DEER CREEK TRIBUTE TRAIL (DCTT) EXTENSION AND NISENAN CULTURAL RECLAMATION CORRIDOR (NCRC) ENHANCEMENT PROJECT
NEVADA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
INITIAL STUDY

To:

Building Department
Department of Public Works
Environmental Health
CEO – Alison Lehman
Nevada Irrigation District
City of Nevada City
Friends of Nevada City
Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe
Sierra Nevada Group/Sierra Club
U.S. Fish & Wildlife
Native American Heritage Commission
Erika Seward – CDA Senior Admin Analyst
Bear Yuba Land Trust
LAFCO
Supervisor Hall
Principal Planner
COB - Jeff Thorsby
Nevada County Consolidated Fire
Fire Protection Planner
CNPS – Redbud Chapter
Greater Champion Neighborhood Association
Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians
Central Valley Water Quality Control Board
CALFIRE – Pre-Fire – Steve Garcia
Resource Conservation District
Planning Commissioner Milman
FREED
T'si Akim Maidu

Date: January 12, 2023

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File Number(s): PLN22-0174; MGT22-0032; MGT23-0001; EIS22-0010

Project Location: Assessor's Parcel Number 005-101-002 (no situs address) in Nevada City, CA, accessed via Old Downieville Highway. Approximately one mile southwest of the Highway 49 and Highway 20 intersection in Nevada City.

Assessor's Parcel Number: 005-101-002

Applicant:
The Sierra Fund
ATTN: Carrie Monohan, Program Director
204 Providence Mine Road, Suite 214
Nevada City, CA 95959
carrie.monohan@sierrafund.org

Owner:
California Heritage: Indigenous Research Project (CHIRP)
ATTN: Shelly Covert
P.O. Box 2624
Nevada City, CA 95959
shelly@chirpca.org

Zoning District(s): RA-3-PD

General Plan: Estate (EST)

Project Description: Aquatic and Biological Resources Management Plan and Steep Slopes Management Plans for construction of approximately 3,700 feet of trail, installation of interpretive signage, fencing, retaining walls, a well and water storage tank, and a native plant garden with irrigation. In addition, the project proposes removal of non-native, invasive plant species and fuel reduction throughout the subject parcel.

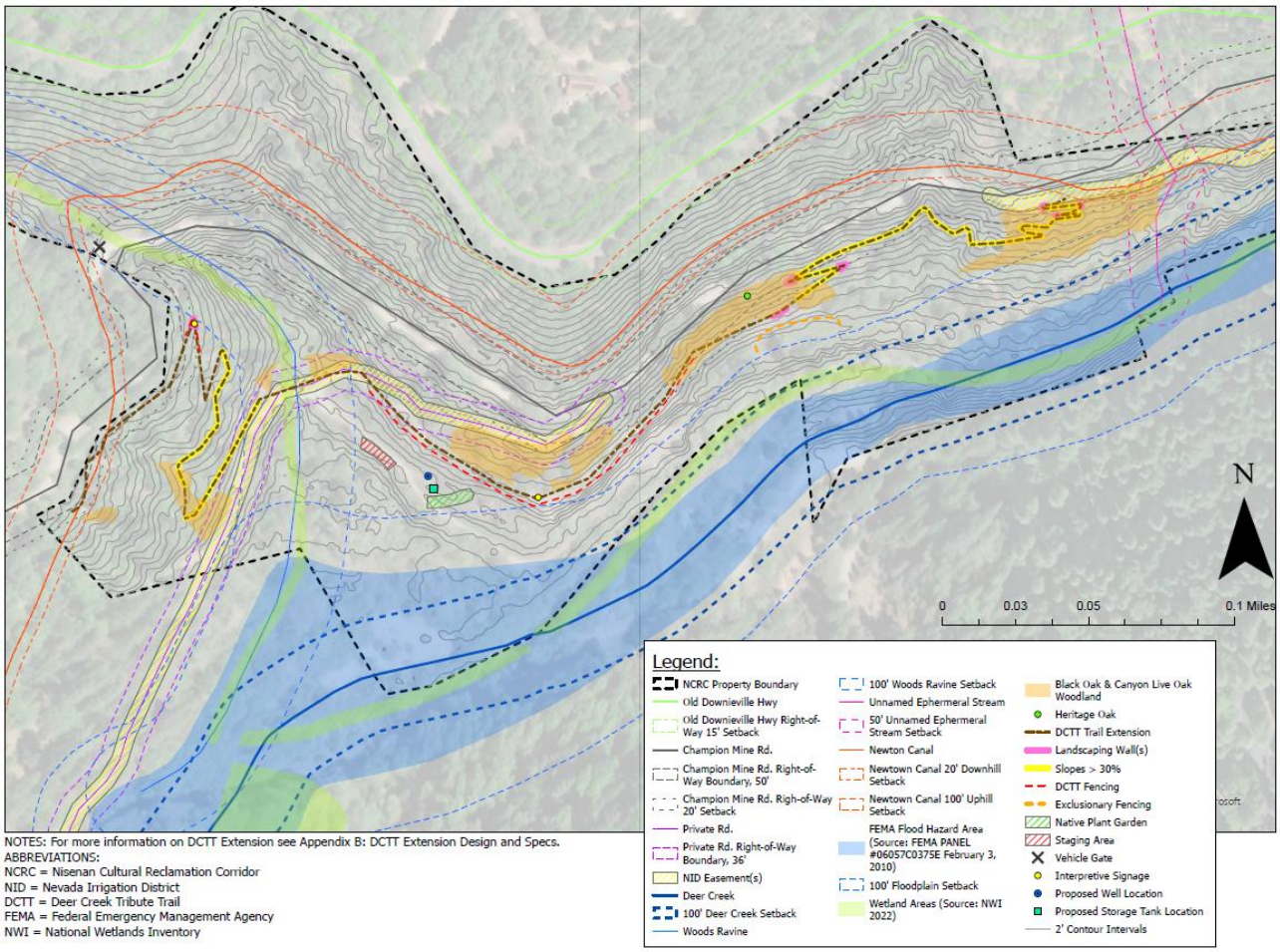

Figure 1. Project Site Plan; Deer Creek Tribute Trail Extension and Nisenan Cultural Reclamation Corridor Enhancement Project.

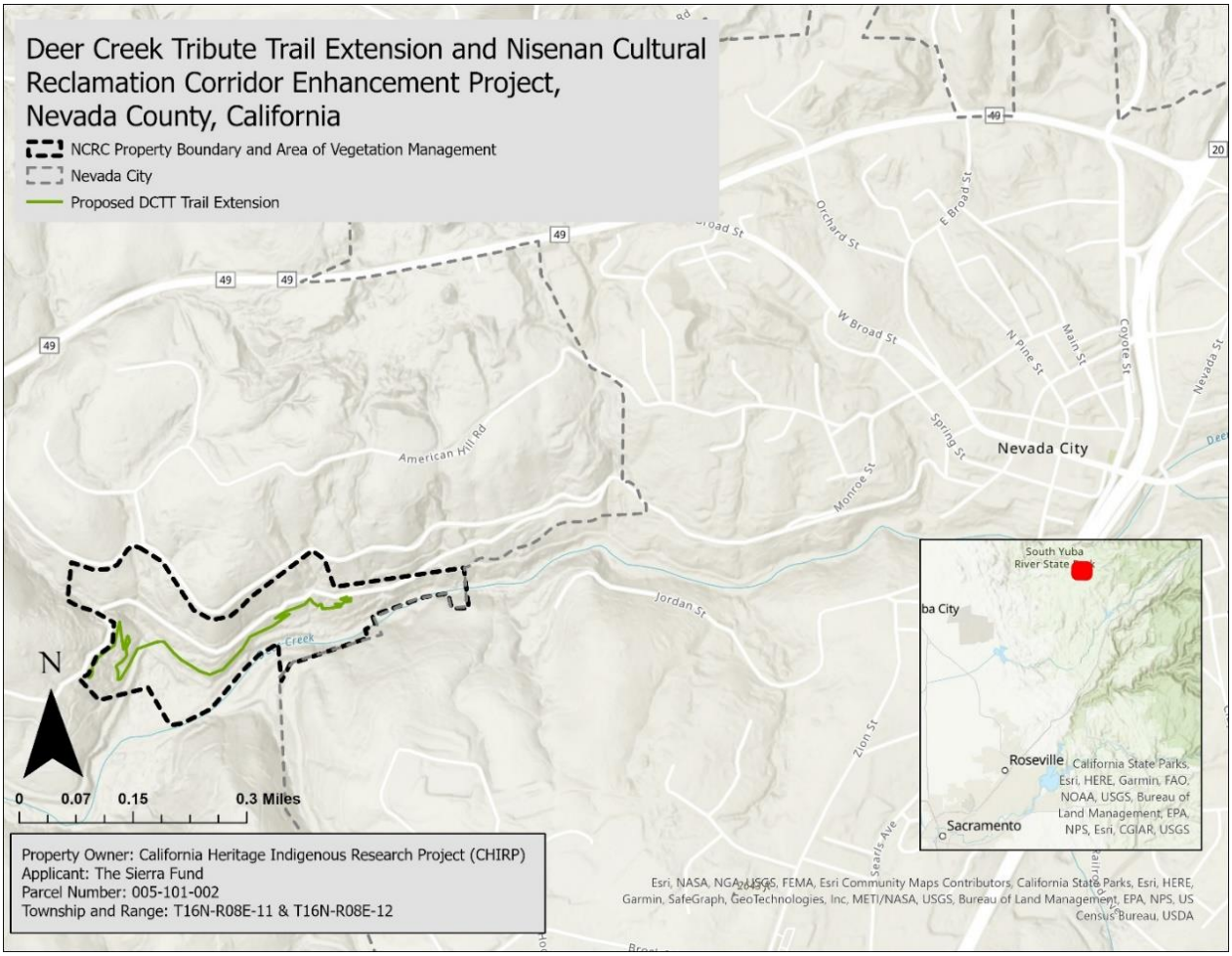

Figure 2.Project Location Map; Deer Creek Tribute Trail Extension and Nisenan Cultural Reclamation Corridor Enhancement Project.

Project Site and Surrounding Land Uses: The project is located on California Heritage: Indigenous Research Project (CHIRP) property (The Nisenan Cultural Reclamation Corridor and Wild Space Preserve) upon which the Bear Yuba Land Trust (BYLT) holds a trail easement for trail construction purposes. The project site is located in the lower montane conifer zone of western Nevada County on the north side of Deer Creek, downstream of Nevada City.

The project area is a mixture of open space to the southeast and low density residential on all other sides. The existing visual character along Champion Road and Old Downieville Highway is comprised of a narrow dirt roadway, low density residential development, and natural open space with periodic views overlooking the Deer Creek watershed.

The project is located within unincorporated Nevada County and Nevada City's Sphere of Influence. The completed Deer Creek Tribute Trail (DCTT) will run through downtown Nevada City along Deer Creek, which will foster non-motorized opportunities for surrounding residents and enhance connectivity to local schools, commerce, employment, and recreation. In addition, the finalized Deer Creek Tribute Trail will enhance recreational opportunities and property values for the community of Nevada City.

Other Permits, Which May Be Necessary: Based on initial comments received, the following permits may be required from the designated agencies:

1. Grading Permit – Nevada County Building Department
2. Burn Permit – CAL FIRE
3. Well Permit – Nevada County Environmental Health Department

Relationship to Other Projects: The Nevada County Planning Department previously approved Management Plans and adopted a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MGT08-013; MGT08-014; EIS08-014) for adjacent sections of the Deer Creek Tribute Trail (DCTT) and that it is appropriate to apply mitigation measures prepared for previously constructed segments of the trail to this project. The Sierra Fund staff have carefully reviewed the CEQA Document (EIS08-14, MGT08-013 &014) and associated Notice of Determination that were prepared for older segments of the DCTT and incorporated descriptions of those mitigation measures into this Initial Study. This analysis does not intend to "reopen" the environmental review of the approved Mitigation Negative Declaration for the Management Plans (MGT08-013; MGT08-014; EIS08-014).

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

The trail design and description of the project has been sent to United Auburn Indian Community (UAIC) the federally recognized tribe for this area for consultation. Project partners include the landowners, CHIRP, and they have been consulted on the trail design and location. This project was also distributed to the Nevada City Rancheria Nisenan Tribe, Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians, and T'si Akim Maidu Tribal Council.

Detailed Project Description: The project consists of constructing an extension of the Deer Creek Tribute Trail (~3,700 feet) that will alleviate trail users from having to be on Champion Mine Road and contribute to the local recreational opportunities by providing safe access to the rest of the trail system. This project will also include the construction of ~1,000-feet of wildlife friendly fencing, such as split rail fencing, along the downslope side of the DCTT extension to limit public access to private land. Additionally, interpretive signage will be posted along the proposed trail highlighting the historical importance of Deer Creek, native vegetation and Nisenan cultural significance in the area. This project also proposes exclusionary fencing and a well, water storage tank, and garden.

The proposed project is located on California Heritage: Indigenous Research Project (CHIRP) property: Nisenan Cultural Reclamation Corridor and Wild Space Preserve, upon which the Bear Yuba Land Trust (BYLT) holds a trail easement. The project boarders the western side of Nevada City limits and is accessed from town via Old Downieville Highway to Champion Mine Road. The existing DCTT extends from Pioneer Park in Nevada City to Newtown Road along both sides of Deer Creek, and the proposed new trail segment is within these boundaries. The east terminus of the project connects the new construction with the Nevada Irrigation District (NID) service road that serves a segment of the DCTT. The west terminus connects with a segment of the NID Newtown Canal.

Currently, trail users walk on Champion Mine Road to get between the two existing segments; however, the proposed trail segment will direct trail users off the County Road onto a private property easement, thereby increasing safety and accessibility. The proposed trail will be non-motorized and used largely by pedestrians and potentially mountain bikers. The proposed trail will not have more than 1,000 feet of wildlife friendly fencing, such as split rail fencing, along the downhill side to limit public access to lower

portions of the CHIRP property (Figure 2). Wildlife friendly fencing will be constructed of wood in 36" x 120" sections, similar to the design below (Figure 3).

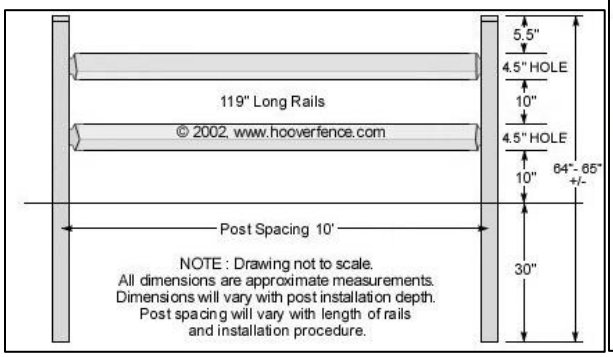

Figure 3. Typical Split-Rail Fencing Design.

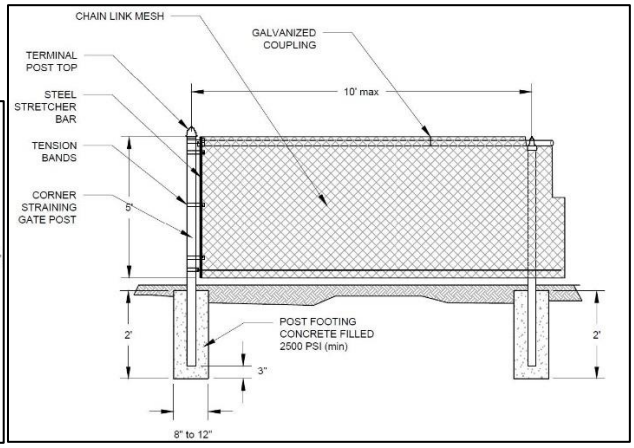

Figure 4. Typical Chain Link Fencing Design.

The proposed ~3,700 feet of new trail connecting the two existing segments of the Deer Creek Tribute Trail will require clearing and grubbing, earthwork, and rock removal. The project will include vegetation management actions and fuels reduction for the entire 32-acre CHIRP property. Additionally, the Project Site will receive a 250-foot-long exclusionary fence around an area with soil contamination on the property and a private residential well, location to be determined. The proposed 250 feet of exclusionary fencing will be constructed of typical 8-foot-tall chain-link fencing design (Figure 4). Exclusionary fencing will serve as a temporary barrier to reduce exposure to elevated levels of contaminants within a "Hot-Spot" located on the Nisenan Cultural Reclamation Corridor (NCRC) property. The new residential well will provide water supply access for private use and water storage with a 1500-gal tank for fire suppression and irrigation for a small native plant garden.

The proposed area of disturbance associated with trail construction runs along Deer Creek, approximately 200 feet on average uphill of the waterway. The proposed area of disturbance associated with the private residential water supply system will be determined at a later date following review and design by a licensed professional. The site is dominated by native oak and conifer trees, along with various species of shrubs. Most of the proposed trail is located where natural slopes do not exceed 30%. The areas of proposed trail exceeding 30% slopes are approximately the first 825 feet of trail and 400 feet near the western terminus. Most of the areas of steep slopes appear to be man-made. Approximately 150 of the 400 feet of trail near the western terminus will transverse a 2:1 (50%) man-made cut slope. The natural topography in that area is not considered steep slopes.

Areas of the trail will require construction of landscaping walls, drainage dips, climbing turns and switchbacks. Landscaping walls will be constructed using stacked rock from onsite, or imported from off-site if required, and will be limited to a height of less than four (4') feet. A total of six landscaping walls will be constructed as part of this project in locations noted on the plans. The trail shall be 36 to 40 inches wide and potentially only 20 inches in width in areas where necessary. The eastern portion of the trail will join with approximately 300 feet of existing private road which crosses a perennial stream, Woods Ravine. This private road crossing of Woods Ravine was constructed sometime in the early 1960's and no new construction is proposed within this section of the trail alignment. All trail construction shall comply with the USDA Standard Specifications for Construction of Trails and Trail Bridges on Forest Service Projects, dated October 30, 2014.

LIST OF APPENDICES

APPENDIX A: Reference Sources
APPENDIX B: DCTT Extension Design and Specifications
APPENDIX C: Steep Slopes Management Plan
APPENDIX D: Biological Inventory and Management Plan, 2022 Update
APPENDIX E: Archaeological Resources Study
APPENDIX F: Targeted Brownfields Assessment Report, Champion Mine Complex

SUMMARY OF IMPACTS

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

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

PROPOSED MITIGATION MEASURES

All mitigation measures must appear on plans for building and grading permits.

