INITIAL STUDY/
PROPOSED MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

EUER VALLEY RESTORATION PROJECT – PHASE 1

Prepared for:

foriver
TRUCKEE RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL

PO Box 8568
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Prepared by:

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NOVEMBER 1, 2022

NOTICE OF PUBLIC REVIEW AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

The Tahoe Donner Association (TDA) in partnership with the Truckee River Watershed Council (TRWC) is proposing the **Euer Valley Restoration Project – Phase 1** (Project). The Project would improve the existing recreation trail alignment and failed culverted crossing (Coyote Crossing) of the South Fork of Prosser Creek with: installation of 150' span bridge and elevated boardwalk; stabilization of an equestrian crossing; maintenance and improvements to repair rutting, erosion, and drainage crossings along South Euer Valley Road; and restoration of approximately ½ mile of the creek from Coyote Crossing downstream. The Project is located in Euer Valley, a high elevation valley at approximately 6,500 feet within the Prosser Creek Watershed, the third largest sub-watershed of the Middle Truckee River Watershed. and the Project is entirely on land owned and managed by TDA.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) lead agency for the Project is Nevada County. Nevada County prepared this Initial Study (IS) to assess the proposed Project's potential effects on the environment and the significance of those effects. Based on the results of the IS, the proposed Project would not have significant effects on the environment with the addition of identified mitigation measures. Accordingly, Nevada County proposes to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Project.

The 30-day period for public review and comment on the proposed MND and supporting initial study begins November 4, 2022. All comments must be submitted by December 5, 2022 at 5:00pm. Please address written comments to:

Nevada County Planning Department
Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration
Euer Valley Restoration Project, Phase I
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959
Attn: Marie Maniscalco

Comments may also be sent via email to: marie.maniscalco@nevadacountyca.gov. For emailed comments, please include the project title in the subject line, attach comments in MS Word or Adobe PDF format, and include the commenter's U.S. Postal Service mailing address.

A copy of the IS/Proposed MND can be reviewed at the Nevada County Planning Department at the above address or online at https://www.nevadacountyca.gov/513/Projects-Supporting-Documents. For further information regarding the IS/Proposed MND and Zoning Administrator schedule to consider adoption of the document, please contact Marie Maniscalco at marie.maniscalco@nevadacountyca.gov or (530) 265-1345.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title: Euer Valley Restoration Project, Phase I

Lead Agency: Nevada County
950 Maidu Avenue, Suite 170
Nevada City, CA 95959

Contact Person: Brian Foss, Planning Director
Nevada County Planning Department
(530) 265-1222 Option 2
planning@nevadacountyca.gov

Project Location:
The Project is located along the South Fork of Prosser Creek in Euer Valley, a high elevation valley within the Prosser Creek Watershed, the third largest sub-watershed of the Middle Truckee Watershed. The Project area is located just northwest of the Town of Truckee in eastern Nevada County. The approximate elevation of the Project is 6,500 feet. The Project area can be located on the Norden, Truckee, Independence Lake, and Hobart Mills, California United States Geological Survey (USGS) Quadrangles. The location of the proposed improved trail crossing of the South Fork of Prosser Creek (the upper extent of the Project area) is 39°22'7.74"N latitude and 120°17'13.15"W longitude (39.368817, -120.286986).

Assessor's Parcel Number: 016-060-024, 016-060-020, and 016-060-029

Applicant/Owner: Truckee Donner Association
11509 Northwoods Blvd
Truckee, CA 96161

Project Representative: Truckee River Watershed Council
P.O. Box 8568
Truckee, CA 96162
Contact: Project Manager, Eben Swain
eswain@truckeeriverwc.org
530.550.8760, extension 7

Zoning District: All parcels within the Project area are zoned by Nevada County as Forest (FR), including FR-40-PD, FR-160, and FR-80-PD zoning. The FR district provides areas for the protection, production and management of timber, timber support uses, including but not limited to equipment storage and temporary offices, low intensity recreational uses, and open space.

General Plan: The entire Project is located within area designated as Forest in the General Plan (including FOR-40, FOR-80, and FOR-160). Designated forest lands are intended to provide for production and management of timber resources, and compatible recreational and low-density residential uses. The Project is consistent with the allowable activity within designated forest lands as it includes creek restoration and trail crossing improvement of the South Prosser Creek ("Coyote Crossing"), specifically allowing for the use of recreational and low-density residential uses (Nevada County 2020).

Project Description: The Truckee River Watershed Council (TRWC) and Tahoe Donner Association (TDA) are proposing to restore degraded meadow and trail systems, reduce erosion, and protect and enhance wetland habitat along the South Fork of Prosser Creek in Euer Valley, a high elevation valley northwest of the Town of Truckee in the eastern portion of Nevada County. The Project would reduce and minimize existing recreational impacts to the meadow and wetland areas through Euer Valley by replacing the existing and frequently used earthen trail (Coyote Trail) through the wet meadow with an elevated boardwalk, relocating Coyote Hut, installing a permanent bridge feature where the existing trail crosses the South Fork of Prosser Creek (Coyote Crossing), stabilizing an existing equestrian crossing of the creek, repairing rutting, erosion, and drainage crossings along South Euer Valley Road, and restoring hydrologic functions and riparian features along ½ mile of South Fork Prosser Creek downstream of Coyote Crossing. These improvements would support continued summer access for pedestrians, bicyclists, and equestrians, as well as winter access for TDA's winter grooming equipment and for cross-country skiers. The Project would use small biotechnical structures such as native cobble, sod and live willow stakes to remedy creek incision and improve the quality of wetland habitat downstream of Coyote Crossing. The Project is a recommended long-term trail improvements project identified in TDA's Trails Master Plan (TDA 2013), a guiding document that identifies opportunities within TDA's jurisdiction (some 7,000-acres of land) to enhance recreational users experience and improve environmental conditions.

Project Location Description and Surrounding Land Zoning and Uses: The Project is located entirely on lands owned by the TDA and is zoned as forest land by the Nevada County General Plan. Immediately adjacent and to the West of the Project area is private land (APN 016-060-009) that is accessed via North Euer Valley Road. Other adjacent landowners include the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service (USFS), Tahoe National Forest (TNF), Sierra Pacific Industries, the Euer family, the Donner Euer Valley Corporation, and the Truckee Donner Land Trust. The Project area is a seasonally wet meadow with uniform wetland grasses consisting of beaked sedge (*Carex utriculata*) mixed with clumps of small Lemmon's willow (*Salix lemmonii*) and lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) along the edges and upland areas. The South Fork of Prosser Creek drains approximately 5.5 square miles of watershed before joining

Prosser Creek and ultimately the Truckee River. Primary use of the area is recreation, including biking, hiking, and equestrian use in the summer and cross-country skiing and snowshoeing in the winter.

Relationship to Other Projects: This Project is coincident with the Prosser Basin Watershed Assessment and is part of a comprehensive effort to restore the Prosser watershed to increase ecosystem resiliency. TRWC is pursuing the Euer Valley work in the headwaters (Euer Valley Restoration, Phase 1) as the first step in the restoration of the Euer Valley meadow complex and associated downstream habitat areas. Areas downstream of the Euer Valley Restoration, Phase 1 Project, including meadow complex and riparian habitat restoration are identified in the Assessment as future phases of Prosser Basin watershed resiliency improvements, but the timing and full scope of the improvements are uncertain at this time.

Other Permits Which May Be Necessary:
The following permits may be required:

Table 1. Required Permits and Approvals

Agency	Permit or Approval	Action Requiring Permit Approval or Review
Federal		
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit – likely Nationwide Permit #27 for Aquatic Habitat Restoration, Enhancement, and Establishment Activities	Discharge of dredged or fill materials into waters of the United States
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Federal Endangered Species Act Consultation	Potential impacts on federally listed species and habitats
State		
California Department of Fish and Wildlife	Section 1602 Streambed Alteration Agreement (SAA)	Potential disturbance to the bed or bank of jurisdictional waters
California Department of Fish and Wildlife	California Endangered Species Act Consultation	Potential impacts on state-listed species and habitats
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board	Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification	Potential impacts on state water quality; required when a federal permit is issued
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board	Porter Cologne Water Quality Control Act- Lahontan Basin Plan - Exemption for discharge of fill in the 100-year floodplain of drainages within the Truckee River Hydrologic Unit	Discharge of waste materials to lands within the 100-year floodplain
State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)	SHPO Consultation (through the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 process)	Potential impacts on cultural resources

State Water Resources Control Board	Water Quality Order No. 99-08 – NPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges associated with Construction Activity	Discharges of stormwater runoff associated with construction activity involving land disturbance of 1 or more acres
Local		
Nevada County	Management Plan, Use Permit;	Work within 100' of wetland and riparian areas, 100' of perennial watercourse, 50' of intermittent watercourses, 100' of the 100-year floodplain, and for the protection of habitat. Development within a floodplain.
NASQMD	Dust Control Plan	Disturbance of more than 1 acre of topsoil
Washoe Tribe, Colfax-Todds Valley Consolidated Tribe, Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, Tsi-Akim Maidu, and United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria	AB 52 Consultation	AB 52 requires a project lead agency to consult with any California Native American tribes affiliated with the geographic area of the proposed project

Tribal Consultation: *Have California Native American Tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1? If so, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.*

Pursuant to California State Assembly Bill 52 (AB-52), Tribes were notified of the proposed Project, scoping period, and opportunity to enter into a government-to-government consultation with the TDA and the County. There are five Tribes with potential aboriginal claim to the Project Area: the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California (Washoe Tribe), Colfax-Todds Valley Consolidated Tribe, Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, Tsi-Akim Maidu, and United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria. These Tribes were sent a tribal consultation invitation letter that included information about the proposed project, including specific locations for proposed improvements, and the process for initiating a consultation. The Tribes have the opportunity to consult at any time during the environmental review process. United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria has requested consultation.

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AQB	Aquolls and Borolls
Basin Plan	Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region
BMPs	best management practices
CAAQS	California Ambient Air Quality Standards
CAFE	Corporate Average Fuel Economy
CalEPA	California Department of Environmental Protection
Cal-IPC	California Invasive Plant Council
CalFire	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
CARB	California Air Resource Board
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CESA	California Endangered Species Act
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CGS	California Geological Survey
CMP	corrugated metal pipe
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Database
CNPS	California Native Plant Society
CO	carbon monoxide
CWA	Clean Water Act
DBH	diameter at breast height
DMR	California Department of Conservation's Division of Mine Reclamation
DPM	diesel particulate matter
EAP	Energy Action Plan
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Farmland	Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FR	Forest (Nevada County Zoning)
FOR	Forest (Nevada County General Plan)
GHG	greenhouse gas
IS	Initial Study
kWh	kilowatt hours
LRWQCB	Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board
ME	Mineral Extraction
MND	Mitigated Negative Declaration
MRZ	Mineral Resource Zones
MUTCD	manual on uniform traffic control devices
ND	Negative Declaration
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission

NHC	Northwest Hydraulic Consultants
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NSAQMD	Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District
NWP	Nationwide Permit
O3	ozone
PM	particulate matter
PACE Program	Property Assessed Clean Energy Program
PM2.5	PM less than 2.5 microns in diameter
PM10	PM less than 10 microns in diameter
Project	Euer Valley Restoration Project, Phase I
QSD	Qualified SWPPP Developer
RPA	Register of Professional Archaeologists
SAA	Streambed Alteration Agreement
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SMARA	Surface Mining and Reclamation Act
SNGBZ	Sierra Nevada-Great Basin Boundary Zone
SNYLF	Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog
SPI	Sierra Pacific Industries
SRA	State Responsibility Area
SWPPP	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
TBF	Tallac-cryumbrept
TDA	Tahoe Donner Association
TDPUD	Truckee Donner Public Utility District
TNF	Tahoe National Forest
TRWC	Truckee River Watershed Council
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFS	US Forest Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
WEAP	Worker Environmental Awareness Program
WDRs	Waste Discharge Requirements
WQC	Water Quality Certification

1.0 INTRODUCTION

This document is an Initial Study/Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/Proposed MND) for the Euer Valley Restoration Project – Phase 1 (Project) in Euer Valley, a high elevation valley within the Prosser Creek Watershed, the third largest sub-watershed of the Middle Truckee Watershed. The Project will reduce and minimize existing recreational impacts to the meadow and wetland areas through Euer Valley by: replacing the existing and frequently used earthen trail (Coyote Trail) through the wet meadow with an elevated boardwalk; relocating Coyote Hut; installing a permanent bridge feature where the existing trail crosses the South Fork of Prosser Creek (Coyote Crossing); stabilizing an existing equestrian crossing of the creek; repairing rutting, erosion, and drainage crossings along South Euer Valley Road; and restoring hydrologic functions and riparian features along ½ mile of South Fork Prosser Creek downstream of Coyote Crossing. The document was prepared under the direction of Nevada County, the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA); and in accordance with CEQA (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.) and the CEQA Guidelines (Title 14, Section 15000 et seq. of the California Code of Regulations).

The purpose of this IS/Proposed MND is to: 1) determine whether project implementation would result in potentially significant or significant effects on the environment; and 2) incorporate mitigation measures into the project design, where feasible, to eliminate the project's potentially significant or significant project effects or reduce them to a less than significant level. An IS/MND presents the environmental analysis and substantial evidence supporting its conclusions regarding the significance of environmental impacts. Substantial evidence may include expert opinion based on facts, technical studies, or reasonable assumptions based on facts (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15063[a] and 15064[f]).

CEQA requires that all state and local government agencies consider the environmental consequences of projects they propose to implement, or over which they have discretionary authority, before implementing or approving those projects. As specified in Section 15367 of the CEQA Guidelines, the public agency that has the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving a project is the lead agency for CEQA compliance. Nevada County has principal responsibility for approving the Project and is therefore the CEQA lead agency for this IS/Proposed MND.

As specified in Section 15064(a) of the CEQA Guidelines, if there is substantial evidence (such as the results of an IS) that a project, either individually or cumulatively, may have a significant effect on the environment, then the lead agency must prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The lead agency may instead prepare a Negative Declaration (ND) if it determines there is no substantial evidence that the project may cause a significant impact on the environment. The lead agency may prepare a MND if, in the course of the IS analysis, it is recognized that the project may have a significant impact on the environment but that implementing specific mitigation measures would reduce any such impacts to a less-than-significant level (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064[f]).

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Tahoe Donner Association (TDA) and Truckee River Watershed Council (TRWC) are proposing to restore degraded meadow and trail systems, reduce erosion, and protect and enhance wetland habitat along the South Fork of Prosser Creek in Euer Valley. Euer Valley is a high elevation valley northwest of the Town of Truckee in the eastern portion of Nevada County at approximately 6,500 feet elevation. The Project is a recommended long-term trail improvement project identified in TDA's Trails Master Plan (TDA 2013), a guiding document that identifies opportunities within TDA's jurisdiction (some 7,000-acres of land) to enhance recreational users experience and improve environmental conditions.

The Project would reduce and minimize existing recreational impacts to the meadow and wetland areas through Euer Valley by: replacing the existing and frequently used earthen trail (Coyote Trail) through the wet meadow with an elevated boardwalk; relocating Coyote Hut; installing a permanent bridge feature where the existing trail crosses the South Fork of Prosser Creek (Coyote Crossing); stabilizing an existing equestrian crossing of the creek; repairing rutting, erosion, and drainage crossings along South Euer Valley Road; and restoring hydrologic functions and riparian features along ½ mile of South Fork Prosser Creek downstream of Coyote Crossing. These improvements would support continued access of the area for pedestrians, bicyclists, and equestrians in the summer; and would also support TDA's snow grooming equipment in the winter. In addition, the Project would use small, biotechnical treatments to remedy creek incision, hold the channel grade, and/or protect against potential scour. Bank protection treatments were considered for the stretch of creek between Coyote Crossing to approximately ½ linear mile downstream. These treatments would target locations sensitive to degradation due to water velocity, conveyance requirements and existing creek-bed geology, including the location of a relic beaver dam that is currently serving as a grade control structure, and the vicinity of the proposed bridge abutments. Treatments include biotechnical bank protection measures with materials such as native cobble, sod and live willow stakes; boulder weir riffles would be installed to dissipate the energy of high velocity water downstream of the relic beaver dam.

Figure 1. Project Vicinity Map presents the location of the Project relative to the greater Truckee area.

Figure 2a. Project Features Map – South Fork Prosser Creek Crossing Area and

Figure 2b. Project Features Map – Upper South Euer Valley Road Area illustrate the major Project components in relation to the natural and human geography of Euer Valley.

Figure 1. Project Vicinity Map

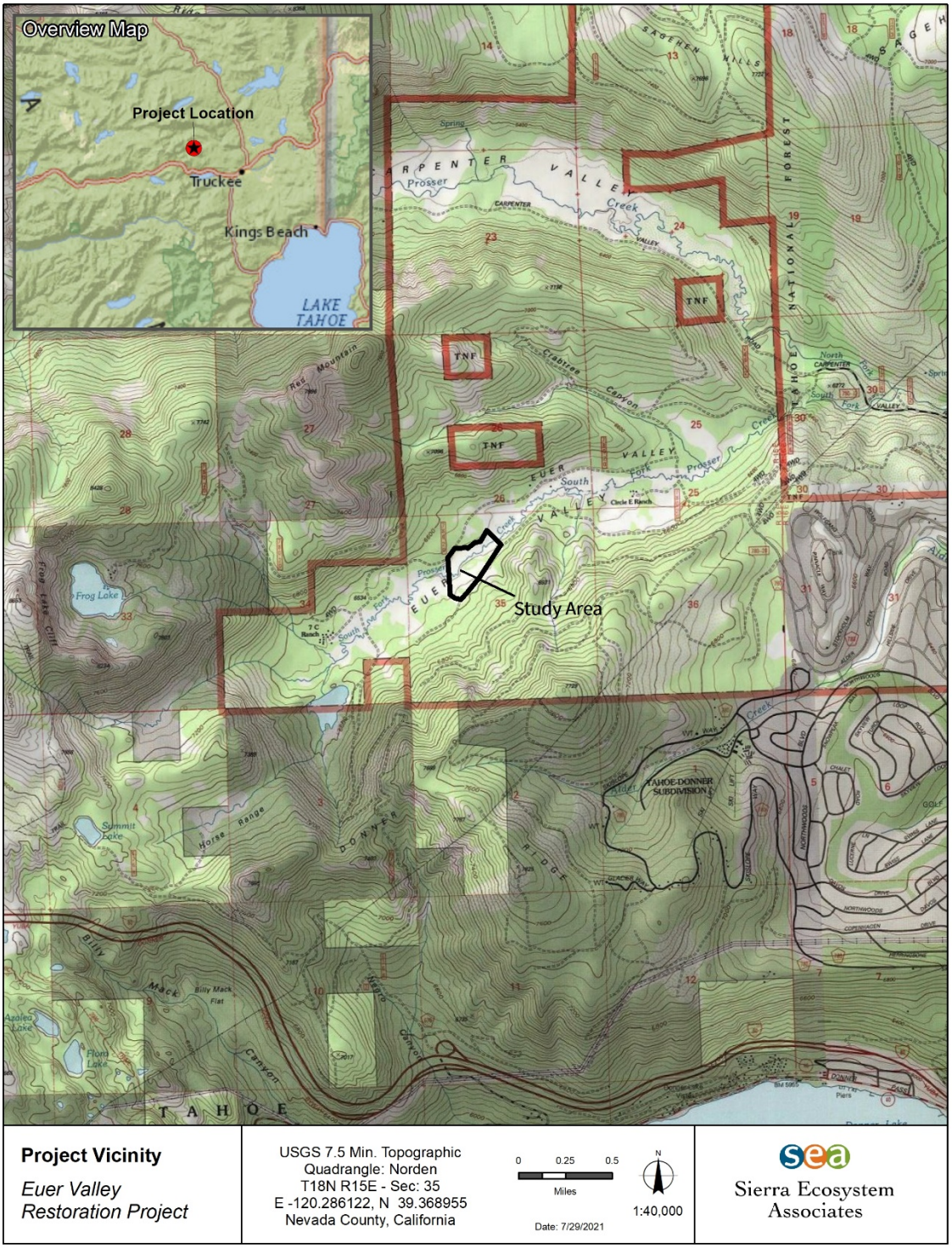


Figure 2a. Project Features Map – South Fork Prosser Creek Crossing Area

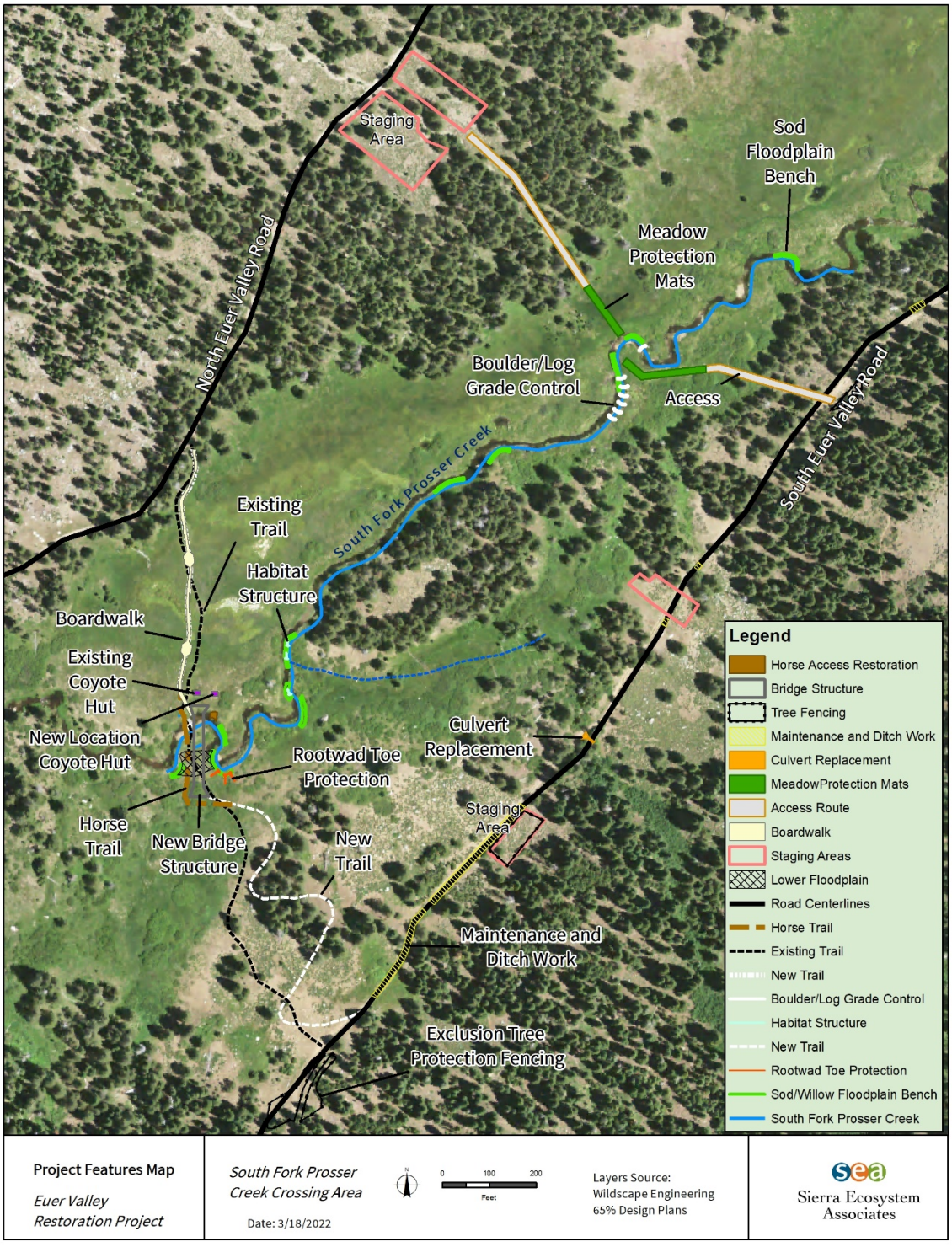
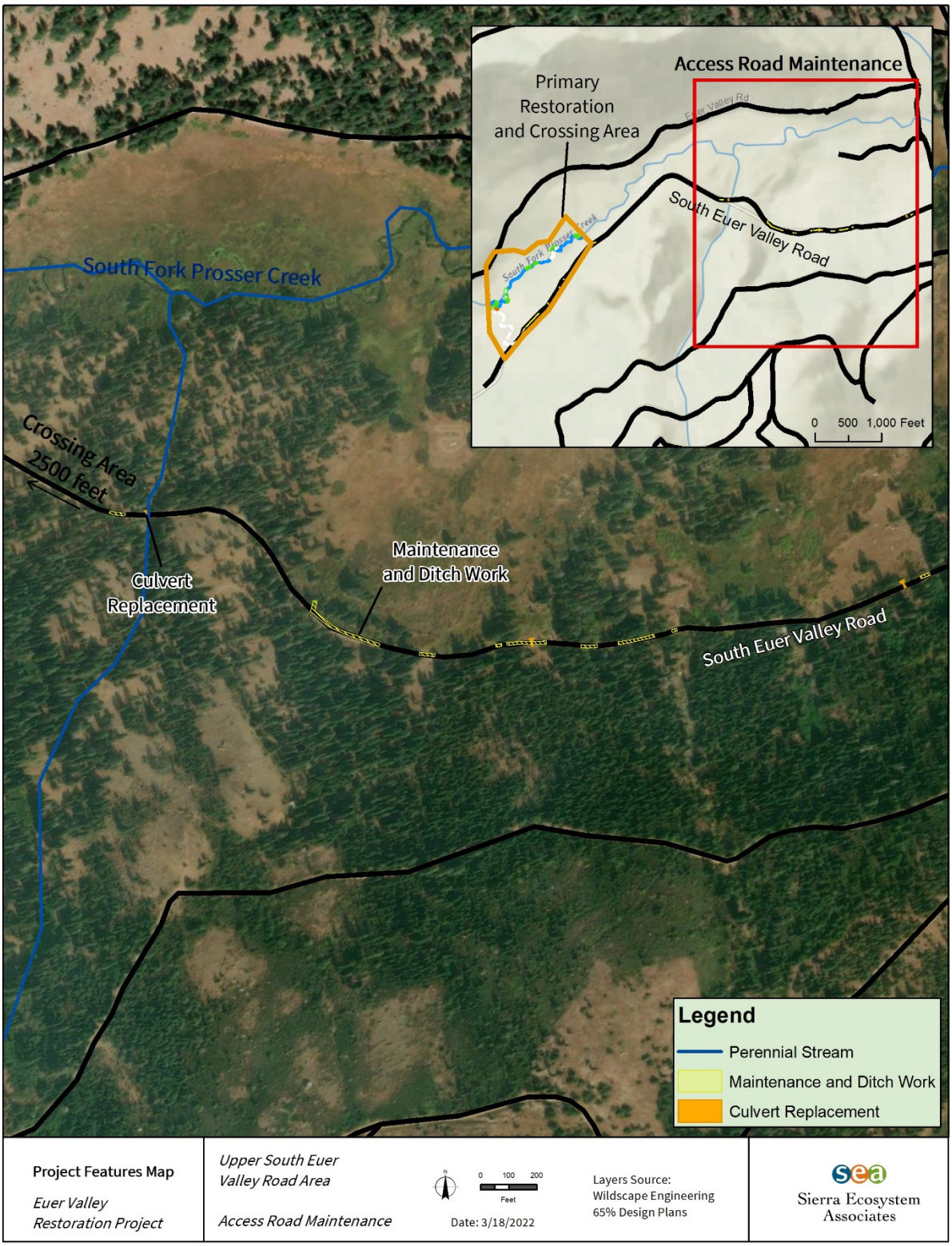


Figure 2b. Project Features Map – Upper South Euer Valley Road Area



2.1 Project Objectives

TDA conceptually identified the proposed Project in its Trails Master Plan (2013) due to desired recreation and environmental improvements to the Coyote Crossing and trail. The major Project objectives are to:

- Improve creek geomorphic function and water quality downstream of the new bridge by improving channel stability and restoring riparian vegetation.
- Establish a defined and accessible trail over wetted meadow and the creek that will minimize recreational impacts (including from hikers, cyclists and equestrians) and will protect sensitive natural resource areas in the adjacent meadow and wetland areas;
- Establish a designated equestrian creek access trail and crossing to minimize future dispersed equestrian impacts on the riparian zone and wetlands; and,
- Stabilize the South Euer Valley Road surface and drainage crossings to reduce erosion at the crossings and sediment transport to downhill meadow/creek areas.

