DRAFT Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for Alta Avenue & Kamm Avenue Roundabout

January 2023

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City of Dinuba
405 E El Monte Way
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SECTION 1
CEQA Review Process

Project Title: Alta Avenue & Kamm Avenue Roundabout

1.1 California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines

Section 15063 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines requires that the Lead Agency prepare an Initial Study to determine whether a discretionary project will have a significant effect on the environment. All phases of the project planning, implementation, and operation must be considered in the Initial Study. The purposes of an Initial Study, as listed under Section 15063(c) of the CEQA Guidelines, include:

(1) Provide the lead agency with information to use as the basis for deciding whether to prepare an EIR or negative declaration;
(2) Enable an applicant or lead agency to modify a project, mitigating adverse impacts before an EIR is prepared, thereby enabling the project to qualify for a negative declaration;
(3) Assist the preparation of an EIR, if one is required, by:
    (a) Focusing the EIR on the effects determined to be significant,
    (b) Identifying the effects determined not to be significant,
    (c) Explaining the reasons for determining that potentially significant effects would not be significant, and
    (d) Identifying whether a program EIR, tiering, or another appropriate process can be used for analysis of the project's environmental effects.
(4) Facilitate environmental assessment early in the design of a project;
(5) Provide documentation of the factual basis for the finding in a negative declaration that a project will not have a significant effect on the environment
(6) Eliminate unnecessary EIRs;
(7) Determine whether a previously prepared EIR could be used with the project.

1.2 Initial Study

The Initial Study provided herein covers the potential environmental effects of the proposed conversion of a four-way signalized intersection into a two-lane roundabout. The proposed project site is located within the City of Dinuba. The City of Dinuba will act as the Lead Agency for this project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines.

1.3 Environmental Checklist

The Lead Agency may use the CEQA Environmental Checklist Form [CEQA Guidelines, Section 15063(d)(3) and (f)] in preparation of an Initial Study to provide information for determination if there are significant effects of the project on the environment. A copy of the completed Environmental Checklist is set forth in **Section Three**.

1.4 Notice of Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration

The Lead Agency shall provide a Notice of Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15072) to the public, responsible agencies, trustee agencies and the County Clerk within which the project is located, sufficiently prior to adoption by the Lead Agency of the Negative Declaration to allow the public and agencies the review period. The public review period (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15105) shall not be less than 30 days when the Initial Study/Negative Declaration is submitted to the State Clearinghouse unless a shorter period, not less than 20 days, is approved by the State Clearinghouse.

Prior to approving the project, the Lead Agency shall consider the proposed Negative Declaration together with any comments received during the public review process, and shall adopt the proposed Negative Declaration only if it finds on the basis of the whole record before it, that there is no substantial evidence that the project will have a significant effect on the environment and that the Negative Declaration reflects the Lead Agency's independent judgment and analysis.

The written and oral comments received during the public review period will be considered by The City of Dinuba prior to adopting the Negative Declaration. Regardless of the type of CEQA document that must be prepared, the overall purpose of the CEQA process is to:

1) Assure that the environment and public health and safety are protected in the face of discretionary projects initiated by public agencies or private concerns;
2) Provide for full disclosure of the project's environmental effects to the public, the agency decision-makers who will approve or deny the project, and the responsible trustee agencies charged with managing resources (e.g. wildlife, air quality) that may be affected by the project; and
3) Provide a forum for public participation in the decision-making process pertaining to potential environmental effects.

According to Section 15070(a) a public agency shall prepare or have prepared a proposed negative declaration for a project subject to CEQA when:

> ***The initial study shows that there is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the project may have a significant effect on the environment. Less than significant impacts with mitigation measures have been identified.***

The Environmental Checklist Discussion contained in Section Three of this document has determined that the environmental impacts of the project are less than significant with mitigation measures and that a Mitigated Negative Declaration is adequate for adoption by the Lead Agency.

1.5 Negative Declaration or Mitigated Negative Declaration

The Lead Agency shall prepare or have prepared a proposed Negative Declaration or Mitigated Negative Declaration (CEQA Guidelines Section 15070) for a project subject to CEQA when the Initial Study shows that there is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the project may have a significant effect on the environment. The proposed Negative Declaration or Mitigated Negative Declaration circulated for public review shall include the following:

(a) A brief description of the project, including a commonly used name for the project.
(b) The location of the project, preferably shown on a map.
(c) A proposed finding that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
(d) An attached copy of the Initial Study documenting reasons to support the finding.
(e) Mitigation measures, if any.

1.6 Intended Uses of Initial Study/Negative Declaration documents

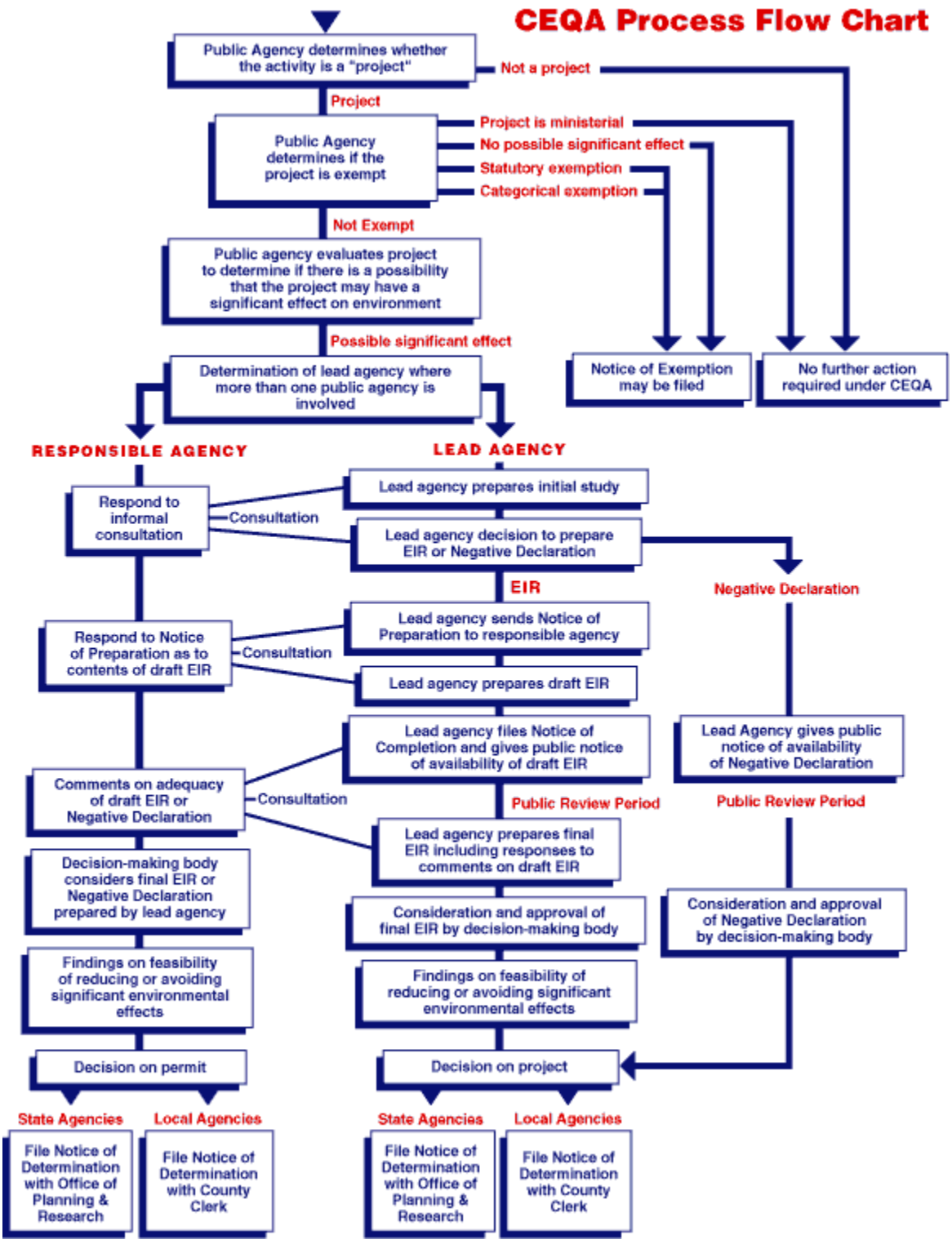
The Initial Study/Negative Declaration document is an informational document that is intended to inform decision-makers, other responsible or interested agencies, and the general public of potential environmental effects of the proposed project. The environmental review process has been established to enable the public agencies to evaluate environmental consequences and to examine and implement methods of eliminating or reducing any adverse impacts. While CEQA requires that consideration be given to avoiding environmental damage, the Lead Agency must balance any potential environmental effects against other public objectives, including economic and social goals. The City of Dinuba, as Lead Agency, will make a determination, based on the environmental review for the Environmental Study, Initial Study and comments from the general public, if there are less than significant impacts from the proposed project and the requirements of CEQA can be met by adoption of a Mitigated Negative Declaration.

1.7 Notice of Determination (NOD)

The Lead Agency shall file a Notice of Determination within five working days after deciding to approve the project. The Notice of Determination (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15075) shall include the following:

(1) An identification of the project including the project title as identified on the proposed negative declaration, its location, and the State Clearinghouse identification number for the proposed negative declaration if the notice of determination is filed with the State Clearinghouse.
(2) A brief description of the project.
(3) The agency's name and the date on which the agency approved the project.
(4) The determination of the agency that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment.
(5) A statement that a negative declaration or a mitigated negative declaration was adopted pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
(6) A statement indicating whether mitigation measures were made a condition of the approval of the project, and whether a mitigation monitoring plan/program was adopted.
(7) The address where a copy of the negative declaration or mitigated negative declaration may be examined.
(8) The identity of the person undertaking a project which is supported, in whole or in part, through contracts, grants, subsidies, loans, or other forms of assistance from one or more public agencies or the identity of the person receiving a lease, permit, license, certificate, or other entitlement for use from one or more public agencies.

1.8 CEQA Process Flow Chart



Section 2

Project Description

City of Dinuba
405 E El Monte Way
Dinuba, CA 93291

SECTION 2
Project Description

Project Title: Alta Avenue & Kamm Avenue Roundabout

2.1 Project Description & Purpose

The purpose and need of the project is to improve safety, congestion and air quality by implementing congestion reduction and traffic flow improvements consistent with the CMAQ (Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement) program. The project includes the conversion of a four-way signalized intersection into a two-lane roundabout, installation of pedestrian/cyclist facilities (sidewalks, crosswalks, bicycle ramps, and related improvements (signage/striping, etc.). The project also includes ROW acquisitions to accommodate intersection widening associated with the installation of the roundabout.

Equipment staging will be provided within the temporary construction easement areas (see Attachment E). No specific disposal or borrow sites have been identified. These facilities will be established in accordance with the Standard Specifications. Construction activities will include demo of existing asphalt, sidewalk, and curb within project limits, placement of aggregate base and pavement, piping existing irrigation ditch underground, extension of sewer and stormwater lines through intersection, and street light installation. Roadway detours and/or lane closures may be used to control traffic during construction. Maps showing project layout and regional location are provided in Figures 2-1, 2-2 and 2-3. Detailed improvement plans are provided in Appendix A.

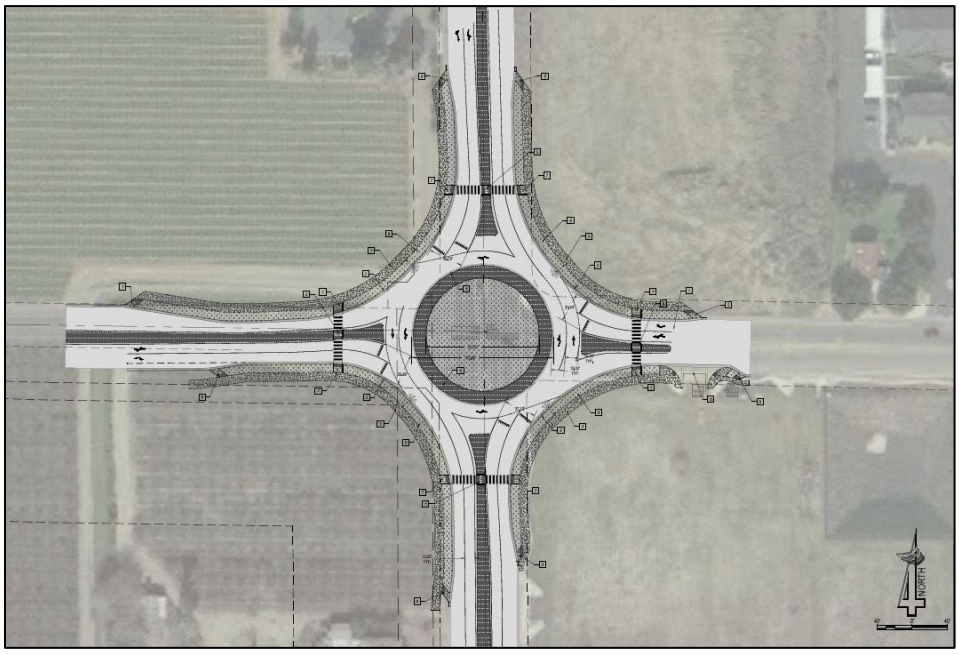


Figure 2-1. Intersection Design

2.2 Project Location

The proposed project site is located within the City of Dinuba. The project would affect approximately 5 acres within City ROW and temporary construction easement areas along Kamm Avenue and Alta Avenue. Adjacent land uses include agriculture to the northwest, vacant land to the northeast and southeast, and a planned High School to the southwest.

2.3 Existing Setting

The existing Kamm & Alta intersection is a 4-way, signalized intersection. This intersection serves as an entrypoint into the City of Dinuba and is located on the northeast corner of a planned high school. Adjacent properties are mostly underdeveloped and remain vacant or under agricultural use.

2.4 Other Permits and Approvals

Other permits and approvals required for the Alta Avenue & Kamm Avenue Roundabout Project are listed below. It should be noted that this list is not exhaustive and additional permits and approvals may also be required.

- *City of Dinuba Building and Encroachment Permits*
- *City of Dinuba Grading Permits*
- *City of Dinuba approved Landscape and Design Plans*
- *San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD)*. The proposed project is within the jurisdiction of the SJVAPCD and will be required to comply with Rule VIII, 3135, 4101, and 9510.
- *Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, SWPPP*. The proposed project site is within the jurisdiction of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). The Central Valley RWQCB will require a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to prevent impacts related to stormwater as a result of project construction.

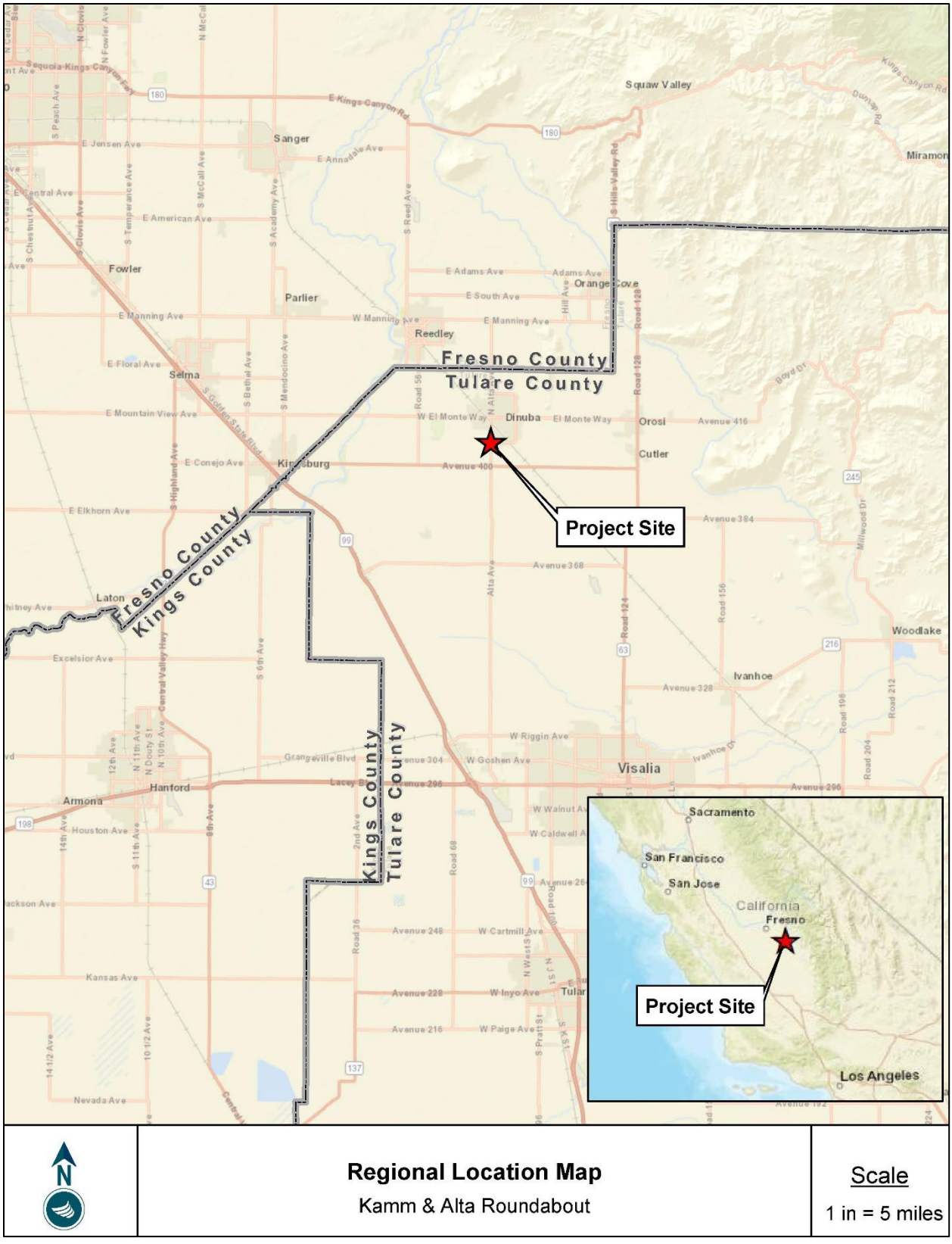


Figure 2-2. Regional Location Map

Figure 2-3. Vicinity Map

Section 3

Evaluation of Environmental Impacts

City of Dinuba
405 E El Monte Way
Dinuba, CA 93291

SECTION 3
Evaluation of Environmental Impacts

Project Title: Alta Avenue & Kamm Avenue Roundabout

This document is the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for the proposed conversion of a four-way signalized intersection into a two-lane roundabout. The proposed project site is located within the City of Dinuba. The City of Dinuba will act as the Lead Agency for this project pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines.

