

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO:

- Office of Planning and Research**
1400 Tenth St.
Sacramento, CA 95814
- Siskiyou County Clerk**
510 N. Main St.
Yreka, CA 96097

FROM:

City of Dunsmuir
5915 Dunsmuir Avenue
Dunsmuir, CA 96025

Project Title: Dunsmuir Water Distribution and Pressure Relief Station Improvements**Project Location:**

The proposed project is located within the City of Dunsmuir in Section 24, Township 39N, Range 4W, of the U.S. Geological Survey's Dunsmuir 7.5-minute quadrangle. As shown in **Figures 1 and 2**, improvements would occur in north Dunsmuir in the public road rights-of-way (ROW) of Scarlett Way, Shasta View Drive and North Spring Street, and in a public utility easement on private property, generally between Cave Avenue and the southern terminus of Hart Street. The pressure relief station would be installed adjacent to the Simpson Avenue/Cave Avenue bridge over the Sacramento River.

City: Dunsmuir**County:** Siskiyou**Description of Nature, Purpose, and Beneficiaries of Project:**

The City's water distribution system consists of approximately 105,000 feet (19.9 miles) of mainline piping ranging from 1-inch to 18-inches in diameter. Many areas in the City's water service boundary are served by undersized pipelines that are 40 to 60 years old and have restricted fire flows. In addition, the water distribution system is subject to fluctuations in pressure that pose a threat to the safety of the system. The proposed project would replace aging infrastructure, moderate system pressures, provide improved fire flows, and ensure a safe and reliable potable water supply for customers in the City's water service area. Proposed improvements include:

- Installing ±280 linear feet of new 6-inch diameter waterline within the public road right-of-way (ROW) of Shasta View Avenue.
- Installing ±100 linear feet of new 2-inch diameter waterline within the public road ROW of North Spring Street.
- Abandoning and capping an existing 10-inch diameter waterline and reconnecting existing water services to the new waterlines.
- Installing a new fire hydrant near the intersection of Shasta View Avenue and N. Spring Street.
- Installing ±280 linear feet of 8-inch diameter waterline within a public utility easement on private property, generally between Hart Street and Cave Avenue. The pipeline would be routed to avoid large trees and boulders. Portions of the pipeline would be as little as four inches below the ground surface, and would be encased in concrete for protection.
- Relocating a pressure relief station to east side of the Sacramento River immediately downstream of the Simpson Avenue/Cave Avenue bridge. The relocated pressure relief station would be housed in a 3-foot x 4-foot subsurface box behind an old bridge abutment. The station would be connected to a 6-inch diameter waterline in Cave Avenue that is part of an earlier water distribution improvement project. A 6-inch diameter pipe would be installed from the valve through the face of the old bridge structure, then turned 90 degrees downward to allow drainage over the bank. The relief valve is an emergency mechanism that is not planned to be used on a frequent or regular basis.

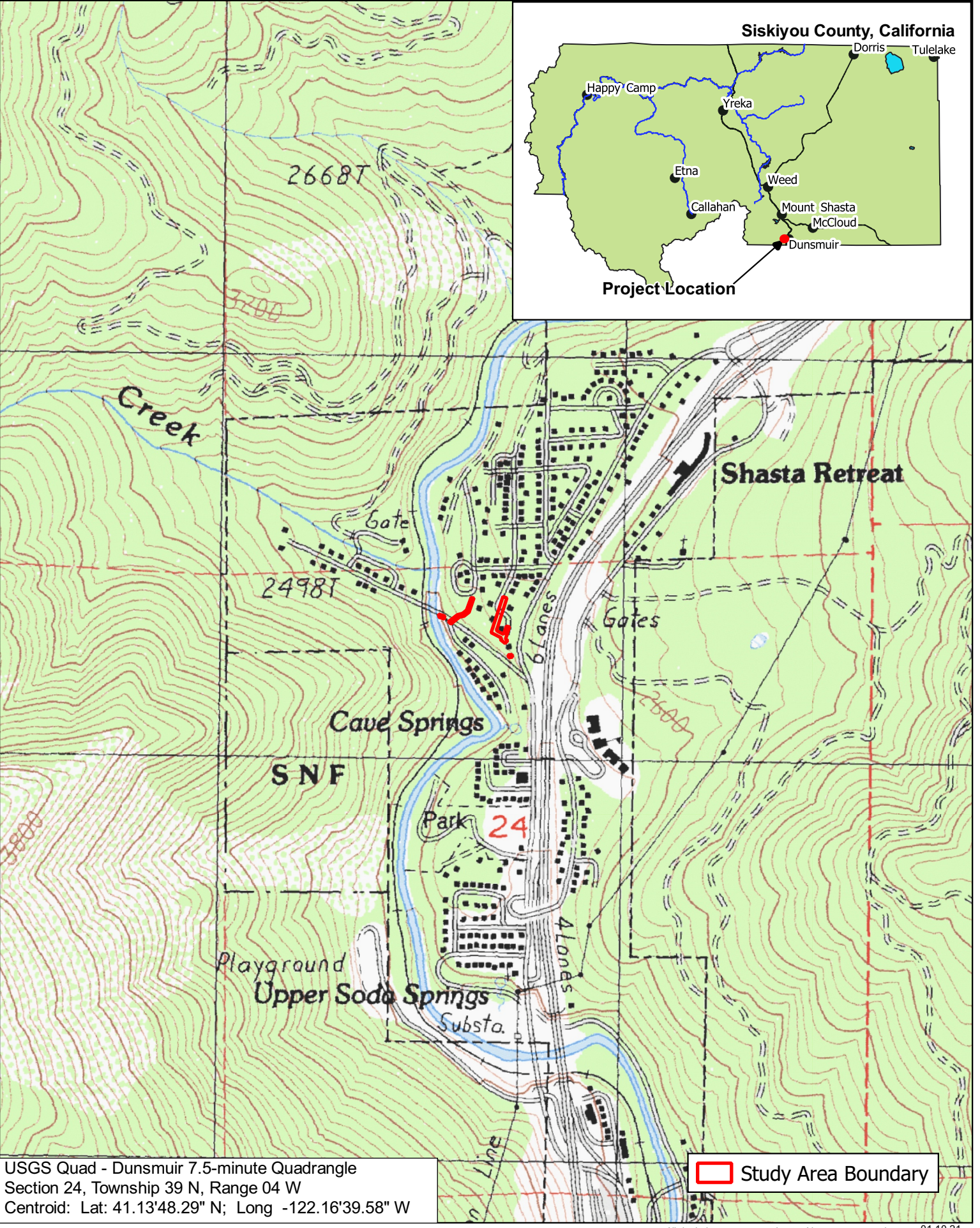
Vegetation removal may be required to accommodate some of the waterline improvements; however, no mature healthy trees would be removed. All improvements would be outside of FEMA-designated flood hazard zones.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project:	City of Dunsmuir
Name of Agency Carrying out the Project:	City of Dunsmuir
Local Agency Contact Person:	Blake Michaelson, Interim City Manager. 530.235.4822
Exempt Status: Categorical Exemption:	<p>California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 6, Chapter 3 (CEQA Guidelines):</p> <p>Class 1, §15301 (Existing Facilities)</p> <p>Class 3, §15303 (New Construction or Conversation of Small Structures)</p> <p>Class 4, §15304 (Minor Alterations to Land)</p>
Reason Why Project Is Exempt:	<p>Class 1 covers the repair, maintenance, and minor alteration of existing public structures, facilities, and mechanical equipment, involving negligible or no expansion of use; Class 3 covers construction of small new equipment and structures; and Class 4 covers minor alterations in the condition of land that do not involve removal of healthy, mature, or scenic trees, including minor trenching and backfilling where the surface is restored.</p> <p>The project is consistent with the categorical exemptions noted above because work would consist of minor alterations to and extension of existing waterlines, and no expansion of capacity or use would occur. Trenching for installation of the waterlines and services would be minor, and the ground surface would be restored following construction. No healthy, mature, scenic trees would be removed to accommodate the proposed improvements.</p> <p>As documented in Attachment A, the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances; would not result in damage to scenic resources within a Scenic Highway; is not located on a hazardous waste site pursuant to §65962.5 of the Government Code; would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource; and would not result in cumulative impacts.</p>
Signature:	<p></p> <p>Blake Michaelson Interim City Manager</p>
Date:	2/23/22

Attachments:

- Figure 1: Project Vicinity and Location Map
- Figure 2: Project Improvement Areas
- Attachment A: Documentation in Support of a Categorical Exemption

Path: N:\companyfiles\01-Jobs Active\032-45 PACE - Dunsmuir Water Main Replacement\3-Map Documents\2021 Pressure Relief Station and Water Distribution\CEQA\Figure 1 Vicinity map 10292021.ggz



USGS Quad - Dunsmuir 7.5-minute Quadrangle
 Section 24, Township 39 N, Range 04 W
 Centroid: Lat: 41.13'48.29" N; Long -122.16'39.58" W

Study Area Boundary

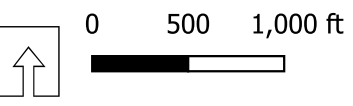
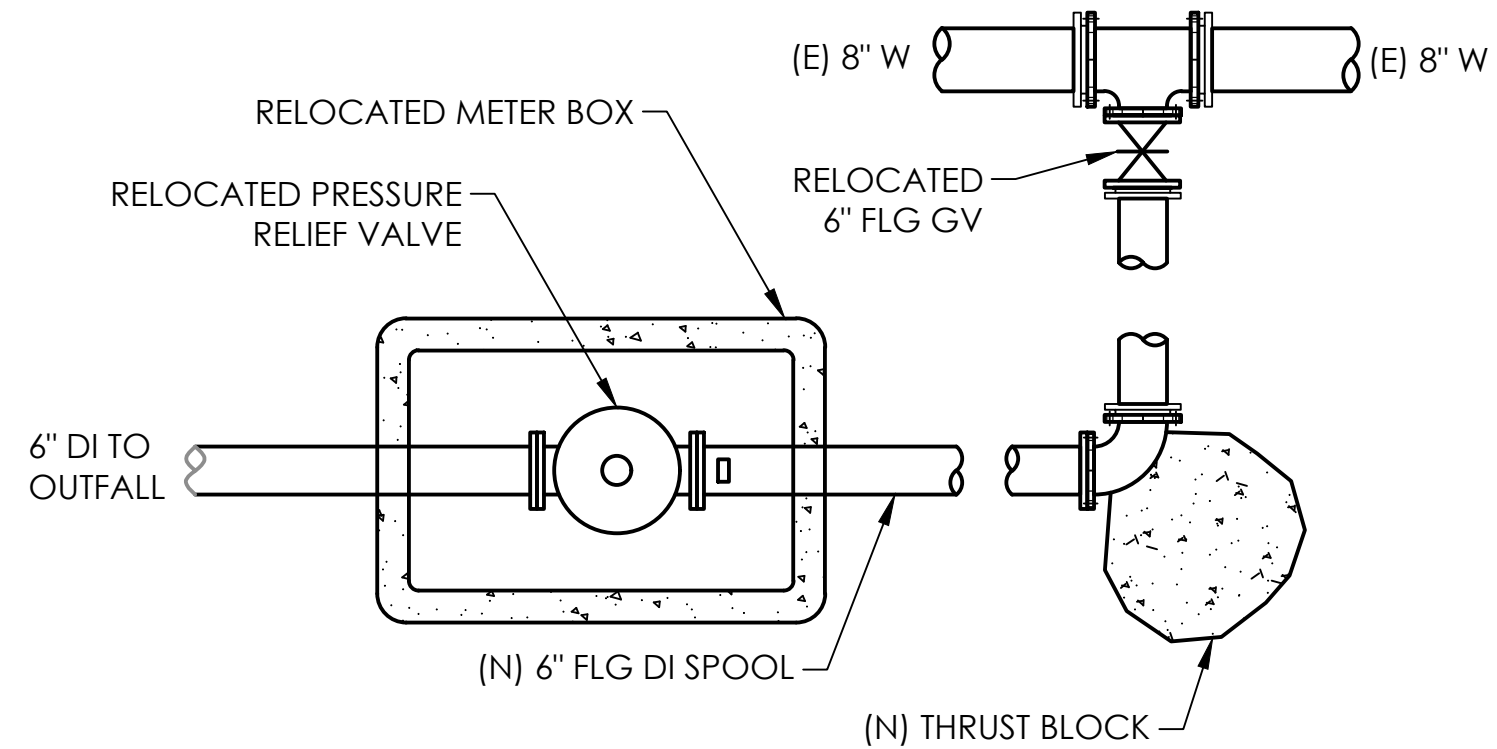


Figure 1

All depictions are approximate. Not a survey product. 01.10.21

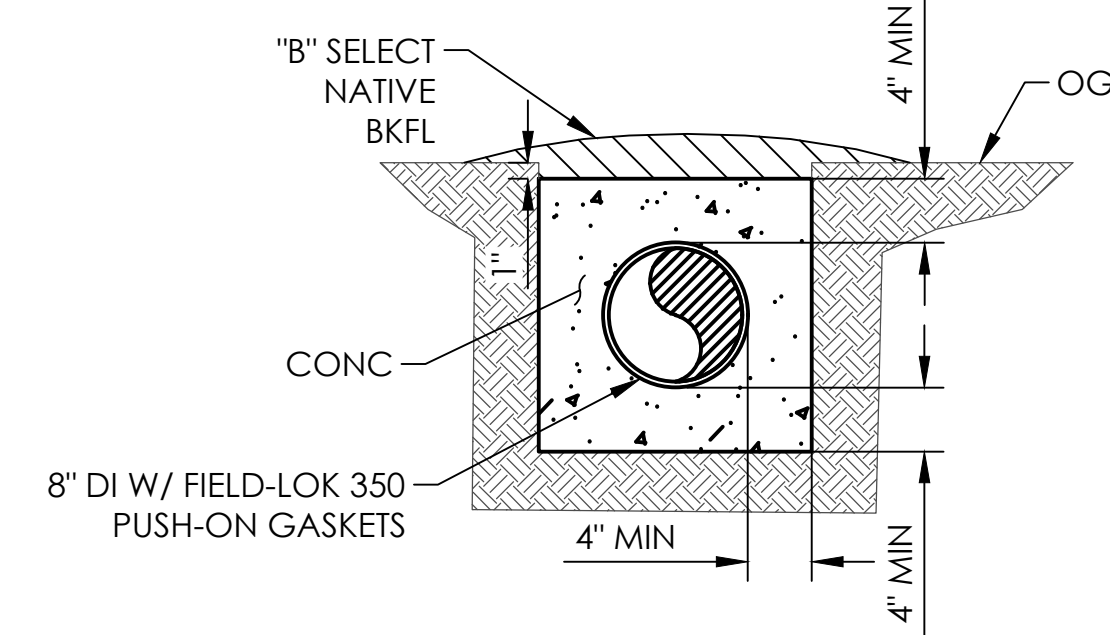
Project Location and Vicinity





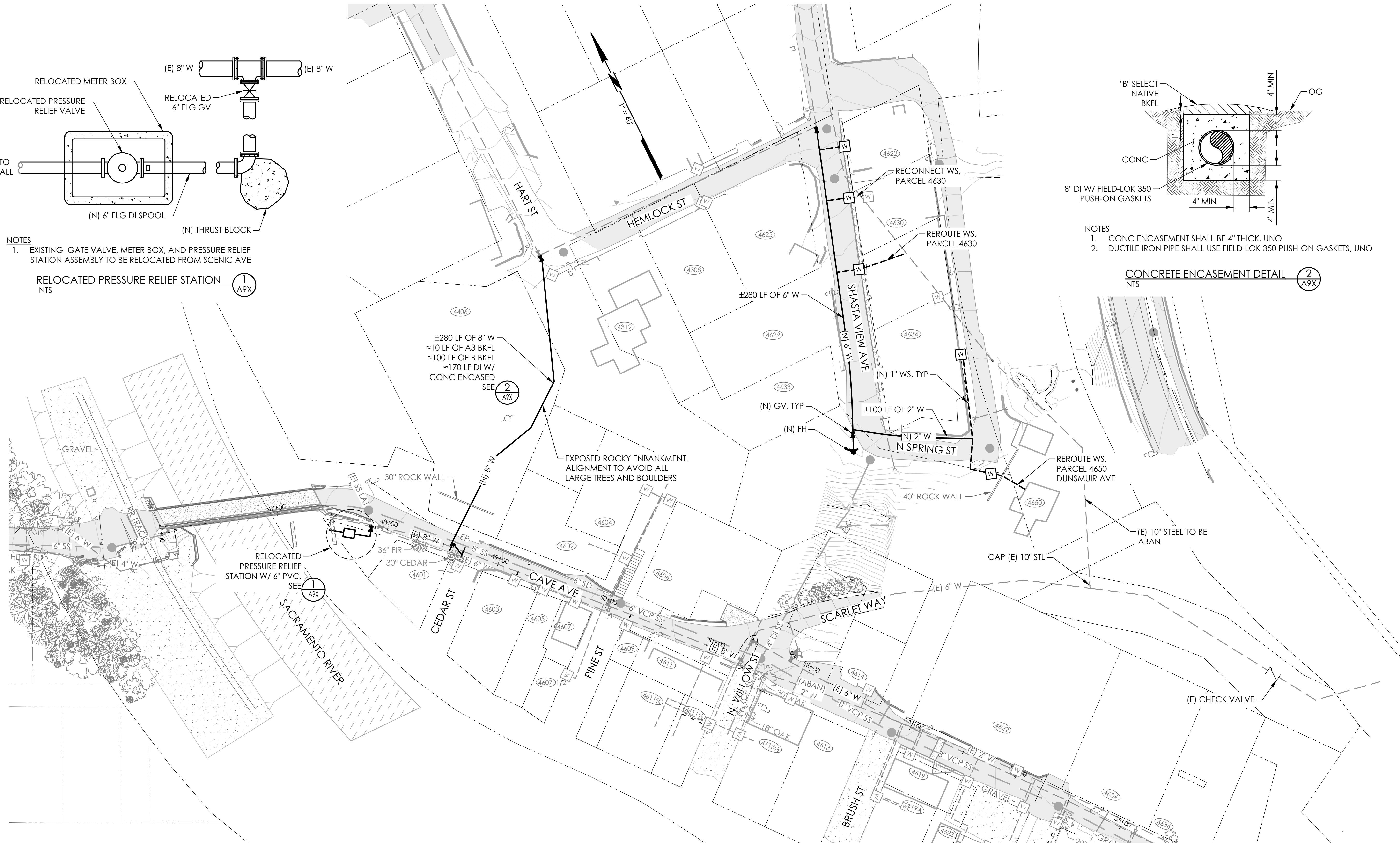
- NOTES
- EXISTING GATE VALVE, METER BOX, AND PRESSURE RELIEF STATION ASSEMBLY TO BE RELOCATED FROM SCENIC AVE

RELOCATED PRESSURE RELIEF STATION
NTS

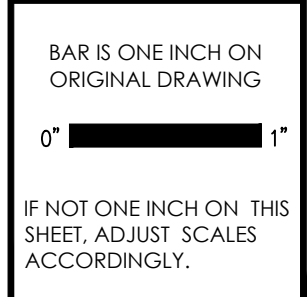


- NOTES
- CONC ENCASEMENT SHALL BE 4" THICK, UNO
 - DUCTILE IRON PIPE SHALL USE FIELD-LOK 350 PUSH-ON GASKETS, UNO

CONCRETE ENCASEMENT DETAIL
NTS



01-10-2022



REVISIONS		
NO	DATE	DESCRIPTION

PACE ENGINEERING
REDDING, CALIFORNIA

DES: KK	CKD: KK	JOB NO.:
DRN: JK	DATE: 1/10/22	204.63

SIGNED

CITY OF DUNSMUIR
WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT PROJECT
FIGURE 2
Site Plan

SHEET
A9X
PG 1 OF 1

Plot Date: January 10, 2022 - 9:09 am. Login Name: jhrantz
 File Name: M:\Land Projects\020463 Water Main Replacement\DWG\Schedule A\Hart St to Cave Awaing Layout_A9X

ATTACHMENT A

Documentation in Support of a Categorical Exemption

Dunsmuir Water Distribution and Pressure Relief Station Improvements Project

As described in the Notice of Exemption (NOE), the proposed project is categorically exempt from CEQA pursuant to §15301 (Class 1-Existing Facilities); §15303 (Class 3-New Construction or Conversion of Small Structures); and §15304 (Class 4-Minor Alterations to Land) of the CEQA Guidelines. CEQA Guidelines §15300.2 identifies exceptions that override a lead agency's ability to use a categorical exemption. These exceptions are listed below, followed by documentation of why each exception does not apply to the proposed project.

1. Location. *Classes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 11 are qualified by consideration of where the project is to be located -- a project that is ordinarily insignificant in its impact on the environment may in a particularly sensitive environment be significant. Therefore, these classes are considered to apply in all instances, except where the project may impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped, and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.*

The proposed project is supported in part by a Class 3 exemption. As documented below, no evidence has been found to suggest that the project location is particularly sensitive. Likewise, the project is not expected to affect an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern. Therefore, the Class 3 exemption is applicable to the proposed project.

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

The City of Dunsmuir is planning to complete improvements to its sewer collection system (Dunsmuir Collection System Improvement Project, SCH# 2020090081) in some of the same areas as the proposed project; work would involve installing sewer backflow preventers at sewer connections along Cave Avenue and Scarlett Way. Although the City may conduct this work at the same time as the proposed project, cumulative construction impacts for these projects would be minor, temporary, and cease at completion of the projects. In addition, neither of the projects would result in a significant increase in capacity, and no long-term cumulative impacts would occur. Therefore, the impacts would not be cumulatively considerable.

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

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

Aesthetics:

The majority of the proposed project would be subsurface. Above-ground components are limited to a new fire hydrant, while the pressure relief station and possibly portions of the off-road water line encasement may be exposed at ground level. The fire hydrant would be relatively small and would not detract from the visual character of the area. Additionally, the pressure relief station and pipeline would be largely out of view due to the surrounding vegetation. Although minimal vegetation removal may be necessary to accommodate the proposed improvements, no mature scenic trees would be removed. Paved roads that are disturbed during construction would be re-paved at completion of the improvements, and other temporarily disturbed areas would be restored as necessary. Temporary visual impacts during construction due to excavation and staging activities would cease at the completion of the improvements; no permanent impacts would occur. There are no unusual circumstances associated with aesthetics that would preclude a categorical exemption for the proposed project.

Agriculture and Forest Resources:

Improvements would occur in developed commercial and residential areas within the public road ROW and in public utility easements; therefore, project implementation would not result in the loss of agricultural lands or forest resources.

Air Quality/Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions:

The proposed project would result in the temporary generation of regulated pollutants during construction. ROG and NOx emissions would be generated by employee vehicle trips, delivery of materials, and construction equipment exhaust. PM₁₀ would be generated during site preparation, excavation, road paving, and from exhaust associated with construction equipment. The project does not include any components that would result in a long-term increase in emissions. There are no unusual circumstances associated with air quality that would preclude a categorical exemption for the proposed project.

Biological Resources:

Based on the information presented below, there are no unusual circumstances associated with biological resources that would preclude a categorical exemption for the proposed project.

Special-Status Species:

The evaluation of potential impacts to special-status species and sensitive habitats was based on a records search and field observations. Records reviewed for the evaluation consisted of California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB) records for special-status plants, animals, and natural communities; the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) records for federally listed, proposed, and Candidate plant and animal species under jurisdiction of the USFWS; and USFWS records for migratory birds of conservation concern. Because Shasta and Keswick Dams block upstream passage to spawning areas in the upper Sacramento River, there was no need to check National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) records for anadromous fish species under the jurisdiction of the NMFS.

Review of the USFWS species list did not identify any federally listed plant species as potentially occurring in the project area. The project area does not contain designated critical habitat for federally listed plant species. A review of CNDDB records showed that no special-status plants have been reported in the project site. The following special-status plants have been reported within an approximate five-mile radius of the project site: broad-nerved hump moss, cascade grass-of-Parnassus, Castle Crags harebell, Castle Crags ivesia, Klamath fawn lily, marsh skullcap, northern adder's tongue, Oregon fireweed, rattlesnake fern, Shasta chaenactis, Siskiyou clover, thread-leaved beardtongue, waldo daisy, woodnymph, and woolly balsamroot. CNPS records do not identify any additional special-status plants in the project area.

Review of the USFWS species list for the project area identified the following federally listed animal species as potentially being present in the project area: northern spotted owl, yellow-billed cuckoo, California red-legged frog, Oregon spotted frog, Delta smelt, longfin smelt, monarch butterfly, conservancy fairy shrimp, vernal pool fairy shrimp, and vernal pool tadpole shrimp. The USFWS species list does not identify designated critical habitat in the study area for any federally listed animal species.

A review of CNDDB records showed that no special-status wildlife species have been reported in the project site. The following special-status wildlife species have been reported within an approximate five-mile radius of the project site: American peregrine falcon, bank swallow, black swift, Cascades frog, fisher – west coast DPS, foothill yellow-legged frog, northern goshawk, Pacific tailed frog, spotted bat, western mastiff bat, and western yellow-billed cuckoo.

A field evaluation was completed by an ENPLAN biologist on January 28, 2021. Most of the special-status species potentially occurring in the project area would not have been evident at the time the fieldwork was conducted; however, determination of their potential presence could readily be made based on observed habitat characteristics. No special-status species or habitats essential for the survival of such species were observed during the field survey.

Indirect effects to special-status fish and wildlife species could potentially occur if sediments or other pollutants enter surface waters and degrade aquatic habitat in the project vicinity and/or downstream. However, Best Management Practices (BMPs) for spill prevention and erosion/sediment control would be implemented to prevent damage to streams, watercourses, and other aquatic habitats. BMPs may include, but are not limited to, limiting construction to the dry season; use of straw wattles, silt fences, and/or gravel berms.

Natural Communities

CNDDDB records did not identify any sensitive natural communities in the project area. However, field review identified one perennial stream (the Sacramento River). No wetlands, unique plant/wildlife habitats, or other sensitive communities were identified. Some riparian vegetation may be pruned to facilitate pipe installation, but no mature trees would be removed and no in-water work would occur.

Nesting Birds

Trees and shrubs on the project site have a low to moderate potential to support birds during the nesting season (February 1 through August 31); however, this is not an unusual circumstance. Existing state and federal laws are in place to protect nesting birds. Compliance with these laws and implementation of standard construction practices would ensure that nesting birds are not adversely affected by project implementation.

Energy:

The proposed project does not include any components that would result in environmental impacts due to the wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources in the long-term. There are no unusual circumstances related to energy use during construction of the proposed project that would result in more significant impacts than other similar construction projects.

Geology and Soils:

According to the California Geological Survey, there are no active or potentially active faults in the study area, and seismic-related impacts are not expected. Improvements plans for the project will be prepared by a qualified engineer to ensure that any geotechnical issues are addressed during final project design. There are no unusual circumstances related to geology and soils in the project site.

Hydrology and Water Quality:

Construction activities would result in the disturbance of soil and would expose disturbed areas to potential storm events, which could generate accelerated runoff, localized erosion, and sedimentation. However, this is a temporary impact during construction, and no long-term impacts would occur. In addition, as stated under Biological Resources above, BMPs for erosion/sediment control would be implemented to prevent damage to streams, watercourses, and other aquatic habitats. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (Panel 06093C3432D, effective January 19, 2011), the project site is not located within a designated 100- or 500-year flood hazard area. There are no unusual circumstances associated with hydrology or quality that would preclude a categorical exemption for the proposed project.

Land Use and Planning:

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

Mineral Resources:

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

Noise:

Construction activities would generate noise and would temporarily increase noise levels in the area. However, the project does not include any components that would result in a permanent increase in noise levels. There are no unusual circumstances associated with noise that would preclude a categorical exemption for the proposed project.

Population and Housing:

The purpose of the project is to replace aging infrastructure, increase system pressures, provide improved fire flows, and ensure a safe and reliable potable water supply for customers in the City's water service area. Although some of the distribution lines would be upsized for compliance with current State regulations for water systems, this would not reflect an increase in capacity, and the project would not induce unplanned population growth in the area. There are no unusual circumstances associated with population or housing that would preclude a categorical exemption for the proposed project.

Public Services/Recreation/Utilities and Service Systems:

Because the project would not induce population growth, the project would not generate an increased demand for fire protection, police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, or other public services. Likewise, the project would not result in the need for additional water supplies or wastewater treatment services. The project would not require the relocation or construction of other utility infrastructure.

Transportation/Traffic:

There would be short-term increases in traffic in the area associated with construction workers and equipment; however, existing regulations require safety measures to be employed to safeguard travel by the general public during construction. Because the project would not induce population growth, the project would not directly or indirectly result in a permanent increase in traffic. There are no unusual circumstances associated with transportation/traffic that would preclude a categorical exemption for the proposed project.

Wildfire:

The proposed project does not include any development or improvements that would increase the long-term risk of wildland fires or expose people or structures to wildland fires. There are no unusual circumstances associated with wildfire hazards that would preclude a categorical exemption for the proposed project.

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

According to the California Scenic Highway Mapping System, there are no officially designated State Scenic Highways in the project area; therefore, there would be no impact.

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

The following databases were reviewed to locate "Cortese List" sites.

- List of Hazardous Waste and Substances sites from the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) EnviroStor database.
- SWRCB GeoTracker Database.
- List of solid waste disposal sites identified by SWRCB with waste constituents above hazardous waste levels outside the waste management unit.
- List of active Cease and Desist Orders and Clean-Up and Abatement Orders from the SWRCB.

The databases listed above do not identify any active clean-up sites within one mile of the proposed improvements.

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

A Cultural Resources Inventory (CRI) was completed for a previous project, Dunsmuir Water Main Replacement project, in June 2019. The study area for the 2019 CRI covered some of the current APE, including portions of the Cave Avenue right-of-way. An Addendum to the CRI was completed in February 2022 to address the improvements proposed under this project.

2019 Cultural Resources Inventory Report

The 2019 CRI included a records search, Native American consultation, and field evaluation. The records search was conducted at the Northeast Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System (NEIC/CHRIS) on March 14, 2018, and covered a half-mile radius around the project's Area of Potential Effects (APE). The search included review of NEIC/CHRIS records, historical maps, the *National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)*, *California Register of Historic Resources (CRHR)*, *California Historical Landmarks*, *California Inventory of Historic Resources*, and *California Points of Historic Interest*, and the directory of properties in the Historic Property Data Files for Siskiyou County.

The March 2018 records search indicated that 27 cultural resource surveys have been conducted within a half-mile radius of the APE, none of which covered the APE for the current (2022) project.

Archaeological fieldwork for the prior project took place on June 11 and 27, and July 20, 2018. The entire APE was surveyed with transects spaced approximately 12 to 15 meters apart. Areas adjacent to the road corridors with exposed subsurface soil, including rodent burrows and ditches, were thoroughly inspected for evidence of any possible buried cultural deposits and/or soil differentiation. No cultural resources were observed during the 2018 field surveys.

Native American consultation for the previous project included review of the Sacred Lands file by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) on April 23, 2018. The NAHC responded on April 23, 2018, indicating that their files did not identify the presence of any Native American sacred sites or cultural resources in the immediate project area. The NAHC also provided contact information for several Native American representatives and organizations, who were contacted on May 15, 2018, with a request to provide comments on the proposed project. Follow-up e-mails were sent on August 13, 2018, to the tribal members that were previously identified by the NAHC.

Kelli Hayward responded on behalf of the Wintu Tribe of Northern California on May 15 and August 13, 2018. Ms. Hayward expressed concern due to lithic scatters that were identified in the vicinity of Mossbrae Spring (which is now being treated as a separate project); however, Ms. Hayward did not have specific concerns with improvements proposed in the vicinity of Cave Avenue. Alex Watts-Tobin responded on behalf of the Karuk Tribe on August 14, 2018. Mr. Watts-Tobin indicated that the Karuk had no concerns regarding the project. No other responses were received.

Addendum to 2019 CRI

Archaeological fieldwork for the proposed project took place on January 18, 2022, during which the entire APE was surveyed to identify cultural resources that could be potentially affected by the proposed improvements in the areas shown in Figures 1 and 2 of this Notice of Exemption.

One historical-era feature was identified within the APE during the field survey. The feature, Simpson Avenue Bridge Abutments/Piers, is comprised of abandoned bridge abutments/piers that cross the Sacramento River; the eastern abutment is within the APE. As documented in the Addendum, the Simpson Avenue Bridge Abutment/Piers do not meet the criteria for listing in the NRHP or CRHR. Therefore, the project would have no effect on any known cultural resources.

Although the project would have no effect on any known cultural resources, there is always some potential for previously unknown cultural resources to be encountered during construction activities. Therefore, the following standard construction measures would be included in construction contracts for the project to address the inadvertent discovery of cultural resources and human remains:

1. In the event of any inadvertent discovery of cultural resources (i.e., burnt animal bone, midden soils, projectile points or other humanly-modified lithics, historic artifacts, etc.), all work within 50 feet of the find shall be halted until a professional archaeologist can evaluate the significance of the find in accordance with PRC §21083.2(g) and §21084.1, and CEQA Guidelines §15064.5(a). If any find is determined to be significant by the archaeologist, the City shall meet with the archaeologist to determine the appropriate course of action. If necessary, a Treatment Plan prepared by an archeologist outlining recovery of the resource, analysis, and reporting of the find shall be prepared. The Treatment Plan shall be reviewed and approved by the City prior to resuming construction.

2. In the event that human remains are encountered during construction activities, the City shall comply with §15064.5 (e) (1) of the CEQA Guidelines and PRC §7050.5. All project-related ground disturbance within 100 feet of the find shall be halted until the County coroner has been notified. If the coroner determines that the remains are Native American, the coroner will notify the NAHC to identify the most likely descendants of the deceased Native Americans. Project-related ground disturbance in the vicinity of the find shall not resume until the process detailed in §15064.5 (e) has been completed.

DOCUMENTATION:

California Air Resources Control Board. 2020. Area Designations Maps—State and National. <http://www.arb.ca.gov/desig/adm/adm.htm>. Accessed December 2021.

California Department of Conservation, California Geological Survey. n.d. Fault Activity Map of California. <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/fam/>. Accessed December 2021.

_____. n.d. SMARA Mineral Land Classification Maps. <http://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/informationwarehouse/index.html?map=mlc>. Accessed December 2021.

_____. 2021. Mines Online Maps. <https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/mol/index.html>. Accessed December 2021.

California Department of Transportation. 2021. California Road System – Functional Classification (Map Viewer). Accessed December 2021.

California Environmental Protection Agency. 2021. Cortese List Data Resources. <http://www.calepa.ca.gov/sitecleanup/corteselist/>. Accessed December 2021.

City of Dunsmuir. 2006. City of Dunsmuir General Plan. https://static1.squarespace.com/static/54c9a764e4b0ee5502d31f04/t/54c9d944e4b052377d6f6c5a/1422514500245/general_plan_2006.pdf. Accessed October 2021.

ENPLAN. 2022. Addendum to the Cultural Resources Inventory, Dunsmuir Water Main Replacement Project.

_____. 2019. Cultural Resources Inventory, Dunsmuir Water Main Replacement Project.

Federal Emergency Management Agency. National Flood Hazard Map (Panel 06093C3432D, effective 01/19/2011). <https://msc.fema.gov/portal/search?AddressQuery=mt.%20shasta%2C%20ca#searchresultsanchor>. Accessed October 2021.