will share access with the parcel, which draws access from Golden Gate Avenue. A 20-foot wide private road will be constructed from Golden Gate Avenue down the eastern property line of the remainder parcel with a hammer head turnaround just north of Parcel 4.

   Although not currently proposed, it is likely that one single-family home would be built on each of the newly recorded parcels. The parcels are located within the San Juan Water District (SJWD) and new homes would be served by SJWD. The parcels are 200 feet from the nearest public sewer connection and have the option to construct individual septic systems for each parcel, instead of connecting to public sewer.

3. **Assessor's Parcel Number: 227-0110-018-0000**

4. **Location of Project:** The project site is located 9076 Golden Gate Avenue, approximately 2,000 feet east of the intersection of Hazel Avenue at Golden Gate Avenue, in the Orangevale community of unincorporated Sacramento County.

5. **Project Applicant:** JTS Engineering Consultants, Inc.

6. Said project will not have a significant effect on the environment for the following reasons:
   a. It will not have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory.
   b. It will not have the potential to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of long-term, environmental goals.
   c. It will not have impacts, which are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable.
   d. It will not have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.

7. As a result thereof, the preparation of an environmental impact report pursuant to the Environmental Quality Act (Division 13 of the Public Resources Code of the State of California) is not required.

8. The attached Initial Study has been prepared by the Sacramento County Office of Planning and Environmental Review in support of this Negative Declaration. Further information may be obtained by contacting the Office of Planning and Environmental Review at 827 Seventh Street, Room 225, Sacramento, California, 95814, or phone (916) 874-6141.

[Original Signature on File]
Joelle Inman
Environmental Coordinator
County of Sacramento, State of California

COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO
OFFICE OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW
INITIAL STUDY

PROJECT INFORMATION

CONTROL NUMBER: PLNP2020-00215

NAME: Golden Gate Avenue Parcel Map

LOCATION: The project site is located 9076 Golden Gate Avenue, approximately 2,000 feet east of the intersection of Hazel Avenue at Golden Gate Avenue, in the Orangevale community of unincorporated Sacramento County.

ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NUMBER: 227-0110-018-0000

OWNER:

Rey Astonomo
9076 Golden Gate Avenue
Orangevale, CA 95630

APPLICANT:

JTS Engineering Consultants, Inc.
1808 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95811
Contact: Javed Siddiqui

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project request is a request for the following land use entitlements:

1. A Tentative Parcel Map to divide approximately 10 gross acres into four lots and a remainder lot (Plate IS-2).

2. A Design Review to comply with the Countywide Design Guidelines.

As proposed, the project would result in the subdivision of the parcel into five parcels (four new parcels and a remainder parcel where the existing home is located (reference Plate IS-2)). Parcel 1 will have access off Golden Gate Avenue. Parcels 2 & 3 will draw access from Peerless Avenue. Parcel 4 will share access with the parcel, which draws access from Golden Gate Avenue. A 20-foot wide private road will be constructed from Golden Gate Avenue down the eastern property line of the remainder parcel with a hammer head turnaround just north of Parcel 4.

Although not currently proposed, it is likely that one single-family home would be built on each of the newly recorded parcels. The parcels are located within the San Juan Water District (SJWD) and new homes would be served by SJWD. The parcels are 200 feet

from the nearest public sewer connection and have the option to construct individual septic systems for each parcel, instead of connecting to public sewer.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The site is located within a rural residential area in the northern portion of the unincorporated community of Orangevale and is surrounded by rural residential development and smallholding agriculture. The site is approximately 0.5-mile east of Hazel Avenue, a major north-south arterial roadway in Sacramento County (reference Plate IS-1).

The 10.06-acre site is currently developed with a single-family residence, several associated outbuildings and a small constructed seasonal pond. The house is surrounded by mowed pasture and the site boundaries are lined with mature trees. The project site is in a relatively disturbed condition. Historic aerial imagery indicates that the property has been subject to a variety of re-occurring ground disturbance activities since 1952 associated with farming and residential development.

The project site is largely flat, with the exception of a small constructed seasonal pond. The elevation on the project site ranges from 235 to 242 feet above mean sea level. Habitat types/vegetation communities on the site include 9.20 acres of ruderal grassland, 0.48 acres of developed area, and a 0.38-acre seasonal pond.

Plate IS-1: Vicinity Map

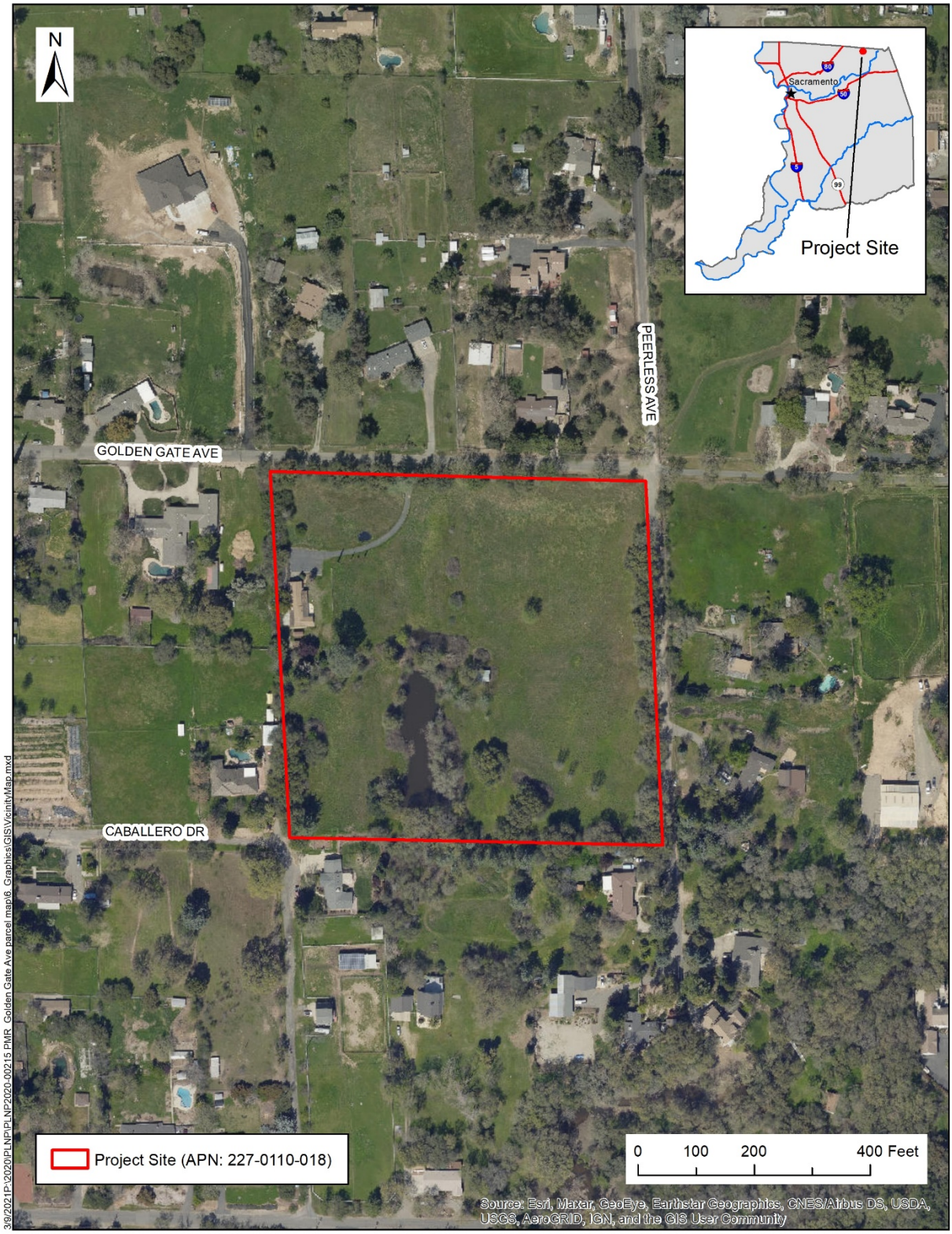
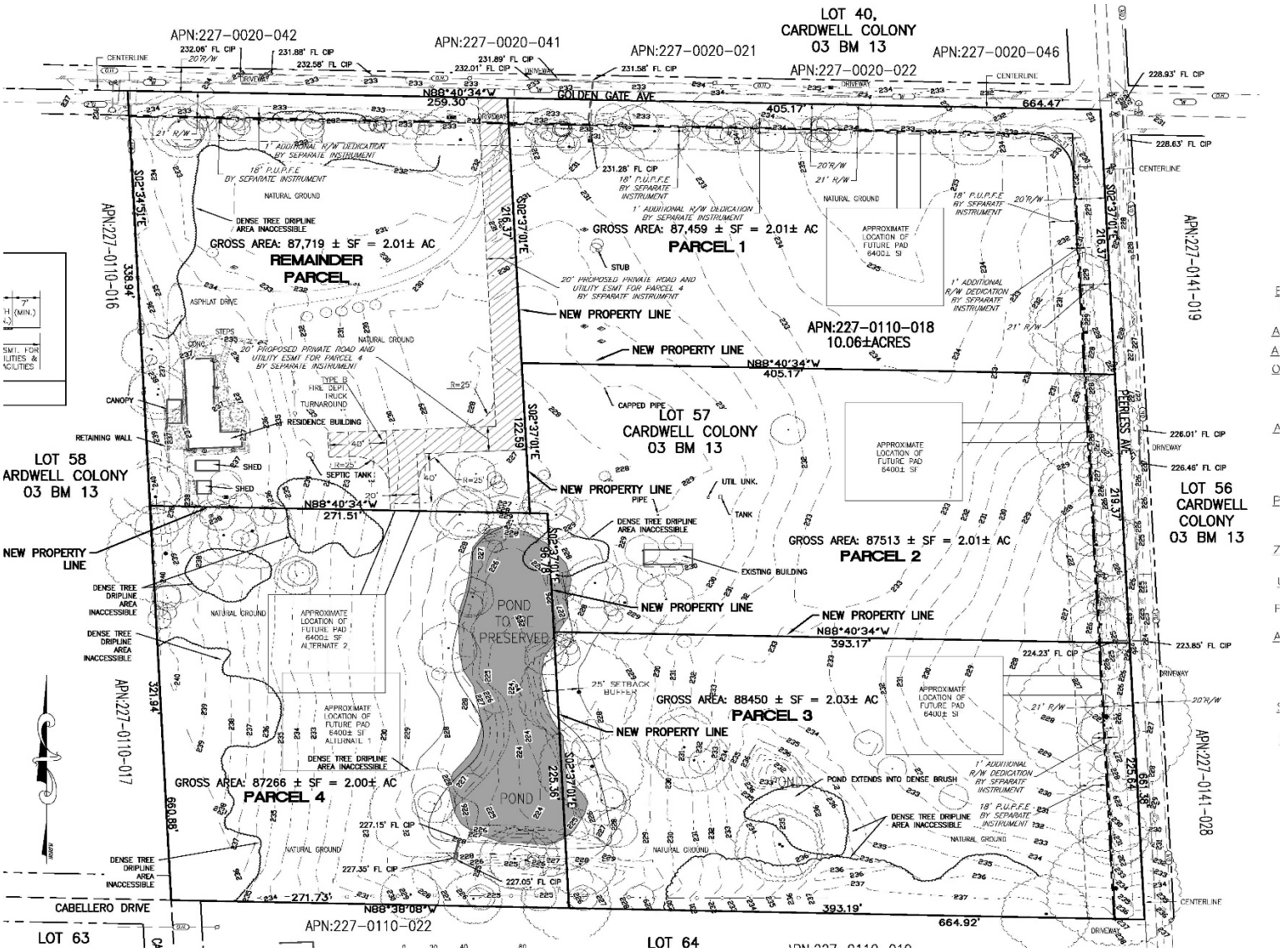


Plate IS-2: Proposed Parcel Map



ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS

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

AIR QUALITY

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

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

The proposed project site is located in the Sacramento Valley Air Basin (SVAB). The SVAB's frequent temperature inversions result in a relatively stable atmosphere that increases the potential for pollution. Within the SVAB, the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD) is responsible for ensuring that emission standards are not violated. Project related air emissions would have a significant effect if they would result in concentrations that either violate an ambient air quality standard or contribute to an existing air quality violation (reference Table IS-1). Moreover, SMAQMD has established significance thresholds to determine if a proposed project's emission contribution significantly contributes to regional air quality impacts (Table IS-2).

Table IS-1: Air Quality Standards Attainment Status

Pollutant	Attainment with State Standards	Attainment with Federal Standards
Ozone	Non-Attainment Classification = Serious (1 hour Standard[1])	Non-Attainment, Classification = Severe -15* (1 hour[2] and 8 hour[3] Standards)
Particulate Matter 10 Micron	Non-Attainment (24 hour Standard and Annual Mean)	Attainment (24 hour standard)
Particulate Matter 2.5 Micron	Attainment (Annual Standard)	Non-Attainment (24 hour Standard) and Unclassified/Attainment (Annual)
Carbon Monoxide	Attainment (1 hour and 8 hour Standards)	Attainment (1 hour and 8 hour Standards)
Nitrogen Dioxide	Attainment (1 hour Standard and Annual)	Unclassified/Attainment (1 hour and Annual)
Sulfur Dioxide[4]	Attainment (1 hour and 24 hour Standards)	Attainment (1 hour)
Lead	Attainment (30 Day Standard)	Attainment (3-month rolling average)
Visibility Reducing Particles	Unclassified (8 hour Standard)	No Federal Standard
Sulfates	Attainment (24 hour Standard)	No Federal Standard
Hydrogen Sulfide	Unclassified (1 hour Standard)	No Federal Standard

1. Per Health and Safety Code (HSC) § 40921.59(c), the classification is based on 1989-1001 data, and therefore does not change.