2.2 Background

The South Fork of Prosser Creek and Euer Valley have been subject to historic anthropogenic disturbances including grading, timber harvest, irrigation infrastructure and operation, grazing, land development and associated road development. While the creek channel has been degraded from anthropogenic disturbances, the meadow remains relatively healthy – except for the localized trail disturbances – due to persistent spring and groundwater support. Recreation is currently the dominant land use within the Project area.

The existing creek crossing consists of an anchored plywood walkway over three (3) corrugated metal pipe (CMP) culverts and a constructed access ramp allowing for both summer and winter recreationists and snow grooming equipment (owned and operated by TDA) to cross. Around Coyote Crossing, springs create persistent standing water well into peak recreation season that promote trails by pedestrians and equestrians attempting to avoid the wetted areas. Additional spring fed swales in the meadow (north of the crossing) create similar conditions, resulting in braiding of the trail through the meadow as recreationists seek alternative paths to avoid getting their feet wet. This current recreation use exacerbates erosion in the saturated meadow area, compacts soil, and stunts vegetation growth within the vicinity of the existing trail alignment.

Coyote Crossing is a key part of TDA's existing trail system because it is the only crossing on the South Fork of Prosser Creek until Alder Creek Road, which is over two miles to the east. There is a warming hut (i.e., Coyote Hut) just northwest of Coyote Crossing that is primarily used by cross-country skiers in the winter season.

As discussed above, the Project is a recommended improvement project identified in TDA's Trails Master Plan (TDA 2013), a guiding document that identifies opportunities within TDA's

jurisdiction (some 7,000 acres of land) to enhance recreational users experience and improve environmental conditions. Additional habitat restoration and resource protection actions have been identified through subsequent assessment of the Project site and are included as recommended project components. The Trails Master Plan was addressed in a CEQA IS/MND (Nevada County 2016) and then approved by the County of Nevada in 2016. The County's evaluation of the Trails Master Plan included the approval of five management plans: 1) Floodplain Management Plan, 2) High Erosion Potential Management Plan, 3) Watercourses, Wetlands, and Riparian Areas Management Plan, 4) Cultural Resources Management Plan, and 5) Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species and Their Habitats Management Plan. Mitigation measures required by the Trails Master Plan IS/MND, and associated management plans are considered in this Euer Valley Restoration Project – Phase 1 IS/Proposed MND and herein incorporated where applicable.

2.3 Design Features and Expected Benefits of Proposed Restoration

Design plans were prepared by Wildscape Engineering, Inc. with support from Linchpin Structural Engineering (for pedestrian trail and bridge, equestrian trail, boardwalk design, and road surface repair and drainage features). Supporting figures from the 65% design plans are included as Appendix C, Restoration Design Plans. The following describes the proposed creek crossing and trail improvements (boardwalk, bridge, and equestrian branch trail and creek crossing), creek restoration, and South Euer Valley Road surface repair and drainage crossing improvements.

2.3.1 Creek Crossing and Trail Improvements

In addition to the overall Project objectives, TRWC and TDA identified the following objectives to guide the design of the creek crossing and trail improvements:

- Reduce erosional impacts to stream banks and impingement on high quality meadow habitat by replacing the failed culverted crossing with a bridge that will restore natural flow regimes.
- Provide year-round access across the creek that will not impact the creek and is usable by recreationists and snow grooming equipment.
- Provide defined equestrian access to and crossing of the creek, including for watering the horses, to minimize future dispersed use of the creek channel bed and banks.
- Maintain proximity to the existing trail alignment and grooming pattern for continuity and wider use/enjoyment of the valley.

The proposed trail (including the boardwalk) would follow the general alignment of the existing earthen trail across the meadow, and the proposed bridge would be constructed at the same location as the existing crossing of the South Fork of Prosser Creek. As part of the Project, all sections of the existing earthen trail and the existing site of the Coyote Hut would

be decommissioned by de-compacting (ripping/tilling) and revegetating. In addition to the bridge and boardwalk, the design incorporates an equestrian branch trail for horses to access and cross the creek. The intent of this formalized equestrian access is to eliminate future horse damage to the creek bed and banks at multiple dispersed locations, and/or at ecologically sensitive locations.

The following describes the sections of the new trail from north to south: 1) boardwalk, 2) bridge, 3) south of the bridge, and 4) the equestrian access branch trail and creek crossing point.

2.3.1.1 Boardwalk and Relocation of Coyote Hut

The boardwalk would begin at the north side of the Project area within about 50 feet of the trail's intersection with North Euer Valley Road, transition to about 500 feet of boardwalk that crosses the meadow, and then meet the approximately 150-foot-long bridge at Coyote Crossing. The boardwalk would be about 6 feet wide along its length, anchored with 12-inch helical piers, and framed with wood, steel, or a combination of both. The boardwalk's deck would be wooden (Douglas Fir, cedar or redwood) and remain 30 inches or less above grade. The low elevation of the boardwalk's deck eliminates the need for guardrails and provides for equestrian friendly passage. In order to accommodate the new trail alignment, Coyote Hut will need to be relocated. The proposed relocation of Coyote Hut is just to the east of the current location (Figure 2a). The hut will be placed on an appropriate support system to minimize impacts to the meadow and the existing hut location will be restored with native seed and plantings.

Design plans for the boardwalk include two small, approximately 20-foot by 30-foot, pull-out areas to allow for multi-user access and passing. The boardwalk is anticipated to be buried in snow during conditions appropriate for use of the grooming equipment and is not designed to support or accommodate groomers.

2.3.1.2 Bridge

The bridge would span 150 feet with a minimum of three, 50-foot spans to transmit bridge loads into the soil. Helical piers would support five bridge girders. The bridge's deck would be wooden (Douglas Fir, cedar or redwood). The bridge would include wooden railings with horizontal wooden or steel gable rails. The bridge design considers the need to support snow grooming equipment (groomers). The railing, required for use of the bridge in the summer, would be removed for winter operations to avoid damage from groomers. From the north, pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians would access the bridge by travelling along the boardwalk which joins the bridge on its western edge. Grooming equipment would use an earthen (cobble or earth-filled) access ramp contained within concrete wing walls on the north

end of the bridge. From the south, an earthen (cobble or earth-filled) access ramp contained within concrete wing walls would serve as bridge approach for all users.

2.3.1.3 Improved South Side Trail

On the south side of the bridge, the trail would continue as a formalized earthen trail up to the intersection with South Euer Valley Road. The proposed approximately 1,000-foot-long trail is less steep and generally east of the existing trail alignment between Coyote Crossing and South Euer Valley Road. The new alignment would include several climbing turns and maintain, overall, a grade of 10% or less at any one point. Construction of the proposed trail from South Euer Valley Road northward would include clearing of vegetation to expose bare soil along the length of the trail prior to connecting to the bridge access ramp described above, or the equestrian creek crossing trail described below. Recreational users will be discouraged from accessing areas off of the trail through strategically placed boulders, logs and other native materials. Trail construction and alignment will follow all standards and protocols established by Tahoe Donner as documented in the 2013 Trails Master Plan and will serve as an access route for emergency response personnel in the event that access is needed to the Project area. The existing earthen trail would be decommissioned and revegetated.

2.3.1.4 Equestrian Branch Trail and Creek Access/Crossing Point

Equestrians frequently ride through the area and field surveys identified an existing degraded area on the north side of the creek where horses access the waterway to drink. Under the proposed Project and current design, an approximately 200-foot separate, equestrian branch trail and creek access/crossing would be formalized with an approximately 5-foot-wide pathway composed of 4-inch to 6-inch natural embedded cobble lined with 8-inch to 12-inch rock edging. Where the equestrian trail steps down from the boardwalk at the northern end of the bridge, approximately 20 feet of step-risers would be installed using either 8- to 16-inch diameter rock or 8-inch diameter timbers.

2.3.2 Creek Restoration

Major creek restoration components consist of: 1) biotechnical bank protection measures in the vicinity of the bridge abutments to protect against scour and 2) a boulder weir riffle with buried rock sill to hold the channel grade and prevent the potential for a significant headcut to occur at the relic beaver dam approximately ¼ mile downstream of Coyote Crossing. Underneath the proposed bridge on the south side of the creek channel, an area roughly 50 feet by 60 feet would be lowered about one to one and a half feet in elevation to increase flood flow capacity under the bridge. Cobble toe slopes would be installed on the west and east sides of the lowered area to reinforce gravel/cobble armoring of the surface. Willow poles would be installed along the west embankment of an existing downstream meander while rootwads would be installed on the southern bank of the same meander. These protections would

reduce the potential of high velocity flows undercutting the bridge abutments. Other treatments in this area include the use of a mix of salvaged sod, gravel and cobble under the bridge to the south of the creek, and live willow installations along the eastern banks of the creek channel.

Downstream of the bridge, several creek bank and in-water restoration and stabilization measures would be performed. These measures include roughly 2,000 square feet of willow poles, 1,000 square feet of biotechnical bank treatments including habitat structures (consisting of native cobble, sod, and live willow stakes), and 500 square feet of rootwad bank revetment.

At the relic beaver dam, grade controls consisting of boulders and logs would be installed at three upstream locations in the creek and a backwater weir would be installed downstream of the boulder weir riffle. These treatments would reduce the velocity and energy of water flowing through the reach. Boulders would be granite, 0.5 to 1 ton, and obtained from a local source or purchased from a quarry that would be certified free of organic material. Roughly 2,000 square feet of boulder weirs would be installed.

In addition to the above, more minor bank treatment measures are proposed for targeted areas to restore past areas impacted by dispersed recreation, increase in-channel habitat complexity and/or prevent aggravated bank erosion. Work in the creek shall be done by small equipment and hand labor as much as possible.

2.3.3 South Euer Valley Road Repair and Drainage Improvements

The proposed Project would maintain and repair approximately 1,000 feet of South Euer Valley Road and include: 1) surface regrading within the existing road prism to improve surface drainage and eliminate ruts, 2) adding rock to ephemeral low water crossings for erosion and sediment control, 3) installing new and improving existing rolling dips, and 4) installing four new culverts to replace existing degraded and failing culverts. An arch-style culvert would be installed at the one perennial stream crossing. No widening of the road is proposed except that approximately 1.2 acres of staging areas along and in the vicinity of the road would be cleared of brush to temporarily stockpile Project materials, park equipment and vehicles during restoration and construction activities, and hold excavated materials and debris to be hauled off-site to an approved location.

Improvements to South Euer Valley Road were considered and addressed in TDA's 2013 Trails Master Plan, for which Nevada County prepared and adopted a CEQA IS/MND. The drainage improvements and maintenance measures that are presented in this IS/Proposed MND are substantively similar to those in the Nevada County Master Plan IS/MND (Nevada County 2016).

2.4 Construction Process and Best Management Practices

The following section provides details regarding how the Project will be implemented. These details include the Project's construction schedule, access and staging areas, equipment to be used within the Project area, temporary dewatering and diversion, and construction best management practices.

2.4.1 Schedule

Project implementation would be completed over the course of a single construction season, with an anticipated start date no earlier than May 15, 2023. All work, including restoration (revegetation and soil stabilization activities) would be completed no later than October 15, 2023. Project construction would take place during the dry season when the creek flows are most shallow and to reduce the chance of encountering groundwater. Heavy equipment would not operate during storms or in saturated conditions subject to the requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for the Project. TDA, in consultation with Nevada County and the Project construction contractor, would determine when conditions are suitable for ground disturbing activities to commence. Work hours during construction are 7:00am to 7:00pm, Monday through Saturday. TRWC would require the chosen contractor to develop a construction schedule and sequencing plan that will be organized to minimize total overall disturbance to soils and the creek. The contractor schedule would also need to comply with limitations dictated by the relevant permits including, but not limited to, the NPDES Construction General Permit and associated SWPPP, other permit conditions, and mitigation adopted by Nevada County as part of this document.

2.4.2 Access and Staging

South Euer Valley Road, an unimproved forest road that begins at the terminus of Alder Creek Road, would serve as the main access to the Project area. South Euer Valley Road is a gated access road for which TDA has a key. The private parcel upstream and adjacent to the Project area (APN 016-060-009-000) is accessed via North Euer Valley Road. Limited vehicles may use North Euer Valley Road during Project construction. Through access via North Euer Valley Road would be maintained during construction and restoration activities.

Proposed access routes and staging areas would utilize existing trails, roads, and disturbed areas while maintaining the shortest possible distance between the staging area and restoration/construction zones. All Identified staging areas are outside of known sensitive resource areas (e.g., wetlands), though the staging areas along South Euer Valley Road are partially within the 100' wetland setback. Exclusion fencing would be used to protect trees at all locations where trees are adjacent to or within staging or access areas. Equipment, such as an excavator that is required to install boulders and log structures along the South Fork of

Prosser Creek, would cross the meadow on timber mats or Duradeck mats to protect the meadow from compaction and reduce damage to vegetation. Specific access routes and staging areas include the following:

- Along South Euer Valley Road: Two existing disturbed areas, each approximately 0.10 acre, on the road's north and south shoulders uphill and just east of Coyote Crossing, and an approximately 0.1-acre site along the southern edge of the road about 400 feet east of where the existing trail intersects with South Euer Valley Road. In addition, there is an approximately 0.03 acre staging area proposed on the south side of the road across from an optional temporary access route to the beaver dam relic (where the boulder backwater weir would replace the relic).
- Along North Euer Valley Road: Two areas (0.32-acre and 0.51-acre in size respectively) in close proximity to each other and immediately south of North Euer Valley Road northwest of the location of the relic beaver dam (where the boulder weir riffle and backwater weir are proposed) may also be used for staging. These staging areas would be surrounded by a silt fence.

2.4.3 Construction Chronology and Equipment

Construction chronology would be in stages over the course of the season: mobilize and prepare site including installation of water quality and sensitive resource protection measures; construct permanent bridge over South Fork of Prosser Creek at the location of the seasonal bridge known as Coyote Crossing; construct elevated boardwalk; relocate Coyote Hut to new site; construct separate equestrian trail crossing of the creek; complete in-stream bed and bank stabilization and aquatic habitat improvements; for South Euer Valley Road, implement road maintenance measures including regrade and slope eroded and incised road sections, enhance and install rolling dips, install rocked low water crossings at drainages and replace degraded and failing culverts at stream crossings to improve drainage and control sediment. Stabilize and revegetate all disturbed sites including staging areas.

The bridge and boardwalk sections would be assembled and erected on site with the helical anchor supports going in first. Heavy construction equipment would be used for site preparation, construction of the Coyote Bridge crossing, installing the series of boulder weirs at the relic beaver dam site, transporting cobble and other natural materials for the equestrian and trail ramps and creek crossing, regrading the road and placing the culverts and rocked-crossings at the ephemeral drainages on South Euer Valley Road, and completing some of the biotechnical work (revegetation). Meadow protection mats will be deployed where equipment needs to access through the meadow to the relic beaver dam site. The following or comparable construction equipment list is anticipated to be used over the course of the season, although some items on the list may not be necessary:

- Medium hydraulic excavator with bucket/thumb attachment

- Mini excavator with hydraulic drive head for helical piers (one)
- Backhoe (one)
- Crane or boom (one)
- 10-yard dump trucks
- Small or medium bulldozer (one)
- Small or medium loader(one)
- Water truck with 2,500-gallon tank (one)
- Concrete delivery trucks
- Crew Vehicles/Work trucks (Standard or 1-ton or comparable)

To protect the wetland, the boardwalk would be constructed in a progressive fashion, starting from the northern end of the meadow and working toward the bridge. Helical piers would be installed one pair at a time, followed by the construction of the corresponding boardwalk section framing. Once the first boardwalk section is constructed at the north end of the Project, the equipment can work from the boardwalk platform to install the remainder of the boardwalk trail to minimize disturbance to the meadow. In order to transfer and stage material for the boardwalk construction, timber mats or Duradeck mats will be utilized to allow contractor to advance and stage the materials and to protect the meadow from compaction and reduce damage to vegetation. The process of advancing/staging materials will allow for a greater efficiency in completion of boardwalk construction.

Minimal native soil would be excavated during construction. Any excavated materials would be stored and surrounded by erosion control features in designated staging areas for reuse during backfill, revegetation, soil stabilization and repairing any rolling dips or water bars as needed along South Euer Valley Road as crews exit the site following Project completion. Truck trips to the site would be largely limited to delivery of materials for bridge and boardwalk construction, and trips made by construction personnel. The construction contractor would be required (per TRWC contract requirements) to deliver and service temporary portable chemical toilet facilities for use by construction personnel. Such facilities shall be located in upland areas in designated staging areas near the active construction site for the duration of the construction period.

2.4.4 Temporary Diversion and Dewatering

Given that the South Fork of Prosser Creek is a perennial stream, a Diversion and Dewatering Plan would be prepared and implemented for the floodplain and channel bank improvements (e.g., cobble placement, floodplain lowering, rootwad revetment, log habitat structures and biotechnical treatments). The Diversion and Dewatering Plan shall include all elements necessary to convey streamflow safely and cleanly around the work area. Two types of diversions are proposed; 1) a visqueen encased coffer dam with diversion pipe to intake flows and reroute around the work area for the more extensive channel bed and bank work in the vicinity of the new bridge, and 2) a simple diversion constructed of gravel bags stacked in a

linear formation to redirect flows away from the banks being restored. All diversions are expected to be gravity flow. Fish relocation, pipe screening and outlet armoring will be provided for the coffer dam diversion. At a minimum, the diversion installations shall be designed and configured to accommodate the larger of either: 1) 50-year summer rain event based on an approved flood frequency analysis, or 2) double the average base flow from June to October. The hired contractor will be required to submit a diversion/de-watering plan to TRWC and TDA prior to construction and will need approval upon review. A qualified biologist would perform the fish relocation, monitor dewatering activities and, if needed, relocate native aquatic vertebrates and large invertebrates to nearby suitable habitat prior to implementation of construction.

As described above, construction would occur during the dry season (summer/early fall) to reduce the chance of encountering groundwater, however groundwater may still be encountered. In the event that groundwater is encountered during construction (e.g., for the pier/abutment installation), the water shall be removed from the work area to ensure dry working conditions. Dewatering would include spraying or dispersing the water to a more upland vegetated location where it can infiltrate without causing erosion, or to a water truck to use for dust control. Dewatering pump intakes would be screened to ensure that pumping would not injure fish or amphibians. Relocation of fish and wildlife will follow applicable California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) fisheries guidelines.

2.4.5 Best Management Practices

The following best management practices (BMPs) would be implemented to avoid, minimize and protect environmental resources and will be specified in the restoration design plan set and/or contract provisions of TDA or TRWC:

- Contractor shall control access, and maintain all signs, barricades, or other devices necessary to control traffic through the construction area and maintain public safety in accordance with these plans, the standard specifications, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) manual on uniform traffic control devices (MUTCD) 2003 edition and MUTCD 2003 California supplement.
- All construction activity would adhere to applicable local, state, and federal regulations, including requirements associated with State Water Resources Control Board Water Quality Order No. 99-08 – NPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges associated with Construction Activity and the associated SWPPP developed for the Project by a Qualified SWPPP Developer (QSD). The SWPPP will provide the plans and specifications for BMPs intended to prevent and control erosion and siltation to the extent feasible.
- Prior to Project implementation, TDA will notify the public and adjacent landowners regarding temporary closure(s) of the trails that currently exist in the Euer Valley Project Area. Immediately prior to construction, the contractor shall install fencing and

adequate signage at the Project area and at the locked gate on Alder Creek Road to indicate that the Coyote Trail crossing of the creek and South Euer Valley Road are temporarily closed until construction is complete.

- Except for the specific areas under construction and associated staging areas, the Project area would remain open to the public during construction, where possible, subject to public health and safety considerations. Restricted areas would be secured or fenced to deter unauthorized entry.
- North Euer Valley Road shall remain open for neighboring properties throughout the duration of the project.
- Construction vehicles and equipment leaving the roadbed of North or South Euer Valley Road or other existing disturbed areas would use meadow protection mats in wetland areas to reduce soil compaction and protect vegetation.
- No trees or wetland vegetation will be removed unless noted to be removed in the plans or specifications, or as directly specified on-site by the project engineer, or by TDA's Forestry Department. Trees conflicting with grading will be limbed or removed upon TRWC/TDA approval.
- Toilet facilities shall be maintained in accordance with state health department and County requirements and shall not be located adjacent to a natural water source, in a wetland or riparian area, or in a location to cause a public health hazard, contamination or nuisance.

During construction the following BMPs shall be implemented to prevent contamination of waterways including:

  - The contractor shall maintain a spill prevention and control plan on site during the course of the Project.
  - Spill kits and cleanup materials shall be immediately available and accessible when working in the meadow and on the boardwalk and bridge.
  - An adequate supply of water socks or other appropriate absorbent material in waterways shall be kept in spill kits in the event of an inadvertent discharge.
  - Personnel shall be trained for use of spill kits and cleanup materials.
  - Equipment shall be inspected on a daily basis, be properly maintained, be sufficiently stocked, and be leak free.
  - When vehicles or equipment are not being used to transport materials or construct Project features in meadow/wetland areas, all vehicles and equipment shall be parked in existing disturbed or roadway areas away from meadow, wetland and creek environs.
  - Temporary BMPs (such as silt fencing and wattles) shall be kept on site for use of immediate deployment, as needed.
  - Concrete washout areas shall be kept away from waterways, streams, and wetland areas.
- The contractor shall be required to off haul and properly dispose of all excess material not incorporated as backfill or into prescribed onsite treatments.

- Any temporary access routes created as part of the Project would be restored and revegetated by the contractor to pre-Project conditions.
- Prior to mobilization or staging activities, all construction contractor staff, construction supervisors, and hired subcontractors shall receive environmental awareness training regarding sensitive resources in the Project area and sign an acknowledgment form that they will comply with applicable Project permit requirements and other Project conditions for the protection of those resources.

2.5 Surrounding Land Uses and Setting

The Project is located within Euer Valley, a largely undeveloped high elevation valley (approximately 6,500 feet elevation) within the Prosser Creek Watershed, the third largest sub-watershed of the Middle Truckee Watershed. Euer Valley consists of an alluvial valley floor bounded by side valley alluvial fans and hillslopes to the north and south. Euer Valley is located just northwest of the Town of Truckee and in the eastern portion of Nevada County. The Project area can be located on the Norden, Truckee, Independence Lake, and Hobart Mills, California USGS Quadrangles. The nearest residential or commercial structure is 1.75 miles from Coyote Crossing.

The Project area includes approximately 2,500 linear feet of South Fork of Prosser Creek encompassed by 30 acres of stream, meadow, and upland habitat. Coyote Crossing is located at the upper extent of the Project area at 39°22'7.74"N latitude and 120°17'13.15"W longitude. The South Fork of Prosser Creek drains an approximately 5.5 square mile watershed before joining Prosser Creek and ultimately draining to the Truckee River. The Truckee River is 303(d) listed as impaired due to suspended sediment. The Project area is a seasonally wet meadow with uniform wetland grasses consisting of beaked sedge (*Carex utriculata*) mixed with clumps of small Lemmon's willow (*Salix lemmonii*) and lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) along the edges and upland areas.

The Coyote Trail trends north-south extending from the uplands on both sides of the valley and across the wet meadow that covers the Euer Valley floor. From the south, the trail descends a moderately steep and hummocky slope before entering the floodplain at the north edge of the meadow. The trail crosses the east flowing South Fork of Prosser Creek channel at the apex of a meander loop, and then crosses an open meadow and an intermittent spring fed channel before leaving the meadow at the upland/forest edge at North Euer Valley Road.

The South Fork of Prosser Creek channel forms a steep reach from just upstream of the TDA property line and into the Euer Valley Meadow about 200 feet downstream. Upon entering the valley floor meadow, the South Fork of Prosser Creek channel meanders through the Coyote Trail Crossing site and for about 600 feet before straightening and flowing along the base of the upland hillslope south of the meadow and past a distinct oval shaped hillock. Past the hillock, South Fork of Prosser Creek makes a 400-foot long, broad curve before entering a highly

meandering reach that flows along the base of the south side hillslope that bounds the meadow floodplain and valley floor.

The entire Project is located on land owned and managed by TDA (APNs 016-060-024, 016-060-020, and 016-060-029). A large private parcel (APN 016-060-009-000) borders TDA's property immediately west of Coyote Crossing (approximately 100 feet upstream of the crossing). This parcel is accessed via North Euer Valley Road. Other adjacent landowners and land managers include the US Forest Service (USFS), Tahoe National Forest (TNF), the Euer family, and the Truckee Donner Land Trust.

Primary use of the Euer Valley area within TDA's jurisdiction is recreation, including biking, hiking, and equestrian use in the summer and cross-country skiing and snowshoeing in the winter. TDA membership includes about 25,000 people, and TDA trails are open and available to the public. As a result, the area experiences frequent use year-round. TDA has its own Trails Department which manages and maintains the trail system. The trail system includes more than 60 miles of trails and fire access service roads spanning over 5,000 acres (TDA 2021a and TDA 2021b).

