CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT
INITIAL STUDY

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has completed the following document for this project in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) [Pub. Resources Code, div. 13, § 21000 et seq] and accompanying Guidelines [Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15000 et seq].

PROJECT INFORMATION

PROJECT TITLE: Argonaut Mine Tailings Feasibility Study/Remedial Action Plan		SITE CODING: 100347
PROJECT ADDRESS: Argonaut Drive and Sutter Street	CITY: Jackson	COUNTY: Amador
PROJECT SPONSOR: Department of Toxic Substances Control	CONTACT: Andrew Reimanis	PHONE: (916) 255-4976
APPROVAL ACTION UNDER CONSIDERATION BY DTSC: Feasibility Study/Remedial Action Plan		
STATUTORY AUTHORITY: California H&SC, Chap. 6.8		

DTSC PROGRAM/ADDRESS: Site Mitigation and Restoration Program 8800 Cal Center Drive Sacramento, California 95826	CONTACT: Andrew Reimanis Project Manager andrew.reamanis@dtsc.ca.gov	PHONE: (916) 255-4976

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) is in the process of approving the Argonaut Mine Tailings Site Feasibility Study/Remedial Action Plan (FS/RAP) for stormwater management immediately downstream of the Argonaut Dam (proposed project site) located in Jackson, California. The Proposed Project Site is located in the City of Jackson at the intersection of Argonaut Drive and Sutter Street (refer to Figure 1 and Figure 2).

The Project would convey stormwater to Jackson Creek following the retrofit design of the Eastwood Concrete Multiple Arch (CMA) Dam located on the Argonaut Mine Site in Jackson, California. The Concrete Multiple Arch Dam, also known as the Argonaut Dam, was built in 1916 and stands 46 feet in height and spans over 400 feet in length. Argonaut Dam was constructed as part of a historical gold mining operation and has impounded arsenic-contaminated mine tailings as a result of sediment runoff from more than 50 acres of private land in the city of Jackson. The project aims to provide conveyance of stormwater to Jackson Creek.

Activities associated with the Feasibility Study/Remedial Action Plan would occur over an approximately 3-month period.

BACKGROUND:

Several inspections and investigations of Argonaut Dam have been conducted recently. In 2013, the visual deterioration observed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the California Department of Toxics Substance Control (DTSC) led to structural and geotechnical assessments performed by the U.S. Army Corps Engineers (USACE). USACE documented that Argonaut Dam was structurally deficient as well as identified the potential of mine tailings inundating the downstream city of Jackson.

In response to the identified concerns from the assessment reports, DTSC undertook a retrofit design for Argonaut Dam. The retrofit design aims to ameliorate deficiencies identified by USACE assessments and addresses flood water management at the Argonaut Mine Site. The design includes constructing a downstream stabilizing composite embankment for Argonaut Dam and constructing a stormwater system. The stormwater system consists of a retention berm upstream of the Argonaut Dam and a new diversion structure conveying stormwater around the left abutment of the dam into the 36-inch conduit beneath Argonaut Drive. Construction of the retention berm and diversion structure were completed in November 2018.

Stormwater runoff is currently conveyed to a drain structure through a grated inlet located on the left abutment of Argonaut Dam via an entrance channel. Stormwater is then conveyed through a system of pipes and structures under Argonaut

Drive and finally discharged into an existing open drainage channel on the east side of Argonaut Drive. Currently, stormwater discharges into Jackson Creek at a 10-foot by 10-foot box culvert via a 36-inch storm drainpipe.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES:

The proposed Project would involve conveying stormwater from the Argonaut Dam that is currently discharged into an existing open drainage channel on the east side of Argonaut Drive. The proposed stormwater infrastructure upgrades would expand the capacity of the downstream stormwater drainage system to reduce or prevent potential stormwater flood risks. The proposed project consists of improving the downstream drainage system to handle 140 cubic feet per second (cfs) runoff in 100-year storm events. New stormwater infrastructure would be built to channelize runoff into an existing stormwater drain under Highway 49/88, which ultimately conveys stormwater to Jackson Creek. A significant portion of the downstream infrastructure would be replaced with larger pipes, culvert inlets, new manholes, and additional drainage inlets (refer to Figure 2). Portions of the existing stormwater infrastructure (i.e., section under Argonaut Drive, pipe under Sutter Street, section that directs flows into Jackson Creek) would remain intact. Overall, the proposed improvements are intended to address and improve stormwater conveyance in the City of Jackson.

Specific improvements to be implemented to the existing drainage system include:

- Replace inlet structure to provide additional capacity near Vogan Toll Road and Sutter Street (existing open channel terminates at a 27-inch culvert);
- Construct a 36-inch pipeline, which will be trenched under Sutter Street, to the fifth manhole;
- Construct a 42-inch pipeline, which will be trenched under Sutter Street, from the fifth manhole to the westside of Highway 49/88;
- Extend the 42-inch pipeline underneath Highway 49/88, by using a jack and bore technique to minimize disruption of existing public facilities;
- Extend the 42-inch pipeline to an existing 10 by 10-foot culvert box that discharges into Jackson Creek using open trenching.

Removal of the existing stormwater infrastructure would also be required as part of the proposed project. The existing stormwater infrastructure would be hauled to and consolidated behind the Argonaut Dam at an area designated as Tailings Area 3 which the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has indicated will be a repository for hazardous materials that will ultimately be capped. Solid waste associated with stormwater infrastructure improvements would comprise of approximately 5,150 cubic yards of asphalt/base rock and excavated soil associated with the original stormwater infrastructure that is being replaced. The asphalt/base rock and excavated soil would be transported exclusively to Tailings Area 3 and would not require disposal at any landfill.

The proposed project would use a staging area located northwest of Argonaut Dam (refer to Figure 3). Construction activities would take a total of approximately 3 months.

PUBLIC AGENCIES WHOSE APPROVAL IS REQUIRED:

While DTSC approves the overall remedy for the Site, other public agencies may be involved through permitting or consultation such as the State Water Resources Control Board, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, and City of Jackson.

NATIVE AMERICAN CONSULTATION:

DTSC complied with the 2014 Assembly Bill 52 (AB52). DTSC provided written notification to tribes on the Tribal Consultation List from the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) regarding the Proposed Project on April 13, 2022. The notice included a brief project description, project location, and lead agency's contact information. DTSC received interest from none of the Tribal governments contacted and, therefore, did not consult with any Tribe prior to release of the CEQA document for the Proposed Project. Based on the proposed project site location, history, and absence of cultural resource findings at the proposed project site, as well as the 2022 cultural resources study (refer to Attachment C), it is not likely that historical resources would be identified or impacted during construction activities. However, if historical resources are discovered during construction activities, then work would stop in that area until a qualified archaeologist or appropriately licensed professional can assess the significance of the find and, if necessary, develop appropriate response measures in consultation with DTSC and other agencies and Native American

representatives, as appropriate. Please refer to the Tribal Cultural Resources analysis (Section 18) for additional information.

REFERENCES USED:

Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), 2019. *Argonaut Mine Tailings Site, Feasibility Study/Remedial Action Plan for Stormwater Management*. Prepared by URS. May 2019.

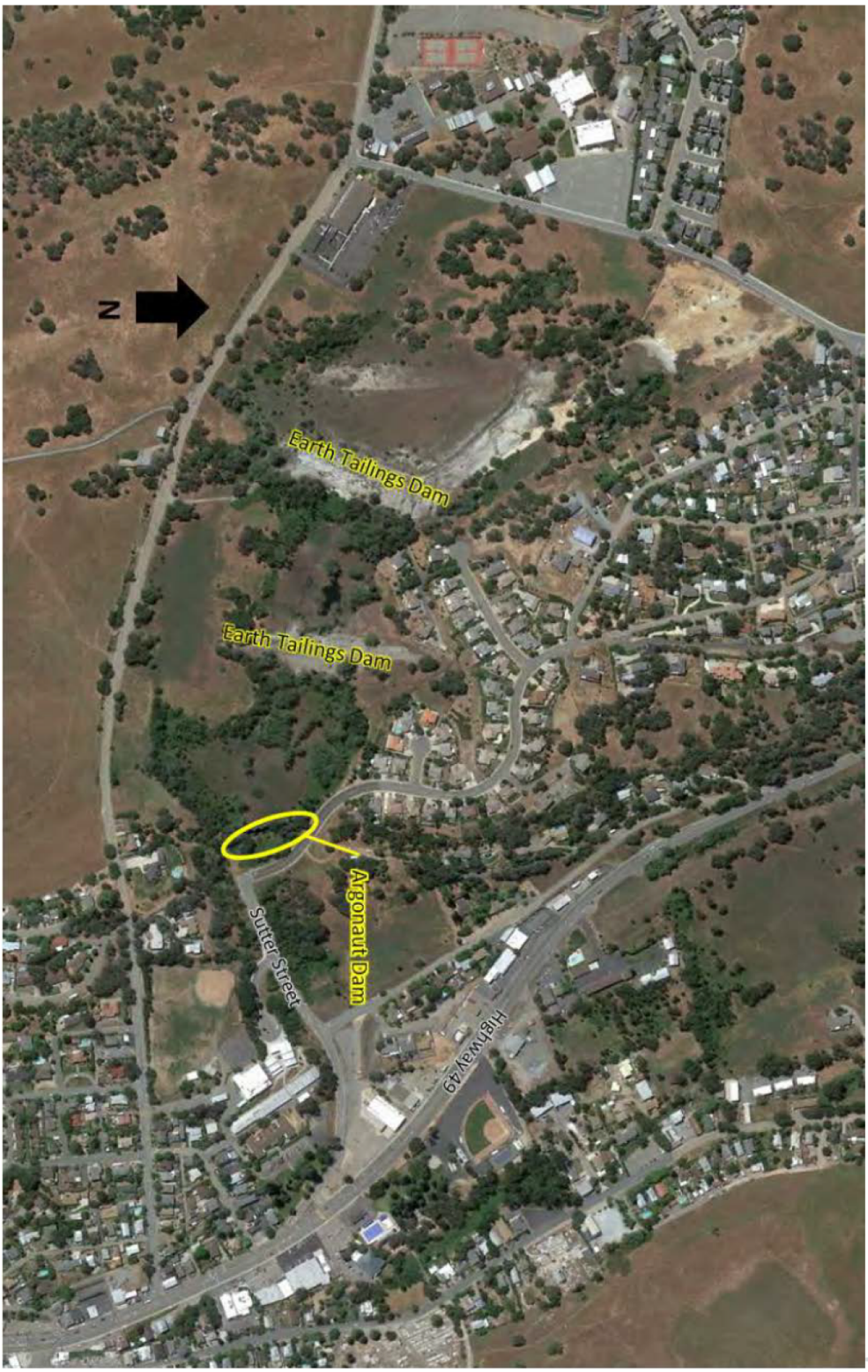

Figure 1
Project Location

Figure 2
Stormwater Infrastructure Improvements

Figure 3
Staging Area

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ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact," as indicated by the checklist beginning on page 11. Please see the checklist beginning on page 11 for additional information.

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

SUMMARY OF MITIGATION

DTSC has determined the following mitigation measure would be required beyond those incorporated as part of the Proposed Project to ensure that impacts would be less than significant. In order to minimize the impact of the project to biological resources, a biological mitigation monitoring plan will be completed and implemented prior to and during construction activities in collaboration with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) (refer to the Biological Resources analysis (Section 4) for further discussion). The following mitigation measure (MM BIO-1) will be implemented:

Prior to any ground disturbing activities:

- Schedule project work, including vegetation removal and ground disturbing activities, to occur outside of the nesting season for migratory birds (February 1 through August 15).
- If removal of trees and vegetation will occur during the nesting season for migratory birds, (February 1 through August 15), a qualified biologist should conduct surveys for nesting raptors and other nesting birds no more than 14 days before the start of vegetation removal. Typically, these nest surveys need to extend 300 feet beyond the boundaries of the project impact area for nesting raptors, and 50 feet for other nesting birds. If active bird nests are detected during the surveys, a non-disturbance protective buffer should be established around the nest (typically 300 feet for raptors, 50 feet for other nesting migratory birds). A smaller buffer may be established in consultation with CDFW if the qualified biologist determines that construction closer to the nest would not adversely affect nesting activities.
- Minimize tree trimming and restrict vegetation removal to areas outside of oak woodland vegetation communities and limit vegetation trimming to smaller (under 6" diameter at breast height [DBH]), shrub-like trees that are not likely to support roosting bats or North American porcupine. If removal of trees larger than 6" DBH cannot be avoided during construction, a qualified biologist experienced with bat species should conduct a survey to search for evidence of bat roosts in trees to be removed. Bat roost surveys will be conducted at least 6 months before proposed tree removal. If evidence of roosting bats is found during the pre-construction survey, the qualified biologist will provide guidance on the appropriate time to conduct tree removal (typically during the fall, September– October 31) and will be present during tree removal to avoid impacts on roosting bats.
- A qualified biologist with experience conducting western pond turtle surveys should conduct two preconstruction surveys for adult western pond turtle one week and within 48 hours before vegetation removal and initial ground-disturbing activities in or adjacent to suitable aquatic habitat. The survey area will include the marsh habitat present in the BSA (Exhibit 3) and grassland and ruderal habitat within 300 feet of the marsh. If a western pond turtle is found during the pre- construction surveys, a biological monitor will be present during construction activities occurring in the marsh or adjacent habitats within 300 feet of the marsh to provide guidance on avoiding impacts to western pond turtles during construction.
- A wetland delineation will be conducted to identify any aquatic features on site that are potentially jurisdictional under Section 404 and 401 of the Clean Water Act or under the jurisdiction of CDFW. If the proposed project will result in impacts on jurisdictional waters of the U.S. or the State, the applicant should secure the

appropriate permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the State Water Resource Control Board and CDFW.

- Before any work occurs in the project footprint, including grading or vegetation removal, a qualified wildlife biologist will provide Worker Environmental Awareness Program training for all construction personnel. The training will include a description of the avoidance and minimization measures that will be implemented during construction to protect sensitive biological resources. If new construction personnel are added to the project, the contractor will provide them with the mandatory training before they start work.

DETERMINATION

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 revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. 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 proposed 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 proposed 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.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the statements furnished above and in the attached documentation, present the data and information required for this initial study evaluation to the best of my ability and that the facts, statements and information presented are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Andrew Reimanis	11/18/2022
Preparer's Signature	Date

Andrew Reimanis	Project Manager	(916) 255-4976
Preparer's Name	Preparer's Title	Phone #

Hortensia Muniz	11/28/2022
Branch Chief Signature	Date

Hortensia Muniz-Ghazi	Branch Chief	(916) 255-6442
Branch Chief Name	Branch Chief Title	Phone #

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except «No Impact» answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A «No Impact» answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A «No Impact» answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).

2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.

3) Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. «Potentially Significant Impact» is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more «Potentially Significant Impact» entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.

4) «Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated» applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from «Potentially Significant Impact» to a «Less Than Significant Impact.» The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less-than-significant level (mitigation measures from «Earlier Analyses,» as described in (5) below, may be cross-referenced).

5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063©(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:

   a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
   b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
   c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that a“e "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporat”d," describe the mitigation measures which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.

6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.

7) Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.

8) This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.

9) The explanation of each issue should identify:

   a) the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
   b) the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

1. AESTHETICS				
Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation**	**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 a 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

REGULATORY SETTING (LAWS, ORDINANCES, REGULATIONS, STANDARDS):

California Scenic Highway Program

The Scenic Highway Program allows county and city governments to apply to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to establish a scenic corridor protection program which was created by the Legislature in 1963. Its purpose is to protect and enhance the natural scenic beauty of California highways and adjacent corridors through special conservation treatment.

City of Jackson General Plan

The City of Jackson General Plan Land Use Element contains policies that establish a Visual Corridor Overlay intended to protect scenic views enjoyed by the public as they enter the City of Jackson from both the north and south of town. However, these policies are not relevant to the proposed project because the Site is located outside of the Visual Corridor Overlay.