2. Air Quality meets Federal 1-hour Ozone standard (77 FR 64036). EPA revoked this standard, but some associated requirements still apply. The SMAQMD attained the standard in 2009. SMAQMD has requested EPA recognize attainment to fulfill the requirements.

3. For both that 1997 and the 2008 Standard.
4. Cannot be classified

*Federal designations based on information from http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2010-title40-vol17/pdf/CFR-2010-title40-vol17-sec81-305.pdf

*California Area Designations based on information from http://www.arb.ca.gov/desig/changes.htm#reports

Source: SMAQMD. "Air Quality Standards Attainment Status". *Air Quality Data*. Accessed: May 18, 2020. http://www.airquality.org/air-quality-health/air-quality-pollutants-and-standards

Table IS-2: SMAQMD Significance Thresholds

	ROG[1] (lbs/day)	NO_x (lbs/day)	CO ($\mu g/m^3$)	PM_{10} (lbs/day)	$PM_{2.5}$ (lbs/day)
Construction (short-term)	None	85	CAAQS[2]	80[3*]	82[3*]
Operational (long-term)	65	65	CAAQS	80[3*]	82[3*]

1. Reactive Organic Gas

2. California Ambient Air Quality Standards

3*. Only applies to projects for which all feasible best available control technology (BACT) and best management practices (BMPs) have been applied. Projects that fail to apply all feasible BACT/BMPs must meet a significance threshold of 0 lbs/day.

Construction Emissions/Short-Term Impacts

Short-term air quality impacts are mostly due to dust (PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$) generated by construction and development activities, and emissions from equipment and vehicle engines (NO_x) operated during these activities. Dust generation is dependent on soil type and soil moisture, as well as the amount of total acreage actually involved in clearing, grubbing and grading activities. Clearing and earthmoving activities comprise the major source of construction dust generation, but traffic and general disturbance of the soil also contribute to the problem. Sand, lime or other fine particulate materials may be used during construction, and stored on-site. If not stored properly, such materials could become airborne during periods of high winds. The effects of construction activities include increased dust fall and locally elevated levels of suspended particulates. PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ are considered unhealthy because the particles are small enough to inhale and damage lung tissue, which can lead to respiratory problems.

Particulate Matter and Ozone Precursor (NO_x) Emissions

The SMAQMD Guide includes screening criteria for construction-related particulate matter and NO_x. Projects that are 35 acres or less in size will generally not exceed the SMAQMD's construction PM_{10}, $PM_{2.5}$, or NO_x thresholds of significance provided that the project does not:

- Include buildings more than 4 stories tall;
- Include demolition activities;
- Include significant trenching activities;
- Have a construction schedule that is unusually compact, fast-paced, or involves more than 2 phases (i.e., grading, paving, building construction, and architectural coatings) occurring simultaneously;
- Involve cut-and-fill operations (moving earth with haul trucks and/or flattening or terracing hills); or,
- Require import or export of soil materials that will require a considerable amount of haul truck activity

Some PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$ emissions during project construction can be reduced through compliance with institutional requirements for dust abatement and erosion control. These institutional measures include the SMAQMD "District Rule 403-Fugitive Dust" and measures in the Sacramento County Code relating to land grading and erosion control [Title 16, Chapter 16.44, Section 16.44.090(K)].

The SMAQMD Guide includes a list of Basic Construction Emissions Control Practices that should be implemented on all projects, regardless of size. Dust abatement practices are required pursuant to SMAQMD Rule 403 and California Code of Regulations, Title 13, sections 2449(d)(3) and 2485; the SMAQMD Guide simply lays out the basic practices needed to comply.

DISCUSSION OF PROJECT IMPACTS

The proposed project is less than 35 acres, does not involve buildings of more than four stories, does not include demolition activities, an unusually compact construction schedule, nor will it require import or export of soil materials with a considerable amount of haul truck activity. The majority of the project site is relatively flat, but grading will be required for the access roads and pads. The project likely screens out using SMAQMD's screening guidance; however, CalEEMod was used to estimate construction-related emissions for grading activities and construction of four new homes (Appendix A). CalEEMod allows users to model construction criteria air pollutants and precursor emissions from demolition, site grading, asphalt paving, building construction, and architectural coating activities. The results of the CalEEMod run are shown in Table IS-3.

Table IS-3: CalEEMod Construction-Related Emission Estimates

	Constituent in pounds per day			
	ROG	**NOx**	**PM_{10}**	**$PM_{2.5}$**
Thresholds	None	85	80	82
CalEEMod Emissions	16.22	40.56	20.32	11.87

As shown in Table IS-3, construction-related emission estimates do not exceed SMAQMD thresholds.

CONCLUSION

Impacts related to construction-related emissions will be ***less than significant***.

OPERATIONAL EMISSIONS/LONG-TERM IMPACTS

Once a project is completed, additional pollutants are emitted through the use, or operation, of the site. Land use development projects typically involve the following sources of emissions: motor vehicle trips generated by the land use; fuel combustion from landscape maintenance equipment; natural gas combustion emissions used for space and water heating; evaporative emissions of ROG associated with the use of consumer products; and, evaporative emissions of ROG resulting from the application of architectural coatings.

DISCUSSION OF PROJECT IMPACTS

CalEEMod was used to estimate operational estimates for the project. The CalEEMod operational estimates are shown in Table IS-4.

Table IS-4: CalEEMod Operational Emission Estimates

Operational Year 2021	Constituent in pounds per day			
	ROG	NOx	PM_{10}	$PM_{2.5}$
Thresholds	65	85	80	82
Operational (long-term)	0.71	0.31	0.31	0.09

As shown in Table IS-4, the project's operational emission estimates do not exceed daily emission thresholds.

CONCLUSION

As shown in Table IS-4, the project will not exceed significance thresholds during the operational period. Since the proposed project is significantly below the operational thresholds adopted by SMAQMD, impacts to Air Quality are anticipated to be ***less than significant***.

CRITERIA POLLUTANT HEALTH RISKS

All criteria air pollutants can have human health effects at certain concentrations. Air districts develop region-specific CEQA thresholds of significance in consideration of existing air quality concentrations and attainment designations under the national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) and California ambient air quality standards (CAAQS). The NAAQS and CAAQS are informed by a wide range of scientific evidence, which demonstrates that there are known safe concentrations of criteria air pollutants. Because the NAAQS and CAAQS are based on maximum pollutant levels in outdoor air that would not harm the public's health, and air district thresholds pertain to attainment of these standards, the thresholds established by air districts are also protective of human health. Sacramento County is currently in nonattainment of the NAAQS and CAAQS for ozone. Projects that emit criteria air pollutants in exceedance of SMAQMD's thresholds would contribute to the regional degradation of air quality that could result in adverse human health impacts.

Acute health effects of ozone exposure include increased respiratory and pulmonary resistance, cough, pain, shortness of breath, and lung inflammation. Chronic health effects include permeability of respiratory epithelia and the possibility of permanent lung impairment (EPA 2016).

HEALTH EFFECTS SCREENING

In order to estimate the potential health risks that could result from the operational emissions of ROG, NO_X, and $PM_{2.5}$, PER staff implemented the procedures within SMAQMD's I*nstructions for Sac Metro Air District Minor Project and Strategic Area Project Health Effects Screening Tools* (SMAQMD's Instructions). To date, SMAQMD has

published three options for analyzing projects: small projects may use the Minor Project Health Screening Tool, while larger projects may use the Strategic Area Project Health Screening Tool, and practitioners have the option to conduct project-specific modeling.

Both the Minor Project Health Screening Tool and Strategic Area Project Health Screening Tool are based on the maximum thresholds of significance adopted within the five air district regions contemplated within SMAQMD's *Guidance to Address the Friant Ranch Ruling for CEQA Projects in the Sac Metro Air District* (SMAQMD's Friant Guidance; October 2020). The air district thresholds considered in SMAQMD's Friant Guidance included thresholds from SMAQMD as well as the El Dorado County Air Quality Management District, the Feather River Air Quality Management District, the Placer County Air Pollution Control District, and the Yolo Solano Air Quality Management District. The highest allowable emission rates of NO_X, ROG, PM_{10}, and $PM_{2.5}$ from the five air districts is 82 pounds per day (lbs/day) for all four pollutants. Thus, the Minor Project Health Screening Tool is intended for use by projects that would result in emissions at or below 82 lbs/day, while the Strategic Area Project Health Screening Tool is intended for use by projects that would result in emissions between two and eight times greater than 82 lbs/day. The Strategic Area Project Screening Model was prepared by SMAQMD for five locations throughout the Sacramento region for two scenarios: two times and eight times the threshold of significance level (2xTOS and 8xTOS). The corresponding emissions levels included in the model for 2xTOS were 164 lb/day for ROG and NO_X, and 656 lb/day under the 8xTOS for ROG and NO_X (SMAQMD 2020).

As noted in SMAQMD's Friant Guidance, "each model generates conservative estimates of health effects, for two reasons: The tools' outputs are based on the simulation of a full year of exposure at the maximum daily average of the increases in air pollution concentration… [and] [t]he health effects are calculated for emissions levels that are very high" (SMAQMD 2020).

The model derives the estimated health risk associated with operation of the project based on increases in concentrations of ozone and $PM_{2.5}$ that were estimated using a photochemical grid model (PGM). The concentration estimates of the PGM are then applied to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Benefits Mapping and Analysis Program (BenMAP) to estimate the resulting health effects from concentration increases. PGMs and BenMAP were developed to assess air pollution and human health impacts over large areas and populations that far exceed the area of an average land use development project. These models were never designed to determine whether emissions generated by an individual development project would affect community health or the date an air basin would attain an ambient air quality standard. Rather, they are used to help inform regional planning strategies based on cumulative changes in emissions within an air basin or larger geography.

It must be cautioned that within the typical project-level scope of CEQA analyses, PGMs are unable to provide precise, spatially defined pollutant data at a local scale. In addition, as noted in SMAQMD's Friant Guidance, "BenMAP estimates potential health effects from a change in air pollutant concentrations, but does not fully account for other factors affecting health such as access to medical care, genetics, income levels, behavior

choices such as diet and exercise, and underlying health conditions" (2020). Thus, the modeling conducted for the health risk analysis is based on imprecise mapping and only takes into account one of the main public health determinants (i.e., environmental influences).

DISCUSSION OF PROJECT IMPACTS

Since the project was below the daily operational thresholds for criteria air pollutants, the Minor Project Health Screening Tool was used to estimate health risks. The results are shown in Table IS-5 and Table IS-6.

Again, it is important to note that the "model outputs are derived from the numbers of people who would be affected by [the] project due to their geographic proximity and based on average population through the Five-District-Region. The models do not take into account population subgroups with greater vulnerabilities to air pollution, except for ages for certain endpoints" (SMAQMD 2020). Therefore, it would be misleading to correlate the levels of criteria air pollutant and precursor emissions associated with project implementation to specific health outcomes. While the effects noted above could manifest in individuals, actual effects depend on factors specific to each individual, including life stage (e.g., older adults are more sensitive), preexisting cardiovascular or respiratory diseases, and genetic polymorphisms. Even if this specific medical information was known about each individual, there are wide ranges of potential outcomes from exposure to ozone precursors and particulates, from no effect to the effects listed in the tables. Ultimately, the health effects associated with the project, using the SMAQMD guidance "are conservatively estimated, and the actual effects may be zero" (SMAQMD 2020).

CONCLUSION

Neither SMAQMD nor the County of Sacramento have adopted thresholds of significance for the assessment of health risks related to the emission of criteria pollutants. Furthermore, an industry standard level of significance has not been adopted or proposed. Due to the lack of adopted thresholds of significance the health risks, this data is presented for informational purposes and does not represent an attempt to arrive at any level-of-significance conclusions.

Table IS-5: $PM_{2.5}$ Health Risk Estimates

$PM_{2.5}$ Health Endpoint	Age Range [1]	Incidences Across the Reduced Sacramento 4-km Modeling Domain Resulting from Project Emissions (per year)[2,5] (Mean)	Incidences Across the 5-Air-District Region Resulting from Project Emissions (per year)[2] (Mean)	Percent of Background Health Incidences Across the 5-Air-District Region[3]	Total Number of Health Incidences Across the 5-Air-District Region (per year)[4]
Respiratory					
Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	053	0.36	0.0019%	18,419
Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	0.033	0.022	0.0012%	1,846
Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	0.16	0.11	0.00056%	19,644
Cardiovascular					
Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	0.079	0.056	0.00023%	24,037
Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	0.000038	0.000027	0.00071%	4
Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	0.0034	0.0025	0.00080%	308
Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	0.0082	0.0061	0.00082%	741
Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	0.013	0.010	0.00081%	1,239
Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	0.047	0.034	0.00068%	5,052
Mortality					
Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	0.90	0.63	0.0014%	44,766

Notes:

1. Affected age ranges are shown. Other age ranges are available, but the endpoints and age ranges shown here are the ones used by the USEPA in their health assessments. The age ranges are consistent with the epidemiological study that is the basis of the health function.
2. Health effects are shown in terms of incidences of each health endpoint and how it compares to the base (2035 base year health effect incidences, or "background health incidence") values. Health effects are shown for the Reduced Sacramento 4-km Modeling Domain and the 5-Air-District Region.
3. The percent of background health incidence uses the mean incidence. The background health incidence is an estimate of the average number of people that are affected by the health endpoint in a given population over a given period of time. In this case, the background incidence rates cover the 5-Air-

District Region (estimated 2035 population of 3,271,451 persons). Health incidence rates and other health data are typically collected by the government as well as the World Health Organization. The background incidence rates used here are obtained from BenMAP.