3.0 SUMMARY OF IMPACTS AND PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES

Environmental Factors Potentially Affected: All of the following environmental factors have been considered. Those environmental factors checked below with an "X" would be potentially affected by this Project, involving at least one impact that is "Less Than Significant with Mitigation" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

	1. Aesthetics		2. Agriculture and Forestry Resources	X	3. Air Quality
X	4. Biological Resources	X	5. Cultural Resources		6. Energy
X	7. Geology/Soils		8. Greenhouse Gas Emissions		9. Hazards & Hazardous Materials
X	10. Hydrology/Water Quality		11. Land Use/Planning		12. Mineral Resources
	13. Noise		14. Population/Housing		15. Public Services
	16. Recreation		17. Transportation	X	18. Tribal Cultural Resources
	19. Utilities/Service Systems	X	20. Wildfire		21. Mandatory Findings of Significance

Summary of Impacts and Recommended Mitigation Measures:

Mitigation Measure AQ.1 – Fugitive Dust Emissions. All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. BMPs shall be implemented to minimize dust emissions, including watering exposed soils, as well as stockpiled material, and limiting construction vehicle and equipment speeds.
Timing: *Prior to issuance of grading /building permits and throughout construction.*
Reporting: *Planning Department approval of Grading Permits or Building Permits*
Responsible Agency: *Nevada County Planning Department and Building Department*

Mitigation Measure AQ.2 – Construction Vehicles: Maintenance and Idle Times All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. Construction equipment idling times shall be minimized either by shutting equipment off when not in use or reducing the maximum idling time to 5 minutes. All construction equipment shall also be maintained and properly tuned in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications.
Timing: *Prior to issuance of grading /building permits and throughout construction.*
Reporting: *Planning Department approval of Grading Permits or Building Permits*
Responsible Agency: *Nevada County Planning Department and Building Department*

Mitigation Measure BIO.1 – Protections for Nesting Owls and Raptors. All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. To avoid

disturbance of California spotted owl nests and active raptor nests, living or dead trees greater than 10 inches in diameter at breast height (DBH) shall not be removed during the typical owl and raptor breeding season (March 1 through August 31). If trees greater than 10 inches DBH must be removed during breeding season, a survey for active nest sites shall be conducted by a qualified biologist prior to tree removal. The survey shall be conducted no more than 10 days prior to the proposed tree removal activities. Survey results shall be submitted to CDFW. If active nests are found within 0.5-mile of the Project area, then a minimum 300-foot radius buffer shall be established, and no construction shall occur within the buffer area(s) during the breeding/nesting season. CDFW shall be consulted to determine appropriate protective measures. No trees with nests shall be removed until the nest is determined to be inactive.
Timing: *Prior to issuance of grading/building permits and 10 days prior to commencement of tree removal work between March 1 and August 31.*
Reporting: *Planning Department Approval of Grading and Construction Permits. For tree removal between March 1 and August 31 and if active nests are found, refer to the BIO.1 for Specific Requirements. Copies of all surveys and photos of implemented mitigation measures as needed to be submitted to the Planning Department.*
Responsible Agency: *CDFW and Nevada County Planning Department*

Mitigation Measure BIO.2 – Southern Long-Toed Salamander Field Assessment. All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. Prior to the start of on-site construction activities, a qualified biologist shall conduct a field assessment to determine areas of suitable habitat and the presence or absence of southern long-toed salamander in the Project area. Suitable habitat and areas of occurrences shall be demarcated. In these areas, heavy machinery, timber removal, and other activities potentially reducing abundance and quality of upland refugia shall be limited in area and in time according to the recommendations of a qualified herpetologist and as approved by CDFW. Prior to the start of on-site construction activities, and at the time new construction personnel are on-site, a qualified biologist shall train on-site construction personnel on the identification and life history of the southern long-toed salamander, work constraints, and any other pertinent information related to the species (See Mitigation Measure BIO.8 – Worker Environmental Awareness Program Training).
Timing: *Prior to issuance of grading/building permits, prior to start of construction, throughout construction*
Reporting: *Planning Department approval of Grading Permits or Building Permits. If suitable habitat or occurrences are found, refer to BIO.2 for Specific Requirements. Copies of all surveys and photos of implemented mitigation measures as needed to be submitted to the Planning Department.*
Responsible Agency: *CDFW and Nevada County Planning Department*

Mitigation Measure BIO.3 – Survey for Snowshoe Hare and Mountain Beaver. All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. Ground disturbance within areas of riparian vegetation that provide potential habitat for Sierra Nevada

mountain beaver and Sierra Nevada snowshoe hare shall be avoided. If disturbance to riparian vegetation cannot be avoided, a qualified biologist shall be retained to survey the proposed area of disturbance prior to construction. If evidence of occurrence of either of these species is found, a minimum 500-foot non-disturbance buffer shall be established around nest or burrow sites and CDFW shall be consulted to approve additional avoidance and/or impact minimization measures. Such measures could include monitoring, buffer zones or seasonal work restrictions.

Timing: *Prior to issuance of grading/building permits, prior to start of construction, throughout construction*

Reporting: *Planning Department approval of Grading Permits or Building Permits. If disturbance cannot be avoided, refer to BIO.3 for Specific Requirements. Copies of all surveys, correspondence with CDFW, and photos of implemented mitigation measures as needed to be submitted to the Planning Department.*

Responsible Agency: *CDFW and Nevada County Planning Department*

Mitigation Measure BIO.4 – Willow Flycatcher and Yellow Warbler Field Assessment. All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. If ground disturbance is planned that would impact suitable habitat for willow flycatcher (consisting of deciduous riparian scrub/shrub and trees) within the nesting period of the willow flycatcher (late spring/early summer), then a preconstruction survey for the bird shall be required prior to groundbreaking. If active nests are found, construction work within 500 feet of the nesting area shall be prohibited during breeding season (May 1 to August 31) and/or until nests are inactive. In addition, CDFW shall be consulted and informed of any results that indicate the presence of active willow flycatcher or yellow warbler nests within the project area.

Timing: *Prior to issuance of grading/building permits, prior to start of construction, throughout construction*

Reporting: *Planning Department approval of Grading Permits or Building Permits. If ground disturbance is planned in areas containing deciduous riparian scrub/shrub and trees in the late spring/early summer, refer to BIO.3 for Specific Requirements. Copies of all surveys and correspondence with CDFW to be submitted to the Planning Department.*

Responsible Agency: *CDFW and Nevada County Planning Department*

Mitigation Measure BIO.5 – Fish Protection Measures. All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. Machinery, fencing and construction of bridge/log/boulder structures and the equestrian crossing shall not prevent the movement of fish species through the project area. Structures shall not be constructed to a height and width that would prevent upstream or downstream travel. In addition, the following BMPs shall be adhered to:

- Prior to project activities within the active channel of the creek, fish will be excluded from the area through the use of standard methods such as seining and/or

electrofishing. Standard depletion methods will be utilized to ensure maximum fish removal is attained.
- Handling of fish will be minimized.
- Fish will be immediately relocated to the active channel outside of the project area; they will not be retained in holding tanks for any period of time.
- The Design Plans and technical specifications for work within the creek shall identify measures that delineate and provide specifications for any water crossings to minimize heavy equipment entry into or crossing water as is practicable.

Timing: *Prior to issuance of grading/building permits, prior to start of construction, throughout construction*
Reporting: *Planning Department approval of Grading Permits or Building Permits.*
Responsible Agency: *Nevada County Planning Department, Building Department*

Mitigation Measure BIO.6 – Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog (SNYLF) Habitat Survey. All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. A preconstruction survey for SNYLF habitat shall be completed by a qualified biologist within the Project area to determine if construction activities occur within potential habitat. If no habitat exists, construction may proceed without consulting with CDFW. If habitat exists within construction areas, even if SNYLF is not present, CDFW shall be consulted regarding monitoring requirements to protect SNYLF and its habitat.
Timing: *Prior to issuance of grading/building permits, prior to start of construction, throughout construction*
Reporting: *Planning Department approval of Grading Permits or Building Permits. If the survey shows SNYLF habitat, refer to BIO.6 for Specific Requirements. Copies of all surveys and correspondence with CDFW as needed to be submitted to the Planning Department.*
Responsible Agency: *CDFW and Nevada County Planning Department*

Mitigation Measure BIO.7 – Preconstruction Survey for Sensitive Plant Species. All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. A qualified botanist shall conduct preconstruction surveys for sensitive plant species with the potential to occur within the Project footprint, including the following species:
- upswept moonwort (*Botrychium ascendens*)
- scalloped moonwort (*Botrychium crenulatum*)
- Bolander's bruchia (*Bruchia bolanderi*)
- Davy's sedge (*Carex davyi*)
- Plumas Ivesia (*Ivesia sericoleuca*)
- Santa Lucia dwarf rush (*Juncus luciensis*)

The survey area shall be limited to those areas where the above species are identified as most likely to occur (at the botanist's discretion). The survey shall take place prior to the start of ground disturbance activities during a period that coincides with the evident and identifiable period for each species: July through August (Jepson 2021).

If occurrences are found within the project area, TRWC, in consultation with CDFW and a qualified botanist, shall develop a Sensitive Plant Species Protection and Implementation Plan to undertake one or more of the following construction actions:

- Avoid potential impacts to sensitive plants by routing construction activity away from identified sensitive plants with consideration given to avoiding alteration of existing hydrology near existing occurrence(s) to prevent drying or erosion.
- Protect occupied habitat for the sensitive plants by flagging or delineating the habitat with construction flagging or fencing where avoidance is feasible. Personnel and construction equipment will be prohibited within these flagged/delineated areas.
- Relocate sensitive plants to suitable habitat outside of the project footprint.

Once the above construction actions are determined, TRWC, in consultation with CDFW, shall design and implement a maintenance and monitoring program for affected populations or relocated populations to document potential project related impacts. This maintenance and monitoring program shall be incorporated into the Sensitive Plant Species Protection and Implementation Plan and execution of the plan and program shall be documented and kept as a reference by TRWC and TDA.

Timing: *Prior to issuance of grading/building permits, prior to start of construction, throughout construction*

Reporting: *Planning Department approval of Grading Permits or Building Permits. If ground disturbance activities will take place in July and August, refer to BIO.6 for Specific Requirements. Copies of all surveys and correspondence with CDFW as needed to be submitted to the Planning Department.*

Responsible Agency: *CDFW and Nevada County Planning Department*

Mitigation Measure BIO.8 – Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) Training.
A WEAP training shall be developed and implemented for all personnel that may access the site prior to commencing any disturbance activities. TRWC and the construction supervisor(s) shall be responsible for ensuring all construction staff are briefed, acknowledge in writing, and then comply with mitigation and permit conditions. The WEAP shall include a review of the special status species and other sensitive resources that exist in the Project area, including the locations of sensitive biological resources and their legal status and protections, permit conditions, seasonal restrictions, and measures to be implemented for mitigation and avoidance. The WEAP shall emphasize the need to avoid entry into areas where special status biological resources have been identified based on pre-disturbance field surveys and to implement the buffer avoidance or other protection measures in accordance with CDFW and USFWS requirements and the requirements of mitigation measures contained in this document. WEAP training shall also cover penalties associated with State or Federal endangered species act definitions of “take” of any species. Biological briefing brochures describing key species and other information shall be used as part of the training and retained

on site for reference. A record of all trained personnel, including the worker acknowledgment signature forms, shall be maintained by the construction supervisor(s) and TRWC.
Timing: *Prior to issuance of grading/building permits, prior to start of construction, throughout construction*
Reporting: *Planning Department approval of Grading Permits or Building Permits. Copies of training materials and records to be submitted to the Planning Department.*
Responsible Agency: *Nevada County Planning Department*

Mitigation Measure BIO.9 – Consultation with Relevant State and Federal Responsible Agencies. Prior to issuance of grading/building permits, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (LRWQCB) and CDFW shall be notified of Project activities within wetlands and streams at the Project site. Permit applications and issuance, wetland delineations, and other federal (e.g., USFWS) and state consultations shall be completed in advance of issuance of grading/building permits. No in-stream or other work within wetland areas shall proceed until applicable permits have been acquired.
Timing: *Prior to issuance of grading/building permits*
Reporting: *Applicable permits or letters from agencies stating no permit is needed as part of Building Permit application.*
Responsible Agency: *Nevada County Planning and Building Departments*

Mitigation Measure BIO.10 – Prevent the introduction and spread of noxious weeds. All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. Prior to construction, the Project area will be surveyed by a qualified professional for any species listed in the California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) inventory. The survey area will include all groundbreaking areas including staging areas, and access routes. If an infestation is found, appropriate control methods shall be implemented to prevent spread. Before entering the worksite all tools, equipment, and vehicles shall be inspected and cleaned of any soils or plant material. Construction shall reduce the exposure of bare mineral soil as appropriate by using erosion control measures such as straw, pine needle, or wattles and be certified weed free. Pine needle mulch or other native material may be sourced locally to use as ground cover to reduce the spread of infestations.
Timing: *Prior to issuance of grading/building permits, prior to start of construction, throughout construction*
Reporting: *Planning Department approval of Grading Permits or Building Permits. If infestation is found, refer to BIO.10 for Specific Requirements. Copy of survey to be submitted to Planning Department.*
Responsible Agency: *Nevada County Planning Department and Building Department*

Mitigation Measure CUL.1 – Supplementary Evaluation. All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. Prior to construction, a qualified archaeologist [Register of Professional Archaeologists (RPA)] shall be retained by TRWC and/or TDA to complete supplementary evaluation of the historic-era linear feature, the Crown-

Willamette logging railroad (now overprinted by South Euer Valley Road). The purpose of the evaluation is to identify whether the historic logging railroad is considered a significant historic resource pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 15064.5. If the resource is not found significant, construction may proceed. If the evaluation determines significance, mitigation measures shall be devised by the archaeologist for approval by TRWC and TDA before construction may proceed.

Timing: *Prior to issuance of grading/building permits, prior to start of construction, throughout construction*

Reporting: *Planning Department Approval of Grading and Construction Permits. If determined to be a significant resource, refer to the CUL.1 for Specific Requirements*

Responsible Agency: *Planning Department*

Mitigation Measure CUL.2 – Undocumented Cultural Resources. All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the requirements provided below to ensure that any cultural resources discovered during project construction are properly managed. In the event that previously undocumented cultural resources are encountered during project construction (including but not limited to dark soil containing shellfish, bone, flaked stone, groundstone, or deposits of historic trash), work within the immediate vicinity of the find will stop until a qualified archeologist (RPA) has evaluated the find and implemented appropriate treatment measures to avoid any potentially significant impacts to archaeological/historical resources per Public Resources Code 15064.5.

Timing: *Prior to Issuance of Building Permit or Grading Permit and throughout construction*

Reporting: *Planning Department Approval of Grading and Construction Permits. If discovered, refer to the CUL.2 for Specific Requirements*

Responsible Agency: *Nevada County Planning Department*

Mitigation Measure CUL.3 – Protocol in the Event of the Discovery of Human Remains. All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the requirements provided below to ensure that any cultural resources discovered during project construction are properly managed. In the event that human remains are discovered, work will cease immediately in the area of the find and the construction project manager/site supervisor will notify the appropriate County personnel. Any human remains and/or funerary objects will be left in place or returned to the point of discovery and covered with soil. TRWC will notify the County Coroner, in accordance with Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, and the Native American Heritage Commission (or Tribal Representative). If a Native American monitor is on-site at the time of the discovery, the monitor will be responsible for notifying the appropriate Native American authorities. The local County Coroner will make the determination of whether the human bone is of Native American origin.

If the Coroner determines that the remains represent Native American interment, the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) in Sacramento and/or tribe will be consulted to identify the most likely descendants and appropriate disposition of the remains. Work will not

resume in the area of the find until proper disposition is complete (Public Resources Code Section 5097.98). No human remains or funerary objects will be cleaned, photographed, analyzed, or removed from the site prior to determination. These standards shall be noted on all grading plans in such a way as to make them evident to contractors or machinery operations working on the project, with a descriptive heading such as "Historical and Archaeological Discovery".

If it is determined the find indicates a sacred or religious site, the site will be avoided to the maximum extent practicable. Formal consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and review by the NAHC/Tribal Cultural representatives will occur as necessary to define additional site mitigation or future restrictions.
Timing: *Prior to Issuance of Building Permit or Grading Permit and throughout construction*
Reporting: *Planning Department Approval of Grading and Construction Permits. If discovered, refer to the CUL.3 for Specific Requirements*
Responsible Agency: *Nevada County Planning Department*

Mitigation Measure GS.1 – Protection of Meadow Areas from Heavy Equipment. All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the requirements provided below. With the exception of the bridge work and grade control element at the relic beaver dam location, work in the creek shall be completed by small equipment and hand labor. To prevent damage from heavy equipment to meadow areas, a controlled spur road access point and meadow protection measures including encapsulated roads, timber mats or Duradeck mats shall be used. In addition, the BMPs presented in the Project Description Section 2.4.5 shall be incorporated as requirements in the construction contract. Equipment shall be stored in upland, dry areas and not in wetland areas or sensitive areas. Further, no track-mounted or heavy-wheeled vehicles shall be allowed in identified environmentally sensitive areas at any time. If significant damage to the riparian vegetation or significant soil compaction is noted during construction, the contractor shall notify TRWC, an alternative access route shall be selected, and the damaged riparian vegetation/soils shall be restored.
Timing: *Prior to Issuance of Building Permit or Grading Permit and throughout construction*
Reporting: *Planning Department Approval of Grading and Construction Permits. If damage is noted, refer to the GS.1 for Specific Requirements*
Responsible Agency: *Nevada County Planning Department*

Mitigation Measure HWQ.1 – BMPs for Precipitation Events All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the requirements provided below. The Project construction contractor will be required to perform an on-site review of on the ground Project BMPs prior to a large, forecasted storm event (1 inch in 24 hours rain event, or prolonged period of rain over a 48-hour period exceeding a total of 2.5 inches) that may exceed BMP capacity and would notify appropriate staff (e.g., contract administrator at TRWC) if additional BMPs are recommended to minimize impacts that could result from heavy runoff and high flows in the creek. Construction activities shall be suspended during heavy precipitation storm events or

when heavy precipitation events are forecast. If a rain event is anticipated, then the contractor shall timely and properly winterize the site by covering any stockpiled materials or soil, by removing all vehicles and heavy equipment from wetland and meadow areas, and by installing silt fences, straw bale barriers, fiber rolls, or other structures around stockpiles and graded areas. Such measures will be identified in a SWPPP to be prepared and approved by the LRWQCB prior to the start of construction.
Timing: *Prior to Issuance of Building Permit or Grading Permit and throughout construction*
Reporting: *Planning Department Approval of Grading and Construction Permits. If a storm is forecasted, refer to the HWQ.1 for Specific Requirements*
Responsible Agency: *LRWQCB and Nevada County Planning Department*

Mitigation Measure TRI.1 – Tribal Oversight. TRWC and/or TDA shall invite a representative of the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California and a representative from United Auburn Indian Community to observe the ground-disturbing activities.
Timing: *Prior to Issuance of Building Permit or Grading Permit and throughout construction*
Reporting: *Planning Department Approval of Grading and Construction Permits. Copies of invitations sent to representatives to be submitted to Planning Department.*
Responsible Agency: *Nevada County Planning Department*

Mitigation Measure WF.1 – Fire Suppression and Control. All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the requirements provided below.

- Prior to the start of construction, TRWC or the construction contractor shall prepare a Fire Safety Plan for the Project and require that construction personnel implement provisions of the plan and be equipped to implement necessary response actions to fire ignition. The Plan shall include the emergency calling procedures for California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire), USFS, and local fire department(s).
- Prior to commencement of construction and throughout construction, appropriate class fire extinguishers and shovels shall be in all construction worker vehicles and on all heavy construction equipment while at the Project site and in Project staging areas.
- During construction, construction crews shall park vehicles a safe distance from flammable material, such as dry grass or brush. At the end of each workday, construction crews shall park heavy equipment over a non-combustible surface to reduce the chance of fire.
- Prior to the start of on-site construction activities, the contractor and staff shall clean, verify the operability, and repair (other than emergency repairs) all equipment outside the Project area boundaries. On-site repairs will be performed at designated staging areas if practicable throughout construction.
- Under dry conditions and during all red flag warning days for the Project area, a filled water truck with appropriate hose/nozzle or water pump/hose system with screened intake (to take water from the creek) shall be on-site and ready to deploy during construction activities.

Timing: *Prior to Issuance of Building Permit or Grading Permit, before commencement of work, and throughout construction*
Reporting: *Planning Department Approval of Grading and Construction Permits. If dry conditions and during all red flag warning days, refer to the WF.1 for Specific Requirements*
Responsible Agency: *Nevada County Planning Department and Building Department*

Mitigation Monitoring Matrix:

Measure	Monitoring Authority	When Implemented
AQ.1	Planning, Building	Prior to issuance of grading /building permits and throughout construction
AQ.2	Planning, Building	Prior to issuance of grading /building permits and throughout construction
BIO.1	Planning, CDFW	Prior to issuance of grading /building permits and 10 days prior to commencement of tree removal work between March 1 and August 31.
BIO.2	Planning, CDFW	Prior to issuance of grading/building permits, prior to start of construction, throughout construction
BIO.3	Planning, CDFW	Prior to issuance of grading/building permits, prior to start of construction, throughout construction
BIO.4	Planning, CDFW	Prior to issuance of grading/building permits, prior to start of construction, throughout construction
BIO.5	Planning, Building	Prior to issuance of grading/building permits, prior to start of construction, throughout construction
BIO.6	Planning, CDFW	Prior to issuance of grading/building permits, prior to start of construction, throughout construction
BIO.7	Planning, CDFW	Prior to issuance of grading/building permits, prior to start of construction, throughout construction
BIO.8	Planning	Prior to issuance of grading/building permits, prior to start of construction, throughout construction
BIO.9	Planning, Building	Prior to issuance of grading/building permits
BIO.10	Planning, Building	Prior to issuance of grading/building permits, prior to start of construction, throughout construction
CUL.1	Planning	Prior to issuance of grading/building permits, prior to start of construction, throughout construction
CUL.2	Planning	Prior to issuance of grading/building permits and throughout construction
CUL.3	Planning	Prior to issuance of grading/building permits and throughout construction
GS.1	Planning	Prior to issuance of grading/building permits and throughout construction
HWQ.1	Planning, LRWQCB	Prior to issuance of grading/building permits and throughout construction
TRI.1	Planning	Prior to issuance of grading/building permits and throughout construction
WF.1	Planning, Building	Prior to issuance of grading/building permits, prior to start of construction, throughout construction

4.0 INITIAL STUDY AND CHECKLIST

This checklist is to be completed for all projects that are not exempt from environmental review under CEQA. The information, analysis and conclusions contained in the checklist are the basis for deciding whether an EIR or ND is to be prepared. If an EIR is determined to be necessary based on the conclusions of the Initial Study, the checklist is used to focus the EIR on the effects determined to be potentially significant.

This Initial Study uses the following terms to describe the level of significance of adverse impacts. These terms are defined as follows:

- **No Impact**: An impact that would result in no adverse changes to the environment.

- **Less than Significant Impact**: An impact that is potentially adverse but does not exceed the thresholds of significance as identified in the impact discussions. Less than significant impacts do not require mitigation.

- **Less than Significant with Mitigation**: An environmental effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the environment without mitigation, but which is reduced to a level that is less than significant with mitigation identified in the Initial Study.

- **Potentially Significant Impact**: An environmental effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the environment; either additional information is needed regarding the extent of the impact to make the significance determination, or the impact would or could cause a substantial adverse change in the environment. A finding of a potentially significant impact would result in the determination to prepare an EIR.

4.1 Aesthetics

Existing Setting:

Aesthetic or visual resources include the "scenic character" of a particular area. Scenic features can include both natural features, such as vegetation and topography, and built features such as historic structures. Areas that are more sensitive to potential effects are usually readily observable, such as land found adjacent to major roadways and hilltops.

The scenic character of the area is natural with colors, textures and forms expressive of a high elevation meadow of the Sierra Nevada. Evidence of human disturbance is limited to the forest roads, the earthen trail (Coyote Trail), and a rustic warming hut adjacent to Coyote Trail and the South Fork of Prosser Creek. Though public views are limited to those who access the valley by trail (e.g., by foot, bicycle, horseback or over snow), the viewshed is a serene and natural setting.

Table 2. Aesthetic Impacts Summary Table

Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Reference Source (Appendix A)
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☐	☒	Nevada County 1995
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	☒	Project Description
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐	Nevada County 1992; 1995
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☐	☒	Project Description

Impact Discussion:

a) *Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?*

Finding: No Impact

Coyote Trail is not within or visible from a designated scenic vista in the County's General Plan (Nevada County 1995). However, as described above, the viewshed of the valley is special. The proposed bridge and elevated boardwalk would add new built structures to the environment. The bridge and boardwalk introduce new colors, forms and textures to the viewshed, but the colors, forms and textures have been selected to complement and not contrast with the surrounding landscape. The new structures would not block or significantly alter existing views. For these reasons, and because Coyote Trail is not within a designated scenic vista, the Project would have no impact on a scenic vista and mitigation is not required.

b) *Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?*

Finding: No Impact

The Project is not near or visible from any state scenic highway and therefore there would be no impact.

c) *Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project, 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?*

Finding: Less than significant impact

As described under "a" above, the bridge and boardwalk would introduce new colors, forms and textures to the viewshed, but the colors, forms and textures have been selected to complement and not contrast with the surrounding landscape. The new structures would not block or significantly alter existing views and, overall, the Project design is consistent with County Design Guidelines (Nevada County 1992). The visibility of construction equipment within the Project area would degrade the visual conditions, however, given the relatively short-term nature of the construction-related activities, those visual impacts are considered negligible.

The Project would not degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings. Visual quality impacts would be less than significant.

d) *Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?*

Finding: No Impact

No lighting or reflective materials are associated with the Project that would affect day or nighttime views in the area.

Mitigation:

None required.

4.2 Agriculture and Forestry Resources

Existing Setting:

The entire Project is located on land owned by TDA and within an area designated as Forest Land by Nevada County Zoning and General Plan. Designated forest lands are intended to provide for production and management of timber resources, and compatible recreational and low-density residential uses. There are no areas zoned as Timberland Production Zones.

Table 3. Agricultural and Forestry Resources Impacts Summary Table

In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment Project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Reference Source (Appendix A)
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒	Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	☒	Nevada County General Plan Nevada County Zoning Ordinance

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))?	☐	☐	☐	☒	Nevada County General Plan Nevada County Zoning Ordinance
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒	Nevada County General Plan Nevada County Zoning Ordinance
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒	Nevada County General Plan Nevada County Zoning Ordinance

Impact Discussion:

a) *Would the Project 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 Department of Conservation's Division of Land Resource Protection, to non-agricultural use?*

Finding: No Impact

The Project is not located in an area identified as 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, and therefore poses no impact to such lands.

b) *Would the Project conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or conflict with a Williamson Act contract?*

Finding: No Impact.

The Project would create no conflicts with zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract because no such zoning designations exist within the Project area.

c) *Would the Project conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resource Code section 12220(g)), timberland zoned Timberland Production Zone (per Section L-II 2.3.C of the Nevada County Land Use and Development Code)?*

Finding: No Impact

All parcels within the Project area are zoned by Nevada County as FR and there are no areas that are zoned for timberland production. Low intensity recreation (such as that associated with the Project) is an allowed use on land zoned as FR and therefore there would be no conflict with forest land zoning and the Project would have no impact to forest land or timberland zoning and compatibility.

d) *Would the Project result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?*

Finding: No Impact

The Project would enhance the public's use of the forest and would not result in the loss or conversion of forest land. The low intensity recreation uses associated with use of the proposed boardwalk and bridge is compatible with forest land and a by-right/permissive use.

e) *Would the Project 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?*

Finding: No Impact

Farmland and agricultural uses are not present within the Project area therefore there is no impact to these resources.

Mitigation:

None required.

4.3 Air Quality

Existing Setting:

The Project area falls within the boundary of the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District (NSAQMD), which covers Nevada, Plumas and Sierra Counties. The goal of NSAQMD is to preserve air quality and protect public health and public welfare. Air pollution is regulated by two types of standards: emissions standards and ambient air quality standards. Ambient air quality standards are levels of air pollutants that, if exceeded, are considered unhealthy to breath. The NSAQMD is required by state law to achieve and maintain state and federal Ambient Air Quality Standards. (NSAQMD 2021).

The Federal Clean Air Act and the California Clean Air Act required the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and California Air Resources Board (CARB) to establish health-based air quality standards at the Federal and State levels. National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) were established for the following criteria pollutants: carbon monoxide (CO), ozone (O3), nitrogen dioxide, particulate matter (PM) less than 10 microns in diameter (PM10), PM less than 2.5 microns in diameter (PM2.5), and lead. These standards have been established with a margin of safety to protect the public's health. Both EPA and CARB designate areas of the State as attainment, non-attainment, maintenance, or unclassified for the various pollutant standards according to Federal Clean Air Act and the California Clean Air Act, respectively.

