

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO:
 Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth St.
Sacramento, CA 95814
 Trinity County Clerk
11 Court St.
Weaverville, CA 96093
FROM:
Lewiston Community Services District
302 Texas Avenue
Lewiston, CA 96052

Project Title: Lewiston Community Park Improvement Project

Project Location: The proposed project is located within the unincorporated community of Lewiston in Trinity County. The community is approximately 16 miles southeast of Weaverville and approximately 35 miles west of Redding. The project is located in Section 19, Township 33N, Range 8 W, of the U.S. Geological Survey’s (USGS) Lewiston 7.5-minute quadrangle, as shown in Figure 1. The project site consists of a portion of the Lewiston Community Park, located on the south side of Lewiston Road east of Fremont Street. The park site is identified as Trinity County Assessor’s Parcel Numbers (APN) 025-560-004 and -005.

City: Lewiston (unincorporated) **County:** Trinity

Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:
The Lewiston Community Services District (LSCD) owns and maintains a ±12.25-acre site for recreational purposes. The property has been developed into a community park facility with a horse arena, community garden, picnic area, baseball field, and a gravel-surfaced basketball shooting area.
The proposed project would include the following improvements:
1. Replacement of the irrigation system within the park. The system would irrigate approximately six acres including the baseball field and community garden, and would also provide water to the horse arena.
2. Replacement of the basketball shooting area with two basketball hoops and an asphalt-surfaced court that would be enclosed by chain-link fencing. Replacement of existing lighting in the basketball area with Dark Sky compliant lighting fixtures.
3. Installation of a new skate park adjacent to the restroom facility. The skate park would consist of an approximately 40-foot by 60-foot rectangular cement pad with metal rails. The skate park would be fenced for safety purposes.
4. Installation of benches in various locations throughout the community park.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Lewiston Community Services District

Name of Agency Carrying out the Project: Lewiston Community Services District

Local Agency Contact Person: Mel Deardorff, LCSD Board President

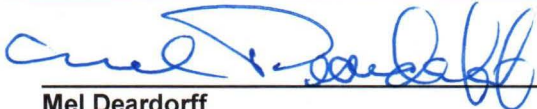
Exempt Status: Categorical Exemption:
California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3 (CEQA Guidelines):
Class 2, §15302(c) (Replacement or Reconstruction)
Class 3, §15303 (New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures)
Class 4, §15304(a) (Minor Alterations to Land)
Class 11, §15311 (Accessory Structures)

Reason Why Project Is Exempt:

The Class 2 categorical exemption applies to replacement or reconstruction of existing structures and facilities where the new structure will be located on the same site, and have substantially the same capacity, as the structure to be replaced. The Class 3 exemption covers the construction of limited numbers of new, small facilities or structures. Class 4 authorizes minor alterations in the condition of land that do not involve the removal of healthy, mature, scenic trees, including grading of land with a slope of less than ten percent. Class 11 covers the construction or placement of minor structures accessory to existing commercial, industrial, or institutional facilities, including small parking lots.

The project is consistent with the categorical exemptions noted above because work would consist primarily of the replacement or rehabilitation of existing public facilities on the same site and with substantially the same purpose as the existing facilities, construction of small new structures as well as accessories such as benches, and trenching on land with less than ten percent slope. No trees would be removed.

As documented in **Attachment A**, the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances; would not result in damage to scenic resources within a Scenic Highway; is not located on a hazardous waste site pursuant to §65962.5 of the Government Code; would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource; and would not result in cumulative impacts.