4. The total number of health incidences across the 5-Air-District Region is calculated based on the modeling data. The information is presented to assist in providing overall health context.
5. The technical specifications and map for the Reduced Sacramento 4-km Modeling Domain are included in Appendix A, Table A-1 and Appendix B, Figure B-2 of the *Guidance to Address the Friant Ranch Ruling for CEQA Projects in the Sac Metro Air District.*

Table IS-6: Ozone Health Risk Estimates

Ozone Health Endpoint	Age Range[1]	Incidences Across the Reduced Sacramento 4-km Modeling Domain Resulting from Project Emissions (per year)[2,5] (Mean)	Incidences Across the 5-Air-District Region Resulting from Project Emissions (per year)[2] (Mean)	Percent of Background Health Incidences Across the 5-Air-District Region[3]	Total Number of Health Incidences Across the 5-Air-District Region (per year)[4]
Respiratory					
Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	0.031	0.016	0.000079%	19,644
Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	0.17	0.082	0.0014%	5,859
Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	0.23	0.11	0.00091%	12,560
Mortality					
Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	0.016	0.0085	0.000028%	30,386

Notes:

1. Affected age ranges are shown. Other age ranges are available, but the endpoints and age ranges shown here are the ones used by the USEPA in their health assessments. The age ranges are consistent with the epidemiological study that is the basis of the health function.
2. Health effects are shown in terms of incidences of each health endpoint and how it compares to the base (2035 base year health effect incidences, or "background health incidence") values. Health effects are shown for the Reduced Sacramento 4-km Modeling Domain and the 5-Air-District Region.
3. The percent of background health incidence uses the mean incidence. The background health incidence is an estimate of the average number of people that are affected by the health endpoint in a given population over a given period of time. In this case, the background incidence rates cover the 5-Air-District Region (estimated 2035 population of 3,271,451 persons). Health incidence rates and other health data are typically collected by the government as well as the World Health Organization. The background incidence rates used here are obtained from BenMAP.
4. The total number of health incidences across the 5-Air-District Region is calculated based on the modeling data. The information is presented to assist in providing overall health context.
5. The technical specifications and map for the Reduced Sacramento 4-km Modeling Domain are included in Appendix A, Table A-1 and Appendix B, Figure B-2 of the *Guidance to Address the Friant Ranch Ruling for CEQA Projects in the Sac Metro Air District.*

HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

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

- Create substantial sources of polluted runoff or otherwise substantially degrade ground or surface water quality.

WATER QUALITY

CONSTRUCTION WATER QUALITY: EROSION AND GRADING

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

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

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

In addition to complying with the County's ordinances and requirements, construction sites disturbing one or more acres are required to comply with the State's General Stormwater Permit for Construction Activities (CGP). CGP coverage is issued by the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/stormwater/construction.shtml and enforced by the Regional Water Board. Coverage is obtained by submitting a Notice of Intent (NOI) to the State Board prior to construction and verified by receiving a WDID#.

The CGP requires preparation and implementation of a site-specific Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) that must be kept on site at all times for review by the State inspector.

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

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

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

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

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

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

CONCLUSION

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

OPERATION: STORMWATER RUNOFF

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

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

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

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

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

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

The final selection and design of post-construction stormwater quality control measures is subject to the approval of the County Department of Water Resources (DWR); therefore, they should be contacted as early as possible in the design process for guidance.

CONCLUSION

Project compliance with requirements outlined above will ensure that project-related stormwater pollution impacts are ***less than significant***.

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

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

- Have a substantial adverse effect on streams, wetlands, or other surface waters that are protected by federal, state, or local regulations and policies.
- Adversely affect or result in the removal of native or landmark trees.
- Have a substantial adverse effect on any special status species, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, or threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community.
- Have a substantial adverse effect on the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species.

SURVEYS AND METHODOLOGY

Helix Environmental Planning, Inc. (Helix) conducted biological surveys in December 2020; the findings and observations of are included in the Biological Resources Report (Appendix B). Helix reviewed and analyzed a variety of data from state and federal agencies. A list of special-status species known or with potential to occur on the project site or in the immediate vicinity was developed from database queries of USFWS' Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC), CDFW's California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB), and the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Rare Plant Inventory. Significance findings have been based on the impact conclusions of applicable surveys and studies. In absence of such published documents, the analyses rely on the general definitions of significance.

WETLANDS AND OTHER SURFACE WATERS

Federal and state regulation (Clean Water Act Sections 404 and 401) uses the term "surface water" to refer to all standing or flowing water which is present above-ground either perennially or seasonally. There are many types of surface waters, but the two major groupings are linear waterways with a bed and bank (streams, rivers, etc.) and wetlands. The Clean Water Act has defined the term wetland to mean "those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or ground water at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions". The term "wetlands" includes a diverse assortment of habitats such as perennial and seasonal freshwater marshes, vernal pools, and wetted swales. The 1987 US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Wetlands Delineation Manual is used to determine whether an area meets the

technical criteria for a wetland and is therefore subject to local, state or federal regulation of that habitat type. A delineation verification by the Corps will verify the size and condition of the wetlands and other waters in question, and will help determine the extent of government jurisdiction.

Wetlands are regulated by both the federal and state government, pursuant to the Clean Water Act Section 404 (federal) and Section 401 (state). The Corps is generally the lead agency for the federal permit process, and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) is generally the lead agency for the state permit process. The Clean Water Act protects all "navigable waters", which are defined as traditional navigable waters that are or were used for commerce, or may be used for interstate commerce; tributaries of covered waters; and wetlands adjacent to covered waters, including tributaries. Isolated wetlands, that is, those wetlands that are not hydrologically connected to other "navigable" surface waters (or their tributaries), are not considered to be subject to the Clean Water Act.

In addition to the Clean Water Act, the state also has jurisdiction over impacts to surface waters through the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act, which does not require that waters be "navigable". For this reason, federal non-jurisdictional waters – isolated wetlands – can be regulated by the state of California pursuant to Porter-Cologne.

The Clean Water Act establishes a "no net" loss" policy regarding wetlands for the state and federal governments, and General Plan Policy CO-58 establishes a "no net loss" policy for Sacramento County. Pursuant to these policies, any wetlands to be excavated or filled require 1:1 mitigation, and construction within the wetlands cannot take place until the appropriate permit(s) have been obtained from the Corps, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Regional Water Board, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and any other agencies with authority over surface waters. Any loss of delineated wetlands not mitigated for through the permitting process must be mitigated, pursuant to County policy. Appropriate mitigation may include establishment of a conservation easement over wetlands, purchase of mitigation banking credits, or similar measures.

DISCUSSION OF PROJECT IMPACTS

The project site is in the Upper American River hydrologic unit (HUC12: 180201110201). Linda Creek, a tributary to the Sacramento River via Steelhead Creek, is located approximately 500-feet south of the project site. No seasonal wetlands were identified onsite. A 0.38-acre seasonal pond is located at the southwestern portion of the parcel. Historic aerial imagery shows a wetland swale running north to south through the project site in 1952. It appears that the swale was dammed sometime between 1952 and 1953 and the freshwater pond was created sometime between 1953 and 1957. The Helix report notes that the drainage swale "is no longer evident, and that the pond is likely primarily fed by rainfall and sheet flow from the surrounding uplands". The report also notes that a relic stock pond is located east of the seasonal pond, but that it is vegetated with ruderal species similar to the grassland habitat.

No in-water work is being proposed; however, the seasonal, man-made pond would likely fall under state jurisdiction. There is no regulatory setback for other surface waters, but the County has typically required a minimum 50-foot setback[1]. Maintenance of these setbacks will avoid indirect impacts to the surface water.

As mentioned in the Water Quality section above, the contractor will determine which BMPs will be employed based upon the specific site conditions. BMPs originate from a variety of sources including general construction practices for erosion and sediment control, compliance with the NPDES municipal stormwater permit, and other local, state, and federal regulations. BMPs such as the placement of stormwater pollution prevention devices, such as staked or weighted straw wattles/fiber rolls, and/or silt fences are recommended. Additionally, construction fencing should be placed at the limits of the graded area to ensure vehicles and equipment are not parked or stored near the pond. The contractor will also be required to prepare an Erosion and Sedimentation Control Plan and SWPPP prior to construction, both of which are subject to review by DWR.

CONCLUSION

No in-water work is being proposed as part of the project. Construction-related BMPs will be utilized to avoid construction-related erosion and water quality impacts to surface waters. Impacts to wetlands and waters are ***less than significant.***

NATIVE TREES

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

[1] Research suggests that some of the most common urban runoff pollutants – including sediment, nitrogen, and phosphorus – can be filtered over this distance by intervening vegetation. Source: McElfish, James M. et al. 2008. Planner's Guide to Wetland Buffers for Local Governments. Environmental Law Institute, Washington, D.C.

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

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

Native trees other than oaks include Fremont cottonwood (Populus fremontii), California sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*), California black walnut (*Juglans californica*, which is also a List 1B plant), Oregon ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*), western redbud (*Cercis occidentalis),* gray pine (*Pinus sabiniana*), California white alder (*Alnus rhombifolia*), boxelder (*Acer negundo*), California buckeye (*Aesculus californica*), narrowleaf willow (*Salix exigua*), Gooding's willow (*Salix gooddingii*), red willow (*Salix laevigata*), arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*), shining willow (*Salix lucida*), Pacific willow (*Salix lasiandra*), and dusky willow (*Salix melanopsis*).

DISCUSSION OF PROJECT IMPACTS

NATIVE TREE REMOVAL

California Tree and Landscape Consulting, Inc. (Cal Tree) prepared an arborist report (Appendix C) for the project. The report identified a total of 301 trees (reference Plate IS-3); 274 of them are native trees.

Many of the property's trees are located along the property lines. The project has been designed to preserve existing trees when feasible. Building envelopes have been placed in open areas away from tree driplines where feasible; however, the building envelopes shown may change from the drafting of this document to the recordation of the parcel map.. As noted on the parcel map, some of the tree areas are so dense that they are inaccessible to vehicles. The applicant removed a previously proposed access road off of Cabellero Drive for Parcel 4 to avoid tree impacts in that area; access for that parcel will now stem from Golden Gate Avenue and across the remainder parcel.

If the future home pad on parcel #3 was built in the location reflected on the tentative map, it is likely that three valley oaks would be removed (#2414, #2415, & #2416). The arborist report lists each of the oaks in "Fair" condition. Each of the three trees have multiple trunks, so a multi-stem calculator from the International Society of Arboriculture's Guide for Plant Appraisal, 9th Edition (2000) was used to calculate diameter breast height (DBH). Cumulatively the trees have a 49-inch diameter breast height (DBH) and would require equivalent compensatory plantings if removed. County Policy requires replacement of native trees removed by planting in-kind native trees equivalent to the loss of dbh inches, or through payment on an inch by inch basis if planting is shown to be infeasible. As proposed, removal of the four trees would require 49 inches of compensatory plantings. Any additional native tree removal would require equivalent compensatory plantings.

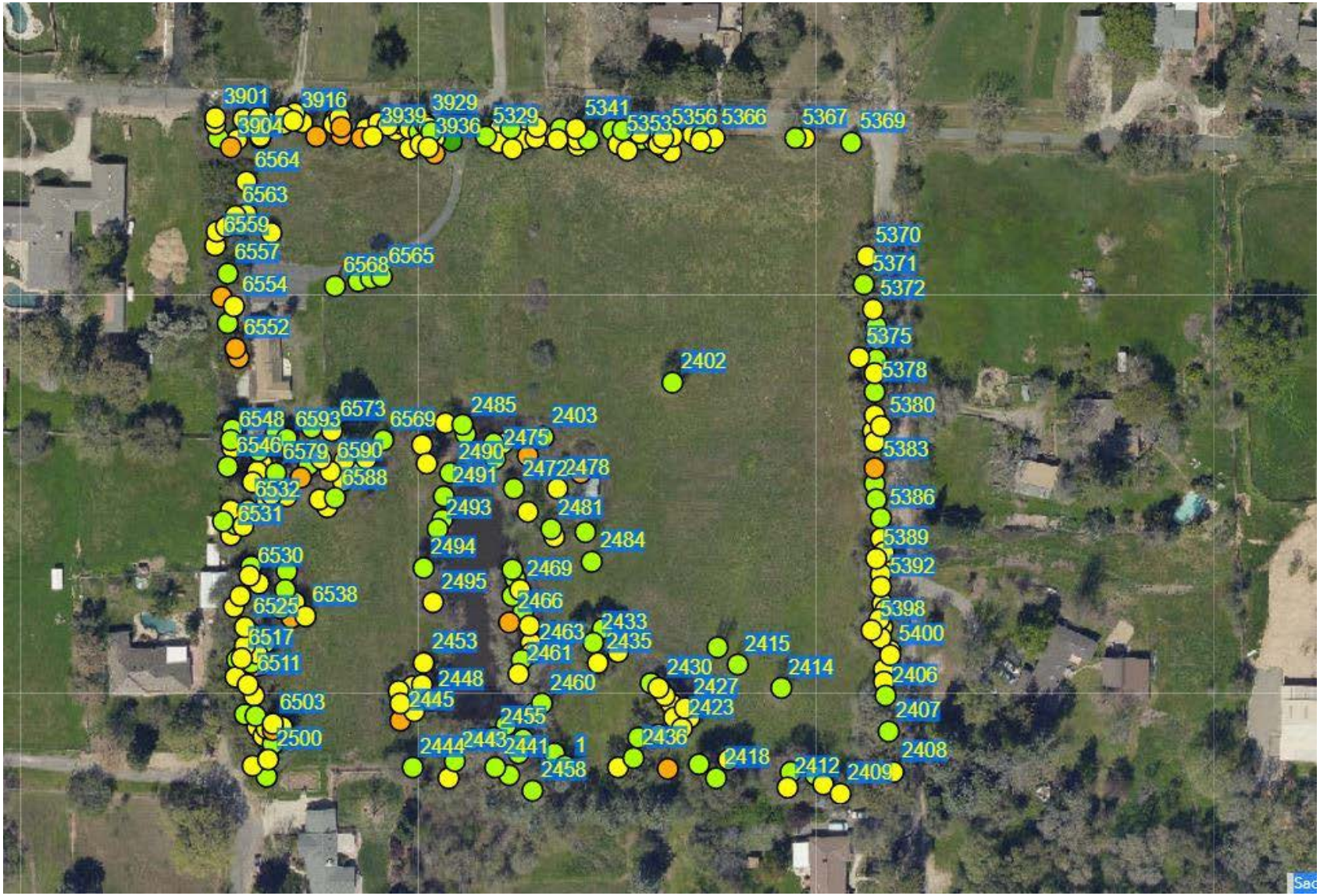
NATIVE TREE PROTECTION

Development of the project site could result in encroachment within the driplines of protected native trees through grading, construction and trenching for utilities. For native trees that will not be removed, mitigation has been included to ensure protective measures are in place in the vicinity of protected trees.

CONCLUSION

Project impacts associated with the removal of protected native trees and construction-related impacts to native trees are considered ***less than significant***.

Plate IS-3: Tree Locations



Non-Native Trees and Tree Canopy

The Sacramento County General Plan Conservation Element contains several policies aimed at preserving tree canopy within the County. These are:

> CO-145. Removal of non-native tree canopy for development shall be mitigated by creation of new tree canopy equivalent to the acreage of non-native tree canopy removed. New tree canopy acreage shall be calculated using the 15-year shade cover values for tree species.
>
> CO-146. If new tree canopy cannot be created onsite to mitigate for the non-native tree canopy removed for new development, project proponents (including public agencies) shall contribute to the Greenprint funding in an amount proportional to the tree canopy of the specific project.
>
> CO-147. Increase the number of trees planted within residential lots and within new and existing parking lots.
>
> CO-149. Trees planted within new or existing parking lots should utilize pervious cement and structured soils in a radius from the base of the tree necessary to maximize water infiltration sufficient to sustain the tree at full growth.

The 15-year shade cover values for tree species referenced in policy CO-145 are also referenced by the Sacramento County Zoning Code, Chapter 30, Article 4, and the list is maintained by the SacDOT, Landscape Planning and Design Division. The list includes more than seventy trees, so is not included here, but it is available upon request from the Sacramento County Office of Planning and Environmental Review. Policy CO-146 references the Greenprint program, which is run by the Sacramento Tree Foundation and has a goal of planting five million trees in the Sacramento region.

Discussion of Project Impacts

The arborist report identifies 27 non-native trees on-site. The project is not currently proposing removal of any non-native trees.

If the final project plans require the removal of non-native trees, mitigation would be required to establish the creation of new tree canopy equivalent to the acreage of non-native tree canopy removed. New tree canopy acreage shall be calculated using the SacDOT 15-year shade cover values for tree species. If on-site plantings are determined to be infeasible, then funding shall be contributed to the Sacramento Tree Foundation's Greenprint program in an amount proportional to the tree canopy lost.

Conclusion

Impacts to non-native trees are considered ***less than significant***.

Special Status Species

The United States Congress passed the Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) in 1973 to protect those species that are endangered or threatened with extinction. In 1984, the

State of California enacted a similar law, the California Endangered Species Act (CESA), to protect species identified and listed by the California Fish and Game Commission as endangered or threatened with extinction.

CESA and FESA are intended to operate in conjunction with CEQA and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to help protect ecosystems that endangered and threatened species depend upon. USFWS is responsible for implementation of the FESA while the CDFW implements the CESA.

Accidental or intentional killing of a threatened or endangered species is labeled "take." "Take" is defined by the FESA as "to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect" any threatened or endangered wildlife species. Take may include significant habitat modification or degradation and is applied to threatened or endangered plant species as well.

Take, incidental to an otherwise lawful activity, may be authorized by one of two procedures. If a federal agency is involved with the permitting, funding, or carrying out of the project, then initiation of formal consultation between that agency and USFWS pursuant to Section 7 of the FESA is required if a proposed project may affect a federally listed species. Such consultation would result in a biological opinion that addresses the anticipated effects of the project to listed species and may authorize a limited level of incidental take. If a federal agency is not involved with the project, and federally listed species may be taken as part of the project, then an incidental take permit pursuant to Section 10(a) of the FESA must be obtained. USFWS may issue such a permit upon completion of a satisfactory conservation plan for any listed species that would be affected by the project.

Special-status species are tracked in CNDDB, a statewide inventory of the locations and conditions of the state's rarest plant and animal taxa and vegetation types. CDFW's uses California Rare Plant Ranking (CRPR) includes five rarity and endangerment ranks for categorizing plant species of concern. All plants with a CRPR are considered "special plants" by CDFW. The term "special plants" is a broad term used by CDFW to refer to all of the plant taxa inventoried in the CNDDB, regardless of their legal or protection status. Plants ranked as CRPR 1A (plants presumed to be extinct in California), 1B (plants that are rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere), and 2 (plants that are rare, threatened, or endangered in California but more common elsewhere) may qualify as endangered, rare, or threatened species within the definition of State CEQA Guidelines (CCR Section 15380). In general, plant species ranked CRPR 3 (plants about which more information is needed) and 4 (plants of limited distribution) do not meet the definition of endangered, rare, or threatened pursuant to CEQA Section 15380. As such, CRPR 3 and 4 species are not included in this analysis.

The term "California species of special concern" is applied by CDFW to animals not listed under the federal ESA or CESA, but that are considered to be declining at a rate that could result in listing, or historically occurred in low numbers and known threats to their persistence currently exist. CDFW's fully protected status was California's first attempt to identify and protect animals that were rare or facing extinction. Most species listed as fully protected were eventually listed as threatened or endangered under CESA; however, some species remain listed as fully protected but do not have simultaneous listing under

CESA. Fully protected species may not be taken or possessed at any time and no take permits can be issued for these species except for scientific research purposes or for relocation to protect livestock.

Under CEQA, species of animals or plants presumed to be endangered, rare, or threatened as listed in the California Code of Regulation or Federal Code of Regulation; those officially proposed for listing (federal classification), candidate species (federal and state classification), and species of special concern (State of California classification) are given similar treatment as protected animal species. Plants identified as 1A, 1B, and 2A, 2B by the CNPS are treated similarly under CEQA.

SPECIAL-STATUS PLANTS

Table IS-7 provides a list of the special-status plant species that have been documented in the CNDDB 9-quad search (Folsom, Citrus Heights, Clarksville, Carmichael, Buffalo Creek, Folsom Southeast, Roseville, Rocklin, and Pilot Hill) and describes their regulatory status, habitat, and potential for occurrence on the project site.

Table IS-7: Special-Status Plants and Potential for Occurrence

Scientific Name	Common Name	Regulatory Status[1]			Habitat Requirements	Elevation Range (ft)	Bloom Period	Potential for Occurrence[3]
		USFWS	CDFW	CRPR				
Balsamorhiza macrolepis	big-scale balsamroot	-	-	1B.2	Ultramafic soils, sometimes serpentinite, in chaparral, valley and foothill grassland, and cismontane woodland.	145–5,100	Mar–Jun	**No potential to occur;** site contains coarse sandy loam soils.
Calystegia stebbinsii	Stebbins' morning-glory	FE	SE	1B.1	Gabbroic or sepentinite soils in chaparral and cismontane woodlands.	605-3,575	Apr-Jul	**No potential to occur;** outside the elevation range of this species and site contains coarse sandy loam soils.
Carex xerophila	chaparral sedge	-	-	1B.2	Gabbroic or sepentinite soils in chaparral, cismontane woodlands, and lower montane coniferous forest.	1,440-2,525	Mar-Jun	**No potential to occur;** outside the elevation range of this species and site contains coarse sandy loam soils.
Ceanothus roderickii	Pine Hill ceanothus	FE	-	1B.1	Gabbroic or sepentinite soils in chaparral and cismontane woodlands.	800-3,575	Apr-Jun	**No potential to occur;** outside the elevation range of this species and site contains coarse sandy loam soils.

Chlorogalum grandiflorum	Red Hills soaproot	-	-	1B.2	Found in gabbroic soils in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and lower montane coniferous forests.	800-5,544	May-Jun	**No potential to occur;** outside the elevation range of this species and site contains coarse sandy loam soils.
Chloropyron molle ssp. *hispidum*	hispid salty bird's beak	-	-	1B.1	Alkali playa, meadows and seeps, wetlands; in damp alkaline soils, especially in alkaline meadows and alkali sinks with Distichlis.	0–510	Jun–Sep	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat (alkaline soils) is present in the study area. The site contains coarse sandy loam soils.
Downingia pusilla	dwarf downingia	-	-	2B.2	Vernal pool margins in valley and foothill grassland in mesic soils; and in roadside ditches.	0–1,460	Mar–May	**No potential to occur;** site contains coarse sandy loam soils and does not contain vernal pools. Nearest occurrence located at Phoenix Park approximately 3.60 miles south of the site.
Eryngium pinnatisectum	Tuolumne button-celery	-	-	1B.2	Found in mesic soils in cismontane woodland, lower montane coniferous forests, and vernal pools.	230-3,000	May-Aug	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat present onsite. Site contains coarse sandy loam soils and does not contain vernal pools.
Fremontodendron decumbens	Pine Hill flannelbush	FE	-	1B.2	Gabbroic or sepentinite soils in chaparral and cismontane woodlands.	1,395-2,495	Apr-Jul	**No potential to occur;** outside the elevation range of this species and site contains coarse sandy loam soils.
Gailum californicum ssp. sierrae	El Dorado bedstraw	FE	-	1B.2	Found in gabbroic soils in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and lower montane coniferous forests.	325-1,920	May-Jun	**No potential to occur;** outside the elevation range of this species and site contains coarse sandy loam soils.
Gratiola heterosepala	Boggs Lake hedge hyssop	-	SE	1B.2	Clay soils; usually in vernal pools, sometimes on lake margins.	30–7,790	Apr–Aug	**No potential to occur;** clay soils are not present and therefore, no suitable habitat is present in the study area.

Juncus leiospermus var. ahartii	Ahart's dwarf rush	-	-	1B.2	An annual herb found in mesic valley and foothill grassland.	100-750	Mar-May	**No potential to occur;** site contains coarse sandy loam soils.
Juncus leiospermus var. leiospermus	Red Bluff dwarf rush	-	-	1B.1	Found in vernally mesic habitat. Chaparral, cismontane woodland, meadows and seeps, valley and foothill grassland, and vernal pools.	115-4,100	Mar-Jun	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat present onsite. Site contains coarse sandy loam soils.
Legenere limosa	legenere	-	-	1B.1	In beds of vernal pools and wetlands.	0–2,885	Apr–Jun	**No potential to occur;** the site does not contain wetlands or vernal pools. Nearest occurrence is over 7 miles to the southeast.
Navarretia myersii ssp. myersii	pincushion navarretia	-	-	1B.1	Vernal pools (often acidic).	65-980	Apr-May	**No potential to occur;** the site does not contain vernal pools. Nearest occurrence is located near Phoenix Park approximately 3.60 miles south of the site.
Packera layneae	Layne's ragwort	FT	-	1B.2	Gabbroic or sepentinite soils in chaparral and cismontane woodlands.	655- 3,560	Apr-Aug	**No potential to occur;** outside the elevation range of this species and site contains coarse sandy loam soils.
Orcuttia tenuis	slender Orcutt grass	FT	SE	1B.1	Found in vernal pools (often gravelly).	115-5,775	May-Sep (Oct)	**No potential to occur**; no suitable habitat present.
Orcuttia viscida	Sacramento Orcutt grass	FE	SE	1B.1	Vernal pools.	95-330	Apr-Jul	**No potential to occur**; no suitable habitat present.
Sagittaria sanfordii	Sanford's arrowhead	-	-	1B.2	In standing or slow-moving freshwater ponds, marshes, and ditches.	0–2,135	May–Oct (Nov)	**Could occur;** the margins of the pond could provide suitable habitat for the species. There are 13 CNDDB occurences with the nearest record located approximately 2.33 miles due west.

Wyethua reticulata	El Dorado County mule ears	-	-	1B.2	Found in clay or gabbroic soils in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and lower montane coniferous forests.	600-2,065	Apr-Aug	**No potential to occur;** outside the elevation range of this species and site contains coarse sandy loam soils.

Regulatory Status Definitions:

Federal Status Categories

FE = Listed as endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act

FT = Listed as threatened under Federal Endangered Species Act

California State Status Categories

SE = Listed as endangered under California Endangered Species Act

ST = Listed as threatened under California Endangered Species Act

California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) Categories:

1B Plant species considered rare or endangered in California and elsewhere (protected under CEQA, but not legally protected under ESA or CESA)

2B Plant species considered rare or endangered in California but more common elsewhere (protected under CEQA, but not legally protected under ESA or CESA)

CRPR Threat Rank Extensions:

.1 Seriously endangered in California (>80% of occurrences are threatened and/or high degree and immediacy of threat)

.2 Fairly endangered in California (20 to 80% of occurrences are threatened)

.3 Not very threatened in California (less than 20% of occurrences threatened/low degree and immediacy of threat or no current threats known)

[2] MSL = mean sea level

[3] Potential for Occurrence:

Could Occur: The project site is within the species' range, and no occurrences of the species have been recorded on the project site; however, suitable habitat for the species is present and recorded occurrences of the species are generally present in the vicinity.

Not Likely to Occur: No occurrences of the species have been recorded within or immediately adjacent to the project site, and either habitat for the species is marginal or potentially suitable habitat may occur, but the species' current known range is restricted to areas far from the project site.

No Potential to Occur: The project site is outside the species' range or suitable habitat for the species is absent from the project site and adjacent areas.

Sources: CDFW 2021; CNPS 2021; Helix Environmental Planning, Inc. 2020

As noted in Table IS-7, most special-status species within CNPS and CNDDB queries are not expected to occur as many of the species occur in wetlands, vernal pools, at a much higher elevation, or in different soil types than what are present onsite. Species not expected to occur are not discussed further. The only species with potential to occur is Sanford's arrowhead.

SANFORD'S ARROWHEAD

Sanford's arrowhead is designated as a federal species of special concern and is listed by the California Native Plant Society's Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants as category 1B.2 (i.e. rare throughout its range in California with a moderate probability of going extinct).

Sanford's is fairly common in the Sacramento area. Potential suitable marsh habitats include the margins of rivers, streams, ponds, reservoirs, irrigation and drainage canals and ditches, and stock-ponds. In order to avoid impacts to the species, appropriate habitat must be avoided or a survey must be performed demonstrating that the species is not present.

DISCUSSION OF PROJECT IMPACTS

The species has potential to occur along the edges of the seasonal pond. While reconnaissance surveys were conducted outside of the evident and identifiable bloom period, work is not proposed near the pond so a floristics survey is not required. The nearest CNDDB occurrence, is located approximately 2.33 miles due west of the site.

In order to avoid potential impacts to the species, mitigation for placement of construction fencing at 50 feet from the pond will be required.

CONCLUSION

Maintaining a 50-foot buffer around the pond will ensure impacts are ***less than significant***.

SPECIAL STATUS WILDLIFE SPECIES

Table IS-8 provides a list of the special-status wildlife species with potential to occur based upon the available data from USFWS' IPaC, CNNDB, and Helix's biological report. The table describes their regulatory status, habitat, and potential for occurrence on the project site.

Table IS-8: Special-Status Wildlife Species and Potential for Occurrence

Scientific Name	Common Name	Regulatory Status[1]			Habitat Requirements	Distribution	Potential for Occurrence[3]
		Federal	State	CDFW			
Crustaceans							
Branchinecta lynchi	vernal pool fairy shrimp	FT	-	-	Vernal pools in valley and foothill grassland; small, clear-water sandstone-depression pools and grassed swale, earth slump, or basalt-flow depression pools.	Endemic to the grasslands of the Central Valley, Central Coast mountains, and South Coast mountains.	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat present on site.
Lepidurus packardi	vernal pool tadpole shrimp	FE	-	-	Vernal pools in valley and foothill grassland; pools commonly found in grass-bottomed swales of unplowed grasslands. Some pools are mud-bottomed and highly turbid.	Sacramento Valley	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat present on site.

Insects							
Desmocerus californicus dimorphus	valley elderberry longhorn beetle	FT	-	-	Riparian scrub. Host plant is the elderberry shrub (*Sambucus nigra*). Prefers to lay eggs in elderberries 2–8 inches in diameter; some preference shown for "stressed" elderberries.	Occurs only in the Central Valley.	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat (elderberry shrubs) is present.
Amphibians							
Ambystoma californiense	California tiger salamander	FT	ST	WL	Need underground refuges, especially ground squirrel burrows, and vernal pools or other seasonal water sources for breeding.	Restricted to California, where it is found mostly in the Central Valley. Small populations also occur around Santa Barbara and Sonoma.	**Not likely to occur;** although the seasonal pond has potential to provide habitat; the site is located outisde of the species known geographic range. The subject property is located outside of designated critical habitat and there are no recorded occurences within the 9-quad search area.
Rana boylii	foothill yellow-legged frog	-	SE	E (East/Southern Sierra)	Primarily inabit rivers and streams through a variety of vegetation types.	The current known range of the East/Southern Sierra clade extends from the South Fork American River Subbassin south to where the Sierra Nevada meets the Tehacapi Mountains. The Central Valley is not considered suitable habitat. The estimated historical range of the species covers isolated areas of the eastern boundary line of Sacramento County.	**No potential to occur; t**here are no linear water features present onsite. Linda Creek is located approximately 500 feet to the south of the project site. The only record of occurrence is located along New York Creek to the east of Folsom Lake and was recorded in 1972.

Rana draytonii	California red-legged frog	FT	-	SSC	Lowlands and foothills in or near permanent sources of deep water with dense, shrubby or emergent riparian vegetation. Requires 11-20 weeks of permanent water for larval development. Must have access to estivation habitat.	Isolated populations in the Sierra Nevada, northern Coast, and northern Transverse Ranges. Common in the San Francisco Bay area (including Marin County) and along the central coast.	**Not likely to occur;** the property is outside of the species' known geographic range. The habitat around the pond lacks dense and emergent riparian vegetation. The nearest record occurrence is located in El Dorado County east of Folsom Lake.
Spea hammondii	western spadefoot	-	-	SSC	Occurs primarily in grassland habitats, but can be found in valley–foothill hardwood woodlands. Vernal pools are essential for breeding and egg-laying.	Throughout the Central Valley and adjacent foothills.	**No potential to occur;** the propety does not contain any vernal pools. The nearest occurrence is located approximately 3.60 miles to the south at Phoenix Park.
Reptiles							
Emys marmorata	western pond turtle	-	-	SSC	Aquatic; ponds, marshes, rivers, streams and irrigation ditches, usually with aquatic vegetation. Needs basking sites and suitable (sandy banks or grassy open fields) upland habitat up to 0.5 km from water for egg-laying.	West of the Sierra-Cascade crest and absent from desert regions, except in the Mojave Desert along the Mojave River and its tributaries. Below 6,000 feet elevation.	**Not likely to occur.** While the site contains a seasonal pond, there is no suitable upland habitat for egg-laying. The nearest known occurrence is located approximately 2.21 miles northeast of the site along the Placer & Sacramento county line at Baldwin Reservoir.
Thamnophis gigas	giant gartersnake	FT	ST	-	Prefers freshwater marsh and low gradient streams. Has adapted to drainage canals and irrigation ditches.	Historical range was in the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys but its current range is much reduced, and it apparently is extirpated south of Fresno County, except for western Kern County.	**No potential to occur;** the aquatic habitat for this species is dry during a significant portion of the active season of this species. No rodent burrows were found during pedestrian surveys.

Birds							
Agelaius tricolor (nesting colony)	tricolored blackbird	-	ST	SSC	Highly colonial. Requires open water, protected nesting substrate, and foraging area with insect prey within a few kilometers of the colony.	Most numerous in the Central Valley and vicinity. Generally endemic to California.	**Not likely to occur;** The project site does not provide suitable nesting habitat for this species and the site is too small to provide any significant foraging. Nearest extant occurrence in CNDDB is 1.8 miles north in a freshwater marsh.
Ammodramus savannarum (nesting)	grasshopper sparrow	-	-	SSC	Valley and foothill grassland. Dense grasslands with thick herbaceous cover on rolling hills, lowland plains, valleys, and hillsides on lower mountain slopes. Favors a mix of forbs, grasses, and shrubs.	Foothills and lowlands west of the Cascade-Sierra Nevada crest, from Mendocino and Trinity counties south to San Diego County.	**No potential to occur;** the site lacks dense grasslands and herbaceous cover is rather small compared to the large tracks of open space where this species is typically found. The nearest recorded occurrence was recorded in 1998 and is located approximately 11.50 miles to the northwest.
Athene cunicularia (burrow sites and some wintering sites)	burrowing owl	-	-	SSC	Open, dry, annual or perennial grasslands, deserts, and scrublands, characterized by low-growing vegetation. Dependent on burrowing mammals, most notably, the California ground squirrel, for underground nests.	Resident throughout California in suitable habitat.	**No potential to occur; r**odent burrows were not found onsite during surveys. The project site is disturbed and is surrounded by residential parcels. The nearest recorded occurrence located approximately 8.15 miles to the southeast.

Buteo swainsoni (nesting)	Swainson's hawk	-	ST	-	Breeds in grasslands with scattered trees, juniper-sage flats, riparian areas, savannahs, and agricultural or ranch lands with groves or lines of trees. Requires adjacent suitable foraging areas, such as grasslands, or alfalfa or grain fields supporting rodent populations.	Uncommon breeding resident and migrant in the Central Valley, Klamath Basin, Northeastern Plateau, Lassen County, and Mojave Desert.	**Could occur;** suitable nesting habitat (large trees) is present within project footprint. Additionally the project site is located 500 feet to the northwest of the dense tree canopy along Linda Creek. The Helix report notes that large stick nests were observed, but surveys were conducted outside of the nesting season and were vacant. The site is not located near large tracks of foraging area. The nearest recorded occurrence is from 1962 and is located approximatel 2.32 miles to the southeast along the American River.
Elanus leucurus (nesting)	white-tailed kite	-	-	FP	Open grasslands, meadows, or marshes for foraging, close to dense-topped trees for nesting and perching. Nest trees may be growing in isolation, or at the edge of or within a forest.	Coastal and valley lowlands, and cismontane regions of California.	**Could occur;** suitable habitat (open grasslands close to dense-topped trees) is present 500 feet southeast of the project site along Linda Creek. Several medium and large-sized inactive stick nests were observed in large trees on site. The nearest recorded occurrence is located 1.20 miles to the northwest.

Falco columbarius	merlin	-	-	WL	Present in California only during the winter; breeds in Alaska and Canada. Favors dense tree stands near water.	Wide variety of habitats throughout Califonia west of the Sierra-Cascade crest	**Not likely to occur;** the site lacks dense tree stands near water; could potentially occur near Linda Creek. The only recorded occurrence is located approximately 4.08 miles to the southeast along the American River.
Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus	California black rail	-	ST	FP	Inhabits freshwater marshes, wet meadows, and shallow margins of saltwater marshes bordering larger bays. Needs water depths of about 1 inch that do not fluctuate during the year and dense vegetation for nesting habitat.	San Francisco Bay area, the Delta, coastal southern California at Morro Bay and a few other locations, the Salton Sea, and lower Colorado River area.	**No potential to occur;** no suitable aquatic (shallow, low-salinity) habitat is present. No occurences within 5 miles of the site.
Pandion haliaetus	osprey	-	-	WL	Found near large, fish-bearing bodies of water primarily in ponderosa pine through mixed conifer habitats.	Breeds in northern California from Cascade Ranges south to Lake Tahoe	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat present. The pond is seasonal and does not hold fish.
Phalacrocorax auritus	double-crested cormorant	-	-	WL	Feeds underwater on fish, crustaceans, and amphibians. Requires undisturbed nest sites near water, especially cliffs, rocky slopes, and tall trees.	Seabird that inhabits coastal areas and inland lakes and rivers. Common in the Central Valley in winter; less common in summer.	**No potential to occur**; no suitable habitat on the project site. The only recorded occurrence within the 9-quad search area is located approximatel 4.05 miles to the south along the American River.
Progne subis (nesting)	purple martin	-	-	SSC	Inhabits woodlands, low-elevation coniferous forest of Douglas fir, ponderosa pine, and Monterey pine. Nests mainly in old woodpecker cavities, but also in human-made structures. Nests often are in tall, isolated trees/snags.	Eliminated from much of its previous range in California; in the Sacramento area, nests mostly within the city of Sacramento, as well as limited areas in adjacent Placer and Yolo counties.	**No potential to occur;** no suitable habitat is present. All records of this species in Sacramento County are located in weep holes of freeway and street overpasses, which preclude competition from other bird species (CDFW 2019).

Riparia (nesting)	bank swallow	-	ST	-	Colonial nester; nests primarily in riparian and other lowland habitats west of the desert. Requires vertical banks/cliffs with fine-textured/sandy soils near streams, rivers, lakes, and the ocean to dig nesting holes.	Riparian and other lowland habitats in California west of the deserts, during the breeding season.	**No potential to occur;** no suitable nesting habitat (banks, cliffs) is present.
Mammals							
Antrozous pallidus	pallid bat	-	-	SSC	Grasslands, agricultural fields, and desert habitat. Roosts in rock crevices, caves, mine shafts, under bridges, in buildings and tree hollows. Some hibernate; many remain active all year in low to mid-elevations.	Throughout California except for the high Sierra Nevada from Shasta to Kern counties and the northwestern corner of the state from Del Norte and western Siskiyou counties to northern Mendocino Co (CDFW 1998).	**No potential to occur;** no sutiable roosting habitat for the species, all buildings onsite are actively used.
Lasiurus blossevillii	Western red bat	-	-	SSC	This species roost primarily in trees along edge habitats adjacent to streams, fields, or urban areas. The species can be found within either natural or human-made structures, such as caves, mines, crevices (including under bridges), hollow trees, and in abandoned or seldom-used buildings. Young are born to the species in the spring and early summer (maternity colonies typically begin to form in April, and births occur from May through early July).	Found west of the Sierra Neavada/Cascade crest and deserts from Shasta to Mexican border.	**Not likely to occur;** arborist report mentions trees with hollows; however, not likely to support a colony. Buildings onsite are actively used and would not support species. No recorded occurences within 9-quad search area.

Taxidea taxus	American badger	-	-	SSC	Most abundant in drier open stages of most shrub, forest, and herbaceous habitats, with friable soils. Needs sufficient food, friable soils, and open, uncultivated ground. Preys on burrowing rodents. Digs burrows.	Throughout most of the state, except in the northern North Coast area	**No potential to occur;** although suitable grassland habitat and friable soils are located onsite, the project site is too small for foraging and devoid of burrowing rodents.

[1] Regulatory Status Definitions:

Federal Status Categories

FE = Listed as endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act

FT = Listed as threatened under Federal Endangered Species Act

FC = Listed as candidate under Federal Endangered Species Act

California State Status Categories

SE = Listed as endangered under California Endangered Species Act

ST = Listed as threatened under California Endangered Species Act

SC =Listed as candidate under California Endangered Species Act

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Categories:

SSC = Species of Special Concern

FP = Fully Protected

WL = Watch List

[2] MSL= mean sea level

[3] Potential for Occurrence:

Could Occur: The project site is within the species' range, and no occurrences of the species have been recorded within the project site; however, suitable habitat for the species is present and recorded occurrences of the species are generally present in the vicinity.

Not Likely to Occur: No occurrences of the species have been recorded within or immediately adjacent to the project site, and either habitat for the species is marginal or potentially suitable habitat may occur, but the species' current known range is restricted to areas far from the project site.

No Potential to Occur: The project site is outside the species' range or suitable habitat for the species is absent from the project site and adjacent areas.

Sources: CDFW 2021; Helix Environmental Planning, Inc. 2020

As noted in Table IS-8, Swainson's hawk and white-tailed kite are the only species that "could occur" onsite. Species not expected to occur are not discussed further.

SWAINSON'S HAWK

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

NESTING HABITAT IMPACT METHODOLOGY

For determining impacts to and establishing mitigation for nesting Swainson's hawks in Sacramento County, CDFW recommends utilizing the methodology set forth in the Recommended Timing and Methodology for Swainson's Hawk nesting Surveys in California's Central Valley (Swainson's Hawk TAC 2000). The document recommends that surveys be conducted for the two survey periods immediately prior to the start of

construction. The five survey periods are defined by the timing of migration, courtship, and nesting in a typical year (refer to Table IS-9). Surveys should extend a ¼-mile radius around all project activities, and if active nesting is identified, CDFW should be contacted.

Table IS-9: Recommended Survey Periods for Swainson's Hawk (TAC 2000)

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

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

DISCUSSION OF PROJECT IMPACTS

There are 16 CNDDB occurrences within the 9-quad search area. Suitable nesting habitat (large trees) is present within the project footprint. Additionally the project site is located 500 feet to the northwest of the dense tree canopy along Linda Creek. The Helix report notes that large stick nests were observed, but surveys were conducted outside of the nesting season and were inactive.The site is not located near large tracks of foraging area. The nearest recorded occurrence is from 1962 and is located approximatel 2.32 miles to the southeast along the American River. Quarter-mile preconstruction surveys will be required for the species.

CONCLUSION

With the recommended mitigation measures, impacts to Swainson's hawk will be ***less than significant***.

NESTING BIRDS OF PREY

This section addresses raptors which are not listed as endangered, threatened, or of special concern, but are nonetheless afforded general protections by the Fish and Game Code. Raptors and their active nests are protected by the California Fish and Game Code Section 3503.5, which states: It is unlawful to take, possess, or destroy any birds in the orders Falconiformes or Strigiformes (birds of prey, or raptors) or to take, possess, or destroy the nest or eggs of any such bird except as otherwise provided by this code or

any regulation adopted pursuant thereto. Section 3(18) of FESA defines the term "take" means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. Causing a bird to abandon an active nest may cause harm to egg(s) or chick(s) and is therefore considered "take." Thus, take may occur both as a result of cutting down a tree or as a result of activities nearby an active nest which cause nest abandonment.

Raptors within the Sacramento region include tree-nesting species such as the red-tailed hawk and red-shouldered hawk, as well as ground-nesting species such as the northern harrier. The following raptor species are identified as "special animals" due to concerns over nest disturbance: Cooper's hawk, sharp-shinned hawk, golden eagle, northern harrier, and white-tailed kite.

DISCUSSION OF PROJECT IMPACTS

Suitable tree habitat for nesting raptors is present within the project area. CNDDB also contains multiple recorded sightings of white-tailed kites present within the vicinity of each of the project site. The nearest sighting occurs 1.20 miles northwest of the site.

To avoid impacts to nesting raptors, minimization measures involve pre-construction nesting surveys to identify any active nests and to implement avoidance measures if nests are found – if construction will occur during the nesting season of March 1 to September 15. The purpose of the survey requirement is to ensure that construction activities do not agitate or harm nesting raptors, potentially resulting in nest abandonment or other harm to nesting success. If nests are found, the developer is required to contact CDFW to determine what measures need to be implemented in order to ensure that nesting raptors remain undisturbed. The measures selected will depend on many variables, including the distance of activities from the nest, the types of activities, and whether the landform between the nest and activities provides any kind of natural screening. If no active nests are found during the focused survey, no further mitigation will be required.

CONCLUSION

Mitigation measures will ensure that impacts to nesting raptors will be ***less than significant***.

MIGRATORY NESTING BIRDS

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, which states "unless and except as permitted by regulations, it shall be unlawful at any time, by any means or in any manner, to pursue, hunt, take, capture, kill, attempt to take, capture, or kill" a migratory bird. Section 3(18) of FESA defines the term "take" means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. Causing a bird to abandon an active nest may cause harm to egg(s) or chick(s) and is therefore considered "take." To avoid take of nesting migratory birds, minimization measures have been included to require that activities either occur outside of the nesting season, or to require that nests be buffered from construction activities until the nesting season is concluded.

DISCUSSION OF PROJECT IMPACTS

Suitable tree habitat is present throughout the project area. Preconstruction surveys will be required if work is to commence between February 1 and September 15. The purpose of the survey requirement is to ensure that construction activities do not agitate or harm nesting migratory birds, potentially resulting in nest abandonment or other harm to nesting success.

CONCLUSION

Recommended mitigation measures will ensure impacts to migratory nesting birds are ***less than significant***.

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

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

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

REGULATORY SETTING

California has adopted statewide legislation addressing various aspects of climate change and GHG emissions mitigation. Much of this establishes a broad framework for the State's long-term GHG reduction and climate change adaptation program. Of particular importance is AB 32, which establishes a statewide goal to reduce GHG emissions back to 1990 levels by 2020, and Senate Bill (SB) 375 supports AB 32 through coordinated transportation and land use planning with the goal of more sustainable communities. SB 32 extends the State's GHG policies and establishes a near-term GHG reduction goal of 40% below 1990 emissions levels by 2030. Executive Order (EO) S-03-05 identifies a longer-term goal for 2050.[2]

COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING

In October of 2011, Sacramento County approved the Climate Action Plan Strategy and Framework document (CAP), which is the first phase of developing a community-level Climate Action Plan. The CAP provides a framework and overall policy strategy for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and managing our resources in order to comply with AB 32. It also highlights actions already taken to become more efficient, and targets future mitigation and adaptation strategies. The CAP contains policies/goals related to agriculture, energy, transportation/land use, waste, and water.

[2] EO S-03-05 has set forth a reduction target to reduce GHG emissions by 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050. This target has not been legislatively adopted.

Thresholds of Significance

Addressing GHG generation impacts requires an agency to make a determination as to what constitutes a significant impact. Governor's Office of Planning and Research's (OPR's) Guidance does not include a quantitative threshold of significance to use for assessing a proposed development's GHG emissions under CEQA. Moreover, CARB has not established such a threshold or recommended a method for setting a threshold for proposed development-level analysis.

In April 2020, SMAQMD adopted an update to their land development project operational GHG threshold, which requires a project to demonstrate consistency with CARB's 2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan. SMAQMD's technical support document, "Greenhouse Gas Thresholds for Sacramento County", identifies operational measures that should be applied to a project to demonstrate consistency. The County Board of Supervisors adopted the SMAQMD thresholds in December 2020.

All projects must implement Tier 1 Best Management Practices to demonstrate consistency with the Climate Change Scoping Plan. After implementation of Tier 1 Best Management Practices, project emissions are compared to the operational land use screening levels table (equivalent to 1,100 metric tons of CO2e per year). If a project's operational emissions are less than or equal to 1,100 metric tons of CO2e per year after implementation of Tier 1 Best Management Practices, the project will result in a less than cumulatively considerable contribution and has no further action. Tier 1 Best Management Practices include:

- BMP 1 – no natural gas: projects shall be designed and constructed without natural gas infrastructure.
- BMP 2 – electric vehicle (EV) Ready: projects shall meet the current CalGreen Tier 2 standards, except all EV Capable spaces shall be instead EV Ready.
    - EV Capable requires the installation of "raceway" (the enclosed conduit that forms the physical pathway for electrical wiring to protect it from damage) and adequate panel capacity to accommodate future installation of a dedicated branch circuit and charging station(s)
    - EV Ready requires all EV Capable improvements plus installation of dedicated branch circuit(s) (electrical pre-wiring), circuit breakers, and other electrical components, including a receptacle (240-volt outlet) or blank cover needed to support future installation of one or more charging stations

SMAQMD's GHG construction and operational emissions thresholds for Sacramento County are shown in Table IS-10.

Table IS-10: SMAQMD Thresholds of Significance for Greenhouse Gases

Land Development and Construction Projects		
	Construction Phase	Operational Phase
Greenhouse Gas as CO_2e	1,100 metric tons per year	1,100 metric tons per year
Stationary Source Only		
	Construction Phase	Operational Phase
Greenhouse Gas as CO_2e	1,100 metric tons per year	10,000 metric tons per year

Methodology

The resultant GHG emissions of the project were estimated using CalEEMod, version 2016.3.2 (Appendix A).

Construction-Generated Greenhouse Gas Emissions

GHG emissions associated with the project would occur over the short term from construction activities, consisting primarily of emissions from equipment exhaust. Table IS-11 illustrates the specific construction-generated GHG emissions that would result from grading, construction of homes, architectural coating, and construction of the drainage basin.

Table IS-11: Construction-Related Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Metric Tons per Year)

Emissions Source	**CO_2e**
SMAQMD Construction Threshold	1,100
Project Construction-Related Emissions*	252.26
Exceeds Threshold?	**No**
Source: CalEEMod version 2016.3.2. See Appendix A for emission model outputs.	

As shown in Table IS-11, project construction would result in a maximum annual generation of approximately 252.26 metric tons of CO_2e during construction; however, this is not reflective of the project in its entirety. Once construction is complete, the generation of these GHG emissions would cease. Annual construction emissions generated by the development would not exceed the County's construction-related, numeric threshold of 1,100 metric tons of CO_2e.

CONCLUSION

Construction-related GHG impacts are considered ***less than significant***.

OPERATIONAL-GENERATED GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

CalEEMod was used to estimate the project's operational GHG emissions. Table IS-12 summarizes all the direct and indirect annual GHG emissions level associated with the project.

Table IS-12: Operational-Related Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Metric Tons/Year)

Emissions Source	**CO_2e**
Area Source (landscaping, hearth)	0.07
Energy (Electric only)	14.08
Mobile	52.09
Waste	2.17
Water	0.66
Total	**69.08**

Source: CalEEMod version 2016.3.2. See Appendix A for emission model outputs.

As shown in Table IS-12, the project would produce 69.08 metric tons of CO_2e annually. Mobile emissions are the primary source.

CONCLUSION

The project will be required to implement SMAQMD's Tier 1 BMPs. As shown in Table IS-12, the individual project would not exceed the SMAQMD established annual threshold of 1,100 metric tons. Impacts are considered ***less than significant***.

ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION MEASURES

Mitigation Measure J is critical to ensure that identified significant impacts of the project are reduced to a level of less than significant. Pursuant to Section 15074.1(b) of the CEQA Guidelines, each of these measures must be adopted exactly as written unless both of the following occur: (1) A public hearing is held on the proposed changes; (2) The hearing body adopts a written finding that the new measure is equivalent or more effective in mitigating or avoiding potential significant effects and that it in itself will not cause any potentially significant effect on the environment.

As the applicant, or applicant's representative, for this project, I acknowledge that project development creates the potential for significant environmental impact and

agree to implement the mitigation measures listed below, which are intended to reduce potential impacts to a less than significant level.

Applicant [Original Signature on File]_____ Date: _____

MITIGATION MEASURE A: BASIC CONSTRUCTION EMISSIONS CONTROL PRACTICES

The following Basic Construction Emissions Control Practices are considered feasible for controlling fugitive dust from a construction site. The practices also serve as best management practices (BMPs), allowing the use of the non-zero particulate matter significance thresholds.
Control of fugitive dust is required by District Rule 403 and enforced by District staff.

- Water all exposed surfaces two times daily. Exposed surfaces include, but are not limited to soil piles, graded areas, unpaved parking areas, staging areas, and access roads.

- Cover or maintain at least two feet of free board space on haul trucks transporting soil, sand, or other loose material on the site. Any haul trucks that would be traveling along freeways or major roadways should be covered.

- Use wet power vacuum street sweepers to remove any visible trackout mud or dirt onto adjacent public roads at least once a day. Use of dry power sweeping is prohibited.

- Limit vehicle speeds on unpaved roads to 15 miles per hour (mph).

- All roadways, driveways, sidewalks, parking lots to be paved should be completed as soon as possible. In addition, building pads should be laid as soon as possible after grading unless seeding or soil binders are used.

The following practices describe exhaust emission control from diesel powered fleets working at a construction site. California regulations limit idling from both on-road and off-road diesel-powered equipment. The California Air Resources Board (CARB) enforces idling limitations and compliance with diesel fleet regulations.

- Minimize idling time either by shutting equipment off when not in use or reducing the time of idling to 5 minutes [California Code of Regulations, Title 13, sections 2449(d)(3) and 2485]. Provide clear signage that posts this requirement for workers at the entrances to the site.

- Provide current certificate(s) of compliance for CARB's In-Use Off-Road Diesel-Fueled Fleets Regulation [California Code of Regulations, Title 13, sections 2449 and 2449.1]. For more information contact CARB at 877-593-6677, doors@arb.ca.gov, or www.arb.ca.gov/doors/compliance_cert1.html.

- Maintain all construction equipment in proper working condition according to manufacturer's specifications. The equipment must be checked by a certified mechanic.

MITIGATION MEASURE B: OAK TREE REMOVAL

The proposed removal of trees #2414, #2415, & #2416 of the arborist report will require **49** inches dbh replacement plantings. The total of **49** inches dbh shall be compensated by planting in-kind native trees equivalent to the dbh inches lost, based on the ratios listed below, at locations that are authorized by the Environmental Coordinator. On-site preservation of native trees that are less than 6 inches (<6 inches) dbh, may also be used to meet this compensation requirement.

Native trees include: valley oak (*Quercus lobata*), interior live oak (*Quercus wislizenii*), blue oak (*Quercus douglasii*), or oracle oak (*Quercus morehus*), California sycamore (*Platanus racemosa*), California black walnut (*Juglans californica*, which is also a List 1B plant), Oregon ash (*Fraxinus latifolia*), western redbud (*Cercis occidentalis),* gray pine (*Pinus sabiniana*), California white alder (*Alnus rhombifolia*), boxelder (*Acer negundo*), California buckeye (*Aesculus californica*), narrowleaf willow (*Salix exigua*), Gooding's willow (*Salix gooddingii*), red willow (*Salix laevigata*), arroyo willow (*Salix lasiolepis*), shining willow (*Salix lucida*), Pacific willow (*Salix lasiandra*), and dusky willow (*Salix melanopsis*).

Replacement tree planting shall be completed prior to the commencement of construction. A total of ***49*** inches will require compensation. If changes to the proposed design would result in additional encroachment, the required replacement calculations shall be updated to account for that work.

Equivalent compensation based on the following ratio is required:

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

Prior to construction, a Replacement Tree Planting Plan shall be prepared by a certified arborist or licensed landscape architect and shall be submitted to the Environmental Coordinator for approval. The Replacement Tree Planting Plan(s) shall include the following minimum elements:

1. Species, size and locations of all replacement plantings and < 6-inch dbh trees to be preserved

2. Method of irrigation

3. If planting in soils with a hardpan/duripan or claypan layer, include the Sacramento County Standard Tree Planting Detail L-1, including the 10-foot deep boring hole to provide for adequate drainage

4. Planting, irrigation, and maintenance schedules;

5. Identification of the maintenance entity and a written agreement with that entity to provide care and irrigation of the trees for a 3-year establishment period, and to replace any of the replacement trees which do not survive during that period.

6. Designation of 20-foot root zone radius and landscaping to occur within the radius of trees < 6 inches dbh to be preserved on-site.

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

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

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

MITIGATION MEASURE C: NATIVE TREE PROTECTION

With the exception of trees #2414, #2415, & #2416 (to be removed), all native trees near construction activities (clearing & grubbing, grading, pad construction, driveway construction, etc), all portions of adjacent off-site native trees which have driplines that extend onto the project site, and all off-site native trees which may be impacted by utility installation and/or improvements associated with this project, shall be preserved and protected as follows:

1. A circle with a radius measurement from the trunk of the tree to the tip of its longest limb shall constitute the dripline protection area of the tree. Limbs must not be cut back in order to change the dripline. The area beneath the dripline is a critical portion of the root zone and defines the minimum protected area of the tree. Removing limbs that make up the dripline does not change the protected area.

2. Chain link fencing or a similar protective barrier shall be installed at the limits of the construction, proposed in the grading exhibit of this document, prior to initiating project construction, in order to avoid damage to the trees and their root system.

3. No signs, ropes, cables (except cables that may be installed by a certified arborist to provide limb support) or any other items shall be attached to the native trees.

4. No vehicles, construction equipment, mobile home/office, supplies, materials or facilities shall be driven, parked, stockpiled or located within the driplines of the native trees.

5. Any soil disturbance (scraping, grading, trenching, and excavation) is to be avoided within the driplines of the native trees. Where this is necessary, an ISA Certified Arborist will provide specifications for this work, including methods for root pruning, backfill specifications and irrigation management guidelines.

6. All underground utilities and drain or irrigation lines shall be routed outside the driplines of native trees. Trenching within protected tree driplines is not permitted. If utility or irrigation lines must encroach upon the dripline, they should be tunneled or bored under the tree under the supervision of an ISA Certified Arborist.

7. If temporary haul or access roads must pass within the driplines of oak trees, a roadbed of six inches of mulch or gravel shall be created to protect the root zone. The roadbed shall be installed from outside of the dripline and while the soil is in a dry condition, if possible. The roadbed material shall be replenished as necessary to maintain a six-inch depth.

8. Drainage patterns on the site shall not be modified so that water collects or stands within, or is diverted across, the dripline of oak trees.

9. No sprinkler or irrigation system shall be installed in such a manner that it sprays water within the driplines of the oak trees.

10. Tree pruning that may be required for clearance during construction must be performed by an ISA Certified Arborist or Tree Worker and in accordance with the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) A300 pruning standards and the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) “Tree Pruning Guidelines”.

11. Landscaping beneath the oak trees may include non-plant materials such as boulders, decorative rock, wood chips, organic mulch, non-compacted decomposed granite, etc. Landscape materials shall be kept two (2) feet away from the base of the trunk. The only plant species which shall be planted within the

driplines of the oak trees are those which are tolerant of the natural semi-arid environs of the trees. Limited drip irrigation approximately twice per summer is recommended for the understory plants.

12. Any fence/wall that will encroach into the dripline protection area of any protected tree shall be constructed using grade beam wall panels and posts or piers set no closer than 10 feet on center. Posts or piers shall be spaced in such a manner as to maximize the separation between the tree trunks and the posts or piers in order to reduce impacts to the trees.

13. For a project constructing during the months of June, July, August, and September, deep water trees by using a soaker hose (or a garden hose set to a trickle) that slowly applies water to the soil until water has penetrated at least one foot in depth. Sprinklers may be used to water deeply by watering until water begins to run off, then waiting at least an hour or two to resume watering (provided that the sprinkler is not wetting the tree's trunk. Deep water every 2 weeks and suspend watering 2 weeks between rain events of 1 inch or more.

MITIGATION MEASURE D: NON-NATIVE TREE CANOPY REPLACEMENT

Removal of non-native tree canopy for development shall be mitigated by creation of new tree canopy equivalent to the acreage of non-native tree canopy removed. New tree canopy acreage shall be calculated using the Sacramento County Department of Transportation 15-year shade cover values for tree species. Preference is given to on-site mitigation, but if this is infeasible, then funding shall be contributed to the Sacramento Tree Foundation's Greenprint program in an amount proportional to the tree canopy lost (as determined by the 15-year shade cover calculations for the tree species to be planted through the funding, with the cost to be determined by the Sacramento County Tree Foundation).

MITIGATION MEASURE E: SANFORD'S ARROWHEAD BUFFER AROUND POND

Construction fencing shall be placed around the pond using a 50-foot buffer to ensure there are no impacts to Sanford's arrowhead or any other special-status plant species.

MITIGATION MEASURE F: SWAINSON'S HAWK NESTING SURVEYS

If construction, grading, or project-related improvements are to commence between March 1 and September 15, focused surveys for Swainson's hawk nests shall be conducted by a qualified biologist within a 1/4-mile radius of project activities, in accordance with the Recommended Timing and Methodology for Swainson's Hawk Nesting Surveys in California's Central Valley (Swainson's Hawk TAC 2000). To meet the minimum level of protection for the species, surveys should be completed for at least two survey periods immediately prior to commencement of construction activities (including clearing and grubbing). If active nests are found, CDFW shall be contacted to determine appropriate protective measures, and these measures shall be implemented prior to the start of any ground-disturbing activities. If no active nests are found during the focused surveys, no further mitigation will be required.

MITIGATION MEASURE G: NESTING BIRDS OF PREY SURVEY

If construction activity (which includes clearing, grubbing, or grading) is to commence within 500 feet of suitable nesting habitat between March 1 and September 15, a survey for raptor nests shall be conducted by a qualified biologist. The survey shall cover all potential tree on-site and off-site up to a distance of 500 feet from the project boundary. The survey shall occur within 30 days of the date that construction will encroach within 500 feet of suitable habitat. The biologist shall supply a brief written report (including date, time of survey, survey method, name of surveyor and survey results) to the Environmental Coordinator prior to ground disturbing activity. If no active nests are found during the survey, no further mitigation will be required. If any active nests are found, the Environmental Coordinator and California Fish and Wildlife shall be contacted to determine appropriate avoidance/protective measures. The avoidance/protective measures shall be implemented prior to the commencement of construction within 500 feet of an identified nest.

MITIGATION MEASURE H: MIGRATORY BIRD NEST PROTECTION

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

1. If construction activity (which includes clearing, grubbing, or grading) is to commence within 50 feet of nesting habitat between February 1 and August 31, a survey for active migratory bird nests shall be conducted no more than 14 day prior to construction by a qualified biologist.

2. Trees slated for removal shall be removed during the period of September through January, in order to avoid the nesting season. Any trees that are to be removed during the nesting season, which is February through August, shall be surveyed by a qualified biologist and will only be removed if no nesting migratory birds are found.

If active nest(s) are found in the survey area, a non-disturbance buffer, the size of which has been determined by a qualified biologist, shall be established and maintained around the nest to prevent nest failure. All construction activities shall be avoided within this buffer area until a qualified biologist determines that nestlings have fledged.

MITIGATION MEASURE I: UNANTICIPATED DISCOVERY OF CULTURAL OR TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

In the event that human remains are discovered in any location other than a dedicated cemetery, work shall be halted and the County Coroner contacted. For all other unexpected cultural resources discovered during project construction, work shall be halted until a qualified archaeologist may evaluate the resource encountered.

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

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

2. In the event of an inadvertent discovery of cultural resources (excluding human remains) during construction, all work must halt within a 100-foot radius of the discovery.

   A qualified professional archaeologist, meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for prehistoric and historic archaeology, shall be retained at the Applicant's expense to evaluate the significance of the find.

   If the deposits are determined to be of Native American origin, the United Auburn Indian Community's Tribal Historic Preservation Department shall be contacted immediately. If a Native American monitor is required, the Guidelines for Monitors/Consultants of Native American Cultural, Religious, and Burial Sites as established by the Native American Heritage Commission shall be followed, and the monitor shall be retained at the Applicant's expense.

   a) Work cannot continue within the 100-foot radius of the discovery site until the archaeologist and/or tribal monitor conducts sufficient research and data collection to make a determination that the resource is either 1) not cultural in origin; or 2) not potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places or California Register of Historical Resources.

If a potentially-eligible resource is encountered, then the archaeologist and/or tribal monitor, Planning and Environmental Review staff, and project proponent shall arrange for either 1) total avoidance of the resource, if possible; or 2) test excavations or total data recovery as mitigation. The determination shall be formally documented in writing and submitted to the County Environmental Coordinator as verification that the provisions of CEQA for managing unanticipated discoveries have been met.

MITIGATION MEASURE J: SMAQMD TIER 1 BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Per Best Management Practice (BMP) 1 & 2 of the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD) Tier 1 BMPs for greenhouse gas thresholds,

1) Natural gas: projects shall be designed and constructed without natural gas infrastructure.

2) A minimum of one EV Ready parking space shall be required per single-family unit

   a. EV Ready requires the installation of "raceway" (the enclosed conduit that forms the physical pathway for electrical wiring to protect it from damage),

adequate panel capacity for dedicated branch circuits, installation of dedicated branch circuit(s) (electrical pre-wiring), circuit breakers, and other electrical components, including a receptacle (240-volt outlet) or blank cover needed to support future installation of one or more charging stations.

MITIGATION MEASURE COMPLIANCE

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

1. The proponent shall comply with the MMRP for this project, including the payment of a fee to cover the Office of Planning and Environmental Review staff costs incurred during implementation of the MMRP. The MMRP fee for this project is **$7,400.00**. This fee includes administrative costs of $948.00.

2. Until the MMRP has been recorded and the administrative portion of the MMRP fee has been paid, no final parcel map or final subdivision map for the subject property shall be approved. Until the balance of the MMRP fee has been paid, no encroachment, grading, building, sewer connection, water connection or occupancy permit from Sacramento County shall be approved.

INITIAL STUDY CHECKLIST

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

1 Potentially Significant indicates there is substantial evidence that an effect MAY be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant" entries an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required. Further research of a potentially significant impact may reveal that the impact is actually less than significant or less than significant with mitigation.

2 Less than Significant with Mitigation applies where an impact could be significant but specific mitigation has been identified that reduces the impact to a less than significant level.

3 Less than Significant or No Impact indicates that either a project will have an impact but the impact is considered minor or that a project does not impact the particular resource.