An "attainment" designation for an area signifies that pollutant concentrations did not violate the NAAQS and/or California Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) for that pollutant in that area. A "non-attainment" designation indicates that a pollutant concentration violated the standard at least once, excluding those occasions when a violation was caused by an exceptional event, as identified by the criteria. A "maintenance" designation indicates that the area previously had non-attainment status and currently has attainment status for the applicable pollutant; the area must demonstrate continued attainment for a specified number of years before it can be re-designated as attainment. An "unclassified" designation signifies that data do not support either an attainment or a non-attainment status.

Table 4 below shows the Nevada County area designations for State and Federal ambient air quality standards.

Table 4. Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District Designations for State and Federal Ambient Air Quality (NSAQMD 2009)

Attainment status by Northern Sierra AQMD for Nevada County			
Pollutant		**State Standard**	**Federal Standard**
O_3	1-Hr Std	Non-attainment (overwhelming transport)	Unclassified/Attainment
	8-Hr Std	Non-attainment (due to overwhelming transport)	Unclassified/Attainment
PM_{10}		Non-attainment	Unclassified
$PM_{2.5}$		Unclassified	Unclassified/Attainment

Thresholds of significance are based on a source's projected impacts and are a basis from which to apply mitigation measures. The NSAQMD developed and adopted a tiered approach to significance levels, including Levels A, B, and C Thresholds. Projects with projected emissions meeting Level A thresholds will require the most basic mitigations, while Level B range projects will require more extensive mitigations. Level C projects will require the most extensive mitigations. The tiered thresholds for Levels A, B, and C are provided in Table 5 below (NSAQMD 2009).

Table 5. Tiered Thresholds of Significance – NSAQMD

Pollutant	Level A	Level B	Level C
NOX	<24 lbs/day	24-136 lbs/day	>136 lbs/day
ROG	<24 lbs/day	24-136 lbs/day	>136 lbs/day
PM10	<79 lbs/day	79-136 lbs/day	>136 lbs/day

Table 6. Air Quality Impacts Summary Table

Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management district or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Reference Source (Appendix A)
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒	NSAQMD 2009
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?	☐	☒	☐	☐	Project Description

c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☒	☐	Nevada County 2021a; NSAQMD 2009
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☐	☒	Project Description; NSAQMD 2009

Impact Discussion:

a) *Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?*

Finding: No Impact

At the local level, air quality is managed through land use and development planning practices, which are implemented in the region through the general planning process. The NSAQMD is responsible for establishing and enforcing local air quality rules and regulations that address the requirements of Federal and State air quality laws. The NSAQMD is also responsible for implementing strategies for air quality improvement and recommending mitigation measures for new growth and development. The Guidelines for Assessing and Mitigating Air Quality Impacts of Land Use Projects, adopted in 2009, provide the thresholds of significance for projects (see Table 5 above) as well as provide clear guidance for mitigation measures required for each threshold level (Levels A, B, and C) (NSAQMD 2009). No impact is anticipated on the potential adoption or implementation of an air quality plan given the limited amount of construction equipment and anticipated duration of the Project.

b) *Would the project 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?*

Finding: Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated

Given the quantity of construction equipment associated with project construction, the Project is not likely to violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation, nor result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria air pollutant for which NSAQMD is already designated as non-attainment. The proposed project would result in a temporary but incrementally small net increase in pollutants due to vehicle and equipment emissions and fugitive dust. Emissions are not anticipated to exceed Level A emissions. However, adherence to Mitigation Measures AQ.1 and AQ.2 would reduce impacts to the extent possible so that the Project is not anticipated to

contribute to a cumulatively considerable net increase for ozone and PM10, for which the County is in non-attainment. Therefore, this impact is less than significant.

c) *Would the project expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?*

Finding: Less than Significant

Some members of the population are especially sensitive to emissions of air quality pollutants and should be given special consideration during the evaluation of the Project's air quality impacts. The Project includes operations that would result in short-term diesel exhaust emissions from on-site construction equipment and would generate diesel particulate matter (DPM) emissions, a toxic air contaminant, from the use of off-road diesel equipment. The nearest receptors include residents at some private parcels in the Project vicinity and the members of the public visiting the Project area for recreational purposes. Considering that the Project footprint is over a mile from any occupied residential parcel; that operation of construction equipment is regulated by federal, state, and local regulations and would occur intermittently throughout the course of a day; and that recreation access to areas under construction would be restricted; the likelihood is extremely low that any individual would be exposed to high concentrations of DPM for any extended period of time. However, mitigation is prescribed to ensure construction related pollutants such as dust and emissions are limited. Potential impacts of exposing sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations would be less than significant.

d) *Would the project result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?*

Finding: No Impact

The only objectionable odors associated with the Project would be associated with exhaust from construction equipment. The footprint of the Project is located over a mile from any occupied residential parcels; the operation of construction equipment is regulated by federal, state, and local regulations and would occur intermittently throughout the course of a day; and recreation access to areas under construction would be restricted. Therefore, there would be no impact.

Mitigation:

Mitigation Measure AQ.1 – Fugitive Dust Emissions

> All grading and construction plans shall include a note outlining the following requirement. Construction notes shall be incorporated into the final project design plan prior to issuance of grading /building permits and shall be maintained throughout construction. BMPs shall be implemented to minimize dust emissions, including

watering exposed soils, as well as stockpiled material, and limiting construction vehicle and equipment speeds.

Mitigation Measure AQ.2 – Construction Vehicles: Maintenance and Idle Times

All grading and construction plans shall include a note outlining the following requirement. Construction notes shall be incorporated into the final project design plan prior to issuance of grading /building permits and shall be maintained throughout construction. Construction equipment idling times shall be minimized either by shutting equipment off when not in use or reducing the maximum idling time to 5 minutes. All construction equipment shall also be maintained and properly tuned in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications.

4.4 Biological Resources

Existing Setting:

The Project is located along the South Fork of Prosser Creek in Euer Valley at approximately 6,500 feet in elevation. The Project area is in a seasonally wet meadow with uniform wetland grasses mixed with clumps of small Lemmon's willow (*Salix lemmonii*) and lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) along the edges and upland areas. Prosser Creek provides habitat for many wildlife species. Trout species, including brown (*Salmo trutta*), rainbow (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), and brook (*Salvelinus fontinalis*), may be present. The Project area and adjacent areas provide nesting and foraging habitat for many birds including the willow flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii*), yellow warbler (Setophaga petechia), and various raptor species (sharp-shinned hawk, Cooper's hawk, red-tailed hawk, red-shouldered hawk, osprey, and bald eagle). Evidence of past American beaver (*Castor canadensis*) activity is present downstream of the Project area, but no current activity exists. The nearby area has scattered private property ownership to the east and west of the Project area. The neighborhood along Alder Creek Road is approximately 1.75 miles to the east. The trail through the Project area in Euer Valley is a popular local trail in the summer for hiking, biking, and horseback trail riding, and regularly used in the winter for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing. TDA grooms a cross-country ski trail across Coyote Crossing and through the meadow during the snow season.

The existing Coyote Crossing consists of an anchored wooden walkway over three (3) CMP culverts and a constructed access ramp allowing for both summer and winter recreationists and snow grooming equipment (owned and operated by TDA) to cross. Around Coyote Crossing, swales have persistent standing water well into peak recreation season (summer) that have led to the formation of additional trails by pedestrians and equestrians attempting to avoid the wetted areas. Additional spring fed swales in the meadow (north of the crossing) create similar conditions, resulting in braiding of the trail through the meadow as recreationists seek alternative paths to avoid getting their feet wet. This behavior exacerbates erosion in the saturated meadow area, compacts soil, and stunts vegetation growth within the vicinity of the existing trail alignment.

Table 7. Biological Resources Impacts Summary Table

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Reference Source (Appendix A)
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,	☐	☒	☐	☐	CDFW 2020; USFWS 2020; Zeiner et. al 1988-1990; Wiggins

or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?					2004; USFWS 2020a; CalHerps 2017; USFWS 2015; CNPS 1998
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☒	☐	☐	Project Description; CDFW 2020
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?	☐	☒	☐	☐	CDFW 2020; Project Description; Nevada County 2021b
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?	☐	☒	☐	☐	Project Description; CDFW 2020; USFWS 2020
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☒	☐	☐	Nevada County 2014
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒	Project Description

Impact Discussion:

a) *Would this project 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?*

Finding: Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated

Several special-status species, including several federal and state listed plants and animals, as well as several plant species categorized by the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) as rare throughout their range, have habitat within or near the Project area. Table 8 displays special-status species occurrences within five miles of the Project based on results of a query of the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) (CDFW 2020) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Database (USFWS 2020) for the area covered by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), Truckee, Hobart Mills, Independence Lakes, and Norden topographic quadrangles. Figure 3 displays the associated map of special-status species identified within proximity to the Project area.

This data, in combination with field reconnaissance of the habitat on-site on August 25, 2020, and with consideration given to the type of disturbance, area of impact, and timing of construction, was used to determine potential adverse effects from the Project to each of the listed species with habitat within or near the Project area. A description of each of these listed species, an analysis of on-site conditions, and an explanation of potential effects of the Project to each individual species follows below. Mitigation measures to reduce the potential for a substantial adverse effect are presented, as needed, following the description.

Table 8. CNDDB Species

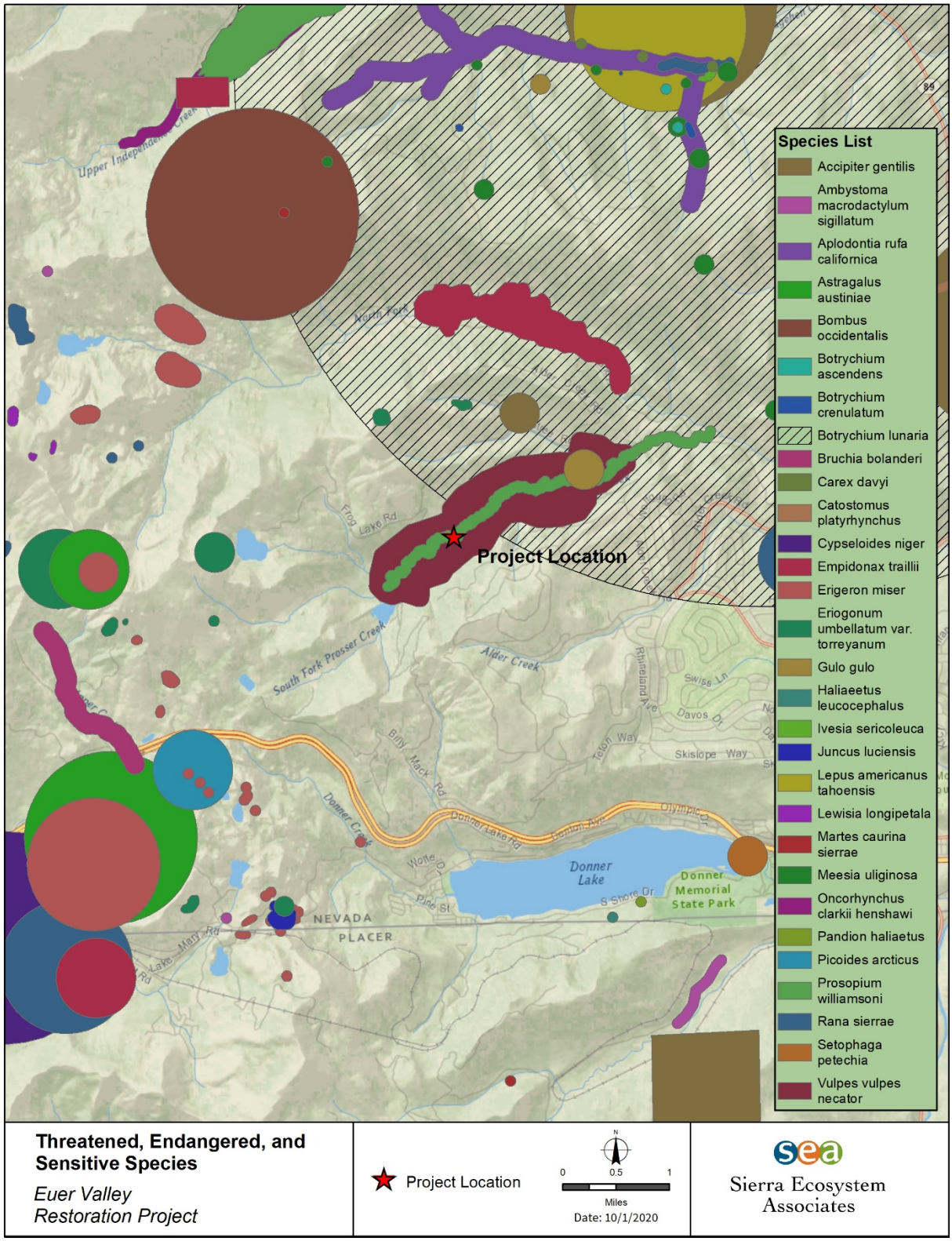
Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Listing	California Listing	CNPS Listing	CDFW Status	Potential To Occur
ANIMALS						
Accipiter gentilis	northern goshawk	None	None		SSC	Low
Ambystoma macrodactylum sigillatum	southern long-toed salamander	None	None		SSC	Medium
Aplodontia rufa californica	Sierra Nevada mountain beaver	None	None		SSC	High
Catostomus platyrhynchus	mountain sucker	None	None		SSC	Low
Cypseloides niger	black swift	None	None		SSC	Low
Empidonax traillii	willow flycatcher	None	EN			High
Gulo gulo luscus	California wolverine	PT	TH		FP	Low
Haliaeetus leucocephalus	bald eagle	Delisted	EN		FP	High
Lepus americanus tahoensis	Sierra Nevada snowshoe hare	None	None		SSC	Medium
Martes caurina sierrae	Sierra marten	None	None			Medium
Oncorhynchus clarkii henshawi	Lahontan cutthroat trout	FT	None			Low
Pandion haliaetus	osprey	None	None		WL	Medium

Scientific Name	Common Name	Federal Listing	California Listing	CNPS Listing	CDFW Status	Potential To Occur
Prosopium williamsoni	mountain whitefish	None	None		SSC	Medium
Rana sierrae	Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog	FE	TH		WL	Medium
Setophaga petechia	yellow warbler	None	None		SSC	High
Strix occidentalis	California spotted owl	None	None		SSC	Low
Vulpes vulpes necator	Sierra Nevada red fox	FC	TH			Low
PLANTS						
Astragalus austiniae	Austin's astragalus	None	None	1B.3		Low
Botrychium ascendens	upswept moonwort	None	None	2B.3		Medium
Botrychium crenulatum	scalloped moonwort	None	None	2B.2		Medium
Bruchia bolanderi	Bolander's bruchia	None	None	4.2		Medium
Carex davyi	Davy's sedge	None	None	1B.3		Medium
Erigeron miser	starved daisy	None	None	1B.3		Low
Eriogonum umbellatum var. torreyanum	Donner Pass buckwheat	None	None	1B.2		Low
Ivesia sericoleuca	Plumas ivesia	None	None	1B.2		Medium
Juncus luciensis	Santa Lucia dwarf rush	None	None	1B.2		Medium
Lewisia longipetala	long-petaled lewisia	None	None	1B.3		Low
Meesia uliginosa	broad-nerved hump moss	None	None	2B.2		Low

* Key to status codes:

FE	Federal Endangered
FT	Federal Threatened
FC	Federal Candidate
FP	Federal Protected
TH	CA Threatened
EN	CA Endangered
PT	Proposed Threatened
SSC	CDFW Species of Special Concern
WL	CDFW Watchlist
List 1A	CNPS List 1A: Plants presumed extinct in California
List 1B	CNPS List 1B: Plants rare, threatened or endangered in California and elsewhere
List 2	CNPS List 2: Plants rare, threatened, or endangered in California, but more common elsewhere

Figure 3. Special Status CNDDB and USFWS Species in the Project Vicinity



Species Descriptions: Animals

Short species and effect descriptions for each of the CNDDB animal species listed in Table 8 are provided below.

Northern goshawk *(Accipiter gentilis)*

Northern goshawk is a CDFW Species of Special Concern. Goshawks typically live in large tracts of coniferous forests and on forest edges. According to the CNDDB, foraging and potential nesting habitat exists within the Project area. Project activities do not include the removal of a tree greater than 10-inch diameter at breast height. Construction activities could significantly impact any nesting within or near the Project footprint. Implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO.1 – Protections for Nesting Owls and Raptors, would ensure any potential nesting impacts to goshawk would be avoided, reducing potential adverse effects to this species to less than significant.

Southern long-toed salamander (*Ambystoma macrodactylum sigillatum*)

The southern long-toed salamander is a CDFW Species of Special Concern. It inhabits alpine meadows, high mountain seasonal ponds and lakes. It occurs in mixed Sierra Nevada coniferous forest and alpine communities and requires riparian vegetation, woody debris such as logs and large branches for cover, and other overhead shade structures. Project activities are intended to restore riparian forest and wetland habitat, restoration that would benefit the salamander. However, salamander mortality could occur during Project construction, especially construction activities involving heavy machinery and timber removal. Mitigation measure BIO.2 – Southern Long-Toed Salamander Field Assessment, would reduce the potential for significant adverse impacts to southern long-toed salamander to less than significant.

Sierra Nevada mountain beaver *(Aplodontia rufa californica)*

The mountain beaver is a CDFW Species of Special Concern. Typical habitat of mountain beaver in the Sierra Nevada is montane riparian. The beaver frequents open and intermediate-canopy coverage with a dense understory near water. Deep, friable soils are required for burrowing, along with a cool, moist microclimate (Zeiner et al. 1988-1990). Based on the CNDDB and limited field observations, habitat exists within the Project area, however, no sightings have been observed or recorded. With implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO.3 – Survey for Snowshoe Hare and Mountain Beaver, impacts to this species would be avoided.

Mountain sucker (*Catostomus platyrhynchus*)

The mountain sucker is a CDFW Species of Special Concern. Mountain sucker primarily occurs in fast moving waters, from small montane streams to large rivers. Past surveys show a decreasing population and possible extirpation due to the dam at Prosser Creek Reservoir preventing fish passage to and from Euer Valley. Mitigation measure BIO-5,

Fish Protection Measures, would reduce the potential for significant adverse impacts to the mountain sucker to less than significant.

Black swift (*Cypseloides niger*)

Black swifts are a CDFW species of special concern. They prefer habitat in deep canyons with falling water. They prefer nesting on shaded cliff walls near areas of dripping or falling water (Wiggins 2004). Favorable nesting characteristics such as these do not exist within the Project area. No significant adverse effects are anticipated due to Project activities.

Willow flycatcher *(Empidonax traillii)*

This species is listed as Threatened in California. The willow flycatcher prefers dense riparian vegetation such as willows and cottonwoods along meadows and streams. Based on limited field observations, habitat is poor, but exists in small pockets within the Project area where dense willows occur. To ensure the Project avoids potentially significant impact to this species, Mitigation Measure BIO.4 – Willow Flycatcher and Yellow Warbler Field Assessment, would be implemented.

North American wolverine (*Gulo gulo luscus*)

The wolverine is federally listed as proposed threatened and is listed as threatened in California. Wolverines prefer extensive wilderness dominated by coniferous forest large enough to support wide-ranging, solitary individuals. They are commonly found in stands dominated by fir (*Abies spp.*), Douglas fir, or lodgepole pine and prefer high-elevation habitats in summer. Habitat selection is variable and could be influenced by abundance of prey, presence of human disturbance, or denning requirements. Overall, wolverines appear to avoid areas that are heavily utilized by people (Zeiner et al. 1988-1990). A single wolverine known as SC2008-325 or “Buddy” has been ranging near the Project area from Fordyce Lake to Sagehen Creek. The closest known historical detection made in 2017 is approximately one mile away. This rare species, if present near Euer Valley, would likely avoid the Project area during construction activities due to noise and human presence. Project activities are not likely to have a significant impact on this species.

Bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*)

Bald eagle has been federally delisted, but it is still listed as endangered under the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). Nesting habitat is characterized by mature or old-growth trees or snags near a large body of water. There are no mature, old growth, or snags within the Project area, but some do exist within 0.5 miles of Project activities. Implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO.1 – Protections for Nesting Owls and Raptors, would ensure any potential nesting impacts would be avoided, reducing potential adverse effects to this species to less than significant.

Sierra Nevada snowshoe hare *(Lepus americanus tahoensis)*

The Sierra Nevada snowshoe hare is a CDFW Species of Special Concern. The hare is usually found in upper montane forests and favors habitats with a dense shrub layer. Habitat exists near the Project area. With implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO.3 – Survey for Snowshoe Hare and Mountain Beaver, impacts to this species would be avoided.

Sierra marten (*Martes caurina sierrae*)

Sierra marten prefers riparian areas with lodgepole pine with adjacent brush, mixed conifer, and Jeffrey pine associations for food gathering and denning. The population may be extirpated, but habitat is favorable in nearby lodgepole pine stands. Project activities are not anticipated to affect favorable conditions such as early mid successional forest, large standing vegetative structure, shrub layer, or habitat connectivity. Impacts from Project activities would be less than significant.

Lahontan cutthroat trout *(Oncorhynchus clarkii henshawi)*

Lahontan cutthroat trout is listed as federally threatened. It inhabits lakes and streams and requires spawning habitat with cool water, pools close to cover and velocity breaks, vegetated stream banks, and relatively rocky substrates. Mitigation measure BIO.5 – Fish Protection Measures would reduce the potential for significant adverse impacts to less than significant.

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)

Osprey is on the CDFW species Watch List. Ospreys prefer a wide range of forest habitat near lakes, rivers, and coastal waters with adequate supplies of fish. They require large snags or other suitable nesting platforms within 15 miles of fishable water. Implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO.1 – Protections for Nesting Owls and Raptors, would ensure any potential nesting impacts would be avoided, reducing potential adverse effects to this species to less than significant.

Mountain whitefish (*Prosopium williamsonii)*

Mountain Whitefish generally inhabits clear, cool waters of high elevation streams, rivers, and lakes. It is a CDFW Species of Special Concern. The population here is likely extirpated due to the isolation created by Prosser reservoir dam. The dam prevents fish passage to this area from the main population ranges in the Truckee, Carson, and Lake Tahoe drainages. Mitigation measure BIO-5, Fish Protection Measures would reduce the potential for significant adverse impacts to less than significant.

Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog *(Rana sierrae)*

The Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog (SNYLF) is federally listed as endangered and listed as threatened in California. This amphibian inhabits lakes, tarns, ponds, meadow streams, isolated pools, and sunny riverbanks in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Waters

that do not freeze to the bottom and that do not dry up are required. It prefers open shorelines that gently slope up to shallows of a few inches (CalHerps 2017). Designated critical habitat exists less than 400 feet from the Project boundary (USFWS 2020a). Proximity of the Project to SNYLF critical habitat is shown in Figure 4. To reduce potential construction-related impacts to SNYLF to less than significant, Mitigation Measure BIO.6 – SNYLF Habitat Survey, would be implemented.

Yellow warbler *(Setophaga petechial)*

The Yellow warbler is a CDFW Species of Special Concern. This species prefers riparian vegetation below elevations of 8,000 feet. Suitable nesting habitat occurs along portions of Prosser Creek. To ensure the Project avoids potentially significant impacts to this species, Mitigation Measure BIO.4 – Willow Flycatcher and Yellow Warbler Field Assessment, would be implemented.

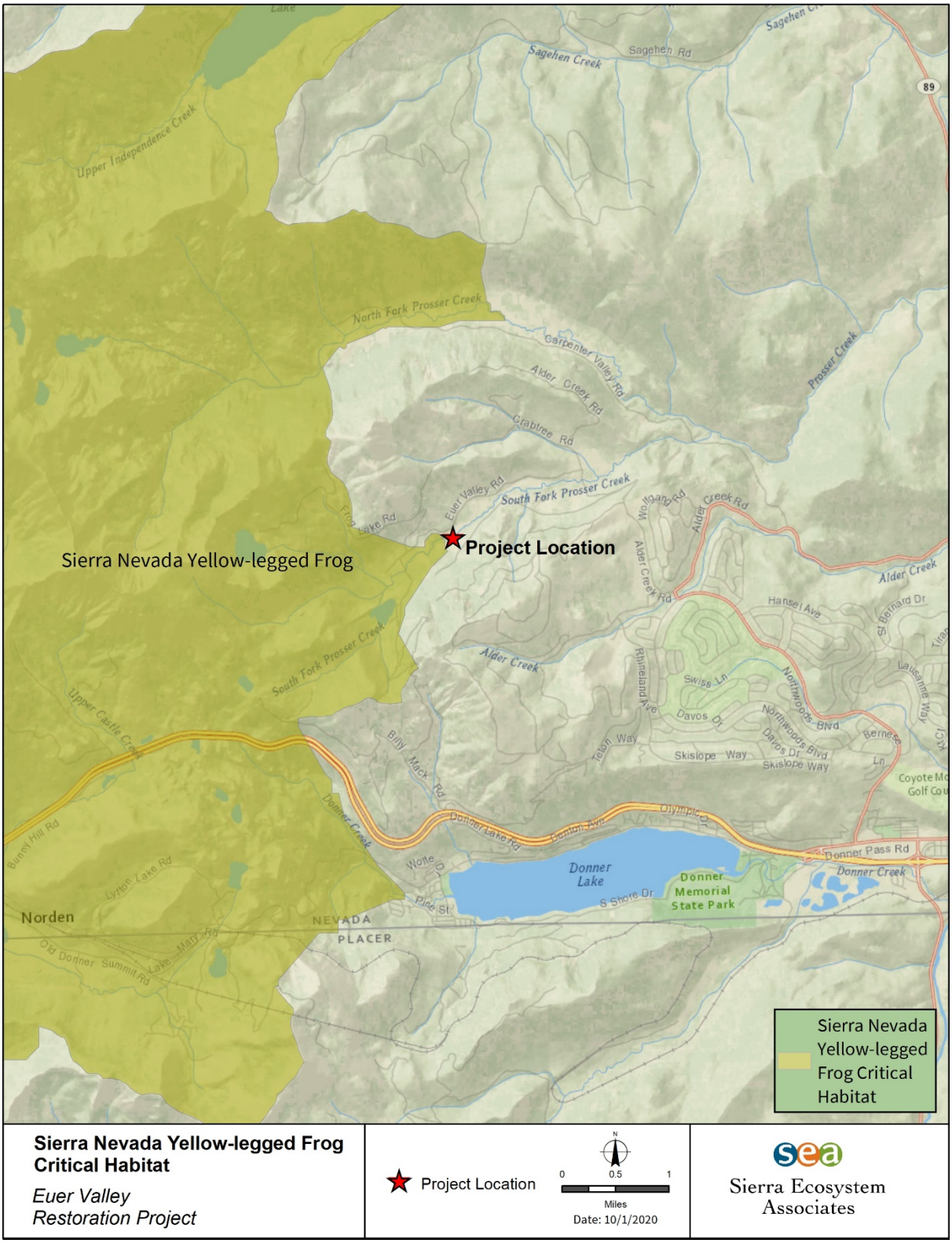
California spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis occidentalis)*

The spotted owl is a CDFW Species of Special Concern. It prefers dense, old-growth, multi-layered mixed conifer, redwood, fir, and Douglas-fir habitats, from 0-7,600 feet elevation (Zeiner et al. 1988-1990). The Project area is suitable for foraging spotted owls. Larger trees around the Project area could support nesting. Implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-1, Protections for Nesting Owls and Raptors, would ensure any potential nesting impacts would be avoided, reducing potential adverse effects to this species to less than significant.

