INITIAL STUDY/
MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
LUSE-22-0001 (Yuba River Campground)

Project Title:	Conditional Use Permit LUSE-22-0001 (Yuba River Campground)
Lead Agency Name and Address:	County of Yuba Planning Department 915 8th Street, Suite 123 Marysville, CA 95901
Project Location:	Assessor's Parcel Number : 005-550-012
Applicant/Owner	Yuba River Campground Scott Milener 11174 Idylberry Rd San Rafael, CA 94903
General Plan Designation(s):	Rural Community
Zoning:	"RR-5" Rural Residential, 5 Acres Minimum
Contact Person:	Ciara Fisher, Planner III
Phone Number:	(530) 749-5470
Date Prepared	December 2022

Project Description

The applicants, Tom McCay and Scott Milener, request the approval of Conditional Use Permit to allow a 30 space campground that will feature 8 RV spots, 1 tent cabin, and 21 spots for vans, trucks, & tent campers on a 20 acre parcel. All campsites will be dirt and gravel, not paved. Each campsite will be at least 1,000 sq ft in size and will allow room for 2 vehicles, a picnic table, and a fire ring. The larger sites that will be approximately 2,400 square feet wide to accommodate RV's and trailers sites. The applicants propose a maximum length of 20 feet for trailers and 25 feet for motor homes to avoid large trailer traffic on the rural roads. There is 1 existing tent cabin the applicants plan to rent and there is 1 group campsite that is able to handle up to 10 campers. The proposed project will also involve improvements to existing roads and camp areas, creation of a septic system, installation of restroom facilities, and other minor improvements.

The property is approximately 20-acres of land located immediately west of the Yuba River, and immediately east of Gunning Park Road, approximately 0.25-miles northeast of the historic community of Timbuctoo, and approximately 0.5-miles northeast of State Route 20, within the southeastern portion of Yuba County, California.

With 30 campsites, the applicants expect between 30-40 people most weekends. Expected occupancy will be 50% to 70% of sites reserved, with about 2 people per site average. Maximum occupancy per CA HCD regulations is 120 adults. Visitors and campers must have a reservation for an existing campsite to enter the property, no walk-ins or day use will be allowed. The applicants plan to use online registration systems to enable campsite selection and purchase confirmation before arriving. The Camp Host will be available 8AM - 6PM, 7 days per week, plus other times of day as needed. Other staff including managers and security will be available as well.

For waste and restroom facilities, the applicants plan to start with Porta-Potties then possibly move to campground bathrooms on septic within 2 years from permit approval. The Porta-Potties will be provided and regularly serviced by a trusted firm such as United Rentals. Trash and recycle bins will be available throughout the campground and emptied regularly. The permitting process for a septic system will be handled with Yuba County's Environmental Health Department.

Hours of Operation

The Yuba River Campground will be open all year, 365 days. Campers can enter and leave 24 hours per day, any day of the week. However 98% of traffic shall be between the hours of 8am and 8PM, very few people will go in and out during late evening and night time hours. The climate is mild in the winter enabling camping any time of the year.

Hiring

The campground expects to hire up to 10 people over the first 2 phases of growth, years 1-4, including:

- 1 Campground Host. The applicants plan to have this person live on the property full time obtaining free rent and a salary as general caretaker.
- Up to 2 Campground maintenance managers. These employees will maintain, clean, improve and fix the campsites, manage trash, cut grass and weeds, remove deadfall, etc.
- Up to 2 Rental managers. To facilitate the renting of kayaks and other small craft. The applicants plan to offer floating and fishing trips in drift boats.
- Up to 2 Store clerks. In phase 2, no sooner than year 2, we may open a camp store. These clerks will stock, maintain and handle the sales transactions. There is no planned food prep.

Fishing

To protect the fish population, a limited number of campers will be allowed to fish the Yuba River from the campground. The applicants expect to limit this number to 5 rods allowed at a time on foot from the campground. Campers wishing to fish must obtain a fishing pass from the Camp Host. As with all access to the Yuba River Campground, anglers must have a campsite reservation to access the river for fishing. There is no day use allowed at the campground. Anglers must have a current CA fishing license and follow all CA State fishing regulations, including tackle and catch limit requirements. To protect salmon and steelhead spawning, there

is no fishing allowed from September 1 to November 30 at the campground or anywhere upstream of the highway 20 bridge as required by the DFW regulations.

River Access Points

Campers will be able to access the Yuba River via the adjacent parcel to the campground parcel. It is co-owned by Tom McCay and family who have given the campground permission to use it for river access. Another access point is under the Parks Bar Bridge where highway 20 crosses the Yuba River. Campers can take out here after floating from the campground down to Parks Bar and they can also put in at the Parks Bar bridge and float down to the public take out at Sycamore Ranch Campground. The campground will provide boat shuttle service to and from Parks Bar Bridge and Sycamore Ranch.

Activities

Part of the experience at the Yuba River Campground will be various outdoor adventures. Campers will be able to hike on trails on the property and along the river. The campground may offer rental kayaks and drift boats for floating, fishing and generally enjoying the river. Campers may bring their own kayaks or other small river craft. No motorized boats and no motorized off road vehicles of any type may be used, including motorcycles, ATVs or mini bikes whether gas or electric. Non-motorized boats and bikes are allowed.

Environmental Setting

The project area consists primarily of blue oak woodlands, located in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada. The surrounding properties consist primarily of blue oak woodlands to the north, west and south. The Yuba River is to the east. There is a setback from the Yuba River that is not part of the Yuba River Campground project. Habitat types associated with the Subject Property consist of blue oak woodlands, non-native ruderal grasslands, and ephemeral drainage swales.

The project site, near the historic community of Timbuctoo, has a Mediterranean climate characterized by hot, dry summers and mild, rainy winters. Data collected at a weather station located in the Timbuctoo area (at the UC Sierra Foothill Research Extension Center and operated by USDA) shows that annual precipitation generally ranges from 9 to 52 inches. Average annual precipitation is 28 inches. Annual precipitation occurs almost exclusively as rainfall, and mostly from October through May. Mean monthly minimum air temperatures are typically in the high 30s and low 40s F during November through March. Mean maximum air temperatures are around 90º F during July and August. Recorded extremes are 14º F and 109º F, respectively (UC, 2021).

Figure 1: Project Vicinity

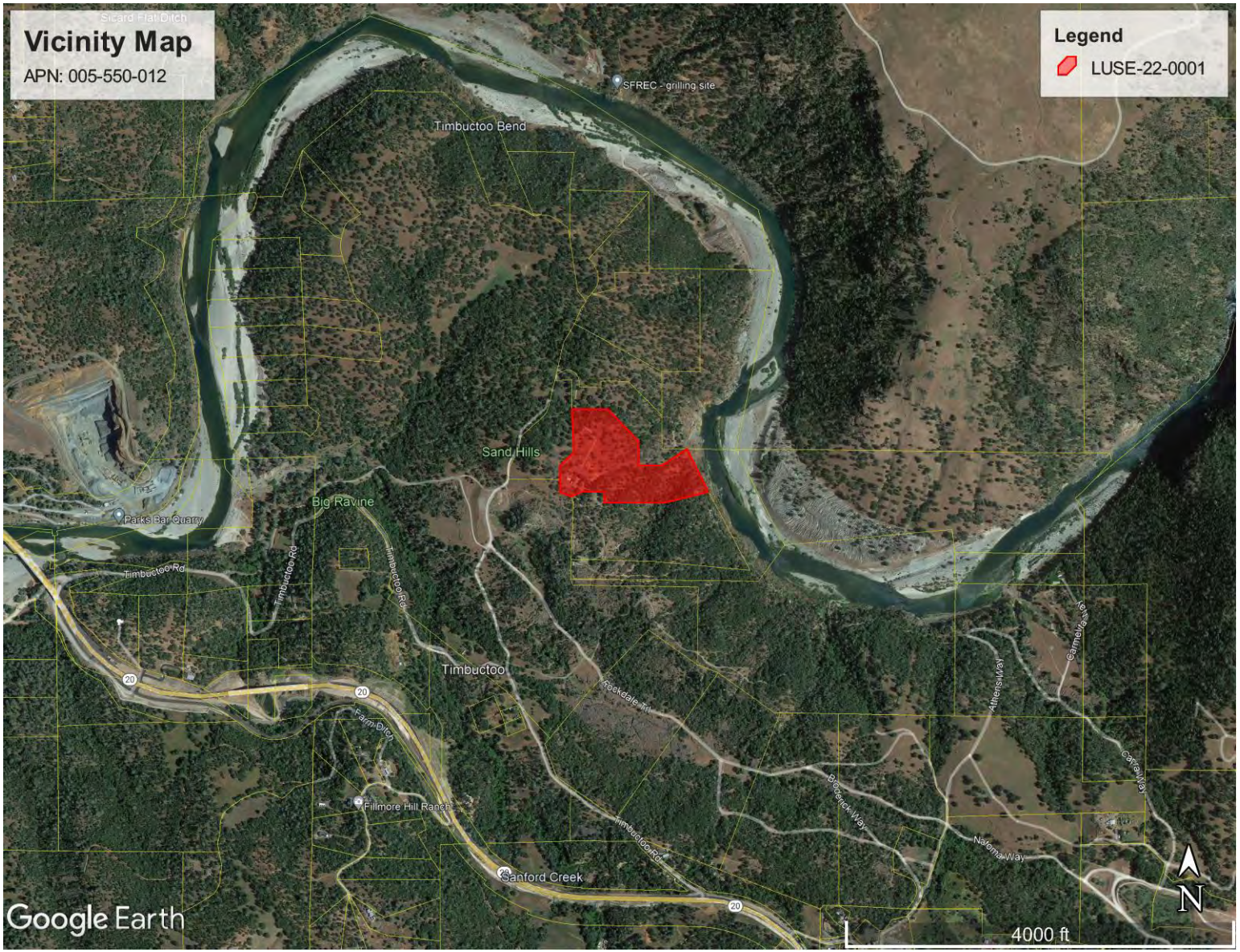


Figure 2: Aerial

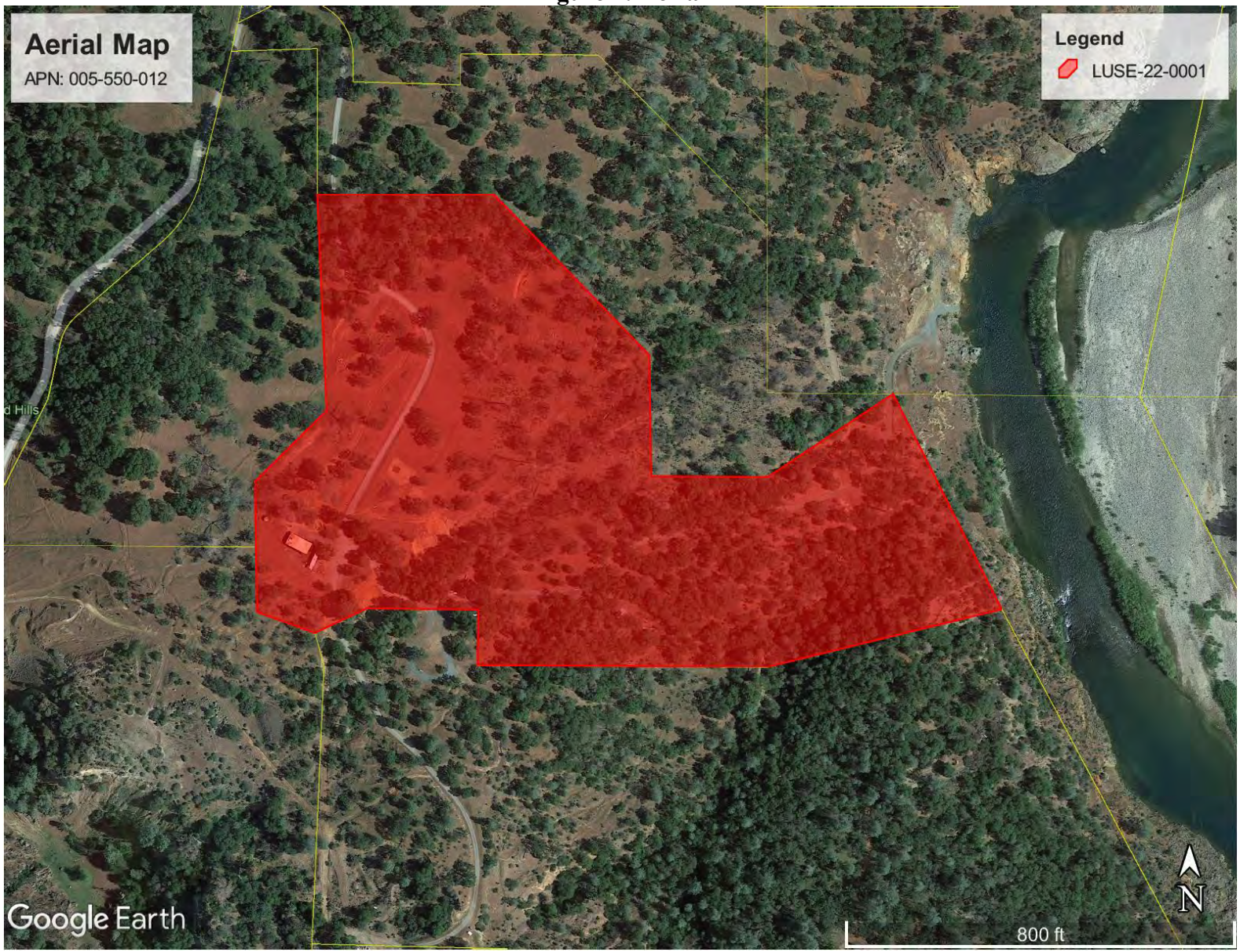
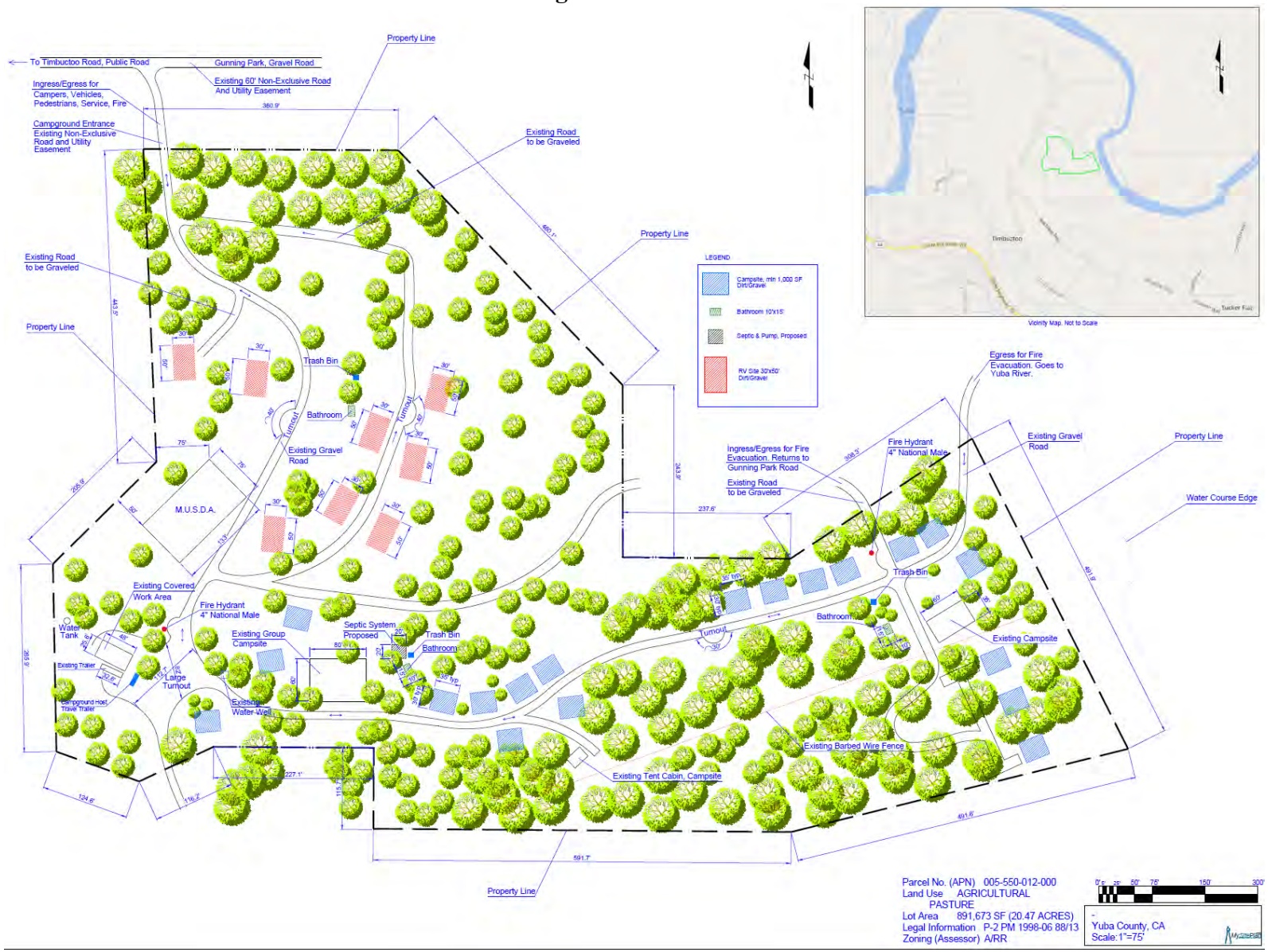


Figure 3: Site Plan



Environmental Factors Potentially Affected:

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, as indicated by the checklist and corresponding discussion on the following pages:

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

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

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

☒ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

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

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

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

Ciara Fisher 1/3/2023

Planner's Signature Date

Ciara Fisher, Planner III

PURPOSE OF THIS INITIAL STUDY

This Initial Study has been prepared consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15063, to determine if the Environmental Assessment LUSE-22-0001 (Yuba River Campground), as proposed, may have a significant effect upon the environment. Based upon the findings contained within this report, the Initial Study will be used in support of the preparation of a Mitigated Negative Declaration.

EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except "No Impact" answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A "No Impact" answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A "No Impact" answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on project-specific screening analysis).
2) All answers must take into account the whole action involved, including offsite as well as onsite, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
3) Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. "Potentially Significant Impact" is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.
4) "Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated" applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact." The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level mitigation measures from Section XVII, "Earlier Analyses," may be cross-referenced.
5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c) (3) (D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
    a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
    b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
    c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures which were

incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.

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

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

8) The explanation of each issue should identify:

    a) The significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and

    b) The mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance.

I. AESTHETICS Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:

a) The Proposed Action would not adversely impact a scenic vista as defined by the state of California. The Action Area is not visible from any public roadways. Therefore, there would be no impact.

b) & c) The proposed project will involve development of the existing property as a commercial campground facility, which will involve improvements to existing roads and camp areas, creation of a septic system, installation of restroom facilities, and other minor improvements. The Yuba River Campground will be an eco-friendly, rustic style campground enabling outdoor enthusiasts to enjoy these beautiful surroundings in their natural setting.

The applicants do not plan to build any permanent structures or infrastructure. The campsites will be dirt and gravel, not paved, and they will not be doing any landscaping. The percent of land to be left in its natural state is about 96%. The campsites, bathrooms, and existing trailer take about 1.5 acres out of 20.47 acres. Therefore, there are ***no impacts*** to scenic resources, vistas, and degrade the existing visiting character.

d) The proposed project did not propose any lighting as a part of the project. Nonetheless, any new lighting installed on the project site shall conform to Development Code Section 11.19.060. Specifically, all lighting fixtures shall be shielded so as not to produce obtrusive glare onto the public right-of-way or adjoining properties. All luminaries shall meet the most recently adopted criteria of the Illuminating Engineering Society of North America (IESNA) for "Cut Off" or "Full Cut Off" luminaries. Therefore, no mitigation is required and impacts to lighting ***are less than significant***.

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II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

In determining whether impacts to agricultural resources are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to the California Agricultural Land Evaluation and Site Assessment Model (1997) prepared by the California Dept. of Conservation as an optional model to use in assessing impacts on agriculture and farmland. In determining whether impacts to forest resources, including timberland, are significant environmental effects, lead agencies may refer to information compiled by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection regarding the state's inventory of forest land, including the Forest and Range Assessment project and the Forest Legacy Assessment project; and forest carbon measurement methodology provided in Forest Protocols adopted by the California Air Resources Board.

Would the project:		Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a)	Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
b)	Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c)	Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d)	Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e)	Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:

a-e) The property is located on land designated as Grazing Land and Other land according to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) (DOC 2018) and is not subject to Williamson Act contracts (DOC 2017). Proposed Action would take place adjacent to the Yuba River channel corridor, Timbuctoo access road, and private land and does not involve land conversion, conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract. Therefore, ***no impact*** to agriculture would occur.

The project area does not occur on forest land and would have ***no impact*** on any timber resources.

III. AIR QUALITY

Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations.

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) 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 (including releasing emissions which exceed quantitative thresholds for ozone precursors)?	☐	☒	☐	☐
d) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:

a) In 2018, an update to the 2010 Air Quality Attainment Plan was prepared for the Northern Sacramento Valley Air Basin (NSVAB), which includes Yuba County. The plan proposes rules and regulations that would limit the amount of ozone emissions, in accordance with the 1994 State Implementation Plan (SIP) for ozone. The 2018 update summarizes the feasible control measure adoption status of each air district in the NSVAB, including the Feather River Air Quality Management District (FRAQMD). The 2018 update was adopted by the FRAQMD, and development proposed by the project would be required to comply with its provisions. The 2018 Plan is available here: https://www.fraqmd.org/california-air-quality-plans.

The Air Quality Attainment Plan also deals with emissions from mobile sources, primarily motor vehicles with internal combustion engines. Data in the Plan, which was incorporated in the SIP, are based on the most currently available growth and control data. The project would be consistent with this data. As is stated in the guidelines of FRAQMD, projects are considered to have a significant impact on air quality if they reach emission levels of at least 25 pounds per day of reactive organic gases (ROG), 25 pounds per day of nitrogen oxides (NOx), and/or 80 pounds per day for PM10. FRAQMD does not have an established significance threshold for campgrounds, however, they do have a threshold for a motel which is similar in nature to a campground. The established significance threshold for a motel is 275 motel rooms, which is the

number estimated to generate emissions of 25 pounds per day of ROG and 25 pounds per day of NOx. With 30 campsites, the applicants expect between 30-40 people most weekends. Expected occupancy will be 50% to 70% of sites reserved, with about 2 people per site average. Maximum occupancy per CA HCD regulations is 120 adults. In addition, there will be a strict No Campfire policy will be in effect and enforced by campground staff from May through the summer and fall. They will only allow campfires when safe to do so after heavy rains in the late fall through April, as long as the area remains green and moist. Campground staff will also refer to US Forest Service and CalFire fire danger guidance in the Yuba County and foothills area. Project related air quality emissions, beyond the construction phase, would not substantially add to the Air Quality Attainment Plan and FRAQMD thresholds. Therefore, impacts to air quality plans would be ***less than significant***.

b) The California Air Resources Board provides information on the attainment status of counties regarding ambient air quality standards for certain pollutants, as established by the federal and/or state government. As of 2019, Yuba County was re-designated as non-attainment-transitional status for state and national (one and eight hour) air quality standards for ozone, and state standards for particulate matter less than 10 microns in diameter (PM10). The County is in attainment or unclassified status for all other pollutants for which standards have been established.

Under the guidelines of FRAQMD, projects are considered to have a significant impact on air quality if they reach emission levels of at least 25 pounds per day of reactive organic gases (ROG), 25 pounds per day of nitrogen oxides (NOx), and/or 80 pounds per day for PM10. ROG and NOx are ingredients for ozone. Also, FRAQMD has established a significance threshold of 275 motel rooms to reach the aforementioned significant levels. The proposed project is below the FRAQMD thresholds. However, FRAQMD does recommend the following construction phase Standard Mitigation Measures for projects that do not exceed district operational standards:

Mitigation Measure 3.1 FRAQMD

- Implement FRAQMD Fugitive Dust Plan
- Implement FRAQMD standard construction phase mitigation measures. (https://www.fraqmd.org/ceqa-planning)

Mitigation Measure 3.2 Fugitive Dust Control for Construction

1. Water inactive construction sites and exposed stockpile sites at least twice daily.
2. Pursuant to California Vehicle Code, all trucks hauling soil and other loose material to and from the construction site shall be covered or should maintain at least 6 inches of freeboard (i.e. minimum vertical distance between top of load and the trailer).
3. Any topsoil that is removed for the construction operation shall be stored on-site in piles not to exceed 4 feet in height to allow development of microorganisms prior to replacement of soil in the construction area. These topsoil piles shall be clearly marked

and flagged. Topsoil piles that will not be immediately returned to use shall be revegetated with a non-persistent erosion control mixture.

4. Soil piles for backfill shall be marked and flagged separately from native topsoil stockpiles. These soil piles shall also be surrounded by filt fencing, straw wattles, or other sediment barriers or covered unless they are to be immediately used.
5. Equipment or manual watering shall be conducted on all stockpiles, dirt/gravel roads, and exposed or disturbed soil surfaces, as necessary, to reduce airborne dust.

In addition, the campground is proposing to allow campfires during the wet season. To prevent air quality issues and potential for wildfires, the following Mitigation Measure shall be included:

Mitigation Measure 3.3 Campfires

Campfires are prohibited from May 15 through the fall until wet season and when Smartsville/CalFire guidance suggests it is safe for campfires. When allowed, campfires must be in designated fire rings.

These mitigation measures are to be incorporated as part of the project to reduce dust emissions associated with construction of the project and implementation of these mitigation measures would reduce project impacts on air quality standards would be ***less than significant with mitigation***.

c) Construction associated with future development is expected to generate a limited amount of PM10, mainly dust and possible burning of vegetation. Rule 3.16 of FRAQMD Regulations requires a person to take "every reasonable precaution" not to allow the emissions of dust from construction activities from being airborne beyond the property line. Reasonable precautions may include the use of water or chemicals for dust control, the application of specific materials on surfaces that can give rise to airborne dust (e.g., dirt roads, material stockpiles), or other means approved by FRAQMD. FRAQMD Regulations Rule 2.0 regulates the burning of vegetation associated with land clearing for development of the campground. Enforcement of these rules would reduce the amount of PM10 that would be generated by residential development on the project site. Additionally with mitigation measure, **MM3.1 and MM3.2,** prior to the issuance of any grading, improvement plan, or building permit a Fugitive Dust Permit will be required to be obtained from FRAQMD. Therefore, construction related impacts to the air would be ***less than significant with mitigation***.

d) Sensitive receptors include hospitals, schools, daycare facilities, elderly housing, and convalescent facilities. The occupants of these facilities, children, elderly, and the infirm, are more sensitive to poor air quality and associated health effects than the general population. In addition, residential areas are considered sensitive receptors because the general public spends substantial amounts of time at home. The property is quite remote, with only a few scattered rural residences within a 0.5-mile radius of the project site. The closest sensitive receptor to the project site, Vantage Point Charter School in Penn Valley, is over seven miles east of the Action Area. Therefore, impacts to sensitive receptors would be ***less than significant***.

e) Development proposed by the project is not expected to create objectionable odors. The project does not propose activities that generate odors, such as an industrial plant or an agricultural operation. Therefore, there would be ***no impact*** related to odors.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES **Would the project:**	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?	☐	☒	☐	☐
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on federally protected wetlands as defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	☐	☒	☐	☐
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	☐	☐	☐	☒
f) Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:

a) & b) Marcus H. Bole & Associates prepared a Biological and Wetland Resource Assessment for the project and below are the results of the study.

On August 2, 2022, A CEQA-level Biological Resources Evaluation and Wetland Determination was conducted for the Yuba River Campground LLC Project, a ±20.47-acre project site (Subject Property) located along the Yuba River, within portions of Sections 21, 28 and 29, Township 16 North, Range 6 East, Smarstville 7.5' USGS quadrangle (see Enclosure A: Map Display). The Subject Property is within Yuba County Assessor parcel number 005-550-012. The campground is substantially laid out as it has been in use as a private campground for several decades. There are no plans to significantly alter the current site layout. Current plans call for improvements to

existing roads and camp areas, creation of a septic system, installation of restroom facilities and other minor improvements.

A records search was completed of the United States Fish & Wildlife Service's Federal Endangered and Threatened Species List (IPaC Resource List, 07/06/2022) and the California Natural Diversity Database (July 2022) for the Smarstville 7 ½ minute quadrangle and eight surrounding quadrangles (see Enclosure D). These documents list plants and wildlife that have Federal, State and California Native Plant Society (CNPS) special status. The records revealed several plant and wildlife species with a potential to occur onsite. Onsite surveys were conducted to evaluate the potential for these special status plants and wildlife to be present within the Study Area.

METHODOLOGY

Biological and botanical surveys were conducted based on United States Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS), Sacramento office, species list, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) and the California Native Plant Society's (CNPS) list of rare and endangered plants (Enclosure D). All species lists were derived from the United States Geological Survey (USGS) "Smartville, Oregon House, French Corral, Rough and Ready, Wolf, Camp Far West, Wheatland, Browns Valley and Loma Rica" 7.5 minute quadrangles. Based on the results of the species lists, appropriate biological and botanical surveys were conducted.

A wildlife species habitat survey was conducted on August 2, 2022 by Marcus H. Bole, M.S. Senior Wildlife Biologist. The wildlife species habitat survey was conducted by walking all areas of the Subject Property (and surrounding 500 foot buffer) and evaluating potential habitat for special-status wildlife species based on vegetation composition and structure, presence of predatory species, microclimate and available resources (e.g. prey items, stick nest, nesting burrows, etc.). Special-status and general botanical surveys (and habitat evaluation) for rare plant botanical species was conducted on August 2, 2022 by MHBA's Senior Botanist Charlene J. Bole, M.S. Each special-status plant species with potential to occur in the vicinity of the Subject Property was evaluated. The two plant species identified in the databases as having a potential to occur onsite were the Brandegee's clarkia, Clarkia biloba ssp. Brandegeeae, and the Dwarf downingia, Downingia pusilla. Herbaria specimens, Calflora (2022), Calphotos (2022), and Jepson eFlora (2022) were used as references to assess phenology and observe morphology of the target species. The reference source review confirmed that the survey coincided with identification periods for the target species. The surveys were conducted by walking all areas of the Subject Property while taking inventory of general botanical species and searching for special-status plant species and their habitats. A delineation of Waters of the U.S. was also conducted on August 2, 2022 by Marcus H. Bole and was conducted under the guidelines of the Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Arid West Region (2008).

RESULTS

Description of the Existing Biological and Physical Conditions

The Project is located in the state of California, Yuba County, within the foothills of the Sierra Nevada, near the historic community of Timbuctoo, near the Yuba River, off of Highway 20. The following describes the biological and physical conditions within the Subject Property and within the surrounding area.

Project Area

Habitat types within the Subject Property consist of blue oak woodlands, non-native ruderal grasslands, and dry ephemeral drainages. The surrounding properties consist primarily of blue oak woodlands. The Yuba River is to the east.

Physical Conditions

The Subject Property is located on rolling foothills of the Sierra Nevada to the west of the Yuba River. There are three types of soils within the Subject Property that are recognized by the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service. The three soils include Auburn-Sobrante complex gravelly, 14 to 30 percent slope, Auburn-Sobrante complex, gravelly, 30-50 percent slope and river wash. These soils are not listed as a hydric soil of Yuba County.

Biological Conditions

The Subject Property consists of foothill blue oak woodlands with an understory of native shrubs and non-native grasses. A list of biological and botanical species observed within the Subject Property and immediate surrounding area can be found in Enclosure E. Vegetation communities and Waters/Other Waters of the U.S. within the Subject Property are described below.

Foothill Blue Oak Woodlands

The foothill woodlands associated with the Subject Property are best described as a mixed-species community. Blue oak, Quercus douglasii, and gray pines, Pinus sabiniana, are the most characteristic trees in the foothill blue oak woodlands. Live oaks, Quercus wislizeni, are an important tree in this community also. Non-sprouting chaparral shrubs are scattered about, such as Ceanothus cuneatus, various manzanitas related to Arctosphylos viscida or Arctostaphylos

manzanita, Rhamnus californica ssp. tomentella, and Rhus diversiloba. Foothill woodland canopies can become too dense to support a typical ground cover, as on steep north slopes, where thickets of scrubby evergreen trees are mixed with deciduous Aesculus california (north slope phase), or in semi-chaparral thickets of small interior live oaks, Quercus wislizeni. (Barbour and Major, 1988).

Ruderal Non-native Grasses and Forbs

Non-native ruderal grasslands are a characteristic understory and ground cover within the oak woodlands and ephemeral drainages. Non-native ruderal grassland habitats and species composition depend largely on annual precipitation, fire regimes and grazing practices. Common botanical species found in the non-native annual grasslands in the Subject Property include wild oat (Avena sp.), soft chess (Bromus hordeaceus), red brome (Bromus madritensis ssp. rubens), and Italian rye (Lolium multiflorum). Invasive species such as yellow star thistle (Centaurea solstitialis), medusahead grass (Taeniatherum caput-medusae), and Italian thistle (Carduus pycnocephalus) were also observed within the non-native grasslands within the Subject Property. Wildlife species use grassland habitat for foraging but require some other habitat characteristic such as rocky out crops, cliffs, caves or ponds in order to find shelter and cover for escapement. Biological species observed within the Subject Property non-native grasslands included California ground squirrel, gold finch (Spinus tristis), lesser gold finch (Carduelis psaltria), California quail (Callipepla californica), and killdeer (Charadrius vociferus).

Ephemeral Drainages

Non-wetland, Other Waters of the U.S (OWUS) within the Subject Property consist of several unnamed ephemeral swales. Slopes of 15 to 30% within these swales allow flows to move rapidly and limits ponding or pooling. The swales do not support a prevalence of hydrophytic vegetation or well developed hydric soils. Common botanical species found within these swales include Italian rye, blackberry, and wild oats. The campground is substantially laid out as it has been in use as a private campground for several decades. There are no plans to significantly alter the current site layout, and there are no anticipated impacts to the ephemeral drainages. Current plans call for improvements to existing roads and camp areas, creation of a septic system, installation of restroom facilities and other minor improvements. These plans do not call for impacts to the ephemeral drainages.