1. AESTHETICS

Mitigation Measure 1.A: All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. All structures, including fencing and the water storage tank, shall be finished in dark green, brown, or constructed of natural wood or stone.
Timing: *Prior to issuance of grading/building permits; before final inspection*
Reporting: *Final inspection*
Responsible Agency*: Planning Department*

3. AIR QUALITY

Mitigation Measure 3.A: All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. The applicant shall comply with CAL FIRE requirements for burn permits. Burning shall be prohibited during any "burn ban" period. A burn permit is required for approximately 3 to 6 weeks before and after a burn ban period during fire season. Burn permits provide the applicant with rules and regulations regarding fire laws and fire escape responsibilities, as well as the basic information for safe burning.
Timing: *Prior to issuance of grading/building permits; prior to burning of any vegetation*
Reporting: *Copies of any issued burn permits to be submitted to the Planning Department*
Responsible Agency: *Planning Department*

4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Mitigation Measure 4.A: All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. To minimize construction impacts to preserved oak trees and oak groves, the following mitigation measures shall be implemented during the construction phase and depicted on all project construction drawings:

1. Prior to construction, the trail coordinator and a qualified biologist shall conduct a tree survey within proposed construction areas and adjust the alignment or construction footprint wherever possible to minimize impacts to oaks. All oaks that cannot be retained and must be removed to accommodate trail construction shall receive a unique number and be flagged in the field as a tree that has been inventoried and designated for removal.
2. When the alignment is finalized and flagged the trail coordinator and a qualified biologist shall make a final Oak Inventory. The Oak Inventory shall include a list of all oaks greater than 5 inches DBH that have been designated for removal, and those which will be retained but will have construction occurring within their driplines. The Oak Inventory shall include the species, DBH, and project feature where the oak occurs. A copy of the Oak Inventory shall be submitted to the Nevada County Planning Department prior to any tree removal and the Plan guidelines adjusted accordingly.
3. During the tree removal phase of construction, no oaks greater than 5 inches DBH shall be removed unless it has been flagged by the qualified biologist and trail coordinator and included in the Oak Inventory as a removed tree.
4. Establish the landmark oak groves and landmark oak trees outside the construction footprint as Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) during construction. The boundary of the oak ESAs shall be established at the drip line of the preserved oaks or oak groves. The ESA boundaries shall be shown on plans and specifications. Temporary orange construction fencing shall be erected around all landmark oaks if their dripline overlaps the trail alignment. The fencing can be limited to only the construction side of the tree and need not encompass the entire dripline.
5. Plans and specifications shall clearly state protection procedures for oaks to be preserved on the project site. The specifications should also require contractors to stay within designated work areas and shall include a provision for penalties if oak trees to be preserved are damaged.
6. No vehicles, construction equipment, mobile offices, or materials shall be parked or located within the drip lines of oaks that are to be preserved.
7. Soil surface removal shall not occur within the drip lines of oaks to be preserved. If this area cannot be avoided, then the tree shall be added to the list of oaks to be replaced through planting or restoration.
8. No compacted fill or paving shall be placed within the drip lines of oaks, and no loose earthen fill greater than one-foot-deep shall be placed within the drip lines of oaks to be preserved except for those trees marked for mitigation.

9. No irrigation or ornamental plantings requiring regular irrigation should be installed within the drip line of landmark oaks to be preserved. Mulches or drought-tolerant, non-irrigated or drip- irrigated plantings are suitable within the drip line.

***Timing**: Prior to issuance of grading/building permits; prior to start of construction; during construction*
***Reporting:** Oak Inventory Report, Building/Grading Permits*
***Responsible Agency**: Planning Department*

Mitigation Measure 4.B: All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. To compensate for direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to oaks, every oak tree removed, or indirectly impacted through construction within the dripline, shall be mitigated at a ratio of 3:1 through a combination of plantings and protection and enhancement of oak seedling regeneration. Oaks to be established within mitigation areas shall be planted in accordance with guidelines described in *Guidelines for Oak Mitigation Plantings,* which was submitted with the projects' Management Plans.

The total number of oaks to be mitigated shall be established upon completion of the pre-construction Oak Inventory. Direct impacts to oaks less than 36 inches DBH shall be mitigated at a 3:1 ratio. Impacts due to removal of any landmark oaks shall be mitigated at a ratio of 12 seedlings planted or protected for every diameter inch of tree removed (i.e., removal of a 36 DBH landmark oak would require planting protection/restoration of 432 young oak trees).

Items 1 and 2 in the Specifications for Oak Seedling & Sapling Protection and Enhancement table (Appendix D) shall be implemented by the applicants prior to the start of construction. The applicants shall also be responsible for all implementation, maintenance, and monitoring. Prior to issuance of any building or sign permits, a copy of this Plan shall be submitted to the Planning Department to be maintained in the project file.

***Timing:** Prior to issuance of grading/building permits; prior to start of construction if mitigation is necessary*
***Reporting:** Oak Inventory Report, Building/Grading Permits*
***Responsible Agency:** Planning Department*

Mitigation Measure 4.C: All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. To avoid impacts to water quality, construction near Woods Ravine, Deer Creek and its floodplain, ephemeral drainages, wetlands, and riparian areas shall occur only during dry weather. Construction activities shall be timed with awareness of precipitation forecasts and shall be started only if the local weather forecast predicts no rain for a period of 72 hours. Construction activities shall cease, and all reasonable erosion control measures shall be implemented prior to storm events. At no time shall equipment operate in flowing water or in saturated soils. Revegetation work and planting activities are not confined to this time period and may occur during wet weather if no heavy equipment is used.

***Timing**: Prior to issuance of grading/building permits; during construction*
***Reporting**: Building/Grading Permits*
***Responsible Agency**: Planning Department*

Mitigation Measure 4.D: All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. To ensure the project's consistency with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 1600 of the California Fish and Game Code, the applicant shall obtain all necessary permits from CDFW, USACOE, and the RWQCB prior to the start of work, including vegetation removal along or adjacent to

streams. The applicant shall comply with all terms and conditions of the permits, including any project modifications required, mitigation measures, resource protection measures, and other provisions, and notify the agencies of any modifications made to the project plans submitted with the permit applications.
Timing: *Prior to issuance of grading/building permits; prior to start of construction*
Reporting: *Building/Grading Permits; copies of permits from applicable agencies to be submitted to the Planning Department*
Responsible Agency: *Planning Department*

Mitigation Measure 4.E: All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. Prior to construction, grading, or vegetation removal, establish the Newtown Ditch, Deer Creek and its floodplain, ephemeral drainages, wetlands, and riparian areas (outside of the permitted construction) as Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) for the duration of construction activities. The ESAs must be shown on all grading and construction site plans. Work shall not begin until the ESAs are delineated on the ground with orange safety netting by a qualified biologist. Temporary construction fencing shall be installed along the ESA boundary where these features occur within 25 feet of construction. The ESA fences shall remain in place for the entire duration of construction. No earth- moving activities, vehicles, heavy equipment, or other construction shall be permitted within the ESAs.
Timing: *Prior to issuance of grading/building permits; prior to start of construction*
Reporting: *Building/Grading Permits*
Responsible Agency: *Planning Department*

Mitigation Measure 4.F: All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. Grading, construction, and vegetation removal should be avoided during the nesting season (March 1- July 31) to prevent impacts to nesting raptors or migratory birds, including nesting Cooper's hawks, yellow-breasted chats, and yellow warblers, using the construction zone and adjacent forest. If construction activities cannot be avoided during the nesting season, pre-construction surveys shall be conducted to verify that the construction and potential disturbance zones do not support nesting migratory birds.

1. Tree removal shall not take place during the breeding season (March 1 -July 31), unless supported by a report from a qualified biologist to verify that birds, including raptors, are not nesting in the trees proposed for removal or disturbance.
2. An additional survey may be required if periods of construction inactivity (e.g., gaps of activity during grading, tree removal, road building, or structure assembly) exceed a period of two weeks, an interval during which bird species, in the absence of human or construction-related disturbances, may establish a nesting territory and initiate egg laying and incubation.
3. Surveys shall be conducted no sooner than two weeks prior to the initiation of construction activities or other site disturbances.
4. Should any active nests or breeding areas be discovered, a buffer zone (protected area surrounding the nest, the size of which is to be determined by a qualified biologist) shall be established. A monitoring plan shall be developed to ensure buffer zones are enforced. Nest locations shall be mapped to determine the necessary buffer zones and a report stating the survey results shall be submitted to the Nevada County Planning Department within one week of survey completion in order to verify compliance with the required buffer zone mitigation.

Timing: *Prior to issuance of grading/building permits; no sooner than two weeks prior to the initiation of construction activities from March 1 – July 31*
Reporting: *Building/Grading Permits; pre-construction surveys to be submitted to Planning Department*
Responsible Agency: *Planning Department*

Mitigation Measure 4.G: All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. The project manager shall be responsible for implementation of all mitigation measures. The Contractor or a designated crew (or volunteer) supervisor shall be on site any time construction occurs in close proximity of streams, canals, and wetlands. This person shall be completely familiar with the mitigation measures contained above and with the terms and conditions of all permits.
Timing: *Prior to issuance of grading/building permits; during construction*
Reporting: *Building/Grading Permits*
Responsible Agency: *Planning Department*

Mitigation Measure 4.H: All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. To ensure implementation of all mitigation measures contained in this report, the applicant shall distribute copies of these mitigation measures to the contractors and their workers, and to all volunteers involved in construction prior to the start of work, including vegetation removal. The Contractor or a designated crew (or volunteer) supervisor shall be on site any time construction occurs in close proximity of streams, canals, and wetlands. This person shall be completely familiar with the mitigation measures contained above and with the terms and conditions of all permits.
Timing: *Prior to issuance of grading/building permits; prior to start of construction*
Reporting: *Copy of document issued to all workers and volunteers to be submitted to the Planning Department*
Responsible Agency*: Planning Department*

Mitigation Measure 4.I: All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. To minimize indirect effects from the introduction of noxious weeds and the cumulative effects of the incremental loss of these sensitive habitats, educational signage shall be installed that discusses the unique flora, fauna, and natural history of these habitats, how to recognize them elsewhere, and how to voluntarily preserve the integrity and habitat values of the remaining habitat. Trail brochures produced for trail users shall include a discussion about the threats of noxious weeds and how to prevent accidental introduction, and on the importance of controlling pets to prevent harassment or predation of wildlife using these habitats.
Timing: *Prior to issuance of grading/building permits; prior to project completion*
Reporting: *Building/Grading Permits; final inspection*
Responsible Agency*: Planning Department*

5. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Mitigation Measure 5.A: All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. Identified resources along the path of the proposed trail should be flagged and avoided during construction. No material from the site, such as cobbles or boulders that may be remains of the mine venture, should be removed, moved, or used in any construction. While unexpected, construction activities should stop if any new features or artifacts that have not been identified previously (e.g., tangible resources that have been flagged for avoidance prior to construction) become apparent during construction. A qualified archaeologist shall determine the nature of the remains and course of action. These recommendations shall be made part of the project stipulations.
Timing: *Prior to issuance of grading/building permits; prior to start of construction; during construction*
Reporting: *Building/Grading Permits*
Responsible Agency*: Planning Department*

Mitigation Measure 5.B: All grading and construction plans shall include the note outlining the requirements provided below to ensure that any cultural resources discovered during project construction are properly managed. These requirements including the following:

All equipment operators and employees involved in any form of ground disturbance shall be trained to recognize potential archeological resources and advised of the remote possibility of encountering subsurface cultural resources during these activities. If such resources are encountered or suspected, work within 100-feet shall be halted immediately and the Nevada County Planning Department shall be contacted. A qualified cultural resources specialist shall be retained by the developer and consulted to access any discoveries and develop appropriate management recommendations for resource treatment.

If bones are encountered and appear to be human, California Law requires that the Nevada County Coroner be contacted. Should the discovery include Native American human remains, in addition to the required procedures of Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5, Public Resources Code 5097.98 and California Code of Regulations Section 15064.5(e), all work must stop in the within 100-feet of the find and the Nevada County Coroner must be notified. If the remains are determined to be Native American, the coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission, and the procedures outlined in California Environmental Quality Act Sections 15064.5(d) and (e) shall be followed.
Timing: *Prior to building permit issuance; during construction*
Reporting: *Building/Grading Permits; notification to the Planning Department, County Coroner, and/or Native American Heritage Commission as needed*
Responsible Agency*: Planning Department*

7. GEOLOGY / SOILS

Mitigation Measure 7.A: All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. Minimization of potential impacts includes the following conditions which will appear printed on all building permit plans:

1. Cut and fill slopes shall not exceed 2:1 unless certified by a geo-technical engineer.
2. All disturbed soil shall be compacted.
3. No rocks greater than six inches in any direction shall be allowed as part of the fill.
4. Fill material shall be placed in uncompacted lifts not to exceed eight inches.
5. Fill slopes shall be constructed by overbuilding slope face, then cutting it back to match the design gradient.
6. Erosion Control Best Management Practices (BMPs) shall be employed during construction including, but not limited to, silt fencing, straw waddles, and hydroseeding.
    a. Silt fencing shall be employed at the toe of fill to prevent siltation of nearby waterways
    b. Straw waddles shall be installed on contour above the cut bank to slow down surface water before it reaches the area of disturbance, in turn, reducing erosion of newly disturbed areas.
    c. All graded areas shall be seeded as soon as possible. Where seeding is necessary, only native seed mixes shall be used. The use of tackifiers, jute netting, or fiber emulsions may be necessary to ensure viability of the hydroseed.
7. Grading shall not be completed when considerable precipitation is forecasted. If grading is to occur during the wet season (October 15–April 15), then all BMPs shall be implemented for the duration of construction during that time period.
8. Preserve existing vegetation as practical to maintain slope stability.
9. Construction to be completed by hand when practicable or when necessary, a mini excavator.
10. All duff and debris removed will be spread at a depth not more than four inches outside of the clearing limits, in turn, slowing down surface runoff, reducing erosion and increasing infiltration.

Timing: *Prior to building permit issuance; during construction*
Reporting: *Building/Grading Permits*
Responsible Agency*: Planning Department*

Mitigation Measure 7.B: All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. During and after construction activities, the project manager shall provide labor, materials, and equipment to maintain and protect exposed soil from wind and water erosion:

1. If a storm is forecast for the area, exposed fill shall be sloped to drain and compacted to facilitate run-off.
2. Existing surface drainage facilities shall be kept free of soil and debris during construction.
3. Temporary or constructed water conveyance channels shall be kept free sediment or debris at all times.
4. Temporary erosion control shall be applied within and adjacent to the boundary of the construction zone at the locations determined the contractor in the field.
5. Siltation control shall be provided during construction.
6. Disturbed slopes shall be stabilized and seeded as soon as possible following grading to allow vegetation to become established prior to the rainy season.

Timing: *Prior to building permit issuance; during and after construction*
Reporting: *Building/grading permits*
Responsible Agency: *Planning Department*

Mitigation Measure 7.C: All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. During and after construction activities, the project manager shall maintain proper surface water drainage:

1. Surface water drainage shall not be directed over cut and fill slope faces.
2. Surface water shall be directed away from the trail alignment at appropriate intervals by the construction of rolling dips or other appropriate methods to reduce the chance of trail erosion.
3. The intercepted water shall be discharged into natural drainage courses that are capable of receiving the expected storm water flows.

Timing: *Prior to building permit issuance; during and after construction*
Reporting: *Building/grading permits*
Responsible Agency: *Planning Department*

Mitigation Measure 7.D: All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. During and after construction activities, the project manager shall employ the following Best Management Practices:

1. Straw with Jute Netting or Tackifiers: Jute netting or tackifiers may be placed and secured over the slopes to keep straw and/or other mulch material from being washed or blown away.
2. Fiber Rolls: Fiber rolls (wattles) may be appropriate on disturbed slopes and below sediment discharge areas. Fiber rolls should be anchored with wood stakes placed four feet on center or closer. Fiber rolls placed on slopes should be trenched 2 to 4 inches into the soil. Additional wattles may be required during the rainy season if the installed wattles are filled with sediment. Prior to fiber roll installation, the sub grade should be prepared by removing local surface irregularities and larger rock or debris that would inhibit contact of the fiber roll with the subgrade. A contoured key trench should be excavated 2 to 4 inches deep along the proposed installation route. Soil excavated from the key trench should be placed on the up-slope side of the fiber roll to reduce the chance of surface water undercutting the roll. When more than one fiber roll is placed in a row, the rolls should be abutted securely to one another to provide a tight joint, not overlapped. Split, tom, unraveling or slumping fiber rolls should be repaired or replaced. Fiber rolls should be observed for damage when rain is forecasted, following rain events, and periodically as needed during prolonged rainfall. Fiber rolls typically do not require removal and can be abandoned in place, once permanent erosion control is established.
3. Silt Fences: Silt fences may be appropriate in areas of significant grading/disturbance adjacent to existing drainages. Silt fences should be constructed of woven filter fabric, such as Amoco 2125 or equivalent and secured on minimum 2-inch square wood or steel posts spaced not more than 10

feet. Silt fences must be placed on contour, where possible, and must extend a minimum of 6 inches into the surface soil.

4. Rock/Log Check Dams: Check dams may be appropriate down slope of proposed culverts that are present within areas of significant grading and/or disturbance. Rock check dams shall be constructed using minimum 4- to 8-inch diameter rock and/or minimum 8-inch diameter logs supported on the down slope side by No.3 reinforcement bar. The logs and/or rocks shall be overlain by non-woven geotextile fabric such as Amoco 4545 or equivalent. Minimum 8-inch diameter rock shall be placed over the fabric. Downstream and upstream of the check dam, 4-inch minus gravel may be placed in the drainage channel.