Sierra Nevada red fox *(Vulpes vulpes necator)*

The Sierra Nevada red fox is a candidate for federal listing and is listed as threatened in California. Habitat for this species is in rugged alpine areas and conifer forests of the Sierra Nevada and Cascade ranges most often above 7,000 feet. The fox prefers forests interspersed with meadows or alpine fell-fields, as it utilizes open areas for hunting and forested habitats for cover and reproduction. It prefers areas with little to no human activity. Potential habitat exists within the Project area, although occurrences are very rare. The last occurrence of the fox was a positively identified skeleton found in Euer Valley in 1941 (CNDDB 2020). Only two current populations are known to exist in California: near Lassen peak and Sonora Pass (USFWS 2015). Project activities are not likely to have an impact on this species.

Figure 4. Sierra Nevada Yellow-legged Frog Critical Habitat



Species Descriptions: Plants

Short species and effect descriptions for each of the CNDDB plant species listed in Table 8 are provided below.

Austin's astragalus (*Astragalus austiniae)*

Austin's astragalus prefers rocky, alpine, boulder and rock fields in subalpine coniferous forest. It tolerates exposed rocky areas along the mountain ridges west of Lake Tahoe. Proposed Project activities are not occurring within suitable habitat on rocky ridges. Due to lack of suitable habitat within the Project area, Project activities are not likely to impact this species.

Bolander's bruchia (*Bruchia bolanderi)*

Bolander's bruchia grow on damp soil in montane meadows, bogs, fens, and seeps. Disturbed areas or areas with little competition from other plants seeking similar habitat conditions, provide suitable habitat. Overall, the habitat for this species is poor although suitable habitat may exist along the stream bank in perennially moist soil. Mitigation Measure BIO.7 – Preconstruction Survey for Sensitive Plant Species would ensure that the Project avoids potentially significant impacts to this species.

Upswept moonwort (*Botrychium ascendens)*

Suitable habitat for scalloped moonwort includes meadows, bogs, fens, marshes, swamps, and seeps in upper and lower montane coniferous forest from 4,000 to 10,000 feet (California Native Plant Society 1998). Occurrences are possible, but the habitat is poor within the Project area due to the lack of bogs and fens, and robust competition from a near monoculture of sedges. With implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO.7 – Preconstruction Survey for Sensitive Plant Species, Project activities would have a less than significant impact.

Scalloped moonwort (*Botrychium crenulatum)*

Suitable habitat for scalloped moonwort includes meadows, bogs, fens, marshes, swamps, and seeps in upper and lower montane coniferous forest from 4,100 to 10,800 feet (CNPS 1998). Occurrences are possible, but the habitat is poor within the Project area due to the lack of bogs and fens, and robust competition from a near monoculture of sedges. With implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO.7 – Preconstruction Survey for Sensitive Plant Species, Project activities would have a less than significant impact.

Davy's sedge (*Carex davyi)*

Davy's sedge grows in meadows of montane coniferous forests above 4,500 feet in elevation. Nearby occurrences exist five miles northwest in Sagehen Experimental Forest. With implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO-7, Preconstruction Survey for Sensitive Plant Species, Project activities would have a less than significant impact.

Starved daisy (*Erigeron miser)*

Starved daisy habitat consists of upper montane conifer forest on rocky soils from 6,000 to 8,600 feet in elevation. This species occurs mostly on rocky outcrops and crevices. No occurrences are known within the Project area and habitat is poor. Project activities would have a less than significant impact.

Donner Pass buckwheat *(Eriogonum umbellatum var. torreyanum)*

The Donner Pass buckwheat grows in open rocky areas with sage brush associations. It prefers shallow granitic soils. Suitable habitat such as undisturbed rocky areas and granitic soils are not present within the areas of Project construction. Project activities are not likely to impact this species.

Plumas ivesia (*Ivesia sericoleuca)*

The Plumas ivesia occurs in open meadows with standing water, seeps, and other vernally mesic areas. Potential habit exists within the Project area. With implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO.7 – Preconstruction Survey for Sensitive Plant Species, Project activities would have a less than significant impact.

Santa Lucia dwarf rush *(Juncus luciensis)*

This rush occurs in open meadows with standing water, seeps, and vernal pools. Potential habitat exists within the Project area. With implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO.7 – Preconstruction Survey for Sensitive Plant Species, Project activities would have a less than significant impact.

Long-petaled lewisia *(Lewisia longipetala)*

This species grows in subalpine and alpine climates in moist areas in rocky habitat, such as talus that retains patches of snow year-round. Most specimens grow on north-facing slopes with little surrounding vegetation. The plant thrives in the snow, growing largest and most densely in areas of high snowpack and easily becoming water-stressed when far away from areas with snow. Habitat in the Project area is poor and therefore Project activities are not likely to impact this species.

Broad-nerved hump moss (*Meesia uliginosa)*

This species grows in montane fens on saturated ground, usually in full sunlight. Habitat elevations range from 5,000 to 6,000 feet. The Project area is slightly outside the favorable elevation range of this species, and there are no saturated mountain fens within the Project area. Project activities would have a less than significant impact.

In summary, mitigation measures BIO.1 through BIO.7 would reduce potentially adverse impacts to special-status species to less than significant. In addition, TRWC in coordination and with guidance from CDFW and USFWS, shall implement Mitigation Measure BIO.8 – Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) training, requiring the development of a WEAP to

educate all construction personnel who would have the potential to encounter sensitive resources, including special status species, over the course of the construction period.

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

Finding: Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated
Over the long-term, riparian habitat and sensitive vegetation communities associated with riparian areas would benefit from implementation of the Project. The Project would restore degraded meadow and trail systems, reduce erosion, and protect and enhance wetland habitat along the South Fork of Prosser Creek. The Project would reduce the existing recreational impacts to the meadow and wetland areas through Euer Valley by replacing the existing and frequently used earthen trail (Coyote Trail) through the wet meadow with an elevated boardwalk and installing a permanent bridge feature where the existing trail crosses the South Fork of Prosser Creek (Coyote Crossing). A designated equestrian branch of the trail for crossing the creek would eliminate existing dispersed equestrian access to and crossing of the creek, thereby reducing long-term, unmanaged equestrian crossings of the meadow and creek. The Project would use small, bioengineered structures such as native cobble, sod and live willow stakes to remedy creek incision and improve the quality of wetland habitat along approximately ½ linear mile of the South Fork of Prosser Creek from Coyote Crossing downstream.

Construction activities would have short-term adverse impacts on the existing riparian vegetation and some sensitive communities within the Project footprint. Though currently established roads and trails would be utilized to reduce impacts to meadow areas, heavy equipment and personnel could compact soils and impact vegetation growth in meadow areas. Riparian vegetation may be pruned or removed to provide access for equipment or personnel to restoration sites, and personnel in the area during construction could increase soil compaction. These impacts would be temporary and would be minimized by timing construction for the mid-to-late summer to take advantage of drier conditions, including shallower flows in the creek, implementing the diversion and dewatering plan described in section 2.4.4 and adhering to the BMPs identified in section 2.4.5. Mitigation Measure HWQ.1, BMPs for Precipitation Events, and Mitigation Measure GS.1 – Protection of Meadow Areas from Heavy Equipment would also support protection and recovery of temporary impacts to existing riparian vegetation and wetland areas. The temporary impacts to riparian vegetation would not result in substantial long-term adverse effects to riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community. As a result, impacts to riparian habitat and sensitive communities would be less than significant.

c) *Would this project 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?*

Finding: Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated

Jurisdictional waters of the U.S. include jurisdictional wetlands as well as all other waters of the U.S. such as creeks, ponds, and intermittent drainages. Wetlands are defined as those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support and under normal circumstances do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. The majority of jurisdictional wetlands in the United States meet three wetland assessment criteria: hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils, and wetland hydrology. Much of the Project footprint has a high potential for meeting the full definition of federally protected wetlands including areas outside the meadow and within the adjacent mixed conifer forest.

The intention of the bridge and boardwalk and equestrian crossing is to: reduce existing impacts to the wet meadow by replacing the existing crude creek crossing with a bridge that spans the channel's ordinary high-water mark (OHWM); and eliminate compaction of soil and vegetation in the wet meadow and riparian zone caused by hikers, cyclists, and equestrians. While these Project features would minimize future recreation impacts to the meadow and wetland areas and improve long term water quality by reducing erosion potential and improving channel stability, temporary impacts to wetlands during construction are anticipated and there will be limited areas of permanent impacts to wetlands.

Temporary impacts to wetlands during construction would be minimized by:

- timing construction when soil conditions are driest and flows of the creek are low;
- implementing the diversion and dewatering plan to ensure there is no hydrologic interruption of the South Fork of Prosser Creek;
- using meadow protection mats to reduce soil compaction and protect vegetation in instances and at locations where heavy equipment must cross meadow areas;
- restoring any temporary disturbance (including access routes created as part of the Project) to pre-Project conditions; and
- adhering to applicable local, state, and federal regulations, including requirements associated with State Water Resources Control Board Water Quality Order No. 99-08 – NNPDES General Permit for Stormwater Discharges associated with Construction Activity and implementing the associated SWPPP.

Permanent impacts to wetlands would result from placement of infrastructure to anchor the bridge and boardwalk, including helical piers, bridge abutments, the earthen access ramps (to access the bridge from the trail), and the equestrian branch trail for horses to cross the creek. The placement of any fill within jurisdictional waters of the U.S., including within the channel

of the South Fork of Prosser Creek and/or wet meadow, would require a Clean Water Act (CWA) section 404 permit, which requires completion of a wetland and/or waters delineation, a USACE verification of that delineation, and proof of compliance with the CWA Section 404. If the wetland delineation finds that jurisdictionally defined wetlands are permanently impacted, TRWC/TDA would adhere to compensatory wetland mitigation requirements associated with USACE federal permit conditions.

Because the project would require a CWA Section 404 permit, a CWA Section 401 Water Quality Certification (WQC) would also be required and obtained from the LRWQCB. A Section 401 WQC would ensure that the activities of the proposed Project comply with all applicable water quality standards, limitations and restrictions. Finally, the Project is within the Truckee River Hydrologic Unit and would also therefore require an exemption from LRWQCB for any discharge of fill within the 100-year floodplain in accordance with the Porter Cologne Water Quality Control Act. Mitigation Measure BIO.9 – Consultation with State and Federal Responsible Agencies, would ensure conformance with permitting requirements. Overall, there would be net, long-term benefits from reducing dispersed recreation impacts to the meadow and creek. Therefore, because of the temporary nature of the Project impacts and with: adherence to the identified construction schedule; implementation of the diversion and dewatering plan; implementation of the construction BMPs described in this Project description and in the engineering design plans; and conformance with local, state and federal permitting requirements (assured through application of Mitigation Measure BIO.9), potentially substantial adverse impacts to wetlands from the Project would be less than significant.

d) *Would this project 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?*

Finding: Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated

South Fork of Prosser Creek within Euer Valley serves as a wildlife corridor for terrestrial and aquatic species that migrate from or to North Fork of Prosser Creek and Prosser Creek Reservoir. Migratory wildlife may also use this portion of stream to migrate to and from small upland streams and lakes such as Frog Lake and Summit Lake. Over the long term, Project features, including biotechnical bank protection measures with materials such as native cobble, sod and live willow stakes, would increase in-channel habitat complexity and/or prevent aggravated bank erosion. These features, in combination with some of the larger in-stream treatments to reduce water velocity through the channel, improve habitat for fish and fish passage and would support use of the creek as a wildlife corridor.

Construction activities would have a temporary and less than significant impact on terrestrial wildlife movement through the creek corridor because construction activities are short-term

and would occur within a finite and relatively small area of Euer Valley. Migrating terrestrial species could easily avoid construction areas using adjacent meadow, brush and forest cover. However, construction activities, in particular dewatering and instream channel work, could temporarily impact fish and their movement upstream or downstream through the Project area. To minimize impacts to migrating fish within South Fork Prosser Creek, implementation of Mitigation Measure BIO.5 – Fish Protection Measures, would be required.

e) *Would this project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?*

Finding: Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated

The Nevada County General Plan includes a Wildlife and Vegetation Element in Chapter 13 (Nevada County 2014). The goals, objectives, and policies summarized below are designed to preserve and protect biological resources within Nevada County:

- Identify and manage significant areas to achieve sustainable habitat.
- Discourage intrusion and encroachment by incompatible land uses in significant and sensitive habitats.
- Promote open space, habitat preservation, and prevent fragmentation.
- Reduce removal of wetlands.
- Conform with regulations and guidelines of the USFWS, USACE, CDFW, Federal and California Endangered Species Acts.
- Identify and preserve heritage and landmark trees and oak groves where appropriate.

The Project is consistent with these goals and policies. The Project would result in no change to land use or use intensity that would reduce existing habitat, open space or introduce fragmentation. As discussed under biological resources impact question (c) above, neither long term nor substantial adverse impacts to wetlands are anticipated, and any permanent adverse impacts to wetlands associated with the Project would be mitigated in accordance with USACE requirements. TRWC and TDA would conform with all federal, state and local regulations including USFWS, USACE, CDFW and Federal and California Endangered Species Acts. Adherence to these requirements is assured with Mitigation BIO.9 – Consultation with Relevant State and Federal Responsible Agencies. Finally, Project activities do not include the removal of any trees and therefore this Project would not conflict with any tree preservation policies. The implementation of mitigation measures BIO.1 through BIO.9 would meet the Nevada County's objectives to protect biological resources.

Division 4.3 Resource Standards of the Nevada County Land Use and Development Code protects biological resources including watercourses, wetlands and riparian areas; and rare, threatened and endangered species and their habitat. Because the Project proposes work within 100 feet of wetland and riparian areas, 100 feet of a perennial watercourse, 50 feet of

intermittent watercourses, and for the protection of rare, threatened, endangered, or special species and their habitat, a Management Plan approved by Nevada County is required. Approval of a Management Plan assures a less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated.

f) *Would this project conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?*

Finding: No Impact

There are no approved habitat conservation plans or natural community conservation plans that apply to the proposed Project area and therefore Project activities would not conflict with any such plans.

Mitigation:

Mitigation Measure BIO.1 – Protections for Nesting Owls and Raptors

All grading and construction plans shall include a note outlining the following requirement. Construction notes shall be incorporated into the final project design plan prior to issuance of grading /building permits and shall be maintained throughout construction. To avoid disturbance of California spotted owl nests and active raptor nests, living or dead trees greater than 10 inches in diameter at breast height (DBH) shall not be removed during the typical owl and raptor breeding season (March 1 through August 31). If trees greater than 10 inches DBH must be removed during breeding season, a survey for active nest sites shall be conducted by a qualified biologist prior to tree removal. The survey shall be conducted no more than 10 days prior to the proposed tree removal activities. Survey results shall be submitted to CDFW. If active nests are found within 0.5-mile of the Project area, then a minimum 300-foot radius buffer shall be established, and no construction shall occur within the buffer area(s) during the breeding/nesting season. CDFW shall be consulted to determine appropriate protective measures. No trees with nests shall be removed until the nest is determined to be inactive.

Mitigation Measure BIO.2 – Southern Long-Toed Salamander Field Assessment

All grading and construction plans shall include a note outlining the following requirement. Construction notes shall be incorporated into the final project design plan prior to issuance of grading /building permits and shall be maintained throughout construction. Prior to the start of on-site construction activities, a qualified biologist shall conduct a field assessment to determine areas of suitable habitat and the presence or absence of southern long-toed salamander in the Project area. Suitable habitat and areas of occurrences shall be demarcated. In these areas, heavy machinery,

timber removal, and other activities potentially reducing abundance and quality of upland refugia shall be limited in area and in time according to the recommendations of a qualified herpetologist and as approved by CDFW. Prior to the start of on-site construction activities, and at the time new construction personnel are on-site, a qualified biologist shall train on-site construction personnel on the identification and life history of the southern long-toed salamander, work constraints, and any other pertinent information related to the species (See Mitigation Measure BIO.8 – Worker Environmental Awareness Program Training).

Mitigation Measure BIO.3 – Survey for Snowshoe Hare and Mountain Beaver

All grading and construction plans shall include a note outlining the following requirement. Construction notes shall be incorporated into the final project design plan prior to issuance of grading /building permits and shall be maintained throughout construction. Ground disturbance within areas of riparian vegetation that provide potential habitat for Sierra Nevada mountain beaver and Sierra Nevada snowshoe hare shall be avoided. If disturbance to riparian vegetation cannot be avoided, a qualified biologist shall be retained to survey the proposed area of disturbance prior to construction. If evidence of occurrence of either of these species is found, a minimum 500-foot non-disturbance buffer shall be established around nest or burrow sites and CDFW shall be consulted to approve additional avoidance and/or impact minimization measures. Such measures could include monitoring, buffer zones or seasonal work restrictions.

Mitigation Measure BIO.4 – Willow Flycatcher and Yellow Warbler Field Assessment

All grading and construction plans shall include a note outlining the following requirement. Construction notes shall be incorporated into the final project design plan prior to issuance of grading /building permits and shall be maintained throughout construction. If ground disturbance is planned that would impact suitable habitat for willow flycatcher (consisting of deciduous riparian scrub/shrub and trees) within the nesting period of the willow flycatcher (late spring/early summer) then a preconstruction survey for the bird shall be required prior to groundbreaking. If active nests are found, construction work within 500 feet of the nesting area shall be prohibited during breeding season (May 1 to August 31) and/or until nests are inactive. In addition, CDFW shall be consulted and informed of any results that indicate the presence of active willow flycatcher or yellow warbler nests within the project area.

Mitigation Measure BIO.5 – Fish Protection Measures

All grading and construction plans shall include a note outlining the following requirement. Construction notes shall be incorporated into the final project design plan prior to issuance of grading /building permits and shall be maintained throughout construction. Machinery, fencing and construction of bridge/log/boulder structures and the equestrian crossing shall not prevent the movement of fish species through the project area. Structures shall

not be constructed to a height and width that would prevent upstream or downstream travel. In addition, the following BMPs shall be adhered to:

- Prior to project activities within the active channel of the creek, fish will be excluded from the area through the use of standard methods such as seining and/or electrofishing. Standard depletion methods will be utilized to ensure maximum fish removal is attained.
- Handling of fish will be minimized.
- Fish will be immediately relocated to the active channel outside of the project area; they will not be retained in holding tanks for any period of time.
- The Design Plans and technical specifications for work within the creek shall identify measures that delineate and provide specifications for any water crossings to minimize heavy equipment entry into or crossing water as is practicable.

Mitigation Measure BIO.6 – SNYLF Habitat Survey

All grading and construction plans shall include a note outlining the following requirement. Construction notes shall be incorporated into the final project design plan prior to issuance of grading /building permits and shall be maintained throughout construction. A preconstruction survey for SNYLF habitat shall be completed by a qualified biologist within the Project area to determine if construction activities occur within potential habitat. If no habitat exists, construction may proceed without consulting with CDFW. If habitat exists within construction areas, even if SNYLF is not present, CDFW shall be consulted regarding monitoring requirements to protect SNYLF and its habitat.

Mitigation Measure BIO.7 – Preconstruction Survey for Sensitive Plant Species

All grading and construction plans shall include a note outlining the following requirement. Construction notes shall be incorporated into the final project design plan prior to issuance of grading /building permits and shall be maintained throughout construction. A qualified botanist shall conduct preconstruction surveys for sensitive plant species with the potential to occur within the Project footprint, including the following species:

- upswept moonwort (*Botrychium ascendens*)
- scalloped moonwort (*Botrychium crenulatum*)
- Bolander's bruchia (*Bruchia bolanderi*)
- Davy's sedge (*Carex davyi*)
- Plumas Ivesia (*Ivesia sericoleuca*)
- Santa Lucia dwarf rush (*Juncus luciensis*)

The survey area shall be limited to those areas where the above species are identified as most likely to occur (at the botanist's discretion). The survey shall take place prior to the start of ground disturbance activities during a period that coincides with the evident and identifiable period for each species: July through August (Jepson 2021).

If occurrences are found within the project area, TRWC, in consultation with CDFW and a qualified botanist, shall develop a Sensitive Plant Species Protection and Implementation Plan to undertake one or more of the following construction actions:

- Avoid potential impacts to sensitive plants by routing construction activity away from identified sensitive plants with consideration given to avoiding alteration of existing hydrology near existing occurrence(s) to prevent drying or erosion.
- Protect occupied habitat for the sensitive plants by flagging or delineating the habitat with construction flagging or fencing where avoidance is feasible. Personnel and construction equipment will be prohibited within these flagged/delineated areas.
- Relocate sensitive plants to suitable habitat outside of the project footprint.

Once the above construction actions are determined, TRWC, in consultation with CDFW, shall design and implement a maintenance and monitoring program for affected populations or relocated populations to document potential project related impacts. This maintenance and monitoring program shall be incorporated into the Sensitive Plant Species Protection and Implementation Plan and execution of the plan and program shall be documented and kept as a reference by TRWC and TDA.

Mitigation Measure BIO.8 – Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) Training

All grading and construction plans shall include a note outlining the following requirement. Construction notes shall be incorporated into the final project design plan prior to issuance of grading /building permits and shall be maintained throughout construction. A WEAP training shall be developed and implemented for all personnel that may access the site prior to commencing any disturbance activities. TRWC and the construction supervisor(s) shall be responsible for ensuring all construction staff are briefed, acknowledge in writing, and then comply with mitigation and permit conditions. The WEAP shall include a review of the special status species and other sensitive resources that exist in the Project area, including the locations of sensitive biological resources and their legal status and protections, permit conditions, seasonal restrictions, and measures to be implemented for mitigation and avoidance. The WEAP shall emphasize the need to avoid entry into areas where special status biological resources have been identified based on pre-disturbance field surveys and to implement the buffer avoidance or other protection measures in accordance with CDFW and USFWS requirements and the requirements of mitigation measures contained in this document. WEAP training shall also cover penalties associated with State or Federal endangered species act definitions of “take” of any species. Biological briefing brochures describing key species and other information shall be used as part of the training and retained on site for reference. A record of all trained personnel, including the worker acknowledgment signature forms, shall be maintained by the construction supervisor(s) and TRWC.

Mitigation Measure BIO.9 – Consultation with Relevant State and Federal Responsible Agencies

Prior to issuance of grading/building permits, the USACE, LRWQCB, and CDFW shall be notified of Project activities within wetlands and streams at the Project site. Permit applications and issuance, wetland delineations, and other federal (e.g., U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) and state consultations shall be completed in advance of issuance of grading/building permits. No in-stream or other work within wetland areas shall proceed until applicable permits have been acquired.

Mitigation Measure BIO.10 – Prevent the introduction and spread of noxious weeds.

All grading and construction plans shall include a note outlining the following requirement. Construction notes shall be incorporated into the final project design plan prior to issuance of grading /building permits and shall be maintained throughout construction. Prior to construction, the Project area will be surveyed by a qualified professional for any species listed in the California Invasive Plant Council (Cal-IPC) inventory. The survey area will include all groundbreaking areas including staging areas, and access routes. If an infestation is found, appropriate control methods shall be implemented to prevent spread. Before entering the worksite all tools, equipment, and vehicles shall be inspected and cleaned of any soils or plant material. Construction shall reduce the exposure of bare mineral soil as appropriate by using erosion control measures such as straw, pine needle, or wattles and be certified weed free. Pine needle mulch or other native material may be sourced locally to use as ground cover to reduce the spread of infestations.

4.5 Cultural Resources

Existing Setting:

Far Western Anthropological Research Group, Inc. (Far Western) completed a cultural resources study in the fall of 2020 for the Euer Valley Restoration Project (Far Western 2020) that included archival research and literature reviews, an assessment of archaeological sensitivity of the Project area, pedestrian survey, and preparation of a cultural resources survey report. The following description of the prehistoric and historic setting of the valley is excerpted from the cultural resources study report for easy reference. The full report is available from TRWC upon request.

Prehistoric Setting - Washoe History

The ancestral homeland of the Washoe people includes the Tahoe and Truckee basins; they consider all pre-contact habitation sites and artifacts in the region to be part of their cultural heritage. Linguistic evidence supports this view: the Washoe language is part of the Hokan family, which many linguistic anthropologists believe to be one of the oldest language families in California and western Nevada. Truckee lies within the traditional sphere of the northern Washoe or Welmelti (d'Azevedo 1986; Nevers 1976).

Like most Native peoples in northern California and western Nevada, the pre-contact Washoe lived a seasonal round that took them between their winter villages in lower elevations and their summer camps in the high Sierra. Fish, mammals, birds, and various plants—particularly pine nuts—were their staple foods. Many pre-contact Washoe fish camps lay along the Truckee River and at the mouths of streams entering Lake Tahoe (Da-aw), and other camps were established along the upper fringes of high mountain meadows like Martis, Stampede, and Sierra Valleys, as well as smaller valleys like the project location. Meadow grasses, forbs, and geophytes like camas and brodiaea provided important medicines and plant foods, and the wet meadows attracted deer and other game animals. The Truckee basin also offered a source of fine-grained volcanic ("basalt") toolstone at Alder Hill, where pre-contact quarries date back thousands of years (McGuire et al. 2006).

With increasing encroachment by Euro-Americans and other non-Native people in the second half of the nineteenth century, many of the Washoe's traditional hunting, fishing, and gathering areas were lost. It is likely that Washoe camps or lithic reduction locations on the fringes of Euer Valley were among these: Lindström et al. (2018) have recorded two such locations along the access road at the southern edge of the valley to the northeast of our project area.

Unlike other tribes, many of whom battled the newcomers, the Washoe chose a strategy of accommodation and negotiation that allowed them to remain in their traditional territory. Even as they adjusted to the new circumstances, however, the Washoe people continued a

steady stream of protests and petitions for their stolen lands. In 1917, small tracts of land in Nevada were returned to them, where they established residential colonies. They were given nothing for Lake Tahoe, which the Washoe consider to be the center of their world (Nevers 1976). The Tribe filed a case with the Indian Land Claims Commission (Docket 288) in 1951; the case was not settled until 1970, when the Washoe Tribe was awarded $5 million as compensation for their loss of resources and real estate within a traditional territory that may have covered more than 10,000 square miles.

The contemporary Washoe have developed a Comprehensive Land Use Plan (Washoe Tribal Council 1994) that includes the goals of reestablishing a presence within the Tahoe/Truckee region and re-vitalizing the Washoe language, heritage, and cultural knowledge, including the harvest and care of traditional plant resources and the protection of traditional properties within the cultural landscape (Rucks 1996:3). Lindström's (2015) consultation with the Tribe on the use of the Tahoe Donner area identified no known traditional properties in Euer Valley—though this does not necessarily mean that no such properties are present.

Historic Setting – Non-Native History

The arrival of permanent non-Native settlers in Truckee and vicinity was greatly facilitated by the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad in the late 1860s. Before then, travelers had to make their way over the Sierran crest on foot, on horseback, or in wagons. Once the railroad had passed through Truckee in 1867–1868 and continued on to Sacramento, the Truckee River canyon became a primary thoroughfare between California and parts east.

