PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT

Initial Study/Negative Declaration/Initial Environmental Checklist

CSA #5 Erosion Control Project – Phase 3

El Dorado County, CA

April 2023

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EL DORADO COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
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NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT
AN INITIAL STUDY/NEGATIVE DECLARATION/INITIAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

NOTICE is hereby given that El Dorado County, within the State of California intends to adopt the Initial Study/Negative Declaration/Initial Environmental Checklist for the project described below.

TITLE: COMMUNITY SERVICE AREA (CSA) #5 EROSION CONTROL PROJECT – PHASE 3

LOCATION: The Project Area is in the community of Tahoma in eastern El Dorado County, on the west shore of Lake Tahoe in the Tahoe Basin. Specifically, the Project Area is located on the Homewood U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute quadrangle map within a portion of section 18, township 14 north, range 17 east, Mount Diablo Principal Meridian.

Assessor Parcel Number (APN): Various

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: El Dorado County, Department of Transportation (County), is proposing to improve the water quality of runoff to Lake Tahoe and its tributaries by reducing erosion and sediment transport originating from the Project Area. The Project would focus on water quality improvements primarily within the County-owned right-of-way (ROW) and County-owned parcels, potentially providing improvements outside County owned parcels where needed to meet the water quality objectives. Categories of best management practices to be used include the use of native vegetation as bioswales, source control, hydrologic design, and treatment of runoff.

REVIEW: The review period for the Initial Study/Negative Declaration/Initial Environmental Checklist begins on April 10, 2023 and ends on May 10, 2023. The Initial Study/Negative Declaration/Initial Environmental Checklist may be reviewed at the El Dorado County, Department of Transportation offices at 924 B Emerald Bay Road, South Lake Tahoe, California and South Lake Tahoe Library, 1000 Rufus Allen Blvd., South Lake Tahoe, CA, 96150. The document is also available on the Transportation website at the following location: http://www.edcgov.us/Government/DOT/CEQA.aspx. Comments during the review period regarding the Negative Declaration should be directed to:

Daniel Kikkert, P.E., Senior Civil Engineer
El Dorado County, Department of Transportation
924 B Emerald Bay Road
South Lake Tahoe, California 96150

Comments may also be submitted electronically via email to dan.kikkert@edcgov.us. Failure to comment in writing will not preclude your right to comment at any public hearing for the proposed project. The Board of Supervisors (Board) is anticipated to consider the Negative Declaration on June 27, 2023. The Board's agenda may be downloaded from the County website at https://eldorado.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx prior to the meeting.

Signed: _____ Date: 7 April, 2023
Title: Senior Civil Engineer

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NEGATIVE DECLARATION

File:

PROJECT NAME: Community Service Area (CSA) #5 Erosion Control Project – Phase 3

NAME OF APPLICANT: EL DORADO COUNTY Department of Transportation, Tahoe Engineering

ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NO.: Various

SECTION: 16, 17, 18 **T:** 14N **R:** 17E

LOCATION: El Dorado County, California, Sections 16, 17, and 18 ☒in Township 14 North and Range 17 East. The Project Area is bounded by Placer Avenue to the east, the El Dorado/Placer County line at Pine Avenue with a drain extending up to 20 feet into a California Tahoe Conservancy-owned parcel in Placer County between Miami and Hilo avenues to the north, McKinney Road and Bellevue Avenue to the west, and undeveloped USFS and Conservancy-owned lots to the south.

- ☐ General Plan Amendment: From: To:
- ☐ Rezoning From: To:
- ☐ Tentative Parcel Map Subdivision (Name):
- ☐ Special Use Permit to allow:
- ☒ Other: Flood Control and erosion control improvements

REASONS THE PROJECT WILL NOT HAVE A SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT:

- ☒ NO SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS WERE IDENTIFIED DURING THE INITIAL STUDY.
- ☐ MITIGATION HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED WHICH WOULD REDUCE POTENTIALLY SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS
- ☐ OTHER:

In accordance with the authority and criteria contained in the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), State Guidelines, and El Dorado County Guidelines for the Implementation of CEQA, the County Environmental Agent analyzed the project and determined that the project will not have a significant impact on the environment. Based on this finding, the Public Works Department hereby prepares this NEGATIVE DECLARATION. A period of 30 days from the date of filing this mitigated negative declaration will be provided to enable public review of the project specifications and this document prior to action on the project by the COUNTY OF EL DORADO. The Initial Study/Negative Declaration/Initial Environmental Checklist may be reviewed at El Dorado County, Department of Transportation offices at 924 B Emerald Bay Road, South Lake Tahoe, California, and South Lake Tahoe Library, 1000 Rufus Allen Blvd., South Lake Tahoe, CA, 96150. The document is also available on the Transportation website at the following location: http://www.edcgov.us/Government/DOT/CEQA.aspx.

This Negative Declaration was adopted by the El Dorado County Department of Transportation

Daniel Kikkert, P.E., Senior Civil Engineer

April 10, 2023
Dated

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CSA #5 Erosion Control Project – Phase 3

El Dorado County, CA

Initial Study/Negative Declaration/Initial Environmental Checklist

Prepared for:

Daniel Kikkert, P.E.
Senior Civil Engineer
Department of Transportation - Tahoe Engineering
El Dorado County
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Executive Summary

The El Dorado County Department of Transportation (County Transportation) proposes the Community Service Area (CSA) #5 Erosion Control Project – Phase 3 (Project) to improve the water quality of runoff to Lake Tahoe and its tributaries by reducing erosion and sediment transport originating from the Project Area.

BACKGROUND

This Project was initiated in response to the analysis completed in the 2009 Tahoe Basin Pollutant Load Reduction Strategy Report (El Dorado County 2013). The report focused on assessing discharges to surface waters for the Total Maximum Daily Load and the County's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit. As part of that analysis, three watershed outfalls were identified connecting to Lake Tahoe: 1) the outfall from the Gray Basin (located in Placer County), which drains to McKinney Creek; 2) the 36-inch diameter storm drain pipe that conveys stormwater runoff from a portion of the subdivisions in the Project Area directly into Lake Tahoe with minimal infiltration or treatment; and 3) a surface channel that drains the remaining portions of the subdivisions in the Project Area.

In 2011, County Transportation requested and received funds from the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to develop the Planning, Environmental, and Preliminary Engineering documents for the CSA #5 area. In 2013, County Transportation requested and received site improvement funding from the USFS to construct improvements that would address the identified water quality issues within the Project Area. In 2014, County Transportation received site improvement funds from the California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) to construct the CSA #5 - Upper Area Erosion Control Project (Phase 1). The improvements consisted of modifications to a small subset of structures and conveyance features within the existing storm drain system, to provide water quality treatment through infiltration and sediment capture. In 2016, the remaining improvements were constructed as part of the CSA #5 Erosion Control Project (Phase 2) with USFS Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act and CSA 5 Assessment funds. The Phase 3 Project Area is adjacent to the boundaries of Phases 1 and 2.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The intent of the current Project (Phase 3) is to address areas of interest that were not addressed by the Phase 1 and 2 projects. The Project would focus on water quality improvements primarily within the County-owned right-of-way (ROW) and County-owned parcels, exploring outside options where needed.

Best Management Practices

To satisfy the goals of the Project, best management practices (BMPs) were developed to mitigate specific erosion and storm water runoff water quality problems within the Project Area. Categories of BMPs to be used include the use of native vegetation as bioswales, source control, hydrologic design, and treatment of runoff. Suitable BMPs identified for use in the Project Area as appropriate were identified as follows:

- **Revegetation**. Revegetation that has been tailored to specific conditions is a proven erosion-control mitigation measure. Revegetation alone is not expected to be successful for all areas primarily due to the dryness of some sites, granitic characteristics of the soil, and the depth to groundwater.
- **Channels and Swales**. Hard armored channels and vegetated swales have been constructed on numerous erosion-control projects. Rock-lined channels allow suspended sediments to settle into the voids between the rock and runoff is infiltrated into the in-situ soils beneath the channel. When located in the correct environment, seed and blanket channels and grass-lined swales are a proven source control, hydrologic design, and treatment alternative for conveying runoff, stabilizing roadside ditches, and treating runoff.
- **Asphalt Concrete (AC) Dike and AC Swales**. AC dike and AC swales are successful source-control mitigation alternatives that have been used on similar erosion control projects. This technique is successful in stabilizing bare shoulders, eroding shoulders, and roadside ditches.
- **AC Pavement**. AC pavement is a proven technique for stabilizing bare soil and has successfully been implemented on past erosion-control projects. AC pavement can be either permeable or impermeable. Permeable pavement is very effective in stabilizing dirt surfaces, can be used to redirect flow, and is effective in decreasing runoff peak flow and volume. However, it is best suited for grades of 2 percent or flatter.
- **Drainage Inlets and Corrugated Metal Pipe (CMP) Inlets**. A drainage inlet is primarily a hydrologic design BMP that is typically used to convey runoff from a paved surface into a pipe. A CMP inlet functions in the same manner except that runoff is often from off-road conveyance as well as paved surfaces.
- **Pipe**. A pipe meets the criteria for a hydrologic design BMP through conveyance. Pipes can also meet the criteria for source control in areas where runoff has exceeded the capacity of the roadside conveyance and erosion, or incising has occurred.

- **Perforated Pipe**. Perforated pipe meets the criteria for a hydrologic design and treatment BMP through conveyance and the reduction of suspended sediment, the reduction of runoff volume through infiltration, and treatment of runoff through infiltration.
- **Infiltration System**. Infiltration systems, or galleries, meet the criteria for a treatment BMP through the reduction of suspended sediment, the reduction of runoff volume through infiltration, and the treatment of runoff through infiltration.
- **Rock Slope Protection**. Rock slope protection is a successful source-control mitigation alternative that has been used extensively in prior erosion-control projects in the Tahoe Basin. This alternative has a long design life, is resilient to snow-removal activities, and is successful in stabilizing eroding slopes.

Potential Utility Improvements

The planned improved drainage at the end of the Miami Court would be within an existing utility easement that contains both water and sewer lines. The Tahoe City Public Utility District has expressed interest in updating the lines in this area, in advance or during this Project, to minimize impacts to the homeowners. Discussions are currently ongoing.

POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Based on the environmental evaluation performed for this Initial Study, the Project would have:

- ***No Impact*** on Agricultural and Forestry Resources, Land Use and Planning, Mineral Resources, Population and Housing, Public Services, and Recreation.
- ***Less Than Significant Impact*** on Aesthetics, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Energy, Geology and Soils, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Noise, Transportation, Tribal Cultural Resources, Utilities and Service Systems, and Wildfire.

List of Abbreviations

Abbreviation	*Definition*
AB	Assembly Bill
AC	Asphalt Concrete
APE	Area of Potential Effect
AQMD	Air Quality Management District
BMP	best management practices
CAL FIRE	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
CARB	California Air Resources Board
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CMP	corrugated metal pipe
CNEL	Community Noise Equivalency Levels
CRHR	California Register of Historical Resources
CSA	Community Service Area
CSP	corrugated steel pipe
CWA	Clean Water Act
DVTE	Daily Vehicle Trip Ends
EIP	Environmental Improvement Program
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
GHG	greenhouse gas
IEC	Initial Environmental Checklist
IPES	Individual Parcel Evaluation System
IS	Initial Study

Abbreviation	*Definition*
LTAB	Lake Tahoe Air Basin
NAAQS	National Ambient Air Quality Standards
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
ND	Negative Declaration
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
PAS	Plan Area Statement
PRC	Public Resources Code
ROW	right-of-way
RTP	Regional Transportation Plan
RWQCB	Regional Water Quality Control Board
SLF	Sacred Lands File
SQIP	Scenic Quality Improvement Program
SSBMI	Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians
SSS	special status species
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
TRPA	Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
UAIC	Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria
USFS	U.S. Forest Service
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	U.S. Geological Survey
VMT	vehicle miles traveled

Section 1 Project Information

Type of Information	*Project Details*
1. Project title:	CSA #5 Erosion Control Project – Phase 3
2. Lead agency name and address:	County of El Dorado Department of Transportation - Tahoe Engineering Unit 924 B Emerald Bay Road South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
3. Contact person and phone number:	Daniel Kikkert, P.E. County of El Dorado (530) 573-7914
4. Project location:	El Dorado County, California, Sections 16, 17, and 18 in Township 14 North and Range 17 East
5. Project sponsor's name and address:	County of El Dorado Department of Transportation - Tahoe Engineering 924 B Emerald Bay Road South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
6. General Plan designations:	TRPA Plan Area Statement (PAS) 154 – Tahoma Residential
7. Zoning:	154 – Tahoma Residential
8. Description of project:	Erosion control and stormwater management treatments for water quality improvements
9. Surrounding land uses and setting:	Within PAS 154, the existing uses are a mixture of residential uses ranging from higher-density condominiums to low-density single-family dwellings.
10. Other public agencies whose approval is required:	Tahoe Regional Planning Agency
11. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to	Native American correspondence was initiated during Phases 1 and 2 of the Project. A letter and attached maps were originally sent to the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC)

Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1? If so, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.?	on January 12, 2016, requesting a record search of their Sacred Lands File (SLF) and a contact list for regional tribes that may know of cultural or tribal resources within or immediately adjacent to the Project Area. The NAHC response indicated a negative SLF result. Letters dated January 27, 2016, were sent to the 15 contacts identified by the NAHC. Two tribes responded to the initial outreach for Phases 1 and 2: the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California (Washoe Tribe) and the Shingle Springs Band of Miwok Indians (SSBMI). The Washoe Tribe and SSBMI individually stated they did not have immediate knowledge of any cultural resources within the Project Area. Both tribes requested to be made aware of any Project updates and inadvertent discoveries during Project implementation. For Phase 3, an updated tribe list and SLF search was requested from the NAHC on September 23, 2022. The two tribes who responded to the prior notices, the Washoe Tribe and SSBMI, were sent letters with updated Project details as previously requested. Considering their general involvement with County projects, the United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria (UAIC) was also sent a letter with updated Project details. The County sent a letter to the Washoe Tribe on November 4, 2022, and to SSBMI and UAIC on November 11, 2022. On November 22, 2022, a negative SLF response was received. One additional tribe, Wilton Rancheria, was listed by the NAHC that had not previously been sent a letter for the Project. A letter was sent to Wilton Rancheria on January 20, 2023, via email.

Section 2 Introduction

2.1 FOCUS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

2.1.1 California Environmental Quality Act

El Dorado County (County) has prepared this Draft Initial Study (IS) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the Community Service Area (CSA) #5 Erosion Control Project – Phase 3 (Project). This IS, combined with the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency (TRPA)-required Initial Environmental Checklist (IEC) discussed below, is an informational document provided to help the public and decision-makers understand the potential effects the Project may have on the environment, and how potential adverse effects may be mitigated. Whereas this document has identified potentially less than significant impact, a Negative Declaration (ND) has been prepared.

The Notice of Intent to Adopt a Negative Declaration provides notice to interested agencies and the public that it is the County's intent to adopt an ND and, pending public review, expects to determine from this IS/IEC that the Project would not have a significant effect on the environment. This Public Review Draft IS/IEC/ND is subject to modification based on comments received by interested agencies and the public.

2.1.2 Tahoe Regional Planning Agency

El Dorado County has prepared this IEC pursuant to the TRPA Code of Ordinances (TRPA Code) requirement for environmental documentation (TRPA 2022a). The Code stipulates that TRPA shall use either an IEC checklist or environmental assessment to determine whether an environmental impact statement shall be prepared for a Project. For an IEC checklist, the applicant shall submit the following (TRPA Code Section 3.3.1):

a. The applicant shall describe and evaluate the significance of all impacts receiving "yes" answers.

b. The applicant shall describe and evaluate the significance of all impacts receiving "no with mitigation" answers and shall describe in detail, the mitigation measures proposed to mitigate these impacts to a less than significant level.

2.2 REQUIRED PERMITS AND ADDITIONAL APPROVALS

2.2.1 Permits

The Project would obtain or comply with the following permits:

- Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) Stormwater General Permit
- TRPA Permit
- California Tahoe Conservancy (Conservancy) License Agreement
- U.S. Forest Service Special Use Permit

2.2.2 Responsible Agencies

- Conservancy
- TRPA
- Lahontan RWQCB
- U.S. Forest Service (USFS)
- Placer County

2.3 LEAD AGENCY DETERMINATION

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

X 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 (EIR) is required.

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

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

_____	_____
Signature	Date
_____	_____
Name	Title

Section 3 Project Description

The County proposes the Project to improve the water quality of runoff to Lake Tahoe and its tributaries by reducing erosion and sediment transport originating from the Project Area.

3.1 PROJECT LOCATION

The Project Area is in the community of Tahoma in eastern El Dorado County, on the west shore of Lake Tahoe in the Tahoe Basin. Specifically, the Project Area is located on the Homewood U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute quadrangle map within a portion of section 18, township 14 north, range 17 east, Mount Diablo Principal Meridian. The Project Area is bounded by Placer Avenue to the east, the El Dorado/Placer County line at Pine Avenue with a drain extending up to 20 feet into a California Tahoe Conservancy owned parcel in Placer County between Miami and Hilo avenues to the north, McKinney Road and Bellevue Avenue to the west, and undeveloped USFS and Conservancy-owned lots to the south (Figure 1).