Timing: *Prior to building permit issuance; during and after construction*
Reporting: *Building/grading permits; final inspection*
Responsible Agency: *Planning Department*

9. HAZARD/ HAZARDOUS MATERIAL

Mitigation Measure 9.A: All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. Prior to any construction activities associated with the proposed Deer Creek Tribute Trail Extension Project, the project manager and or its subcontractors shall provide the labor and materials to construct an "exclusionary zone" around the "hot spot area" identified as part of the Targeted Brownfield Assessment. Although the proposed Deer Creek Tribute Trail does not cross the areas of concern, the close proximity (~100 feet) of the "hot spot area" located at the former Champion Mine chlorination works area to portions of the proposed DCTT is such that the construction of an "exclusionary zone" will be used to ensure the health and safety of parties involved. The "exclusionary zone" will be constructed with eight-foot-tall chain link fencing and warning signs of potential soil contamination around the "hot spot area".
Timing: *Prior to building permit issuance; prior to start of construction*
Reporting: *Building/grading permits; final inspection*
Responsible Agency: *Planning Department*

Mitigation Measure 9.B: All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. Prior to construction activities associated with the proposed Deer Creek Tribute Trail (DCTT) Extension Project, the project manager or its subcontractor shall provide the labor and materials to collect additional surface soil samples every ~100 feet along the proposed DCTT extension route. Soil samples will be collected, shipped, and analyzed according to the appropriate ASTM standards for Title 22 Metals. Soil analysis will be conducted as a precautionary measure in an effort to protect all parties involved against possible exposure to contaminated sediments.
Timing: *Prior to building permit issuance; prior to start of construction*
Reporting: *Building/grading permits; sampling data to be send to the Planning Department*
Responsible Agency: *Planning Department*

10. HYDROLOGY / WATER QUALITY

Mitigation Measure 10.A: All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. To protect water quality and wildlife in Deer Creek and its floodplain, the ephemeral drainages, wetlands, riparian areas, and Newtown Ditch the contractors and their workers (including any volunteers conducting project work) shall implement standard Best Management Practices during and after construction. These measures include, but are not limited to:

1. Minimize the number and size of work areas (e.g., equipment staging areas and spoil storage areas) in the vicinity of the streams, Deer Creek floodplain, wetlands, riparian areas, and Newtown Ditch. Place staging areas, spoil areas, and other work areas outside the permitted construction a minimum

of 30 feet from the stream. Field reconnaissance should be conducted during the planning stage to identify work areas and clearly mark those areas on all final grading and construction drawings.

2. Prior to the start of work, including any vegetation removal, install silt-fencing, straw bales, sediment catch basins, straw or coir logs or rolls, or other sediment barriers to keep erodible soils and other pollutants from entering the stream. Before the first heavy rains and prior to removing the barriers, soil or other sediments or debris that accumulates behind the barriers shall be removed and transported away for disposal.
3. Disruption of soils and native vegetation shall be minimized to limit potential erosion and sedimentation; disturbed areas shall be graded to minimize surface erosion and siltation; bare soils shall be immediately stabilized and revegetated. Seeded areas shall be covered with broadcast straw or mulch. If straw is used for mulch or for erosion control, use only certified weed-free straw or rice straw to minimize the risk of introduction of noxious weeds, such as yellow star thistle and goat grass.
4. The contractor shall exercise every reasonable precaution to protect the streams, wetlands, canal, and riparian areas from pollution with fuels, oils, bitumen, calcium chloride, and other harmful materials. Construction byproducts and pollutants such as oil, cement, and wash water shall be prevented from discharging into or near these resources and shall be collected and removed from the site. No slash or other debris shall be placed in or adjacent to the ESA. All construction debris and associated materials and litter shall be removed from the work site immediately upon completion.
5. Equipment or vehicle maintenance or refueling shall occur as far from the ESA boundaries as possible. The contractor shall immediately contain and clean up any petroleum or other chemical spills with absorbent materials such as sawdust or cat litter. For other hazardous materials, follow cleanup instructions on the package.
6. No direct discharge of runoff from disturbed areas shall be allowed to flow directly into the streams, canal, wetlands or riparian area. Runoff shall instead be intercepted and directed into energy dissipaters or vegetated swales constructed at discharge points to reduce velocity and prevent erosion.

Timing: *Prior to building permit issuance; prior to start of construction; during construction*
Reporting: *Building/grading permits*
Responsible Agency: *Planning Department*

Mitigation Measure 10.B: Stream Crossings. All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. Impacts associated with the trail construction on any seasonal stream will be addressed by permits obtained from either or both the United States Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the California Department of Fish and Game by obtaining a Section 404 permit and a Streambed Alteration Agreement, as necessary. Copies of all correspondence with regulatory agencies shall be provided to the Nevada County Planning Department.

Timing: *Prior to building permit issuance; prior to start of construction*
Reporting: *Building/grading permits; copies of permits or confirmation from applicable agencies that permits are not required to be submitted to the Planning Department*
Responsible Agency: *Planning Department*

Mitigation Measure 10.C*:* Stream Course Protection. All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. Stream course protection measures will be implemented during all aspects of the project to protect the natural flow of streams, to provide unobstructed passage of storm flows, and to reduce sediment and other pollutants from entering streams. Rocking of trail tread will occur where the native soils do not provide a firm and stable trail surface.

Timing: *Prior to building permit issuance; prior to start of construction; during construction*
Reporting: *Building/grading permits*
Responsible Agency: *Planning Department*

Mitigation Measure 10.D: Best Management Practices. All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. The following Best Management Practices shall be made a part of the trail project.

1. Control of Trail Drainage: To disperse runoff and to minimize erosion of the trail prism by runoff from trail surface and from uphill areas, measures such as properly spaced cross drains, dips, and out sloping shall be installed.
2. Minimization of Sidecast Material: To minimize sediment production originating from sidecast material during trail construction and reconstruction, sidecasting of uncompacted material will be permitted only when necessary. Loose, unconsolidated sidecast material shall not be permitted to enter any riparian areas as identified.
3. Servicing and Refueling of Equipment: To prevent pollutants such as fuels, lubricants, and other harmful materials from being discharged into or near rivers, streams or into natural channels leading thereto, service and refueling areas shall be located outside of any riparian areas and away from other wet areas.
4. Control of Construction in Riparian Areas: Trail construction and reconstruction within any stream crossings or riparian areas shall be kept to a minimum to protect riparian habitat, channel stability and to prevent sediment from entering any stream channel.

Timing: *Prior to building permit issuance; prior to start of construction; during construction*
Reporting: *Building/grading permits*
Responsible Agency: *Planning Department*

18. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

Mitigation Measure 18.A: All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. The cultural monitor at the Nisenan Cultural Reclamation Corridor (NCRC) site reserves the right to halt implementation activities in order to assess, verify, and meet cultural objectives. The NCRC Cultural Mitigation Measures listed below are not inclusive, and new mitigation measures may be identified as they are identified during work at the NCRC.

1. Avoid Impacts to Woodpecker: Implementation activities must be structured to avoid disturbance of woodpecker. Pre-implementation scoping should identify areas where woodpecker are present and areas where woodpecker habitat is present.
2. During the spring woodpecker consume insects, oak flowers, berries, seeds, wood-boring insects. Disturbance of areas with these resources should be minimized.
3. In the winter woodpecker consume hoarded nuts stored in granaries. Granaries consist of older trees with thick bark where bore hole depth is shallow enough to avoid sap spillage. Snags and telephone poles may also be used. Disturbance or removal of granaries is prohibited.
4. Woodpecker nest in holes and females use a joint nest. Nest may be reused across years and generations of family. Disturbance or removal of nest trees is prohibited.
5. If woodpecker are observed in a work area, work must pause and the cultural monitor must be notified to determine next steps.

Timing: *Prior to building permit issuance; during construction*
Reporting: *Building/grading permits*
Responsible Agency: *Planning Department*

Mitigation Measure 18.B: All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. Manage Worksite to Minimize Bird Disturbance: Bird species are sensitive to noise(s) and smell(s) associated with equipment use. All implementation activities must be conscientious of oil, gas, noise and smells that would scare birds away. If birds are observed to congregate in specific locations, work shall be avoided in these areas or activities should minimize disturbance by adjusting timing, frequency, or technique.

Timing: *Prior to building permit issuance; during construction*
Reporting: *Building/grading permits*
Responsible Agency: *Planning Department*

Mitigation Measure 18.C: All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. Several species of cultural importance occur at the NCRC. Disturbance of areas with species of importance listed below shall be avoided. If avoidance is not possible, the cultural monitor should be consulted in advance of any activity.

1. Sustenance Species: black oak (Quercus kelloggii), Sugar Pine (Pinus lambertiana), Gray Pine/Foothill Pine (Pinus sabiniana), Pacific Madrone(Arbutus menziesii), Jeffery Pine (Pinus jeffreyi), Ponderosa Pine (Pinus ponderosa), Lodgepole Pine (Pinus contorta), and wild onion (Allium sp.).
2. Medicinal Species: wormwood (Artemisia douglasiana), soap root (Chlorogalum pomeridianum), and elderberry (Sambucus spp.).
3. Basketry Species: willow (Salix spp.), redbud (Cercis occidentalis), sedge roots, and bracken fern (Pteridium aquilinum).
4. Tool Making Species: pacific yew (Taxus brevifolia).

Timing: *Prior to building permit issuance; during construction*
Reporting: *Building/grading permits*
Responsible Agency: *Planning Department*

Mitigation Measure 18.D: All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. Contractors and construction personnel involved in any form of ground disturbance (i.e. utility placement or maintenance, grading, etc.) shall be advised of the remote possibility of encountering subsurface cultural resources. If such resources are encountered or suspected, work shall be halted immediately, and the Planning Department and a professional archaeologist shall be consulted who shall assess any discoveries and develop appropriate management recommendations for archaeological resource treatment. If bones are found and appear to be human, California Law requires that the Nevada County Coroner and the Native American Heritage Commission be contacted. If Native American resources are involved, Native American Organizations and individuals recognized by the County shall be notified and consulted about any plans for treatment.
Timing: *Prior to building permit issuance; during construction*
Reporting: *Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program*
Responsible Agency*: Cultural monitor, Planning Department*

20. WILDFIRE

See Mitigation Measure 3.A

Mitigation Monitoring Matrix

MEASURE	MONITORING AUTHORITY	IMPLEMENTATION TIMING
1.A	Planning Department	Prior to issuance of grading/building permits; before final inspection
3.A	Planning Department	Prior to issuance of grading/building permits; prior to burning of any vegetation
4.A	Planning Department	Prior to issuance of grading/building permits; prior to start of construction; during construction
4.B	Planning Department	Prior to issuance of grading/building permits; prior to start of construction if mitigation is necessary
4.C	Planning Department	Prior to issuance of grading/building permits; during construction
4.D	Planning Department	Prior to issuance of grading/building permits; prior to start of construction
4.E	Planning Department	Prior to issuance of grading/building permits; prior to start of construction
4.F	Planning Department	Prior to issuance of grading/building permits; no sooner than two weeks prior to the initiation of construction activities from March 1 – July 31
4.G	Planning Department	Prior to issuance of grading/building permits; during construction
4.H	Planning Department	Prior to issuance of grading/building permits; prior to start of construction
4.I	Planning Department	Prior to issuance of grading/building permits; prior to project completion
5.A	Planning Department	Prior to issuance of grading/building permits; prior to start of construction; during construction
5.B	Planning Department	Prior to building permit issuance; during construction
7.A	Planning Department	Prior to building permit issuance; during construction
7.B	Planning Department	Prior to building permit issuance; during and after construction
7.C	Planning Department	Prior to building permit issuance; during and after construction
7.D	Planning Department	Prior to building permit issuance; during and after construction
9.A	Planning Department	Prior to building permit issuance; prior to start of construction
9.B	Planning Department	Prior to building permit issuance; prior to start of construction
10.A	Planning Department	Prior to building permit issuance; prior to start of construction; during construction
10.B	Planning Department	Prior to building permit issuance; prior to start of construction
10.C	Planning Department	Prior to building permit issuance; prior to start of construction; during construction
10.D	Planning Department	Prior to building permit issuance; prior to start of construction; during construction
18.A	Planning Department	Prior to building permit issuance; during construction
18.B	Planning Department	Prior to building permit issuance; during construction
18.C	Planning Department	Prior to building permit issuance; during construction
18.D	Planning Department	Prior to building permit issuance; during construction

INITIAL STUDY

Introduction: This checklist is to be completed for all projects that are not exempt from environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The information, analysis and conclusions contained in the checklist are the basis for deciding whether an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or Negative Declaration is to be prepared. If an EIR is determined to be necessary based on the conclusions of the Initial Study, the checklist is used to focus the EIR on the effects determined to be potentially significant.

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

- **No Impact**: An impact that would result in no adverse changes to the environment.
- **Less than Significant Impact**: An impact that is potentially adverse but does not exceed the thresholds of significance as identified in the impact discussions. Less than significant impacts do not require mitigation.
- **Less than Significant with Mitigation**: An environmental effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the environment without mitigation, but which is reduced to a level that is less than significant with mitigation identified in the Initial Study.
- **Potentially Significant Impact**: An environmental effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the environment; either additional information is needed regarding the extent of the impact to make the significance determination, or the impact would or could cause a substantial adverse change in the environment. A finding of a potentially significant impact would result in the determination to prepare an EIR.

CHECKLIST

1. AESTHETICS

Existing Setting: The project site is located in the lower montane conifer zone of western Nevada County on the north side of Deer Creek, downstream of Nevada City. The Project Area is rich in natural resources, open space, and topological diversity which provides a range of visual backdrops for the project. The existing visual character along Champion Road and Old Downieville Highway is comprised of a narrow dirt roadway, low density residential development, and natural open space with periodic views overlooking the Deer Creek watershed. The site is not within a state scenic highway or contain any scenic vistas. Much of the site is not currently publicly accessible, but will be after Project implementation.

Except as provide in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the proposed project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation**	**Less Than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**	**Reference Source (Appendix A)**
a. Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?			✓		A
b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including but not limited to trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?				✓	A, B
c. In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of		✓			A

Except as provide in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the proposed project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation**	**Less Than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**	**Reference Source (Appendix A)**
the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?					
d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?				✓	A

Impact Discussion:
1a: While the site contains natural settings with views of trees and intermittent views of waterways, there are no scenic vistas. The proposed fencing and water storage tank will not block any scenic vistas.

1.b: The project is not within a state scenic highway.

1.c: The project proposes to construct a new trail segment, remove forest fuels, restore native vegetation, and install interpretive features. The project is a tribute to the natural and cultural resources in the Deer Creek watershed and is intended to be consistent with the existing landscape character of the project area. The restoration work is anticipated to enhance the natural aesthetics of the project area and the overall trail system will increase public opportunities to view scenic resources. Staging areas are on-site adjacent to existing private and Nevada Irrigation District (NID) access roads, both of which are visually isolated from neighbors and vehicular/pedestrian traffic. The project does propose installation of a water storage tank and fencing, which may degrade the scenic qualities. Mitigation Measure 1.A requires these structures to be finished in colors that will blend in with the environment to cause a less than significant impact to aesthetics with mitigation.

1.d: The project does not propose to add new sources of light or glare.

Mitigation Measures:

Mitigation Measure 1.A: All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. All structures, including fencing and the water storage tank, shall be finished in dark green, brown, or constructed of natural wood or stone.
Timing: *Prior to issuance of grading/building permits; before final inspection*
Reporting: *Final inspection*
Responsible Agency*: Planning Department*

2. AGRICULTURAL/FORESTRY RESOURCES

Existing Setting: Based on the State Department of Conservation's *Important Farmland Map*, the project site does not contain prime agriculture soils or Important Farmlands. The project site does not have existing agricultural uses, does not contain any Williamson Act contracts, and does not have land zoned exclusively for agricultural use. The project site is also not adjacent to any existing Farmlands.

Would the proposed project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Reference Source (Appendix A)
a. Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Department of Conservation's Division of Land Resource Protection, to non-agricultural use?				✓	A, 1
b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or conflict with a Williamson Act contract?				✓	A, 2
c. Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resource Code section 12220(g)), timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))?				✓	A, 2
d. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				✓	A
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?				✓	A

Impact Discussion:
1a-e: The project site does not contain any agricultural soils, protected lands, uses, resources, or structures. The proposed project is not anticipated to impact any existing agricultural uses, the ability to support future agricultural uses, or result in the conversion of Farmland.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

3. AIR QUALITY

Existing Setting: Nevada County is located in the Mountain Counties Air Basin (MCAB). The MCAB includes the central and northern Sierra Nevada mountain range with elevations ranging from several hundred feet in the foothills to over 6,000 feet above mean sea level along the Sierra Crest. The MCAB generally experiences warm, dry summers and wet winters. Ambient air quality in the air basin is generally determined by climatological conditions, the topography of the air basin, and the type and amount of pollutants emitted. The Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District has responsibility for controlling air pollution emissions including "criteria air pollutants" and "toxic air pollutants" from direct sources (such as factories) and indirect sources (such as land-use projects) to improve air quality within Nevada County. To do so, the District adopts rules, regulations, policies, and programs to manage the air pollutant emissions from various sources, and also must enforce certain statewide and federal rules, regulations and laws. The Federal Clean Air Act of 1971 established national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS). These

standards are divided into primary and secondary standards. Primary standards are designed to protect public health and secondary standards are designed to protect plants, forests, crops, and materials. Because of the health-based criteria identified in setting the NAAQS, the air pollutants are termed "criteria" pollutants. California has adopted its own ambient air quality standards (CAAQS). Criteria air pollutants include ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, lead, and particulate matter. CAAQS include the NAAQS pollutants, in addition to visibility reducing particles, sulfates, hydrogen sulfide, and vinyl chloride. A nonattainment area is an area where a criteria air pollutant's concentration is above either the federal and/or state ambient air quality standards. Depending on the level of severity, a classification will be designated to a nonattainment area. Failure of a state to reach attainment of the NAAQS by the target date can trigger penalties, including withholding of federal highway funds. Table 1 shows the current attainment/nonattainment status for the federal and state air quality standards in Nevada County.