Key industries in the Truckee basin included logging and lumbering to provide timbers for the mines and construction materials for homes and commercial buildings; charcoal making, an adjunct of the logging industry; harvesting and transport of natural ice; farming and ranching—including dairy ranching—and, eventually, tourism. Detailed discussions of these and related topics can be found in Myrick 1962, 2007; Jackson et al. 1982; Wilson 1992; Mallea-Olaetxe 1992, 2000; Barry-Schweyer 2003; Lindström and Waechter 2007; Lindström et al. 2007; Waechter 2013; Waechter et al. 2015; and references therein. In this report, we focus on the known historic-era activities in Euer Valley and environs. Additional information on Euer Valley and immediate surrounds can be found in Lindström's earlier report for the TDA's trails development program (Lindström 2015).

History of Euer Valley

The valley itself is named for the Euers, a family of dairy farmers and ranchers who established themselves in the Truckee area during its earliest period. According to the Truckee Donner Historical Society website, "A Swiss native, [Sophary] Sam Euer arrived in California in 1850 at the height of the gold rush. He invested in dairy cows and established a dairy farm in Euer Valley in 1868, northwest of Truckee."

The earliest available map of the project location is the 1874 General Land Office (GLO) Original Survey Plat for T18N, R15E. That map labels "Evers Valley" [sic] along the South Fork of Prosser Creek in Sections 25, 26, 34, and 35. The map shows no structures or other man-made features in the valley. The Euers may have established their dairy farm on federal land and without benefit of a homestead claim or other right of entry: the patent records available from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) website indicate that the first patents granted to members of the Euer family date to 1876, eight years after Sam Euer reportedly established his dairy farm in the valley. Sam and his wife Clara apparently had a successful operation: McGlashan (1982:17) reports that Sam Euer produced 17,000 pounds of butter in 1881.

The family would eventually purchase or be granted patents for 280 acres in Section 34 and 160 acres in Section 26 (Table 9); there are no on-line records of any lands in Section 35 being sold or awarded to the Euers. In fact, all of Section 35 and portions of Section 25 (adjacent to the north) were granted to the Central Pacific Railroad Company between April 1881 and June 1895. It seems likely, however, that the Euers grazed their dairy cows throughout the valley, including on CPRR land.

Table 9. Euer Family Patents in Nevada County

Accession	Names	Date	Doc #	State	Meridian	Twp - Rng	Aliquots	Sec. #	County
CACAAA 067458	Euer, Clara, Wilson, Clara	12/31/1904	4147	CA	Mount Diablo	018N - 015E	W½SW¼	34	Nevada
						018N - 015E	W½NW¼	34	Nevada
CA1650 .096	Euer, Franz D.	5/20/1876	1601	CA	Mount Diablo	018N - 015E	N½SE¼	34	Nevada
						018N - 015E	SW¼SE¼	34	Nevada
						018N - 015E	SE¼NE¼	34	Nevada
CACAAA 067409	Euer, Franz D.	5/20/1876	1601	CA	Mount Diablo	018N - 015E	N½SE¼	34	Nevada
						018N - 015E	SE¼NE¼	34	Nevada
						018N - 015E	SW¼SE¼	34	Nevada
CA2380 .493	Euer, George	12/31/1904	4143	CA	Mount Diablo	018N - 015E	NW¼SW¼	26	Nevada
						018N - 015E	S½NW¼	26	Nevada
						018N - 015E	NW¼NW¼	26	Nevada
CACAAA 067457	Euer, George	12/31/1904	4143	CA	Mount Diablo	018N - 015E	W½NW¼	26	Nevada
						018N - 015E	SE¼NW¼	26	Nevada
						018N - 015E	NW¼SW¼	26	Nevada
CA1680 .138	Euer, Sophary	9/19/1889	3455	CA	Mount Diablo	018N - 015E	E½SW¼	34	Nevada
						018N - 015E	SW¼NE¼	34	Nevada
CACAAA 067453	Euer, Sophary	9/19/1889	3455	CA	Mount Diablo	018N - 015E	E½SW¼	34	Nevada
						018N - 015E	SW¼NE¼	34	Nevada
CA2380 .495	Wilson, Clara, Euer, Clara	12/31/1904	4147	CA	Mount Diablo	018N - 015E	W½SW¼	34	Nevada
						018N - 015E	W½NW¼	34	Nevada

Notes: DOC – Document; TWP–RNG – Township and Range; SEC – Section.

The 1889 USGS Truckee 1:125,000 topographic quad show two adjacent structures in the approximate center of "Euers Valley" and accessed via a road running generally southeast toward Truckee. The 1895/Reprinted 1926 Truckee 1:125,000 quad shows these same two structures, in the southeast quarter of Section 26 and roughly one-half mile to the northeast of the current project area—outside the sections granted to the CPRR. By this time, lands surrounding Euer Valley had been set aside as National Forest. The 1932 USGS Truckee 1:96,000

quad shows several structures in Sections 25 and 26 in the vicinity of the Circle E Ranch, and in Section 34 at the present location of the 7C Ranch. There still are no structures depicted in Section 35; nor do any of the subsequent USGS quads for the area (1940, 1955, 1977, 2000) show any structures in the project area.

Apparently the Euer family had more than one dairy in the area: the 1930 Tahoe National Forest Map shows "Euer's Dairy" near the Little Truckee River at the edge of today's Stampede Reservoir. According to family members, this dairy (Tahoe National Forest site #05-17-57-376) was established by one of Sam's sons, William. In an interview with archaeologists from the Tahoe National Forest, John Euer, great-grandson of the original owner, provided this information:

> The dairy that you speak about was the William Euer Dairy. My great grandfather was Swiss German and immigrated from Switzerland near 1860. He had five sons and two daughters… the fourth son (William [Jr.]) established the dairy at the location that you are interested in. The sons and daughters [of William Sr.] were born from the late 1870s to 1890…
>
> William [Jr.] had a son and a daughter. The son (Dale) continued in the dairy business but died (I think in his 50's) of heart disease… The daughter was Geniveve (Euer) Lehman. Her and her husband were the last to own the property at Stampede. They had registered Angus [beef] cattle… I am not sure when Dale ended the dairy. Probably in the early 1940s… Most hand milked and at the last had milking machines. The family had Grade B dairies which produced primarily cream and butter.

This later dairy site was investigated by Far Western as part of the Bureau of Reclamation's Stampede Dam Safety of Dams Modification project (Waechter and Clay 2018). It was determined ineligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Table 10. Cultural Resources Impacts Summary Table

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Reference Source (Appendix A)
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to § 15064.5?	☐	☒	☐	☐	Lindström et. al 2018; d'Azevedo 1986; Nevers 1976
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5?	☐	☒	☐	☐	Lindström et. al 2018;

					d'Azevedo 1986; Nevers 1976
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☐	☒	☐	☐	Lindström et. al 2018; d'Azevedo 1986; Nevers 1976

Impact Discussion:

a) *Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to § 15064.5?*

Finding: Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated

According to CEQA, lead agencies are required to identify historical resources that may be affected by any undertaking that triggers CEQA environmental review. The significance of such resources must be evaluated using the criteria for listing in the CRHR (Public Resources Code Section 15024.1). Generally, a resource is considered to be historically significant if it has integrity and meets the criteria for listing in the CRHR. Resources already listed or determined eligible for the NRHP are by definition eligible for the CRHR. Integrity is defined as the authenticity of a historical resource's physical identity, evidenced by the survival of characteristics that existed during the resource's period of significance. CRHR regulations specify that integrity is a quality that applies to historical resources in seven ways: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. In addition, for a resource to be eligible for the CRHR, it must satisfy each of the following three standards.

a. A property must be significant at the local, state, or national level, under one or more of the following criteria.
    i. It is associated with events or patterns of events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of the history and cultural heritage of California and the United States.
    ii. It is associated with the lives of persons important to the nation or California's past.
    iii. It 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.
    iv. It has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important to the prehistory or history of the state or the nation.
b. A resource must retain enough of its historic character or appearance to be recognizable as a historic property, and to convey the reasons for its significance.

c. It must be 50 years old or older (except for rare cases of structures of exceptional significance).

As described in the cultural resources survey report, archival research has identified one historic-era linear feature (the Crown-Willamette logging railroad, now overprinted by South Euer Valley Road) and two isolated artifacts (flake tool and biface fragment) along the southern edge of the Project APE, recorded by Lindström et al. (2018)). The linear feature coincides with the Project improvements proposed for South Euer Valley Road, which consist of erosion and sediment control measures where ephemeral drainages cross the road. The proposed improvements to the road were also considered in TDA's 5-Year Master Plan for trails, for which cultural resources were evaluated and mitigation was identified in the CEQA IS/MND adopted by Nevada County for the Master Plan (Nevada County 2016).

The isolated artifacts are unlikely to be considered important resources under CEQA, and Far Western recommends no further consideration of those as historical resources. The logging railroad has not been formally evaluated as an important resource under CEQA, and though Far Western expects it will not be found eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources because it lacks integrity to the period of significance, an evaluation is necessary to confirm or disprove its significance. Far Western's recommended Mitigation Measure, Cul.1, Supplementary Evaluation, is substantively the same as adopted by Nevada County in the 2016 IS/MND, both of which require an evaluation of the former logging railroad.

In addition to this logging road, it is possible that ground disturbing activities could disturb potential historic resources not identified in the cultural resources survey because the resource is buried or was obscured by heavy duff, grasses, and other impediments and therefore not identified during the cultural resource pedestrian survey of the area. Mitigation Measure, Cul.2, Undocumented Cultural Resources, specifies that, in the event a previously undocumented cultural resource is encountered during project construction, work within the immediate vicinity of the find will stop until a qualified archeologist (RPA) has evaluated the find and implemented appropriate treatment measures to avoid a significant impact to historical resources per Public Resources Code (PRC) 15064. Implementation of Mitigation Measures Cul.1 and Cul.2 would prevent significant adverse effects to any historic resources, reducing the potential impacts of the project to less than significant.

b) *Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5?*

Finding: Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated

Public Resource Code (PRC) Section 21083.2 states that if a project could affect a resource that has not met with the definition of a historical resource set forth in PRC Section 21084, then the lead agency should determine whether a project would have a significant effect on "unique"

archaeological resources. PRC 21082.2(g) states: "… a 'unique archaeological resource' means an archaeological artifact, object, or site about which it can be clearly demonstrated that, without merely adding to the current body of knowledge, there is a high probability that it meets any of the following criteria:

a) Contains information needed to answer important scientific research questions and that there is demonstrable public interest in that information.
b) Has a special and particular quality such as being the oldest of its type or the best available example of its type.
c) Is directly associated with a scientifically recognized important prehistoric or historic event or person."

A resource that merely adds to the current body of knowledge without meeting one of the above criteria is considered a non-unique archeological or paleontological resource.

The project would not likely cause a significant impact to a unique archaeological resource. A subsurface geotechnical study of the existing trail alignment within the meadow showed no buried soils within the upper 20 to 25 feet of the recent Holocene alluvium (<600 years old). On the slightly elevated areas above the meadow, soils are mapped as Tallac-Gerle-Rock Outcrop on the north (pre-Quaternary, >2.56 million years old) and Tahoma-Jorge-Fugawee on the south (Younger Dryas, 12,900–11,700 years old). These data indicate low potential for buried archaeological deposits in the APE. In addition, implementation of Mitigation Measure CUL.2, Undocumented Cultural Resources would reduce any potential impacts to any previously unidentified resources discovered as a result of ground disturbing activities, to a less than significant level.

c) *Would the project disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?*

Finding: Less than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated

The cultural resources survey report did not identify any burial sites or ceremonial grounds. Therefore, no human remains are known to be buried within the Project area. In the event that human remains are discovered, Mitigation Measure CUL.3, Protocol in the Event of the Discovery of Human Remains would reduce potentially significant impacts to a less than significant level.

Mitigation:

Mitigation Measure CUL.1 – Supplementary Evaluation

All grading and construction plans shall include a note outlining the following requirement to ensure that any cultural resources discovered during project construction are properly managed. Construction notes shall be incorporated into the

final project design plan prior to issuance of grading /building permits and shall be maintained throughout construction. Prior to construction, a qualified archaeologist (RPA) shall be retained by TRWC and/or TDA to complete supplementary evaluation of the historic-era linear feature, the Crown-Willamette logging railroad (now overprinted by South Euer Valley Road). The purpose of the evaluation is to identify whether the historic logging railroad is considered a significant historic resource pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 15064.5? If the resource is not found significant, construction may proceed. If the evaluation determines significance, mitigation measures shall be devised by the archaeologist for approval by TRWC and TDA before construction may proceed.

Mitigation Measure CUL.2 – Undocumented Cultural Resources

All grading and construction plans shall include a note outlining the following requirement to ensure that any cultural resources discovered during project construction are properly managed. Construction notes shall be incorporated into the final project design plan prior to issuance of grading /building permits and shall be maintained throughout construction. In the event that previously undocumented cultural resources are encountered during project construction (including but not limited to dark soil containing shellfish, bone, flaked stone, groundstone, or deposits of historic trash), work within the immediate vicinity of the find will stop until a qualified archeologist (RPA) has evaluated the find and implemented appropriate treatment measures to avoid any potentially significant impacts to archaeological/historical resources per Public Resources Code 15064.5.

Mitigation Measure CUL.3 – Protocol in the Event of the Discovery of Human Remains

All grading and construction plans shall include a note outlining the following requirement to ensure that any cultural resources discovered during project construction are properly managed. Construction notes shall be incorporated into the final project design plan prior to issuance of grading /building permits and shall be maintained throughout construction. In the event that human remains are discovered, work will cease immediately in the area of the find and the construction project manager/site supervisor will notify the appropriate County personnel. Any human remains and/or funerary objects will be left in place or returned to the point of discovery and covered with soil. TRWC will notify the County Coroner, in accordance with Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code, and the Native American Heritage Commission (or Tribal Representative). If a Native American monitor is on-site at the time of the discovery, the monitor will be responsible for notifying the appropriate Native American authorities. The local County Coroner will make the determination of whether the human bone is of Native American origin.

If the Coroner determines that the remains represent Native American interment, the NAHC in Sacramento and/or tribe will be consulted to identify the most likely

descendants and appropriate disposition of the remains. Work will not resume in the area of the find until proper disposition is complete (Public Resources Code Section 5097.98). No human remains or funerary objects will be cleaned, photographed, analyzed, or removed from the site prior to determination. These standards shall be noted on all grading plans in such a way as to make them evident to contractors or machinery operations working on the project, with a descriptive heading such as "Historical and Archaeological Discovery".

If it is determined the find indicates a sacred or religious site, the site will be avoided to the maximum extent practicable. Formal consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office and review by the Native American Heritage Commission/Tribal Cultural representatives will occur as necessary to define additional site mitigation or future restrictions.

4.6 Energy

Existing Setting:

In 2019, Nevada County prepared an Energy Action Plan (EAP) to analyze energy use within the unincorporated County limits by the community and County operated facilities as well as a roadmap for accelerating energy efficiency, water efficiency, and renewable energy efforts. The EAP was designed to assist the County in implementing the energy and water-energy related goals and policies in the County's General Plan and Housing Element and inform the community of cost-effective programs and best practices that will save energy and money. The goal of the EAP is to reduce projected annual grid supplied electricity use in 2035 by 51% and annual natural gas use by 30%, which translates to annual energy savings of 202,936,611 kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity and 1,169,531 therms from the projected business as usual forecast (Sierra Business Council 2019).

At a local level, Nevada County implemented programs that have resulted in or will lead to additional benefits in the form of energy efficiency, renewable energy, and water efficiency prior to the EAP. These are described briefly below:

- Nevada County Land Use and Development Code – allows development opportunity for passive heating and cooling design, landscaping and native vegetation standards and irrigation efficiency for water and energy savings, development of design to maximize solar access, and energy conservation in the layout of subdivisions.
- Nevada County Energy Plan, adopted in April 2019, supports the reduction of energy use throughout the County facilities and operations. This plan sets forth energy reduction goals, targets, and correlates to the 2011 greenhouse gas (GHG) study conducted for the County.
- Unanimous approval by the Nevada County Board of Supervisors in April 2016 to enter into a cooperative agreement to allow mPower to administer Property Assessed Clean Energy Program (PACE Program) in Nevada County.

Additionally, the County's General Plan and Land Use and Development Code have several goals, policies, and measures that specifically promote energy efficiency. These include the General Plan Housing Element, Air Quality Element (Objective 14.2, implement standards that minimize impacts on and/or restore air quality), and Water Element (Objective 11.1, promote and provide for conservation of domestic and agricultural water) as well as the Land Use and Development Code Sections L-II 4.2.7 (landscaping using native vegetation) and L-II 4.3.9 (energy conservation without significantly increasing the cost of housing) (Nevada County 1995; Sierra Business Council 2019).

Table 11. Energy Impacts Summary Table

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

Impact Discussion:

a) *Would the project result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?*

b) *Would the project conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?*

Finding: Less than Significant Impact

Project activities would restore an existing wetland and stream channel as well as install an elevated boardwalk and permanent bridge crossing. No components of the completed Project would require the use of energy (e.g., there is no lighting associated with the Project) and the Project would not conflict with existing State or local plans for renewable energy or energy efficiency.

Energy use associated with the Project is limited to the consumption of fuel and electricity for the operation of construction equipment and vehicle travel. Section 4.3, Air Quality, describes the types of equipment and anticipated duration of the construction activities associated with the Project. Project equipment would comply with California and EPA Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards for vehicular fuel efficiency and GHG emissions and would therefore employ efficient engines and reduce unnecessary fuel consumption. Further, the vehicles used for travel to and from the Project would likely be registered in California and compliant with California and EPA CAFE standards. Construction activities for the Project would not result in significant environmental effects due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary use of energy resources.

Mitigation:

None required.

4.7 Geology/Soils

Existing Setting:

Nevada County is part of the Sierra Nevada Range, a geologic block approximately 400 miles long and 80 miles wide which extends in a north-south band along the eastern portion of California. The terrain of the County is characterized by two distinct features, rolling foothills to the west and mountains to the east (Nevada County 1995). The proposed Project is situated along the South Fork of Prosser Creek in Euer Valley, a high elevation valley contained by the Prosser Creek Basin. The Prosser Creek Basin is the third largest sub-watershed of the Middle Truckee Watershed, located just northwest of the Town of Truckee in eastern Nevada County, located within the geomorphic province of the Sierra Nevada (California Geological Survey 2002). Euer Valley is an alluvial valley floor bounded by side valley alluvial fans and hillslopes to the north and south at approximately 6,500 feet elevation. The meadow floodplain receives abundant hydrologic support from groundwater migration from the valley sides, primarily on the northern side of the valley (Wildscape Engineering, Inc. 2021).

The geology of the Truckee area is dominated by volcanic rocks while the floor of Euer Valley is layered in glacial till and outwash from the repeated cycles of Sierra Nevada glacial ice fields spilling over into the Donner Lake and Truckee area. Local geology suggests the Project site is underlain by Tertiary pyroclastic and volcanic mudflow deposits (Bear Engineering Group, Inc. 2020). Soil surveys conducted by the USDA Soil Conservation Service and the Tahoe National Forest in Nevada County have identified general soil types, with varying potential capabilities and constraints in terms of permeability, suitability for development, agricultural and timber capacities, and erosion hazards (Nevada County 1995). There are two general soil groupings found in the vicinity of the Project, Aquolls and Borolls (AQB) and Tallac-cryumbrept (TBF) (NRCS 2021). Aquolls and Borolls (AQB) soils consist of coarse sand to clay, generally stratified in layers, that can be either shallow or moderately deep. They are very poorly drained soils often found within broad flat areas of valley floors where a high-water table exists most of the year (Bullard, Minor and Maholland 2002). Slopes associated with AQB soils in the Project area are between 0% to 5%. TBF soil is thick and darkly colored, often stratified sandy loam, silt loam, and clay loam, but may also be gravelly, cobbly, or stony. In general, Tallac soils have coarse textures, high amount of rock fragments and a relatively low cation exchange capacity while cryumbrepts are often in areas with high water table most of the year and are susceptible to puddling. Slopes associated with TBF in the Project area are between 30% to 50% (USFS 2002).

Similar to most of California and Nevada, the Project site is located in a seismically active area. Seismicity in the Project area is dominated by activity along the Sierra Nevada-Great Basin Boundary Zone (SNGBZ) (Bear Engineering Group, Inc. 2020). There are three main faults located near the Project area, including the Mohawk Valley Fault, Dog Valley Fault, and the recently discovered Polaris Fault (Hunter et. al 2011, Town of Truckee 2006). These faults could

result in a maximum credible earthquake of 7.0, 6.75, and 6.9, respectively. Additionally, several small trace faults are also located nearby in the Town of Truckee, including the East Tahoe Fault, Incline Village Fault, and the North Tahoe Fault (Bullard, Minor and Maholland 2002, Bear Engineering Group, Inc. 2020, NRCS 2021). None of the faults have been identified on the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map (California Geological Survey 2021). However, micro-earthquakes are common in the Donner-Truckee area, and, on occasion, large earthquakes, up to 6.3 magnitude, have occurred in historic time (CDPR 2003).

Table 12. Geology/Soils Impacts Summary Table

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Reference Source (Appendix A)
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:	☐	☐	☒	☐	Project Description; Bear Engineering Group, Inc. 2020
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.	☐	☐	☒	☐	CGS 2021; Bear Engineering Group Inc. 2020
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☒	☐	Hunter et. al 2011; Bear Engineering Group, Inc. 2020; CDPR 2003; ISAT 2014
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☒	☐	Bear Engineering Group, Inc. 2020
iv) Landslides?	☐	☐	☒	☐	NRCS 2021
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☒	☐	☐	Project Description
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	☐	☐	☒	☐	NRCS 2021

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?	☐	☐	☐	☒	Project Description; Bear Engineering Group, Inc. 2020
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒	Project Description; Bear Engineering Group, Inc. 2020; NRCS 2021
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☒	☐	Project Description

Impact Discussion:

a) *Would the project 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.

Finding: Less than Significant Impact

The Project area is not located in an area of concern as defined by the Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act, established in 1972 to regulate construction and development near active faults through designation of zones of between 200 to 500 feet on both sides of an active fault trace. No zone was identified in or directly adjacent to the proposed Project site (CGS 2021). Nearby active faults include: Dog Valley Fault (approximately 2.5 miles northeast of the Project), Polaris Fault (6.4 miles to the northeast), East Tahoe Fault (16.3 miles southeast), Incline Village Fault (19.5 miles southeast), and the Mohawk Valley Fault (9 miles northwest) (Bear Engineering Group, Inc. 2020). Therefore, the proposed Project would not expose people or structures to substantial risk of loss, injury or death from a surface rupture.

ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?

Finding: Less than Significant Impact

Nearby active faults (Dog Valley Fault, Polaris Fault, East Tahoe Fault, Incline Village Fault, and the Mohawk Valley Fault) could result in maximum earthquake magnitudes between 6.0 and 7.1 (Hunter et. Al 2011, Bear Engineering Group, Inc. 2020). As previously mentioned, ground shaking accompanying earthquakes is common in the Donner-Truckee area, and, on occasion, large earthquakes, up to 6.3 magnitude, have occurred in historic time (CDPR 2003). Quaternary fault maps indicate that the Dog Valley Fault is predicted to produce a 6.0 magnitude earthquake. The resulting seismic wave of this earthquake may be amplified as the waves propagate through the valley increasing duration time. Minor Surface manifestations due to liquefaction could take place. Based on dynamic settlement analysis, a seismic event has the potential to induce 0.5 to 0.75 inch of earthquake induced subsidence from the Dog Valley fault. Overall, ground shaking in Euer Valley from one of the nearby fault systems is expected to moderately produce amplified seismic waves.

It is not anticipated that any construction activities will trigger strong seismic ground shaking, seismic related ground failure, or landslides. Under the Seismic Design Category Reference (ASCE 7-05), and as determined by the geotechnical investigation of the Project, the Project falls under Seismic Design Category D, meaning the area can experience strong and potentially destructive ground shaking outside of the area of a major fault (ISAT 2014). The design of the bridge and boardwalk considers the results of the geotechnical investigation, including subsurface borings and a static load frame test, to ensure long-term structural stability. Additionally, restoration components of the Project would not subject structures or people to adverse effects due to rupture of a known fault or increase the exposure of people to seismic ground shaking, seismic related ground failure, or landslides. This is a less than significant impact.

iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

Finding: Less than Significant Impact

Shaking experienced at the Project site depends strongly on the type of deposits found near the surface. As determined in the geotechnical investigation, and as addressed in the Project design, there is potential for liquefaction where unconsolidated granular soils are water saturated, specifically in the upper 10 feet where soils are considered to be granular with low to medium densities. In addition, minor strength loss in the near surface granular soil can be expected during an earthquake resulting in lateral spreading at the stream face (Bear Engineering Group, Inc. 2020). The proposed Project is not expected to result in significant exposure of people to substantial adverse effects associated with liquefaction.

iv. Landslides?

Finding: Less than Significant Impact

The Project will occur on slopes primarily between 0% and 5%, with some restoration and stabilization of small areas of the stream channel banks occurring on slopes between 30% and 50% (NRCS 2021). The proposed Project will not result in significant exposure of people to substantial adverse effects associated with liquefaction.

b) *Would the project result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?*

Finding: Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated

The proposed Project would restore degraded meadow and trail systems, reduce erosion, and protect and enhance wetland habitat along the South Fork of Prosser Creek. The existing and frequently used earthen trail (Coyote Trail and Coyote Crossing of the creek) through the wet meadow would be replaced with an elevated boardwalk and installed permanent bridge feature. Existing dispersed equestrian crossings of the creek would be replaced with a designated equestrian branch trail (bypassing the bridge) that would utilize horse-friendly trail materials and natural cobble at the creek crossing.

The Project area is primarily situated on flat wet meadow areas and restoration sites are situated in or near the creek. Small biotechnical structures (native cobble, sod and live willow stakes) would be used to remedy creek incision and improve the quality of wetland habitat along approximately 0.5 linear mile of the South Fork of Prosser Creek from Coyote Crossing downstream. Grading associated with the Project would be limited to minor road improvements (e.g., surface smoothing and outsloping for drainage) along South Euer Valley Road and replacement of existing culverts at stream/drainage crossings to ensure construction equipment access. Minor grading of the moderate slope (less than 10 percent slope) foot/equestrian trail alignment would also be completed from South Euer Valley Road down towards the new bridge crossing of the creek. All applicable permits (e.g., Section 401 Water Quality Certification described in Section 4.10, Hydrology and Water Quality) would be received prior to initiating construction. In addition, to ensure minimization of any soil erosion, the Project would adhere to mitigation measures GS.1 – Protection of Meadow Areas from Heavy Equipment; and to HWQ-1 – BMPs for Precipitation Events. These measures, along with conformance with existing applicable local, state, and federal regulations and Project permit requirements, would reduce potential impacts to loss of topsoil and soil erosion to less than significant.

c) *Would the project 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?*

Finding: Less than Significant Impact

The proposed Project is located on aquolls, borolls, and Tallac-cryumbrepts soil types, all of which are stable composition (NRCS 2021). Construction activities are not anticipated to result in on- or off-site landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse. Therefore, impacts would be less than significant.

d) *Would the project 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?*

Finding: No Impact

The Project would minimize recreational impacts to the meadow and wetlands areas through Euer Valley by replacing the existing and frequently used earthen and often braided trail (Coyote Trail) through the wetland meadow with an elevated boardwalk and installing a permanent bridge feature where the existing trail crosses South Fork of Prosser Creek. The Project also would not be located on expansive soil as defined in the Uniform Building Code. Therefore, development of the Project would not create substantial risks to life or property related to expansive soils.

e) *Would the project 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?*

Finding: No Impact

The Project does not involve installation of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems. Therefore, there is no potential impact.

f) *Would the project directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?*

Finding: Less than Significant Impact

Paleontological resources are the fossilized evidence of past life found in the geologic record. A cultural resource evaluation completed in 2020 identified a few historically (recent era) significant features along the southern boundary of the Project area that will be addressed as part of a supplemental evaluation of South Euer Valley Road prior to construction. However, no paleontological resources were identified in the Project area.