3.2 BACKGROUND

This Project was initiated in response to the analysis completed in the 2009 County's Pollutant Load Reduction Strategy Report (as referenced in El Dorado County 2013). The report focused on assessing discharges to surface waters for the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and the County's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. As part of that analysis, the County identified three watershed outfalls that were connected to Lake Tahoe: 1) the outfall from the Gray Basin (located in Placer County) which drains to McKinney Creek; 2) the 36-inch diameter storm drain pipe which conveys stormwater runoff from a portion of the subdivisions in the Project Area directly into Lake Tahoe with minimal infiltration or treatment; and 3) a surface channel which drains the remaining portions of the subdivisions in the Project Area.

In 2011, County Transportation requested and received funds from the USFS to develop the Planning, Environmental, and Preliminary Engineering documents for the CSA #5 area. In 2013, County Transportation requested and received site improvement funding from the USFS to construct future improvements that would address the identified water quality issues within the Project Area. In 2014, County Transportation received site improvement funds from the Conservancy to construct the CSA #5 - Upper Area Erosion Control Project (Phase 1). The improvements consisted of modifications to a small subset of structures and conveyance features within the existing storm drain system, to provide water quality treatment through infiltration and sediment capture. In 2016, the remaining improvements were

constructed as part of the CSA #5 Erosion Control Project (Phase 2) with USFS Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act and CSA 5 Assessment funds.

The Phase 3 Project Area is adjacent to Phases 1 and 2, as shown on Figure 1.

3.2.1 Alternatives Analyzed

The existing conditions in the Project Area were examined by the transportation division of El Dorado County in the Feasibility Report to identify problems and analyze potential solutions (El Dorado County 2020). To meet the goals and objectives of the Project, the Feasibility Report outlined three alternatives for consideration by the public and the Project development team. Alternative 1 was determined to meet Project goals and objectives to the maximum extent practicable. This alternative would mitigate water quality issues not currently addressed with the existing drainage systems and would stabilize areas that are beginning to become a detriment to water quality. This would require new drainage easements to complete.

Alternative 2 was determined to also meet the goals and objectives for the Project to the maximum extent practicable. This alternative would mitigate water quality issues not currently addressed with the existing drainage systems and will stabilize areas that are beginning to become a detriment to water quality.

Alternative 3, the No Project alternative, would not meet the goals and objectives of the Project and therefore was rejected.

In September 2020, County Transportation held a public meeting to discuss the Feasibility Report for the Project. That report identified problem areas, compiled best management practices (BMP) alternatives for mitigating specific problem areas, and presented the evaluation of the alternatives. Based on the comments received, the professional judgment of County Transportation personnel, and the analyses outlined in the Feasibility Report, Alternative 1, with one modification, was selected as the preferred alternative and is presented in Figure 2.

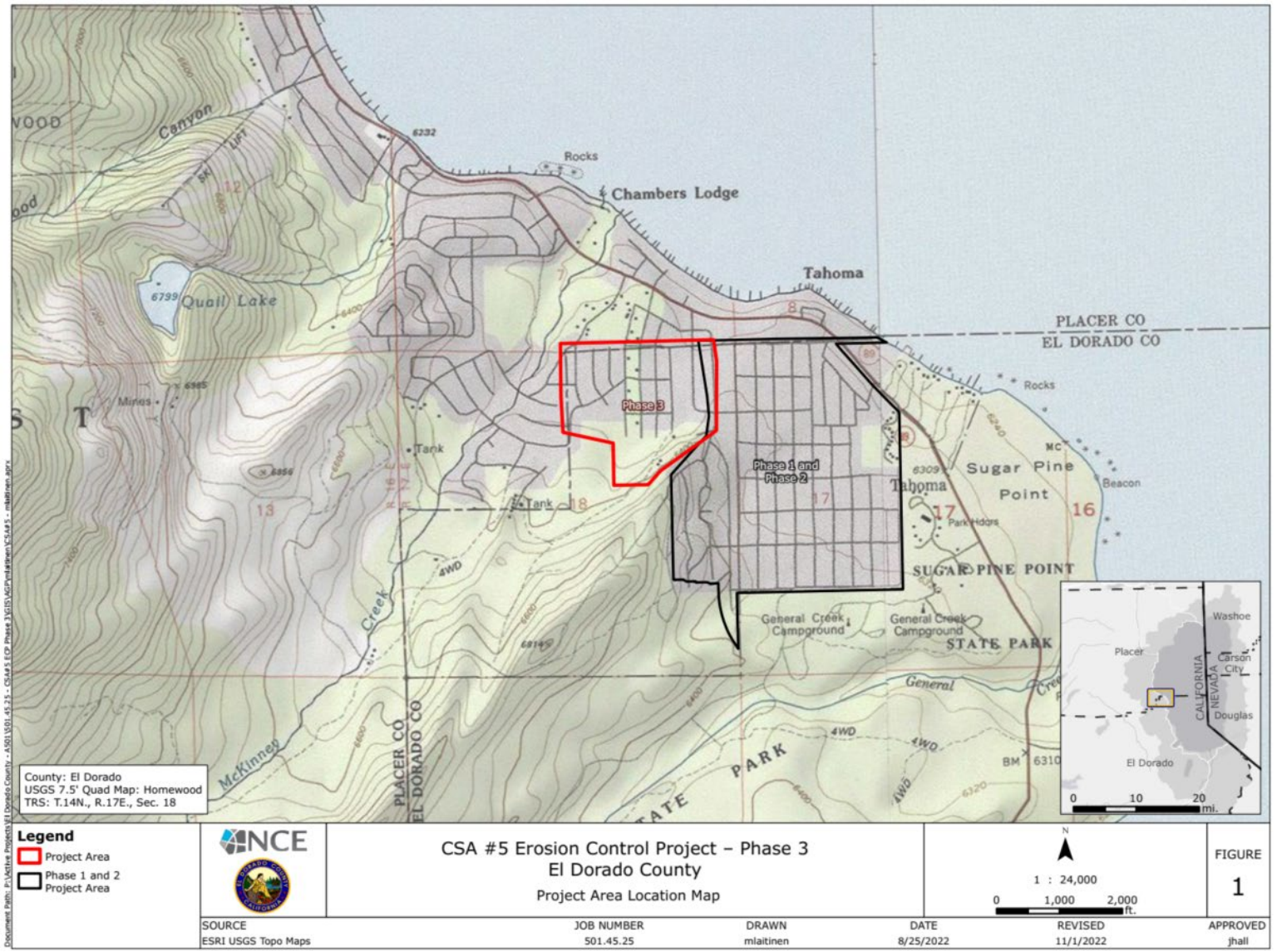

Figure 1. Project Vicinity Map

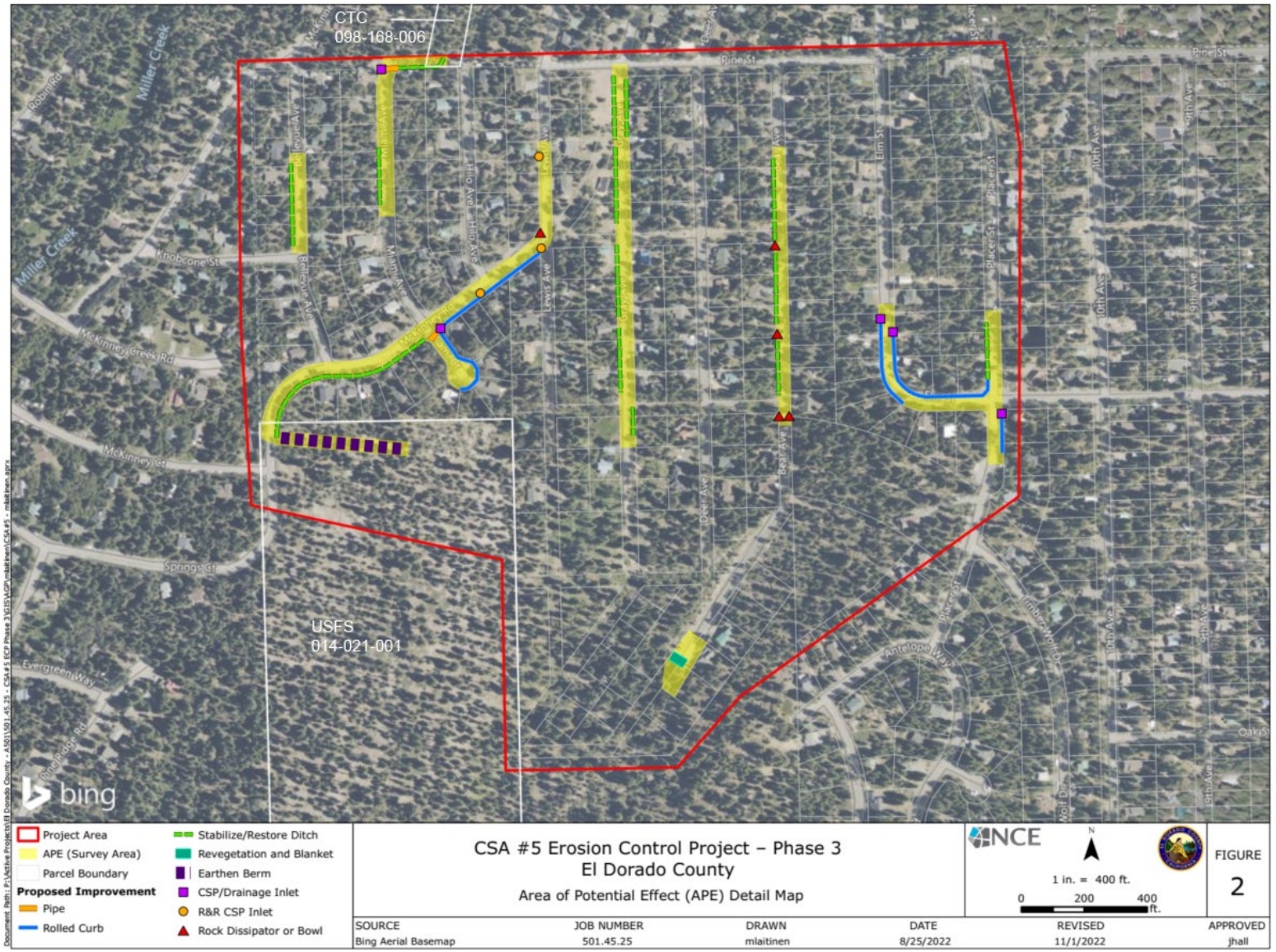

Figure 2. Area of Potential Effect Detail Map

3.3 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Urban development within the Project Area has resulted in the concentrated flow of stormwater to dikes, roadside ditches, and storm drainpipes towards Gray Basin, [County BSN11] conveyance systems. These systems are connected to an existing Placer County stormwater system that outfalls into McKinney Creek, and ultimately to Lake Tahoe. The overall goal of this Project is to improve the water quality of runoff to Lake Tahoe and its tributaries by reducing erosion and sediment transport originating from the Project Area.

The objectives of the Project are to:

- Reduce the amount of very fine inorganic sediment by 12%, fine inorganic sediment by 25%, and coarse inorganic sediment by 33% from the urbanized watershed bounded by the Project boundary to the maximum extent practicable prior to discharging to the nearby waterway and ultimately Lake Tahoe.
- Stabilize eroding slopes and channels/ditches.
- Maximize the effectiveness of the traction abrasives and reduce the frequency of sweeping.
- Capture sediment from impervious surfaces and eroding areas.
- Capture de-icing abrasives tracked in from local roads and highways to prevent discharge to watercourses.
- Reduce surface water volume and peak flow.
- Reduce the 25-year, 1-hour storm surface water volume from the urbanized watershed bounded by the Project boundary by 33% or to the maximum extent practicable prior to discharging into Lake Tahoe.

3.4 EXISTING CONDITIONS

The Project Area predominantly lies in an existing residential neighborhood in Tahoma, California, in El Dorado County (County) with a small area extending north into Placer County. The Project Area is gently sloping with conifers such as sugar, lodgepole, and Jeffrey pine. The Project Area is zoned based on the Plan Area Statement (PAS) 154 – Tahoma Residential as residential (TRPA 2002). Located in the unincorporated community of Tahoma on the west shore of Lake Tahoe, the Project Area is bounded by Placer Avenue to the east, the El Dorado/Placer County line at Pine Avenue except where a drain would extend up to 20 feet into a California Tahoe Conservancy owned parcel in Placer County between Miami and Hilo avenues to the north, McKinney Road and Bellevue Avenue to the west, and

undeveloped USFS and El Dorado County Transportation Commission-owned lots to the south. Tahoma is surrounded by Ed Z'berg Sugar Pine Point State Park to the east, Lake Tahoe to the North, and Conservation land to the south and west.

The existing erosion control and water quality measures, installed as part of the first two phases, within the Project Area consist of AC dike, AC swales, roadside ditches, revegetation, solid wall and perforated pipes, rock-lined channels, and an infiltrating sediment basin (Gray Basin). With the construction of the improvements in 1987 (and 2014), infiltration of urbanized runoff has been increased within the CSA #5 area with the exception of the Phase 3 limits. This Project is intended to stabilize any remaining locations exhibiting erosion and add more infiltrating elements prior to runoff reaching Lake Tahoe. These areas are discussed below.

3.4.1 Eroding Slopes

At the southern end of Bear Avenue, there is an eroding slope where the paved road ends and a dirt path begins. The sediment migrating from this slope has the potential to migrate into the tributary storm drain system.

Throughout the Project Area, there are cut slopes surrounding inlets that need to be stabilized. Erosion from the cut slopes has a high potential for sediment migrating into the inlet.

On Spring Street, within Placer County and just outside of the Project Area, there is an eroding slope that can contribute sediment into the storm drain system on McKinney Road.

3.4.2 Sedimentation of Roadside Ditches

Throughout the subdivision, roadside ditches convey runoff from the paved roads. Most of these ditches are stable, either by proper compaction or vegetation. However, a few locations exhibit sedimentation and ponding possibly caused by disturbance from vehicles parking on the dirt shoulders. Vegetation has grown in the sediment, which inhibits runoff from entering these systems. Near the house at 7022 Lewis Avenue, the 1987 improvement plans show a previously existing 36-inch corrugated metal pipe (CMP) inlet, but this inlet is not visible on the surface and the plans do not indicate if it was removed or abandoned.

3.4.3 Aging Infrastructure

Infiltrating systems lose effectiveness over time due to sedimentation and other factors. The storm drain system from 1987 included perforated CMP for the infiltration of urban runoff and to reduce the volume of runoff discharging into Lake Tahoe. The service life of CMP is approximately 50 years. After almost 30 years of service, there are no indications that the pipes are not adequately conveying the

runoff; however, it can be assumed that the infiltrating capacities have been reduced.

Basin and channel infiltration can become impaired over time through soil compaction, sediment accumulation, and excessive vegetative matting.

Although the CMP inlets are adequate for accepting and conveying runoff, there are no sumps within the structures and therefore no sediment-capturing capabilities.

3.4.4 Localized Flooding and Ponding

There are areas within the subdivision that incur localized ponding of runoff have the potential to flood surrounding properties during heavy rains and snowmelt in the spring. The conveyance structures in these areas are not adequate to ensure the runoff is conveyed into the storm drain system where it can be captured and infiltrated within the Gray Basin.

The properties at 551 and 545 McKinney Road, adjacent to the Project Area boundary, become inundated with runoff generated from the USFS lot to the south. The property owner at 551 McKinney Road commented that this situation did not exist prior to the tree thinning within this area in 2010. Runoff generated from the USFS lots flows around and between these properties and pools within the County right-of-way and the driveway encroachments before eventually flowing over the road and across the street.

The properties on Miami Court also experience local ponding and potential flooding from runoff generated from the USFS lot behind them. Miami Court does not have adequate roadside conveyance to move the runoff toward McKinney Road. Additionally, the roadside conveyance along the southeastern side of McKinney Road from the intersection of Miami Court to the intersection of Lewis Avenue does not adequately convey the runoff to the inlet on the corner of Lewis Avenue and McKinney Road. During heavy rains and spring snowmelt, the runoff ponds along Miami Court and McKinney Road which inundates the properties at 7075, 7082, 7083, 7085 Miami Court and 493, 503, 509 McKinney Road.

Properties at the northern end of Miami Avenue and Hilo Avenue experience local ponding and potential flooding during heavy rains and spring snowmelt. Runoff generated from Bellevue Avenue and west of the county line flows east until it reaches Miami Avenue and flows north toward the end of the street at the county line. Runoff also flows north down Hilo Avenue and combines with the flows from Miami Avenue. The runoff ponds between the properties at 416 Miami Avenue (Placer County), 7001 Miami Avenue, 7000 Hilo Avenue and 7008 Hilo Avenue. The runoff does eventually flow north toward Placer County but will inundate these properties well into the summer months during large events.

3.5 PROJECT FEATURES

Figure 2 above depicts the proposed facilities and treatments. Conditions requiring source control include eroding roadside ditches, eroding slopes, and areas of sediment deposition.

