



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: PLNP2020-00082**
2. **Title and Short Description of Project:** 6115 Verner Avenue Tentative Parcel Map
The project consists of the following planning entitlement requests:
A **Tentative Parcel Map** to divide approximately 1.8 acres into three parcels in the RD-2 Zone.
A **Design Review** to comply with the Countywide Design Guidelines.
The project will be required to install off-site drainage improvements within an existing drainage ditch along the Verner Avenue street frontage. The existing drainage ditch will be regraded in order to tie into an existing outfall (220-0032-005) approximately 200-feet to the northeast on the east side of Verner Avenue. The applicant has proposed two different options for regrading the ditch to match the elevation of the downstream roadway culvert.
3. **Assessor's Parcel Number:** 220-0031-016
4. **Location of Project:** The project site is located at 6115 Verner Avenue, approximately 850 feet east of Garfield Avenue in the Carmichael Community
5. **Project Applicant:** Gerald Jenkins
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
PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW
INITIAL STUDY

PROJECT INFORMATION

CONTROL NUMBER: PLNP2020-00082

NAME: 6115 Verner Avenue Tentative Parcel Map

LOCATION: The project site is located at 6115 Verner Avenue, approximately 850 feet east of Garfield Avenue in the Carmichael Community (Plate IS-1).

ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NUMBER: 220-0031-016

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project consists of the following planning entitlement requests:

1. A **Tentative Parcel Map** to divide approximately 1.8 acres into three parcels in the RD-2 Zone.
2. A **Design Review** to comply with the Countywide Design Guidelines.

The project will be required to install off-site drainage improvements within an existing drainage ditch along the Verner Avenue street frontage. The existing drainage ditch will be regraded in order to tie into an existing outfall (220-0032-005) approximately 200-feet to the northeast on the east side of Verner Avenue. The applicant has proposed two different options for regrading the ditch to match the elevation of the downstream roadway culvert.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The proposed project is located on a 1.8-acre site (220-0031-016) in an urbanized area of Sacramento County approximately 1,250 feet west of the City of Citrus Heights (Plate IS-2). The project site is located within the Carmichael Community Plan boundaries (Plate IS-3). The project site fronts along the north side of Verner Avenue, a two-lane local roadway without frontage improvements, in the Carmichael community. Single-family homes occupy the surrounding properties and are zoned for RD-2 uses (Plate IS-4). The property is developed with a 1,571 square foot single-family residence and various accessory structures, constructed in 1947 (proposed for demolition). The project proposes to split the parcel into three separate lots with frontage along Verner Avenue (Plate IS-5).

The project is within the Diablo Creek Watershed and within FEMA Flood Zone X, as determined by the 2012 FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map, panel number 06067C0087H. Flood Zone X is an area that has been determined to be outside of the 500-year floodplain as statistically mapped for flood insurance rating purposes.

The site is surrounded by single-family homes. Topography of the site is a sloping hillside, gradually decreasing in elevation from the north to the south towards the Verner Avenue street frontage. The topography along Verner Avenue increases in elevation to the southwest. Vegetation on the site consists of Valley Oak, Blue Oak and Interior Live Oak trees, a variety of non-native trees and landscaping.