3.1 PURPOSE

The purpose of this environmental document is to implement the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Section 15002(a) of the CEQA Guidelines describes the basic purposes of CEQA as follows.

(1) Inform governmental decision-makers and the public about the potential, significant environmental effects of proposed activities.
(2) Identify the ways that environmental damage can be avoided or significantly reduced.
(3) Prevent significant, avoidable damage to the environment by requiring changes in projects through the use of alternatives or mitigation measures when the governmental agency finds the changes to be feasible.
(4) Disclose to the public the reasons why a governmental agency approved the project in the manner the agency chose if significant environmental effects are involved.

This Initial Study of environmental impacts has been prepared to conform to the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq.) and the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations Section 15000 et seq.).

According to Section 15070(a), a Negative Declaration is appropriate if it is determined that:

(1) The initial study shows that there is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the project may have a significant effect on the environment.

3.2 INITIAL STUDY/MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

1. **Project Title:** Alta Avenue & Kamm Avenue Roundabout

2. **Lead Agency:** City of Dinbua
   405 E El Monte Way
   Dinuba, CA 93618
   (559) 591-5900

3. **Applicant:** City of Dinuba
   Contact Person: Ismael Hernandez
   1088 E Kamm Avenue
   Dinuba, CA 93618
   (559) 591-5906

4. **Project Location:** The proposed project site is located within the City of Dinuba. The project would affect approximately 5 acres within City ROW and temporary construction easement areas along Kamm Avenue and Alta Avenue. Adjacent land uses include agriculture to the northwest, vacant land to the northeast and southeast, and a planned High School to the southwest.

5. **General Plan Designation**: Kamm Avenue and Alta Avenue are both designated as arterial streets in the City of Dinuba General Plan.

6. **Zoning Designation:** The project will take place within ROW, outside of zoning designations.

7. **Project Description:** The project includes the conversion of a four-way signalized intersection into a two-lane roundabout, installation of pedestrian/cyclist facilities (sidewalks, crosswalks, bicycle ramps, and related improvements (signage/striping, etc.). The project also includes ROW acquisitions to accommodate intersection widening associated with the installation of the roundabout.

   Equipment staging will be provided within the temporary construction easement areas (see Attachment E). No specific disposal or borrow sites have been identified. These facilities will be established in accordance with the Standard Specifications. Construction activities will include demo of existing asphalt, sidewalk, and curb within project limits, placement of aggregate base and pavement, piping existing irrigation ditch underground, extension of sewer and stormwater lines through intersection, and street light installation. Roadway detours and/or lane closures may be used to control traffic during construction. Maps showing project layout and regional location are provided in Figures 2-1, 2-2 and 2-3. Detailed improvement plans are provided in Appendix A.

8. **Surrounding Land Use Designations and Settings:**

   Northeast Community Commercial, currently vacant
   Northwest Light Industrial, currently under agricultural use
   Southeast General Commercial, currently vacant
   Southwest Light Industrial, currently being developed as a high school.

9. **Required Approvals:** No discretionary approvals are required from the City of Dinuba for the proposed project.

10. **Native American Consultation:** A Native American Heritage Commission's Sacred Lands File search and Native American outreach were conducted as part of a Archaeological Survey Report prepared by Applied Earthworks in December 2022. The Native American Heritage Commission Sacred Lands File search and Native American contacts did not identify any sacred areas or provide information pertaining to Native American resources.

11. **Parking and access:** During construction, workers will utilize temporary construction easements located adjacent to the project site for parking and equipment staging.

12. **Landscaping and Design:** The landscape and design plans will be required at time the project submits for building permit on the project and will be subject to the City of Dinuba's Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance (WELO).

13. **Utilities and Electrical Services:** The proposed project will include extension of sewer and stormwater lines through the intersection and street light installation as part of current development standards. Electrical services are provided by Pacific Gas and Electric and the project will involve relocation of two existing power poles.

Acronyms

BMP	Best Management Practices
CAA	Clean Air Act
CCR	California Code of Regulation
CDFG	California Department of Fish and Game
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CWA	California Water Act
DHS	Department of Health Services
FEIR	Final Environmental Impact Report
FPPA	Farmland Protection Policy Act
ISMND	Initial Study Mitigated Negative Declaration
MCL	Maximum Contaminant Level
ND	Negative Declaration
NAC	Noise Abatement Criteria
RCRA	Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Office
SJVAPCD	San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
SWPPP	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan

Figure 3-1. Vicinity Map

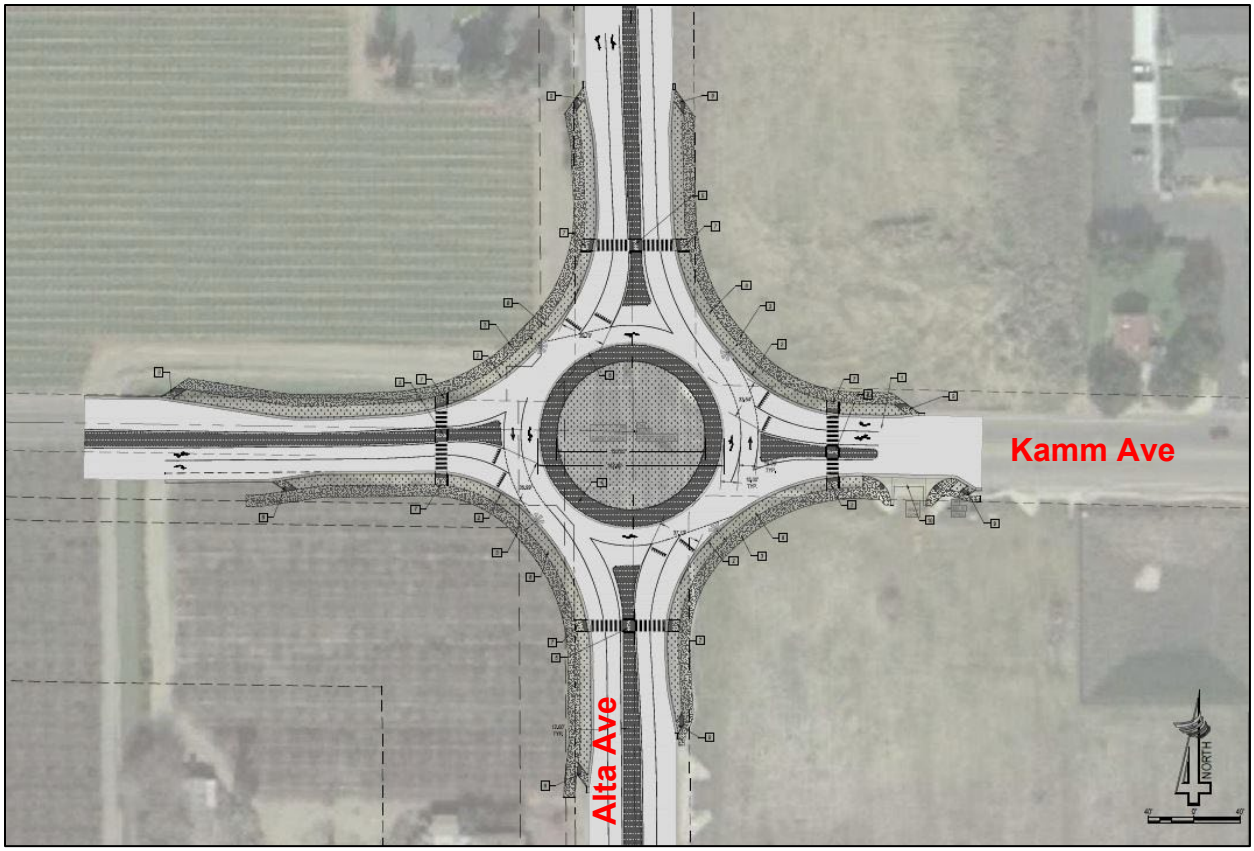


Figure 3-2. Site Plan.

3.3 EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

3.4 ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

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

DETERMINATION: (To be completed by the Lead Agency) Where potential impacts are anticipated to be significant, mitigation measures will be required, so that impacts may be avoided or reduced to insignificant levels.

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

☐ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION WILL BE PREPARED.

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

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

☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. A Negative Declaration 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 requested.

SIGNATURE	DATE
Ismael Hernandez	City of Dinuba
PRINTED NAME	AGENCY

3.5 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

The following section provides an evaluation of the impact categories and questions contained in the checklist and identify mitigation measures, if applicable.

I. AESTHETICS

Except as provided in Public Resource Code Section 210999, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	☐	☐	☐	☑
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within state scenic highway?	☐	☐	☐	☑
c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from a publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	☐	☐	☐	☑
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	☐	☐	☑	☐

Environmental Setting

There are no aesthetic resources identified in the City of Dinuba General Plan; however, the views of the Sierra Nevada Mountains are considered to be an important scenic vista in Tulare County.

Sierra Nevada Mountains: The Sierra Nevada mountain range and its foothills stretch along the east area of the county and are a valuable aesthetic resource. Additionally, Sequoia National Park is located within the stretch of the Sierra Nevada Mountains located in Tulare County. Sequoia National Forest is a U.S. National Forest known for its mountain scenery and natural resources. Located directly north of Sequoia National Park is Kings Canyon National Park, a U.S. National Park also known for its towering sequoia trees and scenic vistas. The Sierra Nevada Mountains are approximately 15 miles east of the proposed project site but views of the mountains are not visible on most days due to poor air quality.

The following photos demonstrate the aesthetic character of the project area. As shown, the proposed project site is located in a relatively flat area with primarily agricultural uses.

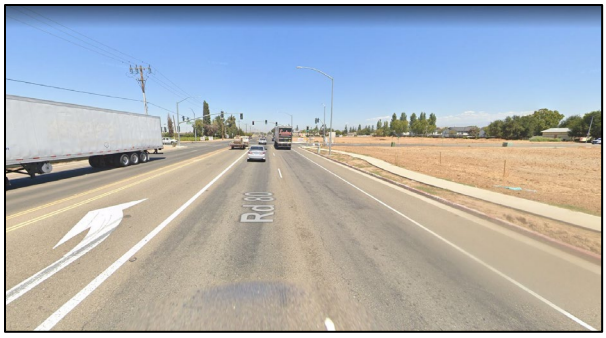


Photo 1: View of intersection looking north.
Source: Google Earth, 12/20/2022

Photo 2: View of intersection looking south.
Source: Google Earth, 12/20/2022

Photo 3: View of intersection looking east.
Source: Google Earth, 12/20/2022

Photo 4: View of intersection looking west.
Source: Google Earth, 12/20/2022

Regulatory Setting

State Scenic Highways: The State Scenic Highway Program is implemented by Caltrans and was developed to preserve the aesthetic quality of certain highway corridors. Highways included in this program are designated as scenic highways. A highway is designated as scenic based on how much of the natural landscape is visible to travelers, the quality of that landscape, and the extent to which development obstructs views of the landscape. There are no designated eligible or officially designated state scenic highways within the City of Dinbua.

Discussion

a) Would the project have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

No Impact: A scenic vista is defined as a viewpoint that provides expansive views of highly valued landscape for the benefit of the general public. The Sierra Nevada Mountains are the primary scenic vista within this region. The foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains are approximately 15 miles east of the proposed project site, however views of the mountains are not visible on most days due to poor air quality. The proposed project would not result in any vertical construction that could effect views of the Sierra Nevada Mountains or any other scenic vista. There is *no impact.*

b) Would the project substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within state scenic highway?

No Impact: There are no designated Eligible or Officially Designated State Scenic Highways within the City of Dinuba. Highway 180 is the nearest State Scenic Highway and is located approximately 13 miles north of the project site. Significant urban development between the project site and Highway 180 completely eliminates visibility of the project site from the highway. There is *no impact.*

c) In non-urbanized areas, would the project substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from a publicly accessible vantage point). If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?

No Impact: The proposed project site is located in an area characterized by agricultural activity, however the project would not negatively impact the existing visual character. Proposed improvements include a landscaped center island, stamped concrete splitter islands, decrative monument signage, new street lighting, landscaping, etc. All proposed improvements will be done in accordance with City development standards and will not affect the surrounding visual character. There is *no impact.*

d) Would the project create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?

Less than Significant Impact: The proposed project would result in new street lighting consistent with the City's development standards, which are developed to minimize impacts related to excessive light and glare. The impacts are *less than significant.*

Mitigation Measures for Aesthetic Resources

None Required

II. AGRICULTURE AND FOREST RESOURCES:

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

Environmental Setting

Agriculture is a vital component of the City of Dinuba's economy and is a significant source of the City's cultural identity. As such, preserving the productivity of agricultural lands is integral to maintaining the City's culture and economic viability.

According to the California Department of Conservation, the lands adjacent to the project include "prime farmland" and "farmland of local importance". The project will require ROW acquisition of approximately 0.64 acres of prime farmland and 0.10 acres of farmland of local importance.

Regulatory Setting

California Land Conservation Act of 1965: The California Land Conservation Act of 1965, commonly referred to as the Williamson Act, allows local governments to enter into contracts with private landowners to restrict the activities on specific parcels of land to agricultural or open space uses. The landowners benefit from the contract by receiving greatly reduced property tax assessments. The California Land Conservation Act is overseen by the California Department of Conservation; however local governments are responsible for determining specific allowed uses and enforcing the contract.

California Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP): The FMMP is implemented by the California Department of Conservation (DOC) to conserve and protect agricultural lands within the State. Land is included in this program based on soil type, annual crop yields, and other factors that influence the quality of farmland. The FMMP mapping categories for the most important statewide farmland are as follows:

- ***Prime Farmland*** has the ideal physical and chemical composition for crop production. It has been used for irrigated production in the four years prior to classification and is capable of producing sustained yields.
- ***Farmland of Statewide Importance*** has also been used for irrigated production in the four years prior to classification and is only slightly poorer quality than Prime Farmland.
- ***Unique Farmland*** has been cropped in the four years prior to classification and does not meet the criteria for Prime Farmland or Farmland of Statewide Importance but has produced specific crops with high economic value.
- ***Farmland of Local Importance*** encompasses farmland that does not meet the criteria for the previous three categories. These may lack irrigation, produce major crops, be zoned as agricultural, and/or support dairy.
- ***Grazing Land*** has vegetation that is suitable for grazing livestock.