1. Rock for inlet protection is proposed for each storm drain inlet on Bear Avenue. The conveyance channels connecting the inlets will require some rehabilitation efforts. The Project proposes to stabilize the channels with vegetation or rock armoring.
2. Rock for inlet protection is proposed for each storm drain inlet on Gray Avenue. The conveyance channels connecting the inlets will require some rehabilitation efforts. The Project proposes to stabilize the channels with vegetation or rock armoring.
3. At the southeast corner of Placer Street and Elm Street, a corrugated steel pipe (CSP) inlet is proposed for capturing sediment, infiltrating runoff, and providing a clean-out for maintenance purposes. The Project also proposes to construct rolled curb and gutter above the inlet on the east side of Placer Street to provide better conveyance of washed off-road traction abrasives. The hard conveyance will also provide a surface for street sweepers to collect sediment and traction abrasives. From the northwest corner of Placer Street and Elm Street, along Elm Street, the Project proposes constructing rolled curb and gutter on both sides of Elm Street ending at new drainage inlets. The drainage inlets will be installed in the County ROW near 490 and 491 Elm Street. The hard conveyance structure will provide capture and conveyance of road traction abrasives applied during winter months and will also provide a surface for street sweepers to collect sediment and traction abrasives. The new CSP inlets will provide a clean-out for removing the sediment and abrasives. The curb will also wrap around the corner onto Placer Street to divert runoff from flowing into the parcels between Elm Street and Placer Street and ensure the runoff remains within the conveyance ditch running down Placer Street. The conveyance ditch along the west side of Placer Street, at the end of the curb, will be restored to ensure proper conveyance down Placer Street.
4. Slope protection is proposed for stabilizing the eroding slope at the southern end of Bear Avenue. Rock is preferred, though revegetation will be considered if site conditions will allow for vegetation growth.
5. Rock armoring is proposed for the CSP inlet at the intersection of McKinney Road and Lewis Avenue.

6. An existing CSP Inlet near the property at 7022 Lewis Avenue appears to have been abandoned and paved over. The Project proposes to locate and remove the existing inlet and install a new CSP inlet outside of the driveway apron with connections to the existing storm drain system on Lewis Avenue.
7. At the intersection of Miami Court and McKinney Road, the Project proposes removing and replacing an existing 12-inch CMP pipe with an 18-inch High Density Polyethylene pipe connected to a new drainage inlet installed on the northern end to allow for sediment capture and infiltration of captured runoff. Rolled curb and gutter is proposed around the Miami Court cul-de-sac continuing from Miami Court on the south side of McKinney Road to the intersection at Lewis Avenue. This would connect to the proposed drainage inlet on the corner of Miami Court and improve the runoff drainage around the Miami Court cul-de-sac into the existing CSP inlet at Lewis Avenue.
8. The properties at 551 and 545 McKinney Road, adjacent to the Project Area boundary, are seasonally inundated with runoff from the USFS lot to the south. The Project proposes to intercept and divert the runoff toward the conveyance ditch on the east side of McKinney Road with a diversion berm constructed on the USFS lot. The conveyance ditch on the southeast side of McKinney Road would be restored to ensure proper conveyance of the runoff into the existing CSP inlet to the west of 551 McKinney Road. A proposed CSP inlet would be installed between 545 and 541 McKinney Road to intercept additional runoff from beyond these properties, to reduce the flooding that occurs at the location on McKinney Road. Beyond the new CSP Inlet, ditch restoration is proposed along the southern side of McKinney Road to ensure additional runoff is conveyed to the proposed new inlet at Miami Court.
9. The Project may establish a drainage easement along the Placer/El Dorado County boundary between Miami Avenue and Hilo Avenue to formally provide a location for a conveyance system to convey flows from Miami Avenue to points east and north; improvements in this area will be dependent on the County's ability to obtain drainage easements. The conveyance system would extend onto a Conservancy-owned parcel northwest of Hilo Avenue.

Construction areas would be primarily within the County ROW, and, as such, a majority of the work could be completed from the paved roadway or impacted shoulders. This includes curb and gutter, CSP inlet replacement, and rock armoring. For work off the paved surface, Endangered Species Act-compliant fencing would be used to restrict the contractor's movements to the work zone. This includes the berm/swale improvement on USFS land (off McKinney Road) as well as drainage improvements between parcels at the end of Miami Court. Care would be taken to

provide enough space for the contractor to work efficiently without causing unnecessary damage to natural resources.

Limited work would also be performed under permit on the publicly owned parcels listed below.

Owner	APN	Proposed Use	Estimated Temporary Disturbance (sf)	Estimated Permanent Disturbance (sf)
Conservancy	098-166-006	Construct conveyance system to limit existing stormwater flow impacts to adjacent parcel owners and improving runoff water quality.	4000	500
USFS	014-021-001	Construct earthen berm to divert upland urban runoff away from developed residential lots.	4000	2,400

3.6 BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

To satisfy the goals of the Project, BMPs were developed to mitigate specific erosion and stormwater runoff water quality problems within the Project Area. Categories of BMP include the use of native vegetation as bioswales, source control, hydrologic design, and treatment of runoff. Suitable BMPs to be used as appropriate during the Project are described below.

- **Revegetation**. Revegetation that has been tailored to specific conditions is a proven erosion-control mitigation measure. Revegetation alone is not expected to be successful for all areas primarily due to the dryness of some sites, granitic characteristics of the soil, and the depth to groundwater.
- **Channels and Swales**. Hard armored channels and vegetated swales have been constructed on numerous erosion-control projects. Rock-lined channels allow suspended sediments to settle into the voids between the rock and runoff is infiltrated into the in-situ soils beneath the channel. When located in the correct environment, seed and blanket channels and grass-lined swales are a proven source control, hydrologic design, and treatment alternative for conveying runoff, stabilizing roadside ditches, and treating runoff.
- **Asphalt Concrete (AC) Dike and AC Swales**. AC dike and AC swales are successful source-control mitigation alternatives that have been used on

similar erosion control projects. This technique is successful in stabilizing bare shoulders, eroding shoulders, and roadside ditches.

- **AC Pavement**. AC pavement is a proven technique for stabilizing bare soil and has successfully been implemented on past erosion-control projects. AC pavement can be either permeable or impermeable. Permeable pavement is very effective in stabilizing dirt surfaces, can be used to redirect flow, and is effective in decreasing runoff peak flow and volume. However, it is best suited for grades of 2 percent or flatter.
- **Drainage Inlets and Corrugated Metal Pipe (CMP) Inlets**. A drainage inlet is primarily a hydrologic design BMP that is typically used to convey runoff from a paved surface into a pipe. A CMP inlet functions in the same manner except that runoff is often from off-road conveyance as well as paved surfaces.
- **Pipe**. A pipe meets the criteria for a hydrologic design BMP through conveyance. Pipes can also meet the criteria for source control in areas where runoff has exceeded the capacity of the roadside conveyance and erosion, or incising has occurred.
- **Perforated Pipe**. Perforated pipe meets the criteria for a hydrologic design and treatment BMP through conveyance and the reduction of suspended sediment, the reduction of runoff volume through infiltration, and treatment of runoff through infiltration.
- **Infiltration System**. Infiltration systems, or galleries, meet the criteria for a treatment BMP through the reduction of suspended sediment, the reduction of runoff volume through infiltration, and the treatment of runoff through infiltration.
- **Rock Slope Protection**. Rock slope protection is a successful source-control mitigation alternative that has been used extensively in prior erosion-control projects in the Tahoe Basin. This alternative has a long design life, is resilient to snow-removal activities, and is successful in stabilizing eroding slopes.

3.6.1 Utility Improvement Coordination

The planned improved drainage at the end of the Miami Court would be within an existing utility easement that contains both water and sewer lines. The Tahoe City Public Utility District has expressed interest in updating the lines in this area, in advance or during this Project, to minimize impacts to the homeowners. Discussions are currently ongoing.

3.7 CONSTRUCTION

3.7.1 Construction Schedule

Construction is scheduled to occur for no more than 30 days with work limited to Monday through Friday. The standard working hours are set by the TRPA-defined guidelines of 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

3.7.2 Equipment and Labor Force

Various types of equipment would be needed for the construction of the Project elements along the corridor.

Construction equipment would include the following:

- Mini excavator
- Backhoe
- Excavator
- Skid steer loader
- 5-to-10-yard dump truck
- Water truck and/or water buffalo
- Sweeper

A skilled labor force would be required to complete this Project.

3.8 CONSTRUCTION CONTROLS

The Project is required to comply with local, state, and federal regulations pertaining to the protection of human health, safety, and the environment. Specifically, the Project would be required to comply with the TRPA Code of Ordinances, El Dorado County General Plan, Lahontan RWQCB, and Lake Tahoe Regional Plan.

The following required construction controls from local and state agencies have been incorporated into the Project design.

3.8.1 Air Quality

The El Dorado County Air Quality Management District (AQMD) District Rule 223 includes requirements for construction projects. Control measures for construction and other earth-moving activities must follow the guidelines presented in Table 1 of Rule 223-1 (El Dorado County 2005). These requirements include but are not limited to, the creation and implementation of a Fugitive Dust Control Plan, management practices at the construction site, visible emissions limitation, vehicle

speed limitations, material handling procedures, and control of stockpiles and disturbed areas.

3.8.2 Biological Resources

The Project is required to implement the following applicable TRPA Code of Ordinance standards to protect biological resources:

- Vegetation shall not be disturbed, injured, or removed except in accordance with the Code or conditions of Project approval. All trees, major roots, and other vegetation not specifically designated and approved for removal in connection with a project shall be protected according to methods approved by TRPA. All vegetation outside the construction site boundary, as well as other vegetation designated on the approved plans, shall be protected by installing temporary fencing according to subsections 33.6.9 and 33.6.10. Disturbed areas shall be revegetated according to 33.6.8.
- A preconstruction nesting bird survey shall be conducted in areas where improvements are proposed a maximum of 3 days prior to Project implementation. If nesting birds are detected within the Project Area during the survey, the surveyor shall consult with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) or TRPA, to determine an appropriate activity-free buffer zone around the nest. The precise dimensions of the buffer shall be determined at that time and may vary depending on location and species. Buffers shall remain in place for the duration of the breeding season or until it has been confirmed by a qualified biologist that all chicks have fledged and are independent of their parents. Specific information regarding the area of these buffers shall be submitted to El Dorado County for review and approval and integrated into construction documents prior to the start of construction activities.

3.8.3 Cultural Resources

The Project is subject to the regulations and standards established in the National Historic Preservation Act, the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) (Public Resources Code [PRC] § 5024.1(a)), PRC §5097.5), and the TRPA Code. The County is required to ensure the implementation of the following applicable regulations and standards that protect cultural resources:

- PRC § 5024.1(a), and PRC § 5097.5 outline authoritative processes for resources listed in the CRHR, such as a person shall not knowingly and willfully excavate upon, or remove, destroy, injure, or deface, any historic or prehistoric ruins, burial grounds, archaeological or vertebrate paleontological site, including fossilized footprints, inscriptions made by human agency, rock art, or any other archaeological, paleontological or historical feature, situated

on public lands, except with the express permission of the public agency having jurisdiction over the lands.

- Code of Ordinance Chapter 67 – Historic Resource Protection outlines requirements for the accidental discovery of resources during construction (Subsection 67.3.1), requirements for site survey and consultation with the Washoe Tribe (Subsection 67.3.2), and requirements for the protection of known resources.
- The State of California Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 provides protocol that must be following should human remains be uncovered. The County Coroner must be notified of the find immediately, and no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made a determination of origin and disposition pursuant to PRC Section 5097.98. If the human remains are determined to be prehistoric, the Coroner would notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), which would determine and notify a Most Likely Descendent. The Most Likely Descendent shall complete the inspection of the site within 24 hours of notification and may recommend scientific removal and nondestructive analysis of human remains and items associated with Native American burials.
- The construction contractor shall establish a point of exclusion that shall begin at the dirt beyond the edge of the pavement extending south off of Bear Avenue. This area shall be temporarily fenced as an environmentally sensitive area for the duration of construction.

3.8.4 Geology and Soils

The Project would require the County to prepare and submit a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to the Lahontan RWQCB to comply with the Stormwater General Permit. The purpose of the SWPPP is to protect soil and water resources from impacts during construction, including groundwater. As part of the SWPPP, the contractor would be required to prepare and adhere to a Temporary BMP Plan, a Spill Contingency Plan, and a Dewatering Plan that would be approved by El Dorado County. The plan would designate BMPs to minimize the impact from erosion and sedimentation. At a minimum, the following geology and soils controls must be implemented:

- Temporary erosion control devices shall be placed down-gradient of dirt piles, excavated areas, or stockpiles.
- Coverings shall be placed on all dirt piles during non-working hours.
- Vegetation protection fencing shall be installed to protect existing vegetation where feasible.

- Disturbed areas shall be revegetated, and mulch will be used to stabilize soils until vegetation is re-established.
- Tracking controls will be used.
- Parking will be allowed only on paved and existing disturbed areas.

3.8.5 Greenhous Gas (GHG) Emissions and Green Energy

The Project will incorporate Basic Construction Emission Control Practices and the measures listed in the Guidance for Construction GHG Emissions Reductions developed by the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (2016), which include measures to improve fuel efficiency, limit emissions, use green energy sources, and recycle materials. These include:

- Minimize idling time either by shutting equipment off when not in use or reducing the time of idling to 5 minutes [required by California Code of Regulations, Title 13, sections 2449(d)(3) and 2485]. Provide clear signage that posts this requirement for workers at the entrances to the site.
- Maintain all construction equipment in proper working condition according to manufacturer's specifications. The equipment must be checked by a certified mechanic and determined to be running in proper condition before it is operated.
- Train equipment operators in the proper use of equipment.
- Use the proper size of equipment for the job.
- Use equipment with new technologies (repowered engines, electric drive trains).
- Perform on-site material hauling with trucks equipped with on-road engines (if determined to be less emissive than the off-road engines).
- Encourage and provide carpools, shuttle vans, transit passes, and/or secure bicycle parking for construction worker commutes.
- Reduce electricity use in the construction office by using Light Emitting Diode (LED) bulbs, powering off computers every day, and replacing heating and cooling units with more efficient ones.
- Recycle or salvage non-hazardous construction and demolition debris (goal of at least 75% by weight).
- Use SmartWay-certified trucks for deliveries and equipment transport.
- Develop a plan to efficiently use water for adequate dust control.

3.8.6 Hydrology and Water Quality

The permittee must develop and implement a Stormwater Management Plan (Order No. R6T-2022-0046, NPDES permit No. CAG616001) and a SWPPP (Tahoe Construction Permit R6T-2016-0010). As part of the SWPPP, the contractor would be required to prepare and adhere to a Temporary BMP Plan, a Spill Contingency Plan, and a Dewatering Plan that would be approved by El Dorado County, as discussed in Section 3.8.4. These plans must outline measures that would protect hydrology and water quality resources, including groundwater, from negative impacts during construction. The SWPPP would need to be approved by the Lahontan Regional Quality Control Board.

Additionally, TRPA Code of Ordinances Chapter 60: Water Quality outlines standards intended to protect water quality. Construction-site stormwater BMPs would follow the California Department of Transportation's *Construction Site Best Management Practices Manual* (2017) and the TRPA *Best Management Practices Handbook* (2014) to control and minimize the impacts of construction-related activities. The following BMPs, at a minimum, are required at the site during construction:

- Install temporary erosion and sediment control BMPs to prevent the transport of earthen materials and other construction waste materials from disturbed land areas, stockpiles, and staging areas during periods of precipitation or runoff (such as silt fence, erosion control fabric, fiber rolls).
- Use tracking controls (such as designated ingress and egress areas) and designated staging areas outside of drainage, swale, and stream environment zone areas. Staging area is to be restored in accordance with TRPA Code Section 61.4 (Revegetation).
- Use temporary BMPs to prevent wind erosion and sediment transport of disturbed areas, such as the use of water for dust control and covering of stockpiles.
- Limit grading to May 1 through October 15, unless an exemption is granted by TRPA. At the end of the grading season or before completion of the Project, all surplus or waste earthen materials from the Project Area would be removed and disposed of at a TRPA-approved disposal site or stabilized on-site in accordance with TRPA regulations.
- Implement a Spill Prevention Plan (see Section 4.9, Hazards and Hazardous Materials). Project contractors would be responsible for storing on-site materials and temporary BMPs capable of capturing and containing pollutants.

- Prepare a Dewatering Plan as part of the SWPPP, to outline the process that would be required of the Project contractors if groundwater is intercepted during construction. The Dewatering Plan shall be prepared and submitted for approval by County Transportation, Lahontan RWQCB, and TRPA prior to the commencement of construction.
- Sequence construction to avoid and minimize the potential of encountering groundwater during construction.
- Use vegetation-protection fencing to prevent damage to trees or other vegetation where possible
- Use construction boundary fencing to limit land disturbance to areas not planned for construction.

  Install temporary erosion and sediment control devices in accordance with the shown plans to protect sediment-laden runoff from discharging from the site.