A subsurface geotechnical study of the existing trail alignment within the meadow showed no buried soils within the upper 20 to 25 feet of the recent Holocene alluvium (<600 years old). On

the slightly elevated areas above the meadow, soils are mapped as Tallac-Gerle-Rock Outcrop on the north (pre-Quaternary, >2.56 million years old) and Tahoma-Jorge-Fugawee on the south (Younger Dryas, 12,900–11,700 years old). These data indicate low potential for buried archaeological and paleontological deposits in the APE. Implementation of Mitigation Measure CUL.2, Undocumented Cultural Resources would reduce any potential impacts to any previously unidentified resources discovered as a result of ground disturbing activities to a less than significant level.

Mitigation:

Mitigation Measure GS.1 – Protection of Meadow Areas from Heavy Equipment

All grading and construction plans shall include a note outlining the following requirement. Construction notes shall be incorporated into the final project design plan prior to issuance of grading /building permits and shall be maintained throughout construction. Except for the bridge work and grade control element at the relic beaver dam location, work in the creek shall be completed by small equipment and hand labor. To prevent damage from heavy equipment to meadow areas, a controlled spur road access point and meadow protection measures including encapsulated roads, timber mats or Duradeck mats shall be used. In addition, the BMPs presented in the Project Description Section 2.4.5 shall be incorporated as requirements in the construction contract. Equipment shall be stored in upland, dry areas and not in wetland areas or sensitive areas. Further, no track-mounted or heavy-wheeled vehicles shall be allowed in identified environmentally sensitive areas at any time. If significant damage to the riparian vegetation or significant soil compaction is noted during construction, the contractor shall notify TRWC, an alternative access route shall be selected, and the damaged riparian vegetation/soils shall be restored.

4.8 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Existing Setting:

GHG emissions, gases that trap heat in the Earth's atmosphere, are emitted by both natural and industrial processes. When sunlight strikes the Earth's surface, some is reflected back, and some is transformed and re-emitted towards space as infrared radiation or 'heat.' This heat can become trapped in the atmosphere through greenhouse gas absorption. Many gases with GHG properties found in the atmosphere are naturally occurring (including water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, and nitrous oxide). Remaining GHG gases are human-made and include the following: carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and fluorinated gases. GHG contribute to global climate change.

California is a leader in developing policies to boost savings from energy efficiency efforts and lower GHG emissions. These policies are some of the drivers behind the completion of energy planning and GHG regulations at the local level:

- Senate Bill (SB) 1078 established renewable portfolio standards for state investor-owned utilities, electric service providers, and community choice aggregators to require 20% of their electricity from renewable resources by 2010 and 33% by 2020.
- California Governor's Executive Order B-30-15 (SB 350) requires CARB to develop regulatory and market mechanisms that ensure statewide GHG emission are reduced by 40% below 1990 levels by 2030 to aid in meeting target of reducing GHG emissions by 80% below 1990 levels by 2050.
- Assembly Bill (AB) 32 provided legislation requiring CARB to develop regulatory and market mechanisms that will reduce GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2023.
- California Climate Change Scoping Plan (CARB 2017) prepared for California setting goals to reduce GHG emissions by 15% below 1990 levels by 2020, 40% below 1990 levels by 2030, and 80% below 1990 by 2050, with 2050 target of annual emission below 2 metric tons of CO_2.
- Executive Order B-55-18 calls for carbon neutrality by 2045 through balancing carbon emissions and carbon sequestration within the State.
- Executive Order N-19-19 supports, through allocation of funding and development of Climate Investment Framework, California's goals to reduce GHG emissions by 2030, provide 100% of the state's electricity from clean sources by 2045, reduce methane emissions and hydrofluorocarbon gases by 40%, and add 5 million zero-emission vehicles by 2030.
- California Governor's Executive Order S-3-05 set GHG reduction targets for state agencies at year 2000 levels by 2010, 1990 levels by 2020, and 80% below 1990 levels by 2050.

- Senate Bill 350 (Executive Order B-30-15) requires CARB to develop regulatory and market mechanisms that will ensure statewide GHG emissions are reduced 40% below 1990 levels by 2030.
- Senate Bill 100 revised the Renewable Portfolio Standards to require achievement of 50% renewable resources are targeted by 2026 and 100% eligible renewable energy or zero-carbon resources by 2045.
- SB 67 establishes the California 24/7 Clean Energy Standard Program.
- SB 269 provides specific requirements for emissions submittals and directs CARB to review and provide recommendations for meeting emissions reporting requirements.

Currently there is no Climate Action Plan applicable to the Project area. However, the NSAQMD has prepared a guidance document, Guidelines for Assessing Air Quality Impacts of Land Use Projects, which includes mitigation for general air quality impacts that can be used to mitigate GHG emissions when necessary (NSAQMD 2009).

Table 13. Greenhouse Gas Emissions Impacts Summary Table

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Reference Source (Appendix A)
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	☐	☐	☒	☐	Project Description; NSAQMD 2009
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	☐	☐	☒	☐	Project Description; NSAQMD 2009

Impact Discussion:

a) *Would the project generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?*

Finding: Less than Significant Impact

As discussed in Section 4.3 Air Quality, the Project would result in a temporary increase in emissions (including GHGs). Construction emissions would be generated by vehicle engine exhaust from heavy-duty construction equipment, haul trips, materials and supplies deliveries, and construction worker trips. Air quality impacts associated with the Project are limited to the period of construction. To limit emissions, all construction activities shall adhere to mitigation measures AQ.1 and AQ.2. Further, through revegetation and enhancement of floodplain and riparian areas, the Project would likely result in additional plant sequestration of carbon dioxide and have a net reduction in GHG emissions once the Project has matured. The Project

would not generate substantial GHG emissions which would have a significant impact on the environment. Therefore, the Project impact is less than significant.

b) *Would the project conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?*

Finding: Less than Significant Impact

The proposed Project would not conflict with plans, policies, or regulations prepared or established to reduce GHG emissions. The proposed Project's short-term incremental contribution of GHGs would be less than cumulatively considerable and would be offset in the long term with increased growth of meadow vegetation and carbon sequestration. The impact would be less than significant.

Mitigation:

None required.

4.9 Hazards & Hazardous Materials

Existing Setting:

The California Department of Environmental Protection (CalEPA) has the responsibility for compiling (pursuant to Government Code §65962.5) information on hazardous material sites in California that together comprise the "Cortese" list. A review of this list found the closest identified site to the Project area to be approximately 60 miles to the southwest of Truckee (Department of Toxic Substances Control 2021).

Table 14. Hazards & Hazardous Materials Impacts Summary Table

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Reference Source (Appendix A)
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	☐	☐	☒	☐	Project Description
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐	Project Description
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	☐	☐	☐	☒	Project Description
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒	Department of Toxic Substances Control 2021
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒	Project Description
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted	☐	☐	☐	☒	TDA 2021

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?	☐	☐	☒	☐	Project Description

Impact Discussion:

a) *Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?*

Finding: Less than Significant Impact

The Project includes temporary construction activities involving the transportation and use of limited quantities of hazardous substances, including diesel fuels, lubricants, and solvents. These chemicals would be transported to the Project via Interstate 80, Northwoods Blvd, and Euer Valley Road. Handling and transportation of these materials could result in the exposure of workers to hazardous materials. Federal and State laws regulate the handling, storage and transportation of these and other hazardous materials. Additionally, these laws provide mechanisms to prevent and rapidly respond to spills. No hazardous materials would be used or stored within the Project area after construction. Therefore, the potential for impacts related to hazardous materials transport, use, or disposal would be considered less than significant with contractor adherence to Federal and State regulations.

b) *Would the project 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?*

Finding: Less than Significant Impact

During Project implementation, hazardous substances could be released to the environment from construction related vehicle or equipment fluid spills or leaks. Chemicals present on site during the Project would be handled by the contractor in accordance with applicable Federal, State, and local regulations for hazardous substances. In addition, the BMPs to prevent contamination of waterways identified in Section 2.4.5 would be implemented. Therefore, the potential for impacts related to upset and accidental conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment would be considered less than significant with contractor adherence to Federal, State, and local regulations.

c) *Would the project emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?*

Finding: No Impact

The nearest school to the proposed Project area, Truckee Elementary School (11911 Donner Pass Road, Truckee), is located 6 miles southeast of the Project area. Therefore, no impacts would occur related to emissions or handling of hazardous materials within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school.

d) *Would the project 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?*

Finding: No Impact

The California Department of Environmental Protection (CalEPA) is responsible for compiling information on hazardous material sites in California that together comprise the "Cortese" list. A review of this list found that the Project area is not included on any list of hazardous materials sites and there are no hazardous materials sites compiled within a quarter mile of the proposed site that could pose as a significant hazard to the public or environment (Department of Toxic Substances Control 2021).

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?*

Finding: No Impact

The nearest airport is the Truckee Tahoe Airport, located approximately 8 miles to the southeast of the Project area. Consequently, the Project has no impacts pertaining to airports or airstrips and no impacts to safety concerns associated with airports or airstrips.

f) *Would the project impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?*

Finding: No Impact

Immediately adjacent and to the west of the Project area is private land (APN 016-060-009-000) that is accessed via North Euer Valley Road. Through access along North Euer Valley Road would be maintained at all times during Project construction. The Project area falls under the TDA Evacuation and Emergency Preparedness Guide, an up-to-date emergency planning guide from local, state, and federal authorities and in conjunction with Town of Truckee. Key guidance provided in the document includes: evacuation warning signals, where to find information, how to develop individual evacuation plans, and safe locations during an

evacuation order (TDA 2021). There would be no long-term increase in the number of recreationists in the Project area that could impair emergency response or evacuation. Additionally, the short-term, temporary nature of construction and the intermittent nature of material off hauling and drop-off during construction activities would not pose a risk to emergency response or evacuation during an emergency. Therefore, no impacts are anticipated due to Project related activities as neither emergency response plans nor emergency evacuation plans would be impaired by implementation of the Project.

g) *Would the project expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?*

Finding: Less than Significant Impact

The footprint of the Project is surrounded by vegetation, trees, and shrubs in meadow characteristic of riparian lodgepole wetlands where risk of fire is a possibility. Equipment used during construction activities may generate sparks that could ignite dry vegetation on or adjacent to the construction area and cause wildland fires in the area. The nearest fire station to the Project area is approximately 3 miles to the southeast at the Truckee Fire Protection District 94, which is located at 12986 Northwoods Blvd. The Project is not anticipated to expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury or death from wildland fires.

Mitigation:

None required.

4.10 Hydrology/Water Quality

Existing Setting:

The following setting reflects much of the description of the area provided in a memo summarizing the geomorphology, hydrology and hydraulics of the South Fork of Prosser Creek in Euer Valley prepared by Northwest Hydraulic Consultants (NHC) (NHC 2021).

Euer Valley is in the east-central portion of the Sierra Nevada Geomorphic Province of Northern California within the Prosser Creek Watershed, the third largest subwatershed of the Middle Truckee River Watershed. The area consists of an alluvial valley floor bounded by side valley alluvial fans and hillslopes to the north and south. The South Fork of Prosser Creek flows through the Project area at an elevation of just over 6,500 feet and drains an approximately 5.5-square mile watershed before joining Prosser Creek. Prosser Creek flows into Prosser Creek Reservoir which ultimately drains to the Truckee River. The South Fork of Prosser Creek channel forms a steep reach just upstream of the TDA property line. Upon entering the valley floor meadow, the South Fork of Prosser Creek channel meanders through the Coyote Trail Crossing site and for about 600 feet before straightening and flowing along the south edge of the meadow and past a distinct oval shaped hillock. Past the hillock, South Fork of Prosser Creek makes a 400-foot long, broad curve before entering a highly meandering reach that flows along the south side hillslope that bounds the meadow floodplain and valley floor. In the last 3,700 feet, the meandering channel erosively impinges into an irregular 17- to 25-foot-high bluff at several locations before entering a 120-foot-wide constriction in the valley.

The valley floor in the study area consists of a meadow floodplain. The meadow receives abundant hydrologic support from groundwater migration from the valley sides, although this appears to be primarily from the north side of the valley. This inflow is so substantial that there are several seeps and small spring-fed ponds that persist well into the growing season. This groundwater inflow provides for a remarkably high level of vigor in the meadow vegetation. Aerial photographs taken during the end of the snowmelt period show the “greening up” of the meadow while the immediate vicinity of the creek has not yet responded. This indicates that the primary hydrologic support of the meadow is lateral subsurface inflows, as opposed to overbank flooding from the creek. However, aerial photographs taken later in the growing season, July and August, do show uniform green conditions, even along the stream itself indicating that the condition of the stream is not adversely affecting the vigor of the meadow. In fact, groundwater migration toward the creek may indicate that the stream is a gaining reach within the study area, i.e., the meadow may be supporting the stream as opposed to the stream supporting the meadow.

Euer Valley is within a primarily ungauged basin. While Prosser Creek has been gauged upstream of Prosser Creek Reservoir since 1942, there is no USGS real time streamflow data for the South Fork of Prosser Creek near the Project area (USGS 2021). A watershed assessment

(McGraw et al. 2001) prepared for the Town of Truckee to assess the water quality of the Truckee River Basin found that Prosser Creek has a relief ratio (morphometric property of drainage basins related to sediment discharge, where highest relief ratios might be expected to be high sediment producers) that ranges between 0.4 and 0.17. The overall low relief ratio is believed to be potentially misleading as the basin is large and lower parts of the drainage may be capable of absorbing sediment supplied by upper tributaries.

Table 15. Hydrology/Water Quality Impacts Summary Table

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Reference Source (Appendix A)
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?	☐	☒	☐	☐	Project Description; LRWQCB 2021; USACE 2021
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	☐	☐	☐	☒	Project Description; NHC 2021
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;	☐	☒	☐	☐	Project Description
ii) substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite;	☐	☐	☐	☒	Project Description
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	☐	☐	☐	☒	Project Description
iv) impede or redirect flood flows?	☐	☐	☒	☐	Project Description
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	☐	☐	☒	☐	Project Description
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality	☐	☐	☐	☒	Project Description

control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?					

Impact Discussion:

a) *Would the project violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?*

Finding: Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated

Consistent with the goals and objectives of the Project, implementation of the Project would, over the long-term, improve creek geomorphic function and water quality by reducing erosion potential and improving channel stability. However, construction activities associated with the Project could potentially cause or result in temporary increases in erosion and/or siltation. Erosion of onsite soils can lead to increased levels of suspended sediments and turbidity in receiving waters of the South Fork of Prosser Creek and could potentially impact water quality and result in a violation of water quality standards.

The Project design and schedule recognize and seek to minimize potential impacts to waters and wetlands. A majority of the proposed bridge and creek work would be completed later in the season to take advantage of a drier meadow and shallow water in the creek. Further, TRWC and TDA would implement the diversion and dewatering described in Section 2.4.4 and adhere to all identified best management practices, conditions, and measures described in Section 2.4.5. In addition, the Project will be subject to applicable regulatory standards and permits addressing impacts to water quality. These include:

- Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (CWA) and Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) of the Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act. The Project applicant cannot initiate construction without LRWQCB Section 401 Water Quality Certification and approval of a project application describing how the proposed project complies with State water quality standards and will not result in adverse impacts to waters of the State, including waters of the U.S. Water quality standards and LRWQCB policies for protecting waters of the State are defined in the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region (Basin Plan).
- Section 402 of the CWA establishes the NPDES permit program for the discharge of any pollutant into Waters of the United States. Dischargers whose projects disturb one (1) or more acres of soil are required to obtain coverage under the General Permit for Discharges of Storm Water Associated with Construction Activity Construction General Permit Order 2009-0009-DWQ from the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB). In order to obtain NPDES permit coverage, TRWC must develop and submit a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The SWPPP is required to be prepared and retained on site during construction and must contain BMPs to reduce impacts from erosion and sedimentation.

- Section 404 of the CWA for any point source discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the U.S. (waters of the U.S. includes wetlands). USACE issues 404 permits, and the Project would likely fall under Nationwide Permit (NWP) requirements, likely NWP #27 for Aquatic Habitat Restoration, Enhancement and Establishment Activities. A preliminary wetland delineation subject to verification by USACE has already been performed and the Project design avoids, as much as reasonable, impacts to wetlands. TRWC and TDA shall be required by the 404 permit to minimize and mitigate for the loss of any jurisdictional wetlands and waters.

To further ensure the Project does not violate water quality standards, waste discharge requirements, or degrade surface or groundwater quality, implementation of Mitigation Measure HWQ.1 – BMPs for Precipitation Events; Mitigation Measures BIO.9 – Consultation with Relevant State and Federal Responsible Agencies; and Mitigation Measure GS.1 – Protection of Meadow Areas from Heavy Equipment shall be required. HWQ.1 requires review of on-the-ground BMPs prior to forecasted rain events; BIO.9 provides additional assurance that all permits, verified wetland delineations, and other federal and state consultations shall be completed in advance of Project construction; and GS.1 identifies the use of timber mats/Duradeck mats and encapsulated roads to prevent damage from heavy equipment to meadow areas.

b) *Would the project substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?*

Finding: No Impact

Although groundwater may be encountered during construction, management of sustainable groundwater resources would not be impeded. The Project would not result in withdrawal of substantial amounts of groundwater and therefore would have no impacts on groundwater supplies and recharge.

c) *Would the project 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:

Finding: Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated

The Project would not alter the existing drainage patterns of the site or the area in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off site. Increases in erosion or siltation associated with the Project would be short-term and primarily limited to the period of

Project construction. Once completed, the Project would improve the stability of the creek and banks and reduce ongoing, dispersed recreation impacts (e.g., braided trails through the meadow and undesignated equestrian uses of the creek zone). Potential construction impacts associated with erosion and sediment loading would be avoided and minimized by the following:

- adherence to existing applicable regulatory standards and associated permit requirements (described in the impact discussion for items a above);
- adherence to the construction process, diversion and dewatering plan, and BMPs described in section 2.4, and
- implementation of the identified water quality and soil protection mitigation measures: HWQ.1 – BMPs for Precipitation Events; Mitigation Measure BIO.9 – Consultation with Relevant State and Federal Responsible Agencies; and Mitigation Measure GS.1 – Protection of Meadow Areas from Heavy Equipment.

Therefore, adverse impacts associated with this threshold would be less than significant.

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

Finding: No Impact

The Project would not alter the existing drainage pattern in the valley. The South Fork of Prosser Creek and the adjacent floodplain would continue to drain into Prosser Creek and ultimately to the Truckee River. The actions and components of the restoration Project are designed to restore, enhance, and protect wetland and creek habitat along the South Fork of Prosser Creek by replacing the trail through the wet meadow with an elevated boardwalk, and installing a permanent bridge feature across the South Fork of Prosser Creek. Project activities would not substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite. Therefore, there is no impact.

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

Finding: No Impact

The Project would not contribute runoff water that would exceed existing or planned stormwater drainage basin capacity, because there are currently no stormwater drainage systems in the Project area. Therefore, there is no impact to this threshold.

iv. impede or redirect flood flows?

Finding: Less than Significant

The Project would not substantially alter or impede the existing drainage pattern of South Fork of Prosser Creek or any of its tributaries. The Project would improve flood flow conveyance in the creek by removing the existing Coyote crossing culverts with plywood trail that become inundated during peak runoff events. During Project construction, a temporary diversion and dewatering plan would be implemented to ensure a dry work area during pier/abutment installations for the bridge and completion of the equestrian crossing to avoid the potential for construction to increase sedimentation of the creek. Two types of diversions are proposed; 1) a visqueen encased coffer dam with diversion pipe to intake flows and reroute around the work area for the more extensive channel bed and bank work, and 2) a simple diversion constructed of gravel bags stacked in a linear formation to redirect flows away from the banks being restored. Following disturbance of the creek crossing areas, the diversion(s) would be dismantled, and the flow of the creek returned to its pre-Project channel.

The construction of the bridge piers and abutments and placement of boulders would represent new, permanent features within the creek flood zone. The placement and design of the piers and abutments would improve the ability of the creek to convey future flood flows and reduce existing flow impairment caused by the existing Coyote Crossing culverts and trail crossing of the creek. As proposed, the design of the bridge would accommodate up to a 100-year flood flow without interfering with flow conditions, thereby returning channel conveyance capacity to more natural flow conditions.

Pursuant to Section L-II 4.3.10 Floodplains of the Nevada County Land Use and Development Code (LUDC), development within the 100-year floodplain shall require a Use Permit and shall comply with the standards of LUDC Chapter XII Floodplain Management Regulations. The Project requires a Use Permit to Allow Development in a Floodplain, ensuring less than significant impact through conformance to LUDC Chapter XII Floodplain Management Regulations.

Overall, the Project would not substantially alter an existing drainage pattern of the site or area, increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner that would result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off site, or impede or substantially redirect flood flows. Therefore, the Project impact would be less than significant.

d) *Would the project, in flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?*

Finding: Less than significant

The Project is in a flood hazard zone (FEMA Panel #06057C525E, 2010). The completed Project poses less than significant risk of releasing pollutants due to Project inundation as there are no pollutants incorporated into the completed Project scope. During Project implementation, pollutants could be released to the environment during a flood event from construction related vehicles or equipment. Chemicals present on site during the Project would be handled by the contractor in accordance with applicable Federal, State, and local regulations for hazardous substances. In addition, the BMPs to prevent contamination of waterways identified in Section 2.4.5 would be implemented. Mitigation Measure HWQ.1 – BMPs for Precipitation Events would also minimize impact from potential flood events. Construction would occur during the dry season (as late as possible in the summer) to comply with seasonal construction limitations, which also limits the co-occurrence of construction related pollutants and flood inundation. Therefore, the potential for impacts related to flood/inundation conditions involving the release of pollutants into the environment would be considered less than significant with contractor adherence to Federal, State, and local regulations.

e) *Would the project conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?*

Finding: No Impact

Construction would occur during the dry season (as late as possible in the summer) to comply with seasonal construction limitations of the LRWQCB Basin Plan, associated CWA permits, and anticipated CDFW SAA. Overall, the Project would not result in withdrawal of substantial amounts of groundwater and would be limited to what is necessary for construction of bridge piers and abutments. There is no groundwater management or other water quality control plan for the Project area. As a result, there would be no conflicts or obstructions to water quality control or groundwater management plans for the Project area.

Mitigation:

Mitigation Measure HWQ.1 – BMPs for Precipitation Events

> All grading and construction plans shall include a note outlining the following requirement. Construction notes shall be incorporated into the final project design plan prior to issuance of grading /building permits and shall be maintained throughout construction. The Project construction contractor will be required to perform an on-site review of on the ground Project BMPs prior to a large, forecasted storm event (1 inch in 24 hours rain event, or prolonged period of rain over a 48-hour period exceeding a total of 2.5 inches) that may exceed BMP capacity and would notify appropriate staff (e.g., contract administrator at TRWC) if additional BMPs are recommended to minimize impacts that could result from heavy runoff and high flows in the creek. Construction activities shall be suspended during heavy precipitation events or when heavy precipitation storm events (see above) are forecast. If a rain event is anticipated, then the contractor shall timely and properly winterize the site by covering any stockpiled materials or soil, by removing all vehicles and heavy equipment from wetland and

meadow areas, and by installing silt fences, straw bale barriers, fiber rolls, or other structures around stockpiles and graded areas. Such measures will be identified in a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan to be prepared and approved by the Lahontan Water Board prior to the start of construction.

4.11 Land Use/Planning

Existing Setting:

The Project is located along the South Fork of Prosser Creek in Euer Valley, a high elevation valley within the Prosser Creek Watershed, the third largest sub-watershed of the Middle Truckee Watershed just northwest of the Town of Truckee in eastern Nevada County. The approximate elevation of the Project is 6,500 feet. The Project area can be located on the Norden, Truckee, Independence Lake, and Hobart Mills, California USGS Quadrangles. The location of the proposed improved trail crossing (Coyote Crossing) of the South Fork of Prosser Creek (the upper extent of the Project area) is 39°22'7.74"N latitude and 120°17'13.15"W longitude.

The entire Project is located on land owned and managed by TDA (APN 016-060-024). A large private parcel (APN 016-060-009-000) borders TDA's property immediately west of Coyote Crossing (approximately 100 feet upstream of the crossing) (Nevada County 2021a). Primary use of the area is recreation, including biking, hiking, and equestrian use in the summer and cross-country skiing and snowshoeing in the winter. TDA membership includes some 25,000 people, and TDA trails are open and available to the public (TDA 2021a). As a result, the area experiences frequent use year-round. TDA has its own Trails Department which manages and maintains the trail system a key component of Tahoe Donner's recreational identity.

The entire Project is located within area designated as Forest by Nevada County Zoning and General Plan (FR and FOR, respectively). Designated forest lands are intended to provide for production and management of timber resources, and compatible recreational and low-density residential uses.

Table 16. Land Use/Planning Impacts Summary Table

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Reference Source (Appendix A)
a) Physically divide an established community?	☐	☐	☐	☒	Project Description; Nevada County 2021a
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒	Nevada County 1995

Impact Discussion:

a) *Would the project physically divide an established community?*

Finding: No impact.

The Project is outside any residential community and does not include any components that would result in physical division of an established community. Major Project components are an improved pedestrian crossing (bridge) of the South Fork of Prosser Creek, a designated equestrian trail crossing of the creek to eliminate existing dispersed crossings of the creek, an improved trail (an elevated boardwalk) through the wet meadow of Euer Valley, and erosion control, sediment control, and culvert improvements at drainage crossings of South Euer Valley Road. The improved creek crossing (new bridge) will facilitate a less challenging crossing of the South Fork of Prosser Creek and the surrounding wet meadow. As such, the Project will improve connectivity.

b) *Would the project 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?*

Finding: No impact.

As described above, the entire Project is located within area designated as Forest by Nevada County Zoning and General Plan (FR and FOR, respectively) (Nevada County 1995). Designated forest lands are intended to provide for production and management of timber resources, and compatible recreational and low-density residential uses. This Project is a recreational use and compatible with the existing land use plan for the area. The proposed Project is a recommended improvement project identified in TDA's Trails Master Plan (TDA 2013), a guiding document that identifies opportunities within TDA's jurisdiction (some 7,000 acres of land) to enhance recreational users experience and improve environmental conditions. The Trails Master Plan was addressed in a CEQA IS/MND (Nevada County 2016) and then approved by the County of Nevada in 2016.

Mitigation:

None required.

4.12 Mineral Resources

Existing Setting:

In compliance with the California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA), the California Division of Mines and Geology has established a classification system to denote both the location and significance of key extractive resources. Under SMARA, the State Mining and Geology Board may designate certain mineral deposits as being regionally significant to satisfy future needs. The California Department of Conservation's Division of Mine Reclamation (DMR) and the California Geological Survey (CGS) classify areas, under SMARA, in California in mineral land classifications and identify Mineral Resource Zones (MRZ) to reflect varying degrees of mineral potential.