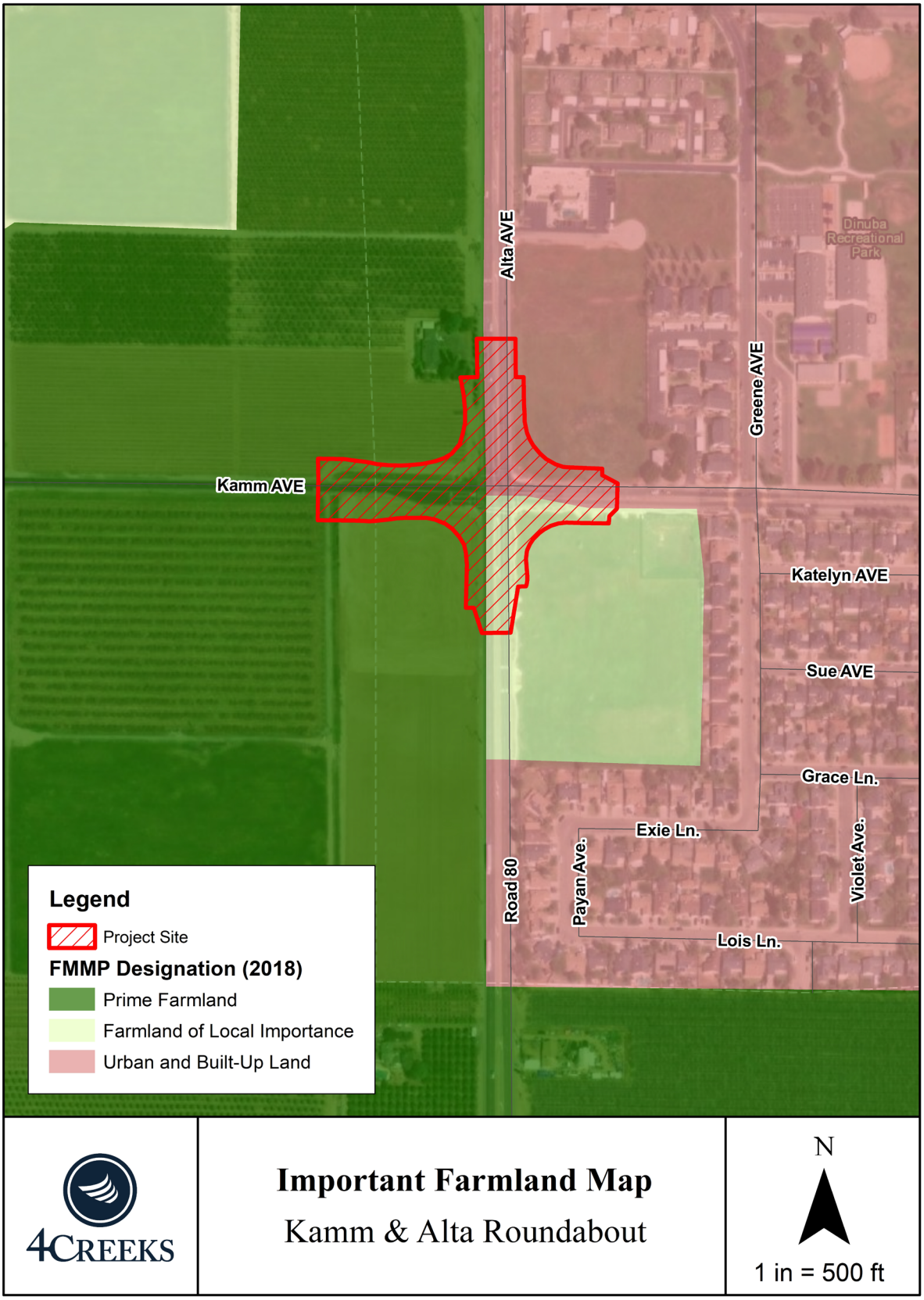


Figure 3-3. Important Farmland Map

Discussion

a) Would the project convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?

Less than Significant Impact: The proposed site is includes lands classified as Prime Farmland and Farmland of Local Importance by the California Department of Conservation Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program. However, the Project only proposes conversion of an existing intersection into a roundabout and does not propose development of adjacent agricultural properties. The Project would not result in the significant loss of agricultural lands and the impact is *less than significant.*

b) Would the project conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act Contract?

No Impact: The proposed project site is within the public ROW and is therefore not zoned for agricultural use or under a Williamson Act Contract. There is *no impact.*

c) Would the project conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g)?

No Impact: The project site located within the public ROW and is therefore not zoned for forest or timberland production. There is n*o impact.*

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

No Impact: The proposed project site is located within the public ROW and would not convert forestland to non-forest use. There is *no impact.*

e) Would the project involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forestland to non-forest use?

No Impact: As discussed above, the proposed project site is located within the public ROW. The project would not result in the loss of Farmland to non-agricultural use or forestland to non-forest use. There is *no impact.*

Mitigation Measures for Agricultural and Forest Resources

None Required

III. AIR QUALITY

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

Environmental Setting

Air pollution is directly related to regional topography. Topographic features can either stimulate the movement of air or restrict air movement. California is divided into regional air basins based on topographic air drainage features. The proposed project site is within the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin, which is bordered by the Sierra Nevada Mountains to the east, Coastal Ranges to the west, and the Tehachapi Mountains to the south. The mountain ranges surrounding the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin (SJVAB) serve to restrict air movement and prevent the dispersal of pollution. As shown in the Table 3-1, the SJVAB is in nonattainment for several pollutant standards.

Pollutant	Designation/Classification	
	Federal Standards	State Standards
Ozone – One hour	No Federal Standard[D]	Nonattainment/Severe
Ozone – Eight hour	Nonattainment/Extreme[C]	Nonattainment
PM 10	Attainment[A]	Nonattainment
PM 2.5	Nonattainment[B]	Nonattainment
Carbon Monoxide	Attainment/Unclassified	Attainment/Unclassified
Nitrogen Dioxide	Attainment/Unclassified	Attainment
Sulfur Dioxide	Attainment/Unclassified	Attainment
Lead (Particulate)	No Designation/Classification	Attainment
Hydrogen Sulfide	No Federal Standard	Unclassified
Sulfates	No Federal Standard	Attainment
Visibility Reducing Particles	No Federal Standard	Unclassified
Vinyl Chloride	No Federal Standard	Attainment

A. On September 25, 2008, EPA redesignated the San Joaquin Valley to attainment for the PM10 National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) and approved the PM10 Maintenance Plan.
B. The Valley is designated nonattainment for the 1997 PM2.5 NAAQS. EPA designated the Valley as nonattainment for the 2006 PM2.5 NAAQS on November 13, 2009 (effective December 14, 2009).
C. Though the Valley was initially classified as serious nonattainment for the 1997 8-hour ozone standard, EPA approved Valley reclassification to extreme nonattainment in the Federal Register on May 5, 2010 (effective June 4, 2010).
D. Effective June 15, 2005, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) revoked the federal 1-hour ozone standard, including associated designations and classifications. EPA had previously classified the SJVAB as extreme nonattainment for this standard. EPA approved the 2004 Extreme Ozone Attainment Demonstration Plan on March 8, 2010 (effective April 7, 2010). Many applicable requirements for extreme 1-hour ozone nonattainment areas continue to apply to the SJVAB.

Table 3-1. San Joaquin Valley Attainment Status; Source: SJVAPCD

Regulatory Setting

Federal Clean Air Act – The 1977 Federal Clean Air Act (CAA) authorized the establishment of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and set deadlines for their attainment. The Clean Air Act identifies specific emission reduction goals, requires both a demonstration of reasonable further progress and an attainment demonstration, and incorporates more stringent sanctions for failure to meet interim milestones. The U.S. EPA is the federal agency charged with administering the Act and other air quality-related legislation. EPA's principal functions include setting NAAQS; establishing minimum national emission limits for major sources of pollution; and promulgating regulations. Under CAA, the NCCAB is identified as an attainment area for all pollutants.

California Clean Air Act – California Air Resources Board coordinates and oversees both state and federal air pollution control programs in California. As part of this responsibility, California Air Resources Board monitors existing air quality, establishes California Ambient Air Quality Standards, and limits allowable emissions from vehicular sources. Regulatory authority within established air basins is provided by air pollution control and management districts, which control stationary-source and most categories of area-source emissions and develop regional air quality plans. The project is located within the jurisdiction of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District.

The state and federal standards for the criteria pollutants are presented in Section 8.4 of The San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District's 2015 "Guidance for Assessing and Mitigating Air Quality Impacts". These standards are designed to protect public health and welfare. The "primary" standards have been established to protect the public health. The "secondary" standards are intended to protect the nation's welfare and account for air pollutant effects on soils, water, visibility, materials, vegetation and other aspects of general welfare. The U.S. EPA revoked the national 1-hour ozone standard on June 15, 2005, and the annual PM_{10} standard on September 21, 2006, when a new $PM_{2.5}$ 24-hour standard was established.

Pollutant	Averaging Time	California Standards[1]		National Standards[2]		
		Concentration[3]	Method[4]	Primary[3,5]	Secondary[3,6]	Method[7]
Ozone (03)	1 Hour	0.09 ppm (180 µg/m^3)	Ultraviolet Photometry	--	Same as Primary Standard	Ultraviolet 8 Hour Photometry
	8 Hour	0.070 ppm (137 µg/m^3)		0.075 ppm (147 µg/m^3)		
Respirable Particulate Matter (PM_{10})	24 Hour	50 µg/m	Gravimetric or Beta Attenuation	150 µg/m^3	Same as Primary Standard	Inertial Separation and Gravimetric Annual Analysis
	Annual Arithmetic Mean	20 µg/m3		--		
Fine Particulate Matter ($PM_{2.5}$)	24 Hour		Gravimetric or Beta Attenuation	35 µg/m^3	Same as Primary Standard	Inertial Separation and Gravimetric Annual Analysis
	Annual Arithmetic Mean	12 µg/m^3		15 µg/m^3		
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	1 Hour	20 ppm (23 mg/m^3)	Non-Dispersive Infrared Photometry (NDIR)	35 ppm (40 mg/m^3)	--	Non-Dispersive Infrared Photometry (NDIR)
	8 Hour	9.0 ppm (10 mg/m^3)		9 ppm (10 mg/m^3)	--	
	8 Hour (Lake Tahoe)	6 ppm (7 mg/m^3)		--	--	
Nitrogen Dioxide	1 Hour	0.18 ppm (339 µg/m^3)		100 ppb (188 µg/m^3)	--	Gas Phase Annual

Pollutant	Averaging Time	California Standards[1]		National Standards[2]		
		Concentration[3]	Method[4]	Primary[3,5]	Secondary[3,6]	Method[7]
(NO_2)[8]	Arithmetic Mean	0.030 ppm (57 µg/m^3)	Gas Phase Chemiluminescence	53 ppb (100 µg/m^3)	Same as Primary Standard	Chemiluminescence
Sulfur Dioxide	1 Hour	0.25 ppm (655 µg/m^3)	Ultraviolet Fluorescence	75 ppb (196 µg/m^3)	--	Ultraviolet Fluorescence; Spectrophotometry (Pararosaniline Method)
	3 Hour	--		--	0.5 ppm (1300 µg/m^3)	
	24 Hour	0.04 ppm (105 µg/m^3)		0.14 ppm (for certain areas)9	--	
	Annual Arithmetic Mean	--		0.030 ppm (for certain areas)9	--	
Lead[10,11]	30 Day Average	1.5 µg/m^3	Atomic Absorption	--	--	High Volume Sampler and Atomic Absorption
	Calendar Quarter	--		1.5 µg/m3 (for certain areas)11	Same as Primary Standard	
	Rolling 3-Month Average	--		0.15 µg/m^3		
Visibility Reducing Particles[12]	8 Hour	See footnote 12	Beta Attenuation and Transmittance through Filter Tape	No National Standard		
Sulfates	24 Hour	25 µg/m^3	Ion Chromatography			
Hydrogen Sulfide	1 Hour	0.03 ppm (42 µg/m^3)	Ultraviolet Fluorescence			
Vinyl Chloride[10]	24 Hour	0.01 ppm (26 µg/m^3)	Gas Chromatography			

1. California standards for ozone, carbon monoxide (except 8-hour Lake Tahoe), sulfur dioxide (1 and 24 hour), nitrogen dioxide, and particulate matter (PM10, PM2.5, and visibility reducing particles), are values that are not to be exceeded. All others are not to be equaled or exceeded. California ambient air quality standards are listed in the Table of Standards in Section 70200 of Title 17 of the California Code of Regulations.
2. National standards (other than ozone, particulate matter, and those based on annual arithmetic mean) are not to be exceeded more than once a year. The ozone standard is attained when the fourth highest 8-hour concentration measured at each site in a year, averaged over three years, is equal to or less than the standard. For PM10, the 24 hour standard is attained when the expected number of days per calendar year with a 24-hour average concentration above 150 µg/m3 is equal to or less than one. For PM2.5, the 24 hour standard is attained when 98 percent of the daily concentrations, averaged over three years, are equal to or less than the standard. Contact the U.S. EPA for further clarification and current national policies.
3. Concentration expressed first in units in which it was promulgated. Equivalent units given in parentheses are based upon a reference temperature of 25°C and a reference pressure of 760 torr. Most measurements of air quality are to be corrected to a reference temperature of 25°C and a reference pressure of 760 torr; ppm in this table refers to ppm by volume, or micromoles of pollutant per mole of gas.
4. Any equivalent measurement method which can be shown to the satisfaction of the ARB to give equivalent results at or near the level of the air quality standard may be used.
5. National Primary Standards: The levels of air quality necessary, with an adequate margin of safety to protect the public health.
6. National Secondary Standards: The levels of air quality necessary to protect the public welfare from any known or anticipated adverse effects of a pollutant.
7. Reference method as described by the U.S. EPA. An "equivalent method" of measurement may be used but must have a "consistent relationship to the reference method" and must be approved by the U.S. EPA.
8. To attain the 1-hour national standard, the 3-year average of the annual 98th percentile of the 1-hour daily maximum concentrations at each site must not exceed 100 ppb. Note that the national standards are in units of parts per billion (ppb). California standards are in units of parts per million (ppm). To directly compare the national standards to the California standards the units can be converted from ppb to ppm. In this case, the national standards of 53 ppb and 100 ppb are identical to 0.053 ppm and 0.100 ppm, respectively.
9. On June 2, 2010, a new 1-hour SO2 standard was established and the existing 24-hour and annual primary standards were revoked. To attain the 1-hour national standard, the 3-year average of the annual 99th percentile of the 1-hour daily maximum concentrations at each site must not exceed 75 ppb. The 1971 SO2 national standards (24-hour and annual) remain in effect until one year after an area is designated for the 2010 standard, except that in areas designated nonattainment for the 1971 standards, the 1971 standards remain in effect until implementation plans to attain or maintain the 2010 standards are approved. Note that the 1-hour national standard is in units of parts per billion (ppb). California standards are in units of parts per million (ppm). To directly compare the 1-hour national standard to the California standard the units can be converted to ppm. In this case, the national standard of 75 ppb is identical to 0.075 ppm.
10. The ARB has identified lead and vinyl chloride as 'toxic air contaminants' with no threshold level of exposure for adverse health effects determined. These actions allow for the implementation of control measures at levels below the ambient concentrations specified for these pollutants.
11. The national standard for lead was revised on October 15, 2008 to a rolling 3-month average. The 1978 lead standard (1.5 µg/m3 as a quarterly average) remains in effect until one year after an area is designated for the 2008 standard, except that in areas designated nonattainment for the 1978 standard, the 1978 standard remains in effect until implementation plans to attain or maintain the 2008 standard are approved.
12. In 1989, the ARB converted both the general statewide 10-mile visibility standard and the Lake Tahoe 30-mile visibility standard to instrumental equivalents, which are "extinction of 0.23 per kilometer" and "extinction of 0.07 per kilometer" for the statewide and Lake Tahoe Air Basin standards, respectively.

Table 3-2. Ambient Air Quality Standards; Source: SJVAPCD

San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) – The SJVAPCD is responsible for enforcing air quality standards in the project area. To meet state and federal air quality objectives, the SJVAPCD adopted the following thresholds of significance for projects (Table 3-3). Additionally, the following SJVAPCD rules and regulations may apply to the proposed project:

- **Rule 3135:** Dust Control Plan Fee. All projects which include construction, demolition, excavation, extraction, and/or other earth moving activities as defined by Regulation VIII (Described below) are required to submit a Dust Control Plan and required fees to mitigate impacts related to dust.
- **Rule 4101:** Visible Emissions. District Rule 4101 prohibits visible emissions of air contaminants that are dark in color and/or have the potential to obstruct visibility.
- **Rule 9510:** Indirect Source Review (ISR). This rule reduces the impact PM10 and NOX emissions from growth on the SJVB. This rule places application and emission reduction requirements on applicable development projects in order to reduce emissions through onsite mitigation, offsite SJVAPCD administered projects, or a combination of the two.
- **Regulation VIII:** Fugitive PM10 Prohibitions. Regulation VIII is composed of eight rules which together aim to limit PM10 emissions by reducing fugitive dust. These rules contain required management practices to limit PM10 emissions during construction, demolition, excavation, extraction, and/or other earth moving activities.

Pollutant/ Precursor	Construction Emissions	Operational Emissions	
		Permitted Equipment and Activities	Non-Permitted Equipment and Activities
	Emissions (tpy)	Emissions (tpy)	Emissions (tpy)
CO	100	100	100
Nox	10	10	10
ROG	10	10	10
SOx	27	27	27
PM10	15	15	15
PM2.5	15	15	15

Table 3-3. SJVAPCD Thresholds of Significance for Criteria Pollutants; Source: SJVAPCD

Discussion

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

No Impact: The proposed project is located within the boundaries of the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD) and would result in air pollutant emissions that are regulated by the air district during both its construction and operational phases. The SJVAPCD is responsible for bringing air quality in Tulare County into compliance with federal and state air quality standards. The air district has Particulate Matter (PM) plans, Ozone Plans, and Carbon Monoxide Plans that serve as the clean air plan for the basin. Together, these plans quantify the required emission reductions to meet federal and state air quality standards and provide strategies to meet these standards.

Construction Phase. Project construction would generate pollutant emissions from the following construction activities: grubbing/land clearing, grading/excavation, drainage/utilities/sub-grade, and paving. The construction related emissions from these activities were calculated using Road Construction Emissions Model, Version 9.0.0. The full Emissions Model results are available in

Appendix B. As shown in Table 3-4 below, project construction related emissions do not exceed the thresholds established by the SJVAPCD.

	CO (tpy)	ROG (tpy)	SOx (tpy)*	Nox (tpy)	PM10 (tpy)	PM2.5 (tpy)
Emissions Generated from Project Construction	**1.81**	**0.18**	**0.00**	**1.81**	**1.49**	**0.36**
SJVAPCD Air Quality Thresholds of Significance	**100**	**10**	**27**	**10**	**15**	**15**
*Threshold established by SJVAPCD for SOx, however emissions are reported as SO2 by the Road Construction Emissions Model.						