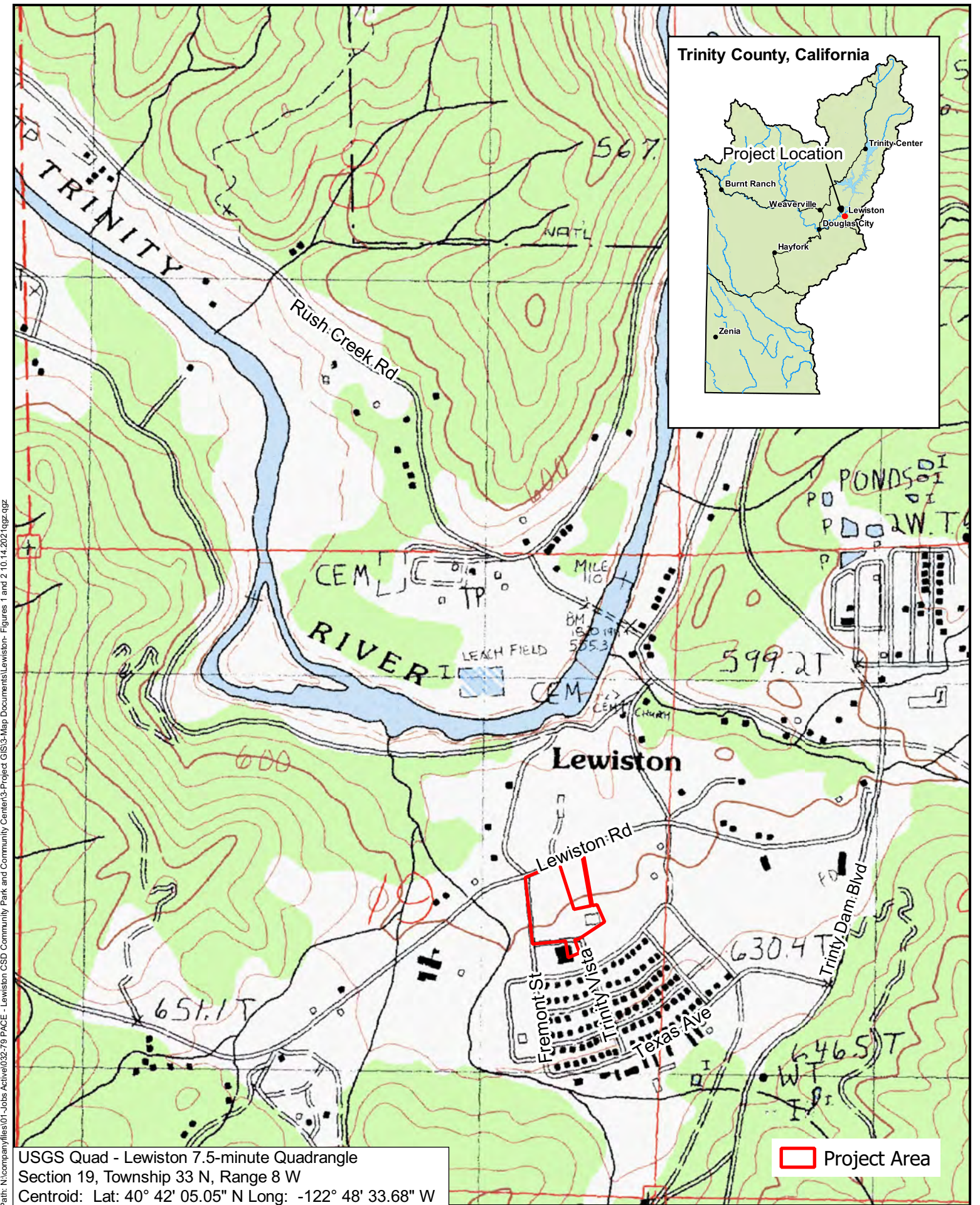
Signature:  _____
Mel Deardorff
LCSD Board President

Date: 11/30/2021

Date Received for Filing at OPR: _____

Attachments:

- Figure 1: Project Location and Vicinity
- Figure 2: Proposed Community Park Improvements
- Attachment A: Documentation in Support of a Categorical Exemption



USGS Quad - Lewiston 7.5-minute Quadrangle
 Section 19, Township 33 N, Range 8 W
 Centroid: Lat: 40° 42' 05.05" N Long: -122° 48' 33.68" W