In addition, the Open Space & Conservation Element contains a policy to preserve the floodway, riparian, and steep hillside areas. For the purposes of this analysis, scenic resources are classified as floodway, riparian, and steep hillside areas. The portion of the Site located north of Sutter Street would be considered a scenic floodway.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING (BASELINE):

The project site is located within the City of Jackson, in Amador County, California, extending from the intersection of Vogan Toll Road and Sutter Street to the intersection of Sutter Street and Hwy 49. The project site work area (2.95 acres) is approximately 0.2 miles in length and includes the stormwater drainpipe location plus a construction buffer on all sides. Habitat within the project site limits of work is characterized primarily as developed and largely devoid of vegetation.

The areas surrounding the proposed project site include Jackson Junior High School and open spaces with residences beyond to the south across Sutter Street, open spaces and residences beyond to the north, empty commercial building at the northwest corner of the Sutter Street and Highway 49, and Detert Park to the east of Highway 49.

APPLICABLE THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The significance determination in this visual analysis is based on consideration of: (1) the extent of change related to visibility of the proposed project site from key public vantage points; (2) the degree of visual contrast and compatibility in scale and character between project activities and the existing surroundings; (3) conformance of the proposed project with public policies regarding visual and urban design quality; and (4) potential adverse effects on scenic vistas and scenic resources.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PERFORMED AND METHODOLOGY:

No project-specific environmental studies related to aesthetic resources were prepared for the proposed project. However, the methodology employed for assessing potential aesthetic impacts involved considering the existing viewshed and the project activities that have the potential to change the project-area visual character.

IMPACT ANALYSES AND CONCLUSIONS:

Analysis as to whether or not project activities would:

a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

Impact Analysis:

The proposed project would involve constructing improved stormwater infrastructure for the downstream drainage system. The site itself is not considered a scenic vista. No new above ground structures or modifications to existing structures would occur with implementation of the proposed project. Construction of improved stormwater infrastructure for the downstream drainage system would not impact views of the surrounding area.

Conclusion:

Components of the proposed corrective measures and the short-term construction activities would not have the potential to substantially affect the view of any scenic vista. Therefore, there would be no impact.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?

Impact Analysis:

Highway 49 through the city of Jackson is listed on the Caltrans California Scenic Highway Mapping System as “n "Eligible State Scenic Highway", but it has not been officially designated as such. There are no other sections of California State Scenic Highway located within view of the proposed project site. No scenic resources would be damaged within view of a state scenic highway with implementation of the proposed construction of stormwater infrastructure improvements to the downstream drainage system.

Conclusion:

Scenic resources (e.g., trees, rock outcroppings, historic buildings) would not be disturbed or damaged through implementation of proposed stormwater infrastructure improvements. Implementation of the proposed project would not result in any impacts to scenic resources.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

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?

Impact Analysis:

Publicly accessible vantage points of the proposed project site are located along Sutter Street, the southernmost portion of Argonaut Drive, and Highway 49 at its intersection with Sutter Street. Construction of the improved stormwater infrastructure for the downstream drainage system would alter the existing visual character and quality of the site and surrounding area. An existing open drainage channel is located along the northside of Sutter Street and between the existing outlet structure and drop inlet. None of the existing trees or foliage would require removal in order to construct improvements to the downstream drainage system.

The site is considered to be located in an urban area that is regulated by the City of Jackson. There would not be any discernable change in views from Sutter Street and Argonaut Drive of the open drainage channel or the project area after construction of the stormwater infrastructure improvements. Therefore, the completed drainage improvements would not conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations relating to scenic quality.

Conclusion:

The proposed project would comply with zoning requirements and with regulations relating to scenic quality. There would be no discernable visual change to the project area with implementation of the proposed project. Therefore, impacts to the existing visual character of the site would be considered less than significant.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

Impact Analysis:

The proposed project activities would be conducted during daytime hours with the potential for some work to occur after sunset. However, the proposed project would not be anticipated to require any night-shift or swing-shift work. The nearest sensitive receptor (i.e., residences) is located approximately 400 feet north of the proposed project site. Any nighttime lighting used during construction activities would be occasional and limited to a relatively small work area and would not introduce any new temporary or permanent sources of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect daytime or nighttime views in the area.

Conclusion:

Project activities would not require nor introduce a new temporary or permanent source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect views in the project area. Therefore, implementation of the proposed stormwater infrastructure improvements would result in no impact.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

References Used:

California Department of Transportation. 2018. *California State Scenic Highway System Map*. https://caltrans.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=465dfd3d807c46cc8e8057116f1aacaa (Accessed April 6, 2022)

2. AGRICULTURE 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**	**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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

REGULATORY SETTING (LAWS, ORDINANCES, REGULATIONS, STANDARDS):

No laws, ordinances, regulations, or standards protecting agriculture or forestry resources are applicable to the proposed project.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING (BASELINE):

The Proposed Project Site is not located in or near any agricultural or forestry resources. The proposed project site has always been vacant and open space.

APPLICABLE THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The list of agriculture or forestry resource effects that may be considered significant contained in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines (Environmental Checklist) was used to establish a threshold of significance.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PERFORMED AND METHODOLOGY:

Based on the lack of agricultural or forestry resources on or near the proposed project site, no environmental studies relating to agriculture or forestry resources were prepared for the proposed project.

IMPACT ANALYSES AND CONCLUSIONS:

Analysis as to whether or not project activities would:

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?

Impact Analysis:

The closest designated Farmland is approximately 1/3 miles to the southwest from the proposed project site. Project-related activities would remain within the proposed project site boundaries. Therefore, no impact to designated Farmland would occur.

Conclusion:

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?

Impact Analysis:

The proposed project site is designated as Non-Williamson Act Land by the California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection, and CCC Williamson Act FY 2012/2013 map (DLRP, 2013). Therefore, project-related activities would not conflict with any Williamson Act contracts. The proposed project site is zoned for residential high-density, commercial, and limited commercial uses and would not conflict with any existing agricultural zoning. No impact would occur.

Conclusion:

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

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))?

Impact Analysis:

There is no land with existing zoning of forest land or timberland within the proposed project site. Proposed project-related activities would not conflict with existing zoning or cause rezoning of forest land or timberland, as none exists within the proposed project site boundaries. Therefore, there would be no impact to forest land or timberland.

Conclusion:

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

d. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

Impact Analysis:

There are no forests or timberland on or near the proposed project site and the proposed project would not convert any land to forest or timberland. Therefore, there would be no impact.

Conclusion:

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

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?

Impact Analysis:

The proposed project would not conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land, timberland, or agricultural land. Therefore, there would be no impact.

Conclusion:

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

References Used:

California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection (DLRP). 2019. Amador County Important Farmland 2016. https://www.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/fmmp/Pages/Amador.aspx (Accessed October 2019)

City of Jackson. 2009. City of Jackson General Plan Land Use Designations & Zoning. https://ci.jackson.ca.us/PDF/planning_info/GP&Z08240911x17.pdf (Accessed October 2019).

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**	**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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

REGULATORY SETTING (LAWS, ORDINANCES, REGULATIONS, STANDARDS):

The proposed project site is located within the jurisdiction of the Amador Air District (AAD). The role of the AAD is to achieve clean air to protect public health and the environment. The AAD's primary responsibility is to attain and maintain the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and California Ambient Air Quality Standard (CAAQS) in the Mountain Counties Air Basin (MCAB) by regulating air pollution emissions from stationary and industrial sources. These responsibilities are met by adopting and enforcing Rules and Regulations concerning air pollutant sources, issuing permits for stationary sources of air pollutants, and inspecting stationary sources of air pollutants. The AAD does not have any rules or regulations related to the criteria pollutant thresholds generated by the proposed project activities. Therefore, DTSC utilized the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) thresholds of significance for the air quality analysis. The closest air monitoring station to the proposed project site is the Mountain Counties air monitoring station located at 201 Clinton Road in the city of Jackson (approximately 1 mile southeast of the site). The station measures ozone, outdoor temperature, wind-direction resultant, and wind speed-resultant. In this section, air quality is evaluated against numbers set forth in the SJVAPCD thresholds of significance.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING (BASELINE):

Air quality is defined by the concentration of pollutants related to human health. Ambient concentrations of air pollutants are determined by the rate and location of pollutant emissions from pollution sources, and the regional or local atmosph're's ability to transport and disperse pollutant emissions. Natural factors that affect pollutant transport and dispersion include terrain, wind, atmospheric stability, and sunlight. Therefore, ambient air quality conditions within the local air basin are influenced by such natural factors as topography, meteorology, and climate, in addition to the amount of air pollutant emissions released by existing air pollutant sources.

The City of Jackson is located in Amador County in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountain range. The surrounding region is characterized by hills and valleys. This region of the foothills is known for starting the gold rush in California in 1849. There are many mines in and near this area. The City of Jackson usually has warm to hot summers and cool, wet winters.

The County is located in the Mountain Counties Air Basin (MCAB). The MCAB lies along the northern Sierra Nevada mountain range, close to or contiguous with the Nevada border, covering an area of approximately 11,000 square miles. Elevations in Amador County range from over 9,000 feet at the Sierra crest down to several hundred feet above sea level at the Cou'ty's boundary with Sacramento County.

Topography is highly variable throughout the County and includes rugged mountain peaks and valleys with extreme slopes and elevation variations in the Sierra range, as well as rolling foothills to the west. The general

climate of the MCAB varies considerably with elevation and proximity to the Sierra range. The terrain features of the MCAB allow for several climates to exist in relative proximity. The terrain of mountains and hills results in a wide variation in rainfall, temperature, and localized winds throughout the MCAB. Temperature variations have an important influence on basin wind flow, dispersion along mountain ridges, vertical air mixing, and photochemistry.

The Sierra Nevada range receives large amounts of precipitation from storms moving inland from the Pacific Ocean in the winter, with lesser amounts from intermitte“t "Monsoo”al" moisture flows from the south and cumulus buildup in the summer. Precipitation amounts are high in the highest mountain elevations but decline rapidly toward the western portion of the MCAB. Winter temperatures in the mountains can be below freezing for weeks at a time, and substantial amounts of snow can accumulate, but in the western foothills, winter temperatures usually drop below freezing only at night and precipitation is mixed as rain or light snow. In the summer, temperatures in the mountains are mild, with daytime highs in the 70s to low 80s °F, but the western end of the County can routinely exceed 100 °F. From an air quality perspective, the topography and meteorology of the MCAB combine such that local conditions are the predominate factor in determining the effect of emissions in the MCAB.

The ARB has classified Amador County as a nonattainment area for the 1-hour ozone standard and as an unclassified area for the carbon monoxide, particulate matter less than 10 microns in size (PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$) standards (AAD 2007).

APPLICABLE THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The SJVAPCD Thresholds of Significance for average annual air emissions are shown in Table 3.1 below. If project-related average annual emissions are below these thresholds, the impacts are considered less than significant.

TABLE 3.1

SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE FOR CONSTRUCTION-RELATED CRITERIA AIR POLLUTANTS AND PRECURSORS

Criteria Pollutant or Precursor	Threshold of Significance (tons/year)
ROG	10
NOx	10
CO	100
SO_2	27
PM_{10}	15
$PM_{2.5}$	15

ROG = reactive organic gases
NOx = nitrogen oxide
CO = carbon monoxide
SO_2 = sulfur dioxide
PM_{10} = particulate matter less than 10 microns in size
$PM_{2.5}$ = particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in size

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PERFORMED AND METHODOLOGY:

California Emissions Estimator Model ® (CalEEMod, Version 2022) was run to determine if project-related air emissions exceed SJVAPCD Thresholds of Significance. The CalEEMod results are summarized in Table B-1, and the model basis information is summarized in Table B-2 and B-3 (refer to Attachment A). Complete CalEEMod Input and Output is provided in Attachment A. The following construction equipment was considered in modeling air emissions:

- On-road trucks (worker transportation),
- Forklifts,
- Loaders,
- Pavers,
- Rollers,
- Excavators,
- Grader,
- Rubber tire dozer,
- Backhoes, and
- Generator.

IMPACT ANALYSES AND CONCLUSIONS:

Analysis as to whether or not project activities would:

a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?

Impact Analysis:

Construction-related activities would result in emissions of ozone precursors (NOx and reactive organic gases [ROG]), particulates (PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$), air toxics, and greenhouse gases (project-related greenhouse gas emissions are analyzed separately in Section 8 of this Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration). Emissions for construction activities associated with implementing the proposed corrective measures were performed using the California Emissions Estimator Model ® (CalEEMod, Version 2022) and the results are shown in Table 3.2 below. The CalEEMod Input and Output model results are provided in Attachment A.

TABLE 3.2

THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE FOR CONSTRUCTION-RELATED CRITERIA AIR POLLUTANTS AND PRECURSORS

Criteria Pollutant or Precursor	SJAQD Average Annual Emissions Threshold of Significance (tons/year)	SJAQD Thresholds of Significance Converted to Pounds Per Day	Estimated Unmitigated Proposed Project Maximum Daily Emissions (lb/day)	Is Threshold of Significance Exceeded?
ROG	10	54	0.47	NO
NOx	10	54	4.3	NO
CO	100	547	3.7	NO
SO_2	27	147	0.005	NO
PM_{10}	15	82	0.24	NO
$PM_{2.5}$	15	82	0.22	NO

Notes:
Lb = pounds
NOx = nitrogen oxide
PM_{10} = particulate matter less than 10 microns in size
$PM_{2.5}$ = particulate matter less than 2.5 microns in size
ROG = reactive organic gases

As shown in Table 3.2, project-related construction activities would generate air emissions below SJVAPCD Thresholds of Significance for construction impacts.

The proposed project would also require the preparation and implementation of a Dust Control Plan to ensure the construction activities would comply with the Amador County Air Pollution Control District Rules 202, 205, and 218 requirements for fugitive and visible dust emissions. Specifically, the proposed project would include best management practices (BMPs) that would conform to the ACAPCD CEQA Guidelines to reduce dust such as the use of water trucks.

Conclusion:

The CalEEMod results indicate that the project-related emissions would be below the SJVAPCD thresholds for construction projects. The short-term construction activities of the proposed project and implementation of appropriate and feasible control strategies (e.g., dust control plan, BMPs) would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of any Clean Air Plan of the SJAPCD or ACAPCD. Therefore, project impacts are considered less than significant.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

b. Result in 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.

Impact Analysis:

The proposed project site is non-attainment for ozone, PM_{10}, and $PM_{2.5}$ (AAD 2007). As shown in Table 3.2 above, the proposed project-related emissions of these pollutants would not exceed any of the thresholds of significance established in the SJVAPCD Thresholds of Significance.

Conclusion:

Construction activities associated with implementing the proposed project would generate emissions of non-attainment pollutants that are below the SJVAPCD thresholds of significance. Therefore, implementation of the proposed project would result in a less-than-significant impact to the net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

c. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

Impact Analysis:

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) defines sensitive receptors as children, elderly, asthmatics, or others who are at a heightened risk of negative health outcomes due to exposure to air pollution. For the purposes of this analysis, the locations where these populations can typically congregate (e.g., schools, hospitals) are considered sensitive receptor locations. Construction activities associated with implementing the proposed project would take place near sensitive receptors including Jackson Junior High School which is located approximately 60 feet to the southeast and residences located approximately 400 feet to the north of the proposed project site.

The proposed project activities are not expected to expose these sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations for the following reasons:

- The proposed project is temporary construction project impact for approximately three months,
- The proposed project activities would occur during business days and hours, limiting impact to citizens in nearby residences while they are at work, and
- Best management practices would be used to reduce fugitive dust and equipment emissions.

Conclusion:

Even though a school is located within one mile of the proposed project site, there would be no impact based on the nature of the work to be performed, short duration of activities, and implementation of BMPs.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

d. Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?

Impact Analysis:

Implementation of proposed stormwater infrastructure improvements have the potential to generate odors during the operation of construction equipment, such as those experienced from diesel engine exhaust. The closest receptor of odors are the Jackson Junior High School and residences located approximately 60 feet

to the southeast and approximately 400 feet to the north, respectively, of the proposed project site. This distance is considered sufficient to eliminate the ability for a resident or student to discern an odor originating from the proposed project site (i.e., diesel exhaust fumes) from the overall air space.

Conclusion:

Project-related odors during construction activities would not be discernable by the closest receptors (i.e., school, residences) because of the distance between them and the proposed project site. Therefore, implementation of the stormwater infrastructure improvements would not result in other emissions that could adversely affect a substantial number of people.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

References Used:

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD), 2022a. *Air Quality Thresholds of Significance – Criteria Pollutants*. Available at: https://www.valleyair.org/aqinfo/attainment.htm (Accessed April 7, 2022).