Regional Species and Habitats of Concern

Marcus H. Bole & Associates prepared the following table of species that have the potential to occur within the project's Subject Property and is composed of special-status species within the USGS "Smarstville, Oregon House, French Corral, Rough and Ready, Wolf, Camp Far West, Wheatland, Browns Valley and Loma Rica" 7.5 minute quadrangles. Species that have the potential to occur within the Subject Property are based on suitable habitat within the Subject Property, CNDDB occurrences within a five mile radius of the Subject Property and observations made during biological/botanical surveys. Not all species listed within Table 1 have the potential to occur within the Subject Property based on unsuitable habitat and/or lack of recorded observations within a five mile radius of the Project Area.

Table 1: Evaluation of Listed and Proposed Species Potentially Occurring or Known to Occur in the Cal Sierra Limited LP Project Action Area

Common Name *(Scientific Name)*	**Status** Fed/State / CNPS	**General Habitat Description**	**Habitat Present/ Habitat Absent**	**Rationale**
INVERTEBRATES				
Valley elderberry longhorn beetle *(Desmocerus californicus dimorphus)*	FT/_/_	Blue elderberry shrubs usually associated with riparian areas.	A/HA	There are no elderberry shrubs within the Action Area, or within 1,000 feet of the Action Area. **No Effect.**
Vernal pool fairy shrimp *(Branchinecta lynchi)*	FT/_/_	Moderately turbid, deep, cool-water vernal pool.	A/HA	There are no vernal pools within the Action Area. **No Effect.**
REPTILES AND AMPHIBIANS				
Northwestern pond turtle *(Emys marmorata marmorata)*	_/SSC/_	Artificial ponds, pond margins, back waters of rivers, and sloughs vegetated by heavy riparian and/or emergent vegetation and basking areas. A thoroughly aquatic turtle of ponds, marshes, rivers, streams and irrigation ditches, usually with aquatic vegetation, below 6,000 ft elevation.	A/HA	There is no suitable habitat to support this species within the Subject Property. **No Effect.**
California red-legged frog *(Rana draytonii)*	FT/SSC/_	Quiet pools of streams, marshes and occasionally ponds. (sea level - 4,500 ft. elevation)	A/HA	There is no suitable habitat within or near the property to support this species. **No Effect.**
Giant garter snake *(Thamnophis gigas)*	FT/ST/_	Agricultural wetlands and other wetlands such as irrigation and drainage canals, low gradient streams, marshes ponds, sloughs, small lakes, and there associated uplands.	A/HA	There is no suitable habitat within or near the property to support this species. **No Effect.**
Foothill yellow-legged frog *(Rana boylii)*	_/SE/_	Partly shaded, shallow streams and riffles with a rocky substrate in a variety of habitats. Needs at least some cobble-sized substrate for egg laying. Needs at least 15 weeks to attain metamorphosis.	A/HA	There is no suitable habitat to support this species within the Subject Property. **No Effect**

Common Name *(Scientific Name)*	**Status** Fed/State / CNPS	**General Habitat Description**	**Habitat Present/ Habitat Absent**	**Rationale**
FISH				
Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha)*	FT/ST/_	Sacramento River and its tributaries.	A/HA	The Subject Property has a setback from the Yuba River and no impact to fish species is anticipated. **May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect**
Central Valley steelhead *(Oncorhynchus mykiss)*	FT/_/_	Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers and their tributaries.	A/HA	The Subject Property has a setback from the Yuba River and no impact to fish species is anticipated. **May Affect, Not Likely to Adversely Affect**
Delta Smelt *(Hypomesus transpacificus)*	FT/SE/_	Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers and their tributaries.	A/HA	There is no suitable habitat to support this species within the Subject Property. **No Effect.**
BIRDS and OWLS				
California black rail *(Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus)*	MBTA/ST /_	Inhabits freshwater marshes, wet meadows and shallow margins of saltwater marshes boardering larger bays.	A/HA	There is no suitable habitat to support this species within the Subject Property. **No Effect.**
Long-eared owl *(Asio otus)*	MBTA/SS C/_	Frequents dense, riparian and live oak thickets near meadow edges, and nearby woodland and forest habitats.	A/HA	There are no extensive parcels of riparian habitat within or near the Project Area. None were observed during the habitat survey. **No Effect.**
MAMMALS				
Hoary bat *(Lariurus cinereus)*	None	Roost in large to medium sized trees with dense foliage.	A/HA	There are no extensive parcels of riparian habitat with dense foliage within or near the Action Area. None were observed during the habitat survey. **No Effect.**
Western red bat *(Lasiurus blossevillii)*	_/SSC/_	Roosting habitat includes riparian forests associated with cottonwoods and sycamores, oak woodlands and occasionally orchards adjacent to stream systems.	A/HA	There is no suitable habitat to support this species within the Subject Property. **No Effect.**
Yuma myotis *(Myotis yumanensis)*	None	Roosts in buildings, small crevices, bridges and occasionally old swallow nests. Prefers open woodland habitat and is commonly associated with water.	A/HA	There are no bridges, crevices or old nests in or near the Project Area. None were observed during the habitat survey. **No Effect.**
PLANTS				
Brandegee's clarkia *(Clarkia biloba ssp. Brandegeeae)*	_/_/4.2	Chaparral, cismotane woodland, lower montane coniferous forest. Often in road cuts.	A/HP	Surveys were conducted throughout the Subject Property with none found. **No Effect.**

Common Name *(Scientific Name)*	**Status** Fed/State / CNPS	**General Habitat Description**	**Habitat Present/ Habitat Absent**	**Rationale**
Dwarf downingia (Downingia pusilla)	_/_/2B.2	Valley and foothill grassland (mesic sites), vernal pools.	A/HA	There are no vernal pools near Project Area. None were observed during the habitat survey. **No Effect.**

CODE DESIGNATIONS

FE = Federally-listed Endangered
FT = Federally-listed Threatened
FC = Federal Candidate Species
BCC = Federal Bird of Conservation Concern
MBTA = Protected by the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act
SE = State-listed Endangered
ST = State-listed Threatened
SR = State-listed Rare
SSC = State Species of Special Concern
S1 = State Critically Imperiled
S2 = State Imperiled
S3 = State Vulnerable
S4 = State Apparently Secure
SSC = CDFW Species of Special Concern
FP =CDFW Fully Protected Species

A = Species Absent
P = Species Present
HA = Habitat Absent
HP = Habitat Present
CH = Critical Habitat
MH = Marginal Habitat
CNPS 1B = Rare or Endangered in California or elsewhere
CNPS 2 = Rare or Endangered in California, more common elsewhere
CNPS 3 = More information is needed
CNPS 4 = Plants with limited distribution
0.1 =Seriously Threatened
0.2 = Fairly Threatened
0.3 = Not very Threatened

Listed and Migratory Birds

Nesting birds are protected under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 USC 703) and the CFWC (3503). The MBTA (16 USC §703) prohibits the killing of migratory birds or the destruction of their occupied nests and eggs except in accordance with regulations prescribed by the USFWS. The bird species covered by the MBTA includes nearly all of those that breed in North America, excluding introduced (i.e. exotic) species (50 Code of Federal Regulations §10.13). Activities that involve the removal of vegetation including trees, shrubs, grasses, and forbs or ground disturbance has the potential to affect bird species protected by the MBTA. The CFWC (§3503.5) states that it is "unlawful to take, possess, or destroy any birds in the order Falconiformes (hawks, eagles, and falcons) or Strigiformes (all owls except barn owls) or to take, possess, or destroy the nest or eggs of any such bird except as otherwise provided by this code or any regulation adopted pursuant thereto". Take includes the disturbance of an active nest resulting in the abandonment or loss of young. The CFWC (§3503) also states that "it is unlawful to take, possess, or needlessly destroy the nest or eggs of any bird, except as otherwise provided by this code or any regulation made pursuant thereto".

Survey Results

During the migratory bird and raptor survey conducted during August 2022, there were no observed nests within the Subject Property or the 500 foot buffer around the property. Although there are numerous large blue oaks within the property, no evidence of nesting birds, owls, or hawks was observed.

Mitigation Measure 4.1 California Avian Species Of Special Concern

Any vegetation removal and/or ground disturbance activities should begin during the avian non-breeding (September 1 – February 28) season so as to avoid and minimize impacts to avian species. If construction is to begin within the avian breeding season (March 1 – August 31) then a migratory bird and raptor survey shall be conducted within the Subject Property by a qualified biologist. A qualified biologist shall: Conduct a survey for all birds protected by the MBTA and CFWC no later than fifteen (15) days prior to construction activities; map all nests located within 250 feet of construction areas; develop buffer zones around active nests as recommended by a qualified biologist. Construction activity shall be prohibited within the buffer zones until the young have fledged or the nest fails. Nests shall be monitored at least twice (2) per week and a report submitted to the Yuba County Planning monthly. If construction activities stop for more than ten (10) days then another migratory bird and raptor survey shall be conducted no later than fifteen (15) days prior to the continuation of construction activities.

Roosting Bats

Bat surveys were conducted in August, 2022, by Marcus H. Bole, Senior Wildlife Biologist, and Charlene J. Bole, Senior Wildlife Biologist, Marcus H. Bole & Associates, Wheatland, California. A "Presence/Not detected & Relative Abundance" survey protocol was selected using night visual observations (Famous Trails 380 Marauder Night-Vision Monocular -FT-380), and

ultrasonic (Baton Bat Detector, frequency division with sonogram) bat pass detections in real time. Unlike netting and trapping, no handling is involved during ultrasonic detection, and therefore disturbance is minimized. However, positive species identification is not usually possible, nor is assessment of age, sex, or reproductive condition. Instead, ultrasonic detection is used to determine levels of bat activity in different habitats. Surveys were conducted to determine potentially-suited bat habitat using bat detection as one parameter of habitat determination. The chosen protocol recommends sampling between the beginning of May and end of August. Sampling was conducted during the first week of August, 2022. The California Natural Diversity Data Base (CNDDB) has no record the presence of special status bats including the Hoary bat (Lariurus cinereus),Western red bat (Lasiurus blossevillii), pallid bat (Antrozous pallidus), Townsend's big-eared bat (Corynorhinus townsendii), or the Yuma myotis bat (Myotis yumanensis) within 10 miles of the Study Area. Normally, the optimal habitats for these bats are riparian areas with sources of water over which to feed. The Yuba River to the east of the Subject Property has a very thin riparian zone. The onsite trees were thoroughly examined with no evidence of bat roosts or potential areas that would support bat roosts. All trees within the Subject Property and within a 500 foot radius of the Study Area site were thoroughly examined for cavities, crevices and deep bark fissures that would support bat roosts. No potential tree roosts were identified.

Rare Plants

MHBA's biologist/botanist Charlene J. Bole, M.S., conducted the special-status plant survey on August 2, 2022. The survey was conducted in accordance with guidelines promulgated by USFWS (USFWS 2000), CDFW (CDFW 2018), and CNPS (CNPS 2001). Ms. Bole walked meandering transects throughout the Subject Property, including all suitable habitats for target species, and identified all plant species to the lowest possible taxonomic level required to assess rarity.

Survey Results

No special special-status plant species were observed during the survey.

RESULTS: PERMITS AND TECHNICAL STUDIES FOR SPECIAL LAWS OR CONDITIONS

Federal Endangered Species Act Consultation Summary

The USFWS was contacted on July 6, 2022, for a list of endangered, threatened, sensitive and rare species, and their habitats within the Project Area. The list was derived from special-status species that occur or have the potential to occur within the USGS "Smartville, Oregon House, French Corral, Rough and Ready, Wolf, Camp Far West, Wheatland, Browns Valley and Loma Rica" 7.5 minute quadrangles. The list was later referenced to determine appropriate biological and botanical surveys and potential species occurrence within the Project Area.

California Endangered Species Act Consultation Summary

The CDFW was consulted on July 5, 2022, for a list of endangered, threatened, sensitive and rare species, and their habitats within or near the Subject Property. The list was derived from special-status species that occur or have the potential to occur within the USGS "Smartville, Oregon House, French Corral, Rough and Ready, Wolf, Camp Far West, Wheatland, Browns Valley and Loma Rica" 7.5 minute quadrangles. The list was later referenced to determine appropriate biological and botanical surveys and potential species occurrence within the Subject Property.

Project Impacts

With the implementation of avoidance and minimization measures there will be no direct or indirect impacts to avian or bat species of special concern protected under the MBTA and CFWC. Direct impacts to avian species of special concern and species protected under the MBTA and CFWC will be avoided or minimized by beginning construction prior to the avian breeding season (March 1 – August 31) or conducting a pre-construction survey prior to the start of construction activities if construction activities will begin during the avian breeding season. By beginning construction prior to the avian breeding season there will be no active nests within the Subject Property and direct impacts to avian species will not occur. Furthermore, beginning construction prior to the avian breeding season will also deter avian species from nesting within or within close proximity of construction activities, which will also avoid impacts to species. If construction activities are to take place during the avian breeding season then a pre-construction survey will be conducted to determine the locations of active avian nests within and/or near proximity to the Subject Property (i.e 500 feet). If active avian nests are found then construction buffers, as determined by a qualified biologist, will be established and no construction will occur within the buffer until the biologist has determined that the young have fledged. Establishing no-construction buffers around active nests will minimize direct impacts. Therefore, there are ***less than significant impacts with mitigation measures***.

Cumulative Effects

There are no foreseeable new actions that have potential to threaten protected birds, raptors or bats within the Subject Property or contribute to cumulative effects of migratory bird species. There will be no cumulative impacts to special status plant species.

c) **Wetland Determination Results**

MHBA conducted a delineation of Waters of the U.S. within the Project Area. Features mentioned in the wetland delineation report addressed all features in the Project Area. Surveys were conducted on August 2, 2022 by MHBA's Marcus H. Bole. The surveys involved an examination of botanical resources, soils, hydrological features, and determination of wetland characteristics based on the *United States Army Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual (1987); the Regional Supplement to the Corps of Engineers Wetland Delineation Manual: Arid West Region (2008); the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Jurisdictional Determination Form Instructional Guidebook (2007); the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Ordinary High Flows and the Stage-Discharge Relationship in the Arid West Region (2011); and*

the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Field Guide to the Identification of the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM) in the Arid West Region of the Western United States (2008).

Using the methodologies described in the *1987 Wetland Delineation Manual*, Marcus H. Bole & Associates found no federal jurisdictional wetland habitats within the boundaries of the Subject Property. There are several ephemeral drainage swales that may qualify as Other Waters of the United States; however, each of these swales has a setback of at least 50 feet with no plans to impact the bed or banks of the swales. The Yuba River is located immediately east of the Subject Property. There is a setback from the river and the project will not encroach upon the bed or banks of the river. Site soils were identified as Auburn-Sobrante complex gravelly, 14 to 30 percent slope, Auburn-Sobrante complex, gravelly, 30-50 percent slope and river wash. Soil pits were dug in representative areas of the site. All soils were identified as upland soils with no hydric soil indicators, therefore the impact is ***less than significant***.

d) Essential fish habitat (EFH) means those waters and substrate necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity (Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA) §3). There is no habitat within the Subject Property that provides "waters and substrate necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity," or special-status fish species managed under a fishery council (i.e chinook and coho). Therefore there is no EFH or the need for federal fisheries consultation. There is a set-back from the Yuba River that is not part of the campground project. There are no anticipated impacts to the bed or banks of the Yuba River.

However, the applicants are proposing to allow fishing as a part of this project. Fishing access will require a fee per angler per day. Add this online to your reservation or pay the campground host. A maximum of 5 passes are allowed per day. Anglers must have a CA fishing license and follow all CA State fishing regulations, including tackle and catch limit requirements.

As required by DFW regulations, fishing is closed at the campground from August 31 to December 1 at the campground and anywhere upstream of the Parks Bar, Highway 20 bridge to protect spawning salmon and steelhead. Fishing is allowed downstream of the Highway 20 bridge all year. The following Mitigation Measure shall be implemented to reduce impacts to EFH:

Mitigation Measure 4.2 Fishing in the Yuba River

> Fishing shall be closed at the campground from August 31 to December 1 at the campground and anywhere upstream of the Parks Bar/Highway 20 bridge to protect spawning salmon and steelhead.

Therefore there is no EFH or the need for federal fisheries consultation and there is a ***less than significant impact with mitigation***.

e) There would be no conflicts with General Plan policies regarding Mitigation of biological resources. The County has no ordinances explicitly protecting biological resources. Therefore, there is ***no impact***.

f) No habitat conservation plans or similar plans currently apply to the project site. Both Yuba and Sutter Counties recently ended participation in a joint Yuba-Sutter Natural Community Conservation Plan/Habitat Conservation Plan (NCCP/HCP). The project site was not located within the proposed boundaries of the former plan and no conservation strategies have been proposed to date which would be in conflict with the project. Therefore, there is ***no impact***.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in 15064.5?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to 15064.5?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	☐	☒	☐	☐

Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:
a) – d) A Cultural Resource Study which included a pedestrian field survey was conducted for the project by Sean Michael Jensen, M.A. from Genesis Society in August, 2022. Here is a summary of the study and proposed mitigation measures:

Project Background

This report details the results of a cultural resources inventory survey of approximately 20- acres of land located immediately west of the Yuba River, and immediately east of Gunning Park Road, approximately 0.25-miles northeast of the historic community of Timbuctoo, and approximately 0.5-miles northeast of State Route 20, within the southeastern portion of Yuba County, California.

The proposed project will involve development of the existing property as a commercial campground facility, which will involve improvements to existing roads and camp areas, creation of a septic system, installation of restroom facilities, and other minor improvements.