A combination of both minerals and metals have been mined in Nevada County throughout history, including gold, silver, lead, copper, chromite, barite, zinc, aggregate, and quartz (Tingley et. al 1993). The Nevada County General Plan, Chapter 17 (Mineral Management) provides direction on protection of valuable mineral resources from urban encroachment while assuring that mining operations do not disturb the more developed regions of the County. Areas where subsurface mining may occur are identified as Mineral Extraction (ME) areas (Nevada County 1995).

The Project area consists of tertiary volcanic and volcanic-derived sedimentary deposits and is not designated MRZ, ME, or area of valuable mineral deposits (Lloyd 1990). No known historical or active mining operations are located within the immediate vicinity of the Project (California Department of Conservation 2021).

Table 17. Mineral Resources

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Reference Source (Appendix A)
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒	California Department of Conservation 2021; Nevada County 1995
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒	California Department of Conservation 2021; Nevada County 1995

Impact Discussion:

a) *Would the project 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?*

Finding: No Impact

No ME operations currently occur in the Project vicinity, and no portion of the Project area is designated as a MRZ by SMARA or as ME by the County. The Project would therefore not result in loss of available mineral resources.

b) *Would the project 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?*

Finding: No Impact

No ME operations currently occur in the Project vicinity, and no portion of the Project area is designated as a MRZ by SMARA or as ME by the County. No other land use plans are known to identify locally important mineral resources. The nearest mine is approximately 9 miles to the southeast for sand and gravel production (California Department of Conservation 2021). The Nevada County General Plan identifies the Project area as forest, FOR-160,FOR-80, and FOR-40 (Nevada County 1995). Given the distance and lack of nearby operations, the Project would have no impact on locally important mineral resource recovery sites.

Mitigation:

None required.

4.13 Noise

Existing Setting:

Euer Valley is a natural high meadow environment distant from any structures or paved roads and the existing ambient noise environment of Euer Valley is quiet. Natural noises from chirping birds and other wildlife are the predominant soundscape within the meadow and the surrounding area. Human caused noise within the area is intermittent and associated with the infrequent and occasional vehicle on North Euer Valley Road. Recreationists passing through the valley may contribute the sounds of conversation to the noise environment. There are no sensitive receptors in or near the Project area. The closest residential or commercial structure is more than one mile away from Coyote Crossing.

The Nevada County Land Use Development Code has established daytime noise levels for rural lands (inclusive of lands zoned as Forest – as the Project area is) as follows: a maximum allowable noise level of 75 decibels (dBA) between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., 65 dBA between 7 p.m. and 10 p.m., and 55 dBA between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. (Nevada County 2010). Construction activities are exempt from the County's noise standards.

Table 18. Noise Impacts Summary Table

Would the project result in:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Reference Source (Appendix A)
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐	Nevada County 2010 Project Description
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	☒	☐	Nevada County 2010 Project Description
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒	Project Description

Impact Discussion:

a) *Would the project result in 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?*

Finding: Less than Significant Impact

The only noise associated with the Project would be that associated with construction activity. Construction activities involve the use of heavy equipment including excavators, backhoes, and dump trucks/haulers that, when operational, may generate noise above 75 decibels (hourly Leq) during daytime (7am – 7pm) construction. Construction noises and construction related vibration are short term in nature and they are exempt from the County Noise Standards. Overall, noise impacts associated with the proposed Project construction would result in temporary or periodic increases in ambient noise levels.

Recreationists may notice construction noise, but the distance between most proposed construction activities and the existing recreation sites, as well as intervening vegetation and topography, would help reduce noise levels and minimize noise exposure. The nearest residence is over one mile away from the Project site, and the surrounding region is undeveloped. Therefore, the potential for the proposed Project to either expose persons to or generate noise levels in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies, would be less than significant.

b) *Would the project result in generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?*

Finding: Less than Significant Impact

Ground-borne vibration or noise could be considered excessive, and thus significant, if it would be felt or heard at residences or businesses for extended periods of time. Construction activities, such as the installation of helical piers, could result in temporary (i.e., hours) ground-borne noise or vibrations, but as discussed under item “a” above, the activities would not take place near residences or businesses. Project effects related to ground-borne noise or vibration would therefore be less than significant.

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?*

Finding: No Impact

Euer Valley is not within two miles of any airport and does not fall within an airport land use plan. As the Project would not expose sensitive receptors to excessive noise levels from airport/aircraft operations, there would be no impact.

Mitigation:

None required.

4.14 Population/Housing

Existing Setting:

The Project is located on property owned and managed by TDA within Nevada County approximately 6 miles northwest of Truckee (population 16,735) in Euer Valley (US Department of Commerce 2021a). Nevada County has a population of approximately 99,755 as of July 1, 2019 (US Department of Commerce 2021b). TDA is a large homeowners association with approximately 6,500 properties and 25,000 members (TDA 2021a). There are no commercial or residential structures within the Project area. The Project area and the surrounding region is designated forest by both the Nevada County Zoning and General Plan (FR and FOR, respectively) (Nevada County 2021b). Designated forest lands are intended to provide for production and management of timber resources, and compatible recreational and low-density residential uses.

Table 19. Population/Housing

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Reference Source
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)?	☐	☐	☐	☒	Project Description
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	☐	☐	☐	☒	Project Description

Impact Discussion:

a) *Would the project 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)?*

Finding: No Impact

The Project would not develop new long-term or permanent infrastructure that would support or facilitate construction of new homes or businesses or extend roadways or other infrastructure that could increase population. Therefore, the Project would have no potential to directly or indirectly induce population growth.

b) *Would the project displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?*

Finding: No Impact

There is no housing within the Project area and the Project would not directly or indirectly displace existing housing or require replacement housing.

Mitigation:

None required.

4.15 Public Services

Existing Setting:

Public services are generally provided via fire districts, public utility districts, school districts, sewer districts, water districts, homeowner or property owner associations, community services districts, and single purpose districts. The Project is located approximately six miles from the Town of Truckee on land owned by the TDA. TDA manages the land for recreational purposes: primarily biking, hiking, and equestrian use in the summer, and cross-country skiing in the winter. Public health and safety, emergency response, fire hazard reduction, and crime prevention for the Project area are provided via Truckee Fire Protection District, Nevada County Sheriff's Office, and other agencies responsible for public safety (TDA 2021). The Truckee Fire Protection District provides fire protection to the Project area. The nearest station, Station No. 94, is located approximately three miles from the Project area. Station No. 92 is five miles distant. The nearest school to the Project area is approximately 5 miles away, located between Donner Pass Road and Highway 80.

Table 20. Public Services

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Reference Source (Appendix A)
a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:	☐	☐	☐	☒	Project Description; TDA 2021
Fire protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒	Project Description; TDA 2021
Police protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒	Project Description; TDA 2021
Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☒	Project Description; TDA 2021
Parks?	☐	☐	☐	☒	Project Description; TDA 2021
Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒	

Impact Discussion:

a) *Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services: fire protection, police protection, schools, parks, other public facilities.*

Finding: No Impact

Major Project components are an improved pedestrian crossing (bridge) of the South Fork of Prosser Creek (Coyote Crossin), a designated equestrian trail crossing of the creek to eliminate existing dispersed crossings of the creek, an improved trail (an elevated boardwalk) through the wet meadow of Euer Valley, and erosion control, sediment control, and culvert improvements to drainage crossings of South Euer Valley Road. The improved creek crossing will facilitate a less challenging crossing of the South Fork of Prosser Creek and the surrounding wet meadow. In addition, the Project would install small biotechnical structures such as native cobble, sod and live willow stakes to remedy creek incision and improve the stability and quality of wetland habitat along approximately half linear mile of the South Fork of Prosser Creek from Coyote Crossing downstream. Coyote Trail and the Coyote Trail crossing of South Fork of Prosser Creek would be closed during construction and restoration. This closure would be temporary and would not change general recreation access to the area. No new public services would be necessary to support the Project, and the Project would not be expected to increase the intensity of use of existing services. The Project would have no impact to fire, police, or schools or require any new government facilities or services.

Mitigation:

None required.

4.16 Recreation

Existing Setting:

The Project is located entirely on lands owned by TDA and primarily used for recreation including biking, hiking, and equestrian use in the summer, and cross-country skiing in the winter. With 25,000 TDA members, and trails and open space available to the public, the area experiences frequent use year-round. The existing creek crossing (Coyote Crossing) consists of three CMP culverts covered by an anchored wooden walkway and a constructed access ramp which allows summer and winter recreationists and groomers to cross. As a result of the spring fed swales, the north trail approach to the culverted crossing remains saturated with persistent standing water that can last into the month of July making access difficult and detrimental to the wetland surface. Due to the persistent standing water well into peak recreation months, multiple trails have formed. This is especially apparent where the trail crosses the spring fed swales as recreationists avoid getting their feet wet.

Table 21. Recreation Impacts Summary Table

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Reference Source (Appendix A)
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐	Project Description; TDA 2016; TDA 2021a
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐	Project Description; TDA 2016; TDA 2021a

Impact Discussion:

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?*

Finding: Less than Significant Impact

The proposed Project would not increase the demand for or use of local recreation facilities, nor is it anticipated to substantially increase visitation of the Project area over the long-term.

Because this portion of trail will be closed during construction, existing parks or recreational facilities may experience a slight increase in users as they are diverted from this recreation area. The Tahoe Donner Trail System includes more than 60 miles of trails and fire access service roads spanning over 5,000 acres (TDA 2021a and TDA 2021b), making any increase in use to other existing facilities dispersed and marginal. A temporary increase in the use of the Coyote Trail may occur immediately following the reopening of the trail caused by public interest in the new boardwalk, bridge, and equestrian creek crossing, but the initial increased use after reopening would not be substantial and would be expected to return to pre-project use levels after 1 or 2 years. Therefore, this impact is less than significant.

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?*

Finding: Less than Significant Impact

Recreation is now the dominant land use within the Project area. The Project would reduce future recreational impacts to the meadow and wetland areas through Euer Valley by replacing the existing, braided trail(s) (Coyote Trail) through the wet meadow with an elevated boardwalk and installing a permanent pedestrian bridge in place of the existing culvert crossing of the South Fork of Prosser Creek (Coyote Crossing). These improvements would support continued year-round use of the area for recreation.

TRWC and TDA identified the following objectives to guide the design of the creek crossing and trail improvements:

- Provide year-round access across the creek that will not impact the creek and is usable by recreationists and grooming equipment.
- Provide equestrian access to cross the creek without damaging the creek channel bed or banks and to eliminate existing dispersed crossings.
- Maintain proximity to the existing trail alignment and grooming pattern for continuity and wider use/enjoyment of the valley.

Impacts to the environment would be temporary and primarily associated with Project construction. Adverse physical effects associated with construction activity are evaluated throughout this checklist and none have been identified as significant after the incorporation of identified mitigation. This impact would be less than significant.

Mitigation:

None required.

4.17 Transportation

Existing Setting:

The Project Area is accessible via Euer Valley Road. Euer Valley Road is an unimproved forest road maintained and managed by TDA and closed to public vehicles. Euer Valley Road begins at the terminus of Alder Creek Road. A locked gate at the end of Alder Creek Road prevents public vehicles from access to Euer Valley Road. USFS, private landowners, TDA and others have gate keys to allow passage. Past the gate, Euer Valley Road splits into North Euer Valley Road and South Euer Valley Road. North Euer Valley Road wraps around Euer Valley to the north (north side of the South Fork of Prosser Creek) and is the primary access route to the private parcel upstream and adjacent to the Project area (APN 016-060-009). South Euer Valley Road enters Euer Valley above and parallel to the south of the South Fork of Prosser Creek. Both roads (North Euer Valley Road and South Euer Valley Road) are unimproved, however the north road is more frequently used and in better condition. South Euer Valley Road beyond the Project site is passable by four-wheel drive only.

The Project area is approximately 2-miles (by road) from the locked gate at the end of Alder Creek Road. The Project is located entirely on lands owned by TDA, though there is a patchwork of public and private land in the vicinity of the Project. Nearby landowners include the Forest Service, Tahoe National Forest, Sierra Pacific Industries, the Euer family, the Donner Euer Valley Corporation, and the Truckee Donner Land Trust (Nevada County 2016). Private landowners regularly access the roads near the Project area.

The only transportation and/or traffic impacts associated with the Project would occur during the Project construction period and would be temporary. Construction vehicles would access Coyote Crossing and the restoration areas primarily via South Euer Valley Road.

Table 22. Transportation Impacts Summary Table

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Reference Source (Appendix A)
a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒	Project Description; TDA 2016
b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	☐	☐	☒	☐	Project Description; TDA 2016
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous	☐	☐	☐	☒	Project Description; TDA 2016

intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?					
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☐	☒	Project Description; TDA 2016

Impact Discussion:

a) *Would the project conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?*

Finding: No Impacts

Construction of the proposed Project would be limited to one summer season and would not generate substantial increases in vehicle traffic, alter the mix of vehicle traffic on existing roadways or conflict with transportation plans in the region.

b) *Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?*

Finding: Less than Significant Impact

CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision b, provides criteria for analyzing transportation impacts. The proposed Project would involve limited use of Federal, State, and County roads including Interstate 80, Northwood Boulevard and Euer Valley Road for ingress and egress of worker vehicles, delivery of materials and equipment, and occasional transport of construction equipment. Through access via North Euer Valley Road will be maintained throughout Project construction. The Project would not result in a substantial increase in traffic relative to the capacity of the existing roads system. This impact would be less than significant.

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

Finding: No Impact

The Project would improve an existing trail crossing (Coyote Crossing), restore the meadow and creek crossing areas, and reduce recurring erosion of ephemeral drainage crossings of South Euer Valley Road. Project implementation would not increase traffic hazards or involve design features incompatible with existing vehicle use in the valley. As a result, there would be no increase in hazards resulting from the Project.

d) *Would the project result in inadequate emergency access?*

Finding: No Impact

Travel of construction related trucks to and from the Project site would be limited and intermittent, and construction activity and staging would primarily be limited to South Euer Valley Road and would not affect ingress or egress along North Euer Valley Road. Maintenance (e.g., regrading) of the road surface, erosion/sediment controls, and culvert crossings of South Euer Valley Road would improve emergency vehicle access to the Project area. The Project would not require road closures or other changes that could result in inadequate emergency access.

Mitigation:

None required.

4.19 Tribal Cultural Resources

Existing Setting:

The project area lies within the nuclear territory of the northern Washoe, or Wélmelti', and the Washoe are the applicable tribal authorities for lands encompassing the study area. Section 4.5, Cultural Resources, includes a description of the prehistoric setting and Washoe history. Archaeologist Susan Lindström consulted with the Washoe Tribe during an earlier study for this project, including a field visit to the project area (Lindström 2015). The Washoe Tribe is therefore aware of the project and familiar with the location. Lindström noted that, while the Tribe did not identify any specific concerns, they wish to be kept informed about the project as it progresses. The United Auburn Indian Community also request consultation for the project and wishes to be kept informed, though they have not provided project specific comments.

Table 23. Tribal Cultural Resources

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 Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Reference Source (Appendix A)
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	☐	☒	☐	☐	Project Description; Far Western 2020; Linström et. al 2018
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 Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	☐	☒	☐	☐	Project Description; Far Western 2020; Linström et. al 2018

Impact Discussion:

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:

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*

Finding: Less Than Significant with Mitigation

As described in Section 4.5, Cultural Resources, and in the cultural resources survey report (Far Western 2020), archival research has identified one historic-era linear feature (the Crown-Willamette logging railroad, now overprinted by South Euer Valley Road) and two isolated artifacts (flake tool and biface fragment) along the southern edge of the project APE, recorded by Lindström et al. (2018). The cultural resources study report concludes the isolated artifacts are unlikely to be eligible as a historical resource as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k). The report also indicated that based on the subsurface geotechnical study of the existing trail alignment within the meadow, there is low potential for buried archaeological deposits in the APE.

It is possible that ground disturbing activities could disturb potential historic resources not identified in the cultural resources survey because the resource is buried or was obscured by heavy duff, grasses, and other impediments and therefore not identified during the cultural resource pedestrian survey of the area. Mitigation Measure, Cul.2, Undocumented Cultural Resources, specifies that in the event a previously undocumented cultural resource is encountered during project construction that work within the immediate vicinity of the find will stop until a qualified archeologist (RPA) has evaluated the find and implemented appropriate treatment measures to avoid a significant impact to historical resources per Public Resources Code (PRC) 15064. Implementation of Mitigation Measure Cul.2 would prevent significant adverse effects to any tribal cultural resources listed or eligible for listing pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(k) to less than significant.

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 Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.*

Finding: Less Than Significant with Mitigation
As described above, archival research has identified one historic-era linear feature (the Crown-Willamette logging railroad, now overprinted by South Euer Valley Road) and two isolated artifacts (flake tool and biface fragment) along the southern edge of the project APE. The cultural resources study report concludes the isolated artifacts are unlikely to be eligible as a historical resource as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k). However, it is possible that there are other undiscovered artifacts that may have significance to a Native American tribe in the Project area and that ground disturbing activities associated with the Project could disturb such resources. Mitigation Measure TRI.1, Tribal Oversight requires that TRWC and/or TDA invite a representative of the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California be invited to observe the ground-disturbing activities associated with Project. This mitigation, in combination with Mitigation Measures CUL.2, Undocumented Cultural Resources, would reduce any potential impacts to any previously unidentified resources discovered as a result of ground disturbing activities, to a less than significant level.

Mitigation:

Mitigation Measure TRI.1 – Tribal Oversight

> TRWC and/or TDA shall invite a representative of the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California and a representative from United Auburn Indian Community to observe the ground-disturbing activities.

4.20 Utilities/Service Systems

Existing Setting:

Utilities are typically provided by privately (investor) owned utilities, public utility districts, community services districts, school districts, sewer districts, water districts, and other single use districts in addition to those provided by Nevada County and State and Federal agencies. The Truckee Donner Public Utility District (TDPUD) provides services to the Project vicinity; however, there are no utility services within the Project area, including none provided by TDPUD (Tahoe Donner Public Utility District 2018). Nevada County sets standards for water, water treatment, electricity, and natural gas in the "Public Facilities and Services Element" section of the Nevada County General Plan (Nevada County 1995).

Table 24. Utilities/Service Systems

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Reference Source (Appendix A)
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒	Project Description
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?	☐	☐	☒	☐	Project Description
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒	Project Description
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐	Project Description; TDPUD 2018
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	☐	☐	☒	☐	Project Description

Impact Discussion:

a) *Would the project 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?*

Finding: No Impact

The Project does not involve or require the use of any electrical power, natural gas or telecommunications facilities. The Project would not develop land uses generating wastewater and would therefore not require any wastewater treatment capacities/ facilities. Further, the Project would not require the construction or expansion of any stormwater drainage facilities. as a result, there would be no impacts associated with wastewater, wastewater treatment, stormwater facilities, electric power, natural gas, and/or telecommunication facilities.

b) *Would the project have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?*

Finding: Less than Significant Impacts

The Project would require the use of water for dust suppression. Water would be obtained from the creek using a screened intake hose (approved by CDFW) connected to a pump and tank or, if deemed necessary or if water levels are not sufficient in the creek, via a hydrant or metered water source from TDPUD (requiring a permit). The potential impacts would be less than significant.

c) *Would the project 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?*

Finding: No Impact

The Project would not require treatment of, nor generate, wastewater or stormwater. Therefore, there would be no impacts associated with wastewater, wastewater treatment, or stormwater facilities.

d) *Would the project 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?*

Finding: Less than Significant Impact

During Project implementation, some debris may be accumulated and disposed of at an approved landfill. Major debris would include the existing creek culverts, wooden pedestrian crossing platform, and the raised timber forms underneath of the current location of the existing Coyote Hut. The construction contractor would be required to collect and haul out trash and clean up the site daily. The Tahoe Truckee Sierra Disposal Eastern Regional Landfill is just under 13 miles from the Project area and currently has the capacity to take the limited anticipated amounts of trash/debris that the proposed Project may generate. Any impacts associated with solid waste and its disposal would be less than significant.

e) *Would the project comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?*

Finding: Less than Significant Impact

Contractors and TRWC will comply with all relevant Federal, State, and local statutes and regulations related to the generation and disposal of solid waste. Any impacts associated with solid waste and its disposal would be less than significant.

Mitigation:

None required.

4.21 Wildfire

Existing Setting:

The Project area falls within a State Responsibility Area (SRA) and is identified by CalFire as a very high fire hazard severity zone (USGS 2021, California State Geoportal 2021). The Project area is in a seasonally wet meadow with uniform wetland grasses mixed with clumps of small Lemmon's willow (*salix lemmonii*) and clusters of lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*) along the edges and upland areas (SEA 2020). Sources of wildfire within the Project area could originate from both natural (i.e., lightning) and human causes. Lightning is often associated with thunderstorms, which naturally occur in the area during the summer and fall months. Fire suppression and response in the vicinity is a joint effort between CalFire, USFS, and the Truckee Fire Protection District (TDA 2021c). The nearest fire station to the Project area is approximately 3 miles to the southeast at the Truckee Fire Protection District Station 94, which is located at 12986 Northwoods Blvd.

Table 25. Wildfire Impacts Summary Table

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Reference Source (Appendix A)
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒	Truckee Fire District 2021
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?	☐	☒	☐	☐	USGS 2021; California State Geoportal 2021; SEA 2020
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?	☐	☐	☒	☐	Project Description
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?	☐	☐	☐	☒	USGS 2021; California State Geoportal 2021; SEA 2020; Bear Engineering

Group, Inc.
2020

Impact Discussion:

a) *If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?*

Finding: No Impact

There is no adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan associated with the Project area, and the Project would not impair implementation of the Truckee Fire District's emergency evacuation guide (Truckee Fire District 2021). Therefore, there is no anticipated impact associated with the proposed Project.

b) *If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project, 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?*

Finding: Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated

Equipment that would be used during construction of the Project may generate sparks that could ignite dry vegetation on or adjacent to the construction area and ignite wildland fires in the area. Wildfire risk would be reduced with implementation of Mitigation Measure WF.1 – Fire Suppression and Control.

c) *If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project 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?*

Finding: Less than Significant Impact

The Project does not include installation of roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines, or other utilities that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in impacts to the environment. Project activities are primarily associated with improvement of riparian habitat and reduction of erosion and include the installation of an elevated boardwalk and permanent bridge feature where the existing Coyote Trail crosses the South Fork of Prosser Creek (Coyote Crossing). Proposed improvements to South Euer Valley Road ephemeral drainage crossings would improve emergency response vehicle long-term access to the Project area, but such

Project improvements would not require annual maintenance. Proposed use of water from the creek for dust suppression during construction activities would create a source of emergency water supply for responding to a fire event at or near the Project site. This Project would require future seasonal maintenance of the boardwalk and bridge but is not anticipated to exacerbate fire risk or result in corresponding impacts to the environment.

d) *If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project 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?*

Finding: No Impact

Project activities would be temporary and once complete, would improve aquatic habitat and reduce erosion within the Project vicinity through restoration of existing trails and dispersed recreation. The Project would not expose people or structures to significant risks as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes as compared to existing conditions.

Mitigation:

Mitigation Measure WF.1 – Fire Suppression and Control
All grading and construction plans shall include a note outlining the following requirement. Construction notes shall be incorporated into the final project design plan prior to issuance of grading /building permits and shall be maintained throughout construction.

- Prior to the start of construction, TRWC or the construction contractor shall prepare a Fire Safety Plan for the Project and require that construction personnel implement provisions of the plan and be equipped to implement necessary response actions to fire ignition. The Plan shall include the emergency calling procedures for California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire), USFS, and local fire department(s).
- Prior to commencement of construction and throughout construction, appropriate class fire extinguishers and shovels shall be in all construction worker vehicles and on all heavy construction equipment while at the Project site and in Project staging areas.
- During construction, construction crews shall park vehicles a safe distance from flammable material, such as dry grass or brush. At the end of each workday, construction crews shall park heavy equipment over a non-combustible surface to reduce the chance of fire.
- Prior to the start of on-site construction activities, the contractor and staff shall clean, verify the operability, and repair (other than emergency repairs) all equipment outside the Project area boundaries. On-site repairs will be performed at designated staging areas if practicable throughout construction.

- Under dry conditions and during all red flag warning days for the Project area, a filled water truck with appropriate hose/nozzle or water pump/hose system with screened intake (to take water from the creek) shall be on-site and ready to deploy during construction activities.

4.22 Mandatory Findings of Significance

Table 26. Mandatory Findings of Significance Impacts Summary Table

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Reference Source (Appendix A)
a) Does the project 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?	☐	☒	☐	☐	NA
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	☐	☐	☒	☐	NA
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☐	☒	☐	NA

Impact Discussion:

a) *Does the project 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?*

Finding: Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated

This IS/Proposed MND concludes that the proposed project and associated activities would have no significant or potentially significant adverse impacts to the environment with the incorporation of identified mitigation measures. Potential adverse impacts would be temporary and associated with construction and restoration activities and would be minimized to a level of less than significant with adherence to: the proposed construction schedule and process, design plans requirements, and construction best management practices; and applicable permitting requirements (e.g., development of a SWPPP). Mitigation measures are identified for air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geological and soil resources, hydrological resources, tribal resources, and wildfire.

The proposed Project would resolve ongoing wetland degradation caused by dispersed and unguided recreation uses that exacerbate erosion in the saturated meadow area, compact soil, promotes creek bank destabilization, and stunt vegetation growth along the existing braided trail. The project would minimize future impacts by building a pedestrian bridge that spans the creek channel, developing a designated equestrian branch trail that creates a stabilized horse crossing of the creek, installing an elevated boardwalk pathway through the meadow that does not impede water flow or compact soil. In addition, the Project would restore the creek zone at the existing culvert crossing for Coyote Creek, revegetate the creek bank, existing Coyote Hut area, and other areas impacted by past dispersed recreation, and install erosion and sediment control measures and replace failing culverts along South Euer Valley Road to improve hydrologic connectivity and (if needed) future emergency vehicle access to the Project area. Biotechnical treatments would also be installed along the creek to improve geomorphic function and downstream water quality by reducing erosion potential and improving channel stability. Without the Project, the area would continue to incur dispersed recreation impacts to the meadow, creek zone, and stream channel associated with recreational use of Coyote Trail. The Project would have long-term positive environmental effects for Euer Valley's ecosystem and South Prosser Creek watershed.

b) *Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?*

Finding: Less Than Significant Impact

Although the proposed Project would have certain temporary adverse impacts to the environment, the impacts would be substantially mitigated primarily related to construction and would therefore be temporary. There are no other construction projects planned in the vicinity of Euer Valley during the time period proposed for this project's construction and therefore there are no cumulatively considerable impacts associated with construction activities. There are no long-term operational impacts from the proposed Project, although there may be a short-term increase in public use of the Coyote Trail following the Project's

5.0 DETERMINATION (TO BE COMPLETED BY THE LEAD AGENCY)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

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

☒ Nevada County finds 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.

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

☐ Nevada County finds 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.

☐ Nevada County finds 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.

Signature

11/1/2022
Date

5.0 DETERMINATION (TO BE COMPLETED BY THE LEAD AGENCY)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

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

☒ Nevada County finds 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.

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

☐ Nevada County finds 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.

☐ Nevada County finds 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.

_____ _____

Signature Date

APPENDIX A

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Appendix B

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Appendix C

Restoration Design Plans