SJVAPCD, 2022b. *Ambient Air Quality Standards & Valley Attainment Status*. http://www.valleyair.org/transportation/0714-GAMAQI-Criteria-Pollutant-Thresholds-of-Significance.pdf (Accessed April 7, 2022).

4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES				
Would the project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation**	**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 Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or NOAA Fisheries?	☐	☒	☐	☐
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 Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

REGULATORY SETTING (LAWS, ORDINANCES, REGULATIONS, STANDARDS):

Applicable statutes and regulations to the Proposed Project include:

Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA): (16 United States Code (USC) § 1531-1544, 50 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 17). The Federal ESA provides a program for the conservation of threatened and endangered plants and animals and the habitats in which they are found.

Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA): (16 USC § 703-712, 50 CFR Part 21). The MBTA makes it illegal to take, possess, import, export, transport, sell, purchase, barter, or offer for sale, purchase, or barter, any migratory bird, or the parts, nests, or eggs of such a bird except under the terms of a valid Federal permit.

California Endangered Species Act (CESA): (Fish and Game Code (FGC) chapter 1.5, sections 2050-2115.5, California Code of Regulations (CCR), title 14, chapter 6, § 783.0-787.9). CESA protects or preserves all native species of fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, invertebrates, and plants, and their habitats, threatened with extinction and those experiencing a significant decline which, if not halted, would lead to a threatened or endangered designation. CESA also states that all native species of fishes, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals, invertebrates, and plants, and their habitats, threatened with extinction and those experiencing a significant decline which, if not halted, would lead to a threatened or endangered designation, will be protected or preserved.

Additionally, the California FGC § 3503 prohibits the take, possession, or needless destruction of the nest or eggs of any bird; and § 3513 prohibits the take or possession of any migratory nongame bird or part there of as designated in the MBTA. Any birds in the orders Falconiformes or Strigiformes (birds of prey, such as hawks and owls) are protected under FGC 3503.5, which makes it unlawful to take, posses, or destroy their nest or eggs.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING (BASELINE):

The Proposed Project Site is located within the City of Jackson, in Amador County, extending from the intersection of Vogan Toll Road and Sutter Street to the intersection of Sutter Street and Hwy 49. The Proposed Project Site work area (2.95 acres) is approximately 0.2 miles in length and includes the stormwater drainpipe location plus a construction buffer on all sides. Surrounding land use includes a residential neighborhood and Jackson Junior High School to the south and downtown Jackson to the southeast, commercial property to the north, and open space to the west. Elevations at the project site range from approximately 1,300 to 1,200 feet above mean sea level. Soil consists of Auburn soil series very rocky silt loams of varying depth. Auburn soils are well-drained and have a slightly acid pH.

Habitat within the Proposed Project Site limits of work is characterized primarily as developed and largely devoid of vegetation. Other habitats in the limits of work, listed in approximate descending percentage of cover, include the following: ruderal, valley oak woodland, Himalayan blackberry thicket, valley oak riparian, and annual grassland. In addition to the Proposed Project limits of work, the biological resources habitat assessment survey included an approximately 100-foot buffer, where accessible (i.e., the biological study area, or BSA). The BSA covered a total area of 12.94 acres. In addition to the habitat types identified within the limits of work, the project area also includes interior live oak woodland, common velvet grass meadow, and Baltic rush meadow. These habitats are summarized in Table 4.1 below.

TABLE 4.1

BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES POTENTIALLY LOCATED IN THE PROPOSED PROJECT AREA

Habitat Type	Limits of Work (acres)	Study Area Buffer (acres)	Total BSA (acres)
Developed	*2.13*	6.695	9.08
Ruderal	*0.37*	0.42	0.79
Valley Oak Woodland	*0.20*	0.64	0.84
Himalayan blackberry thicket	*0.10*	0.07	0.17
Valley Oak Riparian	*0.10*	0.03	0.13
Annual Grassland	*0.05*	0.92	0.97
Interior Live Oak Woodland	*0.00*	0.94	0.94
Common Velvet Grass Meadow	*0.00*	0.02	0.02
Baltic Rush Meadow	*0.00*	0.002	0.002

APPLICABLE THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The list of biological resource effects that may be considered significant contained in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines (Environmental Checklist) was used to establish a threshold of significance.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PERFORMED AND METHODOLOGY:

As discussed above, a reconnaissance-level biological resources survey was conducted on May 1, 2020 to identify potential biological resources within the Proposed Project Site (refer to Attachment A). Before conducting fieldwork, AECOM conducted background research and a literature review to obtain pertinent information regarding known occurrences of special-status plant and wildlife species in the project vicinity. This background research included a review of available environmental documentation, recent and historic aerial photographs and the following sources:

- The California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) (CDFW 2022) for the Jackson U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute quadrangle and nine surrounding quadrangles (USGS 2018a-i);

- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Environmental Conservation Online System (ECOS) – Information for Planning and Conservation (IPaC) (USFWS 2022a);
- The USFWS National Wetlands Inventory (USFWS 2020); and
- The California Native Plant Society's (CNPS) Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants (CNPS 2022) for the Jackson U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute quadrangle and nine surrounding quadrangles (USGS 2018a-i).

For the biological resources survey, special-status species were defined as follows:

- Species listed by the State of California or the federal government as endangered, threatened, or rare;
- Candidates for state or federal listing as endangered or threatened;
- Taxa (i.e., taxonomic categories or groups) that meet the criteria for listing, even if not currently included on any list, as described in California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15380 of the CEQA Guidelines;
- Species identified by CDFW as species of special concern or watch list;
- Species listed as fully protected under the California Fish and Game Code;
- Species afforded protection under local or regional planning documents; and
- Taxa considered by CDFW to be "rare, threatened, or endangered in California" and assigned a California Rare Plant Rank (CRPR) of 1A, 1B, 2A, 2B, 3 or 4.

Botanists and biologists walked the Proposed Project Site plus an approximately 100-foot buffer from project boundaries (i.e., the biological study area) on May 21, 2020, to coincide with the blooming period of target special status species of interest. Weather conditions were sunny and warm with temperatures near 70 Fahrenheit and winds of 6-10 miles per hour. All plants encountered during the survey were identified to species if possible. The plant communities on site were characterized and evaluated for the potential to support the target special-status species identified during the pre-field investigation. Every plant encountered in the study area was identified to the taxonomic level necessary to determine if it was a special-status species. Biologists and botanists also conducted a botanical survey and wildlife habitat assessment within the BSA. Lastly, a biologist surveyed for bat roosting and foraging sites.

IMPACT ANALYSES AND CONCLUSIONS:

Analysis as to whether or not project activities would:

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?

Impact Analysis:

No special-status plants were found during the floristic survey. Special-status plants potentially occurring on the Proposed Project site can be eliminated from further consideration because the project area is outside of the species known elevation or geographic range. Based on the results of the biological survey, several additional species can be eliminated from further consideration because there is no suitable habitat in the project area. All the remaining species for which suitable habitat is present in the project area are considered absent at the Proposed Project site because they were not found during the floristic survey conducted during their blooming period.

Suitable habitat is present on or adjacent to the project area for several special-status wildlife species that occur within the Sierra Nevada foothills. Most of the potential habitat is useful to wildlife only for foraging or dispersal, however, nesting habitat is present for tricolored blackbird and other migratory birds. Construction of proposed stormwater infrastructure could result in limited direct disturbance of biological habitat on the Proposed Project Site. In addition, construction activities also have the potential to impact nearby habitat for locally nesting raptors or migratory birds. Implementation of Mitigation Measure (MM) BIO-1 would ensure impacts to nesting and foraging birds remain at less-than-significant levels.

MM BIO-1:

Prior to any ground disturbing activities:

- Schedule project work, including vegetation removal and ground disturbing activities, to occur outside of the nesting season for migratory birds (February 1 through August 15).
- If removal of trees and vegetation will occur during the nesting season for migratory birds, (February 1 through August 15), a qualified biologist should conduct surveys for nesting raptors and other nesting birds no more than 14 days before the start of vegetation removal. Typically, these nest surveys need to extend 300 feet beyond the boundaries of the project impact area for nesting raptors, and 50 feet for other nesting birds. If active bird nests are detected during the surveys, a non-disturbance protective buffer should be established around the nest (typically 300 feet for raptors, 50 feet for other nesting migratory birds). A smaller buffer may be established in consultation with CDFW if the qualified biologist determines that construction closer to the nest would not adversely affect nesting activities.
- Minimize tree trimming and restrict vegetation removal to areas outside of oak woodland vegetation communities and limit vegetation trimming to smaller (under 6" diameter at breast height [DBH]), shrub-like trees that are not likely to support roosting bats or North American porcupine. If removal of trees larger than 6" DBH cannot be avoided during construction, a qualified biologist experienced with bat species should conduct a survey to search for evidence of bat roosts in trees to be removed. Bat roost surveys will be conducted at least 6 months before proposed tree removal. If evidence of roosting bats is found during the pre-construction survey, the qualified biologist will provide guidance on the appropriate time to conduct tree removal (typically during the fall, September– October 31) and will be present during tree removal to avoid impacts on roosting bats.
- A qualified biologist with experience conducting western pond turtle surveys should conduct two preconstruction surveys for adult western pond turtle one week and within 48 hours before vegetation removal and initial ground-disturbing activities in or adjacent to suitable aquatic habitat. The survey area will include the marsh habitat present in the BSA (Exhibit 3) and grassland and ruderal habitat within 300 feet of the marsh. If a western pond turtle is found during the pre- construction surveys, a biological monitor will be present during construction activities occurring in the marsh or adjacent habitats within 300 feet of the marsh to provide guidance on avoiding impacts to western pond turtles during construction.
- A wetland delineation will be conducted to identify any aquatic features on site that are potentially jurisdictional under Section 404 and 401 of the Clean Water Act or under the jurisdiction of CDFW. If the proposed project will result in impacts on jurisdictional waters of the U.S. or the State, the applicant should secure the appropriate permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the State Water Resource Control Board and CDFW.
- Before any work occurs in the project footprint, including grading or vegetation removal, a qualified wildlife biologist will provide Worker Environmental Awareness Program training for all construction personnel. The training will include a description of the avoidance and minimization measures that will be implemented during construction to protect sensitive biological resources. If new construction personnel are added to the project, the contractor will provide them with the mandatory training before they start work.

Conclusion:

Raptors and other birds have the potential to use the Proposed Project Site and surrounding areas as foraging habitat and/or nesting. During construction of proposed stormwater infrastructure, nearby habitat for locally nesting raptors or migratory birds could be impacted. Implementation of recommended MM BIO-1 would ensure impacts to nesting and foraging birds remain at less-than-significant levels.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☒ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

b. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?

Impact Analysis:

Construction activities could occur in a riparian habitat because the project involves improvements to stormwater flows. Construction and haul equipment along with workers would also be confined to defined access routes, designated staging areas, and designated construction areas. However, potential impacts still could occur to a riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the CDFW, or USFWS. Implementation of MM BIO-1 would ensure impacts to riparian habitats remain at less-than-significant levels.

Conclusion:

Construction activities involve improvements to stormwater flows and, therefore, could occur in a riparian habitat area. Implementation of recommended MM BIO-1 would ensure impacts to riparian habitat remain at less-than-significant levels

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☒ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

c. Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

Impact Analysis:

Construction activities could occur in a wetland because the project involves improvements to stormwater flows. Construction and haul equipment along with workers would also be confined to defined access routes, designated staging areas, and designated construction areas. However, potential impacts still could occur to a wetland or other sensitive natural community identified in local regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the CDFW, or USFWS. Implementation of MM BIO-1 would ensure impacts to wetlands remain at less-than-significant levels.

Conclusion:

Construction activities involve improvements to stormwater flows and, therefore, could occur in a wetland area. Implementation of recommended MM BIO-1 would ensure impacts to wetlands remain at less-than-significant levels

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☒ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

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?

Impact Analysis:

Based on the temporary nature and duration of the construction activities and the location of work areas, which are on an industrial site, the Proposed Project would not have the potential to 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.

This conclusion is based on the temporary nature and duration of the work and the work areas, which are in a disturbed, developed area. Based on the biological survey, there is the potential for special status bird species to nest on and near the Proposed Project Site. The Proposed Project would include MM BIO-1 to address short-term disturbance, as identified in Section 4(a). Once completed, the Proposed Project would result in a similar quality and area of habitat as is currently present at the Proposed Project Site.

Conclusion:

There is the potential for special status bird species to nest on or near the Proposed Project Site. Implementation of recommended MM BIO-1 would ensure impacts to nesting and foraging birds remain at less-than-significant levels. Once completed, the Proposed Project would result in a similar quality and area of habitat as is currently present at the Proposed Project Site.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☒ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

e. Conflict with local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?

Impact Analysis:

There are no biological resources on the Proposed Project Site that are protected by local policies or ordinances.

Conclusion:

Construction of the proposed stormwater infrastructure would not conflict with any local polices or ordinances for the purposes of protecting biological resources.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

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?

Impact Analysis:

The Proposed Project Site is not located in any adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

Conclusion:

Construction of the proposed stormwater infrastructure would not have the potential to conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

References Used:

AECOM, 2022. *Biological Resources Habitat Assessment for: The Argonaut Mine Stormwater Upgrade Project*. Prepared for DTSC. Prepared by AECOM. February 2022.

5. CULTURAL RESOURCES				
Would the project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation**	**Less Than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to in §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 dedicated cemeteries?	☐	☐	☐	☒

REGULATORY SETTING (LAWS, ORDINANCES, REGULATIONS, STANDARDS):

The definition of historical resources can be found in PRC §21084.1 and 14 CCR § 15064.5. Unique archaeological resources are defined in PRC § 21083.2 and 14 CCR § 15064.5. Tribal cultural resources are defined in PRC Div. 13 Section 21074.

California Assembly Bill 52 (AB52) specifies that any project for which a Notice of Preparation, Notice of Mitigated Negative Declaration or Notice of Negative Declaration is filed on or after July 1, 2015, the Lead agency must provide formal notification within 14 days of determining that an application for a project is complete or of a decision to undertake a project to the designated contact or tribal representative of the affiliated California Native American tribes. The tribe that is traditionally and culturally affiliated to the geographic area where a project is located must have requested that the lead agency in question provide notification to the tribe (PRC 21081.3.1). Please refer to Section 18, Tribal Cultural Resources, of this Initial Study for additional discussion.

If remains are found on Site, the County Coroner will make the determination of origin and disposition, pursuant to Public Resources Code (PRC) § 5097.98. If the remains are determined to be Native American, the Coroner would notify the NAHC (per Health and Safety Code (HSC) 7050.5(c)) The NAHC would identify and notify the person(s) who might be the most likely descendent, who would make recommendations for the appropriate and dignified treatment of the remains (PRC Div. 5 section 5097.98). The descendants shall complete their inspection and make recommendations for treatment within 48 hours of being granted access to the Site (CEQA Guidelines, CCR section 15064.5(e); HSC section 7050.5).

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING (BASELINE):

A cultural records search was conducted by the North Central Information Center (NCIC), of the California Historical Resources Information System, California State University, Sacramento on July 22, 2020 (File No. AMA-20-21). The NCIC, an affiliate of the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP), is the official state repository of cultural resource records and studies for Sacramento County. The search included the Proposed Project Site and a 0.25-mile radius. The results were used to determine whether known cultural resources have been recorded at or adjacent to the Proposed Project Site, and to assess the cultural sensitivity of the area. The records search included reviews of maps listing previously conducted cultural resource studies in the area. The following references also were reviewed:

- National Register of Historic Places (NRHP),
- California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR),
- California State Historical Landmarks (OHP 1996),
- California Inventory of Historic Resources (California Department of Parks and Recreation 1976),
- California Points of Historical Interest (OHP 1992),
- General Land Office (GLO) Plat Maps, and
- University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) Aerial Photography Collection.

The records search revealed that three studies have taken place in the western and eastern ends of the Proposed Project Site, and another seven within 0.25 mile of the project area. The western staging area is within the previously documented Argonaut Cyanide Plant and Tailings Site. However, no features associated with this site are within the staging area. A

total of 154 historic-era structures and features are located within 0.25 mile of the project. The majority were documented as part of the Historic Site Survey of Jackson conducted in 1983.