Nevada County has two federally recognized air monitoring sites: The Litton Building in Grass Valley (fine particulate matter, also called PM2.5, and ozone) and the fire station in downtown Truckee (PM2.5 only). For eight-hour average ozone concentrations, Nevada County is serious nonattainment for both the 2008 and 2015 state and federal ozone standards of 75 and 70 parts per billion, respectively (Table 1). Unlike other pollutants, ozone is not typically released directly into the atmosphere from any sources. Ozone is created by the interaction of Nitrogen Oxides and Reactive Organic Gases (also known as Volatile Organic Compounds) in the presence of sunlight, especially when the temperature is high. The major sources of Nitrogen Oxides and Reactive Organic Gases, known as ozone precursors, are combustion sources such as factories, automobiles and evaporation of solvents and fuels. Ozone is mainly a summertime problem, with the highest concentrations generally observed in July and August, when the days are longest, especially in the late afternoon and evening hours. Ozone is considered by the California Air Resources Board to be overwhelmingly transported to Nevada County from the Sacramento Metropolitan area and, to a lesser extent, the San Francisco Bay Area. This recognition of overwhelming transport relieves Nevada County of CAAQS-related requirements, including the development of CAAQS attainment plan with a "no-net-increase" permitting program or an "all feasible measures" demonstration. For particulate matter, ambient air quality standards have been established for both PM10 and PM2.5. California has standards for average PM10 concentrations over 24-hour periods and over the course of an entire year, which are 50 and 20 $\mu g/m^3$, respectively. (The notation "$\mu g/m^3$" means micrograms of pollutant per cubic meter of ambient air.) For PM2.5, California only has a standard for average PM2.5 concentrations over a year, set at 12 $\mu g/m^3$, with no 24-hour-average standard. Nevada County is in compliance with all of the federal particulate matter standards, but like most California counties it is out of compliance with the state PM10 standards. Particulate-matter is identified by the maximum particle size in microns as either PM2.5 or PM10. PM2.5, is mostly smoke and aerosol particles resulting from woodstoves and fireplaces, vehicle engines, wildfires, and open burning. PM-10 is a mixture of dust, combustion particles (smoke) and aerosols from sources such as surface disturbances, road sand, vehicle tires, and leaf blowers.

Table 1: Attainment Status by Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District of State and Federal Air Quality Standards. In addition, the entire district is either Attainment or Unclassified for all State and federal NO_2, SO_2, Pb, H_2S, visibility reducing particles, sulfates, and vinyl chloride standards.

Pollutant	State Designation	Federal Designation
Ozone (O_3)	Nevada County: Non-attainment (due to overwhelming transport)	2008 O_3 Standard (75 ppb) Western Nevada County: Serious Non-attainment; Eastern Nevada County: Unclassifiable.
		2015 O_3 Standard (70 ppb)

		Western Nevada County: Serious Non-attainment; Eastern Nevada County: Unclassifiable.
PM_{10}	Nevada County: Non-attainment	Unclassified
PM2.5	Nevada County: Unclassified	2012 Annual Standard (12µg/m^3) Nevada County: Unclassifiable/Attainment
		2012 24-hour Standard (35µg/m^3) Unclassifiable/Attainment
CO	Nevada: Unclassified	Unclassifiable/Attainment

Ultramafic rock and its altered form, serpentine rock (or serpentinite), both typically contain asbestos, a cancer-causing agent. Ultramafic rock and serpentine are likely to exist in several areas of western Nevada County. The area of the project site is not mapped as an area that is likely to contain ultramafic rock (California Department of Conservation, 2000). Natural occurrences of asbestos are more likely to be encountered in, and immediately adjacent to areas of ultramafic rock.

An evaluation of project impacts related to greenhouse gas emissions is provided in Section 8 of this Initial Study.

Would the proposed project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation**	**Less Than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**	**Reference Source (Appendix A)**
a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan.				✓	A,G
b. Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is in non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?			✓		A,G
c. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?			✓		A,G,L
d. Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?				✓	A,G
e. Generate substantial smoke ash or dust?		✓			A,G

Impact Discussion:
3a: The proposed project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of an applicable air quality plan; therefore, no impact is anticipated on the potential adoption or implementation of an air quality plan.

3b,e: The proposed project is not expected to result in operational pollutant emissions but could result in temporary pollutant emissions during implementation of the proposed project, including combustion gas/diesel emissions from a mini-excavator, potentially smoke and ash from debris burning, and dust from ground disturbance activities such as grading, site clearing, and brush chipping. If improperly managed or controlled, these activities may have the potential to produce off site dust and smoke impacts depending upon the time of year and air conditions. With the implementation of the recommended mitigation measure below, Best Management Practices from the Geology / Soils section, and the provisions of a

grading/building permit, the proposed project is not anticipated to result in a potentially significant impact to air quality. Mitigation Measure 3.A will ensure that any impacts of the trail construction on air quality will be kept at a less-than-significant level by following the CAL FIRE requirements for burn permits.

3c: The closest sensitive receptors are nearby residents over three hundred feet from the project site, and the temporary pollutant emissions during implementation of the proposed project are not expected to be substantial. This impact is less than significant.

3d: No other emissions such as odors are anticipated to occur as part of this project. There are few people living in the project vicinity, and no impact is expected for people using this trail.

Mitigation Measures:
To offset the potential for significant air quality impacts to result from project development, the following mitigations shall apply.

Mitigation Measure 3.A: All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. The applicant shall comply with CAL FIRE requirements for burn permits. Burning shall be prohibited during any "burn ban" period. A burn permit is required for approximately 3 to 6 weeks before and after a burn ban period during fire season. Burn permits provide the applicant with rules and regulations regarding fire laws and fire escape responsibilities, as well as the basic information for safe burning.
Timing: *Prior to issuance of grading/building permits; prior to burning of any vegetation*
Reporting: *Copies of any issued burn permits to be submitted to the Planning Department*
Responsible Agency: *Planning Department*

4. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Existing Setting:
A Biological Inventory was originally produced for this site in 2008 by Carolyn Chainey-Davis and Susan Sanders Biological Consulting. In April 2022, Corinne Munger and Chainey-Davis Biological Consulting reviewed the 2008 report and updated it after assessing changes in the project area and completing additional field visits. The information below reflects the information found in the April 2022 Biological Inventory & Management Plan Update (Appendix D).

There are special-status species and their habitats potentially present on the project site. The State Endangered foothill yellow-legged frog (Rana boylii) was not observed and was not detected during a protocol-level amphibian survey conducted in 2007-2008 (EcoBridges 2008) but could conceivably occur in Woods Ravine if present in Deer Creek. The Species of Special Concern yellow-breasted chat (Icteria virens) was observed in the broad expanse of high-quality cottonwood-willow riparian forest on Deer Creek, 3 miles downstream, in 2007 (Mark Chainey, pers. comm. 2009) but the species is unlikely to use the narrow band of white alder and Himalayan blackberry found on Woods Ravine. Species of Special Concern western pond turtle (Emmys marmorata) is likely to occur on Deer Creek but there is little suitable habitat in the project area, 0.25 miles up the steep gradient of Woods Ravine, which generally lacks suitable basking or nesting habitat. No other special-status species were observed or are expected to occur. No special-status plant species were observed during February 14, 2022, surveys, nor were they detected in the DCTT Extension project area during the original 2008 surveys. Topographic disturbance from historical mining is evident throughout the survey area, and invasive exotic species dominate the mining scars, particularly Scotch broom, Himalayan blackberry, periwinkle, tree-of-heaven, and Bermuda grass. Given the disturbance of the site, lack of suitable micro-habitat types (no gabbro or serpentine substrate, or wetlands, etc.), and competition from the dense cover of invasive plants, special-status plant species are not expected to occur in the project area.

Waters of the State/Waters of the US in the project boundaries is limited to Woods Ravine in the western portion of the alignment, and a small ephemeral stream at the eastern boundary of the study area, 300 feet from the proposed trail. Woods Ravine near the trail crossing is approximately 3-4 feet wide and 4-6 inches deep. Substrate is mostly gravel and cobbles, with some small boulders. The stream gradient is mostly steep, except at the road crossing. Just upstream of the crossing there is dense overhanging vegetation consisting of large willows and maple, with some stream banks covered in blackberry and some exposed and sunny. Just downstream of the crossing, the streambanks are overgrown with a dense, approximately 30-foot band of Himalayan blackberry, with an overstory of mature alder trees. Woods Ravine and its associated riparian woodland of willows and white alder is also dominated by invasive exotics. In many areas east of Woods Ravine, the understory includes a significant component of invasive species; less so west of Woods Ravine. Native understory species include California hazelnut, poison oak, and hoary honeysuckle. No wetlands or other aquatic resources were observed in the area of proposed work, though the parcel also contains Deer Creek, a perennial waterway. The survey also detected three non-waters gullies, remnants of historic mining and related erosion. These gullies showed no evidence of flows and are lined with dense upland vegetation, with no storm water scouring. The features were created in uplands, do not occur in natural topographic drainage contours, and are not depicted in the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD), which includes a mapping of ephemeral streams. There are no state or federally protected wetlands on the project site.

The Nevada County Land Use and Development Code Section L-II 4.3.15 protects landmark oaks with 36+ inches at diameter breast height and landmark groves, including hardwood tree groves with 33+% canopy closure. The dominant plant communities on the site are landmark oak groves of predominantly black oak and canyon live oak, and an intermittent canopy conifer forest of ponderosa pine and incense cedar with an understory of bigleaf maple, oaks, and madrones. Conifers are dominated by the 18- to 24-inch size class, with some individuals 30-36 inches in diameter. Oaks, on average, are 2 to 16 inches in diameter. One landmark oak greater than 36 inches in diameter is located in the eastern segment near Champion Mine Road, away from the proposed trail.

There are no adopted or approved conservations plans for this parcel.

Would the proposed project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation**	**Less Than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**	**Reference Source (Appendix A)**
a. Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?		✓			C, 3
b. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or US Fish and Wildlife Service?		✓			C, 3
c. Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal				✓	C, 3

Would the proposed project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Reference Source (Appendix A)
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?		✓			C, 3
e. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?		✓			A, 3
f. Conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?				✓	A, 3
g. Introduce any factors (light, fencing, noise, human presence and/or domesticated animals) which could hinder the normal activities of wildlife?		✓			A, 3

Impact Discussion: This impact assessment is based on the detailed project design and Best Management Practices contained in the Project Description. It was assumed there may be minor deviations from the trail alignment to allow for avoidance of mature oaks and other native trees. Therefore, the survey included a 20-foot buffer on both sides of the trail alignment.

4a: The project proposes construction of approximately 3,700 feet of trail, installation of interpretive signage, fencing, retaining walls, a well and water storage tank, and a native plant garden with irrigation. In addition, the project proposes removal of non-native, invasive plant species and fuel reduction throughout the subject parcel. All these activities have the potential to have an adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on the special-status species identified on the site. Implementation of Mitigation Measure 4.F would avoid potential impacts to nesting birds, and Mitigation Measure 10.A establishes Best Management Practices that will protect water quality and wildlife in riparian areas.

4b: A portion of the trail is proposed to be constructed within 100' of Woods Ravine, a perennial waterway, and other perennial and seasonal waterways could be affected by runoff from project construction. To mitigate for potentially significant impacts caused by construction debris, Mitigation Measure 4.C restricts work to periods of dry weather to prevent runoff; Mitigation Measure 4.D ensures compliance with other agencies having jurisdiction over waterways; Mitigation Measure 4.E requires the establishment of Environmentally Sensitive Areas for all riparian areas to keep them protected from construction impacts.

4c: There are no wetlands in the project site, so there are no impacts to wetlands.

4d: This project is not anticipated to have any direct impact on movement of native or migratory fish species and does not contain established wildlife corridors or nursery sites. However, there could be some impact to nesting birds. Mitigation Measure 4.F would avoid potential impacts to nesting birds

4e: Construction of the trail may require the removal of oaks and native conifers, and disturbance within landmark oak groves – defined by the County of Nevada as oak groves greater than 33 percent canopy cover. The project is located within the Nevada City Sphere-of-Influence (LAFCo 2020, adopted November 2021). The Nevada City Tree Preservation Ordinance (Ordinance 2004-09) requires an application for a tree removal permit. Based on the project design, and previous experience, the trail can likely be constructed without removal of oaks or conifers greater than 6 inches in diameter. Implementation of Mitigation Measures 4.A, 4.B, 4.H, and 4.F will ensure the oak and other native tree removal is minimized, and unavoidable impacts mitigated in accordance with the local ordinances.

4f: The subject property is not part of a Habitat Conservation Plan or any other adopted conservation plans; therefore, the project would have no impacts or conflicts with adopted conservation plans.

4g: The project will result in increased human and pet traffic through the site once completed and increased human and equipment during construction. Mitigation Measure 4.G requires supervision by a project manager to ensure all mitigation measures are implemented; Mitigation Measure 4.H requires a mitigation monitoring program; Mitigation Measure 4.I requires worker education; and Mitigation Measure 4.J requires public education about habitat preservation.

Mitigation Measures:

Mitigation Measure 4.A: All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. To minimize construction impacts to preserved oak trees and oak groves, the following mitigation measures shall be implemented during the construction phase and depicted on all project construction drawings:

1. Prior to construction, the trail coordinator and a qualified biologist shall conduct a tree survey within proposed construction areas and adjust the alignment or construction footprint wherever possible to minimize impacts to oaks. All oaks that cannot be retained and must be removed to accommodate trail construction shall receive a unique number and be flagged in the field as a tree that has been inventoried and designated for removal.
2. When the alignment is finalized and flagged the trail coordinator and a qualified biologist shall make a final Oak Inventory. The Oak Inventory shall include a list of all oaks greater than 5 inches DBH that have been designated for removal, and those which will be retained but will have construction occurring within their driplines. The Oak Inventory shall include the species, DBH, and project feature where the oak occurs. A copy of the Oak Inventory shall be submitted to the Nevada County Planning Department prior to any tree removal and the Plan guidelines adjusted accordingly.
3. During the tree removal phase of construction, no oaks greater than 5 inches DBH shall be removed unless it has been flagged by the qualified biologist and trail coordinator and included in the Oak Inventory as a removed tree.
4. Establish the landmark oak groves and landmark oak trees outside the construction footprint as Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) during construction. The boundary of the oak ESAs shall be established at the drip line of the preserved oaks or oak groves. The ESA boundaries shall be shown on plans and specifications. Temporary orange construction fencing shall be erected around all landmark oaks if their dripline overlaps the trail alignment. The fencing can be limited to only the construction side of the tree and need not encompass the entire dripline.
5. Plans and specifications shall clearly state protection procedures for oaks to be preserved on the project site. The specifications should also require contractors to stay within designated work areas and shall include a provision for penalties if oak trees to be preserved are damaged.

6. No vehicles, construction equipment, mobile offices, or materials shall be parked or located within the drip lines of oaks that are to be preserved.
7. Soil surface removal shall not occur within the drip lines of oaks to be preserved. If this area cannot be avoided, then the tree shall be added to the list of oaks to be replaced through planting or restoration.
8. No compacted fill or paving shall be placed within the drip lines of oaks, and no loose earthen fill greater than one-foot-deep shall be placed within the drip lines of oaks to be preserved except for those trees marked for mitigation.
9. No irrigation or ornamental plantings requiring regular irrigation should be installed within the drip line of landmark oaks to be preserved. Mulches or drought-tolerant, non-irrigated or drip- irrigated plantings are suitable within the drip line.

Timing*: Prior to issuance of grading/building permits; prior to start of construction; during construction*
Reporting: *Oak Inventory Report, Building/Grading Permits*
Responsible Agency*: Planning Department*

Mitigation Measure 4.B: All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. To compensate for direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to oaks, every oak tree removed, or indirectly impacted through construction within the dripline, shall be mitigated at a ratio of 3:1 through a combination of plantings and protection and enhancement of oak seedling regeneration. Oaks to be established within mitigation areas shall be planted in accordance with guidelines described in *Guidelines for Oak Mitigation Plantings,* which was submitted with the projects' Management Plans.

The total number of oaks to be mitigated shall be established upon completion of the pre-construction Oak Inventory. Direct impacts to oaks less than 36 inches DBH shall be mitigated at a 3:1 ratio. Impacts due to removal of any landmark oaks shall be mitigated at a ratio of 12 seedlings planted or protected for every diameter inch of tree removed (i.e., removal of a 36 DBH landmark oak would require planting protection/restoration of 432 young oak trees).

Items 1 and 2 in the Specifications for Oak Seedling & Sapling Protection and Enhancement table (Appendix D) shall be implemented by the applicants prior to the start of construction. The applicants shall also be responsible for all implementation, maintenance, and monitoring. Prior to issuance of any building or sign permits, a copy of this Plan shall be submitted to the Planning Department to be maintained in the project file.

Timing: *Prior to issuance of grading/building permits; prior to start of construction if mitigation is necessary*
Reporting: *Oak Inventory Report, Building/Grading Permits*
Responsible Agency: *Planning Department*

Mitigation Measure 4.C: All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. To avoid impacts to water quality, construction near Woods Ravine, Deer Creek and its floodplain, ephemeral drainages, wetlands, and riparian areas shall occur only during dry weather. Construction activities shall be timed with awareness of precipitation forecasts and shall be started only if the local weather forecast predicts no rain for a period of 72 hours. Construction activities shall cease, and all reasonable erosion control measures shall be implemented prior to storm events. At no time shall equipment operate in flowing water or in saturated soils. Revegetation work and planting activities are not confined to this time period and may occur during wet weather if no heavy equipment is used.

Timing*: Prior to issuance of grading/building permits; during construction*

***Reporting**: Building/Grading Permits*
***Responsible Agency**: Planning Department*

Mitigation Measure 4.D: All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. To ensure the project's consistency with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 1600 of the California Fish and Game Code, the applicant shall obtain all necessary permits from CDFW, USACOE, and the RWQCB prior to the start of work, including vegetation removal along or adjacent to streams. The applicant shall comply with all terms and conditions of the permits, including any project modifications required, mitigation measures, resource protection measures, and other provisions, and notify the agencies of any modifications made to the project plans submitted with the permit applications.
***Timing:** Prior to issuance of grading/building permits; prior to start of construction*
***Reporting:** Building/Grading Permits; copies of permits from applicable agencies to be submitted to the Planning Department*
***Responsible Agency:** Planning Department*

Mitigation Measure 4.E: All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. Prior to construction, grading, or vegetation removal, establish the Newtown Ditch, Deer Creek and its floodplain, ephemeral drainages, wetlands, and riparian areas (outside of the permitted construction) as Environmentally Sensitive Areas (ESAs) for the duration of construction activities. The ESAs must be shown on all grading and construction site plans. Work shall not begin until the ESAs are delineated on the ground with orange safety netting by a qualified biologist. Temporary construction fencing shall be installed along the ESA boundary where these features occur within 25 feet of construction. The ESA fences shall remain in place for the entire duration of construction. No earth- moving activities, vehicles, heavy equipment, or other construction shall be permitted within the ESAs.
***Timing:** Prior to issuance of grading/building permits; prior to start of construction*
***Reporting:** Building/Grading Permits*
***Responsible Agency:** Planning Department*

Mitigation Measure 4.F: All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. Grading, construction, and vegetation removal should be avoided during the nesting season (March 1- July 31) to prevent impacts to nesting raptors or migratory birds, including nesting Cooper's hawks, yellow-breasted chats, and yellow warblers, using the construction zone and adjacent forest. If construction activities cannot be avoided during the nesting season, pre-construction surveys shall be conducted to verify that the construction and potential disturbance zones do not support nesting migratory birds.