Table 3-4. Projected Project Emissions Compared to SJVAPCD Thresholds of Significance for Criteria Pollutants related to Construction; Source: SJVAPCD, Road Construction Emissions Model, Version 9.0.0 (Appendix B)

Operational Phase. The proposed project is being implemented as part of the FHWA's CMAQ program, which funds air quality improvement projects. As such, the project is expected to result in significant emissions reductions. The project itself would not generate any additional vehicle trips and there will be no stationary source emissions resulting from the Project.

Because the emissions from Project construction would not exceed the thresholds of significance established by the SJVAPCD, and the Project would not result in operational emissions, the project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of an applicable air quality plan and there is *no impact.*

b) Would the project result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?

Less Than Significant Impact: The SJVAPCD accounts for cumulative impacts to air quality in Section 1.8 "Thresholds of Significance – Cumulative Impacts" in its 2015 Guide for Assessing and Mitigating Air Quality Impacts. The SJVAPCD considered basin-wide cumulative impacts to air quality when developing its significance thresholds. Because Project emissions are below the significance thresholds adopted by the air district, and compliance with SJVAPCD rules will address any cumulative impacts regarding operational emissions, impacts regarding cumulative emissions would be *less than significant.*

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

Less Than Significant Impact: The single-family residence located at 1593 S Alta Ave is the closest sensitive receptor. The Project would not exceed emissions thresholds established by the SJVAPCD and would not result in increased operational emissions beyond existing conditions. The project would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations. The impact would be *less than significant.*

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

Less Than Significant Impact: The project will create temporary localized odors during project construction. These odors are not likely to be noticeable for extended periods of time beyond the

perimeter of the Project site. Once constructed, the project will not create any new sources of odor that result directly from the project. The project would not create objectionable odors affecting a substantial number of people and the impacts would be *less than significant.*

Mitigation Measures for Air Quality

None Required

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

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

Regulatory Setting

Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA): defines an *endangered species* as "any species or subspecies that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range." A threatened species is defined as "any species or subspecies that is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range."

The Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act (FMBTA: 16 USC 703-712): FMBTA prohibits killing, possessing, or trading in any bird species covered in one of four international conventions to which the United States is a party, except in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior. The name of the act is misleading, as it actually covers almost all birds native to the United States, even those that are non-migratory. The FMBTA encompasses whole birds, parts of birds, and bird nests and eggs.

Although the USFWS and its parent administration, the U.S. Department of the Interior, have traditionally interpreted the FMBTA as prohibiting incidental as well as intentional "take" of birds, a January 2018 legal opinion issued by the Department of the Interior now states that incidental take of migratory birds while engaging in otherwise lawful activities is permissible under the FMBTA. However, California Fish and Game Code makes it unlawful to take or possess any non-game bird covered by the FMBTA (Section 3513), as well as any other native non-game bird (Section 3800), even if incidental to lawful activities.

Birds of Prey (CA Fish and Game Code Section 3503.5): Birds of prey are protected in California under provisions of the Fish and Game Code (Section 3503.5), which states that it is unlawful to take, possess, or destroy any birds in the order Falconiformes (hawks and eagles) or Strigiformes (owls), as well as their nests and eggs. The bald eagle and golden eagle are afforded additional protection under the federal Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 USC 668), which makes it unlawful to kill birds or their eggs.

Clean Water Act: Section 404 of the Clean Water Act of (1972) is to maintain, restore, and enhance the physical, chemical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters. Under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regulates discharges of dredged and fill materials into "waters of the United States" (jurisdictional waters). Waters of the US including navigable waters of the United States, interstate waters, tidally influenced waters, and all other waters where the use, degradation, or destruction of the waters could affect interstate or foreign commerce, tributaries to any of these waters, and wetlands that meet any of these criteria or that are adjacent to any of these waters or their tributaries.

California Endangered Species Act (CESA): prohibits the take of any state-listed threatened and endangered species. CESA defines *take* as "any action or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill any listed species." If the proposed project results in a take of a listed species, a permit pursuant to Section 2080 of CESA is required from the CDFG.

Discussion

a) Would the project have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish & Game or U.S. fish and Wildlife Service?

No Impact: Based upon a preliminary screening using "IPaC: Explore Location" (see Appendix C); there are three endangered and four threatened species known to be present in Tulare County. From these known species there are no critical habitats within the project limits. Most of the construction will be within or immediately adjacent to, the existing right of way. Work to be performed outside the existing right of way are areas which have already been disturbed. There is *no impact.*

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

No Impact: The project will occur within or immediately adjacent to heavily disturbed public right-of-way Development of the proposed project would not impact any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), or United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). There is

no impact.

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

No Impact: Based on the findings of the Water Quality Technical Memorandum (Appendix D) there are no wetlands within or immediately adjacent to the project area. Therefore, no impacts to state or federally protected wetlands would occur due to the proposed project. There is *no impact.*

d) Interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors, or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?

No Impact: The project involves conversion of an existing 4-way intersection into a roundabout. The project is not expected to have any impact on the ease of movement of resident or migratory wildlife species. There is *no impact.*

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

No Impact: The project will not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance. There is *no impact.*

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

No Impact: The proposed project is not located within the boundaries of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Communities Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional or state habitat conservation plan. There is *no impact.*

Mitigation Measures for Biological Resources

None Required

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES

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

Environmental Setting

An Archaeological Survey Report and Historic Property Survey Report were prepared by Applied Earthworks in January 2023. The full report can be found in Appendix E.

Applied EarthWorks, Inc. conducted an archaeological survey of the Area of Potential Effects (APE) to determine if cultural resources are present and whether they have the potential to be affected by the proposed work. Applied EarthWorks' investigation included a records search to identify previously recorded resources and prior studies within 0.5 miles of the APE, a review of the Native American Heritage Commission's Sacred Lands File and initiation of Native American outreach, a review of pertinent topographic maps, aerial photographs, and General Land Office Plat Maps, and a pedestrian survey of the APE.

The records search identified one cultural resource, Dinuba Town Ditch (P-54-004899), and four prior studies (TU-00591, TU-00604, TU-01069, and TU-01149) within the Direct APE. Applied Earthworks conducted consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer, who determined that the Dinuba Town Ditch is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (Appendix E).

The Native American Heritage Commission Sacred Lands File search and Native American contacts did not identify any sacred areas or provide information pertaining to Native American resources.

Applied EarthWorks' pedestrian survey on November 14, 2022, did not identify any prehistoric archaeological resources within the Direct APE.

Regulatory Setting

National Historic Preservation Act: The National Historic Preservation Act was adopted in 1966 to preserve historic and archeological sites in the United States. The Act created the National Register of Historic Places, the list of National Historic Landmarks, and the State Historic Preservation offices.

California Historic Register: The California Historic Register was developed as a program to identify, evaluate, register, and protect Historical Resources in California. California Historical Landmarks are sites, buildings, features, or events that are of statewide significance and have anthropological, cultural,

military, political, architectural, economic, scientific, religious, experimental, or other value. In order for a resource to be designated as a historical landmark, it must meet the following criteria:

- The first, last, only, or most significant of its type in the state or within a large geographic region (Northern, Central, or Southern California).
- Associated with an individual or group having a profound influence on the history of California.
- A prototype of, or an outstanding example of, a period, style, architectural movement or construction or is one of the more notable works or the best surviving work in a region of a pioneer architect, designer or master builder.

Discussion

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

Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation: An Archaeological Survey Report and Historic Property Survey Report were conducted in January 2023 for the proposed project. The Reports included Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center records search, a Native American Heritage Commission Sacred Lands File search, Native American outreach, archival research, and pedestrian survey. This investigation identified one historic resource, the Dinuba Town Ditch (P-54-004899) within the project APE. Applied Earthworks conducted consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer, who determined that the Dinuba Town Ditch is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (Appendix E) due to a lack of historical significance. The full Archaeological Survey Report and Historic Property Survey Report are available in Appendix E.

Based on the results of this Archaeological Survey Report and Historic Property Survey Report, no prehistoric or historic archaeological materials are located within the project site. The presence of remains or unanticipated cultural resources under the ground surface is possible. Implementation of Mitigation Measures CUL-1 and CUL-2 will ensure that impacts to this checklist item will be *less than significant with mitigation incorporation*.

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

Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation: There are no known archaeological resources located within the project area. Implementation of Mitigation Measures CUL-1 and CUL-2 will ensure that potential impact will be *less than significant with mitigation incorporation.*

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

Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation: There are no known human remains buried in the project vicinity. If human remains are unearthed during development, there is a potential for a significant impact. As such, implementation of Mitigation Measure CUL-2 will ensure that impacts remain *less than significant with mitigation incorporation.*

Mitigation Measures for Impacts to Cultural Resources:

Mitigation Measure CUL-1: If cultural resources are encountered during ground-disturbing activities, work in the immediate area must halt and an archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards for archaeology (NPS 1983) should be contacted immediately to evaluate the find. If the discovery proves to be significant under CEQA, additional work such as data recovery excavation and Native American consultation may be warranted to mitigate any adverse effects.

Mitigation Measure CUL-2: The discovery of human remains is always a possibility during ground disturbing activities. If human remains are found, the State of California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. In the event of an unanticipated discovery of human remains, the County Coroner must be notified immediately. If the human remains are determined to be prehistoric, the coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), which will determine and notify a most likely descendant (MLD). The MLD shall complete the inspection of the site within 48 hours of notification and may recommend scientific removal and nondestructive analysis of human remains and items associated with Native American burials.

VI. ENERGY

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

Environmental Setting

Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) provides natural gas and electricity services to the region. PG&E is a subsidiary of the PG&E Corporation and serves approximately 16 million people throughout a 70,000-square-mile service area in northern and central California. PG&E supplies power to its customers from a variety of renewable and nonrenewable sources. The Table 3-5 below shows the proportion of each energy resource sold to California consumers by PG&E in 2017 as compared to the statewide average.

Fuel Type		SCE Power Mix	California Power Mix
Coal		0%	4%
Large Hydroelectric		8%	15%
Natural Gas		20%	34%
Nuclear		6%	9%
Other (Oil/Petroleum Coke/Waste Heat)		0%	<1%
Unspecified Sources of Power[1]		34%	9%
Eligible Renewables	Biomass	0%	2%
	Geothermal	8%	4%
	Small Hydro	1%	3%
	Solar	13%	10%
	Wind	10%	10%
	Total Eligible Renewable	**32%**	**29%**

1. "Unspecified sources of power" means electricity from transactions that are not traceable to specific generation sources.

Table 3-5. PG&E and State average power resources; Source: California Energy Commission

Regulatory Setting

California Code of Regulations, Title 20 and Title 24: Title 20 of the California Code of Regulations establishes standards and requirements for appliance energy efficiency. The standards apply to a broad range of appliances sold in California. Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations is a broad set of standards designed to address the energy efficiency of new and altered homes and commercial buildings. These standards regulate energy consumed for heating, cooling, ventilation, water heating, and lighting. Title 24 requirements are enforced locally by the City of Dinuba Building Department.

California Green Building Standards Code (CALGreen): CalGreen is a mandatory green building code that sets minimum environmental standards for new buildings. It includes standards for volatile organic compound (VOC) emitting materials, water conservation, and construction waste recycling

Discussion

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

Less Than Significant Impact: The proposed Project involves converting an existing 4-way intersection into a roundabout. During construction, energy use would be primarily attributed the electricity and fuel energy consumed by construction vehicles and equipment. Energy use associated with project construction was estimated using the Road Construction Emissions Model Version 9.0 (Appendix B) and EMFAC data. Energy use calculations are provided in Appendix F and summarized in Table 3-6, below.

Source	Energy Use	
	Gallons	MBTU
Off-Road Equipment Fuel (Diesel)	32,402	4504
On-Road Vehicle Fuel (Gasoline)	11,605	1347
On-Road Vehicle Fuel (Diesel)	966	134
Total Construction Energy Use		**5,985**
Average Annual Construction Energy Use		**5,985**

Table 3-6. Construction Related Energy Use. Source: Road Construction Emissions Model & EMFAC (See Appendix F)

Title 24 Building Energy Efficiency Standards would provide guidance on construction techniques to maximize energy conservation. As such, it is anticipated that construction vehicle fuel energy would not involve the wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy.

During project operations, energy consumption would be minimal. Street lighting is proposed throughout the project area, which would result in some energy use. However, the City of Dinuba Engineering Standards require new streetlights to utilize energy efficient LED luminaires. Additionally, the roundabout would replace the existing traffic signals, so the actual difference in energy demand would be negligible. Therefore, it is not anticipated that project operations would result in wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy.

Because the proposed project will comply with all energy efficiency standards required under Title 24 of the California Building Code and City of Dinuba Engineering Standards, it is presumed that the project will not result in wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy. The impact is *less than significant.*

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

No Impact: The proposed project will not conflict with or obstruct any state or local plans for renewable energy or energy efficiency. The project will be designed to meet Title 24 and City of Dinuba energy efficiency standards. Compliance with these standards will be enforced by the City of Dinuba Building Division. There is *no impact*

Mitigation Measures for Energy

None Required

VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS

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

Environmental Setting

Geologic Stability and Seismic Activity

- **Seismicity**: Tulare County is considered to be a low to moderate earthquake hazard area. The San Andreas Fault is the longest and most significant fault zone in California and is approximately 40 miles west of the Tulare County Boundary. Owens Valley fault zone is the only active fault located within Tulare County. Section 5 of the 2017 Tulare Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies the project site as likely to experience low to moderate shaking from earthquakes, and may experience higher levels if an earthquake were to occur in or near the County. Ground shaking can result in other geological impacts, including liquefaction, landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, or collapse.

- **Liquefaction**: Liquefaction is a phenomenon whereby unconsolidated and/or near-saturated soils lose cohesion and are converted to a fluid state as a result of severe vibratory motion. The relatively rapid loss of soil shear strength during strong earthquake shaking results in temporary, fluid-like behavior of the soil, which can result in landslides and lateral spreading. No specific countywide assessment of liquefaction has been performed; however the 2017 Tulare Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies the risk of liquefaction within the county as low because the soil types in the area either too coarse or too high in clay content to be suitable for liquefaction.

- **Landslides**: Landslides refer to a wide variety of processes that result in the downward and outward movement of soil, rock, and vegetation under gravitational influence. Landslides can be caused by both natural and human-induced changes in slope stability and often accompany other natural hazard events, such as floods, wildfire, or earthquake. Eastern portions of the County are considered to be at a higher risk of landslides where steep slopes are present. However, the majority of the County, including the proposed project site, is considered to be at low risk of landslides and mudslides because of its flat topography. The 2017 Tulare Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan states that occurrence of landslide events within populated areas of Tulare County is unlikely.

- **Subsidence**: Land Subsidence refers to the vertical sinking of land as a result of either manmade or natural underground voids. Subsidence has occurred throughout the Central Valley at differing rates since the 1920's as a result of groundwater, oil, and gas withdrawal. During drought years, Tulare County is prone to accelerated subsidence, with some areas sinking up to 28 feet. Although western portions of the County show signs of deep and shallow subsidence, the majority of the County, including the proposed project site, is not considered to be at risk of subsidence related hazards.

Soils Involved in Project: The proposed project involves construction on one soil type. The properties of this soil is described below:

- **Flamen Loam, 0 to 2 percent slopes:** The Flamen series consists of deep to a duripan, moderately well drained soils that formed in alluvium derived mainly from granitic rocks. These soils are moderately well drained and exhibit low or moderate runoff. Permeability is moderate above the duripan and slow in the duripan.

Regulatory Setting

California Building Code: The California Building Code contains general building design and construction requirements relating to fire and life safety, structural safety, and access compliance. CBC provisions provide minimum standards to safeguard life or limb, health, property and public welfare by regulating and controlling the design, construction, quality of materials, use and occupancy, location and maintenance of all buildings and structures and certain equipment.