Since the project will involve physical disturbance to ground surface and sub-surface components in conjunction with commercial campground development, it has the potential to impact cultural resources that may be located within the Area of Potential Effect (APE). In this case, the APE consists the circa 20-acre parcel. Evaluation of the project's potential to impact cultural resources must be undertaken in conformity with Yuba County rules and regulations, and in compliance with requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970, Public Resources Code, Section 21000, et seq. (CEQA), and The California CEQA Environmental Quality Act Guidelines, California Administrative Code, Section 15000 et seq. (Guidelines as amended).

Location

The present APE incorporates approximately 20-acres of land located immediately west of the Yuba River, and immediately east of Gunning Park Road, approximately 0.25-miles northeast of the historic community of Timbuctoo, and approximately 0.5-miles northeast of State Route 20, within the southeastern portion of Yuba County, California. Lands affected are located within a portion of Sections 21, 28 and 29 of Township 16 North, Range 6 East, as shown on the USGS Smarstville, California, 7.5' Series Quadrangle (see attached Figure 1 and 2).

Environment

The project area consists of northern Sacramento Valley lands located approximately 0.4- miles southeast of the confluence of the Yuba and Feather Rivers, within a basin that receives winter storm runoff from a significant watershed. The basin is formed in deep sediments of the Sacramento Valley, which in turn has been uplifted along its eastern margin where it interfaces with the lower foothills of the Sierra Nevada, and along its western margin where it interfaces with the Coast Range.

Topography within the APE is ranges from 55-60-feet above sea level. The region is characterized by a Mediterranean climate, with cool, rainy winters and hot, dry summers. The average annual temperature for the project area ranges from 51-75ºF, with the hottest temperatures occurring in July, reaching on average a maximum of 94ºF. The average yearly rainfall totals for the area are approximately 19.37 inches, with the maximum annual precipitation occurring in January.

The region once supported a variety of flora and fauna taxa which have been subsequently replaced with domesticated plants and a slimmer variety of animals, including marsh birds, ducks, geese, raptors, reptiles, amphibians and small mammals.

In view of the substantial surface water sources throughout this area, indigenous use and occupation was generally intensive, but the population was not randomly distributed. Clearly, the most intensively occupied land areas were at elevated locations along the river systems and along the Valley/Foothill interface.

Prehistory

The project area is located at the interface of the Sacramento Valley with the lower reaches of the northern Sierra Nevada (Bateman and Wahrhaftig 1966). Tertiary placer deposits are also exposed throughout the region (Clark 1980) and were discovered early in 1849 resulting in a substantial influx of European Americans seeking gold, followed almost immediately by a whole series of landscape modifications as miners churned and sifted every inch of every creek and river bottom in the County, including the Yuba River and most of its ephemeral tributaries within the project region.

Prior to disturbance associated with mining, vegetation was dominated by a Foothill- Woodland Community, with small meadows and meadow margins containing both Valley and Blue Oaks, and stream margins dominated in some areas, especially along the Yuba River, by willow, native

sycamore, dense blackberry thickets, and a variety of brush species (Barbour and Major 1977; Kuchler 1977).

Well-watered and containing an abundance of both plant and animal resources, the project region was intensively utilized and densely populated during prehistoric times. Benches and flats flanking primary stream courses such as the Yuba River and its tributaries were utilized for open-air camps and villages.

Native vegetation still dominates the majority of the project area, although mining beginning in the middle of the 19th Century and especially subsequent ranching have resulted in extensive vegetation clearing in some areas in order to improve pasture. Today vegetation within the project APE is generally consists of grasses, oaks, and pine, as well as various brush species, especially poison oak.

Various species of waterfowl routinely migrate through the project area, including Canada geese, mallard, cinnamon teal, American wigeon, common goldeneye, bufflehead, and common merganser. As well, raptor species include red-tailed hawk, sharp-shinned hawk and American kestrel. Upland bird species such as California quail are also commonly observed in the area.

Terrestrial species include deer mouse, western harvest mouse, California meadow vole, Botta's pocket gopher, beaver, coyote, bobcat, and gray fox.

Prehistoric use and occupation focused on major surface water sources and other natural resource areas, with particular emphasis given to stream confluences and to ecotones created at the interface of foothill/valley lands, elements of which are located within and/or near the present study area.

Generally, environmental conditions within the region have remained stable throughout the past 8-10,000 years, although minor fluctuations in overall precipitation and temperature regime have been documented, and these may have influenced prehistoric patterns of land use and settlement.

All of the APE is situated within moderately sloping lands which descend easterly toward the Yuba River. All of the APE has been affected by past ranching, logging and camping-related activities over the past 150 years.

Ethnography

The project area is located within territory occupied by the Nisenan at the time of initial contact with European Americans (Wilson and Towne 1978: Figure 1). The Nisenan are Native American peoples also referred to as “Southern Maidu” who occupied the drainages of the southern Feather River and Honcut Creek in the north, through Bear River and the Yuba and American River drainages in the south. Villages were frequently located on flats adjoining streams, and were inhabited mainly in the winter as it was usually necessary to go out into the hills and higher elevation zones to establish temporary camps during food gathering seasons (i.e., spring, summer and fall).

As with all northern California Indian groups, economic life for the Nisenan revolved around hunting, fishing and the collecting of plant foods. These people were very sophisticated in terms of their knowledge of the uses of local animals and plants, and of the availability of raw material sources that could be used in manufacturing an immense array of primary and secondary tools and implements. Unfortunately, only fragmentary evidence of the material culture of these people remains, due in part to perishability and in part to the impacts to archaeological sites resulting from later (historic) land uses (mining, timber harvest, and ranching).
Based on the results of previous survey work within the general and immediate area, the potential range of prehistoric site types included the following:

- Surface scatters of lithic artifacts and debitage associated with midden accumulations (sometimes including other surface features such as housepit depressions, mortar holes, petroglyphs), resulting from protracted occupation along stream channels, particularly where streams merge with one another.
- Surface scatters of lithic artifacts and debitage without midden accumulations, resulting from short-term occupation and/or specialized economic activities.
- Bedrock milling stations, including especially mortar holes, where suitable bedrock outcrops are exposed.
- Petroglyphs.
- Isolated finds of aboriginal artifacts and flakes.

As noted above, it was not expected that all of these site types would be encountered within the APE, but rather that these would be the most likely *types* to be encountered if any sites or features were identified at all.

Historic Context

Historic evidence exists to document that some of the Spanish and Mexican expeditions may have come through and made brief stays within northern California. John Work's fur trapping expedition through central California in 1832-33, the best documented of the initial forays into Valley, introduced several communicable diseases to the Native inhabitants which turned out to be devastating to Nisenan culture and society (Malony 1945; Cook 1976).

The next major incursion by White men occurred during the Gold Rush period, which in this area began in 1849-1850 with mining operations along within the "Mother Lode" of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Rich, gold bearing quartz deposits were identified within the Browns Valley region as early as 1850. Consequently, one Mr. Brown evidently mined $12,000 of gold in the area (Gudde 1998). By 1851, a mill had been constructed to process gold in the Browns Valley area, approximately 3.5-miles west of the present APE.

Increased mining activity resulted in a burgeoning population, and the town of Browns Valley peaked during the 1850's-1860's. During this time, the town sported two-dozen saloons, hotels, churches, stores and school.

Mining activity began its decline around 1875 and continued to do so over the next decade. Consequently, the economic emphasis of the region shifted to agriculture, with a variety of crops

and livestock becoming prolific throughout the region. Accompanying the intensification of agriculture was the need for reliable water delivery.

The Browns Valley Irrigation District (BVID) was organized on September 19, 1888 under the Wright irrigation law (Mead 1901). Construction on the Browns Valley Ditch began in 1890. Diverting water from the Yuba River, water was transported to lower elevations beginning in 1892 (Johnson and Theodoratus 1978). Shortly after incorporation, BVID began purchasing various mining ditches in order to fulfill the needs of customers in their service area.
While mining slowed in the region during the latter portion of the 19th century, it witnessed a reinvigoration during the 20th century, primarily as a result of Wendell P. Hammon's innovative dredging operations. Hammon arrived in California in 1875, and after a five-year stint in Butte County agriculture, turned to mining along the Feather River, and ultimately focused his efforts on the Yuba River. With the financial backing of R.D. Evans of Boston, Massachusetts, Hammon incorporated the Yuba Consolidated Goldfields, which included most of the lands immediately west of the present APE. Having entered into various agreements with the federal government, Hammon began dredging the massive debris fields that had resulted from past hydraulic, lode and placer mining that had accumulated within the Yuba River basin. Along with the mining activities, Hammon was instrumental in local levee construction, construction of various impound structures and dams, and ultimately formed the community of Hammonton. In all, Yuba Consolidated Goldfields operated between 1902 and 1968, only terminating operations when the cost of extraction exceeded gold profitability (Newland et al. 2005).

Within, or immediately adjacent to the subject property, a number of 19th century mining efforts have been documented, and their relevant and pertinent data have been preserved by Theodoratus (1976). The gold mining efforts of record for the area include the Hyde Mining Company's efforts straddling Sections 28 and 29. This operation is only mentioned in 1868; the extent and effort of this operation is unknown. Also included in the ethnographic record of mining in the immediate project region is the Cleopatra Quartz Mine. Mayor entered the claim in 1885, and in 1894 the Minerologist's Report states that the Excelsior Water and Mining Company was the owner of record. To that date, only assessments of the mine had been done; no mining activity had been undertaken. In 1911, the mine was patented. Finally, the Antone Mining Company claim appears immediately west of the present APE.

Resource Considerations, Historic Resources: Historic overviews for the region document a range of historic site and feature types within this portion of Yuba County in particular and the Northern Sacramento Valley in general. These range from remnant structures within historic communities to isolated farms, homesteads and ranch complexes, and irrigation ditches and canals, and drainage and other water conveyance features.

RECORDS SEARCH and SOURCES CONSULTED

Several types of information were considered relevant to evaluating the types of archaeological sites and site distribution that might be encountered within the project area. The information evaluated prior to conducting the pedestrian survey includes data maintained by the North Central Information Center, and available published and unpublished documents relevant to regional prehistory, ethnography, and early historic developments.

Records at North Central Information Center

The official Yuba County archaeological records were examined on July 18, 2022 (NCIC File No. YUB-22-20). This search documented the following existing conditions for 20- acres, and for a 0.25-mile radius surrounding the 20-acre parcel.

- According to the Information Center's records, one (1) cultural resources investigation has been conducted within the present APE (NCIC Report # 48), and no investigations have been conducted within the 0.25-mile search radius surrounding the APE.
- According to the Information Center's records, one (1) prehistoric resource (P-58-460) has been documented within the southwestern portion of the present APE. No historic-era resources have been documented within the APE. Fourteen (14) additional resources have been documented outside of the APE, but within the 0.25-mile radius records search boundary.

Other Sources Consulted

In addition to examining the archaeological site and survey records of Yuba County maintained at the North Central Information Center, the following sources were also included in the search conducted at the Information Center, or were evaluated separately:

- The National Register of Historic Places (1986, Supplements).
- The California Register of Historical Resources.
- The California Inventory of Historic Resources (State of California 1976).
- The California Historical Landmarks (State of California 1996).
- The California Points of Historical Interest (May 1992 and updates).
- The Historic Property Data File (OHP 2012).
- Determination of Effects (OHP 2012).
- 1867 GLO Plat, T16N, R6E.
- Smartville, CA USGS 7.5' quadrangle (1949, 1951).
- NETR Topographic Maps (1951, 1953, 1956, 1964, 1976, 1995, 2012, 2015, 2018), and aerial photos (1947, 1984, 1998, 2005, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018).
- Existing published and unpublished documents relevant to prehistory, ethnography, and early historic developments in the vicinity. These sources, reviewed below, provided a general environmental and cultural context by means of which to assess likely site types and distribution patterns for the project area.

CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY and CULTURAL INVENTORY

Survey Strategy and Field Work

All of the APE was subjected to intensive pedestrian survey by means of walking parallel transects spaced at 20-meter intervals.

In searching for cultural resources, the surveyor considered the results of background research and was alert for any unusual contours, soil changes, distinctive vegetation patterns, exotic materials, artifacts, feature or feature remnants and other possible markers of cultural sites.

Fieldwork was undertaken on July 24, 2022 by Principal Investigator, Sean Michael Jensen, M.A. Mr. Jensen is a professional archaeologist, historian and architectural historian, with more than 34 years of experience in archaeology, architectural history and history, who meets the professional requirements of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation (Federal Register, Vol. 48, No. 190), as demonstrated in his listing on the California Historical Resources Information System list of qualified archaeologists, architectural historians and historians. No special problems were encountered and all survey objectives were satisfactorily achieved.

General Field Observations

Disturbance to the ground surface ranges from minimal to moderate-substantial throughout the APE. Examination of the NETR Aerial (1947, 1984, 1998, 2005, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018) and quadrangle maps (1951, 1953, 1956, 1964, 1976, 1995, 2012, 2015, 2018) for the APE provides a clear history of the property over the past seven+ decades.

Aside from a road trending generally northwest-southeast within the eastern portion of the APE, no structures, buildings, or other cultural features appear on either the aerial photographs of the APE, or on the topographic maps, until the 2009-2010 aerial images. Numerous access roads, graded pads, and various contemporary features associated with contemporary camping and recreation appear on these and later aerial images. A covered works space, well, parking, landscaping and a small trailer/home are all located within the southwestern portion of the APE.

Indigenous Resources

As previously noted in the NCIC records search section, above, one (1) prehistoric resource has been documented within the present APE. Site P-58-460 was originally recorded by Storm, Steidel and Pope in 1975, and is described as "a midden site of two concentrations." The recorders further noted that the site area "appears to have been tree clearing and rock pick up on area and placed in piles." The site record categories of Features, Artifacts and Notes, all contain the identifier "None," which begs the question as to what the reporters actually recorded.

Nevertheless, prior to conducting the pedestrian survey, all of the available maps (site sketch maps, site location maps, project APE maps, assessor parcel maps, etc.) were examined and compared with one another. It was discovered, at this point, that the APE map submitted to the NCIC was erroneous, and the NCIC records search findings were then superimposed onto the corrected APE map. This mapping correction indicated that site P-58-460 is actually located a short distance north of the present APE. During the present pedestrian field survey attempts to verify the location of this resource failed to place the site within the present APE. A map, showing the corrected site location, will be provided to the NCIC for their records.

Consequently, no prehistoric resources were identified within the present APE.

Historic-era Resources

As previously noted, a number of late-19th through early-20th century mining operations were undertaken, or at least identified within portions of the present APE. Ethnographic research

conducted by Theodoratus (1976) fully documented the historically significant elements of the mining activity, which was "ground truthed" during the 1975 archaeological survey efforts. Consequently, while it was known that resources (of a sort) had been documented within the APE, said resources did not necessarily include physically extant materials.

Also, as previously noted, extensive contemporary disturbance was noted throughout the property. Road grading, bulldozing for recreational/camping pads, building and structures, utilities, as well as extensive past "clean up" efforts on the property, have resulted in the effective elimination of historic-era cultural resources that may have once existed during the earlier portion of the 20th century.

Evidence of mining was observed throughout the subject property, and consisted of amorphous mining waste rock accumulations, and hydrologically-generated landscape modifications. These latter features were observed in the form of simply, relatively small erosional swales dissecting the sloping terrain, and likely represent water run-off from sluicing operations.

State Protocol Agreements between the BLM and various state SHPOs have been established to address specific, ubiquitous resource types, and while this project does not fall under BLM jurisdiction, and will not be reviewed by the Office of Historic Preservation, the professional methodology was utilized to address the aforementioned resources.

According to these standards, resources identified as "categorically not eligible," a priori include: 1) isolated artifacts (typically single artifacts separated by 30 or more meters); 2) isolated or unassociated features (examples of which include prospect pits, claim markers, adits, shafts, and general landscape modifications resulting from placer and hydraulic mining); 3) post-1960 cultural material (aside from those rare resources that have achieved significance within the last 50 years, resources wholly, or mostly comprised of 1960s-era artifacts are not eligible); 4) unassociated historic artifact scatters (typically composed of artifact scatters that cannot be linked to a specific historic theme); and, 5) linear resources (these typically include roads, trails, water conveyance, fences and telecommunications lines, which are isolated from other features or deposits.

For these categorically not eligible resources, the treatment methodology employed for documentation included the aforementioned brief description (i.e., ditch, road, amorphous landscape modification, etc.). Such resources are considered Isolates, do not achieve the threshold of significant historical resource, or unique archaeological resource, and thus warrant no additional treatment or consideration.

Beyond these Isolates, no evidence of historic use or occupation was observed within the APE.

ELIGIBILITY RECOMMENDATIONS

Sites identified within the project area were to be evaluated for significance in relation to CEQA significance criteria. Historical resources per CEQA are defined as buildings, sites, structures, objects, or districts, each of which may have historical, architectural, archaeological, cultural, or scientific significance. CEQA requires that, if a project results in an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource, alternative plans or

mitigation measures must be considered; however, only significant historical resources need to be addressed. Therefore, before developing mitigation measures, the significance of cultural resources must be determined in relation to criteria presented in PRC 15064.5, which defines a historically significant resource (one eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, per PRC SS5024.1) as an archaeological site which possess one or more of the following attributes or qualities:

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

In addition, CEQA further distinguishes between archaeological sites that meet the definition of a significant historical resource as described above (for the purpose of determining effects), and "unique archaeological resources." An archaeological resource is considered "unique" (Section 21083.2(g)) when the resource not merely adds to the current body of knowledge, but when there is a high probability that the resource also:

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

PROJECT EFFECTS

A project may have a significant impact or adverse effect on significant historical resources/unique archaeological resources if the project will or could result in the physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance or values of the historic resource would be materially impaired. Actions that would materially impair a cultural resource are actions that would alter or diminish those attributes of a site that qualify the site for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources.