1. Tree removal shall not take place during the breeding season (March 1 -July 31), unless supported by a report from a qualified biologist to verify that birds, including raptors, are not nesting in the trees proposed for removal or disturbance.
2. An additional survey may be required if periods of construction inactivity (e.g., gaps of activity during grading, tree removal, road building, or structure assembly) exceed a period of two weeks, an interval during which bird species, in the absence of human or construction-related disturbances, may establish a nesting territory and initiate egg laying and incubation.
3. Surveys shall be conducted no sooner than two weeks prior to the initiation of construction activities or other site disturbances.
4. Should any active nests or breeding areas be discovered, a buffer zone (protected area surrounding the nest, the size of which is to be determined by a qualified biologist) shall be established. A monitoring plan shall be developed to ensure buffer zones are enforced. Nest locations shall be mapped to determine the necessary buffer zones and a report stating the survey results shall be

submitted to the Nevada County Planning Department within one week of survey completion in order to verify compliance with the required buffer zone mitigation.

Timing: *Prior to issuance of grading/building permits; no sooner than two weeks prior to the initiation of construction activities from March 1 – July 31*
Reporting: *Building/Grading Permits; pre-construction surveys to be submitted to Planning Department*
Responsible Agency: *Planning Department*

Mitigation Measure 4.G: All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. The project manager shall be responsible for implementation of all mitigation measures. The Contractor or a designated crew (or volunteer) supervisor shall be on site any time construction occurs in close proximity of streams, canals, and wetlands. This person shall be completely familiar with the mitigation measures contained above and with the terms and conditions of all permits.
Timing: *Prior to issuance of grading/building permits; during construction*
Reporting: *Building/Grading Permits*
Responsible Agency: *Planning Department*

Mitigation Measure 4.H: All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. To ensure implementation of all mitigation measures contained in this report, the applicant shall distribute copies of these mitigation measures to the contractors and their workers, and to all volunteers involved in construction prior to the start of work, including vegetation removal. The Contractor or a designated crew (or volunteer) supervisor shall be on site any time construction occurs in close proximity of streams, canals, and wetlands. This person shall be completely familiar with the mitigation measures contained above and with the terms and conditions of all permits.
Timing: *Prior to issuance of grading/building permits; prior to start of construction*
Reporting: *Copy of document issued to all workers and volunteers to be submitted to the Planning Department*
Responsible Agency*: Planning Department*

Mitigation Measure 4.I: All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. To minimize indirect effects from the introduction of noxious weeds and the cumulative effects of the incremental loss of these sensitive habitats, educational signage shall be installed that discusses the unique flora, fauna, and natural history of these habitats, how to recognize them elsewhere, and how to voluntarily preserve the integrity and habitat values of the remaining habitat. Trail brochures produced for trail users shall include a discussion about the threats of noxious weeds and how to prevent accidental introduction, and on the importance of controlling pets to prevent harassment or predation of wildlife using these habitats.
Timing: *Prior to issuance of grading/building permits; prior to project completion*
Reporting: *Building/Grading Permits; final inspection*
Responsible Agency*: Planning Department*

5. CULTURAL RESOURCES

Existing Conditions: Principal Investigator, Mark Selverston, requested a cultural resources records search for the project area from the North Central Information Center (NCIC) of the California Historical Resources Information System on May 24, 2022, and received results on May 26, 2022 (NCIC File No. NEV-22-46). This records search supplements a prior records search conducted by Mr. Selverston for the entire CHIRP property in September 2013 (NCIC File No. NEV-13-39). The prior review was conducted at the request of TSF in support of environmental characterization studies. A total of seven cultural resources within the CHIRP property have been filed with the NCIC, consisting of the remains of Champion Mine (P-29-330; CA-NEV-272H), remains of the Mountaineer Mine (P-29-329; CA-NEV-271H), a historic-era artifact deposit associated with the Mountaineer Mine (P-29-328; CA-NEV-270H), a collapsed

mine shaft and adit in the Home Mine (P-29-331; CA-NEV-273H), a segment of the historic-era Champion Mine Road (P-29-2722), a segment of the Newtown Canal (P-29-2721), and a segment of a small unnamed miner's ditch (P-29-2723). Note, the documented Champion Mine Road is downslope of and not the same as the modern Champion Mine Road, and they split in the vicinity of the Champion Mine site. The supplemental records search did not identify any new documented resources or relevant updates to the identified resources. The proposed trail alignment would cross the Champion Mine archaeological site, utilize a short segment of the historic-era Champion Mine Road, as well as the berm of Newtown Canal. It avoids the Mountaineer Mine, its associated artifact deposit, the Home Mine features, and the small unnamed ditch.

Archival material related to the CHIRP property was compiled and reviewed, and a documentary time line organizing relevant historical events chronologically developed. The time line and serves as the basis for understanding the sequence of historic-era events in the area of the proposed trail. A general historical overview is presented below for the CHIRP property and for each of the mining operations identified during research. References cited in both the following discussion and the documentary time line appears at the end of the time line.

Gold mining began on the CHIRP property in 1851 by various interests and worked for many years with little success. The proposed trail passes through, from east to west, the Merrifield, Champion, Wyoming, Home, and Germany ventures. Names changed and ventures consolidated over time. Large scale efforts began in the 1870s by the Champion Mining Company, which consolidated surrounding claims in the 1880s and 1890s. In addition to hard rock mining, various beneficiation or gold refining processes were added over the years to extract gold at the property, including stamp mills, chlorination works, and cyanide plants. At the close of the century a dispute between the consolidated Champion Mine and neighboring Providence was settled by the former acquiring the later in 1902. This was followed by acquisition of the adjacent Home claim under the same circumstances in 1907. Efforts fizzled and the venture limped along by contributors until the North Star Company acquired the Champion-Providence group in 1911. The North Star Mines Company, later part of the Empire Star Mines Company, Ltd., developed the Champion group of mines for over a decade, until 1922.

After 1922 only minor efforts occurred, with a lease in 1932 followed by conveyance of the entire property and mineral holdings, all of which was federally patented, to Dr. Carl P. Jones. Dr. Jones sold half share of the property to Errol MacBoyle in 1944. MacBoyle was an ambitious mining man well known for his involvement with the Idaho Maryland Mine in Grass Valley. The two men were interested in re-opening the Champion Complex, but it never came to be. They passed away, Jones in 1945 and MacBoyle in 1949, and their half shares in the property were managed by the executors of their estates. Clarence Williams entered into a mining agreement and option to buy the Champion Complex from the property owners in late 1956 and early 1957, but the venture was abandoned. Finally, the Erickson Lumber Company purchased the property and all the mineral rights from the estates in 1968.

The Erickson Lumber Company, or one of its affiliated companies, held the property from 1968 until 2005. During that period, in about 1979, an attempt was made to develop the property for a housing and business subdivision of Nevada City, but voters rejected the plan. In 1993 the Erickson Group, Ltd., subdivided the property into parcels, designating the subject lots as Parcel 22. Gallelli and Sons, LLC, purchased Parcel 22, and other property, from Erickson Reality, Ltd., in 2005, and then adjusted the lots in 2010. Apparently, no mining of any significance occurred at the property after the early 1920s.

Would the proposed project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Reference Source (Appendix A)
a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to § 15064.5?		✓			4
b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5?		✓			4
c. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?		✓			4

Impact Discussion:
5a-c: Following the records search and review of archival records, Anthropological Study Center's Principal Investigator visited the proposed trail alignment on March 24, 2022, with the Sierra Fund's Nick Graham, and BYLT's Bill Haire and Shaun Clarke. The entire route was traversed on foot and mapped using a Global Positioning Unit (GPS) with sub-meter accuracy. While mapping, the immediate and adjacent landscape was inspected for any evidence of cultural remains, including prehistoric and historic-era features or artifacts.

Based on archival records and field inspection it was evident that two areas were sensitive for cultural resources related to historic-era gold mining, including the slopes west of Wood's Ravine, on the western edge of the CHIRP property, and the slope directly above the dirt road in the Champion Mine site. The features observed above the dirt road in the Champion Mine site consisted of stone work that was obscured by vegetation, but that appear to be associated with two structures above the Champion shaft house and the chlorination works.

Mr. Selverston proposed routing the proposed trail to avoid observed cultural resources and assisted in establishing new segments of the trail in the field on April 4, 2022, that would avoid impact on observed cultural resources. TSF and CHIRP representatives subsequently met on May 5, 2022, to review and approve the new proposed alignment.

The final proposed trail alignment weaves through several abandoned mine ventures that operated in the CHIRP Property between about 1851 and 1922. It appears that development and use of the trail will not have an adverse effect on any known cultural resources. Some of the ruins associated with the development of mine operations have been previously recorded, including the Champion Mine (P-29-330; CA-NEV-272H), a collapsed mine shaft and adit in the Home Mine (P-29-331; CA-NEV-273H), a segment of the historic-era Champion Mine Road (P-29-2722), a segment of the Newtown Canal (P-29-2721), and a segment of a small unnamed miner's ditch (P-29-2723).

The proposed trail route will avoid the collapsed mine shaft and adit in the Home Mine (P-29-331; CA-NEV-273H) in Wood's Ravine and the small unnamed miner's ditch (P-29-2723) upslope. It would utilize documented mining-related features associated with three known sites: (1) the trail utilizes an existing abandoned dirt road grade that is part of the Champion Mine Group (P-29-330; CA-NEV-272H); (2) the trail also utilizes a short segment of the historic-era Champion Mine Road (P-29-2722); and (3) the trail will utilize a segment of the berm of the Newtown Canal (P-29-2721). Assuming the sites are potentially important elements of California's past and possibly eligible for listing on the state register, it does not appear that executing the project would result in any negative impacts to their significance.

The dirt road in the Champion Mine site (P-29-330; CA-NEV-272H) is considered compatible for use as a component of the trail since that was its original use. The minimal improvements that would be necessary would help preserve the road from further erosion and degradation. It will also afford ideal locations for interpreting historic-era gold mining. Erosion controls, such as grading, and safety fencing, will not diminish the road's ability to convey its historical purpose. It is recommended that intact ruins in the vicinity of the Champion Mine stamp mill footprint be excluded from any grading. Other identified elements of the site should be flagged and avoided during construction. The segment of the historic-era Champion Mine Road (P-29-2722) that would be part of the proposed trail is also considered compatible and requires no construction. Lastly, the berm of the Newtown Canal (P-29-2721) already hosts a trail component and extension of the exiting trail is considered appropriate and benign.

Additional mining features are present on the property that have not been recorded and filed with the NCIC. These include features of documented resources, namely the Champion Mine site, as well as mine features of evident sites that have not been documented, such as the Germany adits. Although not necessary for the present trail project, it is recommended that the property be systematically surveyed and identified cultural resources recorded to help with other future planning and management decisions.

In conclusion, the construction and use of the proposed Champion Mine Trail will not have a significant impact on the important qualities of the cultural resources in the project area with implementation of the Mitigation Measures 5.A and 5.B which protect cultural and archaeological resources and human remains should they be discovered during project construction.

Mitigation Measures:

Mitigation Measure 5.A: All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. Identified resources along the path of the proposed trail should be flagged and avoided during construction. No material from the site, such as cobbles or boulders that may be remains of the mine venture, should be removed, moved, or used in any construction. While unexpected, construction activities should stop if any new features or artifacts that have not been identified previously (e.g., tangible resources that have been flagged for avoidance prior to construction) become apparent during construction. A qualified archaeologist shall determine the nature of the remains and course of action. These recommendations shall be made part of the project stipulations.
Timing: *Prior to issuance of grading/building permits; prior to start of construction; during construction*
Reporting: *Building/Grading Permits*
Responsible Agency*: Planning Department*

Mitigation Measure 5.B: All grading and construction plans shall include the note outlining the requirements provided below to ensure that any cultural resources discovered during project construction are properly managed. These requirements including the following:

All equipment operators and employees involved in any form of ground disturbance shall be trained to recognize potential archeological resources and advised of the remote possibility of encountering subsurface cultural resources during these activities. If such resources are encountered or suspected, work within 100-feet shall be halted immediately and the Nevada County Planning Department shall be contacted. A qualified cultural resources specialist shall be retained by the developer and consulted to access any discoveries and develop appropriate management recommendations for resource treatment.

If bones are encountered and appear to be human, California Law requires that the Nevada County Coroner be contacted. Should the discovery include Native American human remains, in addition to the required procedures of Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5, Public Resources Code 5097.98 and California Code

of Regulations Section 15064.5(e), all work must stop in the within 100-feet of the find and the Nevada County Coroner must be notified. If the remains are determined to be Native American, the coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission, and the procedures outlined in California Environmental Quality Act Sections 15064.5(d) and (e) shall be followed.
Timing: *Prior to building permit issuance; during construction*
Reporting: *Building/Grading Permits; notification to the Planning Department, County Coroner, and/or Native American Heritage Commission as needed*
Responsible Agency*: Planning Department*

6. ENERGY

Existing Setting: This parcel does not currently consume energy, as its only development is private roads that are gated and only very rarely used by the property owner. There is no electrical or gas service to the parcel.

Would the proposed project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Reference Source (Appendix A)
a. Result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during construction or operation?			✓		A
b. Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?				✓	A, D

Impact Discussion: The proposed project is not expected to result in operational energy use but construction does include use of combustion gas/diesel for a mini-excavator and vehicles to transport workers to and from and the site. Due to the construction associated with this project consisting primarily of hand crews and customary vehicle use, there are no environmental impacts due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during construction or operation anticipated.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

7. GEOLOGY / SOILS

Existing Setting: Topography of the proposed project site ranges from mild to steep slopes. The Soil Survey of Nevada County, prepared by the Soil Conservation Service, identifies this site as dominated by several soil types as described here. This includes Tailings along the Deer Creek river channel which are a miscellaneous land type consisting of hard-rock mine dumps and hydraulic diggings that are remnants of Tertiary river gravel deposits once containing gold. These soils are typically unsuited for most farming uses and wildlife habitat. Hoda-Rock Outcrop Complex (50 to 75% slope) is very steep and is found on mountainous uplands. About 10 to 25% of this complex is granitic Rock outcrop. These rapid-draining soils have a very high hazard of erosion. These soils are typically suited for timber production. Sites Very Stony Loam (15 to 50% slope) is found in mountainous uplands and is 10 to 25% cobblestones. These medium to rapid-draining soils have a moderate to high hazard of erosion, depending on the slope. These soils are typically suited for timber production, grazing, irrigated pasture, and deciduous trees. Musick Sandy Loam (15 to 50% slope) is found in mountainous uplands with rock outcrops covering 10 percent of surface area

in places. These medium to rapid-draining soils have a high hazard of erosion. These soils are typically suited for timber production and some grazing.

The Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act was adopted in 1972 to prevent the construction of buildings in areas where active faults have surface expression. Ground or fault rupture is generally defined as the displacement that occurs along the surface of a fault during an earthquake. The intent of the Alquist-Priolo Act is to reduce losses from surface fault rupture. The project site is not located near faults with recent seismic activity, but there are Pre-Quaternary faults, which are older than 1.6 million years, surrounding the parcel on all sides (California Department of Conservation). The project site is not within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone. The project site is located within Seismic Zone I—the Low Intensity Zone of the Modified Mercalli scale—meaning the site has a low risk for strong ground motion (Nevada County, 1991).

The Nevada County General Plan Master Environmental Inventory shows an area of moderate landslide activity in the vicinity of the project site. The steep slopes and past hydraulic mining in the surround area contribute to susceptibility of landslide activity.

No septic systems are proposed as part of this project. There are no unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic features on the site.

Would the proposed project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation**	**Less Than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**	**Reference Source (Appendix A)**
a. Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including 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?			✓		A, E, 5, 6, 7
b. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?		✓			D, E, 8
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, E, 5, 6, 7, 8
d. Be located on expansive soil creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?				✓	D, E, 5, 6, 7, 8

Would the proposed project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Reference Source (Appendix A)
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?				✓	A
f. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?				✓	A
g. Result in substantial grading on slopes over 30 percent?		✓			A, 9

Impact Discussion:

7a, c, d: The proposed project is not anticipated to result in adverse effects due to unstable soils, or cause significant erosion. The project site is not within an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone. The project site is located within Seismic Zone I, the Low Intensity Zone of the Modified Mercalli scale, meaning the site has a low risk for strong ground motion and thus the project is not anticipated to result in earthquake related impacts. The majority of the project site is not considered to have high landslide hazards. Building permits will be required for all earthwork, which would require compliance with the Nevada County grading standards outlined in Land Use and Development Code Section V, Article 13. Building permits would also require compliance with the California Building Code (CBC) and the Nevada County Land Use and Development Code requirements to ensure protection during seismic events. Therefore, due to the project soils and standard permit requirements, and that much of the work will take place on previously disturbed soil, impacts associated with unstable earth conditions are expected to be less than significant.

7b: Because the scope of work includes clearing and grubbing for trail establishment and vegetation removal, there may be some soil erosion or loss of topsoil. Mitigation Measures 7.A-D require a variety of measures intended to reduce soil erosion, making this impact less than significant with mitigation.

7e: There are no septic tanks proposed as part of this project, so there is no impact.

7f: There are no known paleontological resources or unique geological features in or around the project parcel. However, because it is anticipated that there will be ground disturbance during construction, Mitigation Measure 5.B would require work to halt in the event that there is an unanticipated discovery of paleontological resources. Direct or indirect damage to paleontological resources is anticipated to be less than significant with mitigation.

7g: The Nevada County Land Use and Development Code, Chapter II: Zoning Regulations, Sec. L-II 4.3.13 requires that for development projects located on 30% or steeper slopes, a Steep Slopes Management plan prepared by a registered professional engineer, engineering geologist, or certified erosion control specialist be prepared. Areas of slopes exceeding 30% are subject to high erosion potential thereby designated as environmentally sensitive resource areas. The purpose of the code states: “To preserve the natural, topographic, and aesthetic characteristics of steep slopes, and to minimize soil erosion, water quality impacts, earth movement and disturbance, and the adverse impact of grading activities, while providing for reasonable use of private property” (L-II 4.3.13.A). Additionally, the Management Plan shall include an Erosion and Sediment Control Plan compliant with LUDC Chapter V: Buildings, Article 3: Uniform

Building Code Amendments, "and shall provide for, at a minimum, the structural control of flowing water and vegetative measures necessary to stabilize the soil surface" (L-II 4.3.13.C.3.a.).