3.8.7 Transportation

The contractor must prepare and adhere to a Traffic Control Plan for TRPA and County Transportation review and approval. Elements of the plan will include appropriate use of signage, flaggers, traffic calming, and alternative routes to accommodate local and through traffic. In addition, County Transportation will advise local residents regarding schedules for construction traffic detours through signage, press releases, and distribution of flyers in area neighborhoods well in advance of construction initiation. Access will not be prohibited, at any time, for local residents, school buses, or emergency vehicles.

Section 4 Environmental Evaluation

The following sections evaluate the potential adverse impacts of the Project in compliance with CEQA and TRPA. Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines (California Natural Resources Agency 2019) provides a sample checklist with a series of questions designed to enable the lead agency, El Dorado County, to identify Project impacts with respect to 20 environmental topics; this IS generally follows this checklist. Topics from the TRPA Initial Environmental Checklist are included in the corresponding section with the CEQA checklist.

Except where a specific threshold has been adopted by a public agency and is specified in the sections below, such as an air quality threshold, Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines are used as thresholds of significance for the CEQA checklist questions.

Potential environmental impacts are described as follows:

- **Potentially Significant Impact**: An environmental impact that could be significant and for which no feasible mitigation is known. If any potentially significant impacts are identified in this Checklist, an EIR must be prepared.
- **Less than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated**: An environmental impact that requires the implementation of mitigation measures to reduce that impact to a less than significant level.
- **Less than Significant Impact**: An environmental impact may occur; however, the impact would not exceed significance thresholds.
- **No Impact**: No environmental impacts would result from the implementation of the Project.

The TRPA IEC similarly groups answers into one of the following categories:

- Yes
- No
- No with Mitigation
- Data Insufficient

4.1 AESTHETICS

4.1.1 Environmental Setting

To protect scenic quality thresholds, specific areas have been identified as scenic corridors or scenic resources. Scenic corridors include views from Lake Tahoe and all highways and Pioneer Trail in the Lake Tahoe Basin. These corridors have been divided into 33 shoreline and 45 roadway units. The scenic quality of these units was rated in 1982 and then again in 1986, 1991, and 1996. The ratings received by these units indicate if the area is "in attainment," (meeting the scenic threshold standards) or not "in attainment" (not meeting the scenic threshold standards).

Both the TRPA Threshold Standards and Regional Plan and Code of Ordinances outline the requirements for development in or near major scenic view corridors and vistas within the Lake Tahoe Basin and Project vicinity.

The Project Area is nearby the US Highway 50/State Route 89 scenic corridor that is in non-attainment (TRPA 2022b). All federal and state highways that lie within the Tahoe region and Pioneer Trail are designated as scenic highways. The Project is within Plan Area Statement (PAS) 154 – Tahoma Residential, which has special designations for scenic restoration and preferred affordable housing (TRPA 2002). There are no PAS designated scenic vistas in the Project Area.

4.1.2 CEQA Checklist Summary

Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the Project:

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

4.1.3 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions

Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099:

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

No Impact

There are no designated scenic vistas within the Project Area. Due to tree coverage, the Project Area is not visible from US Highway 50/State Route 89, which is a designated Scenic Highway. The intent of the Project is water quality improvements to better control erosion and sediment capture. While there would be temporary aesthetic impacts due to Project construction, they would not be visible from a scenic vista, therefore the Project would have no impact.

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

No Impact

No rock outcroppings or historic buildings would be damaged during the construction of the Project. The Project would conform with the TRPA Design Review Guidelines and does not propose to remove any trees, historic buildings, or rock outcroppings. There are no PAS designated scenic vistas in the Project Area. Therefore, there would be no impacts to scenic resources.

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

Less Than Significant Impact

The Project is in an urban residential area; however, there are views from surrounding open space areas into the Project Area that would be temporarily impacted during the construction of the Project. Implementation of construction measures and BMPs would minimize the impacts of construction, as well as proper staging and scheduling. Additionally, the Project would conform with the TRPA Design Review Guidelines for scenic highway corridors; as no new structures are being proposed, the Project would not degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings and would be consistent with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality.

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

No Impact

There are no new sources of glare or lighting associated with the Project and no construction would occur at night. Therefore, there would be no light or glare impacts on day or nighttime views in the area.

4.1.4 TRPA Checklist

TRPA Questions – Light and Glare	Answers	Discussion
7a) Would the project include new or modified sources of exterior lighting?	No	Refer to the discussion of CEQA item d). There are no new or modified sources of exterior lighting associated with the Project.
7b) Would the project create new illumination which is more substantial than other lighting, if any, within the surrounding area?	No	Refer to the discussion of CEQA item d). The Project would not create new illumination within the surrounding area.
7c) Would the project cause light from exterior sources to be cast off-site or onto public lands?	No	The Project would not cause light from exterior sources to be cast off-site or onto public lands.
7d) Would the project create new sources of glare through the siting of the improvements or through the use of reflective materials?	No	The Project would not construct improvements that use reflective materials that could result in glare.

TRPA Questions – Scenic Resources/Community Design	Answers	Discussion
18a) Would the project be visible from any state or federal highway, Pioneer Trail or from Lake Tahoe?	No	Due to tree coverage, the Project is not visible from US Highway 50/State Route 89, which is a designated Scenic Highway.
18b) Would the project be visible from any public recreation area or TRPA designated bicycle trail?	No	Due to tree coverage, the Project is not visible from any public recreation area or TRPA designated bicycle trail.
18c) Would the project block or modify an existing view of Lake Tahoe or other scenic vista seen from a public road or other public area?	No	The Project would not block or modify an existing view of Lake Tahoe or other scenic vistas seen from a public road or other public area.

TRPA Questions – Scenic Resources/Community Design	Answers	Discussion
18d) Would the project be inconsistent with the height and design standards required by the applicable ordinance, Community Plan, or Area Plan?	No	The Project does not involve the construction of any buildings. The Project would comply with applicable County and TRPA design standards.
18e) Would the project be inconsistent with the TRPA Scenic Quality Improvement Program (SQIP) or Design Review Guidelines?	No	The Project is consistent with the SQIP and would comply with TRPA's Design Review Guidelines as discussed throughout this section.

4.2 AGRICULTURAL AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

4.2.1 Environmental Setting

As discussed in Section 3, Project Description, the Project Area is zoned based on the adopted plan - Plan Area Statement (PAS) 154 – Tahoma Residential - as residential (El Dorado County 2019, TRPA 2002). There is no farmland or agricultural use land associated with the Project Area. There is no USFS land within the Project Area.

4.2.2 CEQA Checklist Summary

Would the project:

CEQA Question	Impact Determination
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?	No Impact
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	No Impact
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code (PRC) § 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by PRC § 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code § 51104(g))?	No Impact
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	No Impact
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	No Impact

4.2.3 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions

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?

No Impact

The Project Area does not contain Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide or Local Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared

pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Division of Land Resource Protection (2018). Implementation of the Project does not require the conversion of land from existing land use. Because the Project does not propose to convert land or contain farmland, there would be no impact.

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

No Impact

The Project Area is zoned residential; there is no existing agricultural zoning associated with the Project Area. The Williamson Act is a means to restrict the uses of agricultural and open space lands to farming and ranching uses; because these uses are not associated with the Project Area, there would be no impact.

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

No Impact

Construction of the Project would not require conversion of land use or require tree removal within forest land. Therefore, the Project would not cause rezoning of existing forest land within the Project Area. There is no land zoned as timberland production (as defined by PRC § 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g)).

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

No Impact

As discussed in items a-c above, the Project does not occur on forest lands or require conversion of forest use to non-forest use; therefore, there would be 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 forest land to non-forest use?

No Impact

As discussed in items a-d above, the Project does not involve designated Farmland or result in the potential to convert land use. There would be no impact.

4.3 AIR QUALITY

4.3.1 Environmental Setting

The Project Area is located in the Lake Tahoe Air Basin (LTAB) in El Dorado County, California. The LTAB is affected by both the rate and location of pollutant emissions and by meteorological conditions that influence the movement and dispersal of pollutants. Atmospheric conditions such as wind speed, wind direction, air temperature gradients, and existing air pollutant sources coupled with local topography affect the dispersion of air pollution and air quality in the LTAB.

Most airborne pollutants in the LTAB come from three sources in populated areas: road dust, vehicle exhaust, and chimney smoke. Undeveloped areas in the LTAB produce airborne dust and smoke from natural sources like forest fires. Fire management controlled burns also create air pollution. Controlled burns are usually planned when dispersion is good to protect local air quality as much as possible. Air pollutants generated in upwind areas, including the San Francisco Bay area and the Central Valley, are carried to the LTAB by the region's prevailing winds. As a result of the various potential emission sources, air quality regulations in the LTAB focus on the following air pollutants: ozone, carbon monoxide (CO), nitrogen dioxide (NO2), sulfur dioxide (SO2), fine particulate matter (PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$), and lead. These pollutants are commonly referred to as "criteria air pollutants."

4.3.2 Regulatory Setting

Air Quality Standards

Air quality within the LTAB is regulated by several agencies including TRPA, EPA, the CARB, and El Dorado County. These agencies develop rules, regulations, policies, and/or plans to achieve the goals and directives imposed through legislation.

The EPA is responsible for implementing the federal Clean Air Act (1970), including establishing health-based National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for air pollutants. NAAQS established for criteria pollutants under the Clean Air Act are ozone, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, $PM_{10,}$ and $PM_{2.5}$, and lead. The standards set for criteria pollutants are periodically reviewed and revised as applicable.

In California, CARB is responsible for implementing the California Clean Air Act (1988) and has established California Ambient Air Quality Standards, which are more restrictive than the national standards. In general, the CARB works with local agencies to develop policies, guidance, and regulations related to state and federal ambient air quality standards. CARB also coordinates with local agencies on

transportation plans and strategies; and assists local districts and transportation agencies to meet air quality standards.

Local - TRPA

TRPA considers air quality in its planning and permitting activities to ensure compliance with state and district air quality standards for projects in the LTAB. The TRPA area encompasses two states, four counties and one City. TRPA coordinates with air districts in both states to manage air quality. TRPA has adopted a Code of Ordinances which addresses air quality in Chapter 65. This chapter specifies control on motor vehicles, combustion heaters and open burning. It also specifies thresholds for emissions from stationary sources. TRPA recognizes BMPs for dust control as the most effective way to minimize construction impacts.

4.3.3 CEQA Checklist Summary

Would the project:

CEQA Question	Impact Determination
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	Less Than Significant Impact
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?	Less Than Significant Impact
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	Less Than Significant Impact
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	Less Than Significant Impact

4.3.4 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions

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

Less Than Significant Impact

Projects that could generate emissions in excess of the El Dorado County AQMD and the TRPA Environmental Threshold Carrying Capacities recommended significance thresholds and would be considered to potentially conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan. The El Dorado County AQMD has identified the most common sources of emissions from construction projects as site preparation, earthmoving, and general construction.

The emissions generated from these activities include the following:

- Combustion emissions: (reactive organic gases, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, sulfur oxides, PM_{10}) from mobile heavy-duty diesel and gasoline-powered equipment, portable auxiliary equipment, and worker commute trips.
- Fugitive dust (PM_{10}) from soil disturbance or demolition.

The Project improvements would not result in long-term increases of mobile-source emissions. Short-term construction-generated emissions are not projected to exceed applicable thresholds of significance due to the short duration required for construction and adherence to applicable County and TRPA requirements as discussed in Section 3.8, Construction Controls. The Project is required to comply with the El Dorado County AQMD Rule 223, which includes requirements for construction projects, including preparation of a Fugitive Dust Control Plan; this requirement is included as a construction control for tracking and monitoring purposes (see Section 3.8). Other control measures for construction and other earth-moving activities must follow recommendations presented in Table 1 of Rule 223-1 (El Dorado County 2005). These recommendations include, but are not limited to, stabilizing disturbed soil, limiting vehicular traffic, applying water to disturbed soil, limiting the size of staging areas, and use of tarps to cover loose soils.

Construction is scheduled to occur for no more than 30 days, with minimal grading. Implementation of the construction controls is anticipated to reduce construction emissions to less than significant. Therefore, implementation of the Project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of applicable air quality plans.

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 Project would involve excavation and grading over approximately 30 days. The El Dorado County AQMD Rule 223 Fugitive Dust General Requirements states that "visible emissions shall not exceed 20% opacity at point-of-origin and shall not extend more than 50 feet from point-of-origin, or cross the Project boundary line, whichever is less" (El Dorado County 2005). The contractor would comply with the Air Quality Plan and El Dorado County AQMD regulations by implementing air quality BMPs from the TRPA Handbook of Best Management Practices and practices outlined in the El Dorado County AQMD Rule 223 to address fugitive dust. These include implementing identified BMPs, watering exposed soils, removing dirt and mud, limiting equipment speeds on unpaved surfaces, and reducing equipment

idling. Compliance with these requirements is designed to attain TRPA threshold standards and, therefore, federal and state air quality standards (TRPA 2021).

The Project would have no long-term impacts on air quality. Compliance with El Dorado County AQMD and TRPA regulations are designed to ensure that the Project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of the air quality plans. Additionally, the Project would not violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation. Finally, the Project would not result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the Project region is in non-attainment. With the implementation of the construction controls outlined in Section 3.8, the Project would not violate any air quality standard or contribute substantially to an existing or projected air quality violation; therefore, the Project would have a less than significant impact.

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

Less Than Significant Impact

Construction activities may impact air quality, but the impacts would be well below established significance levels because the activity is temporary and there would not be any long-term impacts. The Project would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations; therefore, the Project would have a less than significant impact.

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

Less Than Significant Impact

Construction activities may impact air quality, but the impacts would be well below established significance levels because the activity is temporary and there would not be any long-term impacts. The Project would not expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations; therefore, the Project would have a less than significant impact.

4.3.5 TRPA Checklist – Air Quality

TRPA Questions	Answers	Discussion
2a) Would the proposed project result in substantial air pollutant emissions?	No	Refer to the discussion of CEQA items a) and b). Short-term construction-generated emissions are not projected to exceed applicable Standard Levels due to the short duration required for construction and adherence to applicable County and TRPA requirements.
2b) Would the proposed project result in deterioration of ambient (existing) air quality?	No	Refer to the discussion of CEQA item b). Once constructed, the Project is not anticipated to have an impact on air quality as the Project improvements would not result in long-term increases of mobile-source emissions.
2c) Creation of objectionable odors?	No	Refer to the discussion of CEQA item d). Once constructed, the Project is not anticipated to have an impact on odors as the Project improvements would not result in long-term increases of mobile-source emissions.
2d) Alteration of air movement, moisture or temperature, or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?	No	The project would involve only short-term construction and involves no activities with the potential to alter local or regional climate conditions.
2e) Increased use of diesel fuel?	No	The project involves short term construction of drainage improvements that would involve a temporary minor increase in diesel fuel for construction vehicles. BMPs would reduce consumption and emissions.

4.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

4.4.1 Environmental Setting

The Project is composed of Jeffrey pine (*Pinus jeffreyi*) forest that is fragmented by urban land classification and pockets of white fir (*Abies concolor*), mixed conifer, and upper montane mixed chaparral alliances (NCE 2022a). Because the Project Area is connected to Lake Tahoe through McKinney Creek and General Creek, there is potential for fine sediment produced in the residential area to be collected and conveyed into Lake Tahoe. The overall goal of the Project is to implement erosion control and water quality improvement measures that would reduce the discharge of sediment and pollutants to Lake Tahoe from County administered ROW.

Biological resource studies were completed for the Project to determine potential Project effects on invasive plants and botanical and wildlife special status species (SSS). The following biological resource documents prepared for the Project are briefly summarized below:

- Wildlife Baseline Report
- Botanical Baseline Report
- Invasive Plant Risk Assessment

Wildlife

A Wildlife Baseline Report was prepared as an initial baseline assessment to determine the potential for special status wildlife species to occur within and adjacent to the Project Area (NCE 2022b). For the purposes of this report, the term SSS encompasses those species designated as federally threatened and endangered species by the USFWS; state endangered, threatened, or rare by the State of California; Species of Special Concern by California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW); United States Forest Service (USFS) sensitive species; and TRPA Special Interest Species. Results of the Wildlife Baseline Report indicate that there are no known occurrences of SSS within the Project Area; however, there are recorded occurrences of SSS within a one-mile buffer including northern goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*), bald eagle, mountain whitefish (*Prosopium williamsoni*), Great Basin rams-horn (*Helisoma newberryi*), Lahontan Lake tui chub (*Gila bicolor pectinifer*), Lahontan mountain sucker (*Catostomus lahontan*), Sierra Nevada mountain beaver (*Aplodontia rufa californica*), fringed myotis, marten, fisher, and habitat for Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog (*Rana sierrae*). No SSS track or sign, including burrows, nests, dens, or other refugia that may support SSS were observed in the Project Area during the survey. There is no aquatic habitat in the Project Area.