APPLICABLE THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

To be eligible for the California Register, a prehistoric or historic-period property must be significant at the local, state, and/or federal level under one or more of the following four criteria:

1. Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage;
2. Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past;
3. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values; or,
4. Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

A resource eligible for the California Register must meet one of the criteria of significance described above and retain enough of its historic character or appearance (integrity) to be recognizable as a historical resource and to convey the reason for its significance. It is possible that a historic resource may not retain sufficient integrity to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register, but it may still be eligible for listing in the California Register.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PERFORMED AND METHODOLOGY:

In February 2022, AECOM conducted a cultural resources study to determine whether if archeological or historical resources are present at the Proposed Project Site (refer to Attachment B). The study included background research for a 0.25-mile radius of the Proposed Project Site at the NCIC, and a review of archival maps and aerial photographs. The cultural resources study also included a pedestrian field survey at the Proposed Project Site in 12-foot transects to cross the property and survey for any observable cultural resources.

IMPACT ANALYSES AND CONCLUSIONS:

Analysis as to whether or not project activities would:

a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to in §15064.5?

Impact Analysis:

Historical resources, as defined by 14 CCR section 15064.5, have not been identified at the Proposed Project Site. The records search revealed that three studies have taken place in the western and eastern ends of the Proposed Project Site, and another seven within 0.25 mile of the project area. The western staging area is located within the previously documented Argonaut Cyanide Plant and Tailings Site. However, no features associated with this site are within the staging area. A total of 154 historic-era structures and features are located within 0.25 mile of the Proposed Project Site of which the majority were documented as part of the Historic Site Survey of Jackson conducted in 1983.

Based on the Proposed Project Site location, history, absence of resource findings, and the 2022 cultural resources study, it is not likely that historical resources would be identified or impacted. However, if historical resources are discovered during the Proposed Project activities, then ground disturbing activities within 25 feet would stop until a qualified archaeologist or appropriately licensed professional can assess the significance of the find and, if necessary, develop appropriate response measures in consultation with the DTSC and other agencies and Native American representatives, as appropriate.

Conclusion:

The Proposed Project would not include demolition, elimination, or manipulation of a historical resource. In addition, the finding of a historical resource during implementation of the corrective measures is unlikely based on the Proposed Project Site history and conditions, and absence of findings during prior onsite work. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a known historical resource.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?

Impact Analysis:

Archaeological resources, as defined by 14 CCR section 15064.5, have not been identified at the Proposed Project Site. The records search revealed that three studies have taken place in the western and eastern ends of the Proposed Project Site, and another seven within 0.25 mile of the project area. The western staging area is located within the previously documented Argonaut Cyanide Plant and Tailings Site. However, no features associated with this site are within the staging area. A total of 154 historic-era structures and features are located within 0.25 mile of the Proposed Project Site of which the majority were documented as part of the Historic Site Survey of Jackson conducted in 1983.

Based on the Proposed Project Site location, history, absence of resource findings, and the 2022 cultural resources study, it is not likely that archaeological resources would be identified or impacted. In addition, there are no unique geologic features at the Site and the presence of a unique archaeological resource in the Proposed Project work area is unlikely. However, if archaeological resources are discovered during the Proposed Project activities, then ground disturbing activities within 25 feet would stop until a qualified archaeologist or appropriately licensed professional can assess the significance of the find and, if necessary, develop appropriate response measures in consultation with the DTSC and other agencies and Native American representatives.

Conclusion:

The Proposed Project would not include demolition, elimination, or manipulation of an archaeological resource. In addition, the finding of an archaeological resource during implementation of the corrective measures is unlikely based on the Proposed Project Site history and conditions, and absence of findings during prior onsite work. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a known archaeological resource.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

c. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?

Impact Analysis:

There are no known human remains on or near the Site and given the repeated disturbance of the Site and the surrounding area, and the findings of the cultural resource study, the potential for such remains to be present is considered extremely low. If human remains are encountered, the County Coroner would be immediately notified. No further ground disturbing activities shall occur within 25 feet of the work area until the County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition, pursuant to PRC § 5097.98. If the remains are determined to be Native American, the Coroner would notify the NAHC (per Health and Safety Code 7050.5(c)) and the County Coordinator of Indian Affairs.

Conclusion:

Implementation of corrective measures is not expected to encounter or disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries. If human remains are encountered, procedures will be followed to prevent disturbing the remains and ensure compliance with applicable codes and regulations.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

References Used:

AECOM. 2022. *Cultural Resources Assessment for the Argonaut Mine Dam Stormwater Upgrade Project*. February 2022.

6. ENERGY				
Would the project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation**	**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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

REGULATORY SETTING (LAWS, ORDINANCES, REGULATIONS, STANDARDS):

In 2015, Governor Brown signed Senate Bill 350 to codify climate, clean energy, and energy efficiency goals. The regulations focus on generating energy through renewable sources and increasing the energy efficiency of buildings.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING (BASELINE):

Electrical power and natural gas are provided to the Proposed Project Site by Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E). PG&E obtains its energy supplies from power plants and natural gas fields in northern California and from energy purchased outside its service area and delivered through high voltage transmission lines.

APPLICABLE THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The list of energy resource effects that may be considered significant contained in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines (Environmental Checklist) was used to establish a threshold of significance.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PERFORMED AND METHODOLOGY:

Based on the lack of significant increase in energy demand from the Proposed Project Site, no environmental studies relating to energy resources were prepared for the Proposed Project.

IMPACT ANALYSES AND CONCLUSIONS:

Analysis as to whether or not project activities would:

a. Result in potentially significant impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?

Impact Analysis:

To implement the Proposed Project, it is expected that construction equipment (e.g., tractors, excavators, loaders, generators, trucks, light-duty vehicles) would use petroleum fuels (diesel and gasoline products) and would not use on-site electricity or natural gas sources. Construction of the proposed stormwater infrastructure would occur over a short duration (3 months) and, therefore, the wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary use of petroleum fuels would not occur. Construction contractors would use existing office space at the Proposed Project Site. Implementation of the proposed project would not result in adding any new facilities that would increase the demand for energy resources.

Conclusion:

The Proposed Project would not add new facilities that could increase the demand for energy resources. Construction activities would use equipment in accordance with manufacturer's specifications. Therefore, implementation of the proposed corrective measures would not result in a wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources. In addition, construction of proposed stormwater infrastructure would not result in a new permanent energy demand.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

b. Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?

Impact Analysis:

In 2015, Governor Brown signed Senate Bill 350 to codify climate, clean energy, and energy efficiency goals. The regulations focus on generating energy through renewable sources and increasing the energy efficiency of buildings. Construction of the proposed stormwater infrastructure would not result in constructing any new buildings that would increase the demand for energy resources, renewable or otherwise.

Conclusion:

The Proposed Project would not construct new facilities or permanent structures and would not generate any new energy demands. Therefore, the Proposed Project would not conflict with or obstruct any state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

References Used:

California Legislative Information. 2015. SB-350 Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act of 2015. October. https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160SB350 (Accessed November 2018).

7. GEOLOGY AND SOILS				
Would the project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation**	**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 off-site 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 waste water 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?	☐	☐	☒	☐

REGULATORY SETTING (LAWS, ORDINANCES, REGULATIONS, STANDARDS):

No laws, ordinances, regulations, or standards protecting geological or soil resources are applicable to the Proposed Project.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING (BASELINE):
The project site is located on a Jurassic era landform that consists of undivided Mesozoic volcanic and metavolcanic rocks including andesite and rhyolite flow rocks, greenstone, volcanic breccia, and other pyroclastic rocks. Currently, the soils within the survey area consist of mine tailings and river wash and the project area is classified as a seasonal wetland based on an assessment of the flora present.

APPLICABLE THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The list of geological and soils resource effects that may be considered significant contained in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines (Environmental Checklist) was used to establish a threshold of significance.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PERFORMED AND METHODOLOGY:

Site lithology has been characterized through investigations completed as part of the Site investigations. Soil samples were also collected and characterized.

IMPACT ANALYSES AND CONCLUSIONS:

Analysis as to whether or not project activities would:

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.

Impact Analysis:

The Proposed Project Site is not located in an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone and a known earthquake fault does not cross the site (CGS, 2010). There are no Alquist-Priolo Earthquake faults or any known active faults in Amador County.

Site workers would be present for a short duration during Proposed Project activities (3 months) and, therefore, the potential for exposure to substantial risk of injury to people would be limited. In addition, the Proposed Project includes installation of subsurface features (stormwater infrastructure) that would not expose people or structures to significant impacts from fault rupture associated effects.

Conclusion:

The Proposed Project Site is not identified as being in an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone and no known earthquake faults exist on the site; therefore, the risk of loss, injury, or death involving from onsite ruptures would not occur.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?

Impact Analysis:

The Proposed Project Site is not in a seismically active area and the site would not be exposed to moderate to strong shaking in the event of an earthquake in the region (CGS, 2016).

Construction of stormwater infrastructure would require the use of heavy equipment and would place numerous workers onsite. Site workers would be present for approximately 3 months; therefore, the potential for substantial risk or injury to people from seismic ground shaking would be limited. In addition, the Proposed Project includes installation of subsurface features (stormwater infrastructure) would not expose people or structures to significant impacts from strong seismic ground shaking if it were to occur.

Conclusion:

The Proposed Project Site is not located in a seismically active area and the site would not be exposed to moderate to strong shaking. In addition, the Proposed Project activities would occur outdoors away from any structures. Therefore, the risk of loss, injury, or death from strong seismic ground shaking would not occur.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

Impact Analysis:

The Proposed Project Site has a low liquefaction susceptibility based on its geographic location. Soils susceptible to liquefaction, which generally occurs at depths shallower than 50 ft-bgs, may lose their ability to support structures. However, the stormwater infrastructure would not involve building new structures above ground.

Site workers would be present for the short project duration (3 months therefore, the potential for substantial risk or injury to people would be limited. In addition, the Proposed Project includes installation of subsurface features (stormwater infrastructure) that would not expose people or structures to significant impacts from seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction.

Conclusion:

The Proposed Project Site is not located in an area susceptible to liquefaction and the proposed stormwater infrastructure would not involve activities that would place buildings or people at risk of loss, injury, or death at significant risk if liquefaction.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

iv) Landslides?

Impact Analysis:

The potential for landslide hazards has been identified within an area near Pollock Pines approximately 25 miles to the northeast of the Proposed Project Site (CGS, 2016). The Proposed Project would be constructed in a relatively flat area and not near any and there is little potential for substantial risk or injury from landslides.

Conclusion:

No significant landslide hazards exist near the Proposed Site and, therefore, would not place people or buildings at risk loss, injury, or death involving landslides.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

b. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

Impact Analysis:
The proposed conveyance system may be constructed directly in the underlying bedrock. Necessary site preparation would include clearing, grubbing, and removal of all soft soils where appropriate. Other times drilling through solid bedrock, open cutting roads and blasting may be necessary near Vogan Toll Road and Sutter Street. The proposed stormwater infrastructure is intended to improve water flows in the project area and thereby reduce the risk of or prevent substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil.

Conclusion:

Design of the proposed stormwater infrastructure would reduce the risk of or prevent soil erosion or loss of topsoil in the project area. Impacts related to soil erosion and loss of topsoil would be beneficial.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

c. Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?

Impact Analysis:

The Proposed Project Site is flat with very little relief therefore the potential for slope instability, lateral spreading, or collapse are minimal. The soils beneath the Proposed Project Site would not be subject to subsidence because construction of stormwater infrastructure would not involve the removal of groundwater.

In addition, construction of stormwater infrastructure at the Proposed Project Site would not involve any activities that could result in liquefaction of existing onsite soils or imported soils (process by which saturated, unconsolidated soil or sand is converted into a suspension during an earthquake). This is because the vibrations associated with the proposed work are incapable of approximating those necessary to cause liquefaction.

Conclusion:

Characteristics of existing soils on the Proposed Project Site would not be unstable or become unstable as a result of constructing stormwater infrastructure. This would be considered a less-than-significant impact.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

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?

Impact Analysis:

Expansive soils are characterized by their ability to undergo volume change due to variations in moisture content. The Proposed Project area is not located on an area underlain by expansive soils. In addition, construction of stormwater infrastructure would not involve construction of new structures or facilities above ground. Engineering considerations have been incorporated into the design of the stormwater infrastructure.

Conclusion:

Proposed stormwater infrastructure would not result in any new structures or facilities being placed on expansive soils. In addition, corrective measures have been engineered to consider compaction of materials. Therefore, substantial risk to life or property from expansive soils would be less than significant.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

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 wastewater?

Impact Analysis:

The proposed project activities would not require the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems nor involve construction of such new systems.

Conclusion:

The use or construction of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems are not part of the proposed stormwater infrastructure. No impact involving septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems as a result of onsite soils would occur.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

f. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resources or site unique feature?

Impact Analysis:

Archaeological resources, as defined by 14 CCR section 15064.5, have not been identified at the Proposed Project Site. The records search revealed that three studies have taken place in the western and eastern ends of the Proposed Project Site, and another seven within 0.25 mile of the project area. The western staging area is located within the previously documented Argonaut Cyanide Plant and Tailings Site. However, no features associated with this site are within the staging area. A total of 154 historic-era structures and features are located within 0.25 mile of the Proposed Project Site of which the majority were documented as part of the Historic Site Survey of Jackson conducted in 1983.

Based on the Proposed Project Site location, history, absence of resource findings, and the 2022 cultural resources study, it is not likely that paleontological resources would be identified or impacted. In addition, there are no unique geologic features at the Site and the presence of a unique paleontological resource in the Proposed Project work area is unlikely. However, if paleontological resources are discovered during the Proposed Project activities, then ground disturbing activities within 25 feet would stop until a qualified archaeologist or appropriately licensed professional can assess the significance of the find and, if necessary, develop appropriate response measures in consultation with the DTSC and other agencies and Native American representatives.

Conclusion:

There is no unique geologic feature at the Site and the presence of a unique paleontological resource in the Proposed Project work area is unlikely.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

References Used:

Department of Toxic Substances Control. 2011. Modification of Environmental Remedy at the PG&E "Shell Pond and CBA Property" in Bay Point, California. Initial Study

California Department of Conservation, California Geological Survey (CGS). 2016. Earthquake Shaking Potential for California. https://www.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/ publications/ms48 (Accessed February 2022).

8. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS				
Would the project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation**	**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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

REGULATORY SETTING (LAWS, ORDINANCES, REGULATIONS, STANDARDS):

The Amador Air District (AAD) does not identify a standard for determining the significance of project-related construction GHG emissions. However, greenhouse gases potentially generated by project implementation were quantified and standards established by the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD) were used to determine the significance of construction-related GHG emissions.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING (BASELINE):

Greenhouse gases are global pollutants, unlike criteria air pollutants that are of regional or local concern. The largest anthropogenic source of GHGs is the combustion of fossil fuels, which results primarily in emissions of carbon dioxide (CO_2). Other GHGs include methane, nitrous oxide, fluorinated gases, ozone, and sulfur hexafluoride. To account for the differences of the warming effects of various GHGs, emissions are standardized into carbon dioxide equivalents (CO_2e).

For the purposes of the proposed project, baseline conditions are considered to be existing GHG conditions in the project area at the time construction activities start.

APPLICABLE THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The California Supreme Court, in *Center for Biological Diversity v. Department of Fish and Wildlife* (Case No. S217763) held that the lead agencies must connect the thresholds of significance to individual project emissions. As the DTSC nor the ACAPCD have not established screening thresholds for GHG emissions, this analysis reviewed guidelines used by other air districts and public agencies in order to establish context in which to consider the proposed project's GHG emissions.

The SMAQMD adopted a significance threshold of 1,100 MT of CO_2e per year for both construction and operational phases of projects (SMAQMD 2016). SMAQMD recognizes that although there is no-known level of-emissions that determines if a single project will substantially impact overall GHG emission levels in the atmosphere, a threshold must be set to trigger a review and assessment of the heed to mitigate project GHG emissions (SMAQMD 2016). The SMAQMD recommended thresholds were developed to ensure at least 90 percent of new GHG emissions would be reviewed and assessed for mitigation, thereby contributing to GHG emissions reduction goals of AB 32, SB 32, the Scoping Plan, and Executive Orders (SMAQMD 2016). A GHG significance threshold based on a 90 percent emission capture rate is appropriate to address the long-term adverse impacts associated with global climate change because most projects will be required to implement GHG reduction measures. The emission thresholds capture a substantial fraction of projects that will be constructed to accommodate future statewide population and economic growth.