Based on the specific findings detailed above under ***Cultural Resources Survey and Cultural Inventory***, no significant historical resources/unique archaeological resources are present within the project area and no significant historical resources/unique archaeological resources will be affected by the undertaking, as presently proposed.

PROJECT SUMMARY

This report details the results of a cultural resources inventory survey of approximately 20- acres of land located immediately west of the Yuba River, and immediately east of Gunning Park

Road, approximately 0.25-miles northeast of the historic community of Timbuctoo, and approximately 0.5-miles northeast of State Route 20, within the southeastern portion of Yuba County, California.
The proposed project will involve development of the existing property as a commercial campground facility, which will involve improvements to existing roads and camp areas, creation of a septic system, installation of restroom facilities, and other minor improvements.

Existing records at the NCIC document that all of the present APE had been subjected to previous archaeological investigation, and that one prehistoric resource had been documented within the APE. The placement of this resource within the present APE was determined to be erroneous due to an error in the production of the APE map. Once rectified, the resource was determined to be located wholly outside of the APE. As well, the present effort included an intensive-level pedestrian survey. The pedestrian survey failed to identify any prehistoric or historic-era sites within the APE.

Consultation was undertaken with the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) re. sacred land listings for the property. An information request letter was delivered to the NAHC on July 18, 2022. The NAHC response is pending.

Based on the absence of significant historical resources/unique archaeological resources within the APE, archaeological clearance is recommended for the project/undertaking as presently proposed. For these reasons, cultural resources in the project area are ***less than significant with the following mitigation measures:***

Mitigation Measure 5.1 Inadvertent Discovery Of Human Remains

Consultation in the event of inadvertent discovery of human remains: In the event that human remains are inadvertently encountered during trenching or other ground-disturbing activity or at any time subsequently, State law shall be followed, which includes but is not limited to immediately contacting the County Coroner's office upon any discovery of human remains.

Mitigation Measure 5.2 Inadvertent Discovery Of Cultural Material

Consultation in the event of inadvertent discovery of cultural material: The present evaluation and recommendations are based on the findings of an inventory- level surface survey only. There is always the possibility that important unidentified cultural materials could be encountered on or below the surface during the course of future development activities. This possibility is particularly relevant considering the constraints generally to archaeological field survey, and particularly where past ground disturbance activities (e.g., road grading, livestock grazing, etc.) have partially obscured historic ground surface visibility, as in the present case. In the event of an inadvertent discovery of previously unidentified cultural material, archaeological consultation should be sought immediately.

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

DISCUSSION/CONCLUSION/MITIGATION:

a) & b) Energy consumption during Proposed Action construction would be minimal and restricted to that required for operating heavy machinery, including fossil fuels necessary for completion of the Proposed Action and would not impact energy resources and conflict with local plans for energy. Compliance with Title 24, Green Building Code, will ensure that all project energy efficiency requirements are net resulting in less than significant impacts. Therefore, resulting in a ***less than significant impacts***.

VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:				
i) Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	☐	☐	☒	☐
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	☐	☐	☒	☐
iii) Seismic related ground failure, including liquefaction?	☐	☐	☒	☐
iv) Landslides?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse?	☐	☐	☒	☐
d) Be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	☐	☐	☒	☐
e) Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?	☐	☐	☒	☐
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geological feature?	☐	☐	☒	☐

Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:

a) (i-iii) According to the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist, Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42, Yuba County is not one of the cities or counties affected by Earthquake Fault Zones, as of August 16, 2007. Therefore, strong seismic ground shaking and seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction is not an anticipated side effect of development in the area. A ***less than significant impact*** from earthquakes is anticipated.

(iv) The Yuba County General Plan identifies the area as one that has a low risk for landslides, and states that grading ordinances, adopted by Yuba County and based on Appendix J of the 2013 California Building Code, serve as effective measures for dealing with landslide exposure. Hazards associated with potential seismic and landslide result in a ***less than significant impact***.

b) Proposed Action activities, (e.g., site preparation and construction of any new roads or structures) would expose surface soil materials to rainfall, potentially resulting in the removal and transport of these materials to the Yuba River. Eroded material or contaminants entering the waterway could be potentially significant. Pursuant to the 2030 Yuba County General Plan Action NR5.3, Wetlands and Riparian Buffers, the Proposed Action would be required to maintain a setback of 150 feet from the Yuba River to reduce potential impacts and therefore, impacts would be **less than significant**.

c) The project area is located on a slight slope on a hillside adjacent to the Yuba River. However, the probability of soil liquefaction in the Action Area is low, thus having a low potential for lateral spreading. Overall, side slopes have suitable native vegetation, stabilizing the eroding banks along the north gully would reduce sediment load to the Yuba River. The long-term effects of the Proposed Action on drainage patterns would be beneficial. Therefore, the Proposed Action would result in a ***less than significant impact***.

d) According to Exhibit 4.6-4 Soil Erosion Hazard, of the 2030 General Plan EIR, the project site has a slight potential for soil erosion hazards. Exhibit 4.6-5 Shrink/Swell Potential indicates that the project site also contains expansive soils with a low shrink/swell potential. Expansive soils are predominantly clay material that are susceptible to shrinkage and expansion during variable water conditions (e.g., saturation and evaporation). The Action Area is comprised of Riverwash, cobble and gravelly soils, which have a low shrink-swell potential. Therefore, there would be ***no impact.***

e) The project, at some point in the future, will expand and require a septic system to accommodate the needs of the campground. Yuba County Environmental Health Department has adopted a Sewage Disposal Ordinance 7.07.440 through 7.07.530 that regulates the installation, design and type of septic system required. Additionally, the County Environmental Health Department has standard conditions that address the soil adequacy for the project. Through implementation of the County Environmental Health Department conditions of approval, the project would result in a ***less than significant impact*** to wastewater.

f) No paleontological resources have been discovered in the Action Area. Proposed Action activities would include excavation of unconsolidated mine tailings and overburden and alluvial deposits. It is unlikely that these activities would encounter paleontological resources. Therefore, potential impacts would be ***less than significant.***

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

Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:

a) Global Warming is a public health and environmental concern around the world. As global concentrations of atmospheric greenhouse gases increase, global temperatures increase, weather extremes increase, and air pollution concentrations increase. The predominant opinion within the scientific community is that global warming is currently occurring, and that it is being caused and/or accelerated by human activities, primarily the generation of "greenhouse gases" (GHG).

In 2006, the California State Legislature adopted AB32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in California. Greenhouse gases, as defined under AB 32, include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydro fluorocarbons, per fluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride. AB 32 requires the California Air Resources Board (ARB), the State agency charged with regulating statewide air quality, to adopt rules and regulations that would achieve greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to statewide levels in 1990 by 2020.

In 2008, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) adopted the Scoping Plan for AB32. The Scoping Plan identifies specific measures to reduce GHG emissions to 1990 levels by 2020, and requires ARB and other state agencies to develop and enforce regulations and other initiatives for reducing GHGs. The Scoping Plan also recommends, but does not require, an emissions reduction goal for local governments of 15% below "current" emissions to be achieved by 2020 (per Scoping Plan current is a point in time between 2005 and 2008). The Scoping Plan also recognized that Senate Bill 375 Sustainable Communities and Climate Protection Act of 2008 (SB 375) is the main action required to obtain the necessary reductions from the land use and transportation sectors in order to achieve the 2020 emissions reduction goals of AB 32.

SB 375 complements AB 32 by reducing GHG emission reductions from the State's transportation sector through land use planning strategies with the goal of more economic and environmentally sustainable (i.e., fewer vehicle miles travelled) communities. SB 375 requires that the ARB establish GHG emission reduction targets for 2020 and 2035 for each of the state's 18 metropolitan planning organizations (MPO). Each MPO must then prepare a plan called a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) that demonstrates how the region will meet its SB 375 GHG reduction target through integrated land use, housing, and transportation planning.

The Sacramento Area Council of Governments (SACOG), the MPO for Yuba County, adopted an SCS for the entire SACOG region as part of the 2035 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) on April 19, 2012. The GHG reduction target for the SACOG area is 7 percent per capita by 2020 and 16 percent per capita by 2035 using 2055 levels as the baseline. Further information regarding SACOG's MTP/SCS and climate change can be found at http://www.sacog.org/2035/.

While AB32 and SB375 target specific types of emissions from specific sectors, and ARBs Scoping Plan outlines a set of actions designed to reduce overall GHG emissions it does not provide a GHG significance threshold for individual projects. Air districts around the state have begun articulating region-specific emissions reduction targets to identify the level at which a project may have the potential to conflict with statewide efforts to reduce GHG emissions (establish thresholds). To date, the Feather River Air Quality Management District (FRAQMD) has not adopted a significance threshold for analyzing project generated emissions from plans or development projects or a methodology for analyzing impacts. Rather FRAQMD recommends that local agencies utilize information from the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association (CAPCOA), Attorney General's Office, Cool California, or the California Natural Resource Agency websites when developing GHG evaluations through CEQA.

GHGs are emitted as a result of activities in residential buildings when electricity and natural gas are used as energy sources. New California buildings must be designed to meet the building energy efficiency standards of Title 24, also known as the California Building Standards Code. Title 24 Part 6 regulates energy uses including space heating and cooling, hot water heating, ventilation, and hard-wired lighting that are intended to help reduce energy consumption and therefore GHG emissions. As mentioned previously, FRAQMD does not have an established significance threshold for campgrounds, however, they do have a threshold for a motel which is similar in nature to a campground. The established significance threshold for a motel is 275 motel rooms, which is the number estimated to generate emissions of 25 pounds per day of ROG and 25 pounds per day of NOx. Therefore, the campground improvements will likely not generate significant GHG emissions that would result in a cumulatively considerable contribution to climate change impacts. The impact related to greenhouse gas emissions would result in ***less than significant***.

b) The project is consistent with the Air Quality & Climate Change policies within the Public Health & Safety Section of the 2030 General Plan therefore, the project has ***no impact*** with any applicable plan, policy or regulation.

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

Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:

a) & b) There would be no routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials or the release of hazardous materials into the environment related to this drainage improvement project. The closest school site is Vantage Point Charter School in Penn Valley, is over seven miles east of the Action Area. Moreover, the project site is currently zoned for rural residential uses,

therefore, the proposed project would not introduce a new hazardous use that has not already been evaluated in the 2030 Yuba County General Plan. Impacts would be considered ***less than significant.***

c) The project will involve development of the existing property as a commercial campground facility, which will involve improvements to existing roads and camp areas, creation of a septic system, installation of restroom facilities, and other minor improvements. Construction equipment typically uses only a minor amount of hazardous materials, primarily motor vehicle fuels and oils. Because of their limited quantity, these materials would present a minor hazard, and only if spillage occurs. Standard spill prevention and control measures will be maintained by the contractor. Use of these materials would cease once project construction is completed. This project would not produce or create significant hazardous materials with the following Mitigation Measure:

Mitigation Measure 9.1 Construction Measures

Construction specifications shall include the following measures to reduce potential impacts in the project area associated with accidental spills of pollutants (e.g., fuel, oil, grease):

- A site-specific prevention plan shall be implemented for potentially hazardous materials. The plan shall include the proper handling and storage of all potentially hazardous materials, as well as the proper procedures for cleaning up and reporting any spills. If necessary, containment berms shall be constructed to prevent spilled materials from reaching surface water features.
- Equipment and hazardous materials shall be stored a minimum of 50 feet away from surface water features.
- Vehicles and equipment used during construction shall receive proper and timely maintenance to reduce the potential for mechanical breakdowns leading to a spill of materials. Maintenance and fueling shall be conducted within an adequate fueling containment area.

Impacts will be ***less than significant with the aforementioned Mitigation Measure***.

d) The project site is not located on a site included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. The site has historically been used for agricultural/ranching activities and is currently developed as a community garden and park. Therefore, the project would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment and there would be ***no impact*** to the environment from hazardous materials.

e) & f) There are no public airports or private airstrips near the Action Area. The Action Area is not located within an airport land use plan or within two miles of a public airport or private airstrip. The nearest public airport Yuba County Airport, which is approximately 16 miles southwest of the Action Area. The project would have ***no impact*** on public or private airstrips.

g) There project is utilizing existing roads, Timbuctoo Road, and Gunning Park Road, therefore, there would be no major physical interference to the existing road system. The applicants submitted a Fire Protection Plan outlining emergency fire exits, and access for fire trucks and

emergency services. Therefore, there would be ***a less than significant impact*** with an emergency response or evacuation plan.

h) The project is located in a very high wildlife fire hazard severity zone as reported by the Cal Fire 2008 Fire Hazard Severity Zones map. The Yuba River Campground will adhere to the Yuba County requirements for Rural Fire Protection within the SRA and the Fire Risk HS2 Policies in the General Plan. Primary Document Source: Yuba County Foothills Community Wildfire Protection Plan
https://www.deercreekgis.com/files/Yuba_CWPP/20140819_FINAL_Yuba_CWPP_web.pdf
The Yuba River Campground will adhere to all code requirements in section 11.32.070 of the Yuba County code for campground sites. The property is within the jurisdiction of the Smartsville Fire Protection District, who will respond to fire emergencies within the project site. The Yuba River serves as a natural fuel break.

The proposed project consists of only 30 campsites, as opposed to residences with long-term occupants. Short-term impacts associated with wildland fire during Proposed Action activities would result in a potentially significant impact. However, implementation of **Mitigation Measure 9.2** would reduce the impact of the Proposed Action on wildfire risk is **less than significant with mitigation**.

Mitigation Measure 9.2 Reduce Potential Impacts from Wildfire Risk

During Proposed Action construction, any dry vegetation present on the staging areas or temporary access roads would be cleared prior to being used by vehicles or heavy equipment. Fire extinguishers would be present onsite in vehicles to quickly put out any vegetation that ignites as a result of a spark from heavy equipment.

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

Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:

a) The project should not result in a ground disturbance equal to or greater than one acre in size because they do not plan to build any permanent structures or infrastructure. The campsites will be dirt and gravel, not paved. They are not proposing any landscaping and no chemicals will be used. The project is not anticipated to consume water or interfere with ground water recharge. Furthermore the project has been designed no runoff will affect water bodies, seasonal or otherwise that are in the immediate area. The Yuba County Public Works Department will review and address any issues associated with grading activities as part of the roadway improvements and encroachment permits with the project. Therefore, it is anticipated that

impacts to water quality, drainage patterns, subsurface water and soil erosion are anticipated to create a ***less than significant impact.***

b) The project will utilize ground water wells for water supply. Conformance with the California Building Code will ensure, prior to the issuance of building or occupancy permits, that adequate water supply is available on site for sanitation and firefighting purposes. The applicant will also have to submit evidence to the Yuba County Environmental Health Department that the site can adequately support a well. There would be a ***less than significant impact***.

c) i) The project may result in the disturbance of over one acre in land.

The project site is within the jurisdiction of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB), which develops and enforces water quality objectives and implementation plans that safeguard the quality of water resources in its region. Prior to construction of a project greater than one acre, the RWQCB requires a project applicant to file for a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit. The General Permit process requires the project applicant to 1) notify the State, 2) prepare and implement a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), and 3) to monitor the effectiveness of the plan. Mitigation Measure 10.1 shall be incorporated to reduce any substantial siltation or erosion.

Mitigation Measure 10.1 National Pollution Discharge Elimination (NPDES) Permit

> Prior to the County's approval of a grading plan or site improvement plans, the project applicant shall obtain from the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board a National Pollution Discharge Elimination (NPDES) Permit for the disturbance of over one acre. Further, approval of a General Construction Storm Water Permit (Order No. 99-08-DWQ) is required along with a Small Construction Storm Water Permit. The permitting process also requires that a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) be prepared prior to construction activities. The SWPPP is used to identify potential construction pollutants that may be generated at the site including sediment, earthen material, chemicals, and building materials. The SWPPP also describes best management practices that will be employed to eliminate or reduce such pollutants from entering surface waters.

There would be a ***less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated***.

ii-iv) While the project would introduce impervious surfaces, which have the potential to alter recharge patterns, the level of development is small and percolation and groundwater recharge activity would remain generally unchanged. Furthermore, the project will not cause erosion or an increase in runoff. There would be a ***less than significant impact.***

d) The project is partially located within a 100-year flood plain and a 500-year flood plain. The proposed project will not interfere with the 100-year flood plan. Yuba County is an inland area not subject to seiche or tsunami. Mudflow is not an identified issue at this location; therefore, there would result in a ***less than significant impact*** from flooding, mudflow, seiche, or tsunami.

e) The project will not conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan because Yuba County has not adopted a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan. There would be a ***less than significant impact***.