Botanical Resources

A Botanical Baseline Report was prepared by NCE to conduct an initial baseline assessment for botanical resources that satisfies the USFWS, TRPA, and CDFW requirements to determine potential Project effects on botanical SSS (NCE 2022a). During background information research, three historical observations or detections of special status plant species including Stebbin's phacelia (*Phacelia stebbinsii*), mud sedge (*Carex limosa*), and Tahoe yellow cress (*Rorippa subumbellata*) were found within one mile of the Project Area. None of the SSS identified during background research were observed within the Project Area during the August 23, 2022, survey.

An Invasive Plant Risk Assessment was prepared by NCE to identify the potential effects of invasive weed species on the Project Area (NCE 2022c). A literature and database review was conducted to identify documented invasive plants/noxious weed species within and adjacent to the Project Area. A field investigation was conducted on August 23, 2022, to document all invasive plants occurring within the County ROW and areas immediately adjacent to the ROW, as well as parcels of interest within the Project Area where improvements are to be installed. There are no known populations of invasive plants located within the County ROW and parcels of interest within the Project Area where improvements are planned. USFS 2022 Current Invasive Plant Locations geographic information system (GIS) data identified infestations of three invasive species southwest of the Project Area near McKinney Creek including bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), klamathweed (*Hypericum perforatum*), and oxeye daisy (*Leucanthemum vulgare*). These infestations were identified in 2021 and were not observed in the Project Area during the August 2022 field survey.

Stream Environment Zones

There are no stream environment zones present within the Project Area.

4.4.2 CEQA Checklist Summary

Would the project:

CEQA Question	Impact Determination
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 & Wildlife (CDFW) or U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)?	Less Than Significant Impact

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 CDFW or USFWS?	No Impact
c) Have a substantial adverse effect on state or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, coastal, etc.) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?	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?	Less Than Significant Impact
e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	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

4.4.3 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions

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 & Wildlife (CDFW) or U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS)?

Less Than Significant Impact

As discussed in the Environmental Setting, a Wildlife Baseline Report and a Botanical Baseline Report were prepared to determine if SSS had the potential to occur within the Project Area. Results of the Wildlife Baseline Report indicate that there are no known occurrences of SSS within the Project Area during the survey. Results of the Botanical Baseline Report indicate none of the SSS identified during background research were observed within the Project Area during the survey. Habitat for these species is limited and fragmented in the Project Area because of human use and disturbance; however, some SSS such as marten, fisher, fringed myotis, northern goshawk, and bald eagle have a moderate likelihood of occurring within the Project Area as transients. It is unlikely these species would use the Project Area for reproduction, however, as suitable nesting, roosting, or denning habitat is not present.

It is not likely the Project would have a negative effect on special status plant species considering the Project Area has been previously impacted by urban

development and associated disturbances. Construction activities associated with Project would primarily be conducted in the existing ROW and urbanized areas.

As with all construction occurring during the avian breeding season (May-August), preconstruction nesting bird surveys should be conducted in areas where improvements are proposed as there is potential to negatively impact active nests, eggs, or breeding birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. These surveys should be conducted a maximum of 3 days prior to Project implementation.

The following construction control has been agreed to by the County to avoid and minimize potential effects on migratory birds:

- A preconstruction nesting bird survey shall be conducted in areas where improvements are proposed a maximum of 3 days prior to Project implementation. If nesting birds are detected within the Project Area during the survey, the surveyor shall consult with the CDFW or TRPA, to determine an appropriate activity free buffer zone around the nest. The precise dimension of the buffer shall be determined at that time and may vary depending on location and species. Buffers shall remain in place for the duration of the breeding season or until it has been confirmed by a qualified biologist that all chicks have fledged and are independent of their parents. Specific information regarding the area of these buffers shall be submitted to El Dorado County for review and approval and integrated into construction documents prior to the start of construction activities.

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 CDFW or USFWS?

No Impact

As discussed in the Environmental Setting, no aquatic habitat or stream environment zones are present within the Project Area. TRPA-approved temporary BMPs would be utilized during construction to prevent any disturbance to downstream stream environment zones during Project construction. No improvements are proposed within stream, lake, or shoreline habitat. Therefore, the Project would have no impact on jurisdictional wetlands or water of the U.S. features.

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 direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means?

No Impact

As discussed above, there are no federally protected wetlands in the Project Area; therefore, there would be no impact.

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

Less Than Significant Impact

There are no channels within the Project Area that contain sufficient habitat or sustained water flows to support fish species, therefore there is no potential to impact migratory fish. The Project Area is not a known wildlife corridor; however, it is possible for migratory species such as birds and mammals to passively use the area. The most notable potential wildlife habitat with moderate to high plant cover and diversity exists in the southern Project Area, but the likelihood of occupancy by SSS is low as habitat occurs near prolific human and vehicular traffic. No significant wildlife features or habitats were found within the Project Area. The Project does not propose to modify any habitats in a manner that would impede wildlife migration.

As with all construction occurring during the avian breeding season (May-August), preconstruction nesting bird surveys should be conducted in areas where improvements are proposed as there is potential to negatively impact active nests, eggs, or breeding birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. As discussed in Section 4.4.3(a) above, the County will enforce a nesting bird construction control to ensure migratory birds are protected during construction. Therefore, the Project would have a less than significant impact in migratory species.

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

No Impact

The Project does not propose to remove any trees and would comply with the TRPA Code of Ordinance standards that protect biological resources. The Project must comply with TRPA vegetation protection controls during construction and would only remove vegetation necessary for Project implementation and at the approval of TRPA. By following standard management methods and revegetating disturbed areas with native species after construction, new infestations of invasive plants, as a result of the Project, would be minimized. Any new infestations would be immediately reported to the Forest Service botanist and treated following approved methods. Therefore, the Project would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources.

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

No Impact

The Project does not conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan as none exist for the Project Area.

4.4.4 TRPA Checklist

TRPA Questions – Vegetation	Answers	Discussion
4a) Would the proposed project result in removal of native vegetation in excess of the area utilized for the actual development permitted by the land capability/IPES system?	No	Refer to CEQA Question e) above. The Project must comply with TRPA vegetation protection controls during construction and would only remove vegetation necessary for Project implementation and at the approval of TRPA.
4b) Would the proposed project result in removal of riparian vegetation or other vegetation associated with critical wildlife habitat, either through direct removal or indirect lowering of the groundwater table?	No	As discussed in the Environmental Setting, there is no riparian vegetation associated with the Project, nor is there critical wildlife habitat; therefore, there would be no direct indirect impacts to critical wildlife habitat or riparian vegetation associated with the Project.
4c) Would the proposed project result in the introduction of new vegetation that will require excessive fertilizer or water, or will provide a barrier to the normal replenishment of existing species?	No	Revegetated areas would utilize native species as to not require fertilizer or excessive watering. Additionally, because the majority of the Project is being constructed in the County's ROW, construction of the Project would not result in a barrier to the normal replenishment of existing species.

TRPA Questions – Vegetation	Answers	Discussion
4d) Would the proposed project result in change in the diversity or distribution of species, or number of any species of plants (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, micro flora and aquatic plants)?	No	Construction of the Project would not result in a change in the diversity or distribution of any species. The Wildlife Baseline Report indicates that there are no known occurrences of SSS within the Project Area during the survey. Results of the Botanical Baseline Report indicate none of the SSS identified during background research were observed within the Project Area during the survey. Results of the Invasive Plant Risk Assessment indicate no known populations of invasive plants located within the County ROW and parcels of interest within the Project Area where improvements are planned. Therefore, there would be no impact.
4e) Would the proposed project result in the reduction of the numbers of any unique, rare or endangered species of plants?	No	Refer to the response to CEQA question a) above. There are no special status plant species associated with the Project. There would be no impact.
4f) Would the proposed project result in removal of stream bank and/or backshore vegetation, including woody vegetation such as willows?	No	No such habitat or vegetation exists within the Project Area. There would be no impact.
4g) Would the proposed project result in removal of any native live, dead or dying trees 30 inches or greater in diameter at breast height (dbh) within TRPA's Conservation or Recreation land use classifications?	No	The Project is not within TRPA's Conservation or Recreation land use classifications. There would be no impact.
4h) Would the proposed project result in a change in the natural functioning of an old growth ecosystem?	No	Refer to the response to CEQA question e) above. The Project does not propose to remove any trees. The project area is within a residential community and does not contain a natural functioning old growth ecosystem

TRPA Questions – Wildlife	Answers	Discussion
5a) Would the proposed project result in change in the diversity or distribution of species, or numbers of any species of animals (birds, land animals including reptiles, fish and shellfish, benthic organisms, insects, mammals, amphibians or microfauna)?	No	Refer to response to CEQA question a) above. There are no wildlife corridors, nursery sites, or critical habitats within the Project Area. Implementation of the Nesting Bird Construction Control would protect against potential significant impact to nesting bird species. There are no aquatic species associated with the Project.
5b) Would the proposed project result in reduction of the number of any unique, rare or endangered species of animals?	No	Refer to the Environmental Setting and response to CEQA question a) above. There are no unique, rare, or endangered species of animals associated with the Project Area.
5c) Would the proposed project result in the introduction of new species of animals into an area, or result in a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?	No	As discussed in CEQA item d) above, there are no wildlife corridors associated with the Project. Incorporation of the Nesting Bird Construction Control would reduce any potential impacts on migrating bird species to a less than significant level.

TRPA Questions – Wildlife	Answers	Discussion
5d) Would the proposed project result in deterioration of existing fish or wildlife habitat quantity or quality?	No	There is no existing fish habitat in the Project Area. No critical or sensitive natural communities were identified within the Project Area. Potential impacts to migratory bird species would be mitigated to less than significant through the implementation of the Nesting Bird Construction Control**.** No other significant fish or wildlife impacts requiring mitigation were identified. The potential for wildlife habitat is limited due to proposed improvements being placed in existing disturbed and residential areas.

4.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

4.5.1 Environmental Setting

A cultural resources inventory was conducted for the Project Area and the area assessed in a Cultural Resources Inventory Letter Report (NCE 2022d). An NCE archaeologist conducted an inventory that consisted of an intensive pedestrian survey and archival research of the site to determine if there were any cultural resources present within and adjacent to the Area of Potential Effect (APE), which is defined at the area of direct impact. As a result of the inventory, two previously recorded historic cultural resources were identified within the Project Area. Neither of the two resources within the Project Area appear to have been the subject of a formal eligibility consultation. During the pedestrian survey, one historic trail resource, P-09-004088—a segment of the Nordic Ski Trail System from the 1960 Winter Olympics—was identified adjacent to the APE. The dirt portion of the historic trail resource is located approximately 20 feet south of a proposed revegetation and blanket area for the Project and outside of County ROW and the area of direct impact. All other sites identified within the inventory survey area did not intersect with the APE and therefore were not revisited. No new cultural resources were identified during the pedestrian survey. Besides the identification of previously recorded site P-09-004088, no other cultural material was identified.

4.5.2 Regulatory Setting

Federal

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA; 1966) defined the role and responsibilities of the federal government in historic preservation and established the National Register of Historic Places. The NHPA directs agencies to identify and manage historic properties under their control, to undertake actions that would advance the Act's provisions and avoid actions contrary to its purposes, to consult with others while carrying out historic preservation activities, and to consider the effects of their actions on historic properties.

State

California Register of Historical Resources

The CRHR is a guide to cultural resources that must be considered when a government agency undertakes a discretionary action subject to CEQA. The CRHR helps government agencies identify and evaluate California's historical resources and indicates which properties are to be protected, to the extent prudent and feasible, from substantial adverse change (PRC §5024.1(a)). Any resource listed in, or eligible for listing in, the CRHR must be considered during the CEQA process.

Local

The TRPA Code (TRPA 2022a), Code of Ordinance Chapter 67 – Historic Resource Protection, outlines requirements for the discovery of historic or cultural artifacts during construction (Subsection 67.3.1), and requirements for the protection of known resources.

4.5.3 CEQA Checklist Summary

Would the project:

CEQA Question	Impact Determination
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines § 15064.5?	Less Than Significant Impact
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines § 15064.5?	Less Than Significant Impact
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?	Less Than Significant Impact

4.5.4 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions

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

Less Than Significant Impact

As a result of the cultural resources inventory, two previously recorded historic cultural resources were identified in the Project Area. Intact segments of P-09-004088 were identified outside of the area of the direct impact. It was noted the resource as a whole has sustained impacts. However, it is likely that segments of the site may retain aspects of integrity contributing to its significance. For the purposes of this Project, P-09-004088 has been left unevaluated and should be managed as eligible for the CRHR.

The Cultural Resources Inventory Letter Report (NCE 2022d) recommended the Project is unlikely to impact historical resources meeting the criteria outlined in Section 5024.1 of the California PRC. The Project-related disturbance will be limited to areas highly disturbed by urban development that includes past construction of the ROW, drainage ditches, and residential homes, and installation of overhead and underground utilities. However, although the Project is not anticipated to impact the resource since it is not within the direct area of impact, it was recommended the dirt segment of P-09-004088 be avoided during Project implementation by ensuring no construction vehicle accidentally drives over the resource.

To minimize the potential for equipment to accidentally disturb this resource, the County has agreed to the following construction control, identified here and in Section 3.8:

- The construction contractor shall establish a point of exclusion that shall begin at the dirt beyond the edge of the pavement extending south off of Bear Avenue. This area shall be temporarily fenced as an environmentally sensitive area for the duration of construction.

Therefore, there is a low probability for encountering previously unknown resources.

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

Less Than Significant Impact

No archaeological resources were identified within the APE. The Project has a low potential for direct impacts to unknown archaeological resources from general construction activities and the use of temporary staging areas. The Project-related disturbance would be limited to areas highly disturbed by urban development that includes past construction of the ROW, drainage ditches, residential homes, and installation of overhead and underground utilities. The cultural report recommended the Project is unlikely to impact historical resources meeting the criteria outlined in Section 5024.1 of the California PRC. Furthermore, the Project is subject to the regulations and standards established in the NHPA, the CRHR (PRC § 5024.1(a), PRC §5097.5), and the TRPA Code, as well as construction controls that protect unanticipated finds of cultural resources. Therefore, there would be a less than significant impact to archaeological resources.

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

Less Than Significant Impact

Based on the known historic uses of the area, the prior ground disturbance within the APE, and the fact that no prehistoric period cultural resources were identified in the APE, human remains are not expected to be discovered during construction activities. If prehistoric or historic period resources are discovered during Project implementation that could be adversely affected by Project-related activities, all such activities should cease immediately. USFS Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit (LTBMU), Washoe Tribe, and SSBMI representatives should be contacted immediately, as specified in the construction controls.

4.5.5 TRPA Checklist – Archaeological/Historical

TRPA Questions	Answers	Discussion
20a) Would the proposed project result in an alteration of or adverse physical or aesthetic effect to a significant archaeological or historical site, structure, object or building?	No	See responses to CEQA questions a) through c) above. The Project would avoid the dirt segment of P-09-004088 during construction. No other significant sites or resources with the potential to be impacted by the Project were identified.
20b) Is the proposed project located on a property with any known cultural, historical, and/or archaeological resources, including resources on TRPA or other regulatory official maps or records?	No	Refer to the responses to CEQA questions a) through c) above. Two previously recorded historic cultural resources were identified within the Project Area, although not within the APE. For the purposes of this Project, P-09-004088 has been left unevaluated and should be managed as eligible. Although the Project is unlikely to impact the site, it is recommended that the dirt segment of P-09-004088 be avoided during Project implementation. The point of exclusion shall begin at the dirt beyond the edge of the pavement extending south off of Bear Avenue.
20c) Is the property associated with any historically significant events and/or sites or persons?	No	The Project is near, but not on, P-09-004088, which is comprised of the Nordic Ski Trail System. The trail system was described as a complex network of roads and trails representing a portion of the extensive Nordic skiing trail system constructed during the 1960 Winter Olympics (Betts 2007).
20d) Does the proposed project have the potential to cause a physical change which would affect unique ethnic cultural values?	No	No resources with unique ethnic cultural values were identified in the APE (NCE 2022d).

TRPA Questions	Answers	Discussion
20e) Would the proposed project restrict historic or pre-historic religious or sacred uses within the potential impact area?	No	Implementation of the Project would have no effect on pre-historic, historic, or sacred uses of the Project Area as none were identified during screening efforts and during Native American consultation.

4.6 ENERGY

4.6.1 Environmental Setting

The goal of conserving energy implies the wise and efficient use of energy. The means of achieving this goal include:

1. Decreasing overall per capita energy consumption,
2. Decreasing reliance on natural gas and oil, and
3. Increasing reliance on renewable energy resources.

TRPA has adopted a Regional Plan for energy (TRPA 2021), which includes the following goal:

1. Goal E1 – Promote energy conservation programs and development of alternative energy sources to lessen dependence on scarce and high-cost energy supplies

4.6.2 CEQA Checklist Summary

Would the project:

CEQA Question	Impact Determination
a) Result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	Less Than Significant Impact
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	No Impact

4.6.3 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions

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

Less Than Significant Impact

The Project would not result in a new need or use of energy for operations. Energy for the Project would only be required during construction and would not require additional capacity on a local or regional scale. Therefore, this would be a less than significant impact.