Other air districts in Northern California have developed recommendations for construction and operational GHG emissions. For example, Placer County Air Pollution Control District (PCAPCD) adopted an annual bright-line GHG threshold of 10,000 MT CO_2e for the construction and operational phases of land use and stationary source projects in 2016.

For a conservative review of the project impacts, this analysis uses the significance threshold of 1,100 MT of CO_2e per year developed by the SMAQMD to evaluate the proposed project's impact on global climate change. It is not the intent of the DTSC to adopt this threshold as a mass emissions limit for all projects, but rather to provide this additional information to put the proposed project-generated GHG emissions in the appropriate statewide context.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PERFORMED AND METHODOLOGY:

California Emissions Estimator Model ® (CalEEMod, Version 2020.4.0) was run to identify project-related greenhouse gas emissions (BREEZE, 2022). The CalEEMod results are summarized in Table B-1, and the model basis information is summarized in Table B-2 and B-3 (refer to Attachment A). Complete CalEEMod Input and Output is provided in Attachment A.

IMPACT ANALYSES AND CONCLUSIONS:

Analysis as to whether or not project activities would:

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

Impact Analysis:

Implementation of proposed stormwater infrastructure improvements would generate GHG emissions through mobilization of construction equipment; onsite delivery of materials, equipment and supplies; onsite movement of waste materials (e.g., removal of existing stormwater infrastructure); onsite use of vehicles and heavy equipment; worker commutes to the proposed project site; and demobilization activities.

The CalEEMod was run to identify the potential greenhouse gas emissions generated by implementation of proposed construction activities. Results of the model indicate that project activities would generate approximately 4.9 metric tons of CO_2e per year during the construction period of 3 months (refer to Attachment A). Carbon dioxide equivalent, or CO_2e, is a term for describing different greenhouse gases in a common unit. For any quantity and type of greenhouse gas, CO_2e signifies the amount of CO_2 which would have the equivalent global warming impact (Ecometrica 2012). Although the AAD does not provide a construction-related threshold of significance for GHG emissions, construction-related CO_2e emissions were compared to thresholds established by the SMAQMD of 1,100 MT of CO_2e per year for both construction and operational phases of projects (SMAQMD 2016). Therefore, the project's generation of 4.9 metric tons of CO_2e per year would be below the SMAQMD threshold of significance.

Conclusion:

The proposed project would not result in a new permanent stationary or non-stationary source of GHGs and construction-related GHG emissions would be short-term and temporary. In addition, the estimated CO_2e emissions from implementing the proposed stormwater infrastructure improvements (4.9 metric tons of CO_2e per year) would fall below SMAQMD threshold of significance for land-use projects (1,100 metric tons of CO_2e per year). Therefore, GHG emissions resulting from implementation of the proposed project are considered to have a less-than-significant impact on the environment.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

b. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?

Impact Analysis:

The AAD is responsible for regulating GHG emissions in the project area. The AAD recommends that GHGs for projects be quantified; however, the guidelines do not identify a CEQA threshold of significance for construction-related GHG emissions. In addition, construction activities would not conflict with any goals set by the AAD to achieve the County's implementation of Assembly Bill 32 pertaining to global warming (CARB, 2006).

Conclusion:

The operation of construction equipment during implementation of stormwater infrastructure improvements at the proposed project site would be short-term and temporary and would not conflict with any applicable

plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases. All construction activities would be performed in compliance with the AAD rules and polices. No impact related to conflict with a GHG reduction plan would occur.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

References Used:

BREEZE Software. 2022. California Emissions Estimator Model ®, Version 2020.4.0. http://www.caleemod.com/ (Accessed April 7, 2022).

California Air Resources Board. 2006. Assembly Bill No. 32. Available at: https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/fact-sheets/ab-32-global-warming-solutions-act-2006 (Accessed April 7, 2022).

Ecometrica 2012. Greenhouse Gases, CO_2, CO_2e, and Carbon: What Do All These Terms Mean? Available at: https://ecometrica.com/assets/GHGs-CO2-CO2e-and-Carbon-What-Do-These-Mean-v2.1.pdf (Accessed April 7, 2022). Authored by Matthew Brander.

9. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS				
Would the project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation**	**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?	☐	☐	☒	☐

REGULATORY SETTING (LAWS, ORDINANCES, REGULATIONS, STANDARDS):

Federal laws and regulations: Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Title 42 United States Code and 40 Code Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 260-279. More specifically, hazardous waste generators are governed by 40 CFR part 262, subpart E and transporters of hazardous waste governed by 40 CFR part 263. RCRA gives EPA the authority to control hazardous waste from the generation, transportation, treatment, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste. RCRA also set forth a framework for the management of non-hazardous solid waste. The U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration regulates the transport of hazardous materials through Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Subchapter C.

State laws and regulations: Hazardous Waste Control Law (Health and Safety Code (HSC) Chapter 6.5) and 22 California Code of Regulations (CCR). The law establishes regulations and incentives which ensure that the generators of hazardous waste employ technology and management practices for the safe handling, treatment, recycling, and destruction of their hazardous wastes prior to disposal. Article 6 of HSC Chapter 6.5 discusses the transportation of hazardous waste. California Vehicle Code: Divisions 2, 6, 12, 13, 14, 15 also apply to transportation of hazardous materials.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING (BASELINE):

The remediated CMA dam impounds sediment generated by the processing of mine tailings during former gold mining operations. A volume of tailings totaling approximately 165,000 cubic yards (247,500 tons) is present in the impoundment behind the dam. The area behind the CMA dam is now filled with sediments to within three feet of the top of the dam. The impounded sediments contain relatively high concentrations of arsenic and cyanide. The Proposed Project involves constructing stormwater infrastructure improvements needed to safely convey the 200-year peak runoff from Argonaut Basin. Human health and ecological risk assessments are summarized in the Feasibility Study/Remedial Action Plan (URS, 2019).

APPLICABLE THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The list of hazards and hazardous materials effects that may be considered significant contained in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines (Environmental Checklist) was used to establish a threshold of significance**.**

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PERFORMED AND METHODOLOGY:

Based on the lack of hazards or hazardous materials on the Proposed Project Site, no environmental studies relating to hazards and hazardous materials were prepared for the Proposed Project.

IMPACT ANALYSES AND CONCLUSIONS:

Analysis as to whether or not project activities would:

a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment throughout the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?

Impact Analysis:

The project aims to provide conveyance of stormwater to Jackson Creek without attenuating runoff behind Argonaut Dam. Hazardous materials used during implementation of the project would include fuels and oils for standard operation of construction equipment. Proper storage and disposal, the use of BMPs, and compliance with applicable laws and regulations governing the management of hazardous materials and hazardous waste would minimize potential impacts associated with the use of such materials. Construction activities are estimated to occur over a 3-month period during use and transport of hazardous materials, and management and/or transport of waste generated would occur. The routine management, storage, and transport of materials would be consistent with all applicable federal and state laws. Accidental releases of hazardous or remediation materials would be minimized through the implementation of a Storm water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), and with enhanced spill response training for construction workers.

Conclusion:

With adherence to the SWPPP and standard practices, implementation of proposed stormwater infrastructure would not a create a significant hazard to the public or the environment throughout the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials. Project-related impacts would be less than significant.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

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?

Impact Analysis:

The project aims to provide conveyance of stormwater to Jackson Creek without attenuating runoff behind Argonaut Dam. Implementation of project at the site would not have the potential to release any known hazardous material into the environment during construction activities. Hazardous materials used during implementation of the project would include fuels and oils for standard operation of construction equipment. Proper storage and disposal, the use of BMPs, and compliance with applicable laws and regulations

governing the management of hazardous materials and hazardous waste would minimize potential accidental release of fuel, oil, or maintenance chemicals from construction equipment. In addition, accidental releases of hazardous or remediation materials would be minimized through the implementation of a Storm water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), and with enhanced spill response training for construction workers.

Conclusion:

With adherence to the SWPPP and standard practices, implementation of proposed stormwater infrastructure would not a 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. Project-related impacts would be less than significant.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?

Impact Analysis:

Jackson Junior High School is located within one-quarter mile of the proposed project site. However, the project aims to provide conveyance of stormwater to Jackson Creek without attenuating runoff behind Argonaut Dam and would not involve any activities that emit or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste. Hazardous materials used during implementation of the project would include fuels and oils for standard operation of construction equipment. Proper storage and disposal, the use of BMPs, and compliance with applicable laws and regulations governing the management of hazardous materials and hazardous waste would minimize potential accidental release of fuel, oil, or maintenance chemicals from construction equipment.

Conclusion:
With adherence to standard practices, implementation of proposed stormwater infrastructure would not a create a significant hazard to schools. Impacts to schools from implementation of the stormwater infrastructure are considered less than significant.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

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?

Impact Analysis:

The proposed project site is not included on the list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.

Conclusion:

The proposed project site is not included on the list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5; therefore, no impact would occur.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

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?

Impact Analysis:

The proposed project site is not located within the boundaries of an airport land use plan. The closest airport to the site is Amador County Airport (also known as Westover Field Airport) which is located approximately 1.5 miles to the northwest. According to the *Westover Field Airport, Land Use Compatibility Plan* (June 2107), the project site is located outside of any established safety zones and influence area.

Conclusion:

The proposed stormwater infrastructure would not occur in an area located within an airport land use plan. Therefore, implementation of the project would not result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

f. Impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

Impact Analysis:

The transportation of equipment and materials to and from the proposed project site have the potential to impair implementation or interfere with the existing emergency response plan and/or evacuation plan. Specifically, trucks carrying equipment and materials could slow down the flow of traffic on public streets and potentially impede emergency response or evacuation efforts. A Traffic Control Plan (TCP) would be implemented prior to construction activities that describes the means and methods to be used in providing access during construction and includes all traffic control, detours, temporary markings and signage, and other work associated with maintaining access through the project area. As a result, if an emergency were to occur, project management would be able to maintain and provide needed access for emergency vehicles.

Conclusion:

The proposed project would implement a TCP that would allow for suspending construction activities that could impair implementation of an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. Impacts to an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan are considered less than significant.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

g. Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?

Impact Analysis:

The proposed project site, particularly the staging area, is located in an area with environmental conditions conducive to wildland fires (e.g., dry brush). Operation of construction equipment on the during stormwater

infrastructure improvements has the limited potential to spark a fire. However, construction activities would implement BMPs which address fire prevention methods such as:

- restricting vehicles from driving or parking on dry vegetation during fire sensitive times of the year; and
- wetting dry construction areas before commencing activities, and wetting throughout the day, as appropriate.

Conclusion:

Although construction equipment has a minimal potential to spark a fire during construction activities, implementation of BMPs would substantially limit the potential for a wildland fire that exposes people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death to occur. Impacts from wildland fires during implementation of the stormwater infrastructure improvements are considered less than significant.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

References Used:

URS, 2019. *Argonaut Mine Tailings Site Feasibility Study/Remedial Action Plan for Stormwater Management*. May 24, 2019.

10. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY				
Would the project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation**	**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 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 offsite;	☐	☐	☒	☐
(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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

REGULATORY SETTING (LAWS, ORDINANCES, REGULATIONS, STANDARDS):

The State Water Resources Control Board and the Regional Water Quality Control Boards (collectively Water Boards) share authority to implement the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA, 33 U.S.C. §1251 et seq.) and California's Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act (California Water Code, Section 7). The CWA establishes the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants into the waters of the United States and regulating quality standards for surface waters.

The Water Boards enforce waste discharge requirements through National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits. The Porter-Cologne Act mandates the Regional Water Board to develop, adopt and implement a Basin Plan for the Region. The *Water Quality Control Plan for the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Valley Region*, is the master policy document that contains descriptions of the legal, technical, and programmatic bases of water quality regulation in the Region.

The following are also applicable:

- The State Board published a resolution (SWRCB Resolution No. 88-63, as revised by Resolution No. 2006-0008) adopting policy regarding sources of drinking water where exceptions are provided for waters meeting certain criteria.

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency promulgated numeric water quality criteria for priority toxic pollutants and other water quality standards provisions to be applied to inland surface waters, enclosed bays and estuaries in California (California Toxics Rule, CTRs).

- A California Stormwater Construction General Permit is required for construction projects disturbing more than 1 acre. The legally responsible person is required to electronically file permit registration documents consisting of a notice of intent, risk assessment, site map, SWPPP, annual fee, and signed certification statement through the State Water Board's Storm Water Multi-Application and Report Tracking System.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING (BASELINE):

The Site is located in the San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin (California Regional Water Quality Control Board, 2017). Surface water bodies within a one-mile radius of the proposed project site include Jackson Creek. The proposed project site is mostly developed and is mostly covered with asphalt and concrete. The site primarily consists of a storm water capture and conveyance system for discharge to Jackson Creek.

APPLICABLE THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The list of hydrology and water quality effects that may be considered significant contained in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines (Environmental Checklist) was used to establish a threshold of significance**.**

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PERFORMED AND METHODOLOGY:

The hydrogeological conditions have been characterized through investigations completed as part of the site investigations.

IMPACT ANALYSES AND CONCLUSIONS:

Analysis as to whether or not project activities would:

a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?

Impact Analysis:

The objectives of the proposed stormwater conveyance improvements include improving water quality conditions by constructing additional infrastructure. The stormwater infrastructure would reduce the infiltration of potentially contaminated water through soil and, thus, decrease the potential for contaminants to migrate from soil to groundwater.

Construction activities during implementation of stormwater infrastructure improvements would not violate any water quality standards or water discharge requirements. A site-specific SWPPP would be prepared by a certified Qualified SWPPP Developer and implemented to ensure surface water bodies are not impacted during construction activities. Associated BMPs (e.g., wattles, drain inlet protection) would be implemented during construction to prevent runoff into surface water bodies.

After completion of construction activities, storm water runoff from the Argonaut dam area would continue to be captured by the existing storm water conveyance system. Storm water runoff would be managed in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations along with updates and amendments to the existing facility NPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges, as needed. Storm water would be ultimately discharged to Jackson Creek.

Conclusion:

The proposed stormwater infrastructure improvements are anticipated to improve surface water quality and groundwater quality and result in the overall reduction of contaminant mass permeating into surface and groundwater systems. Project activities would not violate any water quality standards, waste discharge

requirements, or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality. Impacts are considered to be less than significant.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

b. Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impeded sustainable groundwater management of the basin?

Impact Analysis:

Groundwater would not be extracted as part of implementation stormwater infrastructure improvements. Contaminated groundwater beneath the site would remain isolated. The only offsite flow path for groundwater would be through stormwater infrastructure itself to Jackson Creek. Implementation of the proposed stormwater infrastructure improvements would not substantially interfere with the overall recharge of the groundwater basin because the footprint of the impervious surfaces in the project area would not change compared to existing conditions.

Conclusion:

Implementation of stormwater infrastructure improvements would not substantially interfere with groundwater recharge of the groundwater basin. A less-than-significant impact is expected to occur.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

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;

Impact Analysis:

A large portion of project area is currently paved with asphalt and have storm water controls in place. Construction of the proposed stormwater infrastructure improvements would not substantially increase the paved surface area of project area and are intended to improve the existing storm water controls on the proposed project site. Runoff from the Argonaut Dam would be managed in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, with updates and amendments to the existing facility NPDES General Permit for Storm water Discharges to Jackson Creek, as needed. Implementation of the SWPPP would ensure erosion or siltation does not occur on- or offsite during construction activities.

Conclusion:

Implementation of stormwater infrastructure improvements would not result in any substantial changes to existing drainage patterns of the project area in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or offsite. Consequently, impacts are considered to be less than significant.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

(ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on-or offsite;

Impact Analysis:

A large portion of the project area is already paved with asphalt and storm water controls in operation. Construction of the proposed stormwater infrastructure improvements would not substantially increase the paved surface area of project area nor substantially increase runoff. The existing, operating storm water controls at the proposed project site are considered to be insufficient to prevent flooding due to the upstream improvements at the Argonaut Dam. The purpose of the stormwater infrastructure improvements is to substantially reduce or prevent the possibility of flooding on- or offsite.