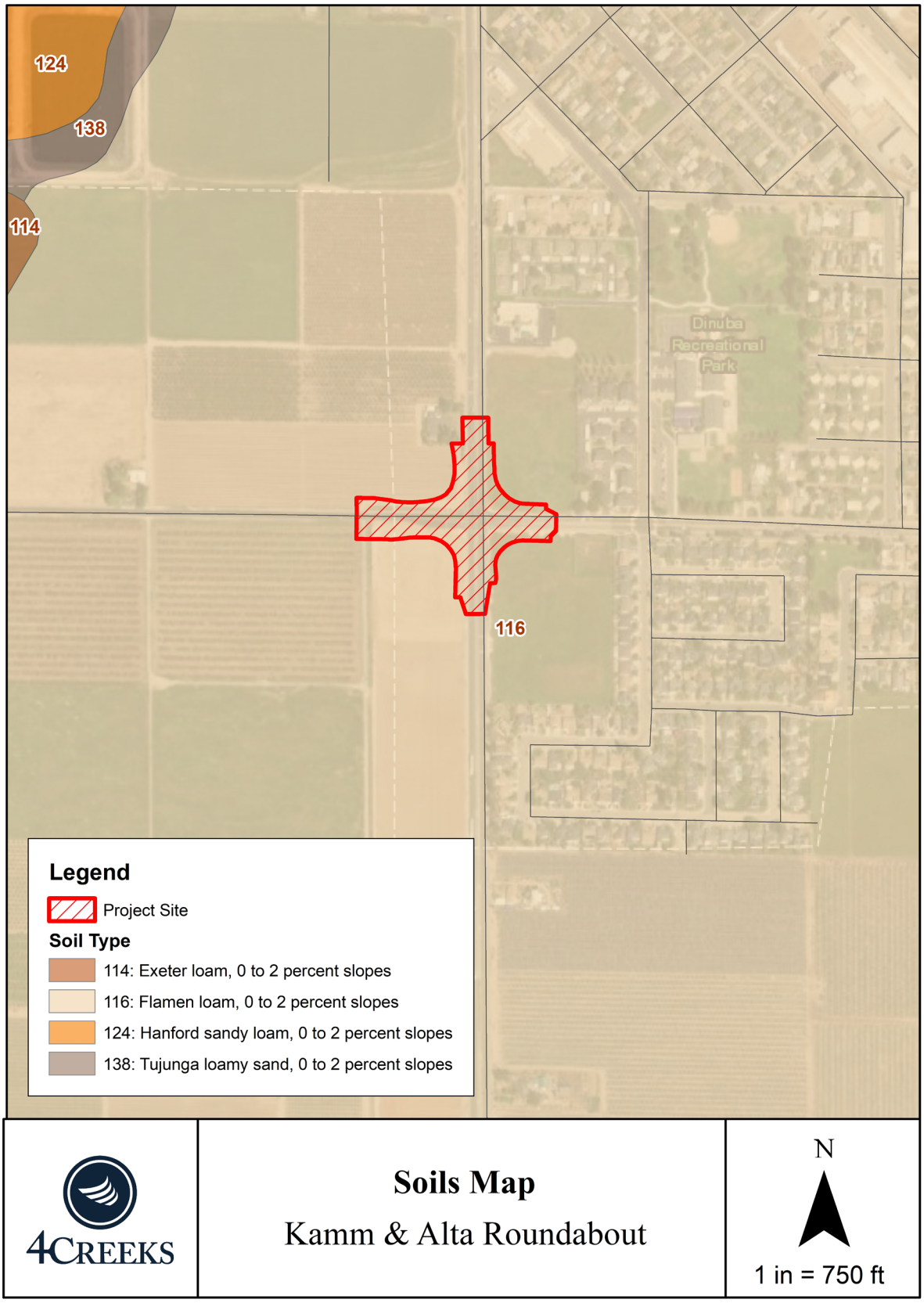


Figure 3-4. Soils Map

Discussion

a) Would the project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:

i. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.

Less than Significant Impact: According to the Tulare Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, no active faults underlay the project site. Although the project is located in an area of relatively low seismic activity, the project could be affected by ground shaking from nearby faults. The potential for strong seismic ground shaking on the project site is not a significant environmental concern due to the infrequent seismic activity of the area and distance to the faults. The project has no potential to indirectly or directly cause the rupture of an earthquake fault. Therefore, the risk of loss, injury or death involving a rupture of a known earthquake fault would be *less than significant.*

ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?

No Impact: According to the Tulare Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan, the project site is located in an area of relatively low seismic activity. The proposed project does not include any activities or components which could feasibly cause strong seismic ground shaking, either directly or indirectly. There is *no impact.*

iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

No Impact: No specific countywide assessment of liquefaction has been performed; however the Tulare Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies the risk of liquefaction within the county as low because the soil types are unsuitable for liquefaction. There is *no impact.*

iv. Landslides?

No Impact: The proposed project site is generally flat and there are no hill slopes in the area. As a result, there is almost no potential for landslides. No geologic landforms exist on or near the site that would result in a landslide event. There is *no impact.*

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

Less Than Significant Impact: Because the project site is relatively flat, the potential for erosion is low. However, construction-related activities and increased impermeable surfaces can increase the probability for erosion to occur. Construction-related impacts related to erosion will be temporary and subject to best management practices (BMPs) required by SWPPP, which are developed to prevent significant impacts related to erosion from construction. The project would extend stormwater collection lines through the intersection and stormwater from the roundabout would be collected and conveyed through the City's stormwater management system. Because impacts related to erosion would be temporary and limited to construction, and because required best management

practices would prevent significant impacts related to erosion, the impact will remain *less than significant.*

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

No Impact: The soils associated with the project site are considered stable and have a low capacity for landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse. Because the project area is considered to be stable, and this project would not result in a substantial grade change to the topography to the point that it would increase the risk of landslides, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction or collapse, there is *no impact.*

d) Would the project be located on expansive soils, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?

No Impact: Expansive soils contain large amounts of clay, which absorb water and cause the soil to increase in volume. Conversely, the soils associated with the proposed project site have relatively low levels of clay Because the soils associated with the project are not suitable for expansion, implementation of the project will pose no direct or indirect risk to life or property caused by expansive soils and there is *no impact.*

e) Would the project have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?

No Impact: No wastewater will be generated as a part of the proposed project. There is no *impact.*

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

Less Than Significant Impact: There are no unique geologic features and no known paleontological resources located within the project area and no excavation is proposed in undisturbed soils, particularly to a depth with a potential to unearth paleontological resources. Potential impacts resulting from project implementation would be *less than significant.*

Mitigation Measures for Soils and Geology

None Required

VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

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

Environmental Setting

Natural processes and human activities emit greenhouse gases. The presence of GHGs in the atmosphere affects the earth's temperature. Without the natural heat-trapping effect of GHGs, the earth's surface would be about 34ºC cooler. However, it is believed that emissions from human activities, such as electricity production and vehicle use, have elevated the concentration of these gases in the atmosphere beyond the level of naturally occurring concentrations.

The effect of greenhouse gasses on earth's temperature is equivalent to the way a greenhouse retains heat. Common GHGs include water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, ozone, chlorofluorocarbons, hydro chlorofluorocarbons, and hydro fluorocarbons, per fluorocarbons, sulfur and hexafluoride. Some gases are more effective than others. The Global Warming Potential (GWP) has been calculated for each greenhouse gas to reflect how long it remains in the atmosphere, on average, and how strongly it absorbs energy. Gases with a higher GWP absorb more energy, per pound, than gases with a lower GWP, and thus contribute more to global warming. For example, one pound of methane is equivalent to twenty-one pounds of carbon dioxide.

GHGs as defined by AB 32 include the following gases: carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride. GHGs as defined by AB 32 are summarized in Table 3-7. Each gas's effect on climate change depends on three main factors. The first being the quantity of these gases are in the atmosphere, followed by how long they stay in the atmosphere and finally how strongly they impact global temperatures.

Greenhouse Gas	Description and Physical Properties	Lifetime	GWP	Sources
Methane (CH4)	Is a flammable gas and is the main component of natural gas	12 years	21	Emitted during the production and transport of coal, natural gas, and oil. Methane emissions also result from livestock and other agricultural practices and by the decay of organic waste in municipal solid waste landfills.

Greenhouse Gas	Description and Physical Properties	Lifetime	GWP	Sources
Carbon dioxide (CO2)	An odorless, colorless, natural greenhouse gas.	30-95 years	1	Enters the atmosphere through burning fossil fuels (coal, natural gas and oil), solid waste, trees and wood products, and also as a result of certain chemical reactions (e.g., manufacture of cement). Carbon dioxide is removed from the atmosphere (or "sequestered") when it is absorbed by plants as part of the biological carbon cycle.
Chloro-fluorocarbons	Gases formed synthetically by replacing all hydrogen atoms in methane or ethane with chlorine and/or fluorine atoms. They are non-toxic nonflammable, insoluble and chemically unreactive in the troposphere (the level of air at the earth's surface).	55-140 years	3,800 to 8,100	Were synthesized in 1928 for use as refrigerants, aerosol propellants, and cleaning solvents. They destroy stratospheric ozone.
Hydro-fluorocarbons	A man-made greenhouse gas. It was developed to replace ozone-depleting gases found in a variety of appliances. Composed of a group of greenhouse gases containing carbon, chlorine an at least one hydrogen atom.	14 years	140 to 11,700	Powerful greenhouse gases that are emitted from a variety of industrial processes. Fluorinated gases are sometimes used as substitutes for stratospheric ozone-depleting substances. These gases are typically emitted in smaller quantities, but because they are potent greenhouse gases.
Nitrous oxide (N2O)	Commonly known as laughing gas, is a chemical compound with the formula N2O. It is an oxide of nitrogen. At room temperature, it is a colorless, non-flammable gas, with a slightly sweet odor and taste. It is used in surgery and dentistry for its anesthetic and analgesic effects.	120 years	310	Emitted during agricultural and industrial activities, as well as during combustion of fossil fuels and solid waste.
Pre-fluorocarbons	Has a stable molecular structure and only breaks down by ultraviolet rays about 60 kilometers above Earth's surface.	50,000 years	6,500 to 9,200	Two main sources of pre-fluorocarbons are primary aluminum production and semiconductor manufacturing.
Sulfur hexafluoride	An inorganic, odorless, colorless, and nontoxic nonflammable gas.	3,200 years	23,900	This gas is manmade and used for insulation in electric power transmission equipment, in the magnesium industry, in semiconductor manufacturing and as a tracer gas.

Table 3-7. Greenhouse Gasses; Source: EPA, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

In regards to the quantity of these gases are in the atmosphere, we first must establish the amount of particular gas in the air, known as Concentration, or abundance, which are measured in parts per million, parts per billion and even parts per trillion**.** To put these measurements in more relatable terms, one part per million is equivalent to one drop of water diluted into about 13 gallons of water, roughly a full tank of gas in a compact car. Therefore, it can be assumed larger emission of greenhouse gases lead to a higher concentration in the atmosphere.

Each of the designated gases described above can reside in the atmosphere for different amounts of time, ranging from a few years to thousands of years. All of these gases remain in the atmosphere long enough to become well mixed, meaning that the amount that is measured in the atmosphere is roughly the same all over the world regardless of the source of the emission.

Regulatory Setting

AB 32: AB 32 set the 2020 greenhouse gas emissions reduction goal into law. It directed the California Air Resources Board to begin developing discrete early actions to reduce greenhouse gases while also preparing a scoping plan to identify how best to reach the 2020 limit. The reduction measures to meet the 2020 target are to be adopted by the start of 2011.

SB 1078, SB 107 and Executive Order S-14-08: SB 1078, SB 107, and Executive Order S-14-08 require California to generate 20% of its electricity from renewable energy by 2017. SB 107 then changes the 2017 deadline to 2010. Executive Order S-14-08 required that all retail sellers of electricity serve 33 percent of their load with renewable energy by 2020.

Discussion

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

Less Than Significant Impact: Greenhouse gas emissions for the construction of the proposed project were modeled using the Road Construction Emissions Model, Version 9.0.0. The Emissions Model results can be found in Appendix B.

Construction: Greenhouse gasses would be generated during construction from activities including grubbing/land clearing, grading/excavation, drainage/utilities/sub-grade, and paving. The Road Construction Emissions Model report predicts that this project will create a maximum of 362.96 MT of CO2e emissions during construction. Because the SJVAPCD does not have numeric thresholds for assessing the significance of construction-related GHG emissions, predicted emissions from project construction were compared to Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) thresholds for construction related GHG emissions. The CEQ currently has a presumptive threshold of 10,000 metric tons of CO2e per year for construction emissions amortized over a 30-year project lifetime. Because project construction would generate far less GHG emissions than this threshold, impacts related to GHG emissions during project construction would be less than significant.

Operation: As discussed in the Air Quality section of this Initial Study, the proposed project is being implemented as part of the FHWA's CMAQ program, which funds air quality improvement projects. As such, the project is expected to result in significant emissions reductions. The project itself would

not generate any additional vehicle trips and there will be no stationary source emissions resulting from the Project.

Because construction of the project will result in less than significant increases in GHG emissions, and operation of the project would reduce GHG emissions at the subject intersection, the impact is considered to be *less than significant.*

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

No Impact: The proposed project will comply with all Federal, State, and Local rules pertaining to the regulation of greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, the project will implement Best Performance Standards developed by the SJVAPCD. Projects implementing Best Performance Standards are determined to have a less than significant impact on global climate change. The project will not conflict with any plan, policy, or regulation developed to reduce GHG emissions. There is *no impact.*

Mitigation Measures for Greenhouse Gas Emissions

None Required

IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

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

Environmental Setting

The proposed project site is located approximately 0.15 miles from the nearest existing school (Wilson Elementary School) 10.0 miles from the nearest public airport (Reedley Municipal Airport), 7.3 miles from the nearest private airstrip (Gilbert Aviation Heliport – CA83), and is directly adjacent to a planned high school.

The Department of Toxic Substances Control's (DTSC's) Envirostor was used to identify any sites known to be associated with releases of hazardous materials or wastes within the project area. This research confirmed that the project would not be located on a site that is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.

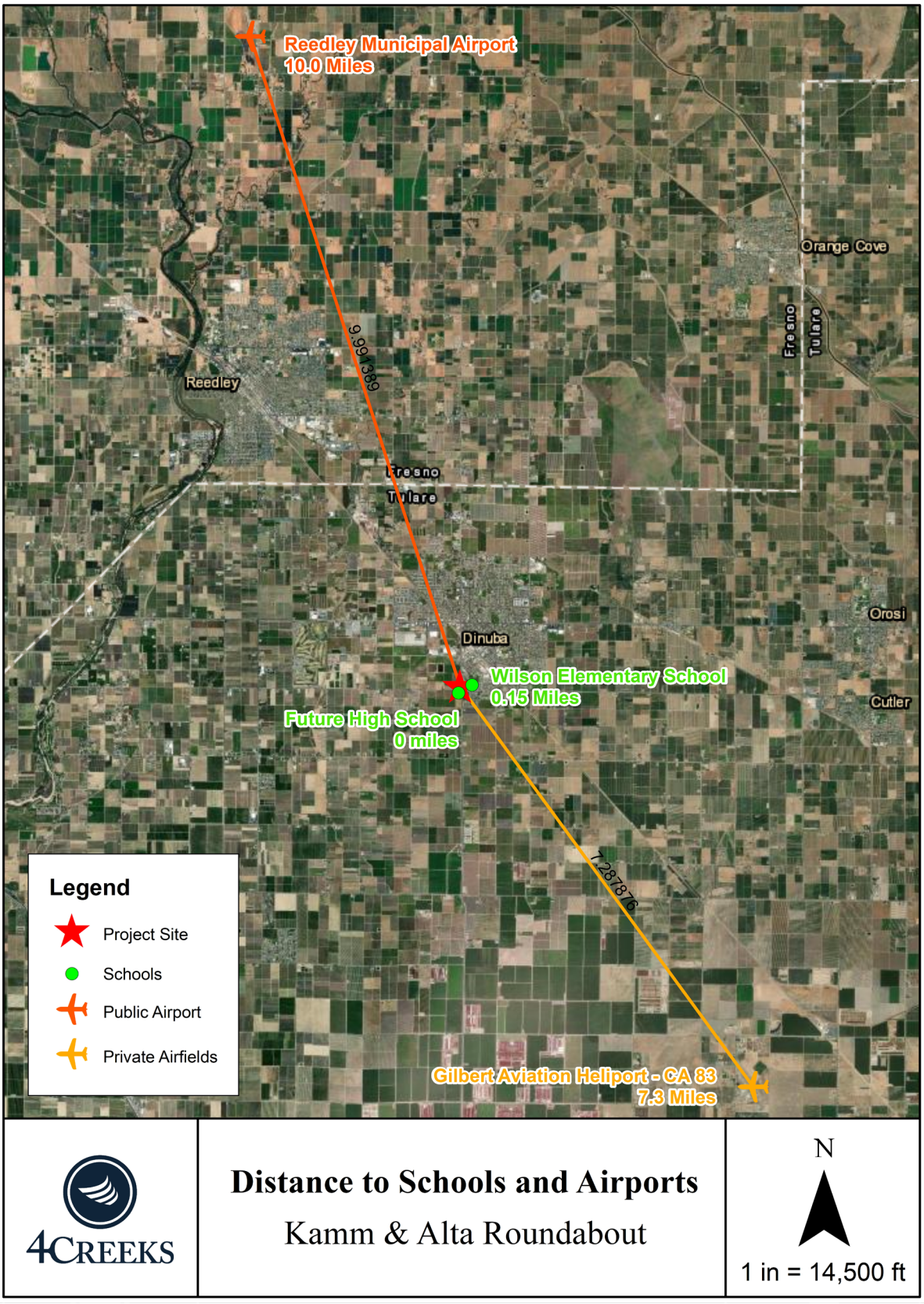


Figure 3-5. Distance to Schools and Airports Map

Regulatory Setting

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S. Code [U.S.C.] §9601 et seq.). The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA, or the Superfund Act) authorizes the President to respond to releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances into the environment.

Occupational Safety and Health Administration. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) sets and enforces Occupational Safety and Health Standards to assure safe working conditions. OSHA provides training, outreach, education, and compliance assistance to promote safe workplaces. The proposed Project would be subject to OSHA requirements during construction, operation, and maintenance.

Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976 (15 U.S.C. §2601 et seq.). The Toxic Substance Control Act was enacted by Congress in 1976 and authorizes the EPA to regulate any chemical substances determined to cause an unreasonable risk to public health or the environment.

Hazardous Waste Control Law, Title 26. The Hazardous Waste Control Law creates hazardous waste management program requirements. The law is implemented by regulations contained in Title 26 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR), which contains requirements for the following aspects of hazardous waste management:

- Identification and classification;
- Generation and transportation;
- Design and permitting of recycling, treatment, storage, and disposal facilities;
- Treatment standards;
- Operation of facilities and staff training; and
- Closure of facilities and liability requirements.

California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Chapter 11. Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations contains regulations for the identification and classification of hazardous wastes. The CCR defines a waste as hazardous if it has any of the following characteristics: ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity, and/or toxicity.

California Emergency Services Act. The California Emergency Services Act created a multi-agency emergency response plan for the state of California. The Act coordinates various agencies, including CalEPA, Caltrans, the California Highway Patrol, regional water quality control boards, air quality management districts, and county disaster response offices.

Hazardous Materials Release Response Plans and Inventory Law of 1985. Pursuant to the Hazardous Materials Release Response Plans and Inventory Law of 1985, local agencies are required to develop "area plans" for response to releases of hazardous materials and wastes. Tulare County maintains a Hazardous Material Incident Response Plan to coordinate emergency response agencies for incidents and requires the submittal of business plans by persons who handle hazardous materials.

Discussion

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

Less than Significant Impact: Once constructed, the Project itself will not contain, use, or produce any hazardous materials. Project construction activities may involve the use and transport of hazardous materials, such as fuels, oils, and other chemicals (e.g., pains, lead, adhesives, etc.) typically used during construction. Improper use, transportation, and storage of hazardous materials could result in accidental releases or spills that could pose health risks to workers, the public, and the environment. However, all materials used during construction would be contained, stored, and handled in compliance with all applicable standards and regulations established by DTSC, the EPA, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). In addition, a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) is required for the project and will include emergency procedures for incidental hazardous materials releases. The SWPPP also includes Best Management Practices which include requirements for hazardous materials storage. Therefore, the impact is *less than significant.*

b) Would the project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?

Less Than Significant Impact: There is no reasonably foreseeable condition or incident involving the project that could result in release of hazardous materials into the environment, other than any potential accidental releases of standard fuels, solvents, or chemicals encountered during typical construction. Should an accidental hazardous release occur or should the project encounter hazardous soils, existing regulations for handling hazardous materials require coordination with the California Department of Toxic Substances Control for an appropriate plan of action, which can include studies or testing to determine the nature and extent of contamination, as well as handling and proper disposal. Therefore, potential impacts are considered to be *less than significant*.

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

Less than Significant Impact: The project is located approximately 0.15 miles from the nearest existing school and is directly adjacent to a planned high school. The Project does not involve emissions or handling of hazardous materials and the impact is *less than significant.*

d) Would the project be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?

No Impact: The project site is not listed as a hazardous materials site pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and is not included on a list compiled by the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC). The project would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment and there is *no impact.*

e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?

No Impact: The proposed project is not located within an airport land use plan and is not within two miles of a public airport. Reedley Municipal Airport is the nearest public airport to the project site and is located approximately 10.0 miles away. Implementation of the proposed project would not result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area. There is *no impact.*

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

No Impact: The City's site plan review procedures ensure compliance with emergency response and evacuation plans. In addition, the site plan will be reviewed by the Fire Department per standard City procedure to ensure consistency with emergency response and evacuation needs. Therefore, the proposed project would have *no impact* on emergency evacuation.

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

No Impact: The land surrounding the project site is developed with urban, suburban, and agricultural uses and are not considered to be wildlands. Additionally, the 2017 Tulare County Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan finds that fire hazards within the City of Dinuba, including the proposed project site, have low frequency, limited extent, limited magnitude, and low significance. The proposed project would not expose people or structures to significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires and there is *no impact.*

Mitigation Measures for Hazards and Hazardous Materials

None Required

X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

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

Discussion for this section partially originates from the Water Quality Technical Memorandum prepared by 4-Creeks, Inc. in September 2022. The full document can be found in Appendix D of this Initial Study.

Environmental Setting

Regional and Local Hydrology: The San Joaquin Valley has a variety of water sources, including the Sierra snowpack, rivers, and groundwater. The Valley has typical hot and dry summers. The Pacific Ocean is the source of storm events that spread rain over the Valley and its foothills while covering the high Sierra Nevada Mountains with snow.

Snowmelt runoff and flood flows that are caused occasionally by heavy rains are captured behind the Pine Flat Dam on the Kings River, the Terminus Dam on the Kaweah River, and the Friant Dam on the San Joaquin River. These large flows are managed and stored for flood control as well as for spring and summer irrigation use by tens of thousands of valley farmers.

The project is in the Kings Subbasin aquifer of the San Joaquin Valley Groundwater Basin. The Subbasin is bounded by the San Joaquin River to the north, the Sierra Nevada foothills to the east, the South Fork of the Kings River to the south, and the Delta-Mendota and Westside Sub-basins to the west. Pumping water from the aquifer is vital for sustaining crops in places and at times when surface water is not available. Groundwater is also the main source of drinking water. The aquifer is not a limitless resource, and more water is currently being pumped out than is being replenished. However, this project will not involve a well or sewage disposal or result in a threat of aquifer contamination or hazard to public health.

There are no wetlands within or immediately adjacent to the project area according to the National Wetland Inventory (Figure 7). The project will not involve any work in wetlands. Within Dinuba, there are some small ponds, but the main water features are the network of agricultural canals and flood control channels that traverse the area. Numerous agricultural ponds, recharge basins, and other similar features also dot the surrounding area's landscape.

Existing Water Quality

- ***Surface Water Quality Objectives/Standards and Beneficial Uses***: Surface water is not used in Dinuba. The City may explore future opportunities to purchase surface water. The Project is planning to widen the existing Kamm Avenue across the Dinuba Town Ditch. The Ditch is a man-made surface water delivery canal that delivers groundwater to rural and urban users. There are no natural water courses adjacent to the area. The Ditch is not listed as an impaired water body by the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, nor does it appear on the 303(d) for any proposed TMDLs. However, Cross Creek, where water from the Ditch can potentially flow, is listed for high toxicity.
- ***Groundwater Quality Objectives/Standards and Beneficial Uses:*** The groundwater in Dinuba and the Project area is the sole water supply source. The water quality from the Kings Subbasin is sufficient to be used for drinking water, agricultural uses, and all other uses. The Kings Subbasin is designated as critically over-drafted. The Project construction will require a minimal amount of water for dirt compaction and will not affect the groundwater supply.

Regulatory Setting

Clean Water Act: The Clean Water Act (CWA) is enforced by the U.S. EPA and was developed in 1972 to regulate discharges of pollutants into the waters of the United States. The Act made it unlawful to discharge any pollutant from a point source into navigable waters unless a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit is obtained.

Central Valley RWQCB: The proposed project site is within the jurisdiction of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). The Central Valley RWQCB requires a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit and Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for projects disturbing more than one acre of total land area. Because the project is greater than one acre, a NPDES Permit and SWPPP will be required.

City of Dinuba General Plan: The Dinuba General Plan contains the following policies relating to hydrology and water quality.

- OSCR-3.10: Protect areas of natural groundwater recharge from land uses and disposal methods which would degrade groundwater quality. Promote activities which combine stormwater control, and water recharges.
- OSCR-3.11: The City will expand programs that enhance groundwater recharge in order to maintain the groundwater supply, including the installation of detention/retention ponds in new growth areas.
- PS-7.1: Continue to coordinate community irrigation ditch issues with Alta Irrigation District, private ditch companies, private landowners, and public agencies. Require that irrigation ditches be piped prior to development on adjacent property.
- PS-7.6: Design runoff drainage structures to decrease erosion.
- S-8.44: In flood-hazard areas, natural watercourses should be identified, and their flow capacities shall be preserved. This does not prohibit relocation. All grading, including relocation and agricultural grading, which can substantially affect natural drainage channels shall require a grading plan and City permit. The Director of Public Works shall review and approve the grading plan before work may be initiated.

Discussion

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

Less than Significant Impact: The project will result in less than significant impacts to water quality due to potentially polluted runoff generated during construction activities. Construction would include excavation, grading, and other earthwork that may occur across most of the 5.0-acre project site. During storm events, exposed construction areas across the project site may cause runoff to carry pollutants, such as chemicals, oils, sediment, and debris. However, implementation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will be required for the project. A SWPPP identifies all potential sources of pollution that could affect stormwater discharges from the project site and identifies best management practices (BMPs) related to stormwater runoff. Therefore, the impacts would be *less than significant.*

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

No Impact: The proposed Project, once operational, will not require on-going use of water and therefore would not affect an aquifer or local water table. Therefore, the Project will have *no impact.*

c) Substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner, which would:

i. **Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?**
ii. **Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite?**
iii. **Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?**
iv. **Impede or redirect flood flows?**

Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Implementation:

Short Term Impacts during Construction: During Project construction, the new installation of the pipe will not interfere with the flow or distribution. All flows will be able to pass through during constriction via bypass pumping systems. The bypass pumping systems will be manned full-time by construction personnel to ensure flow remains consistent. To reduce the impact, the contractor will not initiate any work during the irrigation season, which varies annually.

Construction activities would involve soil-disturbing activities such as trenching, grading, and preparing the soil for the new piping for the Ditch. Disturbed soil would be exposed to wind and water-generated erosion. All disturbed soil and pipe bedding will be compacted to a minimum of 90% density to reduce erosion. All temporarily affected areas will be restored to pre-construction contours and conditions upon completion of construction activities.

The disturbed area of the Project site does not discharge to a sensitive water body, either directly or indirectly. The receiving water risk is low and the impact is less than significant with implementation of Mitigation Measure HYD-1.

Long-Term Impacts During Operation and Maintenance: Runoff pollution from Alta Avenue during operation can include dirt, rubber deposits, metal deposits, antifreeze, engine oil, and litter. However, with the Ditch being piped underground, and not returning to the surface until outside of the ROW, impacts from the street and vehicles will be minimal. A trash rack will be installed on the outfall structure when the Ditch returns to the surface to prevent any litter from continuing downstream. The pipe will be bedded in a minimum of three inches of sand below the pipe and a minimum of one foot above the pipe to prevent any pollutants from reaching the water inside the pipe. In addition, a locator tape marked “Caution Irrigation Pipeline Buried Below” will be placed on the surface above the pipe. The storm drainpipe materials and installation within the city street ROW shall meet the requirements of the 2007 Dinuba Public Works Improvement Standards.

By implementing Mitigation Measure HYD-1, the Project will not produce significant impacts on water quality during construction or operation. The impact is *less than significant with mitigation.*

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

No Impact: The proposed project is located inland and not near an ocean or large body of water, and therefore, would not be affected by a tsunami. The proposed project is located in a relatively flat area and would not be impacted by inundation related to mudflow. Since the project is located in an area that is not susceptible to inundation, the project would not risk release of pollutants due to project inundation. As such, there is *no impact.*

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

No Impact: The proposed project will not conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan. The proposed project will be subject to the requirements of the NPDES Stormwater Program and will be required to comply with a SWPPP, which will identify all potential sources of pollution that could affect stormwater discharges from the project site and identify BMPs to prevent significant impacts related to stormwater runoff.

The proposed project site is within the jurisdiction of the Kings River East Groundwater Sustainability Agency (GSA). The Groundwater Sustainability Plan (GSP) was adopted by the Kings River East GSA in December 2019. The plan was reviewed for consistency with the proposed project and it was determined that the proposed project does not conflict with and would not obstruct implementation of the GSP. There is *no impact.*

Mitigation Measures for Hydrology and Water Quality

Mitigation Measure HYD-1: The Project shall implement the following Best Management Practices to prevent run-on and runoff pollution, properly dispose of wastes, and train employees and subcontractors.

- Construction will begin outside of the irrigation season when the Ditch will be dry. Soil, silt, or other organic materials shall not be placed where such materials could pass into surface water or surface water drainage courses. All areas disturbed by project activities shall be protected from washout or erosion. All drainage protective devices such as swales, interception ditches, protective berms, concrete channels, or other measures designed to protect improvements from runoff must be constructed before the construction of the project.
- The amount and duration of soil exposed to erosion by wind, rain, runoff, and vehicle tracking should be minimized by applying water or other dust palliatives, as necessary. Watering should occur at least twice a day with complete coverage, preferably in the late morning and after work is completed for the day. Covering small stockpiles or areas is an alternative to applying water. The stockpiles should be located a minimum of fifty feet away from concentrated flows of stormwater, drainage courses, and inlets. The stockpiles should be protected using a temporary perimeter sediment barrier. All clearing, grading, earth moving, or excavation activities will cease during periods of high winds greater than twenty mph. Vehicles will be prohibited from being on non-active portions of the Project site. All vehicles on site will be limited to 15 MPH to reduce dust forming. The contractor shall maintain dust control on the site as specified by "Caltrans Standard Specifications 2015".
- Stabilized construction access should be provided at entrances to reduce or eliminate the tracking of sediment onto public streets. Visible sediment tracking should be swept or vacuumed daily. For solid waste management from clearing and grubbing, BMPs would include providing designated

waste collection areas and containers and arranging for regular disposal. For concrete waste management, the washout should be conducted offsite or in a designated area at least fifty feet from the Ditch.

- Vehicle and equipment cleaning, fueling, and maintenance should be done offsite or in a designated, contained area only. The discharge of petroleum products or other excavated materials to surface water channels is prohibited. The Discharger shall notify the City of Dinuba immediately of any spill of petroleum products or other organic or earthen materials.
- Following construction, all trenches will be filled to reduce any impact.
- The Discharger shall maintain a copy of the supporting documentation at the project site during construction for review by site personnel and agencies. All personnel (employees, contractors, and subcontractors) performing work on the proposed project shall be adequately informed and trained regarding the conditions of the certification.
- The project disturbs over one acre of soil, therefore a Water Pollution Control Program and SWPPP will need to be prepared by the contractor per Caltrans 2010 Standard Specification Section 13-2.
- The Discharger shall notify the City of Dinuba immediately if any of the above conditions are violated, along with a description of measures it is taking to remedy the violation. By incorporating proper and accepted engineering practices and BMPs, the proposed project will not produce significant impacts on water quality during construction or its operation.

XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING

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

Environmental Setting

The proposed project site is located with the southern portion of the City of Dinuba and would effect approximately 5 acres within City ROW and temporary construction easement areas along Kamm Avenue and Alta Avenue. Kamm Avenue and Alta Avenue are both designated as arterial streets in the City of Dinuba General Plan. General Plan Land Use designations for properties located adjacent to the intersection include Community Commercial to the northeast, Light Industrial to the northwest and southwest, and General Commercial to the southeast.

Regulatory Setting

City of Dinuba General Plan: Kamm Avenue and Alta Avenue are both designated as arterial streets in the City of Dinuba General Plan

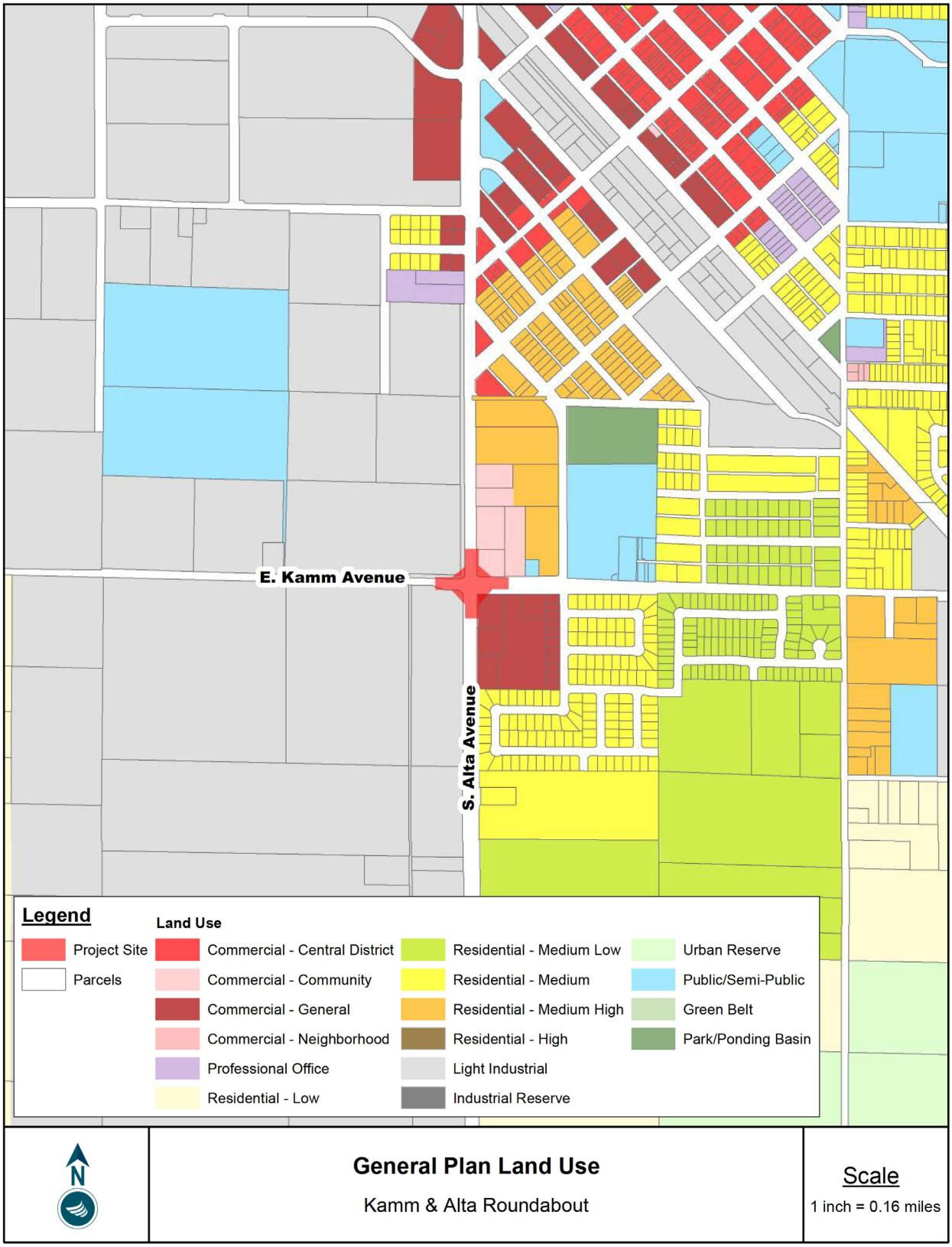


Figure 3-6. General Plan Land Use Map

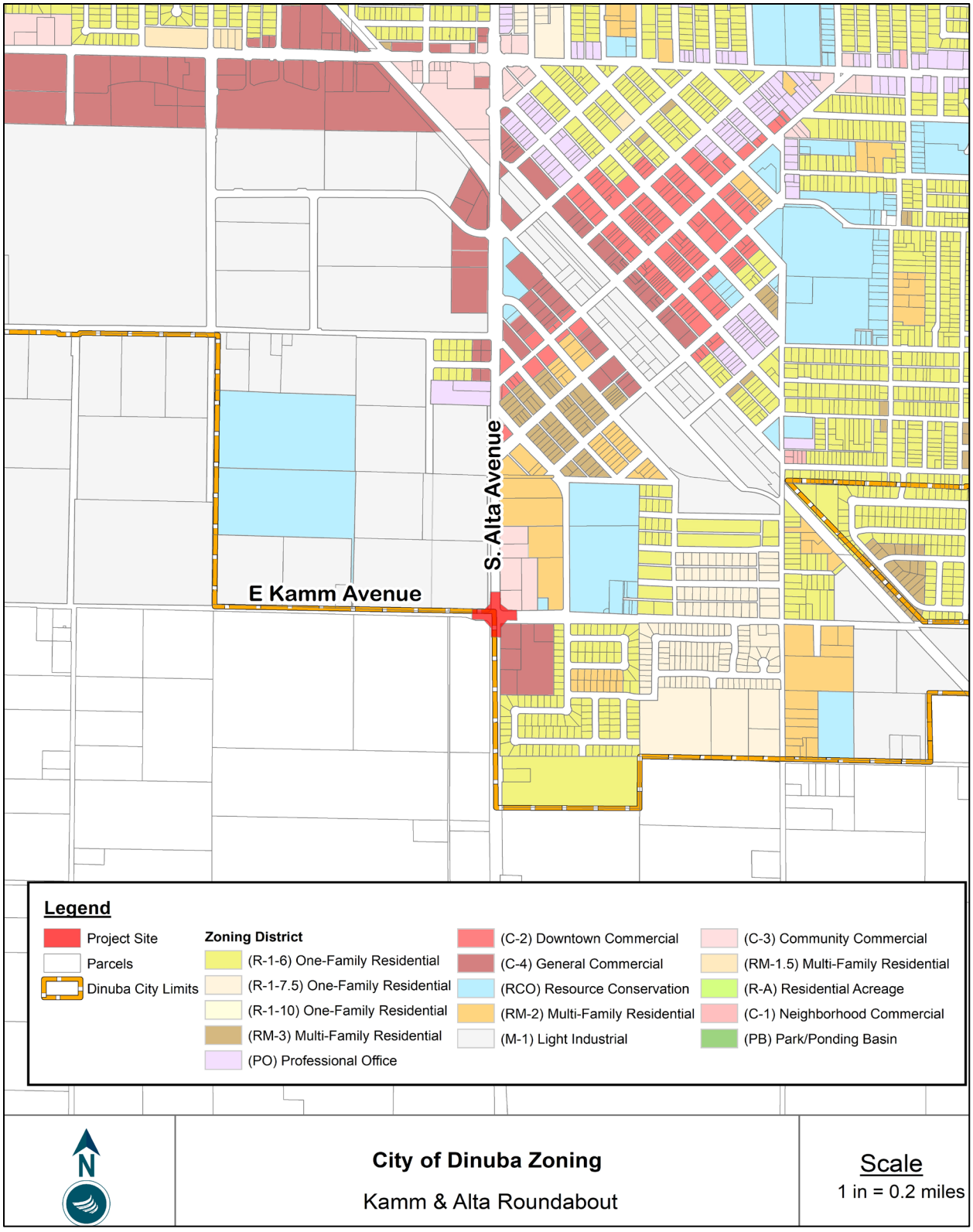


Figure 3-7. Zoning Map

Discussion

a) Would the project physically divide an established community?

No Impact: The project proposes the replacement of a 4-way signalized intersection with a roundabout. The project would not act as a physical barrier within a community. There is *no impact.*

b) Would the project cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?

No Impact: The proposed project does not conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect. There is *no impact.*

Mitigation Measures for Land Use and Planning

None Required

XII. MINERAL RESOURCES

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

Environmental Setting

There are no mineral resource zones in Tulare County and there is no mineral extraction occurring on or adjacent to the proposed project site. Historical mines within the County include mineral deposits of tungsten, copper, gold, magnesium and lead, however most of these mines are now closed – leaving only 37 active mining operations. There are no active mining operations within the City of Dinuba.

Regulatory Setting

California State Surface Mining and Reclamation Act: The California State Surface Mining and Reclamation Act was adopted in 1975 to regulate surface mining to prevent adverse environmental impacts and to preserve the state's mineral resources. The Act is enforced by the California Department of Conservation's Division of Mine Reclamation.

Discussion

a) Would the project result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?

No Impact: The project site has no known mineral resources that would be of a value to the region and the residents of the state, therefore the proposed project would not result in the loss of impede the mining of regionally or locally important mineral resources. There is *no impact.*

b) Would the project result in the loss of availability of a locally - important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other lands use plan?

No Impact: There are no known mineral resources of importance to the region and the project site is not designated under the City's or County's General Plan as an important mineral resource recovery site. For that reason, the proposed project would not result in the loss of availability of known regionally or locally important mineral resources. There is *no impact.*

Mitigation Measures for Mineral Resources
None Required

XIII. NOISE

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

Environmental Setting

Noise is often described as unwanted sound. Sound is the variation in air pressure that the human ear can detect. If the pressure variations occur at least 20 times per second, they can be detected by the human ear. The number of pressure variations per second is called the frequency of sound, and is expressed as cycles per second, called Hertz (Hz). Ambient noise is the "background" noise of an environment. Ambient noise levels on the proposed project site are primarily due to agricultural activities and traffic. Construction activities usually result in an increase in sound above ambient noise levels.

Discussion

a) Would the project result in generation of a substantial temporary or permeant increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?

Less than Significant Impact: Project construction is anticipated to last approximately 3 months and will involve temporary noise sources. The average noise levels generated by construction equipment that will be used in the proposed project are shown below.

Type of Equipment	dBA at 50 feet
Air Compressors	81
Excavators	81
Concrete/Industrial Saws	76
Cranes	83
Forklifts	75
Generators	81

Pavers	**89**
Rollers	**74**
Dozers	**85**
Tractors	**84**
Loaders	**85**
Backhoes	**80**
Graders	**85**
Scrapers	**89**
Welders	**74**

Table 3-8. Noise levels of noise-generating construction equipment. Source: Federal Highway Administration Construction Noise Handbook.

The City of Dinuba Noise Ordinance identifies the following noise thresholds for noise sources related to construction (Table 3-9). However, Section 9.54.070 of the Noise Ordinance states that noise regulations do not apply construction, repair or remodeling work accomplished pursuant to a building electrical, plumbing, mechanical, or other construction permit issued by the city or other governmental agency, or to site preparation and grading, provided such work takes place between the hours of seven a.m. and ten p.m. on any day. The project will comply with these regulations and construction will only occur Monday through Frida between 6:00 AM and 7:00 PM.

Distance from Inhabited Building	Noise Threshold
300 feet to the noise receiver	Unrestricted noise level
200 feet to the noise receiver	90 decibels at the property line of the noise source
100 feet to the noise receiver	80 decibels at the property line of the noise source
50 feet to the noise receiver	70 decibels at the property line of the noise source

Table 3-9. Noise Thresholds for Construction Sites.

The project itself will not generate long term noise levels. The project itself will improve local roadway operations, but will not generate additional vehicle trips through the intersection. The Project is therefore not considered to be growth inducing and will not result in noise impacts beyond what was previously analyzed in the City's General Plan EIR.

Because noise generated from construction would be temporary, construction activities would comply with all measures established by the City to limit construction related noise impacts, and operational noise would be consistent with existing noise levels, what was previously analyzed in the City's General Plan EIR, the impact is *less than significant.*

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

Less than Significant Impact: Ground-borne vibration or ground-borne noise levels may occur as part of construction activities associated with the project. Construction activities will be temporary and will not expose persons to such vibration or noise levels for an extended period of time. Therefore, impacts are *less than significant.*

c) For a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or, an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of public airport or public use airport, would the project expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels?

No Impact: The project site is located approximately 7.3 miles from the nearest private airstrip and 10 miles from the nearest public airport (Reedley Municipal Airport). The site is not located within an Airport Land Use Plan and would not expose people to excessive airport noise. There is *no impact*.

Mitigation Measures for Noise

None Required

XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING

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

Environmental Setting

The United States Census Bureau estimated the population in the City of Dinuba to be 25,139 in 2021. This is an increase from the 2020 census, which counted the population in the City of Dinuba to be 24,563. Factors that influence population growth include job availability, housing availability, and the capacity of existing infrastructure.

Regulatory Setting

The size of the population in the City of Dinuba is controlled by the development code and Land Use Element of the General Plan. These documents regulate the number of dwelling units per acre allowed on various land uses and establish minimum and maximum lot sizes. These factors have a direct impact on the City's population size. The project site is located entirely within the public ROW. Therefore, no residences are permitted within the project area.

Discussion

a) Would the project induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by new homes and businesses) or directly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?

No Impact: The project does not propose any new homes and there are no residential structures currently on-site. The Project itself will improve local roadway operations but would not generate additional vehicle trips. The Project is therefore not considered to be growth inducing. The proposed Project will not affect any regional population, housing, or employment projections anticipated by City of Dinuba policy documents. Therefore, there is *no impact*.

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

No Impact: There project does not involve the removal of existing residences and would not displace any people. There is *no impact.*

Mitigation Measures for Population and Housing

None Required

XV. PUBLIC SERVICES

Would the Project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable serve ratios, response times of other performance objectives for any of the public services:				
a. Fire protection?	☐	☐	☐	☑
b. Police protection?	☐	☐	☐	☑
c. Schools?	☐	☐	☐	☑
d. Parks?	☐	☐	☐	☑
e. Other public facilities?	☐	☐	☐	☑

Environmental Setting

Fire: The project site is served by the City of Dinuba Fire Department. The City of Dinuba Fire Department will continue to provide fire protection services to the proposed project site upon development.

Police: Law enforcement services are provided to the project site via the Dinuba Police Department. The City of Dinuba will continue to provide police protection services to the proposed project site upon development.

Schools: The proposed project site is located within Dinuba Unified School District.

Discussion

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

a. Fire protection?

No Impact: The City of Dinuba Fire Department will continue to provide fire protection services within the project site. No additional fire personnel or equipment is anticipated, as the site is already served by the Fire Station. There is *no impact.*

b. Police protection?

No Impact: The proposed Project will continue to be served by the City's Police Department. No additional police personnel or equipment is anticipated. There is *no impact.*

c. Schools?

No Impact: The proposed project does not contain any residential uses, which are typically associated with an increased demand for schools. The project would not increase the population within the City of Dinuba and would therefore not result in increased demand upon School District resources. There is *no impact*

d. Parks?

No Impact: The proposed Project would not result in an increase in demand for parks or other recreation facilities because it would not cause an increase in population. There is *no impact.*

e. Other public facilities?

No Impact: The proposed Project is not growth inducing and is within the land use and growth projections identified in the City's General Plan. The Project would not result in increased demand for, or impacts on, other public facilities. There is *no impact.*

Mitigation Measures for Public Services

None Required

XVI. PARKS AND RECREATION

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

Environmental Setting

The City of Dinuba owns and operates 12 parks within the City limits. Delgado Park is the closest recreational area to the project site and is located approximately 0.2 miles northeast of the project site.

Discussion

a) Would the project increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?

No Impact: The proposed project does not contain any features that would increase the use of existing neighborhood parks, regional parks, or other recreational facilities. There is *no impact.*

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

No Impact: The proposed project does not include any recreational facilities and would not necessitate the construction or expansion of additional recreational facilities. There is *no impact*

Mitigation Measures for Parks and Recreation

None Required

XVII. TRANSPORTATION

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less than Significant With Mitigation Incorporation	Less than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	☐	☐	☑	☐
b) Conflict or be inconsistent with the CEQA guidelines Section 15064.3, Subdivision (B)?	☐	☐	☑	☐
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	☐	☐	☑	☐
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	☐	☐	☑	☐

Environmental Setting

Vehicular Access: The project includes the conversion of a four-way signalized intersection into a two-lane roundabout at the intersection of Alta Avenue and Kamm Avenue. Vehicular access to the project is available from Alta Avenue to the north and South, and from Kamm Avenue to the east and west. Roadway detours and/or lane closures may be used to control traffic during construction.

Parking: During construction, workers will utilize a temporary construction easement located adjacent to the project site for parking and equipment staging. During project operations, there will be no permanent personnel on-site and no additional parking facilities will be required.

Pedestrian and Cyclist Connectivity: The project will include installation of pedestrian/cyclist facilities, including sidewalks, crosswalks, bicycle ramps and related improvements (signage/striping, etc.).

Regulatory Setting

City of Dinuba Improvement Standards: The City of Dinuba Improvement Standards are developed and enforced by the City of Dinuba's Engineering Division to guide the development and maintenance of City Roads.

City of Dinuba General Plan: Kamm Avenue and Alta Avenue are both designated as arterial streets in the City of Dinuba General Plan.

Discussion

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

Less than Significant Impact: The project includes the conversion of a four-way signalized intersection into a two-lane roundabout, installation of pedestrian/cyclist facilities (sidewalks, crosswalks, bicycle ramps, and related improvements (signage/striping, etc.). The proposed project is located in the City of Diniuba and would not conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities. A project's effect on automobile delay, typically measured based on "level of service" (LOS) would not constitute a significant environmental impact under the CEQA Guidelines effective July 1, 2020. This impact is *less than significant.*

b) Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, Subdivision (b)?

Less than Significant Impact: As described in Section 15064.3: "Vehicle miles traveled" refers to the amount and distance of automobile travel "attributable to a project." The OPR Technical Advisory recommends several VMT metrics, screening criteria, VMT evaluation methodology and thresholds of significance for different types of projects.

For Transportation projects, OPR recommends projects be evaluated based on their likelihood of inducing a measurable and substantial increase in vehicle travel. The OPR Technical Advisory states that installation of roundabouts or traffic circles are not likely to lead to a substantial or measurable increase in vehicle travel and should generally not require an induced travel analysis.

Because installation of the proposed roundabout is not anticipated to result in a substantial or measurable increase in vehicle travel, the project would not conflict with or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, Subdivision (b). The impact is *less than significant.*

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

Less than Significant Impact: The proposed project is not anticipated to substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment). Improvements would include the conversion of a four-way signalized intersection into a two-lane roundabout, installation of pedestrian/cyclist facilities (sidewalks, crosswalks, bicycle ramps, and related improvements (signage/striping, etc.). Construction activities will include demo of existing asphalt, sidewalk, and curb within project limits, placement of aggregate base and pavement, piping existing irrigation ditch underground, extension of sewer and stormwater lines through intersection, and street light installation. The proposed project design will be subject to review and permitting by the City of Dinuba and other agencies (as described in the Project Description) to ensure the design and construction is consistent with applicable standards. This impact is *less than significant.*

d) Would the project result in inadequate emergency access?

Less Than Significant Impact: The proposed project would replace an existing 4-way signalized intersection with a roundabout. The project is expected to reduce travel delay and improve roadway operations. Therefore, the proposed project is anticipated to enhance emergency access, and would not result in inadequate emergency access. This impact is l*ess than significant*

Mitigation Measures for Transportation

None Required

XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

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

Environmental Setting

An Archaeological Survey Report was prepared by applied Earthworks in December 2022. The full report can be found in Appendix E.

Applied EarthWorks, Inc. conducted an archaeological survey of the Area of Potential Effects (APE) to determine if cultural resources are present and whether they have the potential to be affected by the proposed work. Applied EarthWorks' investigation included a records search to identify previously recorded resources and prior studies within 0.5 miles of the APE, a review of the Native American Heritage Commission's Sacred Lands File and initiation of Native American outreach, a review of pertinent topographic maps, aerial photographs, and General Land Office Plat Maps, and a pedestrian survey of the APE.

The records search identified one cultural resource, Dinuba Town Ditch (P-54-004899), and four prior studies (TU-00591, TU-00604, TU-01069, and TU-01149) within the Direct APE. Applied Earthworks conducted consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer, who determined that the Dinuba Town Ditch is not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (Appendix E).

The Native American Heritage Commission Sacred Lands File search and Native American contacts did not identify any sacred areas or provide information pertaining to Native American resources.

Applied EarthWorks' pedestrian survey on November 14, 2022, did not identify any prehistoric archaeological resources within the Direct APE.

Definitions

- **Historical Resources**: Historical resources are defined by CEQA as resources that are listed in or eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources, resources that are listed in a local historical resource register, or resources that are otherwise determined to be historical under California Public Resources Code Section 21084.1 or California Code of Regulations Section 15064.5. Under these definitions Historical Resources can include archaeological resources, Tribal cultural resources, and Paleontological Resources.

- **Archaeological Resources:** As stated above, archaeological resources may be considered historical resources. If they do not meet the qualifications under the California Public Resources Code 21084.1 or California Code of Regulations Section 15064.5, they are instead determined to be "unique" as defined by the CEQA Statute Section 21083.2. A unique archaeological resource is an artifact, object, or site that: (1) contains information (for which there is a demonstrable public interest) needed to answer important scientific research questions; (2) has a special and particular quality, such as being the oldest of its type or the best available example of its type; or (3) is directly associated with a scientifically recognized important prehistoric or historic event or person.

- **Tribal Cultural Resource (TCR):** Tribal Cultural Resources can include site features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, or objects, which are of cultural value to a Tribe. It is either listed on or eligible for the CA Historic Register or a local historic register, or determined by the lead agency to be treated as TCR.

- **Paleontological Resources:** For the purposes of this section, "paleontological resources" refers to the fossilized plant and animal remains of prehistoric species. Paleontological Resources are a limited scientific and educational resource and are valued for the information they yield about the history of the earth and its ecology. Fossilized remains, such as bones, teeth, shells, and leaves, are found in geologic deposits (i.e., rock formations). Paleontological resources generally include the geologic formations and localities in which the fossils are collected.

Regulatory Setting

National Historic Preservation Act: The National Historic Preservation Act was adopted in 1966 to preserve historic and archeological sites in the United States. The Act created the National Register of Historic Places, the list of National Historic Landmarks, and the State Historic Preservation offices.

California Historic Register: The California Historic Register was developed as a program to identify, evaluate, register, and protect Historical Resources in California. California Historical Landmarks are sites, buildings, features, or events that are of statewide significance and have anthropological, cultural, military, political, architectural, economic, scientific, religious, experimental, or other value. In order for a resource to be designated as a historical landmark, it must meet the following criteria:

- The first, last, only, or most significant of its type in the state or within a large geographic region (Northern, Central, or Southern California).
- Associated with an individual or group having a profound influence on the history of California.

- A prototype of, or an outstanding example of, a period, style, architectural movement or construction or is one of the more notable works or the best surviving work in a region of a pioneer architect, designer or master builder.

Discussion

Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:

a) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or

Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation: An Archaeological Survey Report was prepared by applied Earthworks in December 2022. The full report can be found in Appendix E. Applied EarthWorks' investigation included a records search to identify previously recorded resources and prior studies within 0.5 miles of the APE, a review of the Native American Heritage Commission's Sacred Lands File and initiation of Native American outreach, a review of pertinent topographic maps, aerial photographs, and General Land Office Plat Maps, and a pedestrian survey of the APE.

The Native American Heritage Commission Sacred Lands File search and Native American contacts did not identify any sacred areas or provide information pertaining to Native American resources. Applied EarthWorks' pedestrian survey on November 14, 2022, did not identify any prehistoric archaeological resources within the Direct APE.

Although no tribal cultural resources were identified, the presence of remains or unanticipated cultural resources under the ground surface is possible. Implementation of Mitigation Measures CUL-1 and CUL-2 will ensure that impacts to this checklist item will be *less than significant with mitigation incorporation*.

b) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.

Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation: Based on the findings on the Archaeological Survey Report, which included a Cultural Resources Records Search, Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File Search, Archival Research, Native American Outreach, and a Pedestrian Survey, there are no known tribal cultural resources within the project area. The full Archaeological Survey Report is available in Appendix E.

Although no tribal cultural resources were identified, the presence of remains or unanticipated cultural resources under the ground surface is possible. Implementation of Mitigation Measures CUL-1 and CUL-2 will ensure that impacts to this checklist item will be *less than significant with mitigation incorporation*.

Mitigation Measures for Impacts to Cultural Resources:

Mitigation Measure CUL-1: If cultural resources are encountered during ground-disturbing activities, work in the immediate area must halt and an archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards for archaeology (NPS 1983) should be contacted immediately to evaluate the find. If the discovery proves to be significant under CEQA, additional work such as data recovery excavation and Native American consultation may be warranted to mitigate any adverse effects.

Mitigation Measure CUL-2: The discovery of human remains is always a possibility during ground disturbing activities. If human remains are found, the State of California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. In the event of an unanticipated discovery of human remains, the County Coroner must be notified immediately. If the human remains are determined to be prehistoric, the coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), which will determine and notify a most likely descendant (MLD). The MLD shall complete the inspection of the site within 48 hours of notification and may recommend scientific removal and nondestructive analysis of human remains and items associated with Native American burials.

XIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

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

Environmental Setting

Wastewater: The proposed project will not generate wastewater. Sewer lines would be extended through the intersection as part of the proposed improvements, per City of Dinuba development standards.

Solid Waste: The proposed project will not generate solid waste and will not require solid waste collection services.

Water: An existing water line runs along Alta Avenue and will remain following project implementation. The project would utilize minimal water resource to support drought tolerant landscaping.

Storm Drainage: As part of proposed improvements, the Project includes extension of stormdrain lines through the intersection, per City of Dinuba Development Standards. Stormwater would be collected and conveyed to the City's existing stormwater management system.

Regulatory Setting

CalRecycle: California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Natural Resources – Division 7 contains all current CalRecycle regulations regarding nonhazardous waste management in the state. These regulations include

standards for the handling of solid waste, standards for the handling of compostable materials, design standards for disposal facilities, and disposal standards for specific types of waste.

Central Valley RWQCB: The Central Valley RWQCB requires a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for projects disturbing more than one acre of total land area. Because the project is greater than one acre, a SWPPP to manage stormwater generated during project construction will be required.

The Central Valley RWQCB regulates Wastewater Discharges to Land by establishing thresholds for discharged pollutants and implementing monitoring programs to evaluate program compliance. This program regulates approximately 1500 dischargers in the region.

The Central Valley RWQCB is also responsible for implementing the federal program, the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). The NPDES Program is the federal permitting program that regulates discharges of pollutants to surface waters of the U.S. Under this program, a NPDES permit is required to discharge pollutants into Water's of the U.S. There are 350 permitted facilities within the Central Valley Region.

Discussion

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

Less than Significant Impact: The proposed project will extend sewer and stormwater lines through the project area and relocate 2 existing power poles as part of improvements to the Kamm avenue and Alta Avenue intersection.

Although the project would result in the construction of new stormwater and wastewater collection facilities, the project itself will not generate wastewater, so it does not have to potential to exceed wastewater treatment capacities.

The proposed improvements would result in new impervious surfaces that could increase the amount of stormwater runoff. However, the project proposes to extend stormwater lines through the project area as part of the intersection improvements. Stormwater would be collected and conveyed through the City's existing stormwater management system, which has adequate capacity to accommodate these flows. The project will also incorporate appropriate pollution prevention and BMPs in accordance with the City design standards and RWQCB requirements. Two existing power poles will need to be relocated to accommodate the proposed intersection improvements, however relocation of these poles will not necessitate new power generation facilities to be constructed that would have a significant impact on the environment.

Because the improvements to the Kamm Avenue and Alta Avenue intersection, including sewer lines, stormwater lines, and power pole relocation, would not require the construction any additional water, wastewater treatment, storage drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities beyond those analyzed in this IS/MND, the impact is *less than significant.*

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

Less than Significant Impact: The only water used by the proposed project would be to support project landscaping. The project would incorporate drought tolerant landscaping so water use is expected to be minimal. As such, existing water supplies are sufficient to serve the project during normal, dry, and multiple dry years. The impact is *less than significant.*

c) Would the project result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?

No Impact: The project itself will not generate wastewater. There is *no impact.*

d) Would the project generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?

No Impact: The project itself will not generate solid waste and would therefore not impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals. There is *no impact.*

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

No Impact: The project itself will not generate solid waste and would therefore not conflict with any federal, state, or local management and reduction statutes or regulations related to solid waste. There is *no impact.*

Mitigation Measures for Utilities and Service Systems

None Required

XX. WILDFIRE

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

Regulatory Setting

Definitions:
Fire hazard severity zones: geographical areas designated pursuant to California Public Resources Codes Sections 4201 through 4204 and classified as Very High, High, or Moderate in State Responsibility Areas or as Local Agency Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones designated pursuant to California Government Code, Sections 51175 through 51189.

Tulare County Disaster Preparedness Guide (2011): The Tulare County Preparedness Guide provides guidelines regarding disaster preparedness and evacuation planning for Tulare County residents.

Tulare County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (2018): The 2018 Tulare County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan assesses the natural, technological, and human-caused risks to Communities within Tulare County. The proposed project site is not located in an area designated as a Fire Hazard Severity Zone by the Tulare County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Discussion

a) Would the project substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

No Impact: The project would not substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. There is *no impact.*

b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, would the project exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?

No Impact: The project is located on a flat area of land with little risk of fire. The Tulare County Multi-Jurisdictional Local Hazard Mitigation Plan identifies the risk of fire within the City of Dinuba as having unlikely frequency, limited extent, limited magnitude, and low significance. The project would not exacerbate wildfire risks and expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of wildfire. There is *no impact.*

c) Would the project require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?

No Impact: The proposed project involves the installation of fire hydrants as part of proposed street improvements. If anything, installation of these features would reduce fire risks within the vicinity of the project site. There is *no impact.*

d) Would the project expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire instability, or drainage changes?

No Impact: The project site is located on land with relatively flat topography. Therefore, the project would not be susceptible to downslope or downstream flooding or landslides as a result of post-fire instability or drainage changes. There is *no impact.*

Mitigation Measures for Wildfire

None Required

XXI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

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

Discussion

a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?

Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation: This initial study/mitigated negative declaration found the project could have significant impacts on water, cultural, and Tribal cultural resources. However, implementation of the identified mitigation measures for each respective section would ensure that impacts are *less than significant with mitigation incorporation.*

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

Less Than Significant Impact: CEQA Guidelines Section 15064(i) states that a Lead Agency shall consider whether the cumulative impact of a project is significant and whether the effects of the

project are cumulatively considerable. The assessment of the significance of the cumulative effects of a project must, therefore, be conducted in connection with the effects of past projects, other current projects, and probable future projects. Due to the nature of the project and consistency with environmental policies, incremental contributions to impacts are considered less than cumulatively considerable. The proposed project would not contribute substantially to adverse cumulative conditions, or create any substantial indirect impacts (i.e., increase in population could lead to an increase need for housing, increase in traffic, air pollutants, etc). Impacts would be *less than significant*.

c) Does the project have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?

Less Than Significant Impact: The analyses of environmental issues contained in this Initial Study indicate that the project is not expected to have substantial impact on human beings, either directly or indirectly. Mitigation measures have been incorporated in the project design to reduce all potentially significant impacts to less than significant, which results in a *less than significant* impact to this checklist item.

3.6 MITIGATION MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRAM

As required by Public Resources Code Section 21081.6, subd. (a)(1), a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) has been prepared for the project in order to monitor the implementation of the mitigation measures that have been adopted for the project. This Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) has been created based upon the findings of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Alta Avenue & Kamm Avenue Roundabout Project in the City of Dinuba.

The first column of the table identifies the mitigation measure. The second column names the party responsible for carrying out the required action. The third column, "Timing of Mitigation Measure" identifies the time the mitigation measure should be initiated. The fourth column, "Responsible Party for Monitoring," names the party ensuring that the mitigation measure is implemented. The last column will be used by the City of Dinuba to ensure that the individual mitigation measures have been monitored.

Plan checking and verification of mitigation compliance shall be the responsibility of the City of Dinuba.

Mitigation Measure	Responsible Party for Implementation	Implementation Timing	Responsible Party for Monitoring	Verification
Mitigation Measure CUL-1: If cultural resources are encountered during ground-disturbing activities, work in the immediate area must halt and an archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards for archaeology (NPS 1983) should be contacted immediately to evaluate the find. If the discovery proves to be significant under CEQA, additional work such as data recovery excavation and Native American consultation may be warranted to mitigate any adverse effects.	Project Sponsor & Construction Contractor	Ongoing during construction.	City of Dinuba	
Mitigation Measure CUL-2: The discovery of human remains is always a possibility during ground disturbing activities. If human remains are found, the State of California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 states that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. In the event of an unanticipated discovery of human remains, the County Coroner must be notified immediately. If the human remains are determined to be prehistoric, the coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), which will determine and notify a most likely descendant (MLD). The MLD shall complete the inspection of the site within 48 hours of notification and may recommend scientific removal and nondestructive analysis of human remains and items associated with Native American burials.	Project Sponsor & Construction Contractor	Ongoing during construction.	City of Dinuba	

Mitigation Measure	Responsible Party for Implementation	Implementation Timing	Responsible Party for Monitoring	Verification
Mitigation Measure HYD-1: The Project shall implement the following Best Management Practices to prevent run-on and runoff pollution, properly dispose of wastes, and train employees and subcontractors. • Construction will begin outside of the irrigation season when the Ditch will be dry. Soil, silt, or other organic materials shall not be placed where such materials could pass into surface water or surface water drainage courses. All areas disturbed by project activities shall be protected from washout or erosion. All drainage protective devices such as swales, interception ditches, protective berms, concrete channels, or other measures designed to protect improvements from runoff must be constructed before the construction of the project. • The amount and duration of soil exposed to erosion by wind, rain, runoff, and vehicle tracking should be minimized by applying water or other dust palliatives, as necessary. Watering should occur at least twice a day with complete coverage, preferably in the late morning and after work is completed for the day. Covering small stockpiles or areas is an alternative to applying water. The stockpiles should be located a minimum of fifty feet away from concentrated flows of stormwater, drainage courses, and inlets. The stockpiles should be protected using a temporary perimeter sediment barrier. All clearing, grading, earth moving, or excavation activities will cease during periods of high winds greater than twenty mph. Vehicles will be prohibited from being on non-active portions of the Project site. All vehicles on site will be limited to 15 MPH to reduce dust forming. The contractor shall maintain dust control on the site as specified by "Caltrans Standard Specifications 2015". • Stabilized construction access should be provided at entrances to reduce or eliminate the tracking of sediment onto public streets. Visible sediment tracking should be swept or vacuumed daily. For solid waste management from clearing and grubbing, BMPs would include providing designated waste collection areas and containers and arranging for regular disposal. For concrete waste management, the washout should be conducted offsite or in a designated area at least fifty feet from the Ditch.	Project Sponsor & Construction Contractor	Ongoing during construction.	City of Dinuba	

Mitigation Measure	Responsible Party for Implementation	Implementation Timing	Responsible Party for Monitoring	Verification
• Vehicle and equipment cleaning, fueling, and maintenance should be done offsite or in a designated, contained area only. The discharge of petroleum products or other excavated materials to surface water channels is prohibited. The Discharger shall notify the City of Dinuba immediately of any spill of petroleum products or other organic or earthen materials. • Following construction, all trenches will be filled to reduce any impact. • The Discharger shall maintain a copy of the supporting documentation at the project site during construction for review by site personnel and agencies. All personnel (employees, contractors, and subcontractors) performing work on the proposed project shall be adequately informed and trained regarding the conditions of the certification. • The project disturbs over one acre of soil, therefore a Water Pollution Control Program and SWPPP will need to be prepared by the contractor per Caltrans 2010 Standard Specification Section 13-2. • The Discharger shall notify the City of Dinuba immediately if any of the above conditions are violated, along with a description of measures it is taking to remedy the violation. By incorporating proper and accepted engineering practices and BMPs, the proposed project will not produce significant impacts on water quality during construction or its operation.				

3.7 Supporting Information and Sources

1. AB 3098 List
2. City of Dinuba General Plan
3. City of Dinuba General Plan EIR
4. City of Dinuba Urban Water Management Plan
5. City of Dinuba Zoning Ordinance
6. Engineering Standards, City of Dinuba
7. SJVAPCD Regulations and Guidelines
8. Flood Insurance Rate Maps
9. California Air Resources Board's (CARB's) Air Quality and Land Use Handbook
10. 2008 (California Environmental Quality Act CEQA Guidelines
11. California Building Code
12. California Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program (SWPPP)
13. "Construction Noise Handbook." U.S. Department of Transportation/Federal Highway Administration.
14. Government Code Section 65962.5
15. California Environmental Protection Agency (CEPA)
16. California Energy Efficiency Strategic Plan: New Residential Zero Net Energy Action Plan 2015-2020, June 2015
17. San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District Mitigation Measures (http://www.valleyair.org/transportation/Mitigation-Measures.pdf)
18. "Residential Water Use Trends and Implications for Conservation Policy." Legislative Analyst's Office/The California Legislature's Nonpartisan Fiscal and Policy Advisor. March 2017.

Section 4

List of Preparers

City of Dinuba
405 E El Monte Way
Dinuba, CA 93291

SECTION 4
List of Preparers

Project Title: Alta Avenue & Kamm Avenue Roundabout

List of Preparers

4-Creeks Inc.

- David Duda, AICP, GISP
- Molly Baumeister, Associate Planner
- Nate Antepenko, Assistant Planner
- Jason Watts, PE
- Kyle McDonald, PE
- Macy Hernandez, Asst. Engineering Designer

Persons and Agencies Consulted

The following individuals and agencies contributed to this Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration:

City of Dinuba

- Ismael Hernandez, Director of Public Works

Applied EarthWorks

- Chantal Cagle, Senior Archaeologist
- Ward Stanley, Associate Archaeologist