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

Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation

a) The project site is within an area of rural development within the Smartsville Community of unincorporated Yuba County. The proposed project will not create any physical division of an established community because it consists of a campground on one Accessor's Parcel Number. Therefore, the development would result in ***no impact*** or division of an established community.

b) The Yuba County General Plan designates the project site as site as Rural Community "RC" and a zoning designation of Rural Residential, 5 acres minimum "RR-5". The proposed campground project requires a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) within the "RR-5" zone and with approval of the CUP meets all the requirements and intents for this zone. No rezoning to accommodate the project is required. The project is consistent with the current General Plan policies and zoning designations. Land use impacts are anticipated to have ***no impact*** on habitat or conservation plans.

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

Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:

a) & b) Yuba County contain a wide variety of mineral resources, including clay, sand and gravel, stone, silica, silver, and gold (Yuba County 2011). The California Department of Conservation, California Geological Survey, have mapped mineral deposits as Mineral Resources Zones (MRZs) that include the following (CGS 2018):

- MRZ-1: Areas where available geologic information indicates that little likelihood exists for the presence of significant concrete aggregate resource;
- MRZ-2: Areas where geologic information indicates the presence of significant concrete aggregate resources, except where noted as Construction Aggregate;
- MRZ-3: Areas containing known or inferred concrete aggregate resources of undetermined mineral resource significance; and
- MRZ-4: Areas where available geologic information is inadequate to assign to any other mineral resource zone category.

The property is mapped as MRZ-2; however, no known mineral resource recovery sites have been identified in the project area. Therefore, the property and proposed campground project does not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource classified MRZ-2 that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state.

The project would not 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. The project would not have an adverse impact on mineral resources for the reasons stated above. Therefore, there would be ***no impact***.

XIII. NOISE Would the project result in:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:

a) The project would create temporary or periodic increases in ambient noise levels in the vicinity during construction and road improvements. However, Article 3 of Chapter 8.20 of the Yuba County Ordinance Code governs construction related noise. It states, "It shall be unlawful for any person within a residential zone, or within the radius of 500 feet therefrom, to operate equipment or perform any outside construction or repair work on buildings, structures or projects or to operate any pile driver, power shovel, pneumatic hammer, derrick, power hoist, or any other construction type device between the hours of 10:00 p.m. of one day and 7:00 a.m. of the following day in such a manner that a reasonable person of normal sensitiveness residing in the area is caused discomfort or annoyance unless a permit has been duly obtained beforehand from the Director of the Community Development Department as set forth in Section 8.20.710 of this chapter. No permit shall be required to perform emergency work as defined in article 1 of this chapter." With the incorporated standard requirements impacts related to construction noise shall be ***less than significant.***

b) Primary sources of groundborne vibrations include heavy vehicle traffic on roadways and railroad traffic. There are no railroad tracks near the project site. Traffic on roadways in the area would include very few heavy vehicles, as no land uses that may require them are in the vicinity. Moreover, the campground is not anticipated to generate noise issues with neighbors as there are no home within 1,000 feet from the property. RV generators may only be run from 9AM to 12PM and from 3PM to 7PM daily. In addition, the applicant has stated that quiet hours are from 8PM to 8AM every night. There will be no music allowed during quiet hours. As a result, there would be a ***less than significant impact***.

c) The property is not located within an airport land use plan, within two miles of a public airport, or within the vicinity of a private airstrip. The nearest public airport is in Olivehurst

which is approximately 15 miles southwest of the property. Beale air force base is approximately 8 miles southwest of the property. The nearest private airstrip is the Hammonton Air Strip, approximately 6 miles west of the property. The project is a campground that would not change the land use thereby exposing people residing or working in the area to excessive noise levels. Therefore, there is ***no impact***.

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

Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:

a) The project does not include the construction of homes or any infrastructure that would be required to foster population growth near the project area; therefore, there would be ***no impact*** increase in population.

b) The proposed project will not displace people experiencing homelessness and will significantly reduce littering and improper disposal of waste and debris. Therefore, the project does not involve the removal of housing or the relocation of people who currently utilize the site and would cause ***no impact*** to individuals.

XV. PUBLIC SERVICES **Would the project result in:**	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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**:**				
a) Fire protection?	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) Police protection?	☐	☐	☐	☒
c) Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☒
d) Parks?	☐	☐	☐	☒
e) Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☒

Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:

a) The project is establishing a campground with 30 campsites in a Very High Fire Severity Zone. It will be serviced by the Smartsville Fire Station, Smartsville CalFire Station, and Grass Valley Emergency Command Center.

Local Fire Station Response Distance and Drive Time:

1. Smartsville Fire Station to entrance of the campground is 2.1 miles, approx 7 minutes driving time.
2. Smartsville CalFire station distance is 2.6 miles, approx 8 minutes driving time
3. Grass Valley Emergency Command Center to campground entrance is 19.7 miles, approx 26 minutes via Hwy 20.

There are two entry and exit points for fire trucks and service vehicles in the Yuba River Campground property. The roads meet the fire safety width and gravel requirements. There is also an egress that goes to the Yuba River, accessible by campers and service vehicles. The gate lock to Timbuctoo will be updated annually and will be provided to:

1. CalFire Smartsville
2. Smartsville FD
3. Yuba County Sheriff's Department
4. CalFire Grass Valley Emergency Command Center

With the incorporated conditions of approval and adherence to the requirements from the Yuba County Ordinance Code and Fire Codes, impacts to fire protection, impacts to fire protection would be less than significant. There would be a ***less than significant impact*** on fire protection services.

b) The project area is located within unincorporated Yuba County and would be served by the Yuba County Sheriff's Department. Increased property tax revenue and annual police protections assessment Countywide would support additional civic services including law enforcement. As mentioned previously, access to the property is gated and the Sherriff's will be provided with a code to access the property. Impacts related to police protection would be ***less than significant***.

c) The proposed project does not include the construction of any housing and would not generate any students. The project would not increase the demand on school districts. Therefore, there would be ***no impacts*** related to police protection.

d) The proposed project does not include the construction of housing and would not generate an increased demand for parks. Therefore, there would be ***no impacts*** to parks.

e) Other public facilities that are typically affected by development projects include the Yuba County Library and County roads. However, due to the type of development proposed by the project, there would be no increased demand for these services. The temporary traffic generated by construction activities would not generate any additional roadway maintenance. Therefore, there would be ***no impacts*** to other public facilities.

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

Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:

a) The proposed project is a 30-site campground with no intent to build any permanent structures. The intent of the project is to provide a unique rural experience in which occupants can enjoy camping and yet, if desired, access the Yuba River. Due to the limited number of occupants on the 20-acre site and site features, it is not anticipated the proposal would notably change the amount of use occurring at area regional or national parks. Therefore, the proposed project would not lead to substantial physical deterioration of recreational facilities. Therefore, ***no impacts*** identified or anticipated, and no mitigation measures are required.

b) The proposed project is a campground and, as such, a recreational facility. Recreational activities are limited on-site, due to the size of each defined campsite and the overall size of the property, although limited hiking could occur.

The project does not include the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that would permit individuals other than campers using the site, and thus, not meet the demands of other existing residential development. Therefore, impacts to recreational facilities is ***less than significant.***

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

Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:

a) The proposed project would generate a temporary increase in traffic during construction. It is expected that the roadway can accommodate the temporary increase in traffic during construction. The project would not significantly increase traffic in the area. However, there could be upwards to a fifteen-minute traffic delay during construction activities. Therefore, the project will have a ***less than significant impact.***

b) Certain types of projects as identified in statute, the CEQA Guidelines, or in OPR's Technical Advisory are presumed to have a less than significant impact on VMT and therefore a less than significant impact on transportation. In any area of the state, absent substantial evidence indicating that a project would generate a potentially significant level of VMT, or inconsistency with a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) or general plan, projects that generate or attract fewer than 110 trips per day generally may be assumed to cause a less-than significant transportation impact. The proposed project is anticipated to have 15 trips per day due to the maximum number of guests. With 30 campsites, the applicants expect between 30-40 people most weekends. For this reason, impacts to VMT would be ***less than significant.***

c) Property access is from HWY 20 to Timbuctoo Road, a paved road, and then passed a gate onto Gunning Park Road, a graveled road. There are two entry/exit roads for fire and services on the property for camper evacuation and service vehicles. Any road improvements will be required to meet Yuba County's road standards. Hazards due to a design feature of the project would not be substantially increased as a result of this project and there would be ***no impact.***

d) Emergency access to the project site would be via Timbuctoo Road and two points of ingress/egress to the campground. There would be no change in emergency access as a result of the project. Therefore, the project will have ***no impact.***

XVIII. 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
a) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or	☐	☐	☒	☐
b) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	☐	☒	☐	☐

Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:

a) The UAIC conducted background research for the identification of Tribal Resources for this project which included a review of pertinent literature, historic maps, and a records search using UAIC's Tribal Historic Information System (THRIS). UAIC's THRIS database is composed of UAIC's areas of oral history, ethnographic history, and places of cultural and religious significance, including UAIC's Sacred Lands that are submitted to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). The THRIS resources shown in this region also include previously recorded indigenous resources identified through the California Historic Resources Information System Center (CHRIS) as well as historic resources and survey data. Therefore, no additional treatment or mitigated action is recommended for the site and would create a ***less than significant impact***.

b) Yuba County Planning Department requested AB-52 consultation with the United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC), due to their request for consultation on all discretionary projects within Yuba County. The United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC) is a federally recognized Tribe comprised of both Miwok and Maidu (Nisenan) Tribal members who are traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area. The Tribe has a deep spiritual, cultural, and physical ties to their ancestral land and are contemporary stewards of their culture and landscapes. The Tribal community represents a continuity and endurance of their ancestors by maintaining their connection to their history and culture. It is the Tribe's goal to ensure the preservation and continuance of their cultural heritage for current and future generations.

The UAIC responded to the Early Consultation request on September 26, 2022. Anna Starkey, with the UAIC, commented that there was a potential site of historical importance recorded near the site in 1975 and requested a site visit on the property. On October 15, 2022, the UAIC, County Staff, and the applicant met at the property to walk the site. The UAIC determined there was an area "that nothing is to be removed or disturbed at the site and no construction or road (any ground disturbance) in or adjacent to it."

The following Mitigation Measures address the inadvertent discoveries of potential TCRs, archaeological, or cultural resources during a project's ground disturbing activities, and protect the known TCR. In the event of the accidental discovery or recognition of tribal cultural resources in the project area the impact upon tribal cultural resources would be ***less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated.***

Mitigation Measure 18.1 Unanticipated/Inadvertent Discoveries Of TCRs

If any suspected TCRs are discovered during ground disturbing construction activities, all work shall cease within 100 feet of the find, or an agreed upon distance based on the project area and nature of the find. A Tribal Representative from a California Native American tribe that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with a geographic area shall be immediately notified and shall determine if the find is a TCR (PRC §21074). The Tribal Representative will make recommendations for further evaluation and treatment as necessary.

When avoidance is infeasible, preservation in place is the preferred option for mitigation of TCRs under CEQA and UAIC protocols, and every effort shall be made to preserve the resources in place, including through project redesign, if feasible. Culturally appropriate treatment may be, but is not limited to, processing materials for reburial, minimizing handling of cultural objects, leaving objects in place within the landscape, or returning objects to a location within the project area where they will not be subject to future impacts. Permanent curation of TCRs will not take place unless approved in writing by UAIC or by the California Native American Tribe that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area.

The contractor shall implement any measures deemed by the CEQA lead agency to be necessary and feasible to preserve in place, avoid, or minimize impacts to the resource, including, but not limited to, facilitating the appropriate tribal treatment of the find, as necessary. Treatment that preserves or restores the cultural character and integrity of a TCR may include Tribal Monitoring, culturally appropriate recovery of cultural objects, and reburial of cultural objects or cultural soil.

Work at the discovery location cannot resume until all necessary investigation and evaluation of the discovery under the requirements of the CEQA, including AB52, have been satisfied.

Mitigation Measure 18.2 Create and Enforce 100-foot Setbacks for All Tribal Cultural Resources (TCR)

All future buildings and structures, including but not limited to, underground utilities, septic tanks and lines, irrigation lines, or other subsurface infrastructure shall include a setback of at least 100 feet from all known TCRs.

Mitigation Measure 18.3 Do not Disturb the TCR

For any identified Cultural or Tribal Cultural resource, there shall be no disturbance of any kind, including vandalism, pot hunting, collecting of artifacts, or intentional, high intensity burning.

The UAIC closed AB-52 consultation with the implementation of the aforementioned Mitigation Measures.

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

Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:

a) The project does not propose the construction of any new structures that would generate wastewater and will therefore create a ***less than significant impact.***

b) & c) No significant impacts related to the adequacy of the water supply for the project were identified during the course of the project review because the project does not require the use of any new water or wastewater facilities. Since no major concerns have been expressed, any impact related to water supply is expected to be ***less than significant***.

d) & e) The project is not anticipated to result in the generation of any solid waste that would be of a significant level. Recyclable solid waste collected is taken to a landfill on Ostrom Road. The Ostrom Road landfill has a capacity of 41,822,300 cubic yards, and has adequate capacity to serve the project site. The project will have a minimal effect on these facilities and the impact would be ***less than significant.***

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

DISCUSSION/CONCLUSION/MITIGATION:

a) – d) The project is located within a Very High State Responsibility Area established by CalFire. For this reason, the applicant submitted a Fire Protection Plan outlining their plans for wildfire preparedness. A plan was prepared by the applicant, Scott Milener, and was reviewed and approved by Frank Denetale, Fire Prevention Officer, Smartsville Fire, and CalFire. Mr. Denetale made the following comment:

> The Yuba County Fire Prevention Officer, CAL-FIRE, and Smartsville Fire have reviewed and approved the Fire Protection plan for the Yuba River Campground, performed a site visit on July 22, 2022 and have no Fire and Life Safety issues with the project moving forward.

The study included the following information:

Access for Fire Trucks and Service Vehicles:

1. Enter through Timbuctoo Gate: a private gravel road at a large gate with “Timbuctoo” sign above it.
    a. Gate Lock Code, updated annually, will be provided to
        i. CalFire Smartsville
        ii. Smartsville FD
        iii. Yuba County Sheriff’s Department
        iv. CalFire Grass Valley Emergency Command Center

2. Timbuctoo Gate Location: GIS 39°13'00.8"N 121°19'02.4"W. Also search for ‘Timbuctoo, CA’ on Google maps to find gate location

3. Follow Yuba River Campground signage on Gunning Park Road to the property entrance. Roads are graded gravel with 12' minimum width
    a. Campground property entrance GIS: 39°13'30.8"N 121°18'55.5"W. This is off of Gunning Park Rd, the easement to the campground from the Timbuctoo Gate.

4. See the Figure 4 below showing the main entry from Timbuctoo Road, and two points of ingress/egress to the Campground.

5. See the scale Figure 3 Site Plan for details.

6. Fire Hydrants: Two 4" National Male hydrant valves to be added to the property.
    a. See Site plan on page 15 with valve locations marked.
    Valves will be located in turnouts to avoid blocking the roads.
    Each valve will be posted: "No Parking. For Fire Use Only. Non-Potable"
    Both valves will be under pressure at all times.
    b. Valve 1: blue tagged along main entry road on the western side of the property, near trailer at large turnout.
        i. Fed from a 10,000 gallon water tank up the hill from the hydrant valve. Tank filled by pump from a well. Tank already in place.
    c. Valve 2: blue tagged along the road down the hill toward the river on the eastern side of the campground
        i. Fed from 4,000 gallon tank, filled by a well. Tank to be added.
        ii. This second fire hydrant will be completed with 1 year of launch.

Figure 4: Ingress / Egress for the Yuba River Campground and Evacuation routes

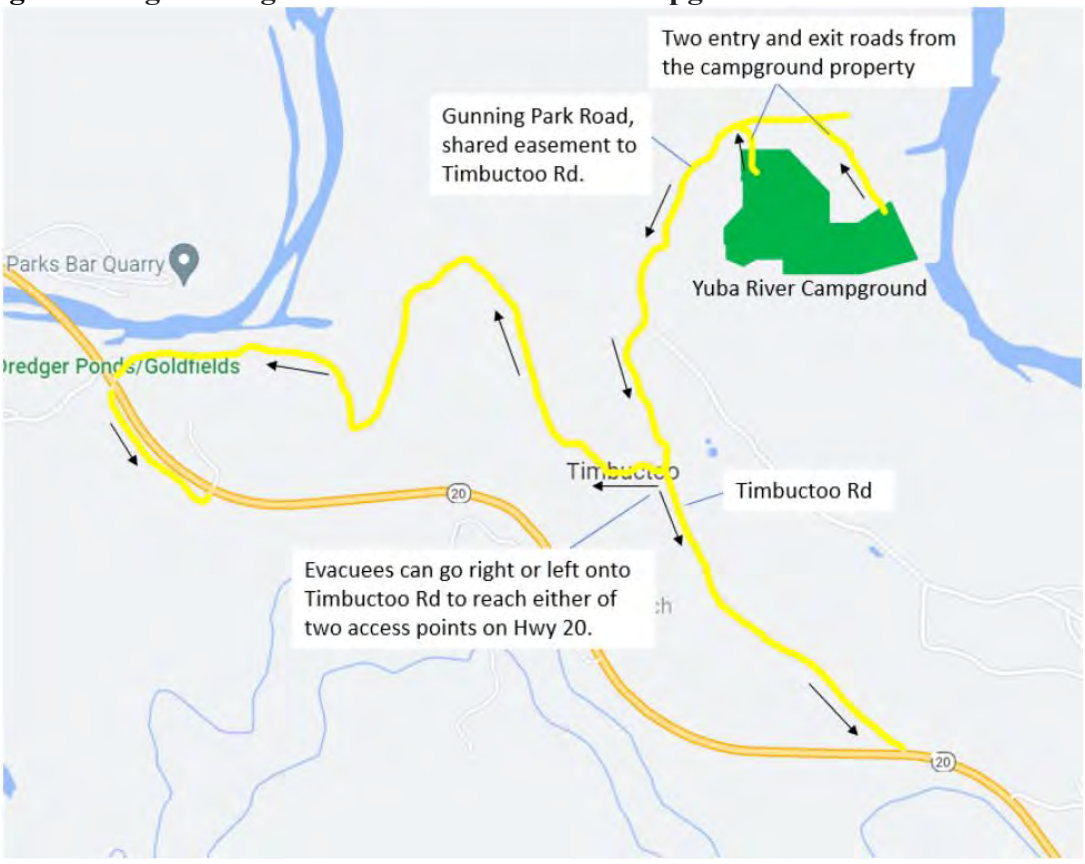
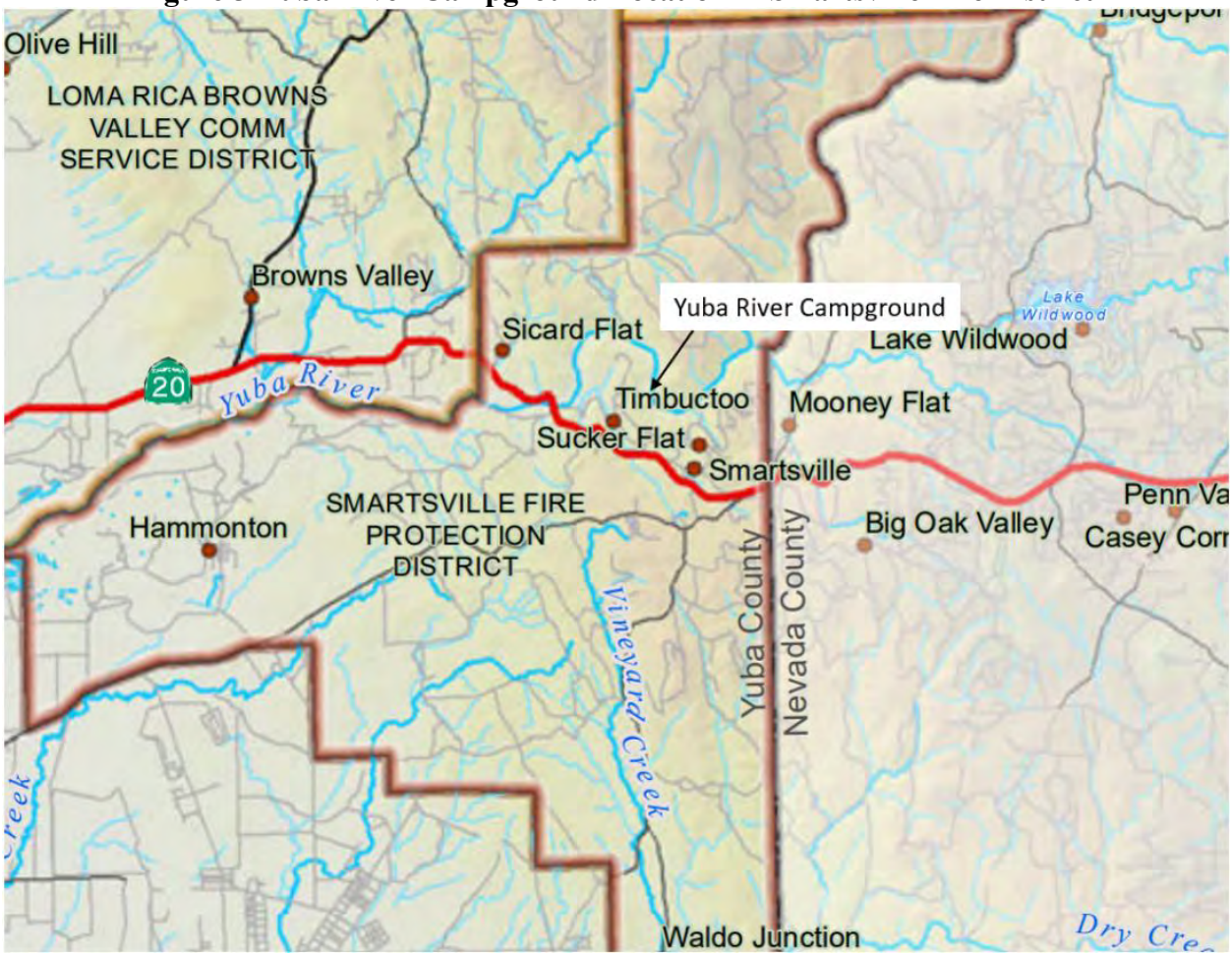


Figure 5 Yuba River Campground Location in Smartsville Fire District



Emergency Evacuation Plan

Yuba River Campground will educate campers about evacuation routes. We will have evacuation information and routes on our website, in our confirmation emails and on signs posted on the property.

The campsites toward the eastern side of the property can evacuate via the access road at the eastern end of the property while the other campsites can evacuate by the primary road at the western edge of the property.

1. If either egress road is blocked, all campers can exit via the other road. There is also an egress to the Yuba River itself leading out of the eastern edge of the property. People can go down to the water if necessary.
2. Staff will open the gate at Timbuctoo Road for fast camper exit and for FireFighters and service vehicles to rapidly access. The Timbuctoo Gate code will be given to Fire Departments and Yuba County Sheriff as noted above.
3. If needed, Campground Staff can help direct traffic at the entry and exits or other locations on the access roads to avoid "choke points."
4. Designated emergency meeting location for staff, management and campers: Under the Highway 20 Bridge where it crosses the Yuba River. Go right on Timbuctoo Road after

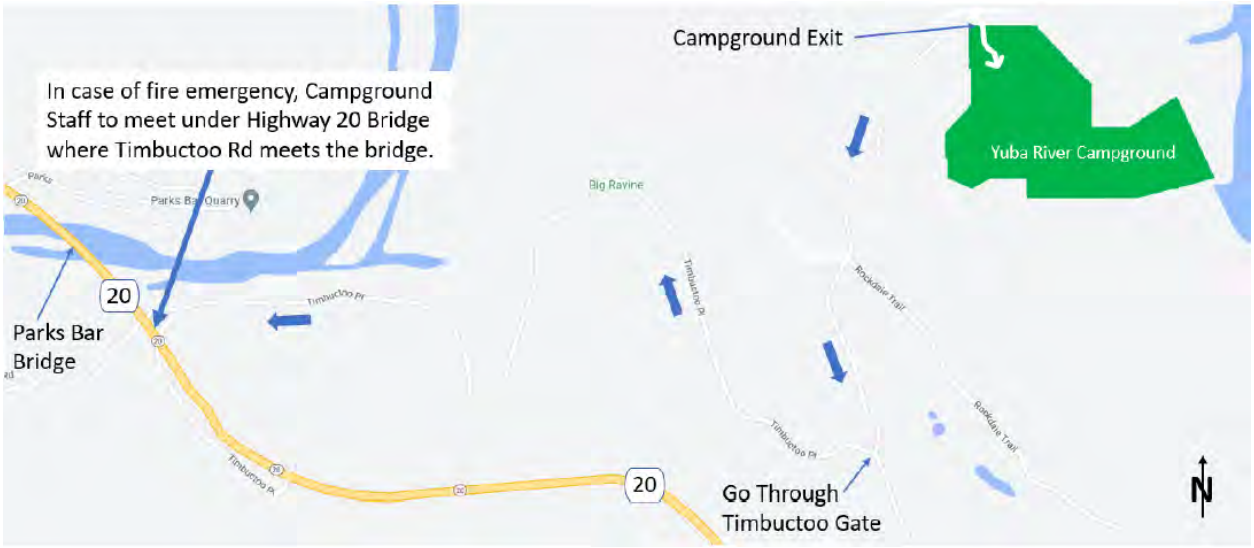
exiting the property from Gunning Park Road. See Figure 6 Campground Staff Emergency Meeting Location map, below.

Several portable AEDs will be kept in convenient locations onsite for emergency defibrillation if needed. Staff and management will be trained in First Aid, CPR and use of the AED.

Staff and management shall have a to-go bag prepared with personal essentials, including paper and other campground records as needed. Staff will be equipped with high powered walkie talkies. Staff will have a list of each other's cell phone numbers and Fire Dept numbers.

Source: CalFire Action Plan Checklist:
https://www.readyforwildfire.org/prepare-for-wildfire/get-set/wildfire-action-plan/

Figure 6 Campground Staff Emergency Meeting Location map, below.



Access Routes
There are 2 entry and exit points for fire trucks and service vehicles in the Yuba River Campground property. The roads meet the fire safety width and gravel requirements. There is also an egress that goes to the Yuba River, accessible by campers and service vehicles.

Defensible space
No permanent structures are existing or planned for the campground property. There is a steel trailer on the property, it has defensible space of 35' feet all the way around it at all times.

Deadfall and brush are cleared annually by campground staff near the campsites and along the roads to meet fire safety requirements of clearance without flammable materials. Dead trees may also be removed if threatening the camping area or water tank.

Weeds and grasses shall be mowed to 15' from each side of the roads.

Rubber hose trailer chain guards will be suggested and made available to campers towing trailers to reduce risk of sparks.

Campfire Policy
A strict No Campfire policy will be in effect and enforced by campground staff annually from May through the summer and fall. Refer to **MM 3.3.**

Staff will only allow campfires when safe to do so after heavy rains in the late fall through April, as long as the area remains green and moist. Campground management will also refer to US Forest Service and CalFire fire danger guidance. Campfires must be in designated fire rings, available at each site.

Campers are required to use water to put fires dead out. The campground has water wells, spigots and tanks on the property to make free water available to put out fires. Fireworks of any type are prohibited year-round, including sparklers, firecrackers and any other type of firework.

Vegetation and Wildfire Fuels
The general vegetation types within the CWPP area are typical of the western slope of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range. At the lowest elevations in the region, including most of the Smartsville FD and Loma Rica/Browns Valley Community Services District, the vegetation is primarily blue oak and grass. In these areas, wildfires primarily burn in grass, and the hazard is a function of high rates of fire spread. At slightly higher elevations, but still below 1,000 feet, live oak and brush are present mostly on the deeper soils. Here wildfires can torch into the trees, creating serious control problems.

At elevations in the approximate range of 1,000 to 2,000+ feet, (Dobbins/Oregon House Fire Protection District) are shrublands, made up of foothill gray pine, interior live oak, mixed hardwood, and chaparral. These areas also have the potential for torching and spotting, especially in areas where needles from gray pine drape onto brush below.

The property slopes up from the Yuba River and contains grasslands, willows, oak, sycamore, juniper and other trees in sparse to medium density. In the dry months, typically May to November, until the first rains, the grass is dry and can burn. During the wet season the property has a cattle lease. The cattle grazing keeps the grasses low and thinned out.

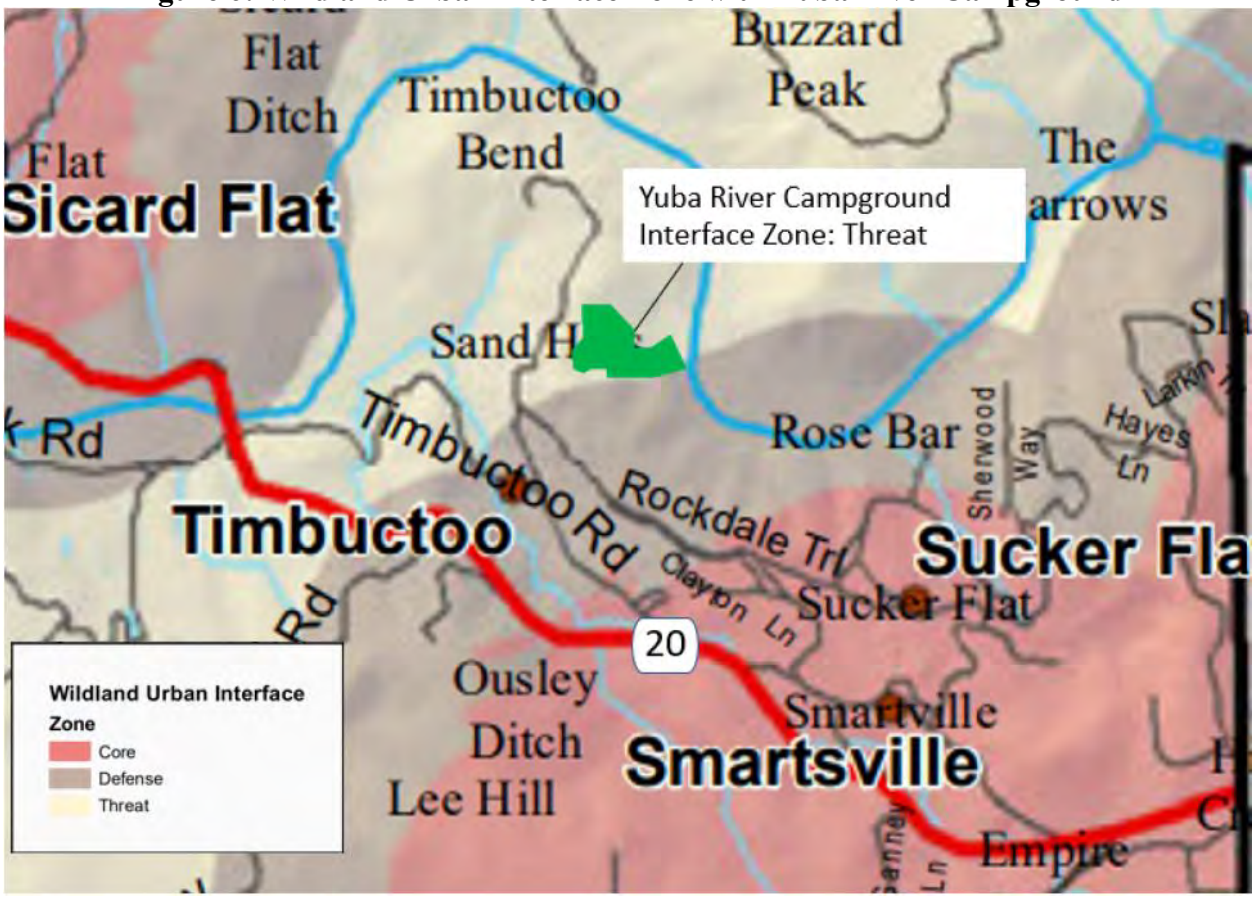
There is generally little dead fall on most of the property due the relatively open nature of the forested areas east and north of the main road where the campsites are. The southernmost portion has thicker tree growth. Property management will gather and remove deadfall annually. The following Mitigation Measure shall ensure vegetation and fuel breaks on the property:

Mitigation Measure 20.1 Vegetation and Fuel Breaks

> The applicants shall use a combination of cattle grazing and/or property management shall gather and remove deadfall annually to reduce vegetation and wildfire fuels.

Grazing is very effective in reducing the grass and small brush, and should be encouraged wherever possible. The Yuba River Campground property has a grazing lease with cattle on the property during the winter and spring which greatly reduces the grasses and other small shrub fuels.

Figure 6: Wildland Urban Interface Zone with Yuba River Campground



Hazard Assessment

The fire behavior analysis was conducted by Barry Callenberger of WildlandRx, in coordination with DCR. The analysis tools used for this project were primarily developed by the US Forest Service's Fire Science Laboratory in Missoula, MT. The surface fuel data and mapping for this document was randomly ground verified, and preliminary copies of the model output maps were vetted by the Fire Safe Council's Fuels Committee.