A Steep Slopes Management Plan (Appendix C) has been prepared by Nevada City Engineering, Inc. ("NCE") for CHIRP ("Owner") and The Sierra Fund ("Applicant") in conformance with County requirements for the project.

The Project Site has remained largely undeveloped. The proposed area of disturbance runs along Deer Creek, approximately 200 feet on average uphill of the waterway. The site is dominated by native oak and conifer trees, along with various species of shrubs. Most of the proposed trail is located where natural slopes do not exceed 30%. The only areas exceeding 30% slopes are approximately the first 825 feet of trail and 400 feet near the western terminus. Most of the areas of steep slopes appear to be man-made. See Photos 1-3 of the first ~825 feet of trail. Approximately 150 of the 400 feet of trail near the western terminus will transverse a 2:1 (50%) man-made cut slope (see photos 4-6 in Appendix C). The natural topography in that area is not considered steep slopes. The area south of Champion Mine Road sheet flows down the slope, eventually making way to Deer Creek.

Mitigation Measures 7.A-D require a variety of measures intended to reduce soil erosion, making this impact less than significant with mitigation.

Mitigation Measures:

Mitigation Measure 7.A: All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. Minimization of potential impacts includes the following conditions which will appear printed on all building permit plans:

1. Cut and fill slopes shall not exceed 2:1 unless certified by a geo-technical engineer.
2. All disturbed soil shall be compacted.
3. No rocks greater than six inches in any direction shall be allowed as part of the fill.
4. Fill material shall be placed in uncompacted lifts not to exceed eight inches.
5. Fill slopes shall be constructed by overbuilding slope face, then cutting it back to match the design gradient.
6. Erosion Control Best Management Practices (BMPs) shall be employed during construction including, but not limited to, silt fencing, straw waddles, and hydroseeding.
    a. Silt fencing shall be employed at the toe of fill to prevent siltation of nearby waterways
    b. Straw waddles shall be installed on contour above the cut bank to slow down surface water before it reaches the area of disturbance, in turn, reducing erosion of newly disturbed areas.
    c. All graded areas shall be seeded as soon as possible. Where seeding is necessary, only native seed mixes shall be used. The use of tackifiers, jute netting, or fiber emulsions may be necessary to ensure viability of the hydroseed.
7. Grading shall not be completed when considerable precipitation is forecasted. If grading is to occur during the wet season (October 15–April 15), then all BMPs shall be implemented for the duration of construction during that time period.
8. Preserve existing vegetation as practical to maintain slope stability.
9. Construction to be completed by hand when practicable or when necessary, a mini excavator.
10. All duff and debris removed will be spread at a depth not more than four inches outside of the clearing limits, in turn, slowing down surface runoff, reducing erosion and increasing infiltration.

Timing: *Prior to building permit issuance; during construction*
Reporting: *Building/Grading Permits*
Responsible Agency*: Planning Department*

Mitigation Measure 7.B: All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. During and after construction activities, the project manager shall provide labor, materials, and equipment to maintain and protect exposed soil from wind and water erosion:

1. If a storm is forecast for the area, exposed fill shall be sloped to drain and compacted to facilitate run-off.
2. Existing surface drainage facilities shall be kept free of soil and debris during construction.
3. Temporary or constructed water conveyance channels shall be kept free sediment or debris at all times.
4. Temporary erosion control shall be applied within and adjacent to the boundary of the construction zone at the locations determined the contractor in the field.
5. Siltation control shall be provided during construction.
6. Disturbed slopes shall be stabilized and seeded as soon as possible following grading to allow vegetation to become established prior to the rainy season.

Timing: *Prior to building permit issuance; during and after construction*
Reporting: *Building/grading permits*
Responsible Agency: *Planning Department*

Mitigation Measure 7.C: All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. During and after construction activities, the project manager shall maintain proper surface water drainage:

1. Surface water drainage shall not be directed over cut and fill slope faces.
2. Surface water shall be directed away from the trail alignment at appropriate intervals by the construction of rolling dips or other appropriate methods to reduce the chance of trail erosion.
3. The intercepted water shall be discharged into natural drainage courses that are capable of receiving the expected storm water flows.

Timing: *Prior to building permit issuance; during and after construction*
Reporting: *Building/grading permits*
Responsible Agency: *Planning Department*

Mitigation Measure 7.D: All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. During and after construction activities, the project manager shall employ the following Best Management Practices:

1. Straw with Jute Netting or Tackifiers: Jute netting or tackifiers may be placed and secured over the slopes to keep straw and/or other mulch material from being washed or blown away.
2. Fiber Rolls: Fiber rolls (wattles) may be appropriate on disturbed slopes and below sediment discharge areas. Fiber rolls should be anchored with wood stakes placed four feet on center or closer. Fiber rolls placed on slopes should be trenched 2 to 4 inches into the soil. Additional wattles may be required during the rainy season if the installed wattles are filled with sediment. Prior to fiber roll installation, the sub grade should be prepared by removing local surface irregularities and larger rock or debris that would inhibit contact of the fiber roll with the subgrade. A contoured key trench should be excavated 2 to 4 inches deep along the proposed installation route. Soil excavated from the key trench should be placed on the up-slope side of the fiber roll to reduce the chance of surface water undercutting the roll. When more than one fiber roll is placed in a row, the rolls should be abutted securely to one another to provide a tight joint, not overlapped. Split, tom, unraveling or slumping fiber rolls should be repaired or replaced. Fiber rolls should be observed for damage when rain is forecasted, following rain events, and periodically as needed during prolonged rainfall. Fiber rolls typically do not require removal and can be abandoned in place, once permanent erosion control is established.
3. Silt Fences: Silt fences may be appropriate in areas of significant grading/disturbance adjacent to existing drainages. Silt fences should be constructed of woven filter fabric, such as Amoco 2125 or equivalent and secured on minimum 2-inch square wood or steel posts spaced not more than 10

feet. Silt fences must be placed on contour, where possible, and must extend a minimum of 6 inches into the surface soil.

4. Rock/Log Check Dams: Check dams may be appropriate down slope of proposed culverts that are present within areas of significant grading and/or disturbance. Rock check dams shall be constructed using minimum 4- to 8-inch diameter rock and/or minimum 8-inch diameter logs supported on the down slope side by No.3 reinforcement bar. The logs and/or rocks shall be overlain by non-woven geotextile fabric such as Amoco 4545 or equivalent. Minimum 8-inch diameter rock shall be placed over the fabric. Downstream and upstream of the check dam, 4-inch minus gravel may be placed in the drainage channel.

Timing: *Prior to building permit issuance; during and after construction*
Reporting: *Building/grading permits; final inspection*
Responsible Agency: *Planning Department*

8. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Existing Setting: Global climate change refers to changes in average climatic conditions on the earth as a whole, including temperature, wind patterns, precipitation and storms. Global warming, a related concept, is the observed increase in the average temperature of the earth's surface and atmosphere. One identified cause of global warming is an increase of greenhouse gases (GHGs) in the atmosphere. Greenhouse gases (GHGs) are those gases that trap heat in the atmosphere. GHGs are emitted by natural and industrial processes, and the accumulation of GHGs in the atmosphere regulates the earth's temperature. Events and activities, such as the industrial revolution and the increased combustion of fossil fuels (e.g. gasoline, diesel, coal, etc.), are believed to have contributed to the increase in atmospheric levels of GHGs. GHGs that are regulated by the State and/or EPA are carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), sulfur hexafluoride (SF_6) and nitrous oxide (NO_2). Emission inventories typically focus on GHG emissions due to human activities only, and compile data to estimate emissions from industrial, commercial, transportation, domestic, forestry, and agriculture activities. CO_2 emissions are largely from fossil fuel combustion and electricity generation. Agriculture is a major source of both methane and NO_2, with additional methane coming primarily from landfills. Most HFC emissions come from refrigerants, solvents, propellant agents, and industrial processes, and persist in the atmosphere for longer periods of time and have greater effects at lower concentrations compared to CO_2. Global warming adversely impacts air quality, water supply, ecosystem balance, sea level rise (flooding), fire hazards, and causes an increase in health-related problems.

To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases, the California Legislature enacted AB 32 (Núñez and Pavley), which is referred to as the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 (September 27, 2006). AB 32 provided initial direction on creating a comprehensive, multiyear program to limit California's GHG emissions at 1990 levels by 2020, and initiate the transformations required to achieve the state's long-range climate objectives. In April 2015, the California Air Resources Board issued Executive Order B-30-15 to set an interim target goal of reducing GHG emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030 to keep California on its trajectory toward meeting or exceeding the long-term goal of reducing GHG emissions to 80 percent below 1990 levels by 2050 as set forth in EO S-3-05. SB 32, enacted in 2016, codified the 2030 the emissions reduction goal of CARB Executive Order B-30-15.

In addition, the Governor signed Senate Bill 97 in 2007 directing the California Office of Planning and Research to develop guidelines for the analysis and mitigation of the effects of greenhouse gas emissions and mandating that GHG impacts be evaluated in CEQA documents. CEQA Guidelines Amendments for GHG Emissions were adopted by OPR on December 30, 2009. The Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District (NSAQMD) has prepared a guidance document, *Guidelines for Assessing Air Quality Impacts of Land Use Projects*, which includes mitigations for general air quality impacts that can be used to mitigate GHG emissions when necessary.

Continuing to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is critical for the protection of all areas of the state, but especially for the state's most disadvantaged communities, as those communities are affected first, and, most frequently, by the adverse impacts of climate change, including an increased frequency of extreme weather events, such as drought, heat, and flooding.

Would the proposed project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation**	**Less Than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**	**Reference Source (Appendix A)**
a. Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?			✓		A,F
b. Conflict with any applicable plan, policy or regulation of an agency adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?			✓		A,F,10

Impact Discussion: The proposed project is not expected to result in operational pollutant emissions. However, during construction, the project would result in temporary greenhouse gas emissions, including combustion gas/diesel emissions from a mini-excavator, chipper, or masticator, potentially smoke and ash from debris burning, and dust from ground disturbance activities such as grading, site clearing, and brush chipping. Because the use of these tools and vehicles will be limited, the area of disturbed land will be less than one acre, and the construction time period will be a single dry season, this results in a less than significant impact.

Mitigation Measures: None.

9. HAZARDS / HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Existing Setting: The project site is located on a steep forested hillside primarily situated on the north bank of Deer Creek just west of Nevada City. The Site is not occupied, and no buildings are present. There are numerous remnant mine features, including foundations, walls, pylons, old pipes and debris, and waste material (such as waste rock and tailings). Properties in the Site vicinity include rural residences (north and west), vacant land (throughout), a wastewater treatment plant (southeast), and former mine facilities (north and south).

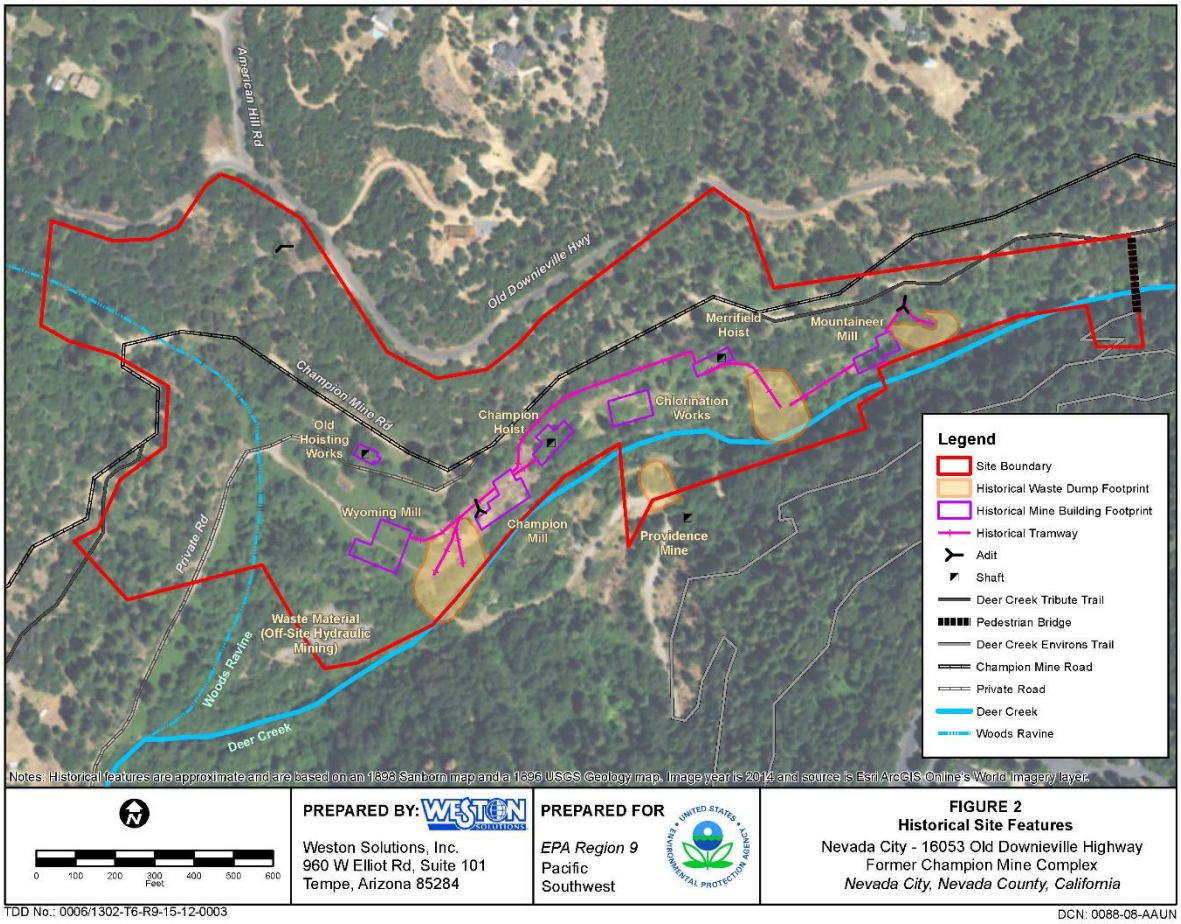

Figure 5. Targeted Brownfield Assessment Figure 2 (Appendix F), Historical Site Features, outlined of buildings in purple, within the Nisenan Cultural Reclamation Corridor

Historical documents indicate both mercury and cyanide were used in ore processing at the Site. The former Wyoming Mill (40-stamp mill); Champion Mine & Mill (30-stamp mill); Merrifield Mine; and Mountaineer Mine & Mill (20-stamp mill) were historically located within the Site boundary along Deer Creek. Processes included milling, amalgamation using potassium or sodium cyanide (gold cyanidation) or mercury, and chlorination. Cyanide plants were located at the Champion, Wyoming, and Mountaineer Mills (The Sierra Fund, 2014). Cyanide is a known toxin to human health and the environment and is a common contaminant at properties that conducted ore processing by amalgamation. However, cyanide in soil and water is subject to degradation by volatilization and biodegradation (Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry [ATSDR], 2006). Any cyanide that was present in Site soils has likely degraded since mining processes at the Site ceased at least 80 years ago.

Results of the Phase II ESA sampling activity (WESTON, 2016) identified arsenic and/or lead levels greater than the Site Action Levels of 21 mg/kg and 270 mg/kg, respectively at three locations within three site areas (Figure 6).

There are several hazardous “hot spot” areas on the project site as shown in Figure 6 below related to historic mining activity.

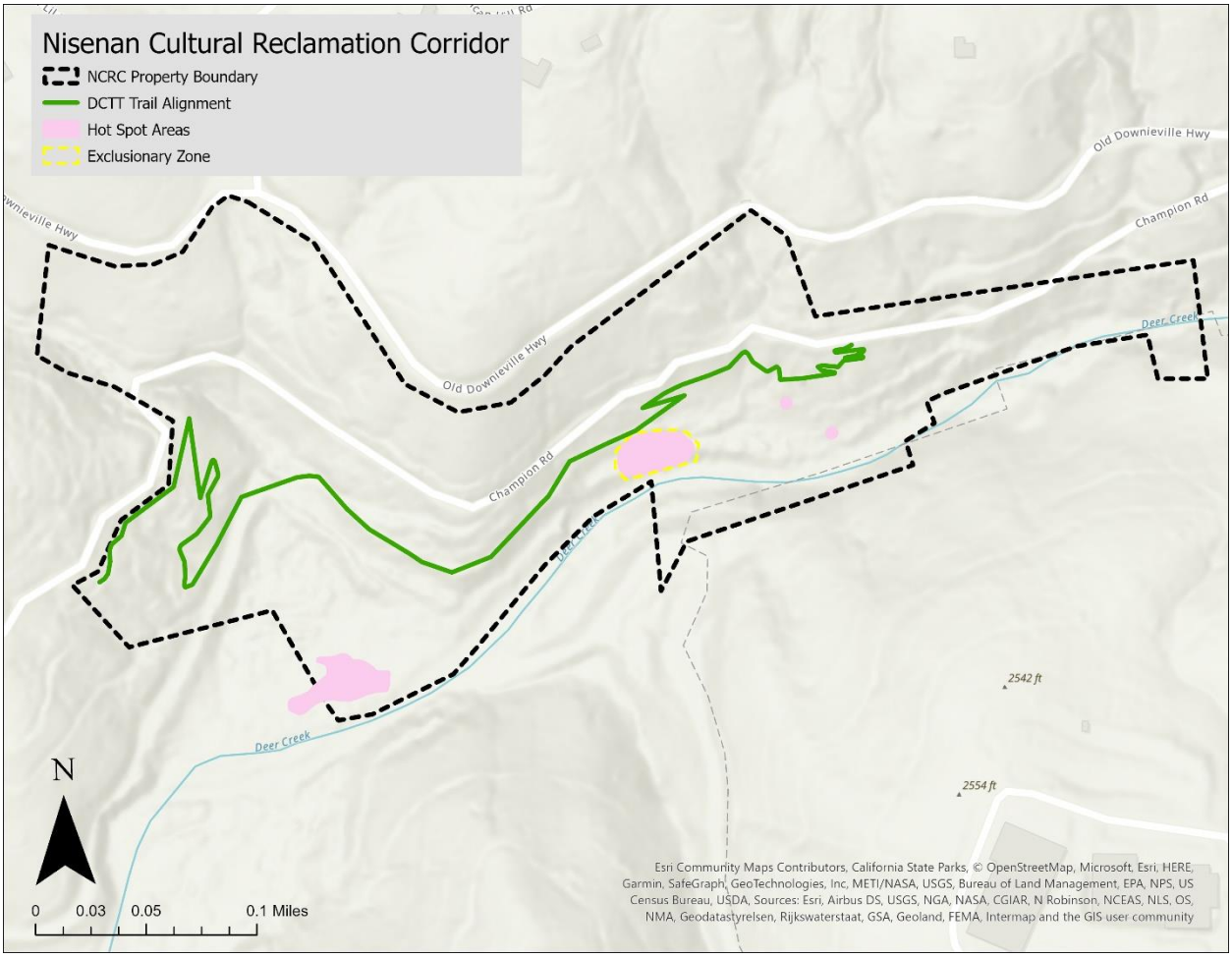

Figure 6. Proposed DCTT Alignment on the Nisenan Cultural Reclamation Corridor (NCRC) and Targeted Brownfield Assessment's Identified Hot Spot Areas.

The property is not within 2 miles of an airport. The Project site is designated as a Very High Fire Hazard Area for wildland fires. The site is not on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5, though there are many hazardous materials sites in the surrounding area related to past mining activity.

a. In the known history of this property, have there been any past uses, storage, or discharge of hazardous materials? (Examples include, but are not limited to, fuel or oil stored in underground tanks, pesticides, solvents, or other chemicals.) Yes: X Maybe: _ No: __

b. Will the proposed project involve the use, production or disposal of materials, which pose a hazard to people or animal, or plant populations in the area effected? Yes: _ Maybe: _ No: X

Would the proposed project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Reference Source (Appendix A)
a. Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?				✓	C
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
c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?				✓	A, E
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, create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?		✓			11
e. For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?				✓	E
f. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				✓	G
g. Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?			✓		E, G

Impact Discussion:
9a-b: There will be no routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials during the construction or operation of this project, and no potential upset or accident conditions.

9c: There are no existing or proposed schools within one-quarter mile of the site so there is no impact.

9d: Though the site is not included on a list of hazardous materials sites, there are many hazardous materials sites in the surrounding area, and known hazardous “hot spots” on the site from past mining activity. The proposed trail does not pass through these areas, these areas are not near the trail and the public will not be allowed to access these areas. There are no physical hazards, such as open shafts, near the trail alignment.

The site areas where site remediation is recommended in the EPA Assessment Report are described as follows:

1. Hot Spot Area – Located at the former Champion Mine chlorination works area. Identified arsenic and lead contamination from 1 foot below ground surface (bgs) to 10 feet bgs, defined by analytical results from 2016 samples C7 through C12 and C19; and The Sierra Fund 2013 samples 4 through 6.
2. Hydraulic Mining Waste Area – Located in the southwest portion of the project area. Identified arsenic contamination to 5 feet bgs defined by analytical results from 2016 sample C4 and at the surface near C3.
3. Merrifield Hoist Area – Located east of the Hot Spot Area. Identified arsenic contamination in surface soil samples at two locations defined by analytical results from 2016 sample C15 and The Sierra Fund 2013 sample 8.

Mitigation Measure 9.A establishes an exclusionary zone around the hot spot area to protect workers and members of the public from the "hot spot" areas. Mitigation Measure 9.B requires further soil testing along the trail alignment to ensure trail users are not affected by hazardous materials. The other areas are significantly far away from the trail that mitigation is not required at this time. With these mitigation measures, the impact is less than significant.

9e: The project is not 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, so there is no impact.

9f: Vehicles and equipment will be kept on private roads on the project site that are not used to access residences or businesses. The completed trail will result in less pedestrian traffic on public roads, so there is no impact to emergency response or evacuation plans.

9g: There may be more people present on the site during construction and operation of the project. The project site is classified as a very high fire hazard severity zone. The proposed structures are limited to a water storage tank and fencing. Neither construction or the operation of the project present significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires because trails already exist in the area, and the customary equipment used during operation does not increase the risk of wildland fires.

Mitigation Measures:

Mitigation Measure 9.A: All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. Prior to any construction activities associated with the proposed Deer Creek Tribute Trail Extension Project, the project manager and or its subcontractors shall provide the labor and materials to construct an "exclusionary zone" around the "hot spot area" identified as part of the Targeted Brownfield Assessment. Although the proposed Deer Creek Tribute Trail does not cross the areas of concern, the close proximity (~100 feet) of the "hot spot area" located at the former Champion Mine chlorination works area to portions of the proposed DCTT is such that the construction of an "exclusionary zone" will be used to ensure the health and safety of parties involved. The "exclusionary zone" will be constructed with eight-foot-tall chain link fencing and warning signs of potential soil contamination around the "hot spot area".
Timing: *Prior to building permit issuance; prior to start of construction*
Reporting: *Building/grading permits; final inspection*
Responsible Agency: *Planning Department*

Mitigation Measure 9.B: All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. Prior to construction activities associated with the proposed Deer Creek Tribute Trail (DCTT) Extension Project, the project manager or its subcontractor shall provide the labor and materials to collect additional surface soil samples every ~100 feet along the proposed DCTT extension route. Soil samples

will be collected, shipped, and analyzed according to the appropriate ASTM standards for Title 22 Metals. Soil analysis will be conducted as a precautionary measure in an effort to protect all parties involved against possible exposure to contaminated sediments.
Timing: *Prior to building permit issuance; prior to start of construction*
Reporting: *Building/grading permits; sampling data to be send to the Planning Department*
Responsible Agency: *Planning Department*

10. HYDROLOGY / WATER QUALITY

Existing Setting: The project area is located largely in the Deer Creek canyon, just west of Nevada City. According to the project's biological report, waters of the U.S. within the project area include the perennial streams Deer Creek and the intermittent stream Woods Ravine and numerous unnamed ephemeral drainages that only flow in response to storm events. There is an existing road crossing and culvert at Woods Ravine. A road was cut through this area by the former mining claim holder and the material pushed up against the edge of Deer Creek, blocking the beneficial function of regular or periodic flooding. Woods Ravine near the trail crossing is approximately 3-4 feet wide and 4-6 inches deep. Substrate is mostly gravel and cobbles, with some small boulders. The stream gradient is mostly steep, except at the road crossing.

No seeps or springs were observed in or adjacent to the proposed work areas and no ponds occur in the project site. Features that are not likely to qualify as jurisdictional waters include the Champion-Newtown canal, which occurs entirely within uplands except where it intercepts seasonal drainages. The survey also detected three non-waters gullies, remnants of historic mining and related erosion. These gullies showed no evidence of flows and are lined with dense upland vegetation, with no storm water scouring. The features were created in uplands, do not occur in natural topographic drainage contours, and are not depicted in the National Hydrography Dataset (NHD), which includes a mapping of ephemeral streams.

Would the proposed project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation**	**Less Than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**	**Reference Source (Appendix A)**
a. Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?		✓			A, C, D
b. Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?			✓		A, H
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 that would: i. result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site; ii. substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner		✓			A, D, 13, 3

Would the proposed project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Reference Source (Appendix A)
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. impeded or redirect flood flows?					
d. In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?				✓	E, 14
e. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?				✓	A,D
f. Place housing within a 100-year flood hazard area as mapped on a federal Flood hazard Boundary or Flood Insurance Rate Map or other flood hazard delineation map?				✓	E, 14
g. Place within a 100-year flood hazard area structures that would impede or redirect flood flows?				✓	E, 14

Impact Discussion:
10a, c: Temporary and indirect impacts to water quality may occur from proposed construction disturbance in proximity to Deer Creek and the seasonal drainages. Though the project does not propose impervious surfacing, water quality could be adversely affected from erosion and sedimentation. Mitigation Measure 10.A and 10.D include Best Management Practices to protect surface water quality so the impact is less than significant with mitigation. The well will be installed with a permit from the Nevada County Environmental Health Department to ensure ground water quality will not be affected. Stream courses will be protected under Mitigation Measures 10.B and 10.C. The mitigation measures are provided to ensure that no net increase in runoff or sedimentation will occur as a result of the proposed project.

10b, e: The project scope includes installation of a well, water storage tank, and irrigation. The water use is limited to irrigation of a native plant garden. Though the well will pull from groundwater, it will not significantly impact groundwater resources since its use will be minimal and it will be installed with a permit from the Nevada County Environmental Health Department. The well does not conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan.

10d: The project is not in a flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zone so there is no impact.

10f: There is no housing proposed as part of this project, so there is no impact.

10g: There are no structures proposed within the 100-year flood hazard area.

Mitigation Measures:

Mitigation Measure 10.A: All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. To protect water quality and wildlife in Deer Creek and its floodplain, the ephemeral drainages, wetlands, riparian areas, and Newtown Ditch the contractors and their workers (including any volunteers conducting project work) shall implement standard Best Management Practices during and after construction. These measures include, but are not limited to:

1. Minimize the number and size of work areas (e.g., equipment staging areas and spoil storage areas) in the vicinity of the streams, Deer Creek floodplain, wetlands, riparian areas, and Newtown Ditch. Place staging areas, spoil areas, and other work areas outside the permitted construction a minimum of 30 feet from the stream. Field reconnaissance should be conducted during the planning stage to identify work areas and clearly mark those areas on all final grading and construction drawings.
2. Prior to the start of work, including any vegetation removal, install silt-fencing, straw bales, sediment catch basins, straw or coir logs or rolls, or other sediment barriers to keep erodible soils and other pollutants from entering the stream. Before the first heavy rains and prior to removing the barriers, soil or other sediments or debris that accumulates behind the barriers shall be removed and transported away for disposal.
3. Disruption of soils and native vegetation shall be minimized to limit potential erosion and sedimentation; disturbed areas shall be graded to minimize surface erosion and siltation; bare soils shall be immediately stabilized and revegetated. Seeded areas shall be covered with broadcast straw or mulch. If straw is used for mulch or for erosion control, use only certified weed-free straw or rice straw to minimize the risk of introduction of noxious weeds, such as yellow star thistle and goat grass.
4. The contractor shall exercise every reasonable precaution to protect the streams, wetlands, canal, and riparian areas from pollution with fuels, oils, bitumen, calcium chloride, and other harmful materials. Construction byproducts and pollutants such as oil, cement, and wash water shall be prevented from discharging into or near these resources and shall be collected and removed from the site. No slash or other debris shall be placed in or adjacent to the ESA. All construction debris and associated materials and litter shall be removed from the work site immediately upon completion.
5. Equipment or vehicle maintenance or refueling shall occur as far from the ESA boundaries as possible. The contractor shall immediately contain and clean up any petroleum or other chemical spills with absorbent materials such as sawdust or cat litter. For other hazardous materials, follow cleanup instructions on the package.
6. No direct discharge of runoff from disturbed areas shall be allowed to flow directly into the streams, canal, wetlands or riparian area. Runoff shall instead be intercepted and directed into energy dissipaters or vegetated swales constructed at discharge points to reduce velocity and prevent erosion.

Timing: *Prior to building permit issuance; prior to start of construction; during construction*
Reporting: *Building/grading permits*
Responsible Agency: *Planning Department*

Mitigation Measure 10.B: Stream Crossings. All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. Impacts associated with the trail construction on any seasonal stream will be addressed by permits obtained from either or both the United States Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the California Department of Fish and Game by obtaining a Section 404 permit and a Streambed Alteration Agreement, as necessary. Copies of all correspondence with regulatory agencies shall be provided to the Nevada County Planning Department.
Timing: *Prior to building permit issuance; prior to start of construction*

Reporting: *Building/grading permits; copies of permits or confirmation from applicable agencies that permits are not required to be submitted to the Planning Department*
Responsible Agency: *Planning Department*

Mitigation Measure 10.C*:* Stream Course Protection. All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. Stream course protection measures will be implemented during all aspects of the project to protect the natural flow of streams, to provide unobstructed passage of storm flows, and to reduce sediment and other pollutants from entering streams. Rocking of trail tread will occur where the native soils do not provide a firm and stable trail surface.
Timing: *Prior to building permit issuance; prior to start of construction; during construction*
Reporting: *Building/grading permits*
Responsible Agency: *Planning Department*

Mitigation Measure 10.D: Best Management Practices. All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. The following Best Management Practices shall be made a part of the trail project.

1. Control of Trail Drainage: To disperse runoff and to minimize erosion of the trail prism by runoff from trail surface and from uphill areas, measures such as properly spaced cross drains, dips, and out sloping shall be installed.
2. Minimization of Sidecast Material: To minimize sediment production originating from sidecast material during trail construction and reconstruction, sidecasting of uncompacted material will be permitted only when necessary. Loose, unconsolidated sidecast material shall not be permitted to enter any riparian areas as identified.
3. Servicing and Refueling of Equipment: To prevent pollutants such as fuels, lubricants, and other harmful materials from being discharged into or near rivers, streams or into natural channels leading thereto, service and refueling areas shall be located outside of any riparian areas and away from other wet areas.
4. Control of Construction in Riparian Areas: Trail construction and reconstruction within any stream crossings or riparian areas shall be kept to a minimum to protect riparian habitat, channel stability and to prevent sediment from entering any stream channel.

Timing: *Prior to building permit issuance; prior to start of construction; during construction*
Reporting: *Building/grading permits*
Responsible Agency: *Planning Department*

11. LAND USE / PLANNING

Existing Setting: The site-specific zoning includes "RA-3" Residential Agriculture (3-acre minimum) and a General Plan designation for “EST” Estate. The RA zoning district establishes provisions for low density single-family dwellings, as well as other dwelling unit types in keeping with the rural character of the area. The single-family dwelling is of primary importance and agricultural uses are Secondary. The Estate designation intended to provide for low density residential development at a minimum lot size of 3 acres per dwelling unit in areas which are essentially rural in character but are adjacent to Community boundaries or near Community Regions and therefore are more accessible to shopping, employment and services. In keeping with the rural character, agricultural operations and natural resource related uses, including the production of timber, are also appropriate in this designation. Trails are an allowed use within the RA zoning district and serve populations residing in single-family dwellings.

Would the proposed project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Reference Source (Appendix A)
a. Physically divide an established community?				✓	A, E
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?				✓	A, 2, 15

Impact Discussion:
10a: The trail project proposes to connect existing trails built within the Deer Creek Tribute Trail and Restoration Project. It will serve to physically connect the community rather than divide it so there is no impact.

10b: The proposed project is consistent with the current General Plan and zoning designations. Furthermore, the project is intended to be a local-access trail, not a destination trail, and is anticipated to create non-motorized opportunities for surrounding residents and enhance connectivity to local schools, commerce, employment, and recreation.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

12. MINERAL RESOURCES

Existing Setting: Significant areas of Nevada County contain mineral deposits and between the 1850's and the early 1900's, the County's economy was mine-based. The project site is mapped within an MRZ-2 designated zone, which applies to subsurface mineral resources, and is adjacent to known previous mining activity. The Grover Placer Mines are located on the project site.

Would the proposed project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Reference Source (Appendix A)
a. Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?			✓		A, E, 9
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?				✓	A, 15

Impact Discussion:
12a, b: The proposed project is located in an MRZ-2 designated zone, which applies to areas with subsurface mineral resources available for potential extraction. The project specific Management Plan for Steep Slopes did not indicate the presence of any underground mineral resources, which the proposed project may impact. No mineral extraction is proposed as a part of this project; therefore the proposed project is not anticipated

to create a significant impact to mineral resources. No impacts to existing or potential future mining activity and mineral resources are anticipated to occur as a result of this project.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

13. NOISE

Existing Setting: The General Plan establishes maximum allowable noise levels for land use projects and encourages future sensitive land uses to be located in areas where noise generation is limited. The project site is within a Community Region surrounded by varied land uses including residential, commercial, and low intensity recreational uses. Ambient noise levels in the area are generally those generated by the traffic on Old Downieville Highway and Champion Road and those noises that commonly accompany rural and residential uses. The site is not within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or within two miles of an airport.

Would the proposed project result in:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Reference Source (Appendix A)
a. Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess standards established in the local General Plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?			✓		A, 2
b. Generation of excessive ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels?			✓		A
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?				✓	A, E

Impact Discussion:
12a: Temporary noise impacts are anticipated to occur during project development. The closest sensitive receptors are nearby residents over three hundred feet from the project site. No significant change in the permanent ambient noise level is expected to occur as result of this project. County's Zoning Code exempts construction activities from the County Noise Standards as temporary noise and once the project is constructed the noise impacts are expected to be within the General Plan/Zoning Ordinance noise policy limits. Therefore, the impact of the proposed project to noise is less than significant.

12b: Equipment to construct the trail and drill the well may result in some ground borne vibration or ground borne noise levels from trail construction and operation, but they will not be excessive so this impact is less than significant.

12c: This project is not in the vicinity of any airports, so there will be no impact.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

14. POPULATION / HOUSING

Existing Setting:
The proposed project is located in a rural-residential area of the county and is within the Nevada City Sphere of Influence. The zoning districts in this area are conducive to low-density housing and are served primarily by on-site water and sewage disposal methods. The project proposes to link existing linear features to create an eight-mile multi-use trail system to serve the existing population. Affordable housing is not a component of the proposed project.

Would the proposed project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Reference Source (Appendix A)
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)?				✓	A
b. Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?				✓	A

Impact Discussion:
14a, b: The proposed project is compatible with the surrounding low-density residential land uses and rural development patterns of the project site. The project is not anticipated to displace any existing homes or induce population growth, but instead is intended to service the existing population. No significant impacts to housing will result from implementation of this project.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

15. PUBLIC SERVICES

Existing Setting: The following public services are provided to this site:

Fire: The Nevada County Consolidated Fire District provides fire protection services to this area. The CAL FIRE Severity Hazard Maps identify the area of proposed development as an area of very high fire hazard.

Police: Law enforcement services to the project site are provided by the Nevada County Sheriff Department.

Public Schools: The Nevada City Elementary and the Nevada Union School District serve this site.

Other: The County of Nevada provides library services. Solid waste generated either during the development of the site or after occupancy, is disposed of at the McCourtney Road Transfer Site, which is

maintained by the County of Nevada, who contracts with a solid waste disposal company to haul material to a permitted sanitary landfill.