Conclusion:

Although the proposed stormwater infrastructure improvements would create minor alterations to existing drainage patterns on the proposed project site, the purpose of the improvements is to substantially reduce or prevent the possibility of flooding on- or offsite. No impacts related to flooding would occur.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

(iii) create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned storm water drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or

Impact Analysis:

A large portion of the project area is already paved with asphalt and storm water controls in operation. Construction of the proposed stormwater infrastructure improvements would not substantially increase the paved surface area of project area nor substantially increase runoff. The existing, operating storm water controls at the proposed project site are considered to be insufficient to prevent flooding due to the upstream improvements at the Argonaut Dam. The purpose of the stormwater infrastructure improvements is to increase the capacity of the existing stormwater drainage system.

Conclusion:

Construction of the proposed stormwater infrastructure improvements are designed to improve the existing stormwater drainage system capacity. Therefore, no impacts related to exceeding the capacity of existing storm water drainage systems would occur.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

(iv) impede or redirect flood flows?

Impact Analysis:

A large portion of the project area is already paved with asphalt and operating stormwater controls. Construction of the proposed stormwater infrastructure improvements are specifically designed to redirect flood flows to Jackson Creek. The existing, operating storm water controls at the proposed project site are considered to be insufficient to prevent flooding due to the upstream improvements at the Argonaut Dam. The purpose of the stormwater infrastructure improvements is to increase the capacity of the existing stormwater drainage system but would not impede or redirect flood flows outside of the existing flow area to Jackson Creek.

Conclusion:

Activities associated with proposed stormwater infrastructure improvements would not impede or redirect flood flows outside of the existing designed flow area to Jackson Creek. Therefore, no impact would occur.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

d. In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?

Impact Analysis:

The proposed project site is not susceptible to tsunamis or seiche inundation because there are no major landlocked bodies of water within or near the site. A large portion of the project area is already paved with asphalt and operating stormwater controls. The existing, operating storm water controls at the proposed project site are considered to be insufficient to prevent flooding due to the upstream improvements at the Argonaut Dam. Construction of the proposed stormwater infrastructure improvements are specifically designed to redirect flood flows to Jackson Creek and reduce or eliminate a flood hazard.

Conclusion:
Implementation of proposed stormwater infrastructure improvements would not occur in an area at risk to seiche or from tsunami inundation. Construction of the proposed stormwater infrastructure improvements would improve the existing stormwater drainage system capacity and thereby reduce or eliminate flood hazards. No impact would occur.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

e. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?

Impact Analysis:

Groundwater would not be extracted as part of implementation stormwater infrastructure improvements and thereby would not obstruct the implementation of a sustainable groundwater management plan. The project area is subject to potential flooding at the Argonaut Dam which could result in the release of potentially contaminated water from behind the dam. To ensure potentially contaminated water does not flood nearby areas, flows are directed to stormwater infrastructure downstream of the dam which directs flows to Jackson Creek. Implementation of the proposed stormwater infrastructure improvements would work towards controlling water quality in the project area by increasing downstream capacity and reducing or preventing flooding at the dam.

Conclusion:

Implementation of proposed stormwater infrastructure improvements would not violate any water quality standards or water discharge requirements identified in any water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

11. LAND USE AND PLANNING				
Would the project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation**	**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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

REGULATORY SETTING (LAWS, ORDINANCES, REGULATIONS, STANDARDS):

The City of Jackson 2008 General Plan Land Use Element and Development Code (Article II - Zoning Districts and Allowable Land Uses) provide restrictions and regulations on land uses. The City's 2008 General Plan designates the land use of the Proposed Project Site as residential high-density, commercial, and limited commercial uses.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING (BASELINE):

The Jackson General Plan designates the land use of the proposed project site as residential high-density, commercial, and limited commercial uses. Residential high-density land use designation allows for multi-family housing; commercial allows for retail, commercial and professional business services; and limited commercial allows for existing business within predominately residential neighborhoods. The proposed project site is mostly urban development.

APPLICABLE THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The list of land use and planning resource effects that may be considered significant contained in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines (Environmental Checklist) was used to establish a threshold of significance.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PERFORMED AND METHODOLOGY:

Based on the lack of land use changes in or near the proposed project site, no environmental studies relating to land use and planning were prepared for the proposed project.

IMPACT ANALYSES AND CONCLUSIONS:

Analysis as to whether or not project activities would:

a. Physically divide an established community?

Impact Analysis:

The stormwater infrastructure is located adjacent to residential areas and underneath (e.g., underground) a developed community. However, the proposed stormwater infrastructure improvements would not substantially expand in size beyond the existing footprint of infrastructure and would not have the ability to physically divide an established community.

Conclusion:

Construction of the stormwater infrastructure would not have the potential to physically divide an established community because infrastructure improvements would not substantially expand in size beyond the existing physical footprint. No impact would occur.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

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?

Impact Analysis:

Construction of the stormwater infrastructure improvements would not conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation.

Conclusion:

Construction of the stormwater infrastructure would not have the potential to conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the proposed project site adopted for avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. No impact would occur.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

12. MINERAL RESOURCES				
Would the project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation**	**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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

REGULATORY SETTING (LAWS, ORDINANCES, REGULATIONS, STANDARDS):

No laws, ordinances, regulations, or standards protecting mineral resources are applicable to the proposed project.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING (BASELINE):

The proposed project site is located in the foothills of the Sierra Mountains which have been heavily influenced by past mining activities for gold and other precious metals. Mine tailings are the only materials in the project area.

APPLICABLE THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The list of mineral resource effects that may be considered significant contained in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines (Environmental Checklist) was used to establish a threshold of significance.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PERFORMED AND METHODOLOGY:

Based on the lack of mineral resources in or near the proposed project site, no environmental studies relating to mineral resources were prepared for the proposed project.

IMPACT ANALYSES AND CONCLUSIONS:

Analysis as to whether or not project activities would:

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?

Impact Analysis:

Activities associated with the construction of the stormwater infrastructure improvements would not have the ability to affect the availability of any known mineral resources.

Conclusion:

The proposed stormwater infrastructure improvements would not prevent access to any potential mineral resources. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

b. 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?

Impact Analysis:

Activities associated with the construction of the stormwater infrastructure improvements would not have the ability to affect the availability of any known mineral resources.

Conclusion:

The proposed stormwater infrastructure improvements would not prevent access to any potential mineral resources. Therefore, no impacts would occur.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

13. NOISE				
Would the project result in:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation**	**Less Than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
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 groundborne vibration or groundborne 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

REGULATORY SETTING (LAWS, ORDINANCES, REGULATIONS, STANDARDS):

The Noise Element of the City of Jackson General Plan includes the following implementation measure relating to noise:

All grading and other heavy equipment associated with site development processes should be acoustically muffled.

The City of Jackson Municipal Code, Section 17.44.070, identifies noise sources from construction activities shall not take place before 7:00 a.m. or after 9:00 p.m. on any day except Sunday, or before 9:00 a.m. or after 6:00 p.m. on Sunday.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING (BASELINE):

The proposed project site is an urban, developed area in the City of Jackson. Existing ambient noises in the area of the proposed project site is dominated by vehicle traffic.

APPLICABLE THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

For purposes of this analysis, noise effects may be considered significant if project activities would result in generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the proposed project site in excess of City of Jackson noise level standard of 60 dBA, or result in generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PERFORMED AND METHODOLOGY:

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) developed the Roadway Construction Noise Model (RCNM), which has become the industry-accepted standard model for calculating construction noise levels at specific receptor locations. Model inputs include the type and number of pieces of heavy construction equipment, their usage factors, distance to a receptor, and estimated shielding reduction (if any). The noise modeling for the proposed corrective measures were analyzed according to default construction equipment list from the air quality impact analysis for the Proposed Project. To reflect a conservative analysis, a reasonable worst-case scenario was modeled, assuming that each piece of modeled equipment would operate simultaneously at a reasonable distance from one another at the nearest possible locations to each modeled receptor. The modeled receptor locations represent the closest existing sensitive receptors to the proposed project site.

For exterior noise, the City of Jackson establishes a noise level criterion of 60 dB L_{dn}/CNEL for residential uses. The City uses L_{dn} for regulating noise levels. L_{dn} is the average equivalent sound level over a 24-hour period, with a penalty added for noise during the nighttime hours of 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. During the nighttime period, 10 dB is added to take into account the decrease in community background noise between the hours of 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. However, construction activities associated with implementing the proposed stormwater infrastructure improvements would occur only during daytime hours and would not be subject to the noise penalty applied to L_{dn}. Therefore, this analysis uses L_{eq}, the equivalent continuous sound level in decibels measured over a stated period of time (typically one hour), for the purposes of measuring project-generated noise.

IMPACT ANALYSES AND CONCLUSIONS:

Analysis as to whether or not project activities would result in:

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?

Impact Analysis:

The proposed project would use heavy equipment for accessing the underground stormwater infrastructure. In addition, trucks would be used to transport materials to the proposed project site. Construction of the stormwater infrastructure improvements would occur over 3 months during daytime hours which meet the City of Jackson General Plan requirement for construction activities to occur during normal work hours of the day to provide relative quiet during the more sensitive evening and early morning periods (City of Jackson Municipal Code, Section 17.44.070).

The City of Jackson General Plan uses L_{dn} for regulating noise levels in the City. However, construction activities associated with implementing the proposed infrastructure improvements would occur only during daytime hours and would not be subject to the noise penalty applied to L_{dn}. Therefore, this analysis uses L_{eq} for the purposes of measuring noise generated during construction activities and is considered relevant and appropriate. L_{eq} is the equivalent continuous sound level in decibels, equivalent to the total sound energy measured over a stated period of time (typically one hour).

The proposed project site is located within 60 feet of the nearest noise sensitive receptor (i.e., school building, classroom). Using the RCNM, noise levels generated by the loudest construction equipment anticipated to be used for infrastructure improvements (i.e., backhoe, dozer, excavator) at the proposed project site are predicted to be 79.1 L_{eq} dBA at 60 feet (closest distance between the proposed project site and nearest Jackson Junior High School classroom) (FHWA 2006) (refer to Attachment C). Based on this predicted noise level, temporary noise levels during construction activities are anticipated to be noticed at nearby receptors (e.g., students).

As identified and described in the Remedial Action Plan, construction activities would employ noise-reducing construction practices such that noise from construction complies with applicable City of Jackson, County of Amador noise ordinance requirements and other noise level rules, regulations, and ordinances that apply to the work. Measures that would be implemented to limit noise may include but are not limited to:

- Locating equipment, construction staging and stockpiling areas, and construction vehicle routes as far as practical from noise sensitive uses;
- Using sound control devices such as mufflers on equipment and using exhaust and intake silencers on all internal combustion engines, in accordance with manufacturers' specifications. All haul trucks shall be inspected before use at least once per year to ensure maintenance and presence of noise-control devices;
- Using equipment that is quieter than standard equipment;
- Using noise-reducing enclosures around noise-generating equipment;
- Establishing and enforcing construction site and haul road speed limits;
- Restricting the use of bells, whistles, alarms, and horns to safety warning purposes only;
- Locating noise-attenuating buffers such as structures, truck trailers, or soil piles between noise-generating sources and sensitive uses; and

- Restricting hours for equipment start-up and materials and equipment deliveries.

The construction contractor would be required to prepare and implement a detailed noise control plan based on the construction methods proposed. The plan would be required to identify specific measurements that will be taken to ensure compliance with the noise limits specified above. The noise control plan would be submitted to and approved by the City of Jackson before any noise-generating construction activity begins.

Where noise generating activities are conducted within 300 feet of noise sensitive receptors, the construction contractor would continuously measure and record sound generated as a result of the work activities. Noise level monitoring would occur at each activity operation adjacent sensitive receptors. The recorded sound monitoring results would be furnished weekly to the City of Jackson.

A disturbance coordinator would be provided by the City of Jackson and this person's phone number would be posted around the project site, in adjacent public spaces, and in construction notifications. The disturbance coordinator would be responsible for responding to any complaints about construction activities. All public complaints about construction disturbances would be directed to the disturbance coordinator who would be responsible for determining the cause of the complaint and for verifying that feasible measures have been implemented to alleviate the problem. The disturbance coordinator would have the authority to halt activity if necessary to protect public health and safety.

Conclusion:

The proposed project would meet the City of Jackson Municipal Code requirement that construction activities occur during normal work hours of the day. In addition, the construction contractor would be required to implement noise reducing measures during construction activities. Therefore, the Proposed Project would have a less than significant impact.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

b. Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

Impact Analysis:

Implementation of proposed stormwater infrastructure improvements would require the use of heavy construction equipment (i.e., backhoe, dozer, excavator) at the proposed project site. Groundborne vibration and noise generated by the use of these heavy construction equipment would not be felt at the nearest receptor (i.e., students) because the distance (60 feet) would substantially attenuate vibration and noise.

Conclusion:

Construction equipment used during proposed infrastructure improvement activities would not generate excessive groundborne vibration or noise discernable at the nearest receptor. A less-than-significant impact would occur.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

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?

Impact Analysis:

The proposed project site is not located within the boundaries of an airport land use plan. The closest airport to the site is Amador County Airport (also known as Westover Field Airport) which is located approximately

1.5 miles to the northwest. According to the *Westover Field Airport, Land Use Compatibility Plan* (June 2107), the project site is located outside of any established safety zones and influence area. In addition, the proposed project would not involve the construction of any structures that would house people.

Conclusion:

The proposed infrastructure improvements would not the potential to expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels generated by a nearby airport or airfield. No impact would occur.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

References Used:

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). February 15, 2006. Roadway Construction Noise Model. https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/noise/construction_noise/rcnm/ (Accessed July 2, 2019).

14. POPULATION AND HOUSING				
Would the Project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation**	**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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

REGULATORY SETTING (LAWS, ORDINANCES, REGULATIONS, STANDARDS):

No laws, ordinances, regulations, or standards protecting population and housing resources are applicable to the proposed project.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING (BASELINE):

The Jackson General Plan designates the land use of the proposed project site as residential high-density, commercial, and limited commercial uses. The proposed project site is currently undeveloped land and existing commercial uses. No housing development is currently located or proposed to be located at or near the proposed project site. The proposed project site is expected to remain designated for residential high-density, commercial, and limited commercial uses as the proposed stormwater infrastructure improvements would not prevent future residential uses on the site itself.

APPLICABLE THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The list of population and housing resource effects that may be considered significant contained in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines (Environmental Checklist) was used to establish a threshold of significance.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PERFORMED AND METHODOLOGY:

Based on the nature of the proposed project activities (infrastructure improvements), no environmental studies relating to population and housing resources were prepared for the proposed project.

IMPACT ANALYSES AND CONCLUSIONS:

Analysis as to whether or not project activities would:

a. Induce substantial unplanned population growth in area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?

Impact Analysis:

Implementation of the proposed stormwater infrastructure improvements would not prevent future development of housing on adjacent properties. The infrastructure improvements are intended to prevent or substantially reduce the potential for stormwater flooding in the project area. These improvements in themselves would not indirectly induce unplanned population growth in the area.

Conclusion:

The proposed project would not have the potential to induce substantial unplanned population growth in the area, either directly or indirectly.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

b. Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?

Impact Analysis:

Implementation of the proposed infrastructure improvements are intended to prevent or substantially reduce the potential for stormwater flooding in the project area. The improvements would not require removing any existing people or housing.

Conclusion:

The proposed project would not have the potential to displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

15. PUBLIC SERVICES				
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:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation**	**Less Than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
Fire protection?	☐	☐	☒	☐
Police protection?	☐	☐	☒	☐
Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☒
Parks?	☐	☐	☒	☐
Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☒	☐

REGULATORY SETTING (LAWS, ORDINANCES, REGULATIONS, STANDARDS):

No laws, ordinances, regulations, or standards protecting public services resources are applicable to the proposed project.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING (BASELINE):

The Proposed Project Site is designated as residential high-density, commercial, and limited commercial uses. The Jackson Junior High School, Amador County library, and Detert Park are located within ¼ mile of the proposed project site.