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

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant	No Impact	Comments
c. Introduce incompatible uses in the vicinity of existing agricultural uses?			X		Though in an area where agricultural uses occur, the project will not substantially interfere with agricultural operations because the proposed project is consistent with existing land use designations.
4. **AESTHETICS -** Would the project:					
a. Substantially alter existing viewsheds such as scenic highways, corridors or vistas?			X		The project does not occur in the vicinity of any scenic highways, corridors, or vistas.
b. In non-urbanized area, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings?			X		Construction will not substantially degrade the visual character or quality of the project site. It is acknowledged that aesthetic impacts are subjective and may be perceived differently by various affected individuals. Nonetheless, given the similar parcels sizes surrounding the proposed project, it is concluded that the project would not substantially degrade the visual character or quality of the project site or vicinity.
c. If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?				X	The project is not located in an urbanized area.
d. Create a new source of substantial light, glare, or shadow that would result in safety hazards or adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?			X		The project will not result in a new source of substantial light, glare or shadow that would result in safety hazards or adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area.
5. **AIRPORTS -** Would the project:					
a. Result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the vicinity of an airport/airstrip?				X	The project occurs outside of any identified public or private airport/airstrip safety zones.
b. Expose people residing or working in the project area to aircraft noise levels in excess of applicable standards?				X	The project occurs outside of any identified public or private airport/airstrip noise zones or contours.

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant	No Impact	Comments
c. Result in a substantial adverse effect upon the safe and efficient use of navigable airspace by aircraft?				X	The project does not affect navigable airspace.
d. Result in a change in air traffic patterns, including either an increase in traffic levels or a change in location that results in substantial safety risks?				X	The project does not involve or affect air traffic movement.
6. **PUBLIC SERVICES -** Would the project:					
a. Have an adequate water supply for full buildout of the project?			X		The San Juan Water District (water service provider) has adequate capacity to serve the water needs of the proposed project.
b. Have adequate wastewater treatment and disposal facilities for full buildout of the project?			X		The Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District has adequate wastewater treatment and disposal capacity to service the proposed project.
c. Be served by a landfill with sufficient permitted capacity to accommodate the project's solid waste disposal needs?			X		The Kiefer Landfill has capacity to accommodate solid waste until the year 2050.
d. Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the construction of new water supply or wastewater treatment and disposal facilities or expansion of existing facilities?			X		Minor extension of infrastructure would be necessary to serve the proposed project. Existing service lines are located within existing roadways and other developed areas, and the extension of lines would take place within areas already proposed for development as part of the project. No significant new impacts would result from service line extension.
e. Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of storm water drainage facilities?			X		Minor extension of infrastructure may be necessary to serve the proposed project. Existing stormwater drainage facilities are located within existing roadways and other developed areas, and the extension of facilities would take place within areas already proposed for development as part of the project. No significant new impacts would result from stormwater facility extension.

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant	No Impact	Comments
f. Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of electric or natural gas service?			X		Minor extension of utility lines would be necessary to serve the proposed project. Existing utility lines are located along existing roadways and other developed areas, and the extension of lines would take place within areas already proposed for development as part of the project. No significant new impacts would result from utility extension.
g. Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of emergency services?			X		The project would incrementally increase demand for emergency services, but would not cause substantial adverse physical impacts as a result of providing adequate service.
h. Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of public school services?			X		The project would result in minor increases to student population; however, the increase would not require the construction/expansion of new unplanned school facilities. Established case law, *Goleta Union School District v. The Regents of the University of California* (36 Cal-App. 4th 1121, 1995), indicates that school overcrowding, standing alone, is not a change in the physical conditions, and cannot be treated as an impact on the environment.
i. Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of park and recreation services?			X		The project will result in increased demand for park and recreation services, but meeting this demand will not result in any substantial physical impacts.
7. **TRANSPORTATION** - Would the project:					
a. Conflict with or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b) – measuring transportation impacts individually or cumulatively, using a vehicles miles traveled standard established by the County?			X		The project would result in less than 237 average daily trips and can be screened out from further VMT analysis. Impacts are considered less than significant.

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant	No Impact	Comments
b. Result in a substantial adverse impact to access and/or circulation?			X		Parcel 1 will have access off Golden Gate Ave. Parcels 2 & 3 will draw access from Peerless. Parcel 4 will seek access from an existing private road via a land easement, but will also have a private drive that extends across the remainder lot, with access to Golden Gate Ave. The project will be required to comply with applicable access and circulation requirements of the County Improvement Standards and the Uniform Fire Code. Upon compliance, impacts are less than significant.
c. Result in a substantial adverse impact to public safety on area roadways?			X		No changes to existing access and/or circulation patterns would occur as a result of the project; therefore no impacts to public safety on area roadways will result. The project will be required to comply with applicable access and circulation requirements of the County Improvement Standards and the Uniform Fire Code. Upon compliance, impacts are less than significant.
d. Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?			X		The project does not conflict with alternative transportation policies of the Sacramento County General Plan, with the Sacramento Regional Transit Master Plan, or other adopted policies, plans or programs supporting alternative transportation.

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant	No Impact	Comments
8. **AIR QUALITY** - Would the project:					
a. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is in non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?			X		The project does not exceed the screening thresholds established by the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District and will not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is in non-attainment. Compliance with existing dust abatement rules and standard construction mitigation for vehicle particulates will ensure that construction air quality impacts are less than significant. The California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod) was used to analyze ozone precursor emissions; the project will not result in emissions that exceed standards. Standard mitigation will ensure these impacts are reduced to less than significant levels.
b. Expose sensitive receptors to pollutant concentrations in excess of standards?				X	There are no sensitive receptors (i.e., schools, nursing homes, hospitals, daycare centers, etc.) adjacent to the project site. See Response 8.a.
c. Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?				X	The project will not generate objectionable odors.
9. **NOISE -** Would the project:					
a. Result in generation of a temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established by the local general plan, noise ordinance or applicable standards of other agencies?				X	The project is not in the vicinity of any uses that generate substantial noise, nor will the completed project generate substantial noise. The project will not result in exposure of persons to, or generation of, noise levels in excess of applicable standards.

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant	No Impact	Comments
b. Result in a substantial temporary increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity?			X		Project construction will result in a temporary increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity. This impact is less than significant due to the temporary nature of the these activities, limits on the duration of noise, and evening and nighttime restrictions imposed by the County Noise Ordinance (Chapter 6.68 of the County Code).
c. Generate excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels.			X		The project will not involve the use of pile driving or other methods that would produce excessive groundborne vibration or noise levels at the property boundary.
10. **HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY** - Would the project:					
a. Substantially deplete groundwater supplies or substantially interfere with groundwater recharge?			X		The project will incrementally add to groundwater consumption; however, the singular and cumulative impacts of the proposed project upon the groundwater decline in the project area are minor.
b. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the project area and/or increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on- or off-site?			X		The project would result in minor increases in impervious surfaces, but would not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern and or/increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would lead to flooding. Compliance with applicable requirements of the Sacramento County Floodplain Management Ordinance, Sacramento County Water Agency Code, and Sacramento County Improvement Standards will ensure that impacts are less than significant.
c. Develop within a 100-year floodplain as mapped on a federal Flood Insurance Rate Map or within a local flood hazard area?				X	The project is not within a 100-year floodplain as mapped on a federal Flood Insurance Rate Map, nor is the project within a local flood hazard area.
d. Place structures that would impede or redirect flood flows within a 100-year floodplain?				X	The project site is not within a 100-year floodplain.
e. Develop in an area that is subject to 200 year urban levels of flood protection (ULOP)?				X	The project is not located in an area subject to 200-year urban levels of flood protection (ULOP).

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant	No Impact	Comments
f. Expose people or structures to a substantial risk of loss, injury or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam?				X	The project will not expose people or structures to a substantial risk of loss, injury, or death involving flooding, including flooding as a result of the failure of a levee or dam.
g. Create or contribute runoff that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems?			X		The project does not propose any physical changes that would affect runoff from the site. Adequate on- and/or off-site drainage improvements will be required pursuant to the Sacramento County Floodplain Management Ordinance and Improvement Standards.
h. Create substantial sources of polluted runoff or otherwise substantially degrade ground or surface water quality?			X		Compliance with the Stormwater Ordinance and Land Grading and Erosion Control Ordinance (Chapters 15.12 and 14.44 of the County Code respectively) will ensure that the project will not create substantial sources of polluted runoff or otherwise substantially degrade ground or surface water quality.
11. **GEOLOGY AND SOILS** - Would the project:					
a. Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including risk of loss, injury or death involving rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault?			X		Sacramento County is not within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone. Although there are no known active earthquake faults in the project area, the site could be subject to some ground shaking from regional faults. The Uniform Building Code contains applicable construction regulations for earthquake safety that will ensure less than significant impacts.
b. Result in substantial soil erosion, siltation or loss of topsoil?			X		Compliance with the County's Land Grading and Erosion Control Ordinance will reduce the amount of construction site erosion and minimize water quality degradation by providing stabilization and protection of disturbed areas, and by controlling the runoff of sediment and other pollutants during the course of construction.

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant	No Impact	Comments
c. Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, soil expansion, liquefaction or collapse?				X	The project is not located on an unstable geologic or soil unit.
d. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available?			X		A public sewer system is available to serve the project.
e. Result in a substantial loss of an important mineral resource?				X	The project is not located within an Aggregate Resource Area as identified by the Sacramento County General Plan Land Use Diagram, nor are any important mineral resources known to be located on the project site.
f. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?				X	No known paleontological resources (e.g. fossil remains) or sites occur at the project location.
12. **BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES** - Would the project:					
a. Have a substantial adverse effect on any special status species, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, or threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community?		X			The project will not have a substantial adverse impact on special-status species or their habitat. Mitigation is included to reduce impacts to less than significant levels. Refer to the Biological Resources discussion in the Environmental Effects section above.
b. Have a substantial adverse effect on riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities?			X		No sensitive natural communities occur on the project site. Refer to the Biological Resources discussion in the Environmental Effects section above.
c. Have a substantial adverse effect on streams, wetlands, or other surface waters that are protected by federal, state, or local regulations and policies?			X		The project site has a pond at the south central portion of the site. No in water work is proposed. Refer to the Biological Resources discussion in the Environmental Effects section above..

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant	No Impact	Comments
d. Have a substantial adverse effect on the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species?			X		Resident and/or migratory wildlife may be displaced by project construction; however, impacts are not anticipated to result in significant, long-term effects upon the movement of resident or migratory fish or wildlife species, and no major wildlife corridors would be affected. Refer to Biological Resources discussion.
e. Adversely affect or result in the removal of native or landmark trees?		X			Native trees occur on the project site; however, the project will not impact these trees. Refer to the Biological Resources discussion in the Environmental Effects section above.
f. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources?			X		The project is consistent with local policies/ordinances protecting biological resources.
g. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan or other approved local, regional, state or federal plan for the conservation of habitat?			X		There are no known conflicts with any approved plan for the conservation of habitat.
13. **CULTURAL RESOURCES -** Would the project:					
a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource?			X		No historical resources would be affected by the proposed project. The home on the property was built in 1965; however, the project consists of the subdivision of land and will not make physical changes to the structure.

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant	No Impact	Comments
b. Have a substantial adverse effect on an archaeological resource?			X		A search of records and historical information on file at the North Central Information Center (NCIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) was conducted on 3/11/2021 for the project area and a ¼-mile buffer. The records search identified zero previously recorded resources within the project site and ¼-mile search area, the project site is not considered sensitive for archaeological resources.
c. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?			X		The project site is located outside any area considered sensitive for the existence of undiscovered human remains. No known human remains exist on the project site. Nonetheless, mitigation has been recommended to ensure appropriate treatment should remains be uncovered during project implementation.
14. **TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES -** Would the project:					
a. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource as defined in Public Resources Code 21074?			X		Notification pursuant to Public Resources Code 21080.3.1(b) was provided to the tribes and one request for consultation was received. UAIC stated that the site's proximity to Linda Creek makes the site potentially sensitive for tribal cultural resources, but that they were not aware of resources on-site. UAIC requested they be contacted if tribal cultural resources are discovered during construction.
15. **HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS** - Would the project:					
a. Create a substantial hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?				X	The project does not involve the transport, use, and/or disposal of hazardous material.

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant	No Impact	Comments
b. Expose the public or the environment to a substantial hazard through reasonably foreseeable upset conditions involving the release of hazardous materials?				X	The project does not involve the transport, use, and/or disposal of hazardous material.
c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?				X	The project does not involve the use or handling of hazardous material.
d. Be located on a site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5, resulting in a substantial hazard to the public or the environment?				X	The project is not located on a known hazardous materials site.
e. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response or emergency evacuation plan?			X		The project would not interfere with any known emergency response or evacuation plan.
f. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to or intermixed with urbanized areas?			X		The project is within a rural area of the unincorporated County and is located within a Local Responsibility Area according to the CalFire Fire Hazard Severity Zones Map (2007). Compliance with local Fire District standards and requirements ensures impacts are less than significant.
16. ENERGY – Would the project:					
a. Result in potentially significant environmental impacts due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction?			X		While the project has the potential to result in three new homes and increase energy consumption, compliance with Title 24, Green Building Code, will ensure that all project energy efficiency requirements are net resulting in less than significant impacts.
b. Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?			X		The project will comply with Title 24, Green Building Code, for all project efficiency requirements.

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant	No Impact	Comments
17. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS – Would the project:					
a. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?			X		The California Emissions Estimator Model (CalEEMod) was used to estimate the greenhouse gas emissions associated with the project. Based on the results, GHG emissions are estimated to be well below the established SMAQMD's thresholds. Refer to the GHG section for further discussion.
b. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation for the purpose of reducing the emission of greenhouse gases?			X		The project is consistent with County policies adopted for the purpose or reducing the emission of greenhouse gases.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

LAND USE CONSISTENCY	**Current Land Use Designation**	**Consistent**	**Not Consistent**	**Comments**
General Plan	AG-RES (Agricultural-Residential)	X		
Community Plan	AR-2 (Agricultural-Residential —2 Acres)	X		Orangevale Community Plan
Land Use Zone	AR-2 (Agricultural-Residential —2 Acres)	X		

INITIAL STUDY PREPARERS

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