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

No Impact

The CARB has set a goal to cut air pollution by 71% and reduce fossil fuel consumption by 86% to reach carbon neutrality by 2045; the Project would have no effect on this program (CARB 2022). Additionally, the Project would not conflict or obstruct the goals and policies of the TRPA Threshold Standards and Regional Plan for energy (TRPA 2021).

Goal E1 – Promote energy conservation programs and development of alternative energy sources to lessen dependence on scarce and high-cost energy supplies.

The following energy policy in the TRPA Threshold Standards and Regional Plan, pertaining to the Project, would be implemented:

E-1.1, Encourage recycling of waste products.

Because the Project would conform with the Goals and Policies of the TRPA Threshold Standards and Regional Plan and state of California energy goals, there would be no impact.

4.6.4 TRPA Checklist

TRPA Questions – Natural Resources	Answers	Discussion
9a) Would the proposed project result in a substantial increase in the rate of use of any natural resources?	No	The Project would not result in a substantial increase in the rate of use of any natural resources. Energy for the Project would only be required during construction and would not require additional capacity on a local or regional scale.
9b) Would the proposed project result in substantial depletion of any non-renewable natural resource?	No	The Project would not result in a substantial depletion of any non-renewable natural resource. Energy for the Project would only be required during construction.

TRPA Questions – Energy	Answers	Discussion
15a) Would the proposed project result in the use of substantial amounts of fuel or energy?	No	The Project would not result in the use of substantial amounts of fuel or energy. Energy for the Project would only be required during construction.
15b) Would the proposed project result in substantial increase in demand upon existing sources of energy, or require the development of new sources of energy?	No	The Project would not result in a substantial increase in demand upon existing sources of energy or require the development of new sources of energy. Energy for the Project would only be required during construction and would not require additional capacity on a local or regional scale.

4.7 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

4.7.1 Environmental Setting

The Feasibility Study provides figures and detailed information about the geology and soils within the Project Area (El Dorado County 2020). A brief summary is provided below.

The Project is located on the Homewood USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle map. In general, the topography of the site typically ranges from 0% to 10% with some areas exceeding 38%.

The Project Area soils fall within hydrologic soil group A, indicating a moderate-to-low runoff potential. The 2007 National Resource Conservation Service soil survey data for the El Dorado County Tahoe Basin Area indicate the following primary soils units within the Project Area (U.S. Department of Agriculture 2007):

- Tallac gravelly coarse sandy loam, 5 to 15 percent slopes, very stony (7521). This soil consists of colluvium over till derived from mixed sources. The average total available water in the top five feet of soil is 3.2 inches. Hydrologic soil group is A and runoff class is low.
- Tallac gravelly coarse sandy loam, 15 to 30 percent slopes, very stony (7522). This soil consists of colluvium over till derived from mixed sources. Average total available water in the top five feet of soil is 3.2 inches. Hydrologic soil group is A and the runoff class is medium.
- Tallac gravelly coarse sandy loam, 30 to 70 percent slopes, very stony (7523). This soil consists of colluvium over till derived from mixed sources. Average total available water in the top five feet of soil is 3.2 inches. Hydrologic soil group is A and runoff class is medium.
- Tallac gravelly coarse sandy loam, moderately well drained, 0 to 5 percent slopes (7524). This soil consists of colluvium over till derived from mixed sources. Average total available water in the top five feet of soil is 3.2 inches. Hydrologic soil group is A and runoff class is very low.
- Tallac gravelly coarse sandy loam, moderately well drained, 5 to 9 percent slopes (7525). This soil consists of colluvium over till derived from mixed sources. Average total available water in the top five feet of soil is 3.2 inches. Hydrologic soil group is A and runoff class is low.
- Tallac gravelly coarse sandy loam, moderately well drained, 2 to 9 percent slopes, rubbly (7526). This soil consists of colluvium over till derived from mixed sources. Average total available water in the top five feet of soil is 3.2 inches. Hydrologic soil group is A and runoff class is low.

The Project lies within a moderate slope comprised of two main geologic map units. The units consist of the following: 1) Tahoe Glacial Till (QI) geologic map unit, which consist of lake deposits of thin-bedded sandy silts and clay and 2) Tahoe Glacial Till (Qta), which consist of unconsolidated bouldery till with a distinct yellow-brown weathered matrix and locally it may include outwash deposits.

4.7.2 Land Capability

The USFS, in cooperation with TRPA, developed the land capability system currently used in the Basin. Lands within the Basin are divided into seven classes based on soil types, potential for erosion, and other related characteristics. Lands with a ranking of 1 have the highest potential for erosion and 7 have the lowest. Level 1 is also subdivided into 3 categories: 1a – least tolerance for use; 1b – poor natural drainage in a stream environmental zone; and 1c – fragile flora and fauna. There are four land capability classes within the Project Area (Table 1 and Figure 3). Land capability groups were based on TRPA Plan Area Statement maps. A request for Verification of Land Capability by TRPA staff will be forwarded by the County for those areas where work is proposed.

Table 1. Area Distribution by Land Capability Class

Land Capability Class	Percent
1a	3%
1c	6%
3	1%
5	90%

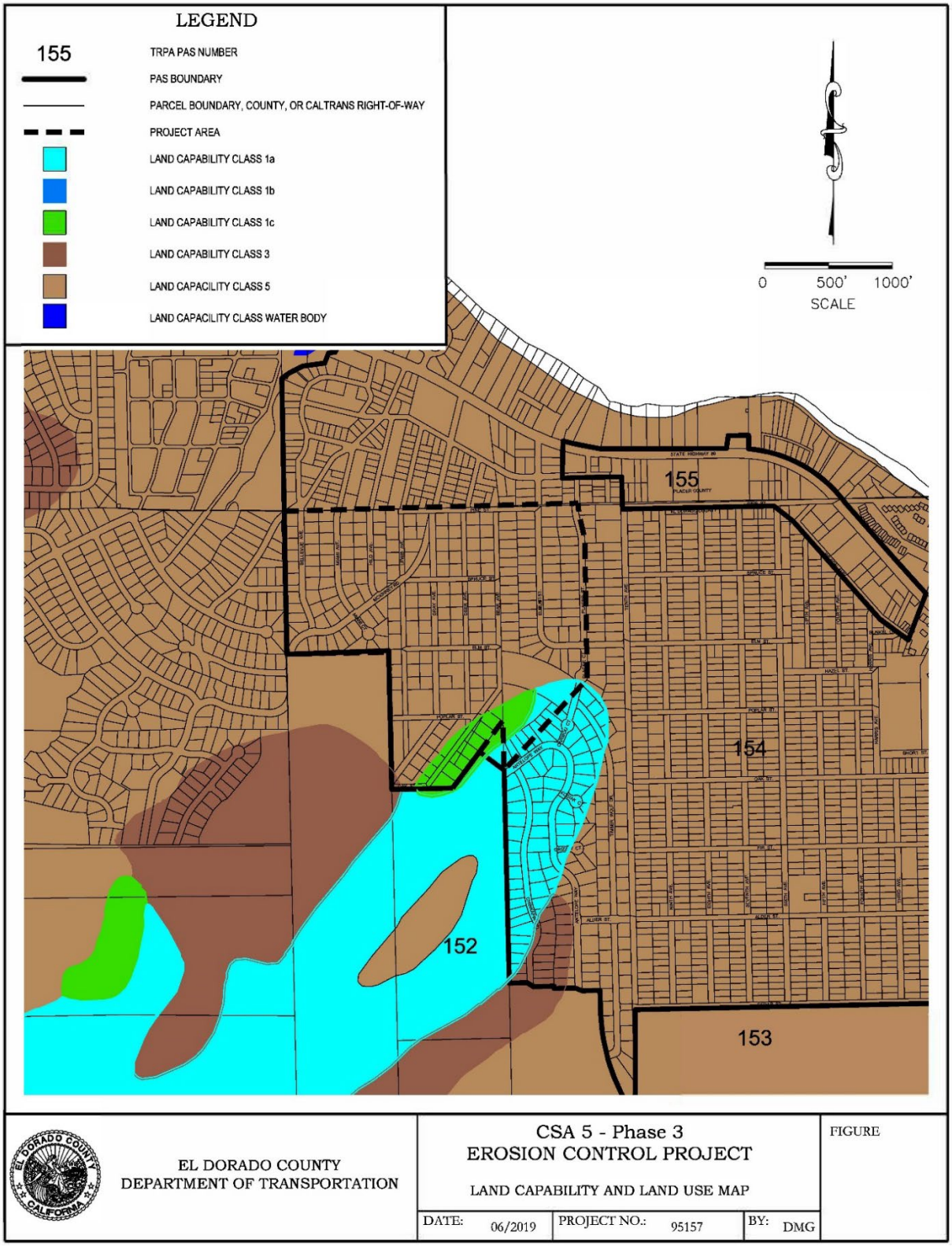

Figure 3. Land Capability Map (County of El Dorado 2020)

4.7.3 CEQA Checklist Summary

Would the project:

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

4.7.4 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions

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

i. Rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map issued by the State Geologist for

the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.

No Impact

The Project is not located in an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone (State of California and Department of Conservation 2021). The purpose of the Alquist-Priolo Geologic Hazards Zones Act is to prohibit the location of most structures for human occupancy across the traces of active faults and to mitigate potential hazards of fault rupture. According to the Earthquake Potential Map for Portions of Eastern California and Western Nevada, the western shore of Lake Tahoe, including the Project Area, is considered to have a relatively low to moderate potential for shaking caused by earthquakes (California Geological Survey 2005). The Project proposes no structures or development that could affect a fault.

ii. Strong seismic ground shaking?

No Impact

The intensity of ground shaking due to an earthquake is determined by several factors including the proximity of the earthquake, the magnitude of the earthquake, fault rupture characteristics, and the type of soil or bedrock in the area. According to the Earthquake Potential Map for Portions of Eastern California and Western Nevada, the western shore of Lake Tahoe, including the Project Area, is considered to have a relatively low to moderate potential for shaking caused by earthquakes (California Geological Survey 2005). Because the site does not lie within an Earthquake Fault Zone and the area has low to moderate potential for shaking, strong seismic ground shaking is not anticipated to occur at the Project Area. The Project proposes no structures or development that could be adversely affected by ground shaking.

iii. Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

No Impact

Liquefaction is a phenomenon where saturated sand and silt take on the characteristics of a liquid during the intense shaking of an earthquake. The highest hazard areas are concentrated in regions of man-made landfill, especially fill that was placed many decades ago in areas that were once submerged bay floor, such as along the bay margins of San Francisco, Oakland, and Alameda Island, as well as other places around San Francisco Bay (USGS n.d.). Other potentially hazardous areas include larger stream channels, which produce loose young soils that are particularly susceptible to liquefaction (USGS n.d.). As discussed in the Environmental Setting, the Project Area is moderately sloped and contains coarse sandy loam soils. Because the Project is not in a known area for high susceptibility

to liquefaction and does not propose to construct features within stream channels, there would be no impact.

iv. Landslides?

No Impact

A landslide is the downslope movement of rock, debris, earth, or soil. Landslides occur when gravitational and other types of shear stresses within a slope exceed the shear strength of the materials that form the slope. Factors contributing to landslides include proximity to faults, springs, seeps, or shallow groundwater, and unstable or steep terrain. The Project Area contains moderate slopes generally 0-10% slopes and is not located in an area susceptible to landslides; therefore, the Project does not have the potential to increase the risk of loss, injury, or death involving landslides.

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

Less Than Significant Impact

During construction, the Project may have the potential to cause the loss of topsoil or cause erosion during earth-moving and clearing activities. The Project would implement erosion and sediment BMPs as outlined in Section 3.8 that would prevent significant soil loss or erosion during construction. Implementation of the Project SWPPP would further reduce the potential for erosion and topsoil loss during construction to less than significant.

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

No Impact

As discussed in the Environmental Setting and item a) above, the Project is not located in an unstable geologic unit or soil area that would be subject to damage or adverse impacts from implementation of the Project. Therefore, there would be no impact.

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

No Impact

The Project Area does not contain expansive soils as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994). As discussed in the Environmental Settings section, soils within the Project Area are primarily composed of loamy coarse sand and contain a very low clay content. They are not susceptible to expansion. There would be no impact.

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

No Impact

The Project would not require the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems. If dewatering is required, there is an existing municipal wastewater system that the County would have access to.

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

Less Than Significant Impact

The Project has the potential for direct impacts from general construction activities and the use of temporary staging areas. The Project-related disturbance would be limited to areas highly disturbed by urban development that includes past construction of the ROW, drainage ditches, and residential homes, and installation of overhead and underground utilities. Therefore, there would be a less than significant impact on unique paleontological resources or site geologic features.

4.7.5 TRPA Checklist – Land

TRPA Questions	Answers	Discussion
1a) Would the proposed project result in compaction or covering of the soil beyond the limits allowed in the land capability or Individual Parcel Evaluation System (IPES)?	No	The Project does not involve compaction or covering of the soil beyond the limits allowed in the land capability or Individual Parcel Evaluation System (IPES).
1b) Would the proposed project result in a change in the topography or ground surface relief features of site inconsistent with the natural surrounding conditions?	No	The Project would change topography to stabilize eroding slopes and channels/ditches. These improvements would be consistent with the natural surrounding areas.
1c) Would the proposed project result in unstable soil conditions during or after completion of the proposal?	No	Refer to discussion of CEQA item c). During construction, there is potential for increased runoff and wind and soil erosion from disturbed soils within the Project Area. However, implementation of the Project SWPPP and compliance with TRPA BMP requirements would ensure the Project is stabilized during construction from significant impact. Project features would include revegetation, hard armored channels, vegetated swales, AC dike and swales, AC pavement, drainage inlets, CMP inlets, pipe, perforated pipe, infiltration system, and rock slope protection. Therefore, the Project would not result in unstable soil conditions during or after completion of the Project.

TRPA Questions	Answers	Discussion
1d) Would the proposed project result in changes in the undisturbed soil or native geologic substructures or grading in excess of 5 feet?	Yes	Construction of the Project would require excavations of up to 9 feet into previously disturbed soils. TRPA Code Subsection 33.3.6 requires projects that propose excavations of more than 5 feet to prepare a Soils and Hydrology Report application for TRPA approval. The report must outline groundwater protection procedures in the event of interception. Compliance with TRPA Code reduces the potential impact of excavations to less than significant on groundwater resources. Based on the previously disturbed nature of the soils to be excavated, TRPA is anticipated to waive the requirement for subsurface investigations and approved all excavations as proposed. The permittee is required to notify TRPA immediately if significantly different subsurface conditions are encountered than what has been interpreted or designed for.
1e) Would the proposed project result in the continuation of or increase in wind or water erosion of soils, either on or off the site?	No	Refer to the discussion of CEQA item b). The Project would implement erosion and sediment BMPs as outlined in Section 4.7 that would prevent significant soil loss or erosion during construction.
1f) Changes in deposition or erosion of beach sand, or changes in siltation, deposition or erosion, including natural littoral processes, which may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed of a lake?	No	There are no rivers or lakes in the Project Area. There are no Project features that impact sand or littoral processes; there would be no impact.

TRPA Questions	Answers	Discussion
1g) Would the proposed project result in exposure of people or property to geologic hazards such as earthquakes, landslides, backshore erosion, avalanches, mud slides, ground failure, or similar hazards?	No	Refer to the discussion of CEQA items a) and c). The Project vicinity has moderately sloped topography, and soils within the Project Area are primarily composed of colluvium over till derived from mixed sources not susceptible to expansion or liquefaction. There are no faults crossing the Project Area, and the proposed improvements would not increase the exposure of people or property to geologic hazards.

4.8 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

The term greenhouse gas is used to describe atmospheric gases that absorb solar radiation and subsequently emit radiation in the thermal infrared region of the energy spectrum, trapping heat in the Earth's atmosphere. Greenhouse gases of concern include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and fluorinated gases. Unlike emissions of criteria and toxic air pollutants, which have local or regional impacts, emissions of greenhouse gases have a broader, global impact.

Greenhouse gases differ by the amount of heat each trap in the atmosphere, known as global warming potential. Carbon dioxide is the most significant greenhouse gas, so amounts of other gases are expressed relative to carbon dioxide, using a metric called "carbon dioxide equivalent" (CO_2e). The global warming potential of carbon dioxide is assigned a value of 1, and the warming potential of other gases is assessed as multiples of carbon dioxide. Generally, estimates of all greenhouse gases are summed to obtain total emissions for a project or given time period, usually expressed in metric tons or million metric tons CO_2e.

4.8.1 Environmental Setting

The El Dorado County AQMD is the primary agency responsible for air quality regulation in the LTAB. As part of that role, the El Dorado County AQMD has prepared the Guide to Air Quality Assessment (El Dorado County 2002). The purpose of the guide is to facilitate the evaluation and review of air quality impacts for projects in El Dorado County that are subject to CEQA. The guide's intent is to facilitate and provide consistency in the preparation of analyses that inform decision-makers and the public about the air quality implications of a project. At this time, El Dorado County does not have any adopted quantitative federal or state guidelines for greenhouse gas (GHG) emission impacts.