APPLICABLE THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The list of public services resource effects that may be considered significant contained in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines (Environmental Checklist) was used to establish a threshold of significance.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PERFORMED AND METHODOLOGY:

Based on the less than significant impact of the proposed project site to public services resources, no environmental studies relating to public services resources were prepared for the Proposed Project.

IMPACT ANALYSES AND CONCLUSIONS:

Analysis as to whether or not project activities would:

Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered government 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 following public services:

Fire protection?

Impact Analysis:

The closest fire station to the proposed project site is Jackson Fire Department Station #131, located approximately one-third mile away at 175 Main Street. Potential demands on fire protection services may increase slightly during the construction period as a result of unforeseen events related to the scope of work.

However, ongoing adherence to procedures and practices identified in the proposed project's Health and Safety Plan would reduce the potential for incidents to occur that would require a fire district response.

Conclusion:

Ongoing adherence to procedures and practices identified in the proposed project's Health and Safety Plan would reduce the potential for incidents to occur that would require response from fire protection services. After completion of corrective measures, the Proposed Project would not cause an increase in demand on fire protection, as compared to the current demand.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

Police protection?

Impact Analysis:

The closest police station to the proposed project site is located approximately ½ mile away at 33 Broadway. Potential demands on law enforcement or emergency response services could increase slightly during the construction period as a result of unforeseen events or circumstances. However, risks to human health and safety would be minimized through ongoing adherence to procedures and practices identified in the proposed project's Health and Safety Plan.

Conclusion:

Ongoing adherence to procedures and practices identified in the proposed project's Health and Safety Plan and existing onsite security measures would reduce the need for police protection services. After completion of corrective measures, the project would not cause an increase in demand on police protection, as compared to current demand.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

Schools?

Impact Analysis:

The closest schools to the proposed project site include Jackson Junior High School and Argonaut High School which are located across the street from the proposed project site and two-thirds mile to the west, respectively. The proposed project would not result in an increase in population or associated increase in demand on these schools.

Conclusion:

Implementation of infrastructure improvements would not create a demand for existing or new school facilities. No impact to school facilities would occur.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

Parks?

Impact Analysis:

The nearest neighborhood park is Detert Park, located adjacent to the proposed project site to the east. The proposed project would not result in an increase in population or associated increase in demand on parks.

Conclusion:

Implementation of infrastructure improvements would not create a demand for existing or new park facilities. No impact to park facilities would occur.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

Other public facilities?

Impact Analysis:

The closest hospital to the proposed project site is the Sutter Amador Hospital, located approximately 1 mile to the east at 200 Mission Boulevard. Construction activities could result in a slight increase in demands for services at the medical center. The potential for incidents requiring medical attention would be minimized through adherence with the proposed project's Health and Safety Plan.

Conclusion:

Ongoing adherence to procedures and practices identified in the proposed project's Health and Safety Plan would reduce the need for other public facilities and services. After corrective measures complete, the project would not cause an increase in demand on other public facilities and services, as compared to current demand.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

16. RECREATION				
	Potentially Significant Impact	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation**	**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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

REGULATORY SETTING (LAWS, ORDINANCES, REGULATIONS, STANDARDS):

No laws, ordinances, regulations, or standards relating to protecting recreation resources are applicable to the proposed project.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING (BASELINE):

Detert Park is a 6.5-acre park located adjacent to the proposed project site. The park provides public facilities including the Jackson City Pool, which is open to the public for recreational swimming and lessons; the John Aime Field, a baseball diamond used primarily for youth baseball games; one tennis court; new playground structure for kids; and shaded, grassy picnic areas for public and private gatherings (City of Jackson, 2019).

APPLICABLE THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The list of recreational resource effects that may be considered significant contained in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines (Environmental Checklist) was used to establish a threshold of significance.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PERFORMED AND METHODOLOGY:

Based on the lack of impacts to recreational resources in or near the proposed project site, no environmental studies relating to recreational resources were prepared for the proposed project.

IMPACT ANALYSES AND CONCLUSIONS:

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?

Impact Analysis:

The nearest park to the proposed project site is Detert Park, located adjacent to the Site. Implementation of proposed stormwater infrastructure improvements would not directly increase the permanent resident population in the area because no habitable structures are planned as part of the project.

Conclusion:

The proposed project would not increase the use of existing parks, other recreational parks, or other recreational facilities, such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated. No impact to the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities would occur.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

b. Does the project include recreational facilities or require construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?

Impact Analysis:

The proposed project site does not contain any existing recreational facilities. Implementation of proposed stormwater infrastructure improvements would not involve or require construction of any recreational facilities.

Conclusion:

The proposed project would not construct or cause the need for construction of additional recreational facilities. No impact to existing or need for additional recreational facilities would occur.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

References Used:

City of Jackson, Parks & Recreation Services. 2019. Parks & Recreation Services. https://ci.jackson.ca.us/city-services/parks-recreation (Accessed October 2019).

17. TRANSPORTATION				
Would the project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation**	**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 (b)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☐	☒

REGULATORY SETTING (LAWS, ORDINANCES, REGULATIONS, STANDARDS):

Federal laws and regulations: Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Title 42 United States Code Subtitle C and 40 Code Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 260-279. More specifically, transporters of hazardous waste are governed by 40 CFR part 263. RCRA gives EPA the authority to control hazardous waste from the generation, transportation, treatment, storage, and disposal of hazardous waste. The U.S. Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration regulates the transport of hazardous materials through Title 49 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Subchapter C.

State laws and regulations: Hazardous Waste Control Law (Health and Safety Code (HSC) Chapter 6.5) and 22 California Code of Regulations (CCR). The law establishes regulations and incentives which ensure that the generators of hazardous waste employ technology and management practices for the safe handling, treatment, recycling, and destruction of their hazardous wastes prior to disposal. Article 6 of HSC Chapter 6.5 discusses the transportation of hazardous waste. California Vehicle Code: Divisions 2, 6, 12, 13, 14, 15 also apply to transportation of hazardous materials.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING (BASELINE):

Sutter Street provides the main access route into the proposed project site. Sutter Street intersects with Highway 49/88 adjacent to the work area. The City of Jackson General Plan, Circulation Element, identifies operational and safety problems at the Highway 49/88 49 and Sutter Street intersection. Specific problems include skewed angle of intersection, limited sight distance, heavy student pedestrian use, and conflicting movements with other driveways along the east side of SR 49. Highway 49/88 in the vicinity of the proposed project site has an average daily traffic volume of 21,200 vehicles and operates at Level of Service (LOS) D (City of Jackson 2008).

APPLICABLE THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The list of transportation resource effects that may be considered significant contained in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines (Environmental Checklist) was used to establish a threshold of significance. LOS has been the standard by which transportation impacts of major developments and changes to roads were measured. LOS was formally defined in the 1965 Highway Capacity Manual as a “qualitative measure of the effect of a number of factors, which include speed and travel time, traffic interruptions, freedom to maneuver, safety, driving comfort and convenience, and operating cost”. It is better understood today that LOS does not accurately reflect vehicle travel as it only focuses on individual local intersections and roadway segments and not on the entire vehicle trip. In 2013, the State of California passed Senate Bill (SB) 743 which required the Office Planning and Research (OPR) to amend the CEQA Guidelines to provide an alternative to LOS for evaluating transportation impacts. LOS was replaced with Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) as “the most appropriate metric of a project's potential transportation impacts”. VMT data are used primarily by

transportation agencies, environmental agencies, and consultants to perform a variety of functions such as allocating resources, estimating vehicle emissions, computing energy consumption, and assessing traffic impacts.

Section 15064.3(b) of the CEQA Guidelines states the following:

(b) Criteria for Analyzing Transportation Impacts.

(1) Land Use Projects. Vehicle miles traveled exceeding an applicable threshold of significance may indicate a significant impact. Generally, projects within one-half mile of either an existing major transit stop or a stop along an existing high-quality transit corridor should be presumed to cause a less than significant transportation impact. Projects that decrease vehicle miles traveled in the project area compared to existing conditions should be presumed to have a less than significant transportation impact.

(2) Transportation Projects. Transportation projects that reduce, or have no impact on, vehicle miles traveled should be presumed to cause a less than significant transportation impact. For roadway capacity projects, agencies have discretion to determine the appropriate measure of transportation impact consistent with CEQA and other applicable requirements. To the extent that such impacts have already been adequately addressed at a programmatic level, such as in a regional transportation plan EIR, a lead agency may tier from that analysis as provided in Section 15152.

(3) Qualitative Analysis. If existing models or methods are not available to estimate the vehicle miles traveled for the particular project being considered, a lead agency may analyze the project's vehicle miles traveled qualitatively. Such a qualitative analysis would evaluate factors such as the availability of transit, proximity to other destinations, etc. For many projects, a qualitative analysis of construction traffic may be appropriate.

(4) Methodology. A lead agency has discretion to choose the most appropriate methodology to evaluate a project's vehicle miles traveled, including whether to express the change in absolute terms, per capita, per household or in any other measure. A lead agency may use models to estimate a project's vehicle miles traveled, and may revise those estimates to reflect professional judgment based on substantial evidence. Any assumptions used to estimate vehicle miles traveled and any revisions to model outputs should be documented and explained in the environmental document prepared for the project. The standard of adequacy in Section 15151 shall apply to the analysis described in this section.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PERFORMED AND METHODOLOGY:

Based on the less than significant impact with mitigation to transportation resources in or near the proposed project site, no environmental studies relating to transportation resources were prepared for the proposed project.

IMPACT ANALYSES AND CONCLUSIONS:

Analysis as to whether or not project activities would:

a. Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadways, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?

Impact Analysis:

The proposed stormwater infrastructure improvements would not affect public roadways in the long-term because these activities would not substantially affect the overall circulation system. The Proposed Project would add some traffic to roadways during the 3-month construction period due to delivery of materials and supplies to the site and workers traveling to and from the site. The proposed project would not have any long-term effects on congestion levels.

During construction, periodic movement of heavy equipment to and from the project site would occur using Highway 49/88. Removal of the existing stormwater infrastructure would be required as part of the proposed project. The existing stormwater infrastructure would be hauled to and consolidated at behind the Argonaut Dam. Heavy haul trucks would travel along Sutter Street and Argonaut Drive to an area designated as Tailings Area 3 which the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has indicated will be a repository for hazardous materials that will ultimately be capped. To transport the existing stormwater infrastructure, it is anticipated that up to 430 heavy truck trips would occur over the 3-month construction period (approximately 5 trips per day). Implementation of infrastructure improvements would infrequent truck trips during construction activities. As these truck trips would be intermittent, the construction activities would not substantially increase the traffic on any public street system.

Traffic controls could involve lane closures and construction area signs. Specifically, construction area signs will be furnished, installed, maintained, and removed when no longer required in accordance with the Section 12, *Temporary Traffic Control*, of the *2018 Caltrans Standard Specifications*. A traffic control system will consist of closing traffic lanes in accordance with the provisions of Section 12, of the *2018 Caltrans Standard Specifications*, and Section 13 of the City of Jackson Standard Specifications. When lane closures are made for work periods, all components of the traffic control system, except portable delineators placed along open trenches or excavation adjacent to the travel way would be removed from the travel way and shoulder at the end of each work period. Work areas adjacent to city streets would be open to two-way traffic by 4:00 PM each workday. One lane would remain open to traffic during construction activities unless otherwise approved by the City of Jackson. Lastly, the construction contractor would be required to submit a Traffic Control Plan for review and approval by the City of Jackson engineer and police chief prior to commencing work affecting city streets.

There are no bike lanes in the proposed project area. In addition, there is no public transit (e.g., bus service) provided in the project area. The temporary increase in construction traffic during implementation of proposed stormwater infrastructure improvements would not affect any program, plan, ordinance or policy relating to these transportation facilities.

Conclusion:

The proposed project would not incorporate any activities, short-term or long-term, that would have the ability to conflict with any program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadways, bicycle and pedestrian facilities in the project area.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

b. Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?

Impact Analysis:

Vehicle miles traveled (VMT) is a measure used in transportation planning for a variety of purposes. It measures the amount of travel for all vehicles in a geographic region over a given period of time, typically a one-year period. VMT is calculated by adding all the miles driven by all the cars and trucks on all the roadways in a region. This metric plays an integral role in the transportation planning, policy-making, and revenue estimation processes due to its ability to indicate travel demand and behavior. VMT may also be used to evaluate conformity assumptions, adjust travel demand forecasts, and identify pavement maintenance needs. Implementation of proposed stormwater infrastructure improvements would not generate additional long-term vehicle trips or change circulation patterns in the project area.

Conclusion:

The proposed stormwater infrastructure improvements would not increase long-term vehicle miles traveled levels from/to the proposed project site consistent with Section 15064.3(b) of the CEQA Guidelines. There would be no impact.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

c. Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?

Impact Analysis:

The proposed project involves improvements to existing stormwater infrastructure to address potential downstream flooding from the Argonaut Dam. The proposed stormwater infrastructure improvements would not contain a design feature or incompatible use that would substantially increase traffic hazards because the activities would not alter the public roadways system. The current intersection at Highway 88/49 and Sutter Street is stop controlled for safe traffic movements to/from the proposed project site and this condition would not change.

Conclusion:

Implementation of the stormwater infrastructure improvements would not include any design features or incompatible uses which would substantially increase hazards. No impacts related to increased hazards due to a geometric design feature or incompatible uses would occur.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

d. Result in inadequate emergency access?

Impact Analysis:

The proposed stormwater infrastructure improvements would not affect emergency access to/from the proposed project site in the long-term because these activities would not substantially change the overall circulation system on- and offsite. In addition, all construction equipment would be located and stored onsite and would not have the potential to block access roads. Work areas adjacent to city streets would be open to two-way traffic by 4:00 PM each workday. One lane would remain open to traffic during construction activities unless otherwise approved by the City of Jackson.

Conclusion:

Emergency access to/from the proposed project site would not result in long-term inadequate emergency access to surrounding area with implementation of stormwater infrastructure improvements. Short-term impacts to access in the project area would be managed in accordance with City requirements. Less-than-significant impacts related to inadequate emergency access would occur.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

18. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES				
Conducting consultation early in the CEQA process allows tribal governments, lead agencies, and project proponents to discuss the level of environmental review, identify and address potential adverse impacts to tribal cultural resources, and reduce the potential for delay and conflict in the environmental review process. (See Public Resources Code section 21083.3.2.) Information may also be available from the California Native American Heritage Commission's Sacred Lands File per Public Resources Code section 5097.96 and the California Historical Resources Information System administered by the California Office of Historic Preservation. Please also note that Public Resources Code section 21082.3(c) contains provisions specific to confidentiality.				
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:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation**	**Less Than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
a) 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	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) 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.	☐	☐	☒	☐

REGULATORY SETTING (LAWS, ORDINANCES, REGULATIONS, STANDARDS):

Tribal cultural resources are defined in PRC Div. 13 Section 21074. California Assembly Bill 52 (AB52) specifies that any project for which a Notice of Preparation, Notice of Mitigated Negative Declaration or Notice of Negative Declaration is filed on or after July 1, 2015, the Lead agency must provide formal notification within 14 days of determining that an application for a project is complete or of a decision to undertake a project to the designated contact or tribal representative of the affiliated California Native American tribes. The tribe that is traditionally and culturally affiliated to the geographic area where a project is located must have requested that the lead agency in question provide notification to the tribe (PRC 21081.3.1).

If remains are found on Site, the County Coroner will make the determination of origin and disposition, pursuant to Public Resources Code (PRC) § 5097.98. If the remains are determined to be Native American, the Coroner would notify the NAHC (per Health and Safety Code 7050.5(c)) The NAHC would identify and notify the person(s) who might be the most likely descendent, who would make recommendations for the appropriate and dignified treatment of the remains (PRC Div. 5 section 5097.98). The descendants shall complete their inspection and make recommendations for treatment within 48 hours of being granted access to the Site (CEQA Guidelines, CCR section 15064.5(e); HSC section 7050.5).

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING (BASELINE):

Ethnographic literature indicates that the proposed project lies within an area that was occupied by a distinct linguistic and cultural subgroup of the Eastern Miwok known as the Northern Sierra Miwok. The Eastern Miwok comprise five subgroups distinguished from each other by language, culture, and the biotic areas they inhabited (Bay, Plains, Central Sierra, Southern Sierra, and Northern Sierra), which extended from the San Francisco Coast to the Sierras. The Northern Sierra Miwok occupied an area within the foothills and mountains along the Sierra Nevada where villages and settlements were usually located below the 3,500- to 4,000-foot elevation.