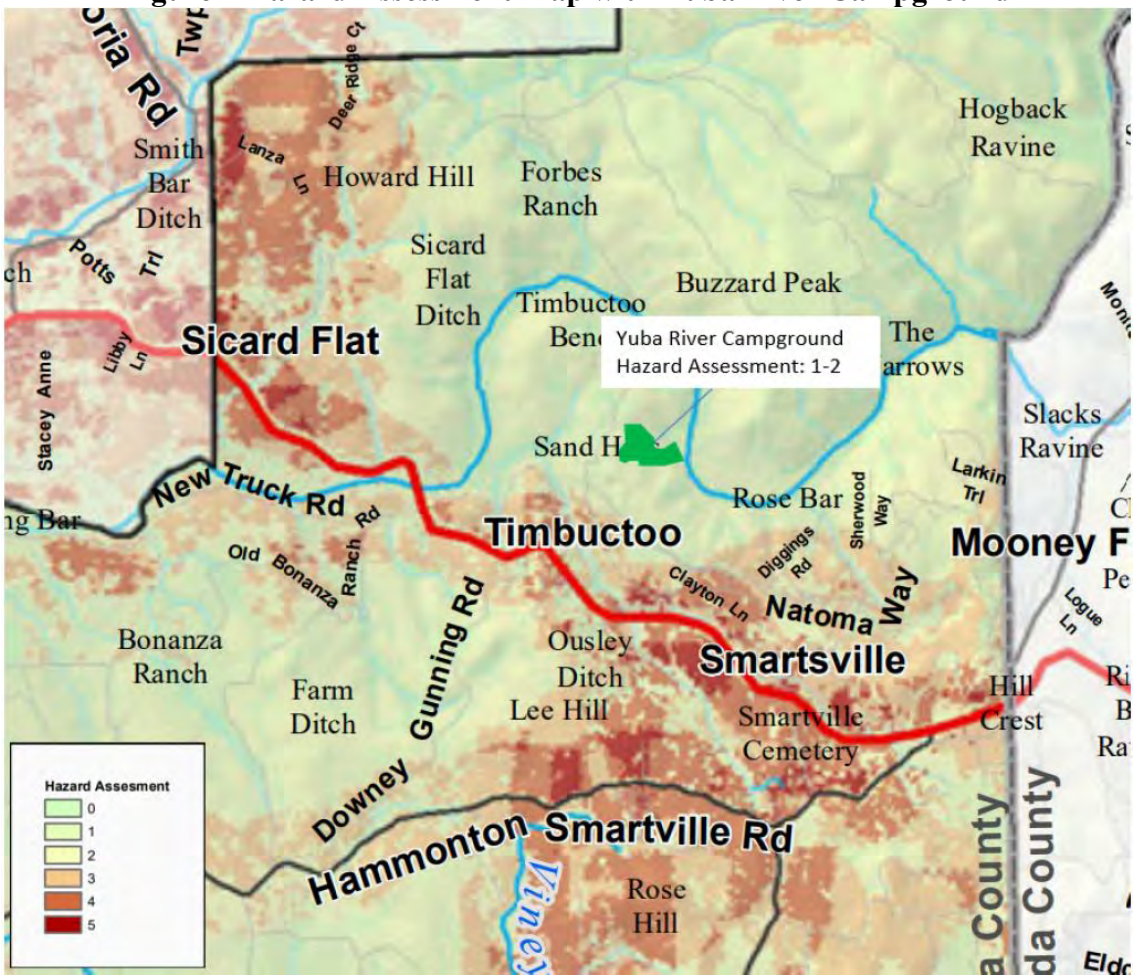
The resulting maps use a 6 point scoring system to show areas where existing structures or critical access routes overlap with critical fire hazard area. The score represents each area's priority for hazardous fuels reduction, public education, and other focused hazard mitigation efforts.

Hazard Assessment Scoring is based upon the following elements:

1. Is the area mapped as 'Wildland Urban Interface'? (1 point)
2. Is the area within ¼ mile of a mapped important access route? (1 point)
3. Does the area have severe potential fire behavior? (1-3 points)
4. Does the parcel have a structure on it? (1 point)

See Figure 7, Hazard Assessment Map with Yuba River Campground, below:

Figure 7 Hazard Assessment Map with Yuba River Campground



Hazard Assessment Rating: 1 - 2, according to color coding on the map.

WUI Conditions and Suppression

The Yuba River Campground property falls into the third row on Table 2 below: Wildland Fire without structures. We pay close attention to environmental conditions and will consider treatments and perimeter control.

Table 2: Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Conditions and Suppression/Treatment Strategies

Condition	Suppression strategy	Treatment and Prefire Strategy
Wildland Fire with structures threatened (*parcels are generally larger than one acre*)	Perimeter control during initial attack (IA) with rapid transition to structure protection	Design treatments to modify fire behavior for containment prior to reaching structures adjacent to fuel treatments. (Compliance with CPRC-4291 critical)
Wildland Fire with structure to structure ignition taking place (*parcels generally less than one acre)*	Structure protection	Compliance of CPRC-4291 Building Codes Road Access / Turn-a-rounds. Perimeter treatments to keep the fire out of the community, if feasible.
Wildland Fire without structures (very few if any structures or assets at risk from the fire)	Environmental conditions and resource objectives determine response to unplanned ignitions	Strategically designed treatments to modify landscape fire behavior including strategic perimeter control treatments

Education of Campground Staff and Visitors

Education is a key component of ensuring campers and staff operate with fire safety in mind everyday. We will combine staff training with camper education and outreach so anyone on the property is using the same guidelines to avoid a wildfire.

Yuba River Campground will include wildfire safety guidelines in communications and agreements with campers in several ways:

1. On the website
2. During the camping reservation process
4. With notices and verbally while at the campground
5. In email communications

Education will include:

- Ways to protect the campground area from a wildfire
- Evacuation routes and planning prior to an incident. The Yuba River
- Campground has three entry / exit points.
- Water availability and access to put fires out
- Safely managing flammable materials and clearance techniques
- Fire behavior during past large fires
- Road standards needed for emergency access
- Roadside clearance standards (PRC 4291)
- Reminding the campground visitors and staff that fuel clearance and road side clearances are the responsibilities of the campground, not the fire department.
- First Aid, CPR and use of an AED.

Therefore, impacts by wildfire will be ***less than significant with mitigation***.

XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

NOTE: If there are significant environmental impacts which cannot be mitigated and no feasible project alternatives are available, then complete the mandatory findings of significance and attach to this initial study as an appendix. This is the first step for starting the environmental impact report (EIR) process.

Does the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	☐	☒	☐	☐
b) Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects)?	☐	☐	☒	☐
c) Have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	☐	☒	☐	☐

Discussion/Conclusion/Mitigation:

a) As discussed in the Biological Resources section, the proposed development will have a ***less than significant impact with mitigation*** to habitat of a fish or wildlife species with mitigation measures **MM4.1, and MM4.2**. The site is not located in a sensitive or critical habitat area, is void of any water sources and would not conflict with any local policies, ordinances or adopted Habitat Conservation Plans.

As discussed in the Cultural Resources and Tribal Cultural Resources section, construction could potentially impact cultural resources. Proposed mitigation measures in **MM5.1, MM5.2, and MM18.1,** would reduce the impact to ***less than significant with mitigation***.

b) The project site was already identified through the General Plan and Zoning Designation for campground development with the approval of a CUP. Therefore, the project is considered to have a ***less than significant impact***, or cause cumulatively considerable effects.

c) Due to the nature and size of the proposed project, no substantial adverse effects on humans are expected. The project would not emit substantial amounts of air pollutants, including hazardous materials. The project would not expose residents to flooding. One potential human

health effects identified as a result of project implementation were minor construction-related impacts, mainly dust that could affect the few scattered residences near the project site. These effects are temporary in nature and subject to Feather River Air Quality Management District's Standard Mitigation Measures that would reduce these emissions to a level that would not be considered a significant impact. Another potential human health effect is the properties location within a Very High State Responsibility Area. The applicants have adequately addressed any risks from wildfire, see **MM20.1**. Therefore, the project is considered to have ***a less than significant impact with mitigation***.

REFERENCES

1. Yuba County 2030 General Plan Environmental Impact Report, AECOM.
2. Yuba County 2030 General Plan, AECOM.
3. Yuba County Development Code 2015.
4. Yuba County Important Farmland Map 2012. California Department of Conservation.
5. Yuba County Improvement Standards.
6. State of California Hazardous Waste and Substance site "Cortese" list
7. Yuba County 2008-2013 Housing Element. AECOM. Dec. 2010
8. Biological Assessment and Wetland Determination, Marcus H. Bole & Associates, August 2022.
9. Cultural Resource Inventory Survey, Genesis Society, August 2022.
10. Fire Protection Plan, Scott Milener, October 2022.

MM 3.1 FRAQMD • Implement FRAQMD Fugitive Dust Plan • Implement FRAQMD standard construction phase mitigation measures. (https://www.fraqmd.org/ceqa-planning)		
Timing/Implementation Upon start of construction activities.	**Enforcement/Monitoring** Yuba County Public Works Department	
Performance Criteria Permit verification , or clearance documents, from FRAQMD	**Verification Cost** N/A	
		Date Complete (If applicable)

MM3.2 Fugitive Dust Control for Construction

1) Water inactive construction sites and exposed stockpile sites at least twice daily.

2) Pursuant to California Vehicle Code, all trucks hauling soil and other loose material to and from the construction site shall be covered or should maintain at least 6 inches of freeboard (i.e. minimum vertical distance between top of load and the trailer).

3) Any topsoil that is removed for the construction operation shall be stored on-site in piles not to exceed 4 feet in height to allow development of microorganisms prior to replacement of soil in the construction area. These topsoil piles shall be clearly marked and flagged. Topsoil piles that will not be immediately returned to use shall be revegetated with a non-persistent erosion control mixture.

4) Soil piles for backfill shall be marked and flagged separately from native topsoil stockpiles. These soil piles shall also be surrounded by filt fencing, straw wattles, or other sediment barriers or covered unless they are to be immediately used.

5) Equipment or manual watering shall be conducted on all stockpiles, dirt/gravel roads, and exposed or disturbed soil surfaces, as necessary, to reduce airborne dust.

Timing/Implementation Upon start of project design and start of construction activities	**Enforcement/Monitoring** Yuba County Public Works Department	
Performance Criteria N/A	**Verification Cost** N/A	
		Date Complete (If applicable)

MM3.3 Campfires Campfires are prohibited from May 15 through the fall until wet season and when Smartsville / CalFire guidance suggests it is safe for campfires. When allowed, campfires must be in designated fire rings.		
Timing/Implementation Annually	**Enforcement/Monitoring** Yuba County Fire Prevention Officer and/or Smartsville Fire Protection District	
Performance Criteria N/A	**Verification Cost** N/A	
		Date Complete (If applicable)

MM 4.1 California Avian Species Of Special Concern Any vegetation removal and/or ground disturbance activities should begin during the avian non-breeding (September 1 – February 28) season so as to avoid and minimize impacts to avian species. If construction is to begin within the avian breeding season (March 1 – August 31) then a migratory bird and raptor survey shall be conducted within the Subject Property by a qualified biologist. A qualified biologist shall: Conduct a survey for all birds protected by the MBTA and CFWC no later than fifteen (15) days prior to construction activities; map all nests located within 250 feet of construction areas; develop buffer zones around active nests as recommended by a qualified biologist. Construction activity shall be prohibited within the buffer zones until the young have fledged or the nest fails. Nests shall be monitored at least twice (2) per week and a report submitted to the Yuba County Planning monthly. If construction activities stop for more than ten (10) days then another migratory bird and raptor survey shall be conducted no later than fifteen (15) days prior to the continuation of construction activities.		
Timing/Implementation *Prior to the start of, and during, construction activities.*	**Enforcement/Monitoring** Yuba County Public Works Department	
Performance Criteria N/A	**Verification Cost** N/A	
		Date Complete (If applicable)

MM 4.2 Fishing in the Yuba River Fishing shall be closed at the campground from August 31 to December 1 at the campground and anywhere upstream of the Parks Bar/Highway 20 bridge to protect spawning salmon and steelhead.		
Timing/Implementation *Annually.*	**Enforcement/Monitoring** CA DFW	
Performance Criteria N/A	**Verification Cost** N/A	
		Date Complete (If applicable)

MM 5.1 Inadvertent Discovery Of Human Remains Consultation in the event of inadvertent discovery of human remains: In the event that human remains are inadvertently encountered during trenching or other ground- disturbing activity or at any time subsequently, State law shall be followed, which includes but is not limited to immediately contacting the County Coroner's office upon any discovery of human remains.		
Timing/Implementation *Prior to project construction*	**Enforcement/Monitoring** Yuba County Public Works Department	
Performance Criteria N/A	**Verification Cost** N/A	
		Date Complete (If applicable)

MM 5.2 Inadvertent Discovery Of Cultural Material Consultation in the event of inadvertent discovery of cultural material: The present evaluation and recommendations are based on the findings of an inventory- level surface survey only. There is always the possibility that important unidentified cultural materials could be encountered on or below the surface during the course of future development activities. This possibility is particularly relevant considering the constraints generally to archaeological field survey, and particularly where past ground disturbance activities (e.g., road grading, livestock grazing, etc.) have partially obscured historic ground surface visibility, as in the present case. In the event of an inadvertent discovery of previously unidentified cultural material, archaeological consultation should be sought immediately.		
Timing/Implementation *Prior to the start of, and during, construction activities.*	**Enforcement/Monitoring** Yuba County Public Works Department	
Performance Criteria N/A	**Verification Cost** N/A	
		Date Complete (If applicable)

MM 9.1 Construction Measures

Construction specifications shall include the following measures to reduce potential impacts in the project area associated with accidental spills of pollutants (e.g., fuel, oil, grease):

- A site-specific prevention plan shall be implemented for potentially hazardous materials. The plan shall include the proper handling and storage of all potentially hazardous materials, as well as the proper procedures for cleaning up and reporting any spills. If necessary, containment berms shall be constructed to prevent spilled materials from reaching surface water features.
- Equipment and hazardous materials shall be stored a minimum of 50 feet away from surface water features.
- Vehicles and equipment used during construction shall receive proper and timely maintenance to reduce the potential for mechanical breakdowns leading to a spill of materials. Maintenance and fueling shall be conducted in an adequate fueling containment area.

Timing/Implementation *Prior to the start of, and during, construction activities.*	**Enforcement/Monitoring** Yuba County Public Works Department	
Performance Criteria N/A	**Verification Cost** N/A	
		Date Complete (If applicable)

MM 9.2 Reduce Potential Impacts from Wildfire Risk During Proposed Action construction, any dry vegetation present on the staging areas or temporary access roads would be cleared prior to being used by vehicles or heavy equipment. Fire extinguishers would be present onsite in vehicles to quickly put out any vegetation that ignites as a result of a spark from heavy equipment.		
Timing/Implementation *Prior to the start of, and during, construction activities.*	**Enforcement/Monitoring** Yuba County Public Works Department	
Performance Criteria N/A	**Verification Cost** N/A	
		Date Complete (If applicable)

MM 10.1 National Pollution Discharge Elimination (NPDES) Permit Prior to the County's approval of a grading plan or site improvement plans, the project applicant shall obtain from the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board a National Pollution Discharge Elimination (NPDES) Permit for the disturbance of over one acre. Further, approval of a General Construction Storm Water Permit (Order No. 99-08-DWQ) is required along with a Small Construction Storm Water Permit. The permitting process also requires that a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) be prepared prior to construction activities. The SWPPP is used to identify potential construction pollutants that may be generated at the site including sediment, earthen material, chemicals, and building materials. The SWPPP also describes best management practices that will be employed to eliminate or reduce such pollutants from entering surface waters.		
Timing/Implementation *Prior to the County's approval of a grading plan or site improvement plans*	**Enforcement/Monitoring** Yuba County Public Works Department	
Performance Criteria N/A	**Verification Cost** N/A	
		Date Complete (If applicable)

MM 18.1 Unanticipated/Inadvertent Discoveries Of TCRs

If any suspected TCRs are discovered during ground disturbing construction activities, all work shall cease within 100 feet of the find, or an agreed upon distance based on the project area and nature of the find. A Tribal Representative from a California Native American tribe that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with a geographic area shall be immediately notified and shall determine if the find is a TCR (PRC §21074). The Tribal Representative will make recommendations for further evaluation and treatment as necessary.

When avoidance is infeasible, preservation in place is the preferred option for mitigation of TCRs under CEQA and UAIC protocols, and every effort shall be made to preserve the resources in place, including through project redesign, if feasible. Culturally appropriate treatment may be, but is not limited to, processing materials for reburial, minimizing handling of cultural objects, leaving objects in place within the landscape, or returning objects to a location within the project area where they will not be subject to future impacts. Permanent curation of TCRs will not take place unless approved in writing by UAIC or by the California Native American Tribe that is traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area.

The contractor shall implement any measures deemed by the CEQA lead agency to be necessary and feasible to preserve in place, avoid, or minimize impacts to the resource, including, but not limited to, facilitating the appropriate tribal treatment of the find, as necessary. Treatment that preserves or restores the cultural character and integrity of a TCR may include Tribal Monitoring, culturally appropriate recovery of cultural objects, and reburial of cultural objects or cultural soil.

Work at the discovery location cannot resume until all necessary investigation and evaluation of the discovery under the requirements of the CEQA, including AB52, have been satisfied.

Timing/Implementation *Prior to the start of, and during, construction activities.*	**Enforcement/Monitoring** Yuba County Public Works Department	
Performance Criteria N/A	**Verification Cost** N/A	
		Date Complete (If applicable)

MM 18.2 Create and Enforce 100-foot Setbacks for All Tribal Cultural Resources (TCR) All future buildings and structures, including but not limited to, underground utilities, septic tanks and lines, irrigation lines, or other subsurface infrastructure shall include a setback of at least 100 feet from all known TCRs.		
Timing/Implementation *7 days prior to the start of, and during, construction activities.*	**Enforcement/Monitoring** Yuba County Public Works/Planning Department	
Performance Criteria N/A	**Verification Cost** N/A	
		Date Complete (If applicable)

MM 18.3 Do not Disturb the TCR For any identified Cultural or Tribal Cultural resource, there shall be no disturbance of any kind, including vandalism, pot hunting, collecting of artifacts, or intentional, high intensity burning.		
Timing/Implementation *Prior to the start of construction activities.*	**Enforcement/Monitoring** Yuba County Public Works/Planning Department	
Performance Criteria N/A	**Verification Cost** N/A	
		Date Complete (If applicable)

MM 20.1 Vegetation and Fuel Breaks The applicants shall use a combination of cattle grazing and/or property management shall gather and remove deadfall annually to reduce vegetation and wildfire fuels.		
Timing/Implementation Annually	**Enforcement/Monitoring** Yuba County Fire Prevention Officer and/or Smartsville Fire Protection District	
Performance Criteria N/A	**Verification Cost** N/A	
		Date Complete (If applicable)