However, the El Dorado County AQMD was part of the committee of air districts in the Sacramento Region involved in the development of GHG thresholds of 1,100 metric tons of CO_2e per year for the construction phase of projects. If a project exceeds this threshold, the level of mitigation is based on demonstrating consistency with CARB's Climate Change Scoping Plan and the AB 32 State goals for reducing GHG emissions, which is currently 21.7 percent reduction from 2020 "no action taken" emissions (Sacramento Metropolitan AQMD 2020).

4.8.2 Regulatory Setting

Federal

The EPA has no regulations or legislation enacted specifically addressing GHG emissions reductions and climate change at the project level. In addition, the EPA has not issued explicit guidance or methods to conduct project-level GHG analysis.

State

The State of California has taken several legislative steps including Assembly Bills and Executive Orders to reduce increases in GHG emissions. CARB is the lead agency in the development of reduction strategies for greenhouse gases in California (CARB 2017). California's GHG reduction requirements aim to reduce vehicle miles traveled, thereby improving air quality by reducing GHG emissions from automobiles.

Local

GHG planning guidance for the Lake Tahoe Basin is outlined in the 2020 Regional Transportation Plan (2020 RTP), which anticipates reducing GHG emissions by focusing on regional land use and transportation policies. Strategies in the 2020 RTP include transit programs (free-to-the-user transit, transit priority access, transit schedule coordination, etc.), parking management, and mobility improvements (TRPA 2020).

4.8.3 CEQA Checklist Summary

Would the project:

CEQA Question	Impact Determination
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	Less Than Significant Impact
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	Less Than Significant Impact

4.8.4 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions

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

Construction would generate temporary and one-time GHG emissions mainly from diesel-powered construction equipment and on-road trucks, with a small amount from workers' personal vehicles during construction of the Project. GHGs emitted during the combustion of diesel fuel in off-road construction equipment and on-road vehicles would consist mainly of carbon dioxide, along with small amounts of methane and nitrous oxide. Construction emissions would be intermittent, and short-term, during a 30-day construction season. CARB requires fleet owners to report their equipment tiers every year. Fleet size is determined by aggregate gross horsepower. CARB has determined that more than 50 percent of diesel equipment

is now Tier 4F (Levine, Johanna, CARB, personal communication on December 13, 2022), which produces the lowest emissions. These construction emissions would permanently cease at the end of the Project. Over the long-term, these temporary emissions would be offset or mitigated by the growth of native vegetation at revegetated areas.

A similar-sized project occurred in 2020 in El Dorado County, known as the Country Club Heights Erosion Control Project – Phase III. The County used the following assumptions:

- Fifteen workers per day, driving five vehicles to work an average of 40 miles round-trip per day
- Vehicles average 20 miles per gallon
- Twelve pieces of construction machinery per day
- Crews work eight hours per day with machinery running half that time (4 hours)
- Machinery burns an average of two gallons of diesel fuel per hour
- Diesel fuel contributes approximately 22.5 pounds CO_2/gallon
- Gasoline contributes approximately 20 pounds CO_2/gallon
- 35 working days for construction

Based on these assumptions, the Country Club Heights Erosion Control Project – Phase III was estimated to emit approximately 50 metric tons of CO_2e. Being part of the Sacramento region non-attainment area, El Dorado Air Quality Management District EDAQMD has adopted the Sacramento Metropolitan AQMD significance thresholds. The estimated amount is significantly less than the Sacramento Metropolitan AQMD significance threshold of 1,100 metric tons of CO_2e. GHG emissions would terminate following the completion of construction work.

The Project would use similar construction equipment and methods as Country Club Heights Erosion Control Project – Phase III; therefore, it can be inferred that with the implementation of the same controls, the Project would have a less than significant impact on air quality during construction.

Additionally, the Project will incorporate Best Management Practices listed in the Greenhouse Gas Thresholds for Sacramento County developed by the Sacramento Metropolitan AQMD (2020), which include improved fuel efficiency, limit emissions, use energy efficient sources, and recycling of materials, in addition to the measures listed in Section 3.8 – Construction Controls. These measures would further reduce impacts on GHGs by protecting air quality during construction; therefore, the Project would have a less than significant impact on GHGs.

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

Less Than Significant Impact

Given that emissions would be short-term over the course of 30 days, increases in GHG emissions that could be attributed to the Project would not result in a significant impact on the environment. The GHG emissions generated during construction would not be considered significant and would not limit the State's ability to attain the goals identified in AB 32 because impacts would be temporary and are below the significance threshold amount. Therefore, the Project would have a less than significant impact to GHG emissions and would not conflict with goals defined in AB 32.

4.9 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

4.9.1 Environmental Setting

Data available from the California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Geotracker website was reviewed for existing hazardous sites located in or near the Project Area (SWRCB 2022). Geotracker is a database that tracks cleanup sites, permitted sites, and leaking underground fuel tank sites. No cleanup sites permitted sites, nor leaking underground fuel tanks were identified around the Project Area. A LUST Cleanup Site was identified 780 feet west of the Property boundary. The site is identified as 6140 McKinney Drive. Both the County of Placer Department of Environmental Health and the State Water Board Lahontan Regional office were contacted to verify the correct location. The County of Placer confirmed that the address 6140 McKinney Drive is correct and that the site is located over 3,000 feet north-northwest of the project area's northwest corner. Regardless of the correct location, the site has been closed since 1999, is over 500 feet from the project area, and poses no risk to the project area.

4.9.2 CEQA Checklist Summary

Would the project:

CEQA Question	Impact Determination
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	Less Than Significant Impact
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	Less Than Significant Impact
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	No Impact
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code § 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	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

f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	Less Than Significant Impact
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	Less Than Significant Impact

4.9.3 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions

f) 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

During construction, the Project would require the transport and use of a minimal amount of hazardous materials for use with construction equipment, including oil, gasoline, diesel fuel, solvents, and degreasers. The Project would implement the site-specific Spill Prevention Plan included with the SWPPP. All hazardous materials would be removed from the site after the Project is completed.

Additionally, the Project would comply with requirements of TRPA Code of Ordinance, Section 60.1.6 Spill Control: All persons handling, transporting, using, or storing toxic or hazardous substances shall comply with the applicable requirements of state and federal law regarding spill prevention, reporting, recovery, and clean-up.

Because the Project would implement a site-specific Spill Prevention Plan and SWPPP, and comply with TRPA requirements for spill control, impact to persons or the environment through the use, transport, and disposal of hazardous materials would be 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

As discussed above, the Project would include the development and implementation of a site-specific Spill Prevention Plan as part of the Project SWPPP, which outlines measures to protect humans and the environment from accidental spills, should they occur. Compliance with requirements for use of hazardous materials would ensure impacts would 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?

No Impact

There are no existing or proposed schools within one-quarter mile of the Project Area; the nearest school is Tahoe Lake Elementary, a public elementary school approximately 8.9 miles north from the Project Area. There would be no impact.

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

No Impact

As discussed in the Environmental setting, the Project Area is not located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code § 65962.5. The Project Area was queried on the State's Geotracker database as well, and no sites appeared in or within the 500-foot vicinity of the Project location; therefore, there would be 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 nearest airport, Lake Tahoe Airport, is located approximately 21 miles south of the Project Area. The Project is not located within a comprehensive land use planning area, and the Project does not involve habitable improvements that would be sensitive to airport operations.

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

Less Than Significant Impact

The Project is within the Amador-El Dorado Strategic Fire Plan (CAL FIRE 2021) area. The Plan outlines fire safety, evacuation planning, and hazardous fuels reduction through the community wildfire protection plan. The residential neighborhood surrounding the Project Area has multiple exits; therefore, construction activities would not interfere with emergency response or evacuation. Construction activities could result in minor delays for emergency vehicles or law enforcement; however, a Project-specific Traffic Control Plan would be required to coordinate with emergency services prior to construction to ensure Project activities would not impair response services. Therefore, potential impacts would be less than significant.

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

Less Than Significant Impact

The Project would not expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires. As discussed in Section 4.20 Wildfire, the Project Area is within CAL FIRE designated 'Very High' Fire Hazard Severity Zone. Workers constructing the Project would temporarily be exposed to the risk of wildfire in the area. The Amador-El Dorado Strategic Fire Plan serves El Dorado County, including the Project Area. The Amador El Dorado Unit's Fire Management Plan addresses fire-safe planning and hazardous fuel reduction concerns of adjacent CAL FIRE Units, National Forests, and local collaborators. The Plan outlines fire safety, evacuation planning, and hazardous fuels reduction through a community wildfire protection plan. Because the Project Area is already used for residential uses, the Project would not cause additional risk to persons using the area. Additionally, because the implementation of the Project would not impede protection by the Amador El Dorado Unit's Fire Management Plan, exposure to wildfire risks in the Project Area would be less than significant.

4.9.4 TRPA Checklist

TRPA Questions – Risk of Upset	Answers	Discussion
10a) Would the proposed project involve a risk of an explosion or the release of hazardous substances including, but not limited to, oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation in the event of an accident or upset conditions?	No	Refer to CEQA questions a) and b). Hazardous materials used as part of the Project are expected to be minimal and the required onsite SWPPP would manage the use of fuels and chemicals. The Project would include the development and implementation of a site-specific Spill Prevention Plan as part of the Project SWPPP, which outlines measures to protect humans and the environment from accidental spills, should they occur.
10b) Would the proposed project involve possible interference with an emergency evacuation plan?	No	Refer to CEQA question f).

TRPA Questions – Human Health	Answers	Discussion
17a) Would the proposed project result in creation of any health hazard or potential health hazard (excluding mental health)?	No	As discussed in CEQA questions a) and b). The Project would include development and implementation of a site-specific Spill Prevention Plan as part of the Project SWPPP, which outlines measures to protect humans and the environment from accidental spills, should they occur.
17b) Would the proposed project result in exposure of people to potential health hazards?	No	Refer to answer for 17a above.

4.10 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

4.10.1 Environmental Setting

The Feasibility Study provides figures, methodology, and detailed information about the hydrology, hydraulics, and water quality at the Project Area (El Dorado County 2020). A summary is provided here.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Floodplain

FEMA has not designated a floodplain associated with the Project (Figure 4). The Project Area is identified on FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps 06017C0125E, effective September 26, 2008. The Project Area is designated Zone X, an area of minimal flood hazard.

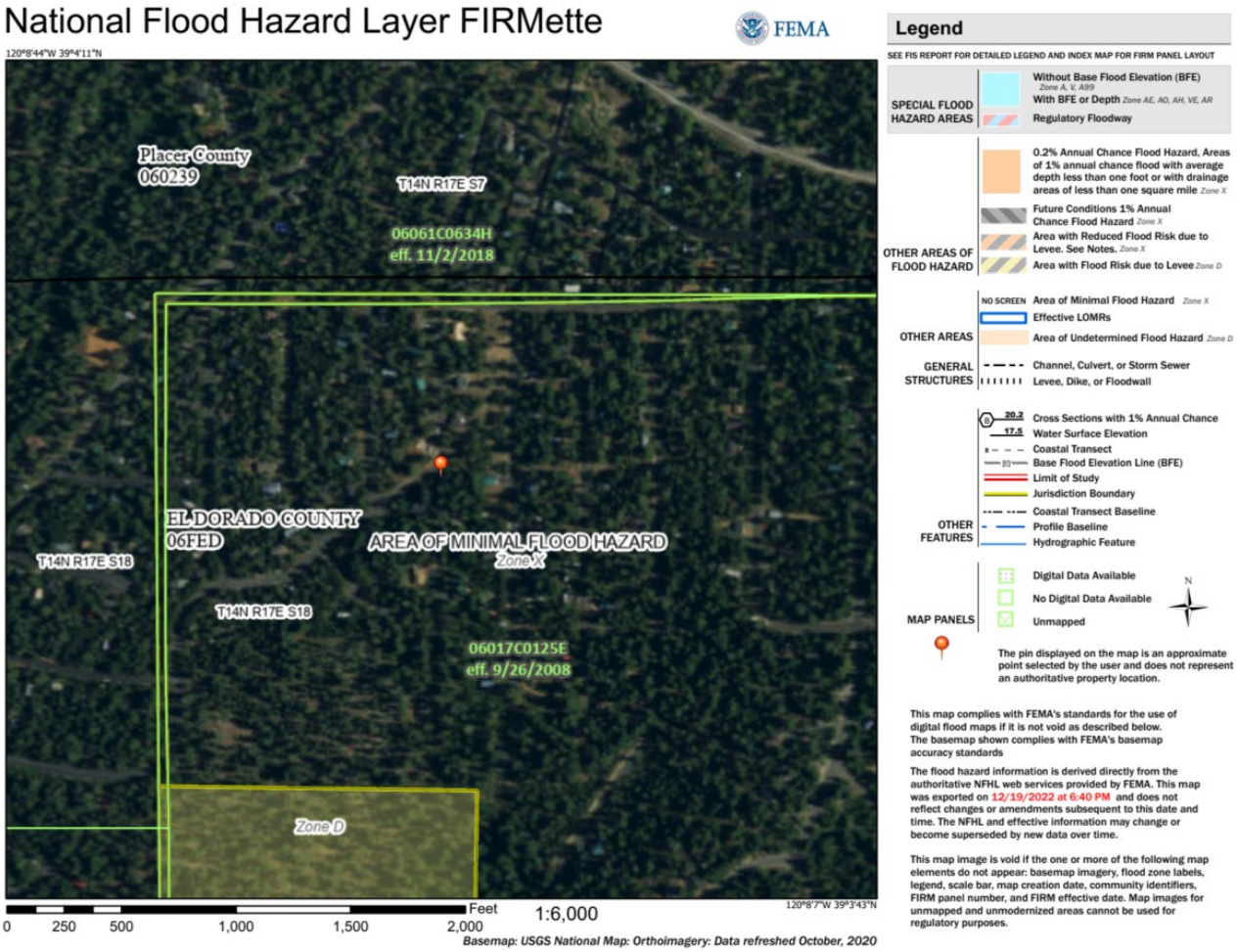

Figure 4. FEMA Flood Hazard Layer Map

Hydrologic and Hydraulic Conditions

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) has divided the Tahoe Basin into 110 hydrologic basins and intervening areas contributing to outflow from Lake Tahoe. The Project Area is located within USGS Basins 95 (Intervening Area) and 96 (McKinney Creek at the mouth), which have corresponding drainage areas of 0.1 and 0.3 square miles. The watersheds drain directly into Lake Tahoe through an established storm drain and surface channel systems.

Runoff from the Project Area is directed toward drainage facilities within the County ROW and is generally conveyed along existing road shoulders or rock-lined channels, into storm drain systems. These storm drain systems consist of inlet and junction structures that provide no treatment and solid wall or perforated corrugated metal pipes (CMP). County Transportation has divided the Project Area into two primary watersheds using topographic maps based on LiDAR developed in 2013 and field surveys. Both watersheds are conveyed in a storm drain system into the Gray Basin, north of the County line.

Runoff generally flows from the southwest to the northeast. Using topographic mapping based on recent field and aerial survey data collected, transportation has defined two primary watersheds within the Project Area.

Watershed D is approximately 90 acres divided into 22 sub-watersheds. Most of this runoff originates from undeveloped, mountainous terrain. Watershed D is conveyed through the subdivision via pipe, sheet flow, roadside ditches, AC swales, or AC dike to CMP inlets. A pipe system connects the CMP inlets and conveys runoff to the north. Some pipes were perforated to allow for infiltration under the roads and dirt shoulders. The runoff accumulates and is conveyed out of the Project Area to an infiltration basin (Gray Basin) located within Placer County for treatment.

Watershed E includes approximately 102 acres divided into 26 sub-watersheds. The runoff from this watershed originates within the subdivision and is conveyed via pipe, sheet flow, roadside ditches, AC swales, or AC dikes to CMP inlets and channels. Some pipes connecting CMP inlets were perforated to allow for infiltration under the roads and dirt shoulders. The runoff from Watershed E accumulates and is conveyed out of the Project Area into an infiltration basin (Gray Basin) located within Placer County where it combines with runoff from watershed D for treatment. The outfall from Gray Basin enters an existing Placer County stormwater system which outfalls into McKinney Creek.

4.10.2 Regulatory Setting

Federal

Clean Water Act and NPDES Permit

Section 402 of the CWA requires NPDES permits for stormwater discharges from municipal storm drain systems. The Water Quality Control Plan for the Lake Tahoe Basin (Lahontan RWQCB 2021) is the Water Board's planning document. The Water Board issues municipal stormwater NPDES permits to address stormwater impairments and recommend actions. Stormwater discharges into the County's municipal stormwater drainage system are regulated by the Lahontan RWQCB under the Municipal Regional Stormwater NPDES Permit, Order No. R6T-2022-0046.

Section 303(d) of the CWA authorizes the EPA to assist jurisdictions in listing impaired waters and developing Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for these waterbodies. A TMDL establishes the maximum levels of each pollutant allowed in a water body and serves as the starting point or planning tool for restoring water quality. In California, the State and Regional water boards assess water quality monitoring data for the state's surface waters every 2 years to determine if they contain pollutants at levels that exceed protective water quality standards. Water bodies and pollutants that exceed these standards are placed on the state's 303(d) List. The determination is governed by the Water Quality Control Policy for developing California's Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 303(d) List. Currently, the 2020-2022 California Integrated Report 303(d) list is in effect.