Would the proposed project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Reference Source (Appendix A)
a. Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of or need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the following the public services:			✓		
1. Fire protection?			✓		G, I
2. Police protection?			✓		A
3. Schools?				✓	A
4. Parks?			✓		A
5. Other public services or facilities?			✓		A

Impact Discussion:
The applicant manages a Tribute Trail Association Docent Program with the Greater Champion Neighborhood Association in which docents routinely monitor trail patron activities and report illegal or suspicious activities to the Nevada County Sherriff in County jurisdiction. The docent program minimizes potential impacts to emergency response services. While increased trail availability may modestly increase the presence of people needing emergency services, no significant impacts to public services have been identified as a result of this project. The proposed project would have less than significant impact on public services. None of the agencies have commented or identified any impacts that need to be mitigated.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation is required.

16. RECREATION

Existing Setting: Recreational opportunities within Nevada County are varied, ranging from public parks with intensively used active recreational facilities, to vast tracts of forest lands, which provide a natural environment for passive recreation and visual enjoyment. The subject parcel is located within the Grass Valley/Nevada City Recreation Benefit Zone which includes state and local recreational facilities such as the South Yuba River State Park, Scotts Flat Lake, Tobiassen Park, Pioneer Park, Condon Park, Empire Mine State Historic Park and DeVere Mautino Park. The Nevada County General Plan recommends the level of service for recreation needs as three acres per each 1,000 persons, countywide. There are currently 17,161 acres of parks and recreational areas in Nevada County and 102,241 people so the General Plan recommendation of is greatly exceeded. Parcels adjacent to the subject parcel contain 6.5 miles of existing trails, sidewalks, and roadways are used by area residents for recreational and commuter purposes.

Would the proposed project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Reference Source (Appendix A)
a. 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?			✓		A
b. Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?		✓			A
c. Conflict with established recreation uses of the area, including biking, equestrian and/or hiking trails?				✓	A

Impact Discussion:
16a: The proposed project is anticipated to alleviate a shortage of local recreational opportunities by providing safe access to currently inaccessible public property, and by creating new trails that link existing roads and trails. The proposed interpretive signage and the native plant garden would provide opportunities for people to learn firsthand about the natural and cultural history of Deer Creek and Nevada County history. With the new linkage, there may be increased traffic on the connecting existing portions, but it is not anticipated to cause substantial physical deterioration of the trails, so this is a less than significant impact.

16b: This project includes construction of recreational facilities. With the Mitigation Measures included throughout this Initial Study, all impacts shall have a less than significant impact physical effect on the environment.

16c: The proposed project is consistent with County General Plan Policy 5.4 which encourages the provision of linear parks or greenways within Community Regions to link residential areas to park facilities and includes bikeways and pathways that connect with a County-wide trail system. The project is also consistent with General Plan Policy 6.10 which encourages the County to support non-profit organizations to acquire open space land or other real property interests which contain unique, valuable or sensitive resources reflecting environmental or biological sensitivity, scenic landscape units, community separators, historic, cultural, or archaeological content, and low intensity recreational potential. The proposed project is not anticipated to have significant impacts to recreation resources, and instead is anticipated to enhance existing recreational opportunities in the project site.

M**itigation Measures:** All Mitigation Measures included here are intended to create a less than significant impact from the construction of recreational facilities associated with this project. No other mitigation measures are proposed.

17. TRANSPORTATION

Existing Setting: The existing trails, canals, sidewalks, and roadways in the project area are currently used by local area residents for recreational and commuter purposes. The trail, which extends to other parcels, is accessed from City streets (Jordan Street, Wyoming Road, and Old Downieville Highway), County

maintained roads (Newtown Road and Champion Road), and the NID canal and access road. Public parking is available in Nevada City at Pioneer Park on Nimrod Street, the Nevada Street parking lot at the comer of Nevada Street and Broad Street, and the Chinese Memorial parking lot on Commercial Street. There is also limited parking available along Champion Mine Road and Old Downieville Road closer to the project site.

Would the proposed project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation**	**Less Than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**	**Reference Source (Appendix A)**
a. Conflict with a program plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle or pedestrian facilities?				✓	A, J
b. Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?			✓		A, J
c. Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., a sharp curve or dangerous intersection) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?				✓	A
d. Result in inadequate emergency access?				✓	G, I
e. Result in an increase in traffic hazards to motor vehicles, bicyclists, or pedestrians, including short-term construction and long-term operational traffic?			✓		A, G, I

Impact Discussion:
17a: The proposed project is consistent General Plan Policy 4.27 which calls for a Pedestrian Master Plan to provide for a comprehensive system of sidewalks, pathways, and trails to encourage pedestrian use so there is no impact.

17b: The project is proposed as an extension to community access trail, not a destination trail. The project designates several trail access points and proposes to use existing parking available in Downtown Nevada City, which is clearly marked on trail maps and brochures to guide trail patrons. The project also proposes directional and interpretive signage to be installed. It is anticipated that trail use from "out-of-town" patrons will not be significant; therefore, the project does not propose to expand parking facilities. The purpose of the proposed trail system is to link existing non-motorized trail features in order to provide non-motorized connectivity between residential, commercial, and institutional uses in Nevada City proper and the surrounding environs. This impact is less than significant.

17c: This project will accommodate non-motorized transportation only, and incorporates switchbacks to ease pedestrian travel experience. There is no increase in hazards due to geometric design features or incompatible uses.

17d: This project will not affect emergency access so there is no impact.

17e: The project is anticipated to decrease traffic hazards, as it will encourage pedestrian use of the trail instead of sharing the roadway as most people do currently to connect the trail sections.

Mitigation: No mitigation required.

18. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

Existing Setting: Assembly Bill 52 (Chapter 532, Statutes 2014) required an update to Appendix G (Initial Study Checklist) of the CEQA Guidelines to include questions related to impacts to tribal cultural resources. Changes to Appendix G were approved by the Office of Administrative Law on September 27, 2016. Tribal Cultural Resources include sites, features, and places with cultural or sacred value to California Native American Tribes. Both the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians and United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria (UAIC) have contacted the County to request consultation on projects falling within their delineated ancestral lands. See Section 5 for additional information regarding cultural resources. See Section 5 for additional information regarding tribal resources.

The proposed section of trail for the Deer Creek Tribute Trail Extension project is in the Nisenan Cultural Reclamation Corridor and the location of the historic Champion Mine. In 2018, these 32 acres of land where the proposed project is located were returned to the original people of Nevada County, the Nisenan Tribe. The California Heritage: Indigenous Research Project (CHIRP)—a 501(c)3 dedicated to preserving, protecting, and perpetuating Nisenan culture—owns the property where trail construction is proposed to occur and, as landowner, will provide cultural oversight of all project activities. Public access to the property will be restricted to the trail itself, and CHIRP, as the landowner, now has the discretion to manage the land as they see appropriate to ensure cultural and ecosystem resilience per Nisenan traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) and practice(s).

For the first time in 55 years, the Tribe possesses land where their ancestors traditionally hunted, fished, foraged, and held ceremonies and seeks to reconnect Tribal descendants with their ancestral waters and landscapes. Having a landscape on which to practice and to teach Nisenan traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) is a critical opportunity for remaining Tribal Elders to connect knowledge and lifeways across generations and to educate Western practitioners the value of place-based land stewardship, in particular given uncertain climate change impacts faced by the region.

The Nisenan Cultural Land Management Plan (NCLMP, 2021, prepared by The Sierra Fund for CHIRP), mentions several TEK management objectives aimed at restoring cultural resiliency and ecological balance.

Would the proposed project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact	Reference Source (Appendix A)
a. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is: i. Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or ii. A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.		✓			18

Impact Discussion: Management objectives associated with the DCTT aim to "manage the forest ecosystem found within the project area in a manner that increases overall resiliency and successfully balances issues of forest health, biodiversity, wildfire safety, and wildlife habitat" (American Rivers, 2014: p. 6).

The Sierra Fund has included the Native Plant Palette developed for previous segments of the DCTT into the NCLMP and, where possible, cross-referenced these species with Nisenan language plant resource guides and photographs to pair scientific names for plants with traditional names for plants, which will be useful when we begin to develop the interpretive signage for the new trail segment (see Objective 3. Multilingual Interpretive Signage). The draft NCLMP is currently being finalized for circulation among CHIRP staff and members of the Nisenan Tribe for feedback.

Several species of cultural significance shall be monitored by a designated cultural monitor and avoided with the mitigation measures provided below, resulting in less than significant impacts with mitigation.

Mitigation: To offset the potential tribal cultural resources impacts and to ensure the preservation of historical tribal uses, the following mitigation measure shall be required:

Mitigation Measure 18.A: All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. The cultural monitor at the Nisenan Cultural Reclamation Corridor (NCRC) site reserves the right to halt implementation activities in order to assess, verify, and meet cultural objectives. The NCRC

Cultural Mitigation Measures listed below are not inclusive, and new mitigation measures may be identified as they are identified during work at the NCRC.

1. Avoid Impacts to Woodpecker: Implementation activities must be structured to avoid disturbance of woodpecker. Pre-implementation scoping should identify areas where woodpecker are present and areas where woodpecker habitat is present.
2. During the spring woodpecker consume insects, oak flowers, berries, seeds, wood-boring insects. Disturbance of areas with these resources should be minimized.
3. In the winter woodpecker consume hoarded nuts stored in granaries. Granaries consist of older trees with thick bark where bore hole depth is shallow enough to avoid sap spillage. Snags and telephone poles may also be used. Disturbance or removal of granaries is prohibited.
4. Woodpecker nest in holes and females use a joint nest. Nest may be reused across years and generations of family. Disturbance or removal of nest trees is prohibited.
5. If woodpecker are observed in a work area, work must pause and the cultural monitor must be notified to determine next steps.

Timing: *Prior to building permit issuance; during construction*
Reporting: *Building/grading permits*
Responsible Agency: *Planning Department*

Mitigation Measure 18.B: All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. Manage Worksite to Minimize Bird Disturbance: Bird species are sensitive to noise(s) and smell(s) associated with equipment use. All implementation activities must be conscientious of oil, gas, noise and smells that would scare birds away. If birds are observed to congregate in specific locations, work shall be avoided in these areas or activities should minimize disturbance by adjusting timing, frequency, or technique.

Timing: *Prior to building permit issuance; during construction*
Reporting: *Building/grading permits*
Responsible Agency: *Planning Department*

Mitigation Measure 18.C: All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. Several species of cultural importance occur at the NCRC. Disturbance of areas with species of importance listed below shall be avoided. If avoidance is not possible, the cultural monitor should be consulted in advance of any activity.

5. Sustenance Species: black oak (Quercus kelloggii), Sugar Pine (Pinus lambertiana), Gray Pine/Foothill Pine (Pinus sabiniana), Pacific Madrone(Arbutus menziesii), Jeffery Pine (Pinus jeffreyi), Ponderosa Pine (Pinus ponderosa), Lodgepole Pine (Pinus contorta), and wild onion (Allium sp.).
6. Medicinal Species: wormwood (Artemisia douglasiana), soap root (Chlorogalum pomeridianum), and elderberry (Sambucus spp.).
7. Basketry Species: willow (Salix spp.), redbud (Cercis occidentalis), sedge roots, and bracken fern (Pteridium aquilinum).
8. Tool Making Species: pacific yew (Taxus brevifolia).

Timing: *Prior to building permit issuance; during construction*
Reporting: *Building/grading permits*
Responsible Agency: *Planning Department*

Mitigation Measure 18.D: All grading and construction plans shall include a Note outlining the following requirement. Contractors and construction personnel involved in any form of ground disturbance (i.e. utility placement or maintenance, grading, etc.) shall be advised of the remote possibility of encountering subsurface cultural resources. If such resources are encountered or suspected, work shall be halted immediately, and the Planning Department and a professional archaeologist shall be consulted who shall

assess any discoveries and develop appropriate management recommendations for archaeological resource treatment. If bones are found and appear to be human, California Law requires that the Nevada County Coroner and the Native American Heritage Commission be contacted. If Native American resources are involved, Native American Organizations and individuals recognized by the County shall be notified and consulted about any plans for treatment.
Timing: *Prior to building permit issuance; during construction*
Reporting: *Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program*
Responsible Agency*: Cultural monitor, Planning Department*

19. UTILITIES / SERVICE SYSTEMS

Existing Setting: There are no utilities currently serving the site and no utility easements have been identified.

Would the proposed project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation**	**Less Than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**	**Reference Source (Appendix A)**
a. Require or result in the relocation or the construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas or telecommunication facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?			✓		A
b. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?			✓		A
c. 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 goals?			✓		H
d. Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?			✓		H

Impact Discussion:
19a-d: The project does not propose to provide or improve public utility services. The Deer Creek Tribute Trail and Restoration Project will provide recreational opportunities for the public and no planned public utility services are included in this project. Any utility easements of record or any that are discovered during the project will be avoided and accommodated. A well and water storage tank are proposed on the site solely for the use of irrigating a native plant garden and are not anticipated to have a significant impact on utility services. Solid waste generated by this project will be vegetation that will be chipped and spread or burned on site; it will not generate offsite solid waste. There is a wastewater treatment plant to the southeast of the site, but it is approximately 500 feet away from the project area and is not anticipated to be impacted by this project. Therefore, the impact is less than significant, and no mitigation is required.

Mitigation: No mitigation required.

20. WILDFIRE

Existing Setting: The project parcel and adjacent parcels are in the Nevada County Consolidated Fire District a very high fire severity zone. Today, forest ecosystems in and around Nevada City are predominately early to-mid seral stage, less fire tolerant species (often in monocultures), with tree stand densities that far exceed historic circumstances. As a result, dangerously overgrown forests make nearby communities extremely vulnerable to wildfire.

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire severity hazard zones, would the project:	**Potentially Significant Impact**	**Less Than Significant with Mitigation**	**Less Than Significant Impact**	**No Impact**	**Reference Source (Appendix A)**
a. Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?			✓		A, G, I,17
b. Due to slope, prevailing winds, or other factor, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrollable spread of wildfire?		✓			A, G, I, 2
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?			✓		A, G, I
d. Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?			✓		A, G, I, 7

Impact Discussion:
20a-d: Vegetation management and fuels reduction activities will be conducted within the 32-acre property to reduce the risk of fire on the property, reduce long-term fuel loading, increase individual tree health and spacing, create a heterogeneous forest structure resilient to future natural disturbances and climate scenarios, and allow for cultural burning practices to be reinstated. The proposed project will utilize a combination of manual and mechanical vegetation treatments including the use of hand crews, masticators, pile burn, and eventually prescribed burn. Manual treatments would include the use of hand tools and hand-operated power tools to cut, clear, or prune herbaceous or woody species. Biomass from treatments would be disposed of either with pile burning consisting of igniting biomass piles constructed manually by hand-cut and hand-pile or by lopping and scattering biomass in areas where material cannot safetly be burned. All burning would occur in accordance with regulations regarding the use of prescribed fire, including the preparation and implementation of a burn plan to be approved by CalFire.

Mitigation Measures: See Mitigation Measure 3.A

21. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECT

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

Impact Discussion:

21a,c: As discussed in Sections 1 through 20 above, the proposed project would comply with all local, state, and federal laws governing general welfare and environmental protection. Project implementation during construction and operation could result in potentially adverse impacts to air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology/soils, tribal cultural resources, and utilities/service systems Each of the potential adverse impacts are mitigated to levels that are ***less than significant levels with mitigation,*** as outlined in each section.

21b: A project's cumulative impacts are considered significant when the incremental effects of the project are "cumulatively considerable," meaning that the project's incremental effects are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past, current, and probable future projects. Reasonably foreseeable projects that could have similar impacts to the proposed project include other anticipated projects within the project vicinity that could be constructed or operated within the same timeframe as the project. All of the proposed project's impacts, including operational impacts, can be reduced to a less-than-significant level with implementation of the mitigation measures identified in this Initial Study and compliance with existing federal, state, and local regulations. Therefore, the proposed project would have ***less than significant*** environmental effects that are individually limited but cumulatively considerable.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE PROJECT PLANNER:

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.

__X__ 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 a "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.

Planner: _____ Date: 1/12/23

APPENDIX A – REFERENCE SOURCES

A. Planning Department
B. Caltrans
C. California Department of Fish & Wildlife
D. Building Department
E. Nevada County Geographic Information Systems
F. Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District
G. Nevada County Consolidated Fire District
H. Environmental Health Department
I. California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire)
J. Department of Public Works

1. California Department of Conservation, Division of Land Resource Protection. 2022. Important Farmland Data. Available at: https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/dlrp/ciff/.
2. Nevada County. Nevada County Zoning Regulations adopted July 2000, and as amended.
3. Corinne Munger and Chainey-Davis Biological Consulting. Biological Inventory and Management Plan Update. April 3, 2022.
4. Mark Selverston. Archaeological Resources Study for the Champion Mine Trail Project, Nevada City, Nevada County, California. May 18, 2022.
5. California Office of Planning and Research, SiteCheck, Accessed December 2022, Site Check ✓ (ca.gov)
6. Earthquake Zones of Required Investigation, Accessed December 2022, California Geological Survey, https://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/EQZApp/app/.
7. Nevada County. Nevada County General Plan Master Environmental Inventory, December 1991.
8. Web Soil Survey, United States Department of Agriculture, Accessed December 2022, https://websoilsurvey.sc.egov.usda.gov/
9. Brian J. Powell, P.E. Steep Slopes Management Plan. December 2021.
10. California Attorney General's Office. "Addressing Climate Change at the Project Level." January 6, 2010.
11. Weston Solutions, Inc. Final Phase I/II Investigation Targeted Brownfields Assessment Report. December 2016.
12. California Department of Toxic Substances Control. Accessed December 2022: http://www.envirostor.dtsc.ca.gov/public/
13. U.S.G.S, 7.5 Quadrangle Topographic Maps, as updated.
14. Federal Emergency Management Agency. Flood Insurance Rate Maps, as updated.
15. Nevada County. 1995. Nevada County General Plan: Volume 1: Goals, Objectives, Policies, and Implementation Measures. Prepared with the assistance of Harland Bartholomew & Associates, Inc. (Sacramento, CA). Nevada County, CA.
16. CAL FIRE. SRA FHSZ Rollout Application. Accessed December 2022. https://calfire-forestry.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=fd937aba2b044c3484a642ae03c35677
17. Nevada County. Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. August 2017. https://www.mynevadacounty.com/DocumentCenter/View/19365/Nevada-County-LHMP-Update-Complete-PDF?bidId=
18. The Sierra Fund. The Nisenan Cultural Land Management Plan - Draft. 2021