 Project Area

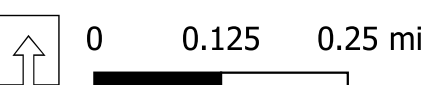
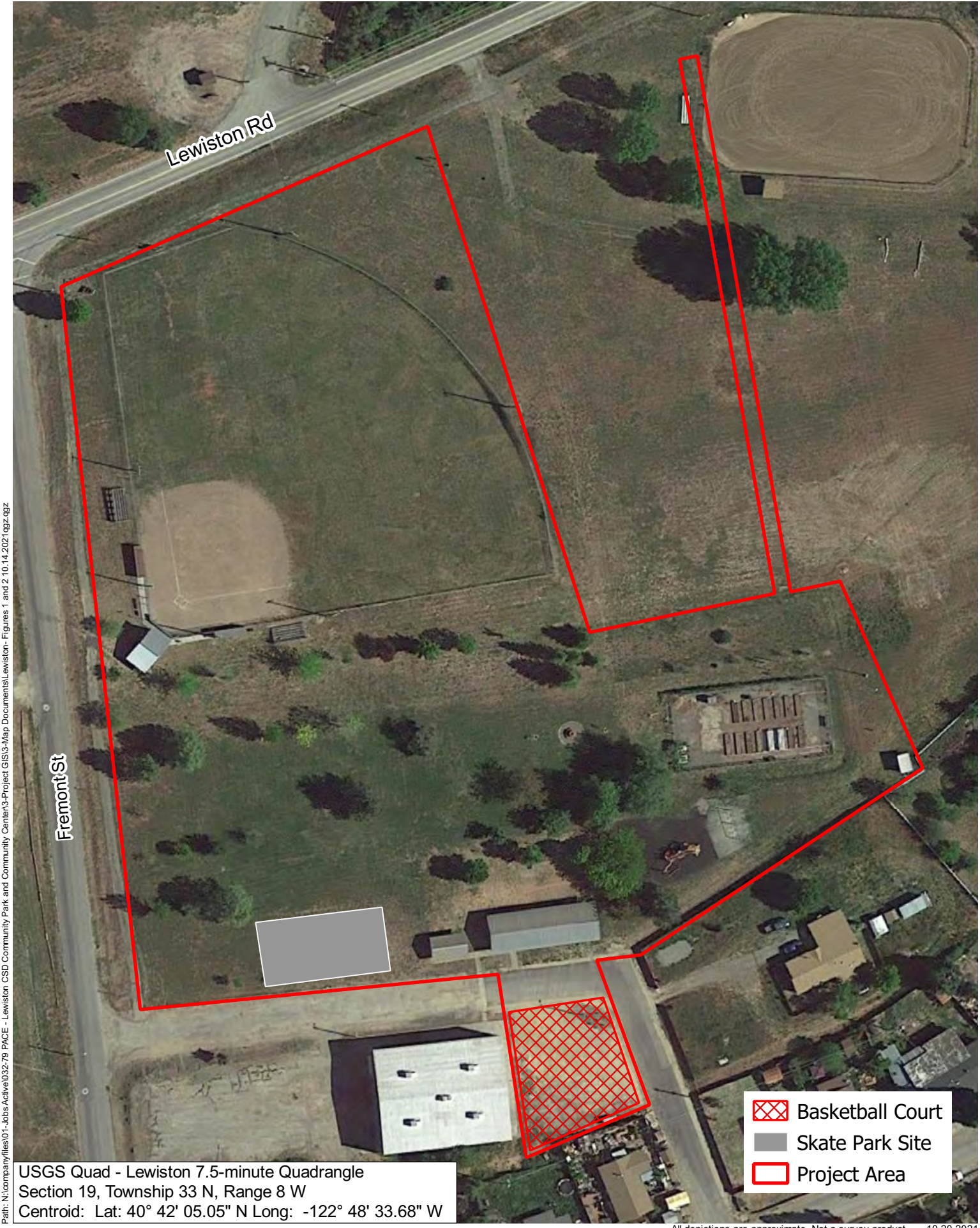


Figure 1
Vicinity Map

All depictions are approximate. Not a survey product. 10.20.2021






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USGS Quad - Lewiston 7.5-minute Quadrangle
 Section 19, Township 33 N, Range 8 W
 Centroid: Lat: 40° 42' 05.05" N Long: -122° 48' 33.68" W

-  Basketball Court
-  Skate Park Site
-  Project Area

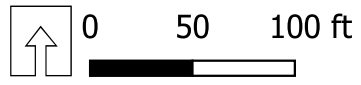


Figure 2

Community Park Site Plan

All depictions are approximate. Not a survey product. 10.20.2021



ATTACHMENT A

Documentation in Support of a Categorical Exemption

Lewiston Community Services District, Community Park

As described in the Notice of Exemption (NOE), the proposed project is categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to §15302 (Class 2-Replacement or Reconstruction), §15303 (Class 3-New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures), §15304 (Class 4-Minor Alterations to Land), and §15311 (Class 11-Accessory Structures) of the CEQA Guidelines. CEQA Guidelines §15300.2 identifies exceptions that override a lead agency's ability to use a categorical exemption. These exceptions are listed below, followed by documentation of why each exception does not apply to the proposed project.

1. Cumulative Impact. *All exemptions are inapplicable when the cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time, is significant.*

The project involves improvements to Lewiston Community Services District's Community Park. The District is conducting two other projects in the vicinity of the community park: 1) Community Building Improvements and 2) the Water Distribution and Well 8 Improvement Project. The Community Building improvement project consists of covering the building with new siding; this minor project does not require discretionary approvals from regulatory agencies. The project would not result in direct or indirect impacts to the environment and would not contribute to cumulative impacts.

The Water Distribution and Well 8 Improvement Project would replace aging water infrastructure and complete construction of Well 8. Well 8 and a new 2" water pipe connecting the well to the existing system would be located on the southeastern portion of the park property, immediately east of the community garden. Construction is tentatively anticipated in 2021 and/or 2022, depending on funding. The project would take one year to construct. If the water project is constructed simultaneously with the proposed park improvements, cumulative traffic, traffic noise, construction noise, and temporarily increased air emissions during construction would occur. Nonetheless, the cumulative impacts of both projects occurring simultaneously would be less than significant.

2. Significant Effect. *A categorical exemption shall not be used for an activity where there is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.*

An "unusual circumstance" exists if the project's circumstances differ from the general circumstances of projects covered by the applicable exemption, and, if so, whether there is a reasonable possibility of a significant effect on the environment *due to* the unusual circumstances. As documented below, there are no unusual circumstances that would preclude a categorical exemption for the proposed project.

Aesthetics:

The park property is visible to motorists and pedestrians on Lewiston Road and Fremont Street, and to individuals living in the area; the proposed improvements would be visible from these areas. Proposed improvements would be similar in character to existing uses in the park, and no healthy, mature, scenic trees would be removed. Therefore, the visual change would not be significant.

Agriculture and Forest Resources:

According to the *Important Farmland in California* map, the easterly portions of Trinity County were not surveyed for inclusion in the Farm Mapping and Monitoring Program. However, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), designates the project site as farmland of statewide importance. However, the project site is zoned Public Facility (PF); this zoning designation does not allow commercial agricultural uses. The site is not zoned as forest land or timberland, and no trees would be removed to accommodate the improvements. Therefore, there would be no impact on agricultural lands or forest resources.

Air Quality/Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions:

The proposed project would result in the temporary generation of ROG, NOx, PM₁₀, and other regulated pollutants during construction. ROG and NOx emissions would be associated with employee vehicle trips, delivery of materials, and construction equipment exhaust. PM₁₀ would be generated during site preparation, trenching, and from exhaust associated with construction equipment. However, this is a temporary impact and would cease when construction is complete. Although the project may result in more vehicles traveling to the park, the increase in emissions associated with motor vehicle use is not expected to be significant. There are no unusual circumstances associated with air quality that would preclude a categorical exemption for the proposed project.

Biological Resources:

Special-Status Plant and Wildlife Species

Review of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS) species list for the project area identified no federally listed plant species. The project area does not contain designated critical habitat for federally listed plant species. Review of the California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDDB) records showed no special-status plant species within the project area or within five miles of the project area.

Review of the USFWS species list for the project area identified the following federally listed animal species as potentially being present in the project area: northern spotted owl, yellow-billed cuckoo, conservancy fairy shrimp, vernal pool fairy shrimp, and vernal pool tadpole shrimp, as well as the monarch butterfly, which is a candidate for federal listing. The USFWS species list does not identify designated critical habitat in the study area for any federally listed animal species.

A review of CNDDDB records showed that the following special-status wildlife species could potentially occur in the project vicinity: Chinook salmon, bald eagle, foothill yellow-legged frog, western pond turtle, fisher, Townsend's big-eared bat, and pallid bat. The following non-status animals have also been mapped within the search radius: great blue heron, western bumble bee, and long-eared myotis.

Although the monarch butterfly, western bumble bee, and various bats could potentially forage on the project site, none of these species would be adversely affected by project implementation. None of the other species noted above would be present on the project site due to the amount of human activity in the area and the lack of suitable habitat.

Wetlands and Other Waters

Based on review of aerial photographs and the USFWS Wetlands Mapper, no streams, watercourses, or other waters subject to federal or State jurisdiction are present in the project site.

Nesting Birds

The project does not involve the removal of trees, shrubs, buildings, or other potentially suitable nesting habitat for birds.

Energy

The proposed replacement of the basketball court lighting will meet California Green Building Code standards for energy efficiency. There are no unique circumstances related to energy use that would result in more significant impacts than other similar projects.

Geology and Soils:

According to the California Geological Survey (CGS), the nearest Alquist-Priolo Special Study Zone is the Battle Creek Fault Zone, approximately 40 miles southeast of the project site. The project site is relatively flat and there is no potential for impacts associated with landslides. Soil types found on the project site are present throughout the Lewiston area and are not unique to the project site. There are no unusual circumstances related to geology or soils that would result in more significant impacts than other similar projects.

Hydrology and Water Quality:

Construction activities would result in the temporary disturbance of soil and would expose disturbed areas to potential storm events, which could generate accelerated runoff, localized erosion, and sedimentation. However, this is a temporary impact during construction activities, and no long-term impacts would occur. Best Management Practices (BMPs) for erosion/sediment control would be implemented in accordance with standard construction measures. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (Panel 06105C1058F, 07/20/2016), the project site is not located within a designated flood hazard area.

Land Use and Planning:

The project does not have any components that would physically divide an established community or cause an environmental impact due to a conflict with a land use plan, policy, or regulation.

Mineral Resources:

The California Geological Survey has not designated any Mineral Resource Zones in the study area. In addition, there are no properties in the project area that are zoned for mining activities.

Noise:

Construction activities would generate noise and would temporarily increase noise levels in the area. However, there is nothing unique to the project that would result in more significant impacts than other similar construction projects.

The basketball court would be constructed in the existing basketball shooting area. The skate park would be adjacent to the picnic shelter and restroom on the southwestern portion of the park area. Noise levels could increase if these or other improvements cause an increase in visitors; however, the park would be required to comply with Trinity County General Plan noise standards. There are no unusual circumstances associated with noise that would preclude a categorical exemption for the project.

Population and Housing:

The purpose of the project is to enhance recreational opportunities for current residents in the area. The project does not include housing or employment-generating uses that would result in population growth. There are no unusual circumstances associated with population or housing that would preclude a categorical exemption for the proposed project.

Public Services/Recreation:

Because the project would not induce population growth, the project would not generate a demand for additional fire protection, police protection, schools, or other public services. The proposed project would expand the recreational use of the existing Community Park, but would not result in the increased use of other park facilities in the area.

Transportation:

The project does not include any components that would conflict or interfere with plans that address transit, roadway, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities. There would be short-term increases in traffic in the area associated with construction workers and equipment; however, existing regulations require safety measures to be employed to safeguard travel by the general public and ensure that adequate emergency access is maintained during construction. The park would serve local residents in the area and would not result in a significant increase in vehicle miles traveled. There are no unusual circumstances associated with transportation that would preclude a categorical exemption for the proposed project.

Utilities and Service Systems:

The project would not require the relocation of sewer lines, electric facilities, storm drains, natural gas lines, or other utility infrastructure. Because the project would not directly or indirectly induce population growth, no significant impact on utilities or services would occur. There are no unusual circumstances associated with utilities or service systems that would preclude a categorical exemption for the project.

Wildfire:

The proposed project does not include any development or improvements that would increase the long-term risk of wildland fires or expose people or structures to wildland fires. There are no unique circumstances associated with the proposed project that would result in more significant impacts than other similar projects in the area.

3. Scenic Highways. *A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may result in damage to scenic resources, including but not limited to, trees, historic buildings, rock outcroppings, or similar resources, within a highway officially designated as a State Scenic Highway.*

According to the California Scenic Highway Mapping System, the closest eligible State scenic highway is a segment of State Route 299, approximately two miles south of the project site. The project area is not visible from the eligible highway segment; therefore, there would be no impact.

4. Hazardous Waste Sites. *A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project located on a site which is included on any list compiled pursuant to §65962.5 of the Government Code.*

The following databases were reviewed to locate "Cortese List" sites: List of Hazardous Waste and Substances sites from the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) EnviroStor database and SWRCB GeoTracker database. Review of these records shows that there are no clean-up sites located within 1000 feet of the project site.

5. Historical Resources. *A categorical exemption shall not be used for a project which may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource.*

Records searches conducted by Stantec in 2020 for the Lewiston Community Services District Water Distribution System Replacement and Well 8 Project included some of the park site. The record searches did not indicate any known archeological or cultural sites within the project area.

However, there is always some potential for previously unknown cultural resources to be encountered during excavation activities. Therefore, the following standard construction measures will be included in bid/contract documents to address the inadvertent discovery of cultural resources and human remains.

1. In the event of any inadvertent discovery of cultural resources (i.e., burnt animal bone, midden soils, projectile points or other humanly-modified lithics, historic artifacts, etc.), all work within 50 feet of the find shall be halted until a professional archaeologist can evaluate the significance of the find in accordance with PRC §21083.2(g) and §21084.1, and CEQA Guidelines §15064.5(a). If any find is determined to be significant by the archaeologist, District staff shall meet with the archaeologist to determine the appropriate course of action. If necessary, a Treatment Plan prepared by an archeologist outlining recovery of the resource, analysis, and reporting of the find shall be prepared. The Treatment Plan shall be reviewed and approved by the District prior to resuming construction.
2. In the event that human remains are encountered during construction activities, the District shall comply with §15064.5 (e) (1) of the CEQA Guidelines and PRC §7050.5. All project-related ground disturbance within 100 feet of the find shall be halted until the County coroner has been notified. If the coroner determines that the remains are Native American, the coroner will notify the NAHC to identify the most likely descendants of the deceased Native Americans. Project-related ground disturbance in the vicinity of the find shall not resume until the process detailed in §15064.5(e) has been completed.
3. In the event that project plans change, archaeological reconnaissance may be required. If cultural resources are encountered, the archaeologist shall recommend/implement additional measures as necessary, which may include subsequent monitoring by an archaeologist or Native American representative.

DOCUMENTATION:

California Air Resources Control Board. Area Designations Maps—State and National.

<http://www.arb.ca.gov/desig/adm/adm.htm>. Accessed October 2021.

California Department of Conservation, California Geological Survey. Mineral Land Classification Maps.

<http://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/informationwarehouse/index.html?map=mlc>. Accessed October 2021.

_____. 2019. Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act. <http://www.conservation.ca.gov/CGS/rghm/ap/>. Accessed October 2021.

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_____. 1999. Special Publication 42, Fault-Rupture Hazard Zones in California.

<http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/EART/UCONLY/CDMG/north/sp42.pdf>. Accessed October 2021.

_____. Earthquake Zones of Required Investigation. <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/EQZApp/app/>. Accessed October 2021.

California Department of Transportation. 2021. California State Scenic Highway Mapping System. Shasta County. <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/design/lap-landscape-architecture-and-community-livability/lap-liv-i-scenic-highways>. Accessed October 2021.

California Environmental Protection Agency. 2021. Cortese List Data Resources.

<http://www.calepa.ca.gov/sitecleanup/corteselist/>. Accessed October 2021.

California Natural Diversity Data Base. <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Data/CNDDB/Data-Updates>. Accessed October 2021.

Federal Emergency Management Agency. National Flood Hazard Map (Panel 06105C1058F, July 20, 2016).

<https://hazards-fema.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=8b0adb51996444d4879338b5529aa9cd>. Accessed October 2021.

Trinity County. 1988. Trinity County General Plan. <https://www.trinitycounty.org/node/1901>. Accessed October 2021.

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U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service. 2021. Web Soil Survey.

<https://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx>. Accessed October 2021.

U.S. Geological Survey. 2015. U.S. Quaternary Faults, Interactive Fault Map.

<https://usgs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=5a6038b3a1684561a9b0aadf88412fcf>. Accessed October 2021.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2021. List of Threatened and Endangered Species.

<https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/>. Accessed October 2021.

_____. 2021. National Wetlands Inventory. <https://www.fws.gov/wetlands/data/mapper.html>. Accessed October 2021.