State of California

The Project is within the jurisdictional limits of the State of California, Lahontan RWQCB. The Project is subject to Order No. R6T 2017-0010, which renewed the updated waste discharge requirements, and NPDES Permit No. CAG616001 for stormwater and urban runoff discharges from portions of El Dorado County lying within the Lake Tahoe Hydrologic Unit. Under this order, El Dorado County is required as a 'permittee' to develop and implement a Stormwater Management Plan (SWMP) to minimize water quality impacts resulting from various municipal activities.

Statewide Construction General Permit

Because the Project would disturb more than 1 acre, it is subject to the statewide Construction General Permit Order 2009-0009-DWQ, which regulates stormwater leaving construction sites. Therefore, the Project requires coverage under the Lake Tahoe Construction General Permit (R6T-2016-0010), which requires the development and implementation of a Project-specific SWPPP. Under this order, site owners must notify the state and implement an SWPPP prepared by a Qualified

SWPPP Developer. The SWPPP must outline measures that would protect hydrology and water quality resources, including groundwater, from negative impacts during construction through the implementation of BMPs and monitoring the effectiveness of BMPs. This permit is administered by the State Water Resources Control Board and overseen by the RWQCB.

Tahoe Regional Planning Agency

The TRPA Code of Ordinances contains requirements and standards intended to achieve water quality thresholds, goals, and policies (TRPA 2022a). TRPA Code Chapter 60 - Water Quality, includes requirements for installation of BMPs and standards for grading and excavation. The following TRPA water quality standards that apply to the Project are as follows: Section 60.4 – runoff shall be controlled with the implementation of BMPs; and Chapter 33.3 – standards for grading and excavation, including the requirement of grading to take place between May 1 and October 15.

TRPA's Stormwater Management Program requires a complete and comprehensive BMP Retrofit Watershed Master Plan to be created and would include private BMP development as part of the Project Delivery Process (PDP). As well, it would have the following goals:

- Achieve 25% participation with the private homeowners within the limits of the Project.
- Utilize the TRPA Home Landscaping Guide for evaluating and developing BMP solutions for each driveway within the limits of the Project Area.
- Coordinate the private BMPs' design within ROW with the Tahoe Resource Conservation District (TRCD)/Natural Resources Conservation District (NRCS).

4.10.3 CEQA Checklist Summary

Would the project:

CEQA Question	Impact Determination
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?	Less Than Significant Impact
b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	Less Than Significant 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;	Less Than Significant Impact
ii. substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site;	Less Than Significant Impact
iii. create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or	Less Than Significant Impact
iv. impede or redirect flood flows?	Less Than Significant Impact
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	Less Than Significant Impact
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	No Impact

4.10.4 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions

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

Less Than Significant Impact

During the construction phase, grading and excavation may have the potential to cause erosion. In addition, there exists a risk of accidental fuel spills from construction equipment. Spills associated with construction equipment, such as oil/fluid drips or gasoline/diesel spills during fueling, typically involve small volumes that can be effectively contained in the work area and cleaned up immediately. Other spills of fuels and lubricants from construction equipment on land would have a very low potential to occur and enter storm drains, including during the rainy season, due to the implementation of BMPs in the Project-specific SWPPP.

Construction activities associated with the Project would not result in discharges that create pollution, contamination, or nuisance, nor cause regulatory standards to be violated. Some minor changes to water quality could occur as a result of construction, but these changes would not affect beneficial uses.

Once construction is complete and the erosion control and water quality improvement measures are in place, water quality in the area would be improved as a result of the Project. BMPs installed would capture sediment from impervious surfaces and eroding areas, capture de-icing abrasives, and reduce the 25-year, 1-

hour storm surface water volume from the urbanized watershed. As part of the SWPPP, the contractor would be required to prepare and adhere to a Temporary BMP Plan, a Spill Contingency Plan, and a Dewatering Plan that would be approved by El Dorado County. With the implementation of a Project SWPPP, the Project would not violate water quality standards during construction; therefore, the Project would have a less than significant impact.

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?

Less Than Significant Impact

The Project would not involve groundwater extraction, nor the alteration of a stream or river. The Project proposes features which would allow for infiltration and groundwater recharge, including using native vegetation as bioswales, infiltration systems, and rock slope protection for erosion control. Additionally, the Project proposes to utilize various County approved sediment trapping BMPs, reduce the 25-year, 1-hour storm surface water volume/peak flow, and a comprehensive BMP Retrofit Watershed Master Plan. Therefore, the Project is intended to have beneficial impacts on both groundwater recharge and supplies.

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

i) Result in substantial erosion or siltation on or off-site?

Less Than Significant Impact

The Project has the potential to create erosion and siltation on- and off-site during construction. However, this would be controlled by measures in the Project-specific SWPPP. The construction would be monitored for erosion and siltation, as mandated by the RWQCB. Post-construction, the Project would be stabilized per TRPA and RWQCB requirements, resulting in a less than significant impact.

ii) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?

Less Than Significant Impact

The overall goal of this Project is to improve the water quality of runoff to Lake Tahoe and its tributaries by reducing erosion and sediment transport originating from the Project Area. The Project would improve surface runoff by using native vegetation as bioswales, implementing source control and hydrologic design, and treating runoff. The Project would affect drainage patterns to improve hydraulic and hydrologic connectivity of the site and move stormwater to where it can be

infiltrated. As a result, flow rates and volumes at the Project outflow locations would likely be decreased due to the infiltration components of the Project. The Project would not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river, or substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner, which would result in flooding on- or off-site; therefore, the Project would have a less than significant impact.

iii) Create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff?

Less Than Significant Impact

Based on the Feasibility Study, "there are areas within the subdivision which incur localized ponding of runoff with potential for flooding of the surrounding properties during heavy rains and snowmelt in the spring" (El Dorado County 2020). During the construction of the Project, grading and excavation would take place that may have the potential to cause increased surface runoff. With the implementation of the Project-specific BMPs and an SWPPP, the Project would not 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 during construction. Once construction is complete and the erosion control and water quality improvement measures are in place, surface flows and volumes are expected to be reduced from their existing condition and an improved stormwater system would be in place. Therefore, the Project would have a less than significant impact.

iv) Impede or redirect flood flows?

Less Than Significant Impact

Based on the Feasibility Study, "there are areas within the subdivision which incur localized ponding of runoff with potential for flooding of the surrounding properties during heavy rains and snowmelt in the spring" (El Dorado County 2020). The Project proposes improvements for runoff, which include native vegetation as bioswales, infiltration systems, and rock slope protection for erosion control. It is anticipated for the Project to have a beneficial impact on localized flooding, as the Project Area would have better management of runoff and areas for infiltration once implemented. Therefore, the impact on flooding would be less than significant.

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

Less Than Significant Impact

As discussed in the Environmental Setting, the Project Area is not within a FEMA-designated Special Flood Hazard Area. The chance of an earthquake strong enough to cause a seiche in Lake Tahoe is relatively low: only three to four percent in 50 years (Ichinose et al. 2000), so effects from a tsunami or seiche are not considered likely to occur (TMPO and TRPA 2012). The Project Area is located 0.2 miles away from Lake Tahoe, so an impact is still possible, but the likelihood is low and temporary during construction. Therefore, there would be a less than significant impact.

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

No Impact

The Lahontan RWQCB uses the Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region (Basin Plan) as its regulating document (Lahontan RWQCB 2021). The Basin Plan sets forth water quality standards for the surface and ground waters of the region. The Project is included in the TRPA Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) for water quality improvement; projects listed in the EIP are expected to help the TRPA comply with the environmental thresholds for water quality and would therefore comply with the regional Basin Plan.

The Project would not conflict with implementation of the Basin Plan as it would not adversely affect beneficial uses or contribute to an exceedance of water quality objectives established to protect beneficial uses. The Project is proposing to install permanent water quality features and use BMPs to improve water quality and meet local, state, and federal standards.

Implementation of the Project is anticipated to result in an improvement in stormwater runoff quality compared to the existing condition.

4.10.5 TRPA Checklist – Water Quality

TRPA Questions	Answers	Discussion
3a) Would the proposed project result in changes in currents, or the course or direction of water movements?	Yes	Refer to response to CEQA item c) above. The Project would positively affect drainage patterns and improve hydraulic and hydrologic connectivity of the site and move stormwater to where it can be infiltrated. As a result, flow rates and volumes at the Project outflow locations would likely be decreased due to the infiltration components of the Project. The Project would not alter the course of streams or rivers.
3b) Would the proposed project result in changes in absorption rates, drainage patterns, or the rate and amount of surface water runoff so that a 20 yr. 1 hr. storm runoff (approximately 1 inch per hour) cannot be contained on the site?	No	Refer to responses to CEQA items a) through c) above. The Project would utilize various County approved sediment trapping BMPs, reduce the 25-year, 1-hour storm surface water volume/peak flow, and include a comprehensive BMP Retrofit Watershed Master Plan. Therefore, the Project would improve absorption rates, drainage patterns, and the rate and amount of surface water runoff so that it can be contained on the site.
3c) Would the proposed project result in alterations to the course or flow of 100-year flood waters?	No	Refer to CEQA item c) iv. above.
3d) Would the proposed project result in change in the amount of surface water in any water body?	No	Refer to CEQA item c) ii. above.
3e) Would the proposed project result in discharge into surface waters, or in any alteration of surface water quality, including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen, or turbidity?	No	Refer to CEQA item a) above. The Project is anticipated to result in beneficial impacts to existing water quality.

TRPA Questions	Answers	Discussion
3f) Would the proposed project result in alteration of the direction or rate of flow of ground water?	No	Refer to responses to CEQA item b) above. The Project would not involve groundwater extraction and proposes features which would allow for infiltration and groundwater recharge.
3g) Would the proposed project result in change in the quantity of groundwater, either through direct additions or withdrawals, or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavations?	No	Refer to responses to CEQA item b) above. As part of the SWPPP, the contractor would be required to prepare and adhere to a Dewatering Plan that would be approved by El Dorado County. Minor dewatering during construction would not result in a change in the quantity of groundwater.
3h) Would the proposed project result in substantial reduction in the amount of water otherwise available for public water supplies?	No	The Project requires no public water supplies beyond dust suppression during construction.
3i) Would the proposed project result in exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding and/or wave action from 100-year storm occurrence or seiches?	No	Refer to response to CEQA items c) and d) above.
3j) Would the proposed project result in the potential discharge of contaminants to the groundwater or any alteration of groundwater quality?	No	Refer to response to CEQA items a) and b) above.
3k) Is the project located within 600 feet of a drinking water source?	No	The Project is not located within 600 feet of a drinking water source.

4.11 LAND USE AND PLANNING

4.11.1 Environmental Setting

The Project boundary lies within the TRPA PAS 154 – Tahoma Residential (TRPA 2002). The land use classification for PAS 154 is residential, the management strategy is mitigation, and the special designations are preferred affordable housing area and scenic restoration area. The Planning Statement for this land use states that "this area should continue to be residential, maintaining the existing character of the neighborhood." Relevant special policies include:

1. Placer County, El Dorado County, and the Tahoe City Advisory Council should coordinate efforts with the TRPA and state agencies to solve water quality problems in this area.
2. Water treatment facilities such as settling ponds should be located in this area.

PAS 154 is a mixture of residential uses ranging from higher density condominiums to low density single family dwellings. The shoreline is in private ownership. The area is approximately 70 percent built out.

Land Ownership

The Project is comprised of water quality improvements and modifications to existing infrastructure within El Dorado County ROW and parcels. The County will pursue the necessary easements, special use permits, and/or license agreements for any affected parcels during the development of the Project.

4.11.2 CEQA Checklist Summary

Would the project:

CEQA Question	Impact Determination
a) Physically divide an established community?	No Impact
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	No Impact

4.11.3 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions

a) Would the project physically divide an established community?

No Impact

The Project is mostly contained within County ROW and parcels. Construction of the Project does not propose to construct any features which would have potential to divide the established community in the subdivision. Therefore, there would be 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

As discussed in the Environmental Setting section, the Project Area contains TRPA PAS 154 – Tahoma Residential. The land use classification for PAS 154 is residential, the management strategy is mitigation, and the special designations are preferred affordable housing area and scenic restoration area. The Project would comply with PAS 154 because the Project proposes to provide water quality improvements and improve existing infrastructure to better control erosion and sediment capture. The Project would not impact the land use of the area and is consistent with the existing allowed uses; therefore, the Project would not conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation.

4.11.4 TRPA Checklist – Land Use

TRPA Questions	Answers	Discussion
8a) Would the proposed project include uses which are not listed as permissible uses in the applicable Area Plan, Plan Area Statement, adopted Community Plan, or Master Plan?	No	The Project implements requirements of the Water Quality Management Plan (208 Plan) and the Tahoe Basin Lahontan Plan. The Project would not include uses which are not listed as permissible uses in applicable Regional Plan, Community Plan, or County General Plan. There would be no impact.
8b) Would the proposed project expand or intensify an existing non-conforming use?	No	There are no existing non-conforming uses associated with the Project. There would be no impact.

4.12 MINERAL RESOURCES

4.12.1 Environmental Setting

Minerals are naturally occurring chemical elements or compounds, or groups of elements and compounds, formed from inorganic processes and organic substances including, but not limited to, coal, peat, and oil-bearing rock, but excluding geothermal resources, natural gas, and petroleum.

There are no regionally significant aggregate resources (i.e., sand and gravel resources) in the Project Area as identified by the California Department of Conservation, and there are no ongoing mining activities in or near the Project (California Department of Conservation 2015).

4.12.2 CEQA Checklist Summary

Would the project:

CEQA Question	Impact Determination
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
b) Would the project result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?	No Impact

4.12.3 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions

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

As noted above, there are no regionally significant aggregate resources (i.e., sand and gravel resources) in the Project Area, as identified by the California Department of Conservation, and there are no ongoing mining activities in or near the Project. The Project would not result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource and would not result in the loss of a locally important mineral resource, as identified in TRPA Threshold Standards and Regional Plan or the PAS. Therefore, there would be 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 land use plan?

No Impact

Refer to response to CEQA item a). The Project Area is not located within or near any active mining operations, and no known mineral resources of value or recovery sites exist within the Project Area. There are no locally important mineral resource recovery sites delineated for the Project Area in the El Dorado County General Plan or within the applicable TRPA PAS. Therefore, there would be no impact.

4.13 NOISE

4.13.1 Environmental Setting

Noise is defined as a sound or series of sounds that are intrusive, objectional, or disruptive to daily life. Significant noise generators within the Tahoe Basin include motor vehicles, public transit, and a variety of stationary sources in urban settings.

4.13.2 Regulatory Setting

The TRPA Code (Chapter 68: Noise Limitations) establishes noise limits for areas within TRPA's jurisdiction (TRPA 2022a). Project construction between 8:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. is exempt from noise limitations per TRPA Code section 68.9 - Exemptions to Noise Limitations.

4.13.3 CEQA Checklist Summary

Would the project result in:

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

4.13.4 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions

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

Less Than Significant Impact

Standard construction equipment would be used to construct the improvements associated with the Project. The equipment would increase noise levels over that of pre-Project levels in the neighborhood, but the noise levels would be temporary. The TRPA Code of Ordinances states that TRPA-approved construction projects are

exempt from the quantitative limits contained in the Noise Ordinance and Community Plan if construction activities take place between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. All construction would occur within these hours thereby not requiring mitigation for the Project. Therefore, the Project would have a less than significant impact.

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

Less Than Significant Impact

Standard construction equipment would be used to construct the proposed improvements, and no pile driving is required. The equipment would create groundborne vibrations and noise levels over that of regular levels in the neighborhood, but the groundborne vibrations and noise levels would take place between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. during the noise exemption period. The types of construction vehicles and equipment for the Project are not anticipated to result in exposure of persons to or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or noise levels; therefore, the Project would have a less than significant impact.

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

No Impact

The Project Area is located approximately 21 miles north of the Lake Tahoe Airport (TVL). Therefore, the Project would not expose construction workers to excessive aircraft noise.

4.13.5 TRPA Checklist – Noise

TRPA Questions	Answers	Discussion
6a) Would the proposed project result in increases in existing Community Noise Equivalency Levels (CNEL) beyond those permitted in the applicable Area Plan, Plan Area Statement, Community Plan or Master Plan?	No	Refer to discussion for CEQA item a). The TRPA Code of Ordinances states that TRPA-approved construction projects are exempt from the quantitative limits contained in the Noise Ordinance and Community Plan if construction activities take place between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. All construction would occur within these hours thereby not requiring mitigation for the Project.
6b) Would the proposed project result in exposure of people to severe noise levels?	No	Refer to CEQA items a) through c). Increases in noise are anticipated to be temporary during construction and would not be severe.
6c) Would the proposed project result in single event noise levels greater than those set forth in the TRPA Noise Environmental Threshold?	No	Refer to discussion for CEQA item a). The Project would not result in single event noise levