Draft
CEQA Initial Study/ Mitigated Negative Declaration

for

Mokelumne Hill Sanitary District Wastewater System Improvements Project

April 2022

Mokelumne Hill Sanitary District
P.O. Box 666
San Andreas, CA 95249

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1. Project Information

1. Project Title:

Mokelumne Hill Sanitary District, Wastewater System Improvements Project

2. Lead Agency Name and Address:

Mokelumne Hill Sanitary District
P.O. Box 666
San Andreas, CA 95249

3. Contact Person and Phone Number:

Frank Whitmore, Senior Civil Engineer
Weber, Ghio & Associates
(209) 267-0173
f.whitmore@wgainc.net

4. Project Location:

The overall Project is in the unincorporated community of Mokelumne Hill north of the intersection of State Highway 49 and State Highway 26 in northwestern Calaveras County in the western foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains (Figures 1 and 2). The Project area includes of five segments and their associated staging areas. The Project segments include:

- Lagoons Office-Lab Sprayfield segment
- Green Gravity Main segment
- Easy Bird Lane segment
- Garden Lane segment
- Maretta Lane segment

The approximately 11.97-acre project disturbance footprint (project area) traverses the Calaveras County assessors' parcel numbers (APNs) listed in Table 1 below. The Project is in a rural residential community and is bounded primarily by low density rural residential uses.

Table 1. APN, General Plan Designation, and Zoning

APN*	General Plan Designation*	Zoning*
Lagoons Office-Lab Sprayfield segment		
016-017-021	Public/ Institutional	Public Service (PS)
Green Gravity Main segment		
018-002-061	Residential Low Density (RLD)	Rural residential, 0.5 ac minimum (RR-0.5)
018-002-048	Residential Low Density (RLD)	Rural residential, 0.5 ac minimum (RR-0.5)
018-002-033	Residential Low Density (RLD)	Single Family Residential (R1)
018-002-034	Residential Low Density (RLD)	Single Family Residential (R1)
018-002-010	Residential Low Density (RLD)	Single Family Residential (R1)
018-002-ROW	Right of Way (ROW)	NA Miwok Trail/ Road ROW
018-002-060	Residential Medium Density (RMD)	Multiple Family residential, Design Review (combining district) (R3-6-DR)

018-002-002	Residential Medium Density (RMD	Multiple Family residential (R3-6)
018-002-040	Residential Medium Density (RMD	Multiple Family residential, Design Review (combining district) (R3-6-DR)
018-002-046	Public/ Institutional (PI)	Multiple Family residential, Design Review (combining district) (R3-6-DR)
018-002-042	Public/ Institutional (PI)	Rural residential, 0.5 ac minimum (RR-0.5)
018-002-041	Residential Low Density (RLD)	Rural residential, 0.5 ac minimum (RR-0.5)
018-002-025	Residential Low Density (RLD)	Rural residential, 0.5 ac minimum (RR-0.5)
018-003-018	Residential Low Density (RLD)	Rural residential, 0.5 ac minimum (RR-0.5)
018-003-014	Public/ Institutional (PI)	Public Service (PS)
018-003-022	Residential Low Density (RLD)	Rural residential, 0.5 ac minimum (RR-0.5)
018-003-023	Residential Low Density (RLD)	Rural residential, 0.5 ac minimum (RR-0.5)
018-008-ROW	Right of Way (ROW)	NA East Center Street ROW
Easy Bird Road segment		
018-009-080	Rural Residential (RR)	Rural residential, 1 ac minimum (RR-1)
018-009-079	Rural Residential (RR)	Rural residential, 1 ac minimum (RR-1)
018-009-037	Rural Residential (RR)	Rural residential, 1 ac minimum (RR-1)
018-009-044	Residential Low Density (RLD)	Single Family Residential (R1)
018-009-064	Residential Low Density (RLD)	Single Family Residential (R1)
018-009-ROW	Right of Way (ROW)	NA Easy Bird Road ROW
018-009-001 (staging only)	Residential Low Density (RLD)	Rural residential, 0.5 ac minimum (RR-0.5)
016-018-106 (staging only)	Rural Residential (RR)	Rural residential, 1 ac minimum (RR-1)
Garden Lane segment		
018-005-006	Residential Low Density (RLD)	Single Family Residential (R1)
018-005-005	Residential Low Density (RLD)	Single Family Residential (R1)
018-005-013	Residential Low Density (RLD)	Single Family Residential (R1)
018-005-014	Residential Low Density (RLD)	Single Family Residential (R1)
018-005-030	Residential Low Density (RLD)	Single Family Residential (R1)
018-005-009 (Garden Lane access only)	Historic Center	Single Family Residential, Planned Development (R1-PD)
018-005-010 (Garden Lane access only)	Historic Center	Single Family Residential, Design Review (R1-DR)
018-006-ROW	Right of Way (ROW)	NA Peek Circle ROW
018-007-ROW	Right of Way (ROW)	NA West Center Street/ Clark Street ROW
018-017-046 (staging only)	Residential Low Density (RLD)	Single Family Residential (R1)
Maretta Lane segment		
018-012-033	Residential Low Density (RLD)	Single Family Residential (R1)
018-012-ROW	Right of Way (ROW)	NA Lafayette Street, Maretta Lane, Hwy 26 ROW
018-012-004	Parks/Recreation (PR)	Recreation (Rec)
018-013-035 (staging only)	Parks/Recreation (PR)	Recreation (Rec)

***** Per Calaveras County Public Web Viewer (https://gisportal.co.calaveras.ca.us/arcgis/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=ebdd24eb70db4b5494fbdce6427454bc)

The Project is on the Mokelumne Hill USGS topographic quad (T5N, R11E, Section 12, Mt. Diablo Meridian and T5N, R12E, Section 7, Mt. Diablo Meridian) in the in the Upper Mokelumne River Hydrologic Unit (hydrologic unit code 18040012). The centroid of the Project is located at 38.304200° north, -120.707400° west (WGS84), and its UTM coordinates (Zone 10S) are 700462.37 m East; 4242054.18 m North. The Project is relatively flat and ranges in elevation from approximately 1,257 to 1,520 feet above sea level.

5. Description of Project:

The Mokelumne Hill Sanitary District is in the process of obtaining a SWRCB CWSRF grant to replace the wastewater system and associated facilities. The proposed improvements will consist of: (1) eliminating two sanitary sewer lift stations and replacing with an 8" diameter open-cut trench gravity main system; (2) lining the two existing treatment plant lagoons with approximately 30,000 SF of synthetic material and a reinforced concrete cap; (3) replacing approximately 1,270 LF of 4" and 6" diameter sewer main (open cut trench) at Easy Bird Road, Garden Lane and Maretta Lane; (4) constructing a new office and lab facility (approximately 768 SF); and (5) installing a fully automated sanitary sewer spray field system.

6. General plan designation:

See table under item 4 (Project Location) above.

7. Zoning:

See table under item 4 (Project Location) above.

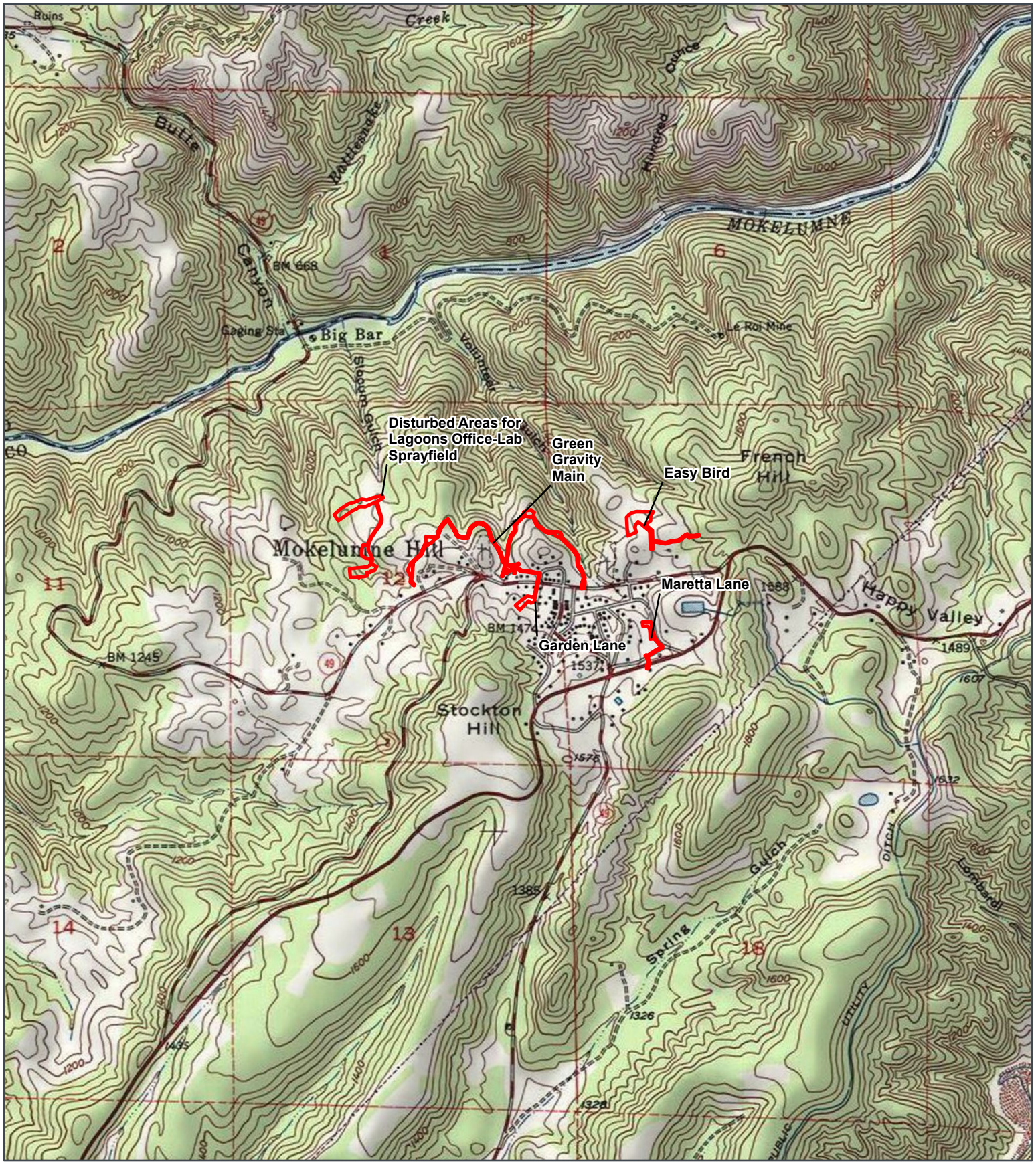
8. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:

The Project in a rural area and is bounded by low density rural residential uses.

9. Other Public Agencies Whose Approval May Be Required (e.g., permits, financing approval, or participation agreement):

The Project may require permits or approvals from the following:

- Calaveras County Encroachment Permit
- Calaveras County Air Quality Management District — Fugitive Dust Prevention and Control Plan Approval
- Calaveras County Building Department
- Caltrans Encroachment Permit



MOKELUMNE HILL CWSRF PROJECT

Project Location

Figure 1.
Location Map

Calaveras County, CA
Town of Mokelumne Hill, CA
Township 5 North, Range 11 East
NAD 1983 California Teale Albers FtUS
120.7082°W 38.3022°N

0 1,000 2,000 Feet
0 250 500 Meters

N

1:24,000

Base Map: US topo maps, Esri ArcGIS Online, accessed September 2021

Updated: 9/21/2021
Project No. 67722
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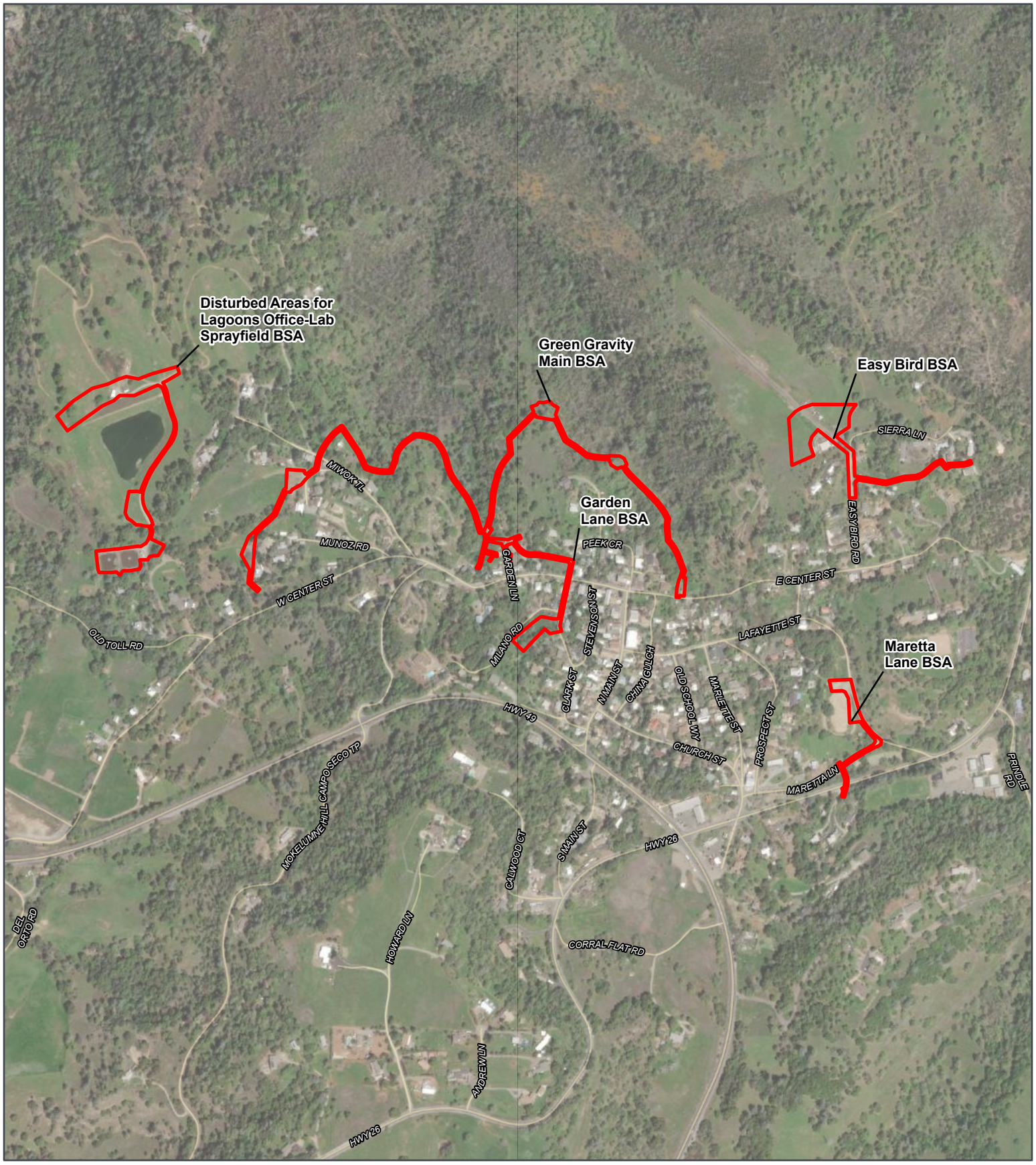
Aprx: 67722_MokelumneHillCWSRF

SWCA ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS



MOKELUMNE HILL CWSRF PROJECT

Biological Study Area (BSA)

Calaveras County, CA
Town of Mokelumne Hill, CA
Township 5 North, Range 11 East
NAD 1983 StatePlane California III
FIPS 0403 Feet
120.7082°W 38.3022°N

0 400 800 Feet
0 100 200 Meters

N

1:9,600

Aerial Photo: 3 April 2020
WV03 Vivd Maxar Imagery
World Imagery Basemap layer
Esri ArcGIS Online,
accessed September 2021

Updated: 9/21/2021
Project No. 67722
Layout: 67722_mokelumneHill_Aerial(8x11P)
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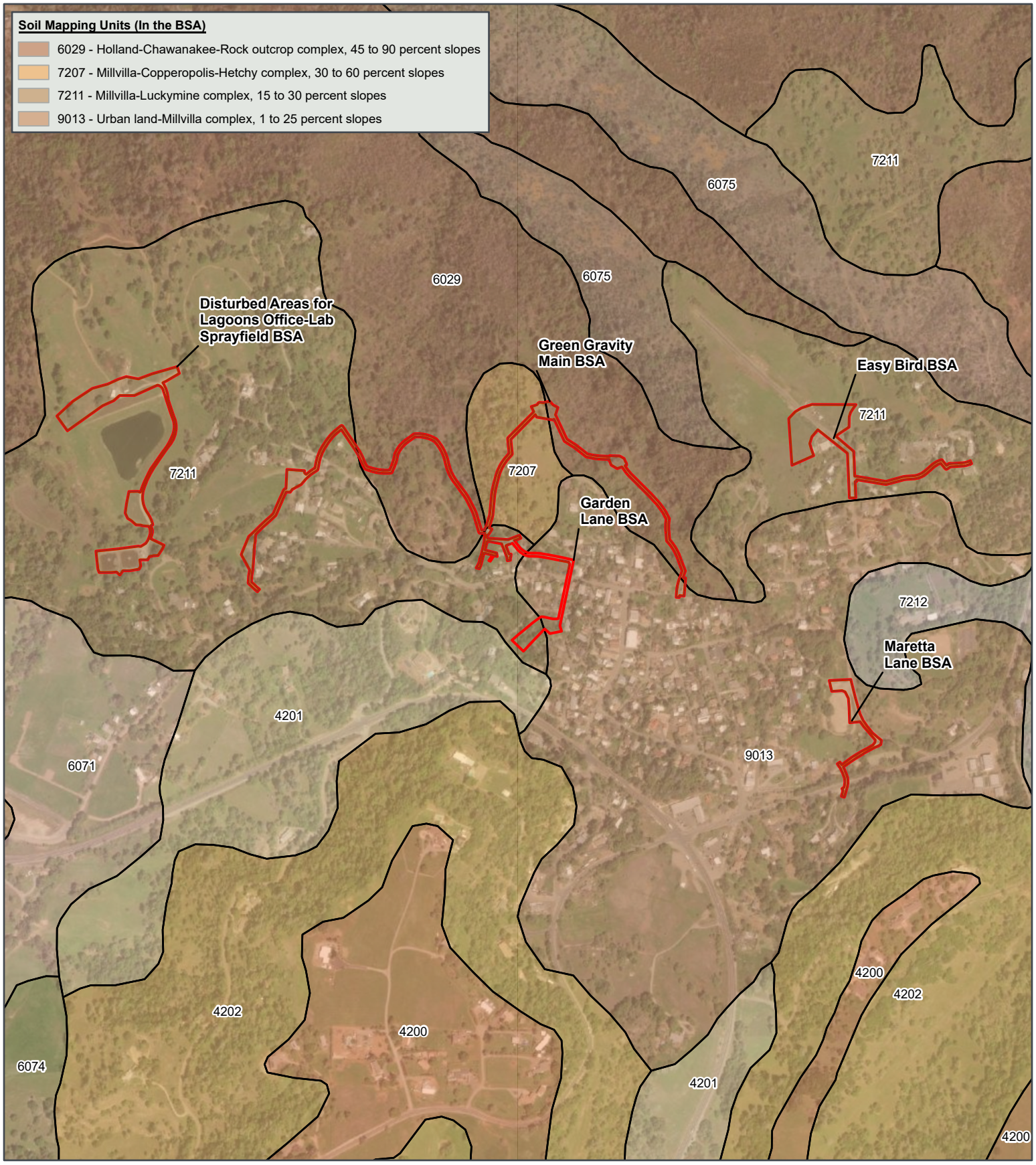
Figure 2.
Aerial Photograph



MOKELUMNE HILL CWSRF PROJECT

Figure 3.
Soils Map

Biological Study Areas (BSA)

Soil Mapping Unit Boundary

Calaveras County, CA
Town of Mokelumne Hill, CA
NAD 1983 StatePlane California III
FIPS 0403 Feet
120.7082°W 38.3022°N

Source: Soil Survey Geographic database for Calaveras Area, CA, Parts of Calaveras and Stanislaus Counties, CA, USDA, NRCS (17 Sept. 2018)
Aerial Photo: 3 April 2020
WV03 Vivd Maxar Imagery
World Imagery Basemap layer
Esri ArcGIS Online, accessed September 2021

Updated: 9/21/2021
Project No. 67722
Layout: 67722_mokelumneHill_Soils (8x11P)
Aprx: 67722_MokelumneHillCWSRF

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0 100 200 Meters

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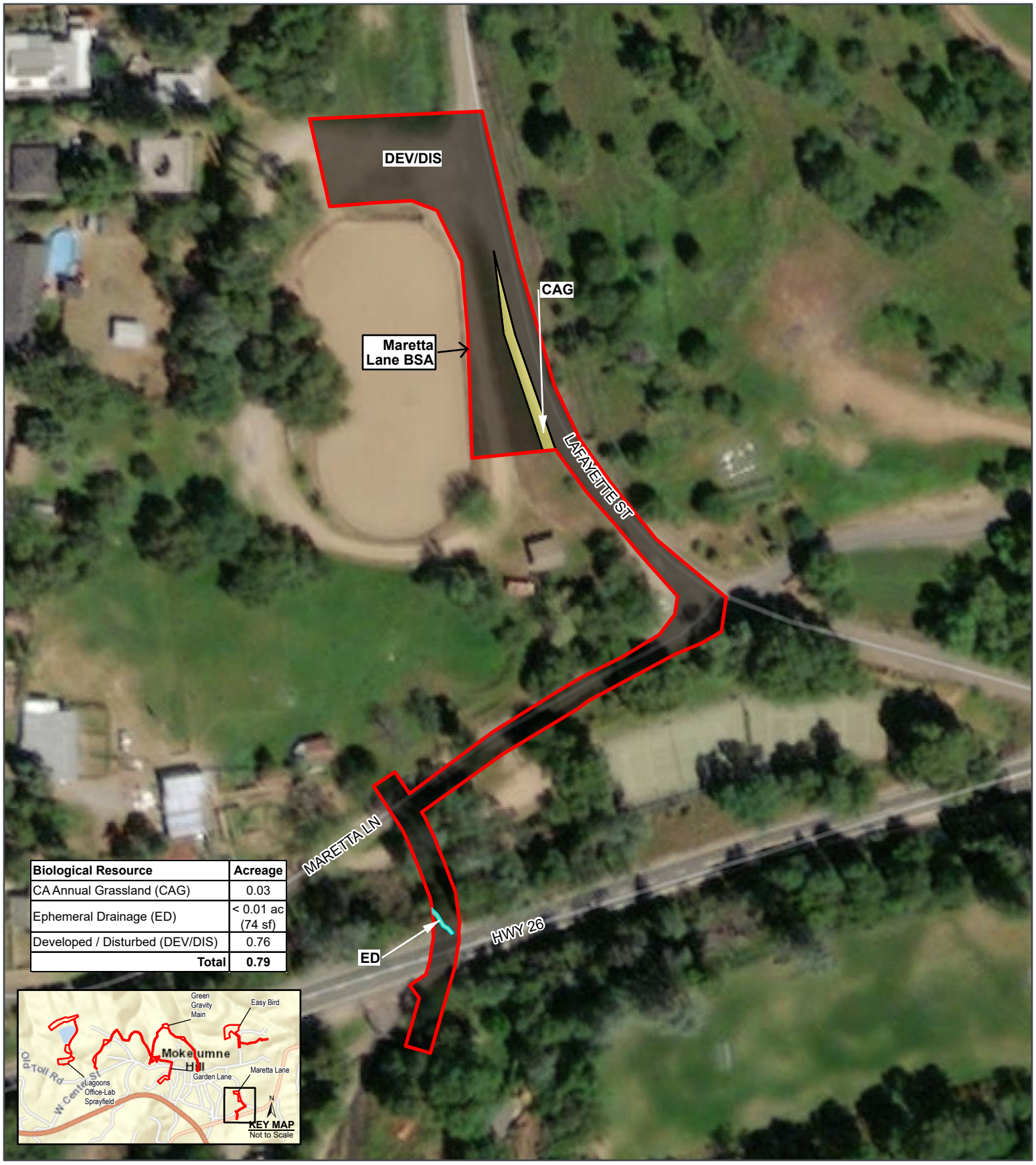
SWCA ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS



Biological Resource	Acreage
CA Annual Grassland (CAG)	0.03
Ephemeral Drainage (ED)	< 0.01 ac (74 sf)
Developed / Disturbed (DEV/DIS)	0.76
Total	**0.79**

MOKELUMNE HILL CWSRF PROJECT

Figure 4. Biological Resources Map

Sheet 1 of 5, Maretta Lane

- Biological Study Area (BSA)
- CA Annual Grassland (CAG)
- Developed / Disturbed (DEV/DIS)
- Ephemeral Drainage (ED)

Calaveras County, CA
Mokelumne Hill, CA
Township 5 North, Range 11 East
NAD 1983 StatePlane California III
FIPS 0403 Feet
120.7009°W 38.2995°N

0 40 80 Feet
0 10 20 Meters

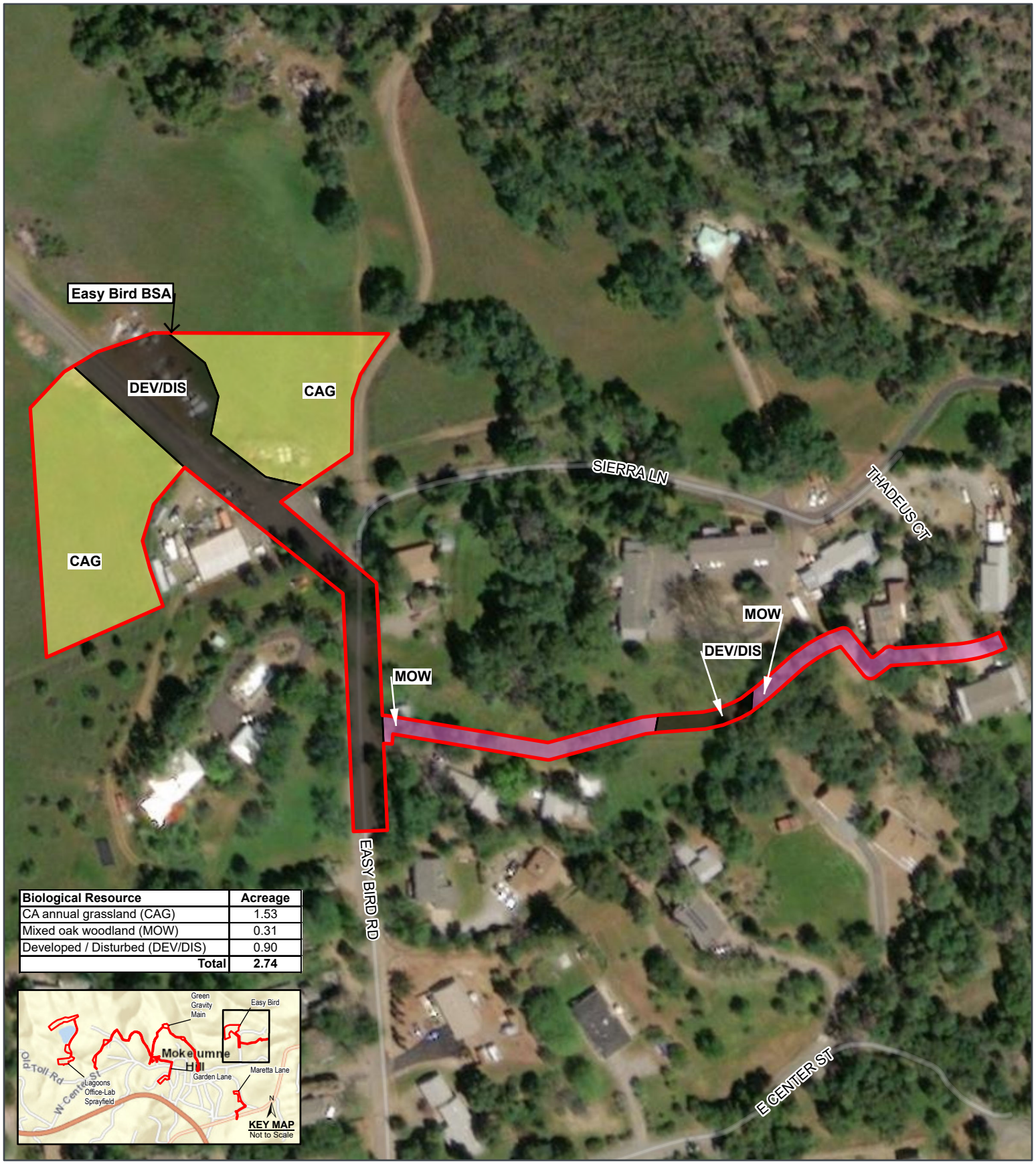
N

1:1,200

Aerial Photo: 3 April 2020
WV03 Vivd Maxar Imagery
World Imagery Basemap layer
Esri ArcGIS Online,
accessed February 2022

Updated: 2/15/2022
Project No. 67722
Layout: 67722_mokelumneHill_Biores(8x11P)
Aprx: 67722_MokelumneHillCWSRF

SWCA ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS



Biological Resource	Acreage
CA annual grassland (CAG)	1.53
Mixed oak woodland (MOW)	0.31
Developed / Disturbed (DEV/DIS)	0.90
Total	**2.74**

MOKELUMNE HILL CWSRF PROJECT

Figure 4. Biological Resources Map

Sheet 2 of 5, Easy Bird

- Biological Study Area (BSA)
- CA Annual Grassland (CAG)
- Mixed Oak Woodland (MOW)
- Developed / Disturbed (DEV/DIS)

Calaveras County, CA
Mokelumne Hill, CA
Township 5 North, Range 11 East
NAD 1983 StatePlane California III
FIPS 0403 Feet
120.7003°W 38.3044°N

0 70 140 Feet
0 10 20 Meters

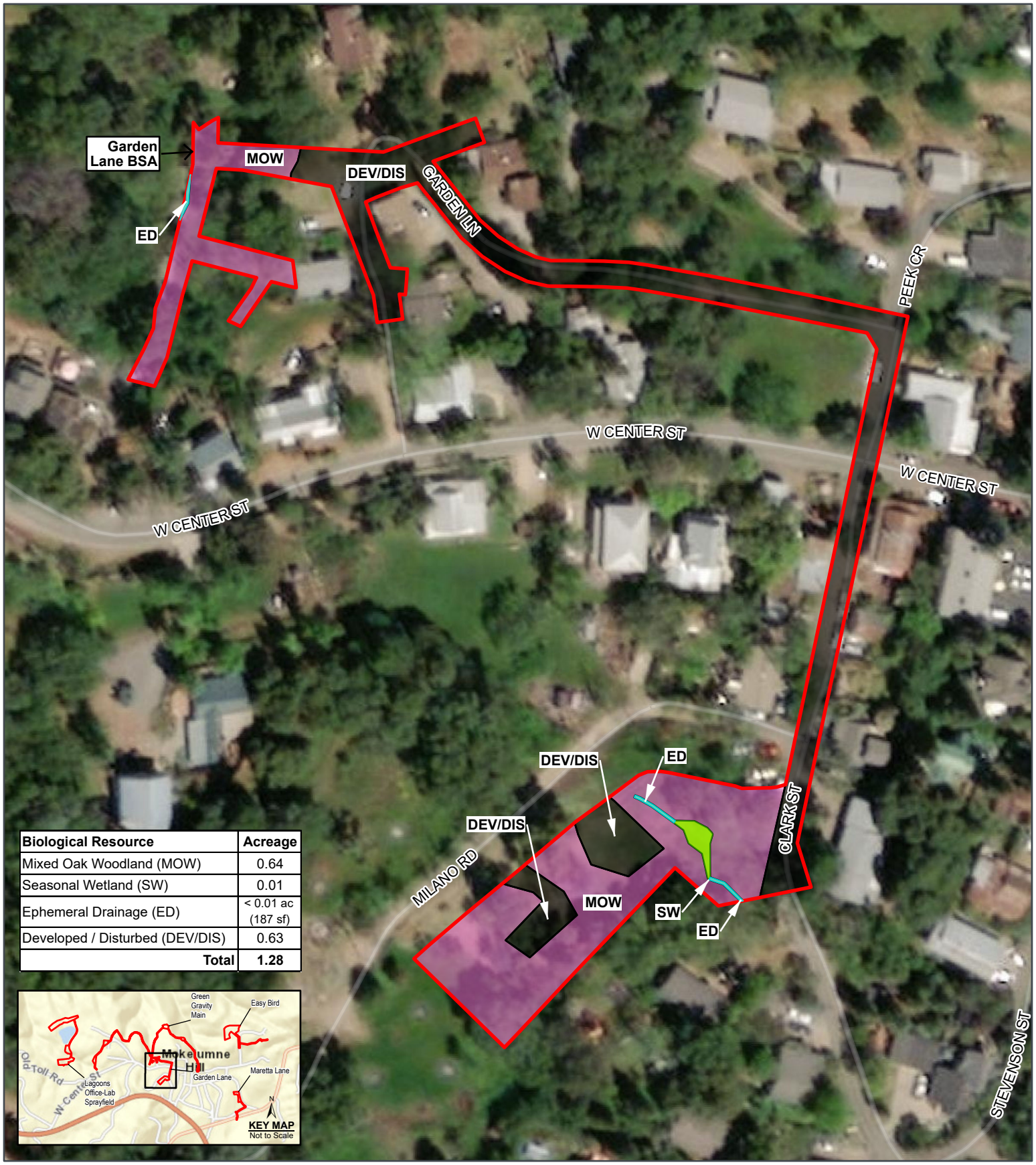
N

1:1,800

Aerial Photo: 3 April 2020
WV03 Vivd Maxar Imagery
World Imagery Basemap layer
Esri ArcGIS Online,
accessed February 2022

Updated: 2/15/2022
Project No. 67722
Layout: 67722_mokelumneHill_Biores(8x11P)
Aprx: 67722_MokelumneHillCWSRF

SWCA ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS



Biological Resource	Acreage
Mixed Oak Woodland (MOW)	0.64
Seasonal Wetland (SW)	0.01
Ephemeral Drainage (ED)	< 0.01 ac (187 sf)
Developed / Disturbed (DEV/DIS)	0.63
Total	**1.28**

MOKELUMNE HILL CWSRF PROJECT

Figure 4. Biological Resources Map

Sheet 3 of 5, Garden Lane

- Biological Study Area (BSA)
- Mixed Oak Woodland (MOW)
- Developed / Disturbed (DEV/DIS)
- Ephemeral Drainage (ED)
- Seasonal Wetland (SW)

Calaveras County, CA
Mokelumne Hill, CA
Township 5 North, Range 11 East
NAD 1983 StatePlane California III
FIPS 0403 Feet
120.708°W 38.302°N

0 40 80 Feet
0 10 20 Meters

N

1:1,200

Aerial Photo: 3 April 2020
WV03 Vivd Maxar Imagery
World Imagery Basemap layer
Esri ArcGIS Online,
accessed February 2022

Updated: 2/15/2022
Project No. 67722
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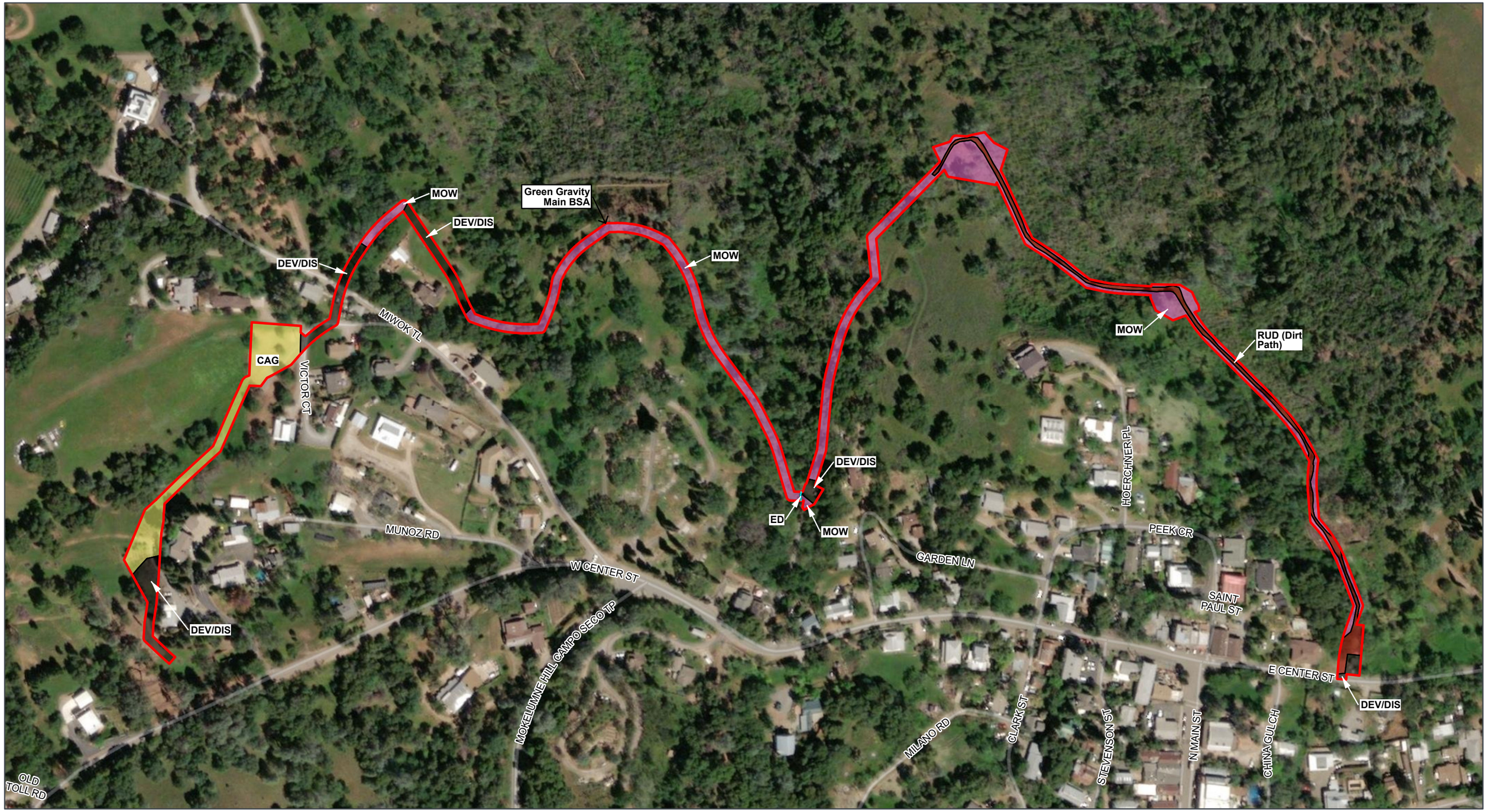
Aprx: 67722_MokelumneHillCWSRF

SWCA ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS



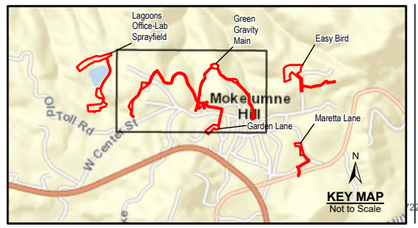
MOKELUMNE HILL CWSRF PROJECT

Figure 4. Biological Resources Map

Sheet 4 of 5, Green Gravity Main

- Biological Study Area (BSA)
- CA Annual Grassland (CAG)
- Mixed Oak Woodland (MOW)
- Ruderal (RUD)
- Developed / Disturbed (DEV/DIS)
- Ephemeral Drainage (ED)

Biological Resource	Acreage
CA Annual Grassland (CAG)	0.63
Mixed Oak Woodland (MOW)	1.76
Ruderal (RUD)	0.37
Ephemeral Drainage (ED)	< 0.01 ac (41 sf)
Developed / Disturbed (DEV/DIS)	0.49
Total	**3.25**



Calaveras County, CA
Mokelumne Hill, CA
Township 5 North, Range 11 East
NAD 1983 StatePlane California III
FIPS 0403 Feet
120.7094°W 38.3036°N

Aerial Photo: 3 April 2020
WV03 Vivd Maxar Imagery
World Imagery Basemap layer
Esri ArcGIS Online,
accessed February 2022

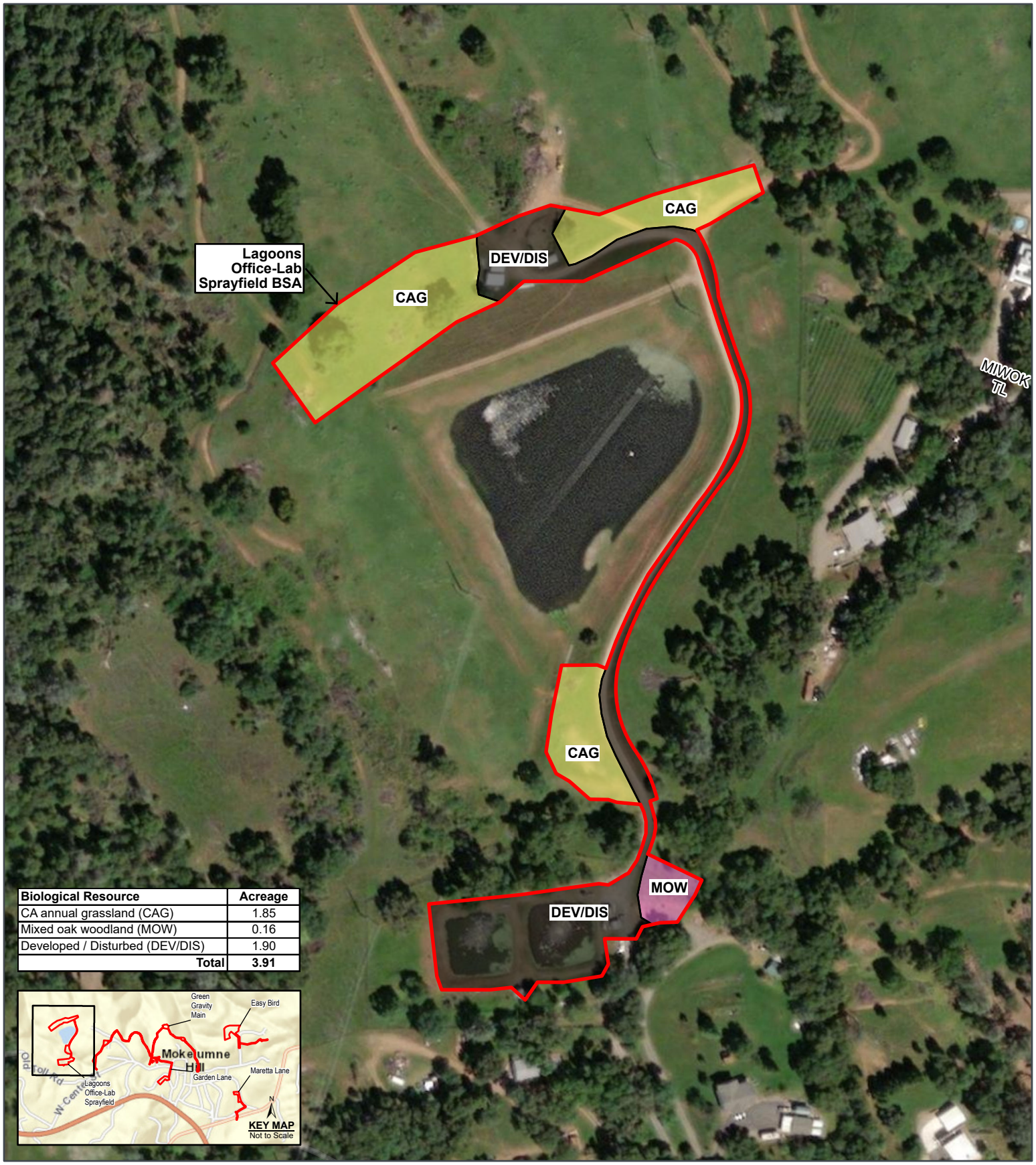
Updated: 2/14/2022
Project No. 67722
Aprx: 67722_MokelumneHillCWSRF

0 100 200 Feet
0 25 50 Meters

N

1:2,400

SWCA ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS



Biological Resource	Acreage
CA annual grassland (CAG)	1.85
Mixed oak woodland (MOW)	0.16
Developed / Disturbed (DEV/DIS)	1.90
Total	**3.91**

MOKELUMNE HILL CWSRF PROJECT

Figure 4. Biological Resources Map

Sheet 5 of 5, Lagoons, Office-Lab and Sprayfield

- Biological Study Area (BSA)
- CA Annual Grassland (CAG)
- Mixed Oak Woodland (MOW)
- Developed / Disturbed (DEV/DIS)

Calaveras County, CA
Mokelumne Hill, CA
Township 5 North, Range 11 East
NAD 1983 StatePlane California III
FIPS 0403 Feet
120.7169°W 38.304°N

0 100 200 Feet
0 25 50 Meters

N

1:2,400

Aerial Photo: 3 April 2020
WV03 Vivd Maxar Imagery
World Imagery Basemap layer
Esri ArcGIS Online,
accessed February 2022

Updated: 2/15/2022
Project No. 67722
Layout: 67722_mokelumneHill_Biores(8x11P)
Aprx: 67722_MokelumneHillCWSRF

SWCA ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

2. Introduction

The Mokelumne Hill Sanitary District (MHSD) is in the process of obtaining a State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Grant to make improvements to their collection system, wastewater treatment plant (WWTP), and disposal facilities in the community of Mokelumne Hill.

MHSD is the local lead agency and prepared this Initial Study to consider the significance of potential project impacts pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970, as amended (Public Resources Code, Section 21000, et seq.). This Initial Study was prepared in accordance with the State CEQA Guidelines (14 California Administrative Code, Section 14000 et seq.).

Based on the results of this Initial Study, the District has determined that the Project would have less than significant impacts on the environment with the incorporation of mitigation measures. The District may approve the Project with the certification of a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND). The Project also includes NEPA questions consistent with what is commonly known as CEQA Plus. The remainder of this document is organized into the following sections:

- **Section 3, Project Description:** Provides a detailed description of the proposed Project;
- **Section 4, Initial Study Checklist and Supporting Documentation:** Provides CEQA Initial Study Resource impact checklists and supporting documentation. Identifies the thresholds of significance, evaluates potential impacts;
- **Section 5, Initial Study Findings:** Provides a determination of the District's CEQA findings;
- **Section 6, Supporting Information Sources:** Identifies the personnel responsible for the preparation of this document and provides a list of the references cited throughout the document.

3. Project Description

The Mokelumne Hill Sanitary District (MHSD) is in the process of obtaining a State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) Grant to make improvements to their collection system, wastewater treatment plant (WWTP), and disposal facilities in the community of Mokelumne Hill. The area under study is approximately 11.97 acres and consists of five locations in the community of Mokelumne Hill including the Green Gravity Main, Lagoons Office-Lab Sprayfield area, Easy Bird area, Garden Lane area, and Maretta Lane area.

3.1 History

MHSD owns and operates the wastewater collection, treatment and disposal facilities serving the community of Mokelumne Hill. The District's service area boundary encompasses approximately 730 acres. The District currently provides service to approximately 300 active wastewater connections comprised of 275 residential, 15 commercial and 10 institutional. The original wastewater treatment plant constructed in 1947, was located on a 3-acre parcel north of town and was served by a gravity feed collection system. In 1973, the original plant was abandoned and a new Class 1 treatment plant, with a design capacity of 0.15 million gallons per day, was constructed at the northwest edge of town. Today, the District operates under Waste Discharge Requirements 91-098, that provides the systematic monitoring of two lagoons, a holding pond, and spray fields. Facilities at the plant include an office/laboratory as well as headworks, a pump, and storage facilities. Two lift stations were installed in town rather than continuing the historic practice of gravity feed.

In 1986, the District received a Community Development Block Grant of $130,000 towards replacing a sewer main in China Gulch, rebuilding one pump station and modifying another by installing an overflow tank, and constructing an access road. Rebuilding, at a total cost of $230,000, was necessitated as the sewer main was old with many cracks and leaky joints and its location at the bottom of a ravine allowed surface drainage into the sewer system causing overflows during heavy rains. Continuing projects included installation of a maintenance building in 1997, and a chlorination basin and storage and chemical building in 2019. In addition, major portions of the existing 3.6 miles of collection system were replaced over the past 20 years with polyvinyl chloride sewer pipe (90% of system).

Project Purpose
The Project would provide a safer, more efficient system for the MHSD in protecting the adjacent environmentally sensitive Mokelumne River Watershed and significantly reduce operational costs. The Project will replace aged and undersized sewer mains ensuring that the District's domestic wastewater is safely conveyed to the WWTP.

3.2 Project Description

The MHSD is in the process of obtaining a SWRCB CWSRF grant to replace the wastewater system and associated facilities. The proposed improvements consist of:

- Eliminating two sanitary sewer lift stations and replacing with an 8" diameter open-cut trench gravity main system resulting in a reduction in electricity consumption. The new pipe will be approximately 5,500 LF and will be composed of PVC. Approximately 33 manholes will be placed and be composed of concrete.
- Lining the two existing treatment plant lagoons with approximately 30,000 SF of synthetic material and a reinforced concrete cap.

- Replacing approximately 1,270 LF of 4” and 6” diameter sewer main (open cut trench) at Easy Bird Road, Garden Lane and Maretta Lane.
- Constructing a new office and lab facility (approximately 768 SF) to provide worker safety with a permanent eye wash station, to accommodate an appropriate size work environment including a location for record keeping and storage and provide workspace and testing lab/area and will also allow for ADA accessibility.
- Installing a fully automated sanitary sewer spray field system that will reduce labor costs and human error by automatically shutting the spray field system off or by sending warning signals to the operator when there is pipe or sprinkler head failure. This would provide a safer, more efficient system for the district in protecting the adjacent environmentally sensitive Mokelumne River Watershed and significantly reduce labor costs to operate the spray fields.

While collection system replacement alternatives were previously considered herein, it was determined that only open-cut trenching was feasible in all locations to ensure resulting sewers would eliminate sags and be at proper grades. As such, pipe bursting and other trenchless technology alternatives were not carried through for a more detailed alternatives analysis. Ongoing maintenance costs associated with pipeline blockages, surcharging, and overflows will be reduced from what they have been in recent years following replacement of deficient wastewater collections mains.

Also, the District will reduce its carbon footprint by the following: (1) automating the Sprayfields, the District will reduce their annual driving mileage by 1,200 miles; and (2) eliminating the lift stations and incorporating the green gravity main will reduce the annual power consumption by 60,000 kwh. The Project is projected to reduce operating costs from $22,000 per year to $2,000 annually.

3.3 Construction

MHSD would retain a construction contractor to construct the proposed improvements. The contractor would be responsible for compliance with all applicable rules, regulations, and ordinances associated with proposed Project activities and for implementing construction-related mitigation measures. MHSD would provide the construction contractor oversight and management. The contractor would construct the proposed Project in accordance with the Public Contract Code of the State of California, Project Plans, and any Special Provisions under development by MHSD. Overall, the construction area is relatively small and fairly tight, so it is not possible to bring numerous construction vehicles at one time nor is it possible to bring in large equipment. The following list of construction equipment will likely be used during this phase:

- Skip loader
- Backhoe/excavator
- Mini excavator
- Bobcat
- 10-Wheeler/End Dump
- Saws
- Jack Hammers
- Crane
- Compactors (manual and sheepsfoot)
- Concrete Pumps
- Jack Hammers

The District will use industry accepted construction standards for pipeline and building construction. The following are a combination of standard and project-specific procedures/requirements applicable to Project construction:

- Contract special provisions will require compliance with Calaveras County Air Pollution Control District Rules 202, 205, and 207 to minimize fugitive dust emissions.
- Contract provisions will require notification of the District and compliance with California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 and California Public Resources Code Sections 5097.5, 5097.9 et seq., regarding the discovery and disturbance of cultural materials or human remains should any be discovered during project construction;
- Contract provisions will require implementation of best management practices (BMPs) consistent with the *Calaveras County Grading, Drainage, and Erosion Control Design Manual* (Calaveras County 2012a) and or Caltrans Stormwater Quality Handbooks to protect water quality and minimize the potential for siltation and downstream sedimentation.
- As applicable the MHSD or its construction contractors will conduct early coordination with utility service providers, law enforcement and emergency service providers to ensure minimal disruption to service during construction;
- Contract provisions will require compliance with Section 9.02.060, Chapter 9.02 (Noise Control) of the Calaveras County Code pertaining to construction noise.

3.4 Project Schedule

The Project is anticipated to take approximately six months and is expected to be completed in one construction season. Currently, construction is planned for Spring and Summer of 2024.

4. Initial Study Checklist and Supporting Documentation

4.1 Initial Study Checklist

This section of the Initial Study incorporates the Environmental Checklist contained in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines. Each resource topic section provides a determination of potential impact and an explanation for the checklist impact questions. The following 19 environmental categories are addressed in this section:

- Aesthetics
- Agricultural and Forestry Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Energy
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emission
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Water Quality
- Land Use and Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population and Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation
- Tribal Cultural Resources
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Wildfire
- Mandatory Findings of Significance

Each of the above listed environmental categories was fully evaluated and one of the following four determinations was made for each checklist question:

- **"No Impact"** means that no impact to the environment would occur as a result of implementing the Project.
- **"Less than Significant Impact"** means that implementation of the Project would not result in a substantial and/or adverse change to the environment and no mitigation is required.
- **"Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation is Incorporated"** means that the incorporation of one or more mitigation measures would reduce the impact from potentially significant to less than significant.
- **"Potentially Significant Impact"** means that there is either substantial evidence that a project-related effect would be significant or, due to a lack of existing information, could have the potential to be significant.

4.2 Setting, Impacts, and Mitigation Measures

4.2.1 Aesthetics

Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099 would the project:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Potential Environmental Effects

a) ***No Impact.*** The only scenic vista identified by the County in the 2018 General Plan Draft Environmental Impact Report (Calaveras County 2018) and General Plan (Calaveras County 2019a) consists of the Ebbetts Pass National Scenic Byway. The 58-mile stretch of State Route (SR) 4 and 89 known as the Ebbetts Pass National Scenic Byway is in Calaveras and Alpine counties, including 24 miles of road within Calaveras County from east of Arnold to the Alpine County line, between Arnold and Markleeville. The Project site is located approximately 20 miles west of the Ebbetts Pass National Scenic Byway. The Project will have no impact to any identified scenic vista.

b) ***Less Than Significant Impact***. No state designated scenic highways occur in the Project area. The eastern portion of SR 4 in Calaveras County is designated as a '*Officially Designated State Scenic Highway*' this section is also designated the Ebbetts Pass National Scenic Byway (discussed in 4.2.1(a)). The western portion of Highway 4 (located greater than 15 miles from the Project) in Calaveras County is designated '*Eligible State Scenic Highway-Not Yet Designated*' (Caltrans 2022). SR 49 is identified as '*Eligible State Scenic Highway-Not Yet Designated*' and the Highway passes through the service area of MHSD, and construction will occur in general proximity to the highway. However, the Project primarily consists or updates to existing features (or be completed below ground) that would not substantially damage scenic resources.

c) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** The Project occurs in a community that is rural in nature and contains scenic views of historical structures in the foothill environment. However, the Project does not contain features that would substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings. As discussed above in 4.2.1(b), the project features would generally not be affected in a way as to change their aesthetic qualities. Additionally, these changes would occur within the footprint of the existing system.

d) ***Less Than Significant Impact***. Additional limited lighting may be needed at the new office and lab. New exterior lighting for the proposed project would be minimal in nature for the purpose of safety, security, and emergency lighting. All new projects within the County are required to comply with the applicable portions of Title 17 of the Calaveras Code of Ordinances, which includes specific regulations requiring shielding of exterior lighting, limiting of light spillage in

parking lot areas, and minimization of light. Compliance with the existing regulations governing light and glare will ensure project impacts are less than significant.

4.2.2 Agricultural and Forestry Resources

In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Potential Environmental Effects

a) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** The Project is "generally within an area classified as "urban or built-up land". There are areas adjacent to Mokelumne Hill that are classified as "Grazing Land" (including areas proximate to the treatment plant and lagoon). Additionally, there are areas classified as "Farmland of Local Importance" outside of the community notably to the south, west, and northeast of the community (California Department of Conservation 2022). However, the Project does not include features or activities that would convert these Important Farmlands to non-agricultural use.

b) ***No Impact.*** There are lands under Williamson Act contracts adjacent to the County defined Community Area of Mokelumne Hill as well as the MHSD service area. However, the Project does not occur on lands under Williamson Act contracts and there would be no impact (Calaveras County 2021).

c) ***No Impact.*** There are no areas within the Project zoned as forestlands and the proposed Project is consistent with the existing zoning and does not include any rezoning activities.

d) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** The Calaveras County General Plan (2019a) noted that total of 77,500 acres were in timber preserver in 2015. The proposed Project may require the removal of trees within the project footprint to prepare the areas for upgrading of the sewer system and wastewater treatment. The Project occurs within a rural community and not within a timber production zone. Regardless the Project will not result in the loss or conversion of forestlands. This impact is less than significant.

e) ***No Impact.*** The Project will not result in changes in the existing environment were identified which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use.

4.2.3 Air Quality

Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Potential Environmental Effects

a) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** The Project is within the Calaveras County Air Quality Management District (AQMD) administers the state and federal Clean Air Acts in accordance with state and federal guidelines. The AQMD regulates air quality through its district rules and permit authority and the Project will operate consistent with these plans. project is also inconsistent if it does not align with the General Plan. The Calaveras County General Plan EIR evaluates air quality in the County due to projected growth through 2035. The proposed Project does not include development of new housing or employment centers and would not induce population or employment growth. Rather, the Project replaces an existing sewer and wastewater system to serve the population already within Mokelumne Hill. Therefore, the proposed project would not conflict with or obstruct the implementation of any air quality plan.

b) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** Congress established much of the basic structure of the Clean Air Act in 1970 and made major revisions in 1977 and 1990. The Federal Clean Air Act established national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS). These standards are divided into primary and secondary standards. Primary standards are designed to protect public health and secondary standards are designed to protect other values. Because of the health-based criteria identified in setting the NAAQS, the air pollutants are termed “criteria” pollutants. California has adopted its own, more stringent, ambient air quality standards (CAAQS). The project area is located in the Mountain Counties Air Basin (MCAB) and is under the jurisdiction of the Calaveras County Air

Quality Management District (AQMD). Table 2 lists the MCAB attainment status for federal and state criteria pollutants.

Table 2. Attainment Status for Calaveras County

Pollutant	National Designation	State Designation
Ozone	Nonattainment (8 hr.)	Nonattainment
PM_{10}	Unclassified	Nonattainment
$PM_{2.5}$	Unclassified/ Attainment	Unclassified
CO	Unclassified/ Attainment	Unclassified
NO_2	Unclassified/ Attainment	Attainment
SO_2	Unclassified/ Attainment	Attainment
Sulfates	NA	Attainment
Lead	Unclassified/ Attainment	Attainment
Hydrogen Sulfide	NA	Unclassified
Visibility Reducing Particles	NA	Unclassified

Calaveras County is currently in nonattainment status for the 8-hour ozone NAAQS. The County is in nonattainment status for and for the ozone and PM10 CAAQS. It also participates in planning review of discretionary project applications and provides recommendations. The following District rules apply to the Project:

- **Rule 202 (Visible Emissions):** Prohibits the discharge of air containments for a period or periods aggregating more than three (3) minutes in any one (1) hour which is as dark or darker in shade as that designated as No. 1 on the Ringlemann Chart or such opacity as to obscure an observer's view to a degree equal to or greater to shade No. 1 on the Ringlemann Chart.
- **Rule 205 (Nuisance):** Prohibits the discharge of air containments which cause injury, detriment, nuisance, or annoyance.
- **Rule 207 (Particulate Matter):** A person shall not release or discharge into the atmosphere from any source or single processing unit, exclusive of sources emitting combustion contaminants only, particulate matter emissions in excess of 0.1 grains per cubic foot of dry exhaust gas at standard conditions.
- **Rule 210 (Specific Contaminants):** Limits the amount of sulfur carbon dioxide released in the atmosphere.

Calaveras County AQMD considers a significant cumulative impact to occur if the project requires a change in the existing land use designation (i.e., general plan) and would individually exceed the project-level thresholds of significance. The Thresholds of significance for both construction and operations for specific pollutants of concern are as follows:

- ROG: 150 lbs/day
- NOx: 150 lbs/day
- PM10: 150 lbs/day

Project Construction: Project construction would result in temporary increases in ROG, NOx, and PM10 emissions from vehicle and equipment operation. Project construction is evaluated using the Road Construction Emissions Model (RCEM) as updated by Ramboll (Version 9.0.0 was used for this assessment). The Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality District (2016) notes that the model is appropriate for linear such as roads including pipeline projects. Short-term increases in emissions from the use of heavy equipment and other construction equipment that generate dust, exhaust for the approximate 4 months of active construction period. The model was run assuming water trucks would be used consistent with the Dust Control Plan. As shown below in Table 3, none of the estimated emissions exceed the County's significance thresholds listed above. Construction-related emissions from the proposed project would not exceed the significance thresholds. The proposed Project would not result in a cumulatively considerable increase in emissions of nonattainment pollutants. The pollutants show the impacts attributed to pipeline construction; there would also be a minimal contribution associated with the construction of the 768 square foot lab and office.

Table 3. Estimated maximum overall construction emissions of pollutants of concern

Pollutants of Concern	Modeled Peak Daily Emissions lbs per day [2]	Calaveras Co. Significance Thresholds (lbs/day)	Threshold Exceeded?
ROG	1.06	150	No
NO_x	8.4	150	No
PM10	1.84	150	No

[1]Units for all values are pounds per day.

[2]Notes: Data entered to emissions model: Project Operational Year: 2024; Project Duration in months: 4

Project Operation: The proposed Project would not increase permanent employment at the facility. Maintenance of the upgraded facility would be similar to pre-project conditions. It is anticipated that the proposed Project would not substantially change current operational emissions, and operational impacts would be less than significant.

c) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** Sensitive individuals refer to those segments of the population most susceptible to poor air quality (i.e., children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing serious health problems affected by air quality). The project does not include any components that would permanently expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollution. Mokelumne Hill Elementary School is located within 0.25 miles of the Marietta Lane area of the Project and construction has the potential to create a short-term impact to the sensitive receptors. Project impacts are limited due to the relative short-term nature of the Marietta Lane portion of the Project. Further, the project will comply with state and local regulations related to construction, including the development of a dust control plan to reduce impacts associated with fugitive dust and particulate matter. These impacts are considered less than significant due to the limited nature of the Project and the short-term construction period.

d) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** Construction activities would involve the use of construction equipment, which have distinctive odors. The Calaveras County General Plan (2018) notes that "offensive odors rarely cause physical harm, they can be unpleasant, leading to considerable annoyance and distress among the public and can generate citizen complaints to local government." The project does not include and components that would cause a new source of odors in the community as the Project upgrades an existing wastewater system (a noted source of

odors). The project could potentially improve the potential for odors by reducing the likelihood of localized spills (due to the upgraded sewer lines). Odors from construction activities are considered less than significant because of the limited number of the public affected and the short-term nature of the emissions. These impacts are considered less than significant.

4.2.4 Biological Resources

Would the project:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☒	☐	☐
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Environmental Setting

Potential impacts to biological and wetlands resources were evaluated in the Project's Biological Assessment Report (SWCA 2022). The California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) was queried for known occurrences of special-status species. Biologists with SWCA Environmental Consultants conducted a general biological survey of the entire BSA on 29 September 2021. CRLF survey work consisted of a site assessment, one day survey, and two night surveys and were focused on the existing WWTP. A CRLF site assessment and day survey of Lagoons 1, 2, and 3, located at the WWTP was conducted on 29 September. Two nighttime surveys focused on CRLF were conducted on the 12 and 19 October 2021.

The study area is in the Upper Mokelumne River Hydrologic Unit (hydrologic unit code 18040012). One seasonal wetland and three ephemeral drainages were observed and mapped within the BSA. A total of 0.03 acres of aquatic resources within the BSA could potentially be under jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). The wastewater treatment lagoon are not a special status natural community and are not under the jurisdiction of the Corps. Waste treatment systems, including treatment ponds or lagoons designed to meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act (other than cooling ponds as defined in

40 CFR 423.11(m) which also meet the criteria of this definition) are not waters of the United States (Corps 2012).

The BSA provides suitable habitat for California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*) and western pond turtle (*Emys marmorata*). The BSA and surrounding area provides potential nesting habitat for birds listed under the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act and State Fish and Wildlife Code. With implementation of the proposed avoidance and minimization measures the Project will not affect CRLF. The proposed avoidance and minimization measures will also protect WPT and nesting birds. The BSA does not contain essential fish habitat (EFH) for Pacific salmon.

The BSA provides suitable habitat for the following four special-status plants: big-scale balsamroot (*Balsamorhiza macrolepis),* Stanislaus monkeyflower (*Erythranthe marmorata*), Parry's horkelia (*Horkelia parryi*), and prairie wedge grass (*Sphenopholis obtusata*). No special-status plants were observed during the September 2021 survey. A survey conducted during the evident and identifiable period would be required to determine if these species occur in the BSA.

The BA concludes the following regarding biological resources:

- The Project site does not occur within CRLF designated critical habitat. The closest critical habitat unit for CRLF is located approximately 6.3 miles southwest of the Project
- No CNDDB records for CRLF occur within one mile of the BSA.
- Aerial images from various dates were examined in Google Earth and the USFWS online National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) map was examined to determine aquatic habitats within one mile of the BSA. The NWI identifies 5 freshwater ponds and 7 freshwater emergent wetlands within one mile of the BSA. Ponds identified on the NWI map and aerial photos within one mile of the BSA could provide potential breeding habitat for CRLF. There are no current records of CRLF in the vicinity of the BSA.
- Western Pond Turtles were not observed in the BSA during the general biological fieldwork. There is marginal aquatic habitat present in Lagoons 1 and 2 at the Lagoons Office-Lab Sprayfield area in the BSA. The Mixed Oak Woodland adjacent to Lagoons 1 and 2 provide upland habitat for WPT. The remaining portions of the study area do not provide suitable habitat for WPT.
- The study area provides potential nesting sites for birds listed under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) and regulated by CA Fish and Game Code. Depending on the species, birds may nest on trees, shrubs, in or on the ground, and on artificial structures such as buildings, bridges, culverts, headwalls, poles, and signs.
- The California Annual Grassland and Mixed Oak Woodland communities located within the study area provide potential habitat for big-scale balsamroot. The 9 September 2021 general biological survey was conducted outside of the evident and identifiable period for this species.
- The Mixed Oak Woodland community within the study area provides potential habitat for, Stanislaus monkeyflower, Parry's horkelia, and Prairie wedge grass.
- There are no aquatic features in the BSA that provide habitat for Pacific salmon.

Natural communities present in the Project area are shown in Table 4. Special-status natural communities evaluated in the Project BA are waters, wetlands, riparian communities, and any natural community ranked S1, S2, or S3 by California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).

Table 4. Natural Communities in the Project area

Biological Community (Scientific Name [CDFW Code][1])	Rarity Rank [2]	Area (ac)
CA annual grassland (CAG) (*Avena (barbata, fatua)* semi-natural herbaceous stands [44.150])	--	**4.03**
Mixed oak woodland (MOW) (71.100.07 Mixed oak – *Pinus sabiniana* / grass)	G4S4	**2.88**
Ruderal (RUD)	**--**	**0.37**
Seasonal Wetland (SW)	**--**	**0.01**
Ephemeral Drainage (ED)	**--**	**< 0.01 ac (137 sf)**
Developed / Disturbed (DEV/DIS)	**--**	**4.68**
	Total:	**11.97**

[1] Sawyer et al. (2009) and CDFW (August 2021).

[2] Vegetation with State (S) ranks of 1-3 are considered highly imperiled by CDFW (October 2021).

Potential Environmental Effects

a) ***Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.***

Special-Status Plant Species: The California Annual Grassland and Mixed Oak Woodland communities located within the study area provide potential habitat for big-scale balsamroot.

The Mixed Oak Woodland community within the study area provides potential habitat for Stanislaus monkeyflower, Parry's horkelia, and Prairie wedge grass. Big-scale balsamroot is a CNPS rare plant rank 1B.2 plant species (CNPS 2021). Big-scale balsamroot is a perennial herb found in chaparral, cismontane woodland, and valley and foothill grassland, sometimes on serpentine soils, from 295 to 5,105 feet. It blooms March through July (Jepson eFlora 2021, CNPS 2021).

Stanislaus monkeyflower is a CNPS rare plant rank 1B.1 plant species (CNPS 2021). Stanislaus monkeyflower is an annual herb found in cismontane woodland and lower coniferous forest from 330 to 2,950 feet. It blooms from March through May (CNPS 2021). Parry's horkelia is a CNPS rare plant rank 1B.1 plant species (CNPS 2021). Parry's horkelia is a perennial herb found on Ione formations and in other soils in chaparral and cismontane woodland from 260 to 3,510 feet. It blooms April through September (Baldwin et al. 2012, CNPS 2021). Prairie wedge grass is a CNPS rare plant rank 2B.2 plant species (CNPS 2021). Prairie wedge grass is a perennial herb found in cismontane woodland and meadows and seeps from 985 to 6,560 feet. It blooms form April through July (CNPS 2021). Implementation of the measure BIO-1 will reduce potential impacts to this species if the offsite disposal method is selected.

Mitigation Measure BIO-1 (Special Status Plants)

- *Prior to the start of project construction, a focused botanical survey will be conducted for big-scale balsamroot, Stanislaus monkeyflower, Parry's horkelia, and prairie wedge grass during the evident and identifiable blooming period in suitable habitat in the BSA.*
- *If big-scale balsamroot, Stanislaus monkeyflower, Parry's horkelia, or prairie wedge grass are not observed, no further action is needed.*

- *If big-scale balsamroot, Stanislaus monkeyflower, Parry's horkelia, or prairie wedge grass is identified, they will be included in an ESA. The ESA non-disturbance buffer will be determined by a qualified botanist. The plant(s) will be clearly delineated using high visibility orange fencing. The ESA fencing will remain in place throughout the duration of the proposed action, while construction activities are ongoing, and will be regularly inspected and fully maintained at all times.*
- *The ESA fencing will be installed to exclude construction activities from avoided habitat. The fencing will be stalled prior to initial clearing of vegetation. Vehicles will not be allowed to park in, nor will equipment be stored in the ESA. No storage of oil, gasoline, or other substances will be permitted in the ESA. No vegetation removal or ground disturbing activities will be permitted in the ESA.*
- *If rare plant populations cannot be protected in place, the District will prepare a transplantation/ propagation plan for the relocation of the rare plant(s). Rare plant relocation will occur in the project area. The transplantation/ propagation plan will be sent to CDFW.*

Special-Status Wildlife Species:

Western Pond Turtle (WPT; *Emys marmorata*)

Western Pond Turtles (WPT) are a CDFW species of special concern (CDFW 2021). WPT prefer aquatic habitats with abundant vegetative cover and exposed basking sites such as logs. WPT are associated with permanent or nearly permanent water in a wide variety of habitat types, normally in ponds, lakes, streams, irrigation ditches, or permanent pools along intermittent streams (CWHR 2021). They are omnivorous generalists and opportunistic predators that prey upon small insects, aquatic invertebrates, fish, frogs, snakes, and small mammals. They also eat aquatic plant material and carrion (Stebbins 2003).

Two distinct habitats may be used for oviposition. Along large slow-moving streams, eggs are deposited in nests constructed in sandy banks. Along foothill streams, females may climb hillsides, sometimes traveling over 330 ft to find a suitable nest site. Soil must usually be at least 4 inches deep for nesting. WPT lay 3 to 11 eggs from March to August depending on local conditions and incubate them for approximately 73 to 80 days (CWHR 2021). WPT were not observed in the BSA during the general biological fieldwork. There is marginal aquatic habitat present in Lagoons 1 and 2 at the Lagoons Office-Lab Sprayfield area in the BSA. The Mixed Oak Woodland adjacent to Lagoons 1 and 2 provide upland habitat for WPT. The remaining portions of the BSA do not provide suitable habitat for WPT. Implementation of the measure BIO-2 will reduce potential impacts to this species if the offsite disposal method is selected.

Mitigation Measure BIO-2 (Western Pond Turtle)

- *A qualified biologist shall conduct a preconstruction survey for WPT within 48 hours prior to the onset of vegetation removal or ground disturbance at the Lagoons Office-Lab Sprayfield area in the BSA.*
- *If WPT are found, construction activities with potential to harm the individual(s) will stop and a qualified biologist will be notified. Construction will resume when the biologist has either relocated the WPT out of the construction zone to nearby suitable habitat, or, after thorough inspection, determined that the WPT has moved away from the construction zone.*
- *Environmental awareness training will be conducted by a qualified biologist prior to the onset of project work for construction personnel to brief them on how to recognize WPT.*

Construction personnel will be informed that if a WPT is encountered in the work area, construction should stop and a qualified biologist be notified. Education programs will be conducted for appropriate new personnel as they are brought on the job during the construction period. Upon completion of training, employees will sign a form stating that they attended the training and understand all the conservation and protection measures.

California red-legged frog (CRLF; *Rana draytonii*)

The wastewater treatment lagoons provide only marginal breeding habitat. Lagoon 1-2 contain untreated effluent. There is little emergent vegetation around the lagoon. Lagoons 1 and 2 are aerated and may not be quiet enough to attract CRLF to breed there. A third lagoon located immediately adjacent to the Lagoons Office-Lab Sprayfield area but outside the BSA was also surveyed. No frogs were seen at any lagoons. The remaining portions of the BSA do not provide suitable habitat for CRLF.

There is one CNDDB record of CRLF in the 9-quad area surrounding the BSA. The CNDDB record (Occurrence #671) is located approximately 6.7 miles southwest of the BSA. The record, from 2003, is located in Youngs Creek 0.9 miles upstream from the confluence with Spring Valley Creek. Habitat is described as a spring-fed stream surrounded by riparian and grazed oak savanna. Stream substrate consists of course sediment, gravel, sand and silt, with a gradient of less than 1%. Three adults were observed during a USFWS field survey. This record represents the only CNDDB record of CRLF in Calaveras County. USFWS estimated that the Youngs Creek CRLF population includes at least 10 adults and was reproductive (Barry and Fellers 2013).

Aerial images from various dates were examined in Google Earth and the USFWS online National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) map was examined to determine aquatic habitats within one mile of the BSA. The NWI identifies 5 freshwater ponds and 7 freshwater emergent wetlands within one mile of the BSA. Ponds identified on the NWI map and aerial photos within one mile of the BSA could provide potential breeding habitat for CRLF. Most of these aquatic sites are separated from the BSA by dry, upland habitat which would be inhospitable to migrating frogs. There are no current records of CRLF in the vicinity of the BSA. Implementation of BIO-3 will reduce potential impacts to less than significant.

Mitigation Measure BIO-3 (California Red Legged Frog)

- *A qualified biologist shall conduct a preconstruction survey for CRLF within 48 hours prior to the onset of vegetation removal at the Lagoons Office-Lab Sprayfield area in the BSA. If any CRLF are found, construction activities will stop and the USFWS will be contacted immediately for further guidance.*
- *Environmental awareness training will be conducted by a qualified biologist prior to the onset of project work for construction personnel to brief them on how to recognize CRLF, the importance of avoiding impacts to this species, and what to do if they are found. Education programs will be conducted for appropriate new personnel as they are brought on the job during the construction period. Upon completion of training, employees will sign a form stating that they attended the training and understand all the conservation and protection measures.*

Nesting Birds Listed Under the MBTA or Regulated by CA Fish and Game Code:

CA Fish and Game Code §3503 protects most birds and their nests. CA Fish and Game Code §3503.5 further protects all birds in the orders Falconiformes and Strigiformes (collectively known as birds of prey). Birds of prey include raptors, falcons, and owls. The federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918 (16 U.S.C. 703-711) also protects most birds and their nests, including most non-migratory birds in California. The MBTA makes it unlawful to take, possess, buy, sell, purchase, or barter any bird listed in 50 CFR Part 10 including feathers or other parts, nests, eggs, or products, except as allowed by implementing regulations. Any disturbance that causes direct injury, death, nest abandonment, or forced fledging of migratory birds, is restricted under the MBTA. Any removal of active nests during the breeding season or any disturbance that results in the abandonment of nestlings is considered a 'take' of the species under federal law. The BSA provides potential nesting sites for birds listed under the MBTA and regulated by CA Fish and Game Code. Depending on the species, birds may nest on trees, shrubs, in or on the ground, and on artificial structures such as buildings, bridges, culverts, headwalls, poles, and signs.

Implementation of BIO-4 will reduce potential impacts to less than significant.

Mitigation Measure BIO-4 (Nesting Birds)

Under the MBTA, nests that contain eggs or unfledged young are not to be disturbed during the breeding season. Nesting or attempted nesting by migratory birds and birds-of-prey is anticipated from 15 February to 1 September. The following avoidance and minimization measures will be implemented:

Birds of Prey and Birds Protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act

- *If construction begins outside the 15 February to 1 September breeding season, there will be no need to conduct a preconstruction survey for active nests.*
- *If applicable, trees scheduled for removal should be removed during the non-breeding season from 2 September to 14 February.*
- *If construction is scheduled to begin between 15 February and 1 September, a biologist shall conduct a survey for active bird of prey nests within 500 ft and active MTBA bird nests within 100 ft of the Project area from publicly accessible areas within one week prior to construction. The measures listed below shall be implemented based on the survey results.*

No Active Nests Found:

- *If no active nest of a bird of prey, MBTA bird, or other CDFW protected bird is found, then no further avoidance and minimization measures are necessary.*

Active Nests Found:

- *If an active nest of a bird of prey, MBTA bird, or other CDFW protected bird is discovered that may be adversely affected by construction activities or an injured or killed bird is found, immediately:*
    1. *Stop all work within a 100-ft radius of the discovery*
    2. *Notify the Engineer*
    3. *Do not resume work within the specified radius of the discovery until authorized.*
- *The biologist shall establish a minimum 500-ft Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) around the nest if the nest is of a bird of prey, and a minimum 100-ft ESA around the nest if the nest is of an MBTA bird other than a bird of prey.*

Bird Species Protection Areas

Identification	***Location***
Bird of Prey	*500 ft no-disturbance buffer*
MBTA protected bird (not bird of prey)	*100 ft no-disturbance buffer*

- *Activity in the ESA will be restricted as follows:*
    1. *Do not enter the ESA unless authorized*
    2. *If the ESA is breached, immediately:*
        a. *Secure the area and stop all operations within 60 ft of the ESA boundary*
        b. *Notify the Engineer*
    3. *If the ESA is damaged, the District determines what efforts are necessary to remedy the damage and who performs the remedy.*
- *No construction activity will be allowed in the ESA until the biologist determines that the nest is no longer active, or unless monitoring determines that a smaller ESA will protect the active nest.*
- *The size of an ESA may be reduced if the biologist monitors the construction activities and determines that no disturbance to the active nest is occurring. Reduction of ESA size depends on the species of bird, the location of the nest relative to the project, project activities during the time the nest is active, and other project-specific factors.*
- *Between 15 February and 1 September, if additional trees or shrubs need to be trimmed and/or removed after construction has started, a survey will be conducted for active nests in the area to be affected. If an active nest is found, the above measures will be implemented.*
- *If an active nest is identified in or adjacent to the construction zone after construction has started, the above measures will be implemented to ensure construction is not causing disturbance to the nest.*

There are no aquatic features in the BSA that provide habitat for Pacific salmon. The BSA is located in the Upper Mokelumne River hydrologic unit. The upper extent of EFH in this hydrologic unit is Youngs Creek, located over 4 miles downslope and southwest of the BSA (NMFS 2021a). The BSA is not located in EFH. No avoidance or minimization measures are proposed.

b) ***Less than Significant.*** Potential wetland swales or ephemeral channels are special-status natural communities potentially in the Project area. Impacts to potential wetland swales or ephemeral channels are discussed under Item c below.

c) ***Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporate***d. There are 0.03 acres of wetlands and waters in the study area, consisting of a seasonal wetland (0.01 acre) and ephemeral drainages (0.02 acre). These aquatic features are potentially jurisdictional under the Clean Water Act, pending a jurisdictional verification by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Waste treatment systems, including treatment ponds or lagoons designed to meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act (other than cooling ponds as defined in 40 CFR 423.11(m) which also meet the criteria of this definition) are not waters of the United States (Corps 2012). The wastewater storage reservoir at MHSD is not under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). The seasonal wetland and ephemeral drainages are potential Clean Water Act § 404 jurisdictional features. These features would likely be considered Waters of the State under the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act and would likely be subject to CDFW Lake and Streambed Agreements (FGC § 1600). Placement of fill in these features may require a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and a Water Quality Certification from the Regional

Water Quality Control Board. Alteration of the flow, bed, bank, or riparian vegetation associated with the channel features would require a CDFW Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement. Construction of the new line has the potential to temporarily and permanently impact potential waters of the U.S. and State including wetland swales or ephemeral channels if present. The State of California has a no-net-loss of wetlands policy and requires a minimum mitigation ratio of 1:1 for impacts to wetlands and waters of the State. Implementation of BIO-4 will reduce potential impacts to less than significant.

Mitigation Measure BIO-5 (Wetlands)
Once project design is finalized, the MHSD will obtain the appropriate Clean Water Act Section 404 permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the State Water Resources Control Board, and a Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) if necessary.

COMPENSATORY MITIGATION**:** The MHSD will mitigate at a minimum 1:1 ratio for impacts to wetlands and waters of the State in accordance with the State of California's no-net-loss of wetlands policy and minimum mitigation ratio for impacts to wetlands and waters of the State. The MHSD will comply with any compensatory mitigation requirement of a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit, Section 401 Water Quality Certification or CDFW Streambed Alteration Agreement.

d) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** Construction of the project could temporarily disrupt movement of native wildlife species that occur in or adjacent to the Project area. Daytime construction activities will result in minimal disruption of nocturnal wildlife movement. Although construction disturbance may temporarily hinder wildlife movements within the project area, the impact is less than significant due to its short-term nature.

e) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** The Calaveras County General Plan (2019b) Conservation and Open Space Element contains the following goals, and policies applicable to biological resources in the Project:

Goal COS-3: A diversity of native plants, fish, and wildlife species and their habitats.

Policy COS 3.1 To protect sensitive biological resources, new development shall use site planning techniques, including buffers and setbacks, and encourage other techniques such as clustering of development.

Policy COS 3.2 Avoid impacts to habitats that support special status species to the extent practicable. Where impacts cannot be avoided, mitigate impacts in accordance with resource agency (CDFW and/or USFWS) protocols/policies for the species.

COS 3.3 Require new development to identify and mitigate impacts to wildlife habitat and wetlands, riparian habitats and other aquatic resources consistent with state and federal regulations.

COS 3.5 Encourage preservation of oak woodlands in accordance with state law.

COS 3.6 Conservation easements may be acceptable means to mitigate impacts to protect wildlife habitat, wetland areas, and oak woodlands from new development.

COS 3.9 Preserve and enhance healthy woodlands consistent with state law, reasonable development and fire safety considerations. The Project is consistent with above mentioned policies as described in the Biological Assessment and summarized in this section of the IS/MND.

Calaveras County does not have a specific tree ordinance but does have the policy shown above to preserve woodlands consistent with state law. The Project does not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources and impacts are less than significant

f) ***No Impact.*** The Project is not located in an area covered by a habitat or natural community conservation plan.

CEQA-Plus Evaluation-Wild and Scenic Rivers Act: The Mokeulmne River is designated as a State Wild and Scenic River however the river is outside of the Project area.

4.2.5 Cultural Resources

Would the project:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to§15064.5?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☐	☒	☐	☐

Environmental Setting

Foothill Resources Inc. conducted a cultural resources assessment of Project area (Foothill Resources Ltd. 2021); the cultural resources assessment provides the background information for this CEQA document. A cultural resources literature search was conducted by the Central California Information Center (CCIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System at California State University, Stanislaus. The CCIC research identified 29 resources within the Study Area while six were within the "Area of Potential Effects."

The Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) was contacted via their website on 15 September 2021, requesting a records search of their Sacred Lands File and a list of Native American contacts with potential concerns about traditional resources in the Project vicinity. A second request on 28 September revealed that the first email had not been received. On 5 October 2021, the NAHC responded. The findings included a positive result: the Calaveras Band of Mi-Wuk Indians identified Calaveras County as containing sites sacred to them. The NAHC requested that we contact them for more guidance.

By letter dated 6 October 2021, Foothill Resources Inc. contacted each of the nine Native American Tribes (4 individuals) provided by the NAHC, requesting any information regarding sacred lands or other heritage sites that might be impacted by the proposed Project. If no response was received, follow-up phone calls were made on 22 October 2021. Below is a summary of the Native American coordination efforts:

- Calaveras Band of Mi-Wuk Indians, Gloria Grimes, Chairperson: Requested to participate in the survey.
- Calaveras Band of Mi-Wuk Indians, 546 Bald Mountain Road, No tribal leader at address.
- California Valley Mi-Wuk Tribe, La Grange. No response.
- California Valley Mi-Wuk Tribe AKA Sheep Ranch Rancheria of Mi-Wuk Indians, Phone call with Lawrence Wilson, Chairperson: Request to monitor.
- Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians, Lloyd Mathiesen, Chairperson: No response.
- Ione Band of Miwok Indians, Sara A. Dutschke, Chairperson: No response.

- Nashville Enterprise Miwok-Maidu-Nishinam Tribe Cosme A. Valdez, Chairperson: No response.
- Tule River Indian Tribe Neil Pevron, Chairperson: No response.
- Wuksache Indian Tribe/Eshom Valley Band Kenneth Woodrow, Chairperson. No response.

Pre-field research was conducted at a number of repositories to identify known historic land uses and the locations of research materials pertinent to the Project Area. Research focused on examining historical maps, written histories, mining publications, federal census records, and official records of Calaveras County. These included published and unpublished documents housed at the Calaveras County Archives, Calaveras County Surveyor's Office, and the Calaveras County Historical Society, San Andreas; the Mokelumne Hill History Society, Mokelumne Hill; and the files of Foothill Resources, Ltd., Mokelumne Hill and Murphys. Interviews were also conducted with Phil McCartney, Sanitary District Board Chair, and Charlie Blazer, retired employee of the Sanitary District. In addition, County Archivist Shannon Van Zant, assisted by Maureen Elliott, researched files and newspapers archived in the Calaveras County Archives, San Andreas.

Foothill Resources Inc. conducted an intensive-level pedestrian survey within the APE; the survey was conducted with maximum 15-foot intervals. For previously recorded sites (n=6), resources were relocated, and site records updated as necessary. CHRIS Primary Records were completed for newly identified resources (n=3).

Potential Environmental Effects

a) ***Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated.*** Nine potential historic resources were identified within the Project APE while eight of the resources were determined to not be eligible to the National and California Registers; the Chinatown Gardens area of Chinatown was evaluated as eligible to the National and California Registers. It was concluded that the Project would not directly impact this resource, spillage from earth-moving activities may inadvertently spread down the embankment, and the long-term presence of adjacent construction crews and activities may negatively impact the fragile archaeological site through visitation by construction personnel. The potential impact to historical resources will be mitigated with the inclusion of Mitigation Measure CULT-1.

Mitigation Measure CULT-1:

The applicant will include the following to mitigate potential impacts to historic resources:

- A temporary barrier should be erected along the eastern edge of the pipeline/road embankment To prevent both accidental spillage of material from the pipeline/road onto the adjacent site of Chinatown Gardens, as well as to reduce visitation. This may consist of plastic construction fencing providing a clear boundary for vehicles, excavated soils, construction materials, and personnel. Two openings in this barrier will allow public access to public trails that lead down from the pipeline/road. This barrier should remain in place during all Project construction activities along this route.
- No earth removal or grading should take place on the western (uphill) embankment bordering the pipeline/road.
- At the Project's completion, the road/pipeline surface will be left free of debris and leveled and packed for pedestrian and emergency vehicle access. A permanent access gate will be installed at West Center Street permitting passage by pedestrians, strollers, and wheelchairs.
- A Qualified Archaeologist (meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Standards) will be engaged to periodically monitor site conditions. If infractions to these protective measures occur, or any other unanticipated damage is done to the Chinatown Garden site during Project construction, work will be suspended until the issue is remedied.

b) ***Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated.*** Mokelumne Hill is situated among the gold-rich placer deposits of a Tertiary landscape (65-1.8 million years ago). Granitic and dioritic rocks are overlain with remnants of Eocene (54.8-33.7 million years ago) river channels capped by volcanic flows (andesite, breccia, conglomerate, rhyolite, basalt, and latite). These gold-bearing gravels were extensively mined during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. This landscape is not sensitive for buried archaeological resources. Regardless, the presence of documented prehistoric-era resources in the general vicinity of the Project area suggests there is a potential for presently unrecorded resources to be encountered during ground-disturbing activities associated with Project construction. Implementation of mitigation measure CULT-2 will reduce potential impacts to less than significant.

Mitigation Measure CULT-2

MHSD shall retain a qualified archaeologist to be present during initial ground disturbing activities to ensure that there are no prehistoric archaeological resources present within the vertical APE. These activities would include excavation of the existing concrete abutments, headwalls, and associated footings from the creek.

If archaeological materials are encountered during construction activities, construction crews shall stop all work within 100 feet of the discovery until a qualified archaeologist can assess the discovery and provide recommendations. Such treatment and resolution could include modifying the Project to allow the materials to be left in place or undertaking data recovery of the materials in accordance with standard archaeological methods. The preferred treatment of the resource is protection and preservation.

Resources could include buried historic features, such as artifact-filled privies, wells, and refuse pits, and artifact deposits, along with concentrations of adobe, stone, or concrete walls or foundations, and concentrations of ceramic, glass, or metal materials. Native American archaeological materials could include obsidian and chert flaked stone tools (such as projectile points and knives), midden (darken soil created culturally from use and containing heat-affected rock, artifacts, animal bones, or shellfish remains), and/or groundstone implements (such as mortars and pestles). Project personnel shall not collect cultural materials.

c) ***Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated.*** There is the possibility of unanticipated discoveries of human remains during construction-related ground-disturbing activities. The procedures identified in State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 will reduce potential impacts. State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 requires that if human remains are found no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made the necessary findings as to origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. Implementation of Public Resources Code Section 5097.5 et seq. will further reduce potential impacts. Implementation of mitigation measure CULT-3 will reduce potential impacts to less than significant.

Mitigation Measure CULT-3

If human remains are encountered as a result of construction activities, any work in the vicinity shall stop and the Calaveras County Coroner shall be contacted immediately. In addition, a qualified archaeologist shall be contacted immediately to evaluate the discovery, if a monitor is not

already present. If the human remains are Native American in origin, then the Coroner shall notify the Native American Heritage Commission within 24 hours of this identification, pursuant to Public Resources Code 5097.98. California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that it is a misdemeanor to knowingly disturb a human grave.

4.2.6 Energy

Would the project:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
a) Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	☐	☐	☒	☐

a) ***Less Than Significant.*** All construction equipment would be regulated per the California Air Resources Board (CARB) In-Use Off-Road Diesel Vehicle Regulation. CARB standards for construction equipment includes measures to reduce emissions from vehicles by subjecting fleet owners to retrofit or accelerated replacement/repower requirements and imposing idling limitations on owners, operators, renters, or lessees of off-road diesel vehicles.

The Project would be required to comply with all applicable standards and regulations regarding energy conservation and fuel efficiency, which would ensure that the future activities would be energy efficient to the maximum extent practicable. Additionally, the phasing out of the two pump stations reduces the amount of energy needed to operate the system. The Project would not be considered to result in a wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary use of energy, and impacts related to construction and operational energy would be considered less than significant.

b) ***Less Than Significant.*** The Project does not contain components or features that would conflict with plans for renewable energy or energy efficiency. The Project does include the decommissioning of two pump stations resulting in a reduction in the amount of energy consumed.

4.2.7 Geology and Soils

Would the project:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i. 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? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	☐	☐	☒	☐
ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☒	☐
iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☒	☐

iv. Landslides?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☒	☐
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 offsite landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☒	☐	☐

Potential Environmental Effects

a) ***(i-iv) Less Than Significant Impact.*** Calaveras County does not occur in or adjacent to an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone. Surface fault rupture is associated with being located on or within close proximity of an active fault. Because the County is not within, and does not cross, an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone, the risk of surface fault rupture within the County is considered low (Calaveras County 2018). Based on estimates of the Probabilistic Seismic Hazard Assessment for California completed by the California Geological Survey, PGA in Calaveras County could reach or exceed less than 0.1 to 0.2 g (1 chance in 475 of being exceeded each year) (Calaveras County 2018). Per Table 4.6-1 of the County General Plan DEIR, such levels of ground shaking would equate to an intensity value of I, II, or III, which few people recognize as earthquakes when felt (Calaveras County 2018). The Project will not rupture a fault mapped on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map.

No portion of Calaveras County occurs in a Seismic Hazard Zone (i.e., regulatory zones that encompass areas prone to liquefaction and earthquake-induced landslides) based on the Seismic Hazards Mapping Program administered by the CGS. Consequently, the Project site are not considered to be at risk from liquefaction hazards nor is it likely that the Project would cause substantial adverse effects associated with landslides. The General Plan EIR (Calaveras County 2018) notes "the County is not considered to be at risk from landslides as a result of active faulting."

b) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** Construction of the proposed project could introduce sediments and other contaminants typically associated with construction into stormwater runoff. Contract provisions will require implementation of best management practices (BMPs) consistent with the *Calaveras County Grading, Drainage, and Erosion Control Design Manual* (Calaveras County 2012a) to protect water quality and minimize the potential for siltation and downstream sedimentation.

c) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** The County is not within, and does not cross, an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone, and the risk of surface fault rupture within the County is considered low (Calaveras County 2018). The Project does not include activities that would result in soil units onsite becoming unstable, and potentially result in on or offsite landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse.

d) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** Expansive soils that may swell enough to cause problems with paved surfaces are generally clays falling into the AASHTO A-6 or A-7 groups, or classified as CH, MH, or OH by the Unified Soil Classification System (USCS), and with a Plasticity Index greater than about 25 as determined by ASTM D4318. Chapter 610 of the Caltrans Highway Design Manual

(2012) defines an expansive subgrade to include soils with a Plasticity Index greater than 12 (Caltrans 2012).

The Project is being designed in accordance with Calaveras County Code Title 15 Buildings and Construction; Chapter 15.04 Uniform Codes. The 2018 General Plan EIR notes on page 4.6-3 that "buildings and structures in areas with expansive soils and subject to the CRC, Section R403.1.7.2 also refers to Section 1808.6 of the CBC for foundation design requirements." Because the project is being designed in accordance with the Title 15 Buildings and Construction; Chapter 15.04 Uniform Codes and will consider and address expansive soils, impacts are considered less than significant.

e) ***No Impact.*** The proposed Project does not include the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems. Rather, the Project improves the current sewer and wastewater system serving the community.

f) ***Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated.*** The Project is not anticipated to cause a substantial adverse change in the significance, directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site, geological feature, or unique geological feature. Due to the relative developed character of the site, the potential to encounter surface-level paleontological resources is relatively low. However, there is the potential for accidental discovery of paleontological resources. If resources are inadvertently discovered, implementation of measure GEO-1 would reduce potential impacts to a less than-significant.

Mitigation Measure GEO-1

- If paleontological resources (e.g., vertebrate bones, teeth, or abundant and well-preserved invertebrates or plants) are encountered during construction, the applicant will ensure work in the immediate vicinity shall be diverted away from the find until a professional paleontologist assesses and salvage the find, if necessary.

4.2.8 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Would the project:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Potential Environmental Effects

a) and b) Less Than Significant Impact. The Calaveras County Air Pollution Cottrol District (CCAPCD) has not adopted thresholds of significance for the analysis of GHG emissions related to implementation of a proposed project. However, the California's 2017 Climate Change Scoping Plan (CARB 2017) identifies per capita emissions rates that may be used in local planning for the assessment of GHG emissions. As discussed in the 2017 Scoping Plan, if a plan results in annual per capita emissions of no more than six MTCO2e by the year 2030 and no more than two MTCO2e by the year 2050, the proposed plan would be considered in compliance with all adopted State requirements for the reduction of GHG emissions. Such State requirements include AB 32, SB 32, and related executive orders. Because the General Plan emissions estimation assumes

buildout of the Draft General Plan in year 2035, the County's population was assumed to be 111,527 under year 2035 buildout conditions. The County General Plan DEIR also points out that growth projections for the County would result in a much lower population projection for year 2035. The Project is not expected to induce growth rather it is designed to serve an existing population within the County.

Project construction would generate greenhouse gasses due to the use of construction vehicles and other construction equipment. As discussed in Air Quality, project construction is evaluated using the Road Construction Emissions Model (RCEM) as updated by Ramboll (Version 9.0.0 was used for this assessment). Project construction is projected to produce 77.58 Tons of CO2e; this is below criteria for a significant impact. The Project is considered to be in compliance with all adopted State requirements for the reduction of GHG emissions.

As discussed in the Air Quality section, it is anticipated that the proposed Project would not change current operational emissions. In fact, the decommissioning of the two pumps would result in a minimal decrease in electricity used and the associated impacts to GHG. Implementation of the proposed project would not conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases.

4.2.9 Hazards and Hazardous Materials

Would the project:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	☐	☒	☐	☐

Potential Environmental Effects

a) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** Small amounts of hazardous materials would be used during construction and operation activities (i.e., equipment maintenance, fuel, and solvents). Implementation of the proposed Project would continue the use, transport, and disposal of

potentially hazardous materials on and in the vicinity of the project site, similar to existing conditions. The Project (both during construction and operations) is required to comply with federal, state, and local regulations regarding the storage, handling, transportation, disposal, and cleanup of hazardous materials. Use of hazardous materials in accordance with applicable standards ensures that any exposure of the public to hazard materials would have a less-than-significant impact.

b) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** The proposed Project could potentially result in increased storage and use of hazardous materials beyond current operations and consequently increase the risk of accidental release of hazardous materials. The California Accidental Release Prevention program, administered as part of the Unified Program by the Calaveras County Environmental Health Department, seeks to prevent accidental releases of regulated substances that potentially pose the greatest risk of immediate harm to the public and the environment. The program requires that any owner or operator of a stationary source with more than the threshold quantity of a regulated substance be evaluated to determine the potential for accidental releases. The list of substances regulated by the California Accidental Release Prevention program is located in Title 19, Article 8, Section 2770.5 of the California Code of Regulations. As discussed in item a) above, the use, disposal, and transportation of all hazardous materials associated with the proposed project would require compliance with federal, state, and local regulations regarding hazardous materials. Management of hazardous materials in accordance with applicable standards ensures that any exposure of the public to hazard materials would have a less-than-significant impact.

c) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** Mokelumne Hill Elementary School is located within 0.25 miles of the Marietta Lane area of the Project. The project involves the short-term handling of potentially hazardous materials during construction. The handling and storage of the potentially hazardous materials would be consistent with all applicable local, state, and federal standards. The project would not result in any uses that emit significant hazardous emissions or require handling of large quantities of hazardous materials beyond those required during the relatively short length of demolition and construction activities. Operation of the Project will not result in the emission of hazardous materials, substances, or waste as the Project is upgrading an existing wastewater system.

d) ***No Impact.*** A search of the Department of Toxic Substances Control (2022) website yielded no sites within the Project area. As such, the Project would not create a significant hazard to the environment.

e) ***No Impact.*** The Project is located approximately 10 miles from Calaveras County Airport (Maury Rasmussen Field) and no private air strips occur in close proximity to the Project. No impact would occur.

f) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** Project construction activities (including potential land or road closures) would be coordinated with local law enforcement and emergency services providers as applicable. Project operations would not result in a change in an emergency evacuation plan.

g) ***Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated.*** Mokelumne Hill is within a very high fire severity zone (CALFIRE 2007). Project construction activities would be coordinated with local law enforcement and emergency services providers as required. However, Project construction equipment may have the potential to start fires if operated near dry vegetation. Heavy equipment used during project construction has the potential start a fire. The operation of the Project will not expose people or structures to a new or increased significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires. The risk associated with construction would be reduced to less than significant with the incorporation of Mitigation Measure WILD-1.

4.2.10 Hydrology and Water Quality

Would the project:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would:				
i. result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site	☐	☐	☒	☐
ii. substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site;	☐	☐	☒	☐
iii. Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	☐	☐	☒	☐
iv. Impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation??	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Potential Environmental Effects

a) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** Construction of the proposed project could introduce sediments and other contaminants typically associated with construction into stormwater runoff. Stormwater flowing over the project features during construction could carry various pollutants downstream such as sediment, nutrients, bacteria and viruses, oil and grease, heavy metals, organics, pesticides, and miscellaneous waste. These pollutants could originate from soil disturbances, construction equipment, building materials, and workers. Erosion potential and water quality impacts are always present during construction and occur when protective vegetative cover is removed, and soils are disturbed. In the case of the proposed Project, it is primarily grading, and the cut and fill associated with facility improvements.

The SWRCB is responsible for implementing the Clean Water Act and has issued a statewide General Permit (Water Quality Order 2009-0009-DWQ) for construction activities. In the Project area, the Construction General Permit is implemented and enforced by the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB). Projects resulting in disturbance of one acre, or more are required to obtain coverage under the Construction General Permit. The proposed Project will require coverage under the SWRCB Construction General Permit.

In accordance with the requirements of the Construction General Permit, prior to construction of the proposed project, a risk assessment must be prepared and submitted to the CVRWQCB to determine the project's risk level and associated water quality control requirements. These

requirements will, at a minimum, include the preparation and implementation of a SWPPP identifying specific best management practices (BMPs) to be implemented and maintained on the site in order to comply with the applicable effluent standards.

The Construction General Permit requires construction sites are inspected before and after storm events and every 24 hours during extended storm events. Inspections identify any BMP maintenance requirements and determine the effectiveness of the BMPs.

Other than the potential minor drainage changes and minor additional sources of runoff when compared with pre-project conditions the Project does not include activities that would substantially degrade water quality. Compliance with the various requirements of the SWRCB statewide general permit for construction would ensure that water quality impacts during the construction phase of the proposed project would be less than significant.

b) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** The Project would not involve any new withdrawals from an aquifer or groundwater table and would not interfere with groundwater recharge.

c) ***i-iv Less Than Significant Impact.*** The Grading of the project site and installation of the proposed improvements may result in minor changes in site drainage. The proposed Project does not include activities that will change the course of any stream or river. The statewide General Permit (Water Quality Order 2009-0009-DWQ) for construction activities will require preparation and implementation of a SWPPP identifying specific best management practices (BMPs) to be implemented and maintained through the Project to limit potential erosion. In general, the Project could result in minor additional sources of runoff during construction. However, standard construction erosion control measures, permit conditions, and SWPPP would be implemented as a part of the Project and would limit the potential impact due to construction. There are no aspects of the Project that would contribute to a substantial increase in water runoff from the site. Additionally, the Project would not impede or redirect potential flood flows.

d) ***No Impact.*** The Project is not in an area subject to seiche or tsunami. Project does not propose activities that would increase the possibility of releasing pollutants as a result of flood inundation. The Project generally upgrades an existing wastewater treatment system, and this would not substantially change conditions related to potential inundation related impacts.

e) ***No Impact.*** The proposed project does not include activities that would obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan. As discussed above (4.2.10a) the Project would comply with regulations from the CVRWQCB.

CEQA-Plus Evaluation-Safe Drinking Water Act, Sole Source Aquifer Protection: There are a total of 77 currently designated sole source aquifers in the U.S. Of the 77, a total 9 occur in EPA, Region 9. In California a total of 4 sole source aquifers have been designated (EPA 2019):

- Santa Margarita Aquifer, Scotts Valley (Santa Cruz County)
- Fresno County Aquifer - Recharge Area & Streamflow Source Zone (Fresno, Madera, and Tulare County's)
- Campo/Cottonwood Creek (San Diego County)
- Ocotillo-Coyote Wells Aquifer (San Diego and Imperial County's)

The Project, located in Calaveras County is not located in an area designated by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9, as a Sole Source Aquifer.

4.2.11 Land Use and Planning

Would the project:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Potential Environmental Effects

a) ***No Impact.*** The Project proposes improvements to the existing water treatment system and would not result in physically dividing an established community.

b) ***No Impact.*** The proposed Project is consistent with the Calaveras County General Plan and there would be no conflict with land use plans or policies designed to mitigate environmental impacts.

CEQA-Plus Evaluation-Coastal Barriers Resources Act: The Project is located in Calaveras County, California. The Coastal Barrier Resources System the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) of 1982 which designated relatively undeveloped coastal barriers along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts as part of the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS) and made these areas ineligible for most new Federal expenditures and financial assistance. The Project will not impact or be located within or near the Coastal Barrier Resources System or its adjacent wetlands, marshes, estuaries, inlets, and near-shore waters.

CEQA-Plus Evaluation-Coastal Zone Management Act: The project is not within the coastal zone.

4.2.12 Mineral Resources

Would the project:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Potential Environmental Effects

a) ***No Impact.*** The Project occurs within the community of Mokelumne Hill and upgrades an existing wastewater system. The Project would not exploit any mineral resource, nor would it result in an action that would decrease access to important minerals.

b) ***No Impact.*** See response to item a.

4.2.13 Noise

Would the project:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less Than Significant with*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*

		Mitigation Incorporated		
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Generation of excessive ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) For a project located within -the vicinity of a private airstrip or-an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Potential Environmental Effects

a) ***(Construction Noise) Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated.*** Construction activities could increase noise levels temporarily in the vicinity of the Project. Actual noise levels would depend on the type of construction equipment involved, distance to the source of the noise, time of day, and similar factors. These increases would be temporary and last the length of Project construction (approximately six months). A portion of the Project is in close proximity to an elementary school. Section 9.02.060, Chapter 9.02 (Noise Control) of the Calaveras County Code exempts several activities from the requirements of the Noise Control Chapter (Ordinance No. 3013 § III, 9-25-2012). Per Section 9.02.060.D "*Sound from construction activity, provided that all construction in or adjacent to residential areas shall be limited to the daytime hours between seven a.m. and six p.m., unless otherwise subject to conditions in a valid discretionary land use permit that addresses construction noise associated with the project." Project impacts would be reduced to less than significant with the incorporation of NOISE-1.*

Mitigation Measure NOISE-1

The Project plans and specifications will include provisions requiring the contractor to make every reasonable effort to minimize construction noise through implementation of measures including:

- *Project construction activities would occur during the daytime hours (typically 7 AM to 6 PM Monday through Saturday).*
- *Local residents will be given advanced notice of project construction schedules and will be notified that there will be temporary increases in local noise levels during project construction at the nearest residences to the construction activities.*
- *To the extent feasible, separation between construction staging areas and the nearest residences and school should be maximized.*
- *All internal combustion engines used for construction shall be fitted with mufflers.*
- *Generators and compressors required during project construction should be located as far as possible from existing residents and, if necessary, shielded from view of those residences by portable noise barriers.*

(Operational Related Noise) Less Than Significant Impact. The post project noise levels in the Project vicinity will be virtually unchanged from the pre-project condition.

b) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** Project construction includes activities, such as the limited operation of large pieces of equipment (e.g., heavy trucks) which may result in the periodic, temporary generation of ground-borne vibration. The Project does not introduce new sources of ground-borne vibration. Given the nature of any potential ground-borne vibration and given that any impacts would be temporary and periodic, impacts are less than significant.

c) ***No Impact.*** The Project is not located within an airport land use plan area or within two miles of a public or public use airport.

4.2.14 Population and Housing

Would the project:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Potential Environmental Effects

a) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** The purpose of the Project is to provide a safer, more efficient system for the MHSD in protecting the adjacent environmentally sensitive Mokelumne River Watershed and significantly reduce operational costs. The Project will replace aged and undersized sewer mains ensuring that the District's domestic wastewater is safely conveyed to the WWTP. There is a possibility that Project construction could temporally increase the number of people in Calaveras County. Although it is also likely that most workers will live in the region. The Project will not induce substantial population growth.

b) ***No Impact.*** The Project does not include any activities that would result in the displacement of housing or people.

CEQA-Plus Evaluation- Environmental Justice: Adverse environmental effects to minority, low-income, or indigenous populations, tribes or communities are often associated with siting or continued operations involving the use, manufacture, storage, or disposal of hazardous materials. Another frequent cause of adverse environmental effects to minority, low-income, or indigenous populations, tribes, or communities is the development of environmentally beneficial projects that impose aesthetic or use limitation burdens upon these communities. The proposed project does not involve any of the above issues. The purpose of the Project is the improvement of an existing sewer and wastewater system with the goals of improved compliance with water quality standards, improved safety, and simplified operation and maintenance. The proposed project is not likely to be of particular interest to or have particular impact upon minority, low-income, or indigenous populations, or tribes.

4.2.15 Public Services

Would the project:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less Than Significant with*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*

		Mitigation Incorporated		
a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:	☐	☐	☐	☒
Fire protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Police protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Parks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Potential Environmental Effects

a) ***No Impact.*** Fire services in the Project area are provided by the Mokelumne Hill Fire Protection District. The CALFIRE Calaveras-Tuolumne Unit is located about 10 miles away in San Andreas. Police Protection is provided by the Calaveras County Sherriff (located in San Andreas). Calaveras Unified School District serves the community (and the Project area). The County does not have a separate Parks department, although Mokelumne Hill does have some local recreation resources shown in Section 4.2.16.

The Project makes improvements to a public wastewater treatment system and the potential environmental impacts of those improvements are evaluated in this document. The Project would not substantially increase population as to increase demand on public services. No other new or physically altered existing public facilities would be needed.

4.2.16 Recreation

	Potentially Significant Impact	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Does the project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Potential Environmental Effects

a) ***No Impact.*** The County does not have a parks and/or recreation department. The County General Plan notes that are four local parks in Mokelumne Hill. Local parks in Calaveras County are often maintained by local community organizations. The four parks in the community include C.B. Hobbs Field, the Horse Arena, Barry's Tennis Courts, and Shutter Tree Park. The project is the

upgrade of an existing wastewater treatment system. The Project would not result in a substantial increase in population and subsequent use of existing parks.

b) ***No Impact.*** The Project does not include the construction of recreational facilities.

4.2.17 Transportation

Would the project:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Potential Environmental Effects

a) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** The Project upgrades an existing water treatment and sewage collection system and would not change the amount of traffic on local roads because it is not a new development or growth inducing project. The Project would temporarily increase the number of vehicles on local roads during construction. However, the Project does not include activities that would conflict with adopted policies, plans, or programs supporting transportation.

b) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** The purpose of the Project is to update an existing wastewater treatment system. The Project does not increase the capacity of local roads and is not anticipated to increase operational related vehicle miles travels (VMT). A temporary minor increase in VMT could occur during Project construction as the result of worker trips to the site, materials delivery, and material hauling. Any increase in VMT would be temporary. The completed Project would not result in an increase in VMT.

c) ***No Impact.*** The Project does not include features that introduce or exacerbate any transportation of traffic hazards due to a design feature. The Project would not result in any changes to area roads or intersections.

d) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** The Project does not include features that would result in inadequate emergency access. Project construction activities would be coordinated with local law enforcement and emergency services providers as applicable.

4.2.18 Tribal Cultural Resources

	Potentially Significant Impact	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in				

terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
i. Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or	☐	☒	☐	☐
ii. A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	☐	☒	☐	☐

Potential Environmental Effects

a) ***Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated*** (***applies to items i and ii).*** As discussed in Section 4.2.5, the applicant reached out to nine concerned Native American individuals and groups; two (The Calaveras Band of Mi-Wuk Indians and the California Valley Miwok Tribe, AKA Sheep Ranch Rancheria of Miwok Indians) responded but there were no resources identified by either group. No documentation regarding tribal cultural resources was identified or received that would facilitate an eligibility determination pursuant to PRC Section 21074, 5020.1(k) or 5024.1. Regardless, the presence of documented prehistoric-era resources in the general vicinity of the Project area suggests there is a potential for presently unrecorded resources to be encountered during ground-disturbing activities associated with Project construction. Implementation of mitigation measures CULT-2 and CULT-3 will reduce these potential impacts to less than significant.

4.2.19 Utilities/ Service Systems

Would the project:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new water or expanded waste water treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Result in a determination by the waste water treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Potential Environmental Effects

a) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** The proposed Project involves an upgrade of the existing wastewater system. This initial study evaluates the potential impacts resulting from the Project. No other relocation or construction of new water or expanded wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities are contemplated or included as part of the Project.

b) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** Domestic water supply is provided by the Calaveras Public Utility District (CPUD) within the Project area; the CPUD's Water Master Plan (2008) states that the exiting water supply is adequate for the service area. Further, the plan notes that supply is adequate through 2079 assuming a 2% annual rate of growth in demand. The Project would not result in an increase in domestic water consumption rather the Project upgrades the existing sewer and wastewater treatment system in Mokelumne Hill.

c) ***No Impact.*** The Project does not include activities that generate or affect wastewater treatment providers or facilities. The Project would not result in an increased generation of wastewater as the system upgrade is designed to continue serving the current residents in the service area.

d) ***Less Than Significant Impact.*** Solid waste generated by the Project would be limited to construction debris. Solid waste disposal would occur in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations that encourage recycling and re-use of solid waste, as appropriate. Disposal would occur at permitted landfills. The Project would not generate the need for the construction of new solid waste facilities.

e) ***No Impact.*** The Project would conform to all applicable state and federal solid waste regulations.

4.2.20 Wildfire

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Environmental Setting

In accordance with California Public Resource Code Section 4201-4204 and Government Code Section 51175-51189, the CALFIRE (2007) has mapped areas of significant fire hazards based on fuels, terrain, weather, and other relevant factors. These zones, referred to as Fire Hazard Severity Zones (FHSZ), represent the risks associated with wildland fires.

In California, responsibility for wildfire prevention and suppression is shared by federal, state, and local agencies. Federal agencies are responsible for federal lands in Federal Responsibility Areas (FRA). The State of California has determined that non-federal lands in unincorporated areas with watershed value are of Statewide interest and have classified those lands as State Responsibility Areas (SRA), which are

managed by CALFIRE. All incorporated areas and other unincorporated lands are classified as Local Responsibility Areas (LRA). The Project is located in a 'very high' Fire Hazard Severity Zone per the 2007 CALFIRE Fire Hazard Severity Zones State Responsibility Area (SRA) map. Under State regulations, areas within very high fire hazard risk zones must comply with specific building and vegetation management requirements intended to reduce property damage and loss of life within these areas.

Potential Environmental Effects

a) ***Less than Significant.*** The Project is being implemented to upgrade an existing wastewater treatment and sewer system. The completion of the system will not result in an impairment of an emergency evacuation plan. If there are any temporary road closures made during construction, MHSD will work with local emergency services to ensure evacuation due to potential wildfire is not impeded. Impacts are considered less than significant.

b) ***Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated.*** Wildfire risk is dependent upon existing environmental conditions, including but not limited to the amount of vegetation present, topography, and climate. Climate in the area is generally warm and temperate, with the winters being wetter than the summers. CAL FIRE has designated the Project area as a Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zone. Human activities are the primary reason wildfires start. Project construction would involve the use of heavy equipment, welding, and other activities that have potential to ignite fires. A wildland fire caused by Project construction activities could result in a significant impact. Implementation of Mitigation Measure WILD-1 would reduce this potential impact to less-than-significant.

Mitigation Measure WILD-1:

The contractor will prepare a Fire Protection Plan before construction begins in areas with moderate to high fire hazards to be reviewed by the District. The Fire Protection Plan will include the following measures.

a. Internal combustion engines, stationary and mobile, will be equipped with spark arresters. Spark arresters shall be in good working order.
b. Contractor will keep all construction sites and staging areas free of grass, brush, and other flammable materials.
c. Personnel will be trained in the practices of the fire safety plan relevant to their duties. Construction and maintenance personnel shall be trained and equipped to extinguish small fires.
d. Work crews shall have fire-extinguishing equipment on hand, as well as emergency numbers and cell phone or other means of contacting the Fire Department.
e. Smoking will be prohibited while operating equipment and shall be limited to paved or graveled areas or areas cleared of all vegetation. Smoking will be prohibited within 30 feet of any combustible material storage area (including fuels, gases, and solvents). Smoking will be prohibited in any location during a Red Flag Warning issued by the National Weather Service for the Project area (Red-Flag Warning" is a term used by fire-weather forecasters to call attention to limited weather conditions of particular importance that may result in extreme burning conditions.

c) ***Less than Significant.*** The Project upgrades the existing sewer and wastewater treatment systems. The Project does not include any other infrastructure. Maintenance of the upgraded systems would not involve any activities that do not currently occur at the existing facilities. Project impacts are less than significant.

d) ***Less than Significant.*** The Project will generally maintain similar conditions pre- and post-Project as related to slope and drainage changes. The Project is an upgrade of the current wastewater system. As such, the Project does not include activities that would expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes.

4.2.21 Mandatory Findings of Significance

I. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE (To be filled out by Lead Agency if required)	*Potentially Significant Impact*	*Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated*	*Less Than Significant Impact*	*No Impact*
a) Does the project 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) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☒	☐

a) ***Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated.*** Through the use of compliance with existing regulations, the implementation of Best Management Practices, and incorporation of mitigation measures noted previously, the Project will not significantly 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) ***Less than Significant.*** The Project is consistent with the General Plan and would not result in individually limited but collectively significant impacts. Therefore, the project would not cause any additional environmental effects or significantly contribute to a cumulative impact.

c) ***Less than Significant.*** The Project would not result in substantial direct or indirect adverse effects from noise, either during project construction or operation, nor would it result in significant impacts to air quality, water quality or utilities and public services. Therefore, the Project would not cause substantial adverse effects on human beings.

5. Initial Study Findings (Determination)

5.1 Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

This Initial Study has determined that in the absence of mitigation the proposed Project could have the potential to result in significant impacts associated with the factors checked below. Mitigation measures are identified in this Initial Study that would reduce all potentially significant impacts to less-than-significant levels.

___	Aesthetics	___	Mineral Resources
___	Agricultural Resources	✓	Noise
___	Air Quality	___	Population and Housing
✓	Biological Resources	___	Public Services
✓	Cultural Resources	___	Recreation
___	Energy	___	Transportation
✓	Geology and Soils	✓	Tribal Cultural Resources
___	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	___	Utilities and Service Systems
✓	Hazards and Hazardous Materials	✓	Wildfire
___	Hydrology and Water Quality	✓	Mandatory Findings of Significance
___	Land Use and Planning		

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

☐ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☒ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because the project-specific mitigation measures described in Section III have been added to the project. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

☐ I find that the Project MAY have a "Potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

☐ I find that although the Project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Name and Title: _____

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6. Supporting Information Sources

6.1 Report Preparation

Mokelumne Hill Sanitary District (MHSD), CEQA Lead Agency

Phil McCartney	President of MHSD Board

Weber, Ghio & Associates Civil Engineering Consultant

Frank Whitmore, PE	Senior Civil Engineer

SWCA Environmental Consultants

Jeffery Little	Director, Sacramento
Bill Spain	

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Appendix A: Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan

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Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan
for the
Mokelumne Hill Sanitary District Wastewater System Improvements Project

CEQA Lead Agency:
Mokelumne Hill Sanitary District

Prepared: April 2022

Adopted by Board of Directors on: _____

Introduction

The Mokelumne Hill Sanitary District is in the process of obtaining a SWRCB CWSRF grant to replace the wastewater system and associated facilities. The proposed improvements will consist of: (1) eliminating two sanitary sewer lift stations and replacing with an 8" diameter open-cut trench gravity main system; (2) lining the two existing treatment plant lagoons with approximately 30,000 SF of synthetic material and a reinforced concrete cap; (3) replacing approximately 1,270 LF of 4" and 6" diameter sewer main (open cut trench) at Easy Bird Road, Garden Lane and Maretta Lane; (4) constructing a new office and lab facility (approximately 768 SF); and (5) installing a fully automated sanitary sewer spray field system.

As described in the IS/MND, the Project itself incorporates a number of measures to minimize adverse effects on the environment. The IS/MND also identified several mitigation measures that are required to reduce potentially significant impacts to levels that are less than significant. This Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP) describes a program for ensuring that these mitigation measures are implemented in conjunction with the Project. Mokelumne Hill Sanitary District, as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), is responsible for overseeing the implementation and administration of this MMRP. The Mokelumne Hill Sanitary District will designate a staff member to manage the MMRP. Duties of the staff member responsible for program coordination will include conducting routine inspections and reporting activities, coordinating with the Project construction contractor, coordinating with regulatory agencies, and ensuring enforcement measures are taken.

Regulatory Framework

California Public Resources Code Section 21081.6 and California Code of Regulations Title 14, Chapter 3, Section 15097 require public agencies to adopt mitigation monitoring or reporting plans when they approve projects under an MND. The reporting and monitoring plans must be adopted when a public agency makes its findings pursuant to CEQA so that the mitigation requirements can be made conditions of Project approval.

Format of This Plan

Mitigation measures are followed by an implementation description, the criteria used to determine the effectiveness of the mitigation, the timeframe for implementation, and the party responsible for monitoring the implementation of the measure. Implementation of mitigation measures is ultimately the responsibility of the District; during construction, the delegated responsibility is shared by the District's contractors.

Environmental Factor	Mitigation Measure #	Environmental Protection Measures	Method of Verification	Timing of Verification	Responsible Party for Verification	Verification of Completion	
						Date	Initial
Biological Resources	BIO-1	Prior to the start of project construction, a focused botanical survey will be conducted for big-scale balsamroot, Stanislaus monkeyflower, Parry's horkelia, and prairie wedge grass during the evident and identifiable blooming period in suitable habitat in the BSA. If big-scale balsamroot, Stanislaus monkeyflower, Parry's horkelia, or prairie wedge grass are not observed, no further action is needed. If big-scale balsamroot, Stanislaus monkeyflower, Parry's horkelia, or prairie wedge grass is identified, they will be included in an ESA. The ESA non-disturbance buffer will be determined by a qualified botanist. The plant(s) will be clearly delineated using high visibility orange fencing. The ESA fencing will remain in place throughout the duration of the proposed action, while construction activities are ongoing, and will be regularly inspected and fully maintained at all times. The ESA fencing will be installed to exclude construction activities from avoided habitat. The fencing will be stalled prior to initial clearing of vegetation. Vehicles will not be allowed to park in, nor will equipment be stored in the ESA. No storage of oil, gasoline, or other substances will be permitted in the ESA. No vegetation removal or ground disturbing activities will be permitted in the ESA. If rare plant populations cannot be protected in place, the District will prepare a transplantation/ propagation plan for the relocation of the rare plant(s). Rare plant relocation will occur in the project area. The transplantation/ propagation plan will be sent to CDFW.	Biological Survey to be completed	Prior to Construction	MHSD		
	BIO-2	A qualified biologist shall conduct a preconstruction survey for WPT within 48 hours prior to the onset of vegetation removal or ground disturbance at the Lagoons Office-Lab Sprayfield area in the BSA. If WPT are found, construction activities with potential to harm the individual(s) will stop and a qualified biologist will be notified. Construction will resume when the biologist has either relocated the WPT out of the construction zone to nearby suitable habitat, or, after thorough inspection, determined that the WPT has moved away from the construction zone. Environmental awareness training will be conducted by a qualified biologist prior to the onset of project work for construction personnel to brief them on how to recognize WPT. Construction personnel will be informed that if a WPT is encountered in the work area, construction should stop and a qualified biologist be notified. Education	Biologist and Contractor staff to complete	Prior and During Construction	Contractor reporting to District		

Environmental Factor	Mitigation Measure #	Environmental Protection Measures	Method of Verification	Timing of Verification	Responsible Party for Verification	Verification of Completion	
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		programs will be conducted for appropriate new personnel as they are brought on the job during the construction period. Upon completion of training, employees will sign a form stating that they attended the training and understand all the conservation and protection measures.					
	BIO-3	A qualified biologist shall conduct a preconstruction survey for CRLF within 48 hours prior to the onset of vegetation removal at the Lagoons Office-Lab Sprayfield area in the BSA. If any CRLF are found, construction activities will stop and the USFWS will be contacted immediately for further guidance. Environmental awareness training will be conducted by a qualified biologist prior to the onset of project work for construction personnel to brief them on how to recognize CRLF, the importance of avoiding impacts to this species, and what to do if they are found. Education programs will be conducted for appropriate new personnel as they are brought on the job during the construction period. Upon completion of training, employees will sign a form stating that they attended the training and understand all the conservation and protection measures.	Biologist and Contractor staff to complete	Prior and During Construction	Contractor reporting to District		
	BIO-4	Under the MBTA, nests that contain eggs or unfledged young are not to be disturbed during the breeding season. Nesting or attempted nesting by migratory birds and birds-of-prey is anticipated from 15 February to 1 September. The following avoidance and minimization measures will be implemented: **Birds of Prey and Birds Protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act** • If construction begins outside the 15 February to 1 September breeding season, there will be no need to conduct a preconstruction survey for active nests. • If applicable, trees scheduled for removal should be removed during the non-breeding season from 2 September to 14 February. • If construction is scheduled to begin between 15 February and 1 September, a biologist shall conduct a survey for active bird of prey nests within 500 ft and active MTBA bird nests within 100 ft of the Project area from publicly accessible areas within one week	Biological survey, if needed	During Construction	MHSD		

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		prior to construction. The measures listed below shall be implemented based on the survey results. No Active Nests Found: • If no active nest of a bird of prey, MBTA bird, or other CDFW protected bird is found, then no further avoidance and minimization measures are necessary. Active Nests Found: • If an active nest of a bird of prey, MBTA bird, or other CDFW protected bird is discovered that may be adversely affected by construction activities or an injured or killed bird is found, immediately: o Stop all work within a 100-ft radius of the discovery o Notify the Engineer o Do not resume work within the specified radius of the discovery until authorized. • The biologist shall establish a minimum 500-ft Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA) around the nest if the nest is of a bird of prey, and a minimum 100-ft ESA around the nest if the nest is of an MBTA bird other than a bird of prey. Bird Species Protection Areas Bird of Prey: 500 ft no-disturbance buffer MBTA protected bird (not bird of prey): 100 ft no-disturbance buffer Activity in the ESA will be restricted as follows: • Do not enter the ESA unless authorized o If the ESA is breached, immediately: o Secure the area and stop all operations within 60 ft of the ESA boundary o Notify the Engineer • If the ESA is damaged, the District determines what efforts are necessary to remedy the damage and who performs the remedy. No construction activity will be allowed in the ESA until the biologist determines that the nest is no longer active, or					

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		unless monitoring determines that a smaller ESA will protect the active nest. The size of an ESA may be reduced if the biologist monitors the construction activities and determines that no disturbance to the active nest is occurring. Reduction of ESA size depends on the species of bird, the location of the nest relative to the project, project activities during the time the nest is active, and other project-specific factors. Between 15 February and 1 September, if additional trees or shrubs need to be trimmed and/or removed after construction has started, a survey will be conducted for active nests in the area to be affected. If an active nest is found, the above measures will be implemented. If an active nest is identified in or adjacent to the construction zone after construction has started, the above measures will be implemented to ensure construction is not causing disturbance to the nest.					
	Bio-5	Once project design is finalized, the MHSD will obtain the appropriate Clean Water Act Section 404 permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Section 401 Water Quality Certification from the State Water Resources Control Board, and a Streambed Alteration Agreement from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) if necessary. Compensatory Mitigation**:** The MHSD will mitigate at a minimum 1:1 ratio for impacts to wetlands and waters of the State in accordance with the State of California's no-net-loss of wetlands policy and minimum mitigation ratio for impacts to wetlands and waters of the State. The MHSD will comply with any compensatory mitigation requirement of a Clean Water Act Section 404 permit, Section 401 Water Quality Certification or CDFW Streambed Alteration Agreement.	MHSD obtains permit from Corps, Waterboard, and CDFW	After Project Design	MHSD		
Cultural Resources	CULT-1	The applicant will include the following to mitigate potential impacts to historic resources: A temporary barrier should be erected along the eastern edge of the pipeline/road embankment to prevent both accidental spillage of material from the pipeline/road onto the adjacent site of Chinatown Gardens, as well as to reduce visitation. This may consist of plastic construction fencing providing a clear boundary for vehicles, excavated	Construction Inspection	During contraction	MHSD		

Environmental Factor	Mitigation Measure #	Environmental Protection Measures	Method of Verification	Timing of Verification	Responsible Party for Verification	Verification of Completion	
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		soils, construction materials, and personnel. Two openings in this barrier will allow public access to public trails that lead down from the pipeline/road. This barrier should remain in place during all Project construction activities along this route. No earth removal or grading should take place on the western (uphill) embankment bordering the pipeline/road. At the Project's completion, the road/pipeline surface will be left free of debris and leveled and packed for pedestrian and emergency vehicle access. A permanent access gate will be installed at West Center Street permitting passage by pedestrians, strollers, and wheelchairs. A Qualified Archaeologist (meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Standards) will be engaged to periodically monitor site conditions. If infractions to these protective measures occur, or any other unanticipated damage is done to the Chinatown Garden site during Project construction, work will be suspended until the issue is remedied.					
	CULT-2	MHSD shall retain a qualified archaeologist to be present during initial ground disturbing activities to ensure that there are no prehistoric archaeological resources present within the vertical APE. These activities would include excavation of the existing concrete abutments, headwalls, and associated footings from the creek. If archaeological materials are encountered during construction activities, construction crews shall stop all work within 100 feet of the discovery until a qualified archaeologist can assess the discovery and provide recommendations. Such treatment and resolution could include modifying the Project to allow the materials to be left in place, or undertaking data recovery of the materials in accordance with standard archaeological methods. The preferred treatment of the resource is protection and preservation. Resources could include buried historic features, such as artifact-filled privies, wells, and refuse pits, and artifact deposits, along with concentrations of adobe, stone, or concrete walls or foundations, and concentrations of ceramic, glass, or metal materials. Native American archaeological materials could include obsidian and chert flaked stone tools (such as projectile points and knives), midden (darken soil created culturally from use and containing heat-affected rock, artifacts, animal bones, or shellfish remains), and/or groundstone implements (such as mortars and pestles). Project personnel shall not collect cultural materials.	Cultural resource specialist conducts survey	Prior to and during construction	MHSD		

Environmental Factor	Mitigation Measure #	Environmental Protection Measures	Method of Verification	Timing of Verification	Responsible Party for Verification	Verification of Completion	
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	CULT-3	If human remains are encountered as a result of construction activities, any work in the vicinity shall stop and the Calaveras County Coroner shall be contacted immediately. In addition, a qualified archaeologist shall be contacted immediately to evaluate the discovery, if a monitor is not already present. If the human remains are Native American in origin, then the Coroner shall notify the Native American Heritage Commission within 24 hours of this identification, pursuant to Public Resources Code 5097.98. California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that it is a misdemeanor to knowingly disturb a human grave.	County Coroner makes determination.	During construction	MHSD		
Geology and Soils	GEO-1	If paleontological resources (e.g., vertebrate bones, teeth, or abundant and well-preserved invertebrates or plants) are encountered during construction, the applicant will ensure work in the immediate vicinity shall be diverted away from the find until a professional paleontologist assesses and salvage the find, if necessary.	Paleontologist conducts survey	During construction	MHSD		
Noise	NOI-1	The Project plans and specifications will include provisions requiring the contractor to make every reasonable effort to minimize construction noise through implementation of measures including: • *Project construction activities would occur during the daytime hours (typically 7 AM to 6 PM Monday through Saturday).* • *Local residents will be given advanced notice of project construction schedules, and will be notified that there will be temporary increases in local noise levels during project construction at the nearest residences to the construction activities.* • *To the extent feasible, separation between construction staging areas and the nearest residences and school should be maximized.* • *All internal combustion engines used for construction shall be fitted with mufflers.* • *Generators and compressors required during project construction should be located as far as possible from existing residents and, if necessary, shielded from view of those residences by portable noise barriers.*	Contractor is required to meet noise measures as listed.	During construction	MHSD		
Wildfire	WILD-1	The contractor will prepare a Fire Protection Plan before construction begins in areas with moderate to high fire hazards to be reviewed by the District. The Fire Protection Plan will include the following measures.	Contractor is required to meet noise measures as listed.	During construction	MHSD		

Environmental Factor	Mitigation Measure #	Environmental Protection Measures	Method of Verification	Timing of Verification	Responsible Party for Verification	Verification of Completion	
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		• Internal combustion engines, stationary and mobile, will be equipped with spark arresters. Spark arresters shall be in good working order. • Contractor will keep all construction sites and staging areas free of grass, brush, and other flammable materials. • Personnel will be trained in the practices of the fire safety plan relevant to their duties. Construction and maintenance personnel shall be trained and equipped to extinguish small fires. • Work crews shall have fire-extinguishing equipment on hand, as well as emergency numbers and cell phone or other means of contacting the Fire Department. • Smoking will be prohibited while operating equipment and shall be limited to paved or graveled areas or areas cleared of all vegetation. Smoking will be prohibited within 30 feet of any combustible material storage area (including fuels, gases, and solvents). Smoking will be prohibited in any location during a Red Flag Warning issued by the National Weather Service for the Project area (Red-Flag Warning" is a term used by fire-weather forecasters to call attention to limited weather conditions of particular importance that may result in extreme burning conditions.					