In February 2022, AECOM conducted a cultural resources study to update and confirm if archeological or historical resources are present at the Proposed Project Site. The study included background research for a ¼ mile radius of the Proposed Project Site at the NWIC along with review of archival maps, of aerial photographs, and of results of the SLF search request from the NAHC in Sacramento. The cultural resources study also included a pedestrian field survey at the Proposed Project Site (where ground-disturbing activities would occur). The background research and pedestrian field survey did not identify any cultural resources within the Proposed Project Site.

Because of the previous disturbance from urban development and the lack of historic-period development, the proposed project site has a low potential to contain archaeological deposits and/or human remains. Therefore, there is a low likelihood for proposed ground-disturbing activities to encounter and disturb intact archaeological deposits that may qualify as historical resources (PRC §21084.1), unique archaeological resources (PRC § 21083.2), and/or human remains interred outside of formal cemeteries. There are no known tribal cultural resources, as defined in PRC Div. 13 Section 21074, on the Proposed Project Site or in its immediate vicinity.

DTSC complied with the 2014 Assembly Bill 52 (AB52). DTSC provided written notification to tribes on the Tribal Consultation List from the NAHC regarding the proposed project on April 13, 2022. The notice included a brief project description, project location, and lead agency's contact information. DTSC did not receive interest from any Tribal governments and, therefore, did not consult with any Tribe prior to release of the CEQA document for the proposed project.

APPLICABLE THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Tribal cultural resources are defined as either 1) sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that are either included or determined to be eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources (California Register) or listed in a local register of historical resources or 2) a resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, is a tribal cultural resource (OPR, 2017).

To be eligible for the California Register, a prehistoric or historic-period property must be significant at the local, state, and/or federal level under one or more of the following four criteria:

1. Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage;
2. Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past;
3. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values; or,
4. Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

A resource eligible for the California Register must meet one of the criteria of significance described above and retain enough of its historic character or appearance (integrity) to be recognizable as a historical resource and to convey the reason for its significance. It is possible that a historic resource may not retain sufficient integrity to meet the criteria for listing in the National Register, but it may still be eligible for listing in the California Register.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PERFORMED AND METHODOLOGY:

A cultural records search was conducted by the North Central Information Center (NCIC), of the California Historical Resources Information System, California State University, Sacramento on July 22, 2020 (File No. AMA-20-21). The NCIC, an affiliate of the California Office of Historic Preservation (OHP), is the official state repository of cultural resource records and studies for Sacramento County.

The search included the project site and a 0.25-mile radius. The results were used to determine whether known cultural resources have been recorded at or adjacent to the project site, and to assess the cultural sensitivity of the area. The records search included reviews of maps listing previously conducted cultural resource studies in the area. The following references also were reviewed:

- National Register of Historic Places (NRHP),
- California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR),
- California State Historical Landmarks (OHP 1996),
- California Inventory of Historic Resources (California Department of Parks and Recreation 1976),
- California Points of Historical Interest (OHP 1992),
- General Land Office (GLO) Plat Maps, and
- University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) Aerial Photography Collection.

The records search revealed that three studies have taken place in the western and eastern ends of the Proposed Project Site, and another seven within 0.25 mile of the Project area. The western staging area is within the previously documented Argonaut Cyanide Plant and Tailings Site. However, no features associated with this site are within the staging area. A total of 154 historic-era structures and features are located within 0.25 mile of the project. The majority were documented as part of the Historic Site Survey of Jackson conducted in 1983,

IMPACT ANALYSES AND CONCLUSIONS:

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

Impact Analysis:

There are no known tribal cultural resources, as defined in PRC Section 21074, on the proposed project site or in its immediate vicinity. As described in the Baseline Environmental Conditions, the proposed project site has been used continuously as urban development or open space. Based on the proposed project site location and history, it is not likely that historical resources would be identified or impacted during implementation of stormwater infrastructure improvements. However, if tribal cultural resources are discovered during construction activities, work would stop in that area until a qualified archaeologist or appropriately licensed professional can assess the significance of the find and, if necessary, develop appropriate response measures in consultation with the DTSC and other agencies and Native American representatives, as appropriate.

Specifically, in the event of discovery of human remains during ground-disturbing activities, work within 25 feet of the discovery shall stop immediately and the County Coroner shall be notified to determine its origin. The County Coroner would determine disposition within 48 hours. If the remains are Native American, the County Coroner would be responsible for contacting the NAHC within 24 hours. The NAHC would identify and notify the person(s) who might be the most likely descendent, who would make recommendations for the appropriate and dignified treatment of the remains (PRC Div. 5 section 5097.98). The descendants shall complete their inspection and make recommendations for treatment within 48 hours of being granted access to the Site (CEQA Guidelines, CCR section 15064.5(e); HSC section 7050.5).

In the event of discovery of potential cultural or archaeological resources, construction activities would be immediately suspended in the immediate area and surrounding 25 feet along with contacting and informing the DTSC Project Manager [Andrew Reimanis at (916) 255-4976; Andrew.reimanis@dtsc.ca.gov]. After discussion with their Tribal Chairperson or respective Cultural Resources Managers or Tribal Historic Preservation Officers and in collaboration with DTSC (including the Office of Environmental Equity) and the property owner, any measures deemed necessary to record and/or protect the cultural or archaeological resource(s) would be implemented.

Conclusion:

The proposed project would not include the demolition, elimination, or manipulation of a known tribal cultural resource. In addition, the finding of an unknown tribal cultural resource during implementation of stormwater infrastructure improvements is unlikely based on the site history and conditions. However, the proposed project includes measures that would be implemented if discovery of unknown tribal cultural resource were

uncovered during construction activities. The proposed project would not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource and impacts would be less than significant.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

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 Resource 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.

Impact Analysis:

There are no known tribal cultural resources, as defined in PRC Section 21074, on the proposed project site or in its immediate vicinity. As described in the Baseline Environmental Conditions, the proposed project site has been used continuously as urban development or open space.

On April 13, 2022, the DTSC formally notified the seven tribes (i.e., Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians, Calavera Band of Mi-Wuk Indians, Chicken Ranch Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians, Jackson Rancheria of Band of Miwuk Indians, Nashville Enterprise of Miwok-Maidu-Nishinam Tribe, United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria, Wilton Rancheria) identified in the NAHC listing. By May 28, 2022, none of the tribal Governments responded or did not respond to the AB52 Consultation letter and requested consultation.

Although the tribes did not identify any known tribal cultural resources that may be affected by the proposed project, it is acknowledged that there is potential for unknown tribal cultural resources to be affected during ground disturbance activities. Due to this, the tribes recommended actions to reduce the potential for adverse effects to cultural resources that may be discovered during construction activities. The proposed project includes a standard operating procedure whereby all possible damages caused in the event of an unanticipated discovery can be avoided. Specifically, if tribal cultural resources are discovered during corrective measures, work would stop in that area until a qualified archaeologist or appropriately licensed professional can assess the significance of the find and, if necessary, develop appropriate response measures in consultation with the DTSC and other agencies and Native American representatives, as appropriate. No other tribes have responded with a request for consultation. As previously stated, the majority of the proposed project site has been previously disturbed and no information regarding the presence of known tribal cultural resources has been provided to the DTSC from the contacted tribes.

Conclusion:

As no known tribal cultural resources occur at the proposed project site or would be affected by the proposed project, and implementation of the contingency set forth in Section 18 (a)(i) would reduce impacts to unknown tribal cultural resources during excavation activities, impacts would be less than significant.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

References Used:

Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR). 2017. Technical Advisory, AB52 and Tribal Cultural Resources in CEQA. June 2017.

19. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS				
Would the project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation**	**Less Than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water 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 wastewater 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?	☐	☐	☐	☒

REGULATORY SETTING (LAWS, ORDINANCES, REGULATIONS, STANDARDS):

No laws, ordinances, regulations, or standards protecting utilities and service systems resources are applicable to the Proposed Project.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING (BASELINE):

The City of Jackson provides water and wastewater service at the proposed project site. The City purchases water from the Amador Water Agency which serves approximately 10,000 customers in Amador County.

Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) provides electric and natural gas service to the Proposed Project Site.

Routine facility operations-related solid waste collection and disposal is provided by ACES Waste Services.

Storm water project area is collected via an existing stormwater collection system that ultimately discharges into Jackson Creek.

APPLICABLE THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The list of utilities and service systems resource effects that may be considered significant contained in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines (Environmental Checklist) was used to establish a threshold of significance.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PERFORMED AND METHODOLOGY:

Based on the less than significant impacts to utilities and service systems resources in or near the proposed project site, no environmental studies relating to utilities and service systems resources were prepared for the proposed project.

IMPACT ANALYSES AND CONCLUSIONS:

Analysis as to whether or not project activities would:

a. Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?

Impact Analysis:

Proposed infrastructure improvements would not create the need for or result in the construction of new or expanded water or wastewater treatment, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities. The project is intended to improve stormwater conveyance in the project area, specifically from behind the Argonaut Dam, to reduce or prevent flooding.

Conclusion:

Activities associated with the proposed project would not require new or expanded water or wastewater treatment, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities. In addition, construction of the stormwater infrastructure would be designed to improve project area drainage conditions. Impacts to these facilities would be considered beneficial and no impacts would occur.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

b. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?

Impact Analysis:

Implementation of stormwater infrastructure improvements would require approximately 3 months to complete. The primary source of water required during construction activities (e.g., dust suppression) would be supplied by water transported to the proposed project site by water trucks.

Conclusion:

Sufficient water supplies from existing resources onsite are available to serve the needs of construction activities during the anticipated 3-month construction period. The stormwater infrastructure improvements would not create long-term, future demand for water supply beyond existing conditions. Impacts to water supplies would be less than significant.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

c. Result in a determination by the wastewater 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?

Impact Analysis:

Implementation of stormwater infrastructure improvements would not generate wastewater that would require a wastewater treatment provider. Wastewater generated during equipment decontamination activities, if any, would be containerized, profiled, and disposed at an appropriate offsite facility.

Conclusion:

Construction activities associated with stormwater infrastructure improvements would not create a demand for wastewater treatment at any wastewater treatment provider. No impact to a wastewater treatment provider would occur.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

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?

Impact Analysis:

Removal of the existing stormwater infrastructure would be required as part of the proposed project. The existing stormwater infrastructure would be hauled to and consolidated at behind the Argonaut Dam at an area designated as Tailings Area 3 which the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has indicated will be a repository for hazardous materials that will ultimately be capped. Solid waste associated with stormwater infrastructure improvements would comprise of approximately 5,150 cubic yards of asphalt/base rock and excavated soil associated with the original stormwater infrastructure that is being replaced. The asphalt/base and excavated soil rock would be transported exclusively to Tailings Area 3 and would not require disposal at any landfill.

Conclusion:

Solid waste generated by implementation of the stormwater infrastructure improvements would not require the service of a landfill. Solid waste associated with stormwater infrastructure improvements would be transported to Tailings Area 3 located behind the Argonaut Dam. No impact would occur.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

e. Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

Impact Analysis:

Implementation of stormwater infrastructure improvements would generate approximately 5,150 cubic yards of asphalt/base rock and excavated soil associated with the original stormwater infrastructure that is being replaced. The existing stormwater infrastructure would be hauled to and consolidated at behind the Argonaut Dam at an area designated as Tailings Area 3 which the EPA has indicated will be a repository for hazardous materials that will ultimately be capped. Disposal of contaminated soil and asphalt/base rock would comply with all federal, state, and local statues and regulations related to solid waste including, but not limited to, characterization, storage, labeling, transport, and disposal.

Conclusion:

Disposal of asphalt/base rock would comply with all federal, state, and local statues and regulations related to solid waste. Therefore, no impacts related to compliance with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste would occur.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

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**	**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?	☐	☐	☒	☐

REGULATORY SETTING (LAWS, ORDINANCES, REGULATIONS, STANDARDS):

No laws, ordinances, regulations, or standards protecting wildfire resources are applicable to the proposed project.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING (BASELINE):

State Responsibility Areas are boundaries adopted by the Board of Forestry and Fire Protection and are areas where the California Department of Forestry and Fire (CAL FIRE) has a financial responsibility for fire suppression and prevention. Review of the California State Responsibility Area Viewer and the Amador County Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps for State Responsibility Area and Local Responsibility Area indicate the proposed project site is not located in a Very High Hazard Severity Zone (VHFHSZ) nor a Local Responsibility Area. The closest State Responsibility Area is located ½ mile west of the proposed project site (CAL FIRE 2007). The closest area classified as a VHFHSZ is located approximately 3 miles southwest of the proposed project site (CAL FIRE 2007).

APPLICABLE THRESHOLDS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The list of wildfires resource effects that may be considered significant contained in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines (Environmental Checklist) was used to establish a threshold of significance.

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PERFORMED AND METHODOLOGY:

Based on the less than significant impacts to wildfire resources in or near the proposed project site, no environmental studies relating to wildfire resources were prepared for the proposed project.

IMPACT ANALYSES AND CONCLUSIONS:

Analysis as to whether or not project activities would:

a. Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

Impact Analysis:

Please refer to the analysis provided in Section 9(f) of this Initial Study.

Conclusion:

Please refer to the conclusion provided in Section 9(f) of this Initial Study.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

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?

Impact Analysis:

The proposed project site, particularly the staging area, is located in an area with environmental conditions conducive to wildland fires (e.g., dry brush). Operation of construction equipment on the during stormwater infrastructure improvements has the limited potential to spark a fire. However, construction activities would implement BMPs which address fire prevention methods such as:

- restricting vehicles from driving or parking on dry vegetation during fire sensitive times of the year; and
- wetting dry construction areas before commencing activities, and wetting throughout the day, as appropriate.

Conclusion:

Although construction equipment has a minimal potential to spark a fire during construction activities, implementation of BMPs would substantially limit the potential for a wildland fire that exposes people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death to occur. Impacts from wildland fires during implementation of the stormwater infrastructure improvements are considered less than significant.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

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?

Impact Analysis:

Implementation of stormwater infrastructure improvements would not require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (e.g., fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines, other utilities) that could exacerbate fire risk or could result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment. The stormwater infrastructure improvements may require construction of temporary access roads of compacted clean soil or imported clean gravel to facilitate access to work areas. However, the temporary access roads would overall reduce wildfire risk during the implementation of stormwater infrastructure improvements by incorporating soil or gravel.

Conclusion:

The proposed stormwater infrastructure improvements would not install any infrastructure that could exacerbate fire risk or could result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment. No impact would occur.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☐ Less Than Significant Impact

☒ No Impact

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?

Impact Analysis:

Landslides tend to occur where slopes are steeper with higher relief. The proposed project site is relatively level with very little relief. The proposed stormwater infrastructure improvements would not change the existing slopes of the proposed project site. In addition, construction of the stormwater infrastructure would improve the current drainage capabilities in the project area by increasing the amount of stormwater flows the drainage system can accommodate and thereby reduce or prevent flooding upstream towards Argonaut Dam.

Conclusion:

The proposed stormwater infrastructure improvements would not create steep slopes or disturb any landslide-prone areas. In addition, proposed stormwater infrastructure improvements would not expose people or structures to risk from uncontrolled storm water runoff. These impacts are considered less than significant.

☐ Potentially Significant Impact

☐ Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated

☒ Less Than Significant Impact

☐ No Impact

References Used:

California Department of Forestry and Fire (CAL FIRE), 2007. Amador County Fire Hazard Severity Zone Maps for State Responsibility Area. November. https://osfm.fire.ca.gov/divisions/wildfire-prevention-planning-engineering/wildland-hazards-building-codes/fire-hazard-severity-zones-maps/ (Accessed October 25, 2019).

21. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

Based on evidence provided in this Initial Study, DTSC makes the following findings:

a. The project does not have the potential to substantially 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, substantially 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. The project does not have impacts that are individually limited but cumulatively considerable. ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of an individual 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. The project does not have environmental effects that will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.

Authority: Public Resources Code 21083, 21094.5.5
Reference: Public Resources Code Sections 21094.5 and 21094.5.5

Attachment A – Air Quality

Attachment B – Biological Resources

Attachment C- Cultural Resources

Attachment D - Noise