Plate IS-1: Project Location



Plate IS-2: Regional Map

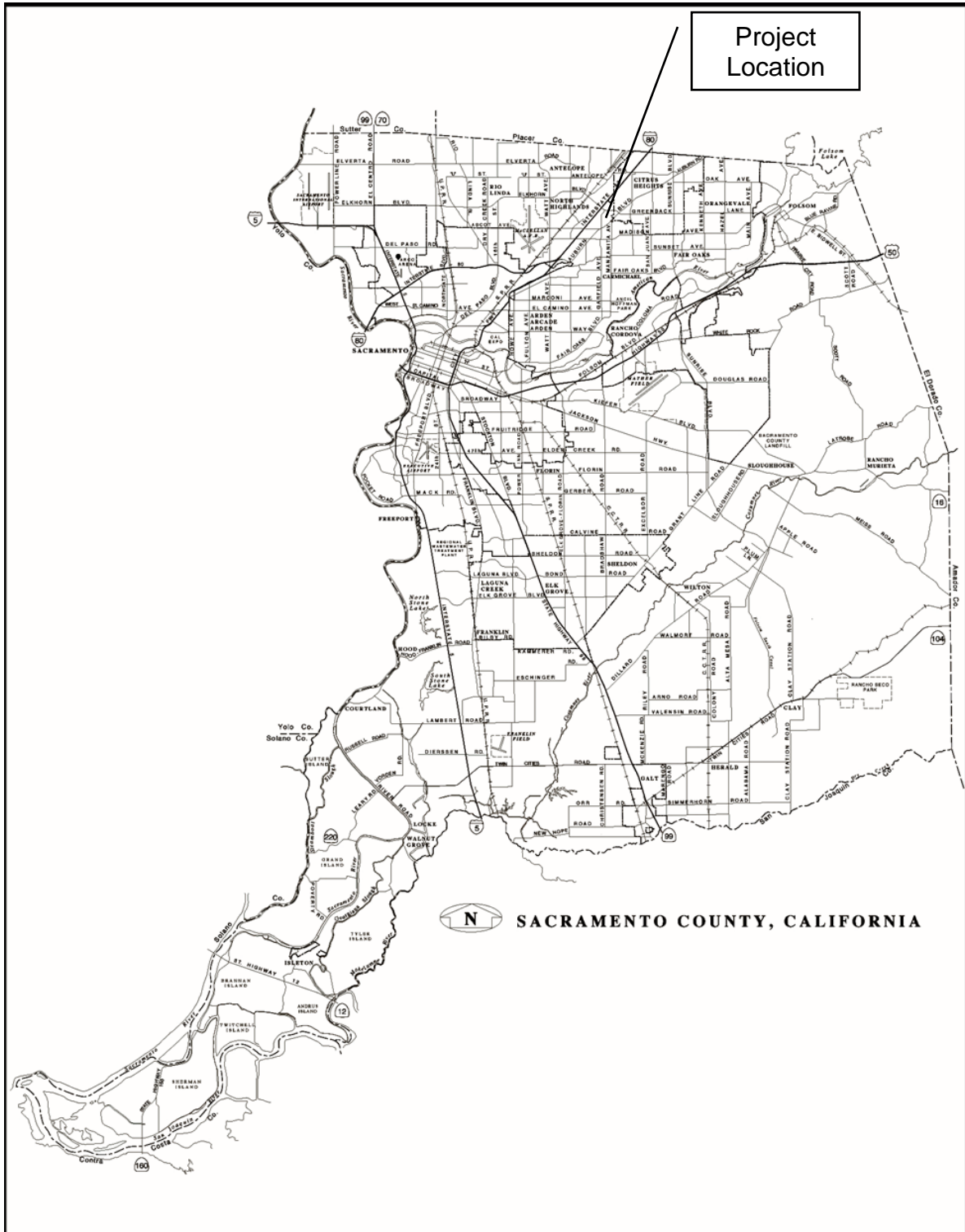


Plate IS-3: Community Plan Designation

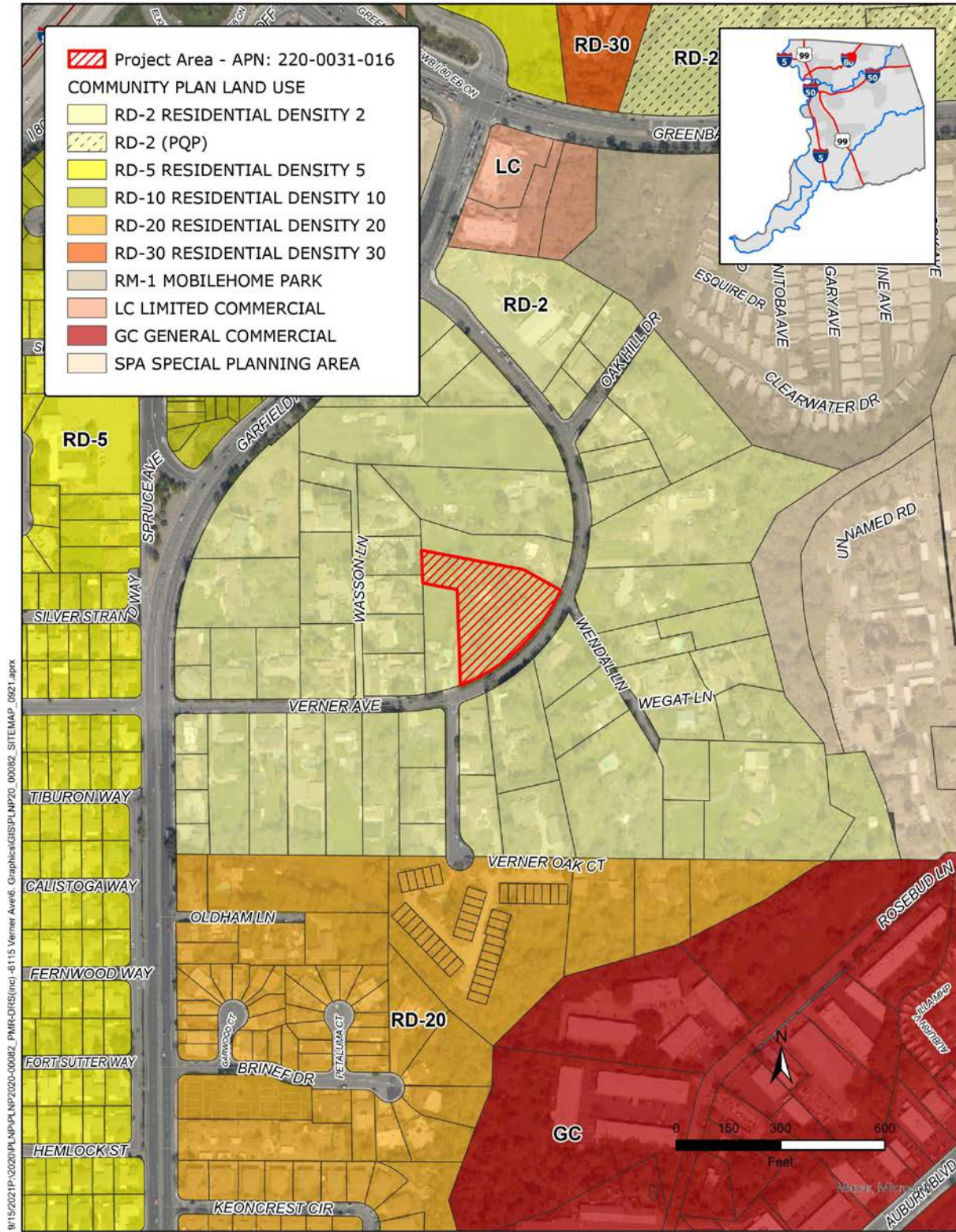
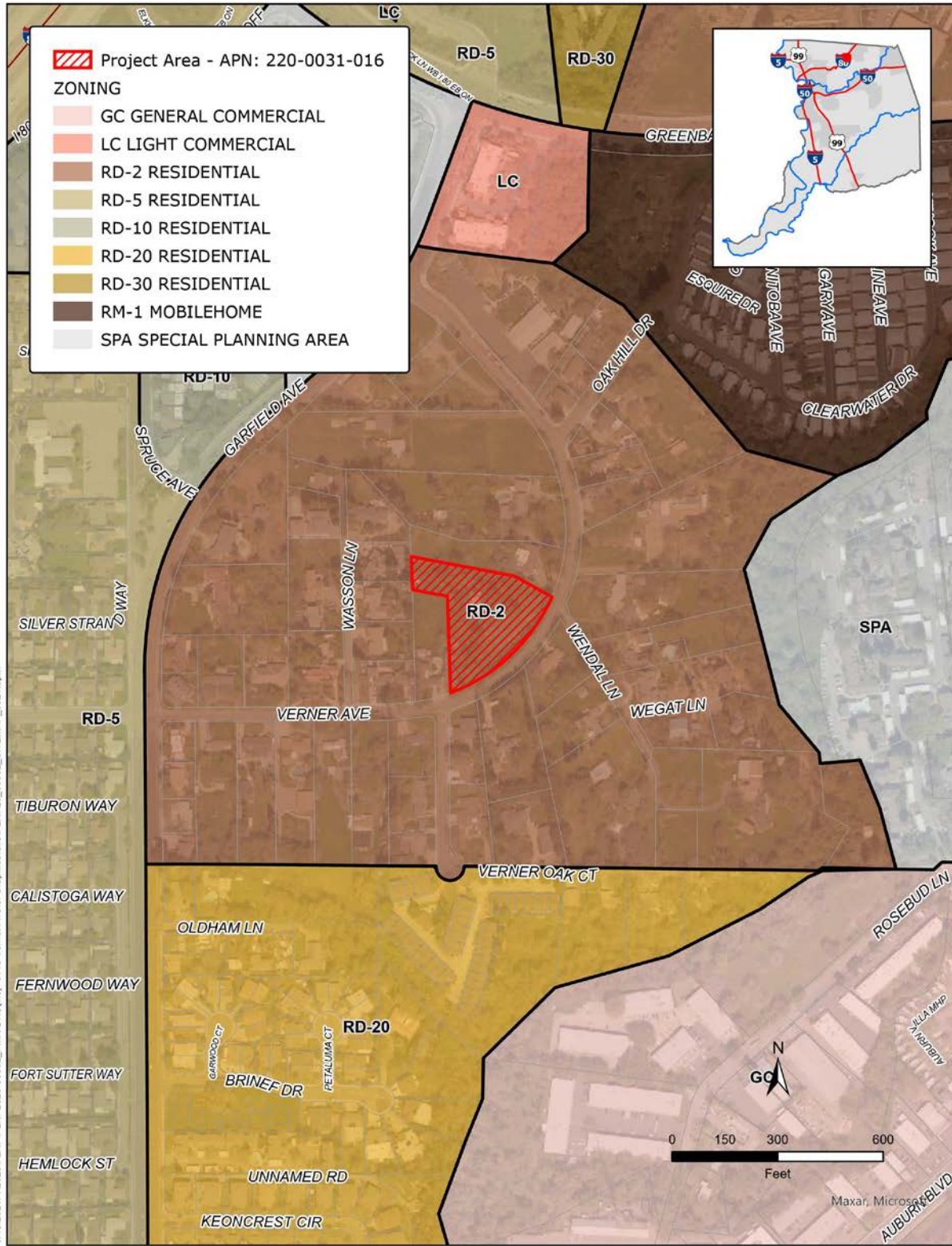
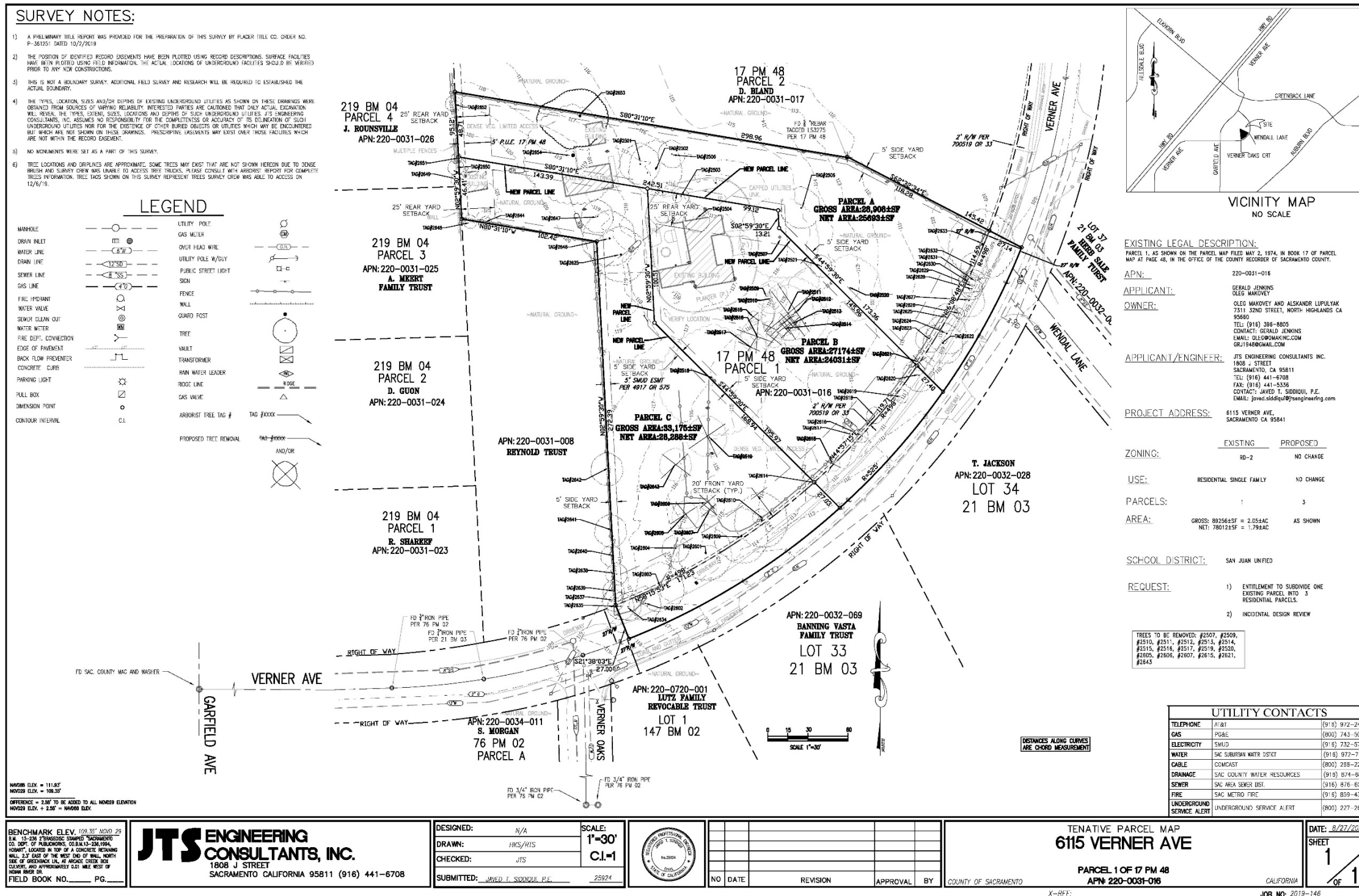


Plate IS-4: Zoning



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Plate IS-5: Tentative 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 potential 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.

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 *Instructions 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, PM₁₀, 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: CRITERIA POLLUTANT HEALTH RISKS

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-1 and Table IS-2.

Table IS-1: 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}	Incidences Across the 5-Air-District Region Resulting from Project Emissions (per year) ²	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
		(Mean)	(Mean)		
Respiratory					
Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 99	0.98	0.90	0.0049%	18419
Hospital Admissions, Asthma	0 - 64	0.062	0.057	0.0031%	1846
Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	0.37	0.32	0.0016%	19644
Cardiovascular					
Hospital Admissions, All Cardiovascular (less Myocardial Infarctions)	65 - 99	0.19	0.17	0.00073%	24037
Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	18 - 24	0.000085	0.000078	0.0021%	4
Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	25 - 44	0.0074	0.0069	0.0022%	308
Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	45 - 54	0.017	0.016	0.0022%	741
Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	55 - 64	0.029	0.027	0.0022%	1239
Acute Myocardial Infarction, Nonfatal	65 - 99	0.12	0.11	0.0022%	5052
Mortality					
Mortality, All Cause	30 - 99	2.5	2.2	0.0049%	44766
Notes:					
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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-2: 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}	Incidences Across the 5-Air-District Region Resulting from Project Emissions (per year) ²	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
		(Mean)	(Mean)		
Respiratory					
Hospital Admissions, All Respiratory	65 - 99	0.090	0.072	0.00037%	19644
Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	0 - 17	0.36	0.30	0.0051%	5859
Emergency Room Visits, Asthma	18 - 99	0.61	0.51	0.0041%	12560
Mortality					
Mortality, Non-Accidental	0 - 99	0.057	0.048	0.00016%	30386

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*.

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: CRITERIA POLLUTANT HEALTH RISKS

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.

HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

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

- 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.
- Create or contribute runoff that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems.
- Create substantial sources of polluted runoff or otherwise substantially degrade ground or surface water quality.

HYDROLOGY & DRAINAGE

The current drainage runs northeast within an existing ditch along the Verner Avenue street frontage. A majority of the upstream runoff bypasses the project site due to the

flow being routed through two existing culverts that tie into an outfall approximately 200-feet northeast of the site (220-0032-005) (Plate IS-6).

DISCUSSION OF PROJECT IMPACTS: HYDROLOGY & DRAINAGE

JTS Engineering Consultants, Inc. prepared a level 2 drainage study for the subject property on September 2, 2020 (Appendix A). The proposed storm drain system will tie into an outfall of an existing roadside ditch on the east side of Verner Avenue. Modifications to the ditch will be needed for the proposed storm drain system to function properly. The applicant has proposed two options, both of which would be technically adequate as indicated in the drainage study.

1. The first option is to place approximately 345 linear feet of reinforced concrete pipe into the existing roadside ditch along Verner Avenue and regrade the ditch with a flatter slope. Following this proposal, the ditch will have a slope of .04% and match the flow line of the downstream 21-inch culvert (Plate IS-7).
2. The second option involves lowering the existing 21-inch culvert to approximately 6-inches, with the same slope as it exists now, and the ditch downstream of the culvert would be regraded from 2%, as it currently exists, to 1% (Plate IS-8).

Final storm drain design will occur during the improvement plan phase. The Department of Water Resources will review improvement plans once submitted to ensure they are in compliance with the Sacramento County Floodplain Management Ordinance, Sacramento County Water Agency Code, and Sacramento County Improvement Standards.

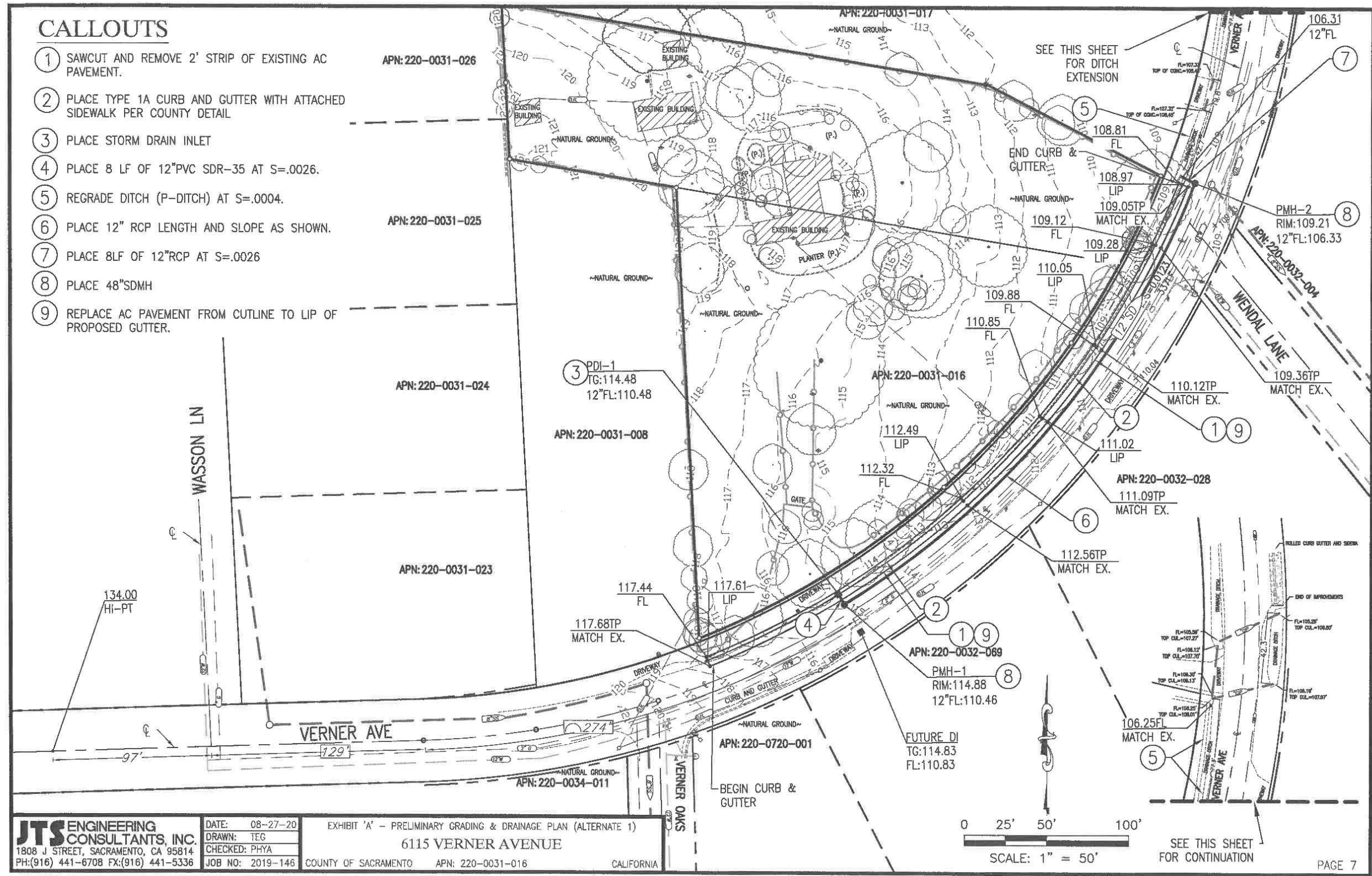
Referring to the Preliminary Grading and Drainage Plan (Plate IS-7 or Plate IS-8), two proposed manholes will be placed along Verner Avenue, which connect the proposed drain inlet and an existing roadside ditch.

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***.

Plate IS-6: Drainage Ditch Boundary



Plate IS-7: Preliminary Grading & Drainage Plan (Alternative 1)



JTS ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS, INC.
 1808 J STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814
 PH: (916) 441-6708 FX: (916) 441-5336

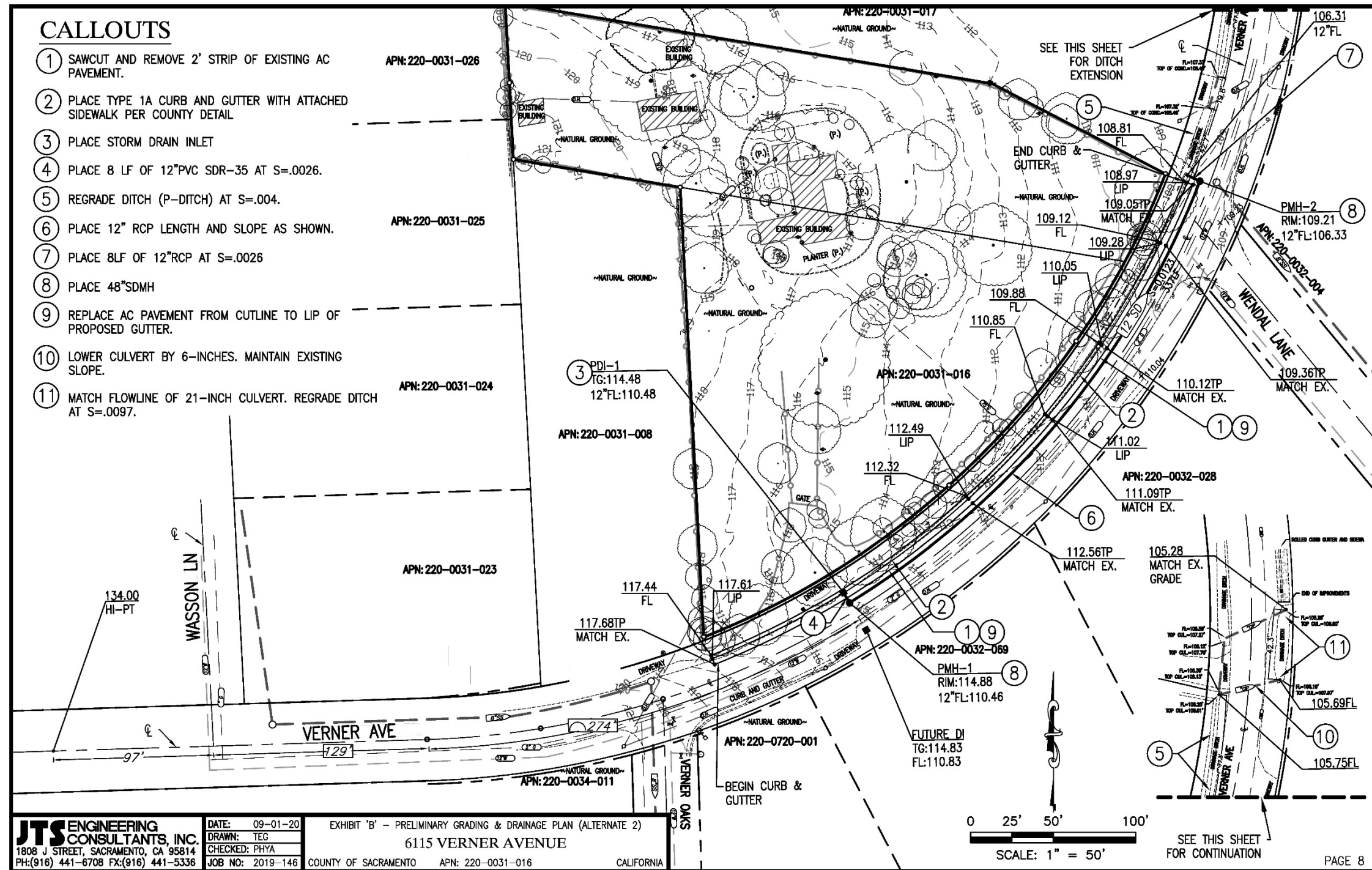
DATE: 08-27-20
 DRAWN: TEG
 CHECKED: PHYA
 JOB NO: 2019-146

EXHIBIT 'A' - PRELIMINARY GRADING & DRAINAGE PLAN (ALTERNATE 1)
 6115 VERNER AVENUE
 COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO APN: 220-0031-016 CALIFORNIA



SEE THIS SHEET FOR CONTINUATION

Plate IS-8: Preliminary Grading & Drainage Plan (Alternative 2)



*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.

During the wet season (October 1 – April 30), 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 Construction General Permit. During the rest of the year, typically erosion controls are not required, except in the case of predicted rain. The project must include an effective combination of erosion, sediment and other pollution control BMPs in compliance with the County ordinances and the State’s CGP.

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

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

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

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

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

OPERATION: STORMWATER RUNOFF

Development and urbanization can increase pollutant loads, temperature, volume and discharge velocity of runoff over the predevelopment condition. The increased volume, increased velocity, and discharge duration of stormwater runoff from developed areas has the potential to greatly accelerate downstream erosion and impair stream habitat in

natural drainage systems. Studies have demonstrated a direct correlation between the degree of imperviousness of an area and the degradation of its receiving waters. These impacts must be mitigated by requiring appropriate runoff reduction and pollution prevention controls to minimize runoff and keep runoff clean for the life of the project.

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

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

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

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

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

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

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

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

- 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.

NATIVE TREES

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

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

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

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

SITE SPECIFIC ANALYSIS - NATIVE TREES

California Tree and Landscape Consulting, Inc. prepared an arborist report for the property on July 21, 2021 (Appendix B). The Inventory identified the species, size, and location of onsite and overhanging offsite trees. The trees on adjacent properties that overhang the subject property were accessible and included in the inspection. The survey identified a total of 86 trees measuring a minimum of 4 inches in diameter at breast height (DBH) within the project site or overhanging the project area and on adjacent parcels (Table IS-3).

ONSITE NATIVE TREE REMOVAL

A total of 12 native trees (139.7 aggregate diameter inches) have been proposed for removal due to defects and/or to accommodate development. The removal of the trees requires mitigation that will be compensated for in-kind on an inch-for-inch basis for the removal of individual trees. However, nine (9) of the 12 trees to be removed either have severe health and structural deficiencies and/or have a dbh of less than 6", and therefore, do not require mitigation for removal (Table IS-4). The impact from removing the remaining three (3) native trees (#2606, #2613 & #2511) requires mitigation per inch of dbh removed. Mitigation has been included to address the loss of 36 inches dbh through onsite replacement plantings, or payment to the Sacramento Tree Foundation if it is demonstrated that onsite plantings are infeasible.

ONSITE NATIVE TREE ENCROACHMENT

The development of three (3) individual driveways off Verner Avenue, would encroach upon the driplines of native trees, or require tree removal beyond what has currently been identified. Even when a tree will not be removed, construction within the dripline can cause impacts. For this reason, mitigation establishing protective fencing (and other measures) is typically required whenever construction will be occurring near native trees. In cases where a tree will remain but some construction within the dripline will occur, mitigation is required for any encroachment that exceeds 20% of the total dripline. At encroachment between 20 and 50%, partial mitigation is required, and when encroachment reaches 50% of the dripline, the entire tree is considered lost and full compensatory mitigation is required.

The survey identified four (4) native trees #2620, #2623, #2622 & #2614 (Valley Oaks) with a combined dbh of 41.3" along the Verner Avenue street frontage. Although these trees will be preserved, the proposed grading for the individual driveways will encroach into the driplines of these trees. Encroachment of trees #2620, #2623, #2622 & #2614 is expected to exceed 50% of the dripline. The project will be required to be in compliance with mitigation measure D. These trees are considered a loss and full compensatory mitigation for 41.3" dbh will be required (Table IS-5). The project will be subject to mitigation measure E for the protection of remaining native trees during the construction of the subject property.

Valley Oaks are protected by the Conservation Element of the General Plan. Even when a tree will not be removed, construction within the dripline can cause impacts. For this reason, mitigation measure E establishing protective fencing (and other measures) has

been included to protect oak trees in the vicinity of construction activities. Impacts to native trees are ***less than significant***.

Table IS-3: Existing Trees on the and Adjacent to Project Site

Common Name	Species	Number of Trees	Aggregate Inches (dbh)*
Black Walnut	<i>Juglans nigra</i>	1	18.6
Blue Oak	<i>Quercus douglasii</i>	5	51.9
Catalpa	<i>Catalpa bignonioides</i>	2	30.8
Chinese Pistache	<i>Pistacia chinensis</i>	1	6.2
Coast Redwood	<i>Sequoia sempervirens</i>	5	103
Evergreen Chinese Elm	<i>Ulmus parvifolia</i>	4	49.2
Fig	<i>Ficus carica</i>	1	26.3
Flowering Plum	<i>Prunus blireiana</i>	1	10
Interior Live Oak	<i>Quercus wislizeni</i>	8	61.5
London Plane	<i>Platanus x hispanica</i>	1	17.8
Mulberry	<i>Morus</i>	1	9.1
Oriental Hackberry	<i>Celtis sinensis</i>	2	16.3
Privet	<i>Ligustrum lucidum</i>	1	13
Valley Oak	<i>Quercus lobata</i>	53	624.5
TOTAL		86	1,038.2

* Estimate provided by California Tree and Landscaping Consulting, Inc. July 21, 2021

Table IS-4: Native Trees Proposed for Removal

<u>TREE #</u>	<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>TOTAL DBH (INCHES)*</u>	<u>TREE'S DRIPLINE RADIUS (DLR) FEET</u>	<u>CONDITION RATING</u>	<u>MITIGATION REQUIRED</u>
#2605	BLUE OAK (<i>Quercus douglasii</i>)	14.9	18	POOR	No
#2606	BLUE OAK (<i>Quercus douglasii</i>)	8.8	16	FAIR	YES
#2607	BLUE OAK (<i>Quercus douglasii</i>)	11.0	13	POOR	No
#2613	VALLEY OAK (<i>Quercus lobata</i>)	6.6	17	FAIR	YES
#2615	VALLEY OAK (<i>Quercus lobata</i>)	4.3	8	FAIR	No

#2643	VALLEY OAK (<i>Quercus lobata</i>)	15.1	22	POOR	No
#2511	VALLEY OAK (<i>Quercus lobata</i>)	19.6	24	FAIR	YES
#2512	VALLEY OAK (<i>Quercus lobata</i>)	23.8	31	POOR	No
#2513	VALLEY OAK (<i>Quercus lobata</i>)	7.6	12	POOR	No
#2514	INTERIOR LIVE OAK (<i>Quercus wislizenii</i>)	5.2	9	POOR	No
#2516	VALLEY OAK (<i>Quercus lobata</i>)	5.0	9	POOR	No
#2519	VALLEY OAK (<i>Quercus lobata</i>)	17.8	24	POOR	No

* Estimate provided by California Tree and Landscaping Consulting, Inc. July 21, 2021

Table IS-5: Project Site Native Tree Impacts

Tree Number	Species	Common Name	Dbh* (inches)	Percent encroachment	Mitigation required?
2620	<i>Quercus lobata</i>	Valley Oak	16	50%	Yes
2623	<i>Quercus lobata</i>	Valley Oak	4.5	50%	Yes
2622	<i>Quercus lobata</i>	Valley Oak	15.7	50%	Yes
2614	<i>Quercus lobata</i>	Valley Oak df	5.1	50%	Yes

* Estimate provided by California Tree and Landscaping Consulting, Inc. July 21, 2021

OFF-SITE NATIVE TREES

There is an existing Valley Oak located along the east side of the Verner Avenue street frontage (220-0032-005) immediately south of the existing culverts. Mitigation measure E, specifies standard protective measures for native trees during construction, to ensure temporary impacts during construction are ***less than significant***.

NON-NATIVE 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 Sacramento County Department of Transportation, Landscape Planning and Design Division. The list includes more than seventy trees, so is not included here, but it is available at <http://www.per.saccounty.net/Programs/Documents/Tree%20Coordinator/Tree%2015-year%20shade%20values%201-8-14.pdf#search=15%20year%20shade%20value>.

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.

SITE SPECIFIC ANALYSIS NON-NATIVE TREES

Project implementation would result in the removal of two (2) non-native trees located on the project site (Table IS-6). Mitigation for the removal of non-native trees involves compensating for the removal of square footage of canopy lost. The non-native tree canopy removal has been calculated through digitization of tree canopy utilizing current aerial imagery. This method ensures overlapping canopy within tree clusters is not double counted. For individual trees (outside of a cluster), the calculation is canopy radius x canopy radius x 3.14= square footage of canopy for the individual tree. In total, 2,402 square feet of canopy will be removed. Mitigation measure F has been included to address the loss of canopy through payment to the Sacramento Tree Foundation or planting equivalent trees onsite. Impacts with respect to non-native tree canopy are ***less than significant***.

Table IS-6: Non-Native Trees Proposed for Removal

<u>TREE #</u>	<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>TOTAL DBH (INCHES)*</u>	<u>TREE'S DRIPLINE RADIUS (DLR) FEET</u>	<u>CONDITION RATING</u>	<u>MITIGATION REQUIRED</u>
<u>#2515</u>	<u>PRIVET</u> (Ligustrum lucidum)	<u>13</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>POOR</u>	<u>YES</u>
<u>#2517</u>	Black Walnut (Juglans nigra)	<u>18.6</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>POOR</u>	<u>YES</u>

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 Army 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 United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) 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 USACE is generally the lead agency for the federal permit process, and the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) 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.

There is no regulatory setback for other surface waters, but the County Environmental Review Section has typically required a minimum 50-foot setback¹. Maintenance of these setbacks will avoid indirect impacts to the surface water. A direct impact is the filling or excavation of a surface water.

PROJECT IMPACTS: WETLANDS AND OTHER SURFACE WATERS

The total length of the drainage ditch from the southern end of the property to the existing outfall is approximately 650 linear feet (Plate IS-6). Development of the project site will impact the ditch during construction of the proposed driveways and the off-site storm drain facilities along Verner Avenue (see the discussion under the Hydrology section above for additional infrastructure details).

Construction impacts to the linear ditch would require permits from the USACE and/or CRWQCB, unless the individual agencies deem the waterway to not be jurisdictional through an Approved Jurisdictional Determination (USACE). Mitigation has been included to obtain proper permits prior to any work within delineated waters, or obtaining proper verification that waters are not jurisdictional. With the issuance of permits and/or verification of jurisdiction, impacts would be ***less than significant with mitigation***.

SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES

SWAINSON'S HAWK

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

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

The CEQA analysis provides a means by which to ascertain impacts to the Swainson's hawk. When the analysis identifies impacts, mitigation measures are established that will

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.

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

SWAINSON'S HAWK 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 (Table IS-7). Surveys should extend a ½-mile radius around all project activities, and if active nesting is identified, CDFW should be contacted.

Table IS-7: 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.

PROJECT IMPACTS: SWAINSON'S HAWK

The project site contains mature trees that could provide adequate nesting habitat for Swainson's hawk, therefore, preconstruction surveys for nesting hawks are necessary prior to construction. The purpose of the survey requirement is to ensure that construction activities do not agitate nesting hawks, potentially resulting in nest abandonment or other harm to nesting success. If Swainson's hawk nests are found, the developer is required to contact CDFW to determine what measures need to be implemented in order to ensure that nesting hawks 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. According to the Recommended Timing and Methodology for Swainson's Hawk Nesting Surveys in California's Central Valley (Swainson's Hawk TAC 2000), the mitigation described above will ensure that impacts to nesting 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(19) of the Federal Endangered Species Act defines the term "take" means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. Causing a bird to abandon an active nest may cause harm to egg(s) or chick(s) and is 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.

The project site contains numerous mature trees that could serve as suitable habitat for nesting raptors. If present, nesting raptors can be disturbed by construction equipment if appropriate measures are not taken. To avoid impacts to nesting raptors, mitigation involves 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 California Fish and Wildlife to determine what measures need to be implemented in order to ensure that nesting raptors remain undisturbed. The measures selected will depend on many variables, including the distance of activities from the nest, the types of activities, and whether the landform between the nest and activities provides any kind of natural screening. If no active nests are found during the focused survey, no further mitigation will be required. Mitigation will ensure that impacts to nesting raptors will be ***less than significant***.

MIGRATORY 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(19)

of the Federal Endangered Species Act defines the term “take” to mean 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.”

The project site contains numerous mature trees that could serve as suitable habitat for migratory birds. If present, migratory birds can be disturbed by construction equipment if appropriate measures are not taken. To avoid take of nesting migratory birds, mitigation has 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. Impacts to migratory birds are ***less than significant***.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

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

- Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource

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

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

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

CULTURAL RESOURCES SETTING

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 December 18, 2020 for the project area and a one-quarter-mile buffer.

Review of the information indicated that the search contained zero recorded prehistoric-period cultural resources, zero historic-period cultural resources, and zero cultural

resources study reports are on file at the NCIC office that cover a portion of the proposed project site.

In this part of Sacramento County, archeologists locate pre-historic-period habitation sites along streams or on ridges or knolls, especially those with southern exposure. This region is known as the ethnographic-period territory of the Nisenan, also called the Southern Maidu. The Nisenan maintained permanent settlements along major rivers in the Sacramento Valley and foothills; they also periodically traveled to higher elevations. The proposed project search area is situated in the Sacramento Valley about 570 feet west of Arcade Creek. Given the extent of known cultural resources and the environmental setting, the NCIC records search indicated that there is low potential for locating prehistoric-period cultural resources in the vicinity of the proposed project area.

CULTURAL RESOURCES PROJECT IMPACTS

The applicant hired a historic environmental consultant to fill out a DPR 523 form and to evaluate all structures on the subject property for historical significance. The property contains two (2) one-story structures: a single-family residence and a former garage that date back to 1947. The residence is a block-shaped form constructed primarily of brick with wood additions at the rear. There is a smaller one story stucco-surfaced wood utility/garage north of the residence. Both the garage and house are in severely deteriorated condition. Both structures have been substantially modified. Overall, the two buildings on the property lack significant architectural values or historical importance. The property does not appear to meet criteria for listing in the National Registers of Historic Resources or California register.

While there are no known archeological resources on the project site, and it is not considered sensitive for these resources, mitigation has been included to ensure appropriate treatment in the event that any are uncovered during project construction. Impacts related to cultural resources are considered to be ***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 BACKGROUND

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 November of 2011, Sacramento County approved the Phase 1 Climate Action Plan Strategy and Framework document (Phase 1 CAP), which is the first phase of developing a community-level Climate Action Plan. The Phase 1 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. This document is available at http://www.green.saccounty.net/Documents/sac_030843.pdf. The CAP contains policies/goals related to agriculture, energy, transportation/land use, waste, and water.

Goals in the section on agriculture focus on promoting the consumption of locally-grown produce, protection of local farmlands, educating the community about the intersection of agriculture and climate change, educating the community about the importance of open space, pursuing sequestration opportunities, and promoting water conservation in agriculture. Actions related to these goals cover topics related to urban forest management, water conservation programs, open space planning, and sustainable agriculture programs.

Goals in the section on energy focus on increasing energy efficiency and increasing the usage of renewable sources. Actions include implementing green building ordinances and programs, community outreach, renewable energy policies, and partnerships with local energy producers.

Goals in the section on transportation/land use cover a wide range of topics but are principally related to reductions in vehicle miles traveled, usage of alternative fuel types, and increases in vehicle efficiency. Actions include programs to increase the efficiency of the County vehicle fleet, and an emphasis on mixed use and higher density development, implementation of technologies and planning strategies that improve non-vehicular mobility.

Goals in the section on waste include reductions in waste generation, maximizing waste diversion, and reducing methane emissions at Kiefer landfill. Actions include solid waste reduction and recycling programs, a regional composting facility, changes in the waste vehicle fleet to use non-petroleum fuels, carbon sequestration at the landfill, and methane capture at the landfill.

Goals in the section on water include reducing water consumption, emphasizing water efficiency, reducing uncertainties in water supply by increasing the flexibility of the water allocation/distribution system, and emphasizing the importance of floodplain and open

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.

space protection as a means of providing groundwater recharge. Actions include metering, water recycling programs, water use efficiency policy, water efficiency audits, greywater programs/policies, river-friendly landscape demonstration gardens, participation in the water forum, and many other related measures.

The Phase 1 CAP is a strategy and framework document. The County adopted the Phase 2A CAP (Government Operations) on September 11, 2012. Neither the Phase 1 CAP nor the Phase 2A CAP are “qualified” plans through which subsequent projects may receive CEQA streamlining benefits. The Communitywide CAP (Phase 2B) has been in progress for some time (<https://planning.saccounty.net/PlansandProjectsIn-Progress/Pages/CAP.aspx>) but was placed on hold in late 2018 pending in-depth review of CAP-related litigation in other jurisdictions.

The commitment to a Communitywide CAP is identified in General Plan Policy LU-115 and associated Implementation Measures F through J on page 117 of the General Plan Land Use Element. This commitment was made in part due to the County’s General Plan Update process and potential expansion of the Urban Policy Area to accommodate new growth areas. General Plan Policies LU-119 and LU-120 were developed with SACOG to be consistent with smart growth policies in the SACOG Blueprint, which are intended to reduce VMT and GHG emissions. This second phase CAP is intended to flesh out the strategies involved in the strategy and framework CAP, and will include economic analysis, intensive vetting with all internal departments, community outreach/information sharing, timelines, and detailed performance measures. The County completed the draft of the second phase CAP in March 2021.

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. The Sacramento County Board of Supervisors adopted the updated GHG threshold in December 2020. SMAQMD’s technical support document, “Greenhouse Gas Thresholds for Sacramento County”, identifies operational measures that should be applied to a project to demonstrate consistency.

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.
 - 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.

Projects that implement BMP 1 and BMP 2 can utilize the screening criteria for operation emissions outlined in (Table IS-8). Projects that do not exceed 1,100 metric tons per year are then screened out of further requirements. For projects that exceed 1,100 metric tons per year, then compliance with BMP 3 is also required:

- BMP 3 – Reduce applicable project VMT by 15% residential and 15% worker relative to Sacramento County targets, and no net increase in retail VMT. In areas with above-average existing VMT, commit to provide electrical capacity for 100% electric vehicles.

Table IS-8: SMAQMD Thresholds of Significance for Greenhouse Gases

Land Development and Construction Projects		
	Construction Phase	Operational Phase
Greenhouse Gas as CO ₂ e	1,100 metric tons per year	1,100 metric tons per year
Stationary Source Only		
	Construction Phase	Operational Phase
Greenhouse Gas as CO ₂ e	1,100 metric tons per year	10,000 metric tons per year

PROJECT IMPACTS

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. The project is within the screening criteria for construction related impacts related to air quality. Therefore, construction-related GHG impacts are considered ***less than significant***.

OPERATIONAL PHASE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

The project will implement BMP 1 and BMP 2 in its entirety. As such, the project can be compared to the operational screening table. The operational emissions associated with the project are less than 1,100 MT of CO₂e per year. Mitigation has been included such that the project will implement BMP 1 and BMP 2. The impacts from GHG emissions are ***less than significant with mitigation***.

ENVIRONMENTAL MITIGATION MEASURES

Mitigation Measure A-K are 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: WETLANDS AND WATERS

To compensate for impacts to state and/or federally jurisdictional waters for drainage improvements required in the roadside drainage feature, the applicant shall obtain all applicable permits from the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board prior to issuance of improvement plans. If waters are determined to be not be jurisdictional by permitting agencies, then correspondence indicating such shall be submitted to the satisfaction of the Environmental Coordinator.

MITIGATION MEASURE C: NATIVE TREE REMOVAL

The removal of **36** inches dbh of native trees (#2606, #2613 & #2511) shall be compensated for by planting in-kind native trees equivalent to the dbh inches lost, based on the ratios listed below, at locations that are authorized by the Environmental Coordinator. 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 approval of grading or improvement plans, whichever comes first. A total of **36 inches** will require compensation.

If final improvement plans indicate that additional native tree encroachment will occur, then encroachment of more than 20 percent and less than 50 percent requires partial mitigation based on the percentage of encroachment multiplied by the impacted tree's diameter at breast height (dbh). Mitigation in dbh inches for any additional encroachment will be required in accordance with the requirements outlined below.

Equivalent compensation based on the following ratio is required:

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

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

1. Species, size and locations of all replacement plantings and < 6-inch dbh trees to be preserved
2. Method of irrigation
3. If planting in soils with a hardpan/duripan or claypan layer, include the Sacramento County Standard Tree Planting Detail L-1, including the 10-foot deep boring hole to provide for adequate drainage
4. Planting, irrigation, and maintenance schedules;
5. Identification of the maintenance entity and a written agreement with that entity to provide care and irrigation of the trees for a 3-year establishment period, and to replace any of the replacement trees which do not survive during that period.
6. Designation of 20-foot root zone radius and landscaping to occur within the radius of trees < 6 inches dbh to be preserved on-site.

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

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

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

MITIGATION MEASURE D: NATIVE OAK TREE ENCROACHMENT

The encroachment four (4) Valley Oak trees (#2620, #2623, #2622 & #2614) with a combined dbh of **41.3 inches** shall be compensated for by planting in-kind native trees equivalent to the dbh inches lost, based on the ratios listed below, at locations that are authorized by the Environmental Coordinator. The final percentage of encroachment will be confirmed during grading permit review process. The percentage of encroachment is calculated by multiplying the percent encroachment (20 – 49%) with the diameter of the tree.

Replacement tree planting shall be completed prior to approval of grading or improvement plans, whichever comes first. A total of **41.3** inches will require compensation.

Equivalent compensation based on the following ratio is required:

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

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

7. Species, size and locations of all replacement plantings
8. Method of irrigation
9. 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
10. Planting, irrigation, and maintenance schedules;
11. 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.

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.

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

MITIGATION MEASURE E: NATIVE TREE CONSTRUCTION PROTECTION

For the purpose of this mitigation measure, a native tree is defined as Black Walnut, Valley Oak, Interior Live Oak having a diameter at breast height (dbh) of at least 6 inches, or if it has multiple trunks of less than 6 inches each, a combined dbh of at least 10 inches. With the exception of the trees removed and compensated for through Mitigation Measure B, all native trees on the project site, all portions of adjacent off-site native trees which have driplines that extend onto the project site, and all off-site native trees which may be impacted by utility installation and/or improvements associated with this project, shall be preserved and protected as follows:

- a. 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 each 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 each tree. Removing limbs that make up the dripline does not change the protected area.
- b. Any protected trees on the site that require pruning shall be pruned by a certified arborist prior to the start of construction work. All pruning shall be in accordance with the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) A300 pruning standards and the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) "Tree Pruning Guidelines."
- c. Temporary protective fencing shall be installed at least one foot outside the driplines of the oak trees prior to the start of construction work, in order to avoid damage to the trees and their root systems. Protective fencing shall be installed at one foot from the limit of work for retaining wall construction. Protective fencing must be maintained through the duration of construction.
- d. No signs, ropes, cables (except those which may be installed by a certified arborist to provide limb support) or any other items shall be attached to the protected trees. Small metallic numbering tags for the purpose of preparing tree reports and inventories shall be allowed.
- e. No vehicles, construction equipment, mobile home/office, supplies, materials or facilities shall be driven, parked, stockpiled or located within the driplines of protected trees.

- f. With the exception of the proposed retaining wall and cut slope, no grading (grade cuts or fills) shall be allowed within the driplines of oak trees. Grade cuts for the proposed retaining wall shall be performed under direct supervision of a certified arborist.
- g. Drainage patterns on the site shall not be modified so that water collects or stands within, or is diverted across, the dripline of any protected tree.
- h. No trenching shall be allowed within the driplines of protected trees. If it is absolutely necessary to install underground utilities within the dripline of a protected tree, the utility line shall be bored and jacked under the supervision of a certified arborist.
- i. The construction of impervious surfaces within the driplines of protected trees shall be stringently minimized. When it is absolutely necessary, a piped aeration system per County standard detail shall be installed under the supervision of a certified arborist.
- j. No sprinkler or irrigation system shall be installed in such a manner that sprays water or requires trenching within the driplines of protected trees. An above ground drip irrigation system is recommended.
- k. Landscaping beneath oak trees may include non-plant materials such as bark mulch, wood chips, boulders, etc. The only plant species which shall be planted within the driplines of oak trees are those which are tolerant of the natural semi-arid environs of the trees. A list of such drought-tolerant plant species is available from the Office of Planning Environmental Review. Limited drip irrigation approximately twice per summer is recommended for the understory plants.
- l. 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 F: NON-NATIVE CANOPY REPLACEMENT

Removal of 2,402 square feet 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 G: SWAINSON'S HAWK NESTING HABITAT

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

MITIGATION MEASURE H: RAPTOR NEST PROTECTION

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 habitat 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 I: MIGRATORY BIRD NEST PROTECTION

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

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

be avoided within this buffer area until a qualified biologist determines that nestlings have fledged, or until September 1.

MITIGATION MEASURE J: CULTURAL RESOURCES UNANTICIPATED DISCOVERY

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 it is determined due to the types of deposits discovered that a Native American monitor is required, the Guidelines for Monitors/Consultants of Native American Cultural, Religious, and Burial Sites as established by the Native American Heritage Commission shall be followed, and the monitor shall be retained at the Applicant's expense.
 - a. Work cannot continue within the 100-foot radius of the discovery site until the archaeologist and/or tribal monitor conducts sufficient research and data collection to make a determination that the resource is either 1) not cultural in origin; or 2) not potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places or California Register of Historical Resources.
 - b. If a potentially-eligible resource is encountered, then the archaeologist and/or tribal monitor, Planning and Environmental Review staff, and project proponent shall arrange for either 1) total avoidance of the resource, if possible; or 2) test excavations or total data recovery as mitigation. The

determination shall be formally documented in writing and submitted to the County Environmental Coordinator as verification that the provisions of CEQA for managing unanticipated discoveries have been met.

MITIGATION MEASURE K: GREENHOUSE GASES

The project is required to incorporate the following Tier 1 Best Management Practices (BMPs)

- 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.
 - 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.

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 \$8,600. 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 the environmental policies of the Sacramento County General Plan, Carmichael Community Plan and Sacramento County Zoning Code. Where applicable, specific policies are discussed in the topical discussions of this document.
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 and is within an area designated for urban growth and uses.
b. Displace substantial amounts of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				X	The project will result in the removal of one (1) existing single-family dwelling. However, a new single-family dwelling will be constructed as a replacement.
3. AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES - Would the project:					
a. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, Farmland of Statewide Importance or areas containing prime soils to uses not conducive to agricultural production?				X	The project site is not designated as Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance on the current Sacramento County Important Farmland Map published by the California Department of Conservation. The site does not contain prime soils.
b. Conflict with any existing Williamson Act contract?				X	No Williamson Act contracts apply to the project site.

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant	No Impact	Comments
c. Introduce incompatible uses in the vicinity of existing agricultural uses?				X	The project does not occur in an area of agricultural production.
4. AESTHETICS - Would the project:					
a. Substantially alter existing viewsheds such as scenic highways, corridors or vistas?				X	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	The project is not located in a non-urbanized area.
c. If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?			X		It is acknowledged that aesthetic impacts are subjective and may be perceived differently by various affected individuals. Nonetheless, given the urbanized environment in which the project is proposed, it is concluded that the project would not substantially degrade the visual character or quality of the project site or vicinity
d. Create a new source of substantial light, glare, or shadow that would result in safety hazards or adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?			X		The project will not result in a new source of substantial light, glare or shadow that would result in safety hazards or adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area.
5. AIRPORTS - Would the project:					
a. Result in a safety hazard for people residing or working in the vicinity of an airport/airstrip?				X	The project occurs outside of any identified public or private airport/airstrip safety zones.
b. Expose people residing or working in the project area to aircraft noise levels in excess of applicable standards?				X	The project 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 Sacramento Suburban Water District submitted a comment letter on April 13, 2020 for the proposed project. The water district 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 Area Sewer District submitted a comment letter on April 16, 2020 for the proposed project. The 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.

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant	No Impact	Comments
e. Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of storm water drainage facilities?			X		Minor extension of infrastructure would be necessary to serve the proposed project. Existing stormwater drainage facilities are located within existing roadways and other developed areas, No significant new impacts would result from stormwater facility extension. See the environmental effects hydrology and drainage section above.
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, <i>Goleta Union School District v. The Regents of the University of California</i> (36 Cal-App. 4 th 1121, 1995), indicates that school overcrowding, standing alone, is not a change in the physical conditions, and cannot be treated as an impact on the environment.
i. Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of park and recreation services?			X		The project will result in increased demand for park and recreation services, but meeting this demand will not result in any substantial physical impacts.

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant	No Impact	Comments
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		Vehicle miles traveled (VMT) for proposed project are below the thresholds established by Sacramento County Department of Transportation; therefore, project impacts individually or cumulatively are less than significant.
b. Result in a substantial adverse impact to access and/or circulation?			X		The project will be required to comply with applicable access and circulation requirements of the County Improvement Standards and the Uniform Fire Code. Upon compliance, impacts are less than significant.
c. Result in a substantial adverse impact to public safety on area roadways?			X		The project will be required to comply with applicable access and circulation requirements of the County Improvement Standards and the Uniform Fire Code. Upon compliance, impacts are less than significant.
d. Conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting alternative transportation (e.g., bus turnouts, bicycle racks)?			X		The project does not conflict with alternative transportation policies of the Sacramento County General Plan, with the Sacramento Regional Transit Master Plan, or other adopted policies, plans or programs supporting alternative transportation.

	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. 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, and these practices have been included as mitigation measure A.
b. Expose sensitive receptors to pollutant concentrations in excess of standards?			X		The project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutant concentrations in excess of standards.
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.
b. Result in a substantial temporary increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity?			X		Project construction will result in a temporary increase in ambient noise levels in the project vicinity. This impact is less than significant due to the temporary nature of these activities, limits on the duration of noise, and evening and nighttime restrictions imposed by the County Noise Ordinance (Chapter 6.68 of the County Code).

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant	No Impact	Comments
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 would be served by public water. The project will not substantially increase groundwater demand over the existing use.
b. Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the project area and/or increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in flooding on- or off-site?			X		A drainage study was prepared for the subject property. Refer to the discussion in the Environmental Effects section above. 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).
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.

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant	No Impact	Comments
g. Create or contribute runoff that would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems?			X		Adequate on- and/or off-site drainage improvements will be required pursuant to the Sacramento County Floodplain Management Ordinance and Improvement Standards. Refer to the Hydrology and Drainage discussion in the Environmental Effects section above.
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.
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.

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant	No Impact	Comments
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 would not have a substantial adverse effect on any special status species, nor would the project substantially reduce wildlife habitat or species populations. Refer to the Biological Resources discussion in the Environmental Effects section above.
b. Have a substantial adverse effect on riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities?			X		The project would not have a substantial adverse effect on riparian habitat or other sensitive natural communities. 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			Refer to the Biological Resources discussion in the Environmental Effects section above.
d. Have a substantial adverse effect on the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species?		X			The project would not result in a substantial adverse effect to native resident or migratory species.

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e. Adversely affect or result in the removal of native or landmark trees?		X			Native trees occur on the project site and will be affected by on-site construction. 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.
b. Have a substantial adverse effect on an archaeological resource?			X		The Northern California Information Center was contacted regarding the proposed project. A record search indicated that 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.

	Potentially Significant	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant	No Impact	Comments
14. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES - Would the project:					
a. Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource as defined in Public Resources Code 21074?			X		Notification pursuant to Public Resources Code 21080.3.1(b) was provided to the tribes and request for consultation was not received. Auburn Rancheria responded and stated that there are no known Tribal Cultural Resources (TCRs) in the project area. Mitigation measures have been added for inadvertent discovery.
15. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS - Would the project:					
a. Create a substantial hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?			X		The project does not involve the transport, use, and/or disposal of hazardous material.
b. Expose the public or the environment to a substantial hazard through reasonably foreseeable upset conditions involving the release of hazardous materials?			X		The project does not involve the transport, use, and/or disposal of hazardous material.
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 and is not located within ¼ mile of an existing/proposed school.
d. Be located on a site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5, resulting in a substantial hazard to the public or the environment?			X		The project is not located on a known hazardous materials site.
e. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response or emergency evacuation plan?			X		The project would not interfere with any known emergency response or evacuation plan.
f. Expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to or intermixed with urbanized areas?			X		The project is within the urbanized area of the unincorporated County. There is no significant risk of loss, injury, or death to people or structures associated with wildland fires.

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16. ENERGY – Would the project:					
a. Result in potentially significant environmental impacts due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction?			X		While the project will introduce 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.
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 project screens out as less than significant for air quality construction emissions for NOx. As such, the project is considered less than significant for GHG construction emissions. For operational emissions, the project will fully implement BMP 1 and BMP 2 of the 2020 GHG significance thresholds; therefore, the climate change impact of the project is considered less than significant. Refer to the GHG discussion above.
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	Low Density Residential (LDR)	X		
Community Plan	Carmichael Community Plan	X		
Land Use Zone	RD-2	X		

INITIAL STUDY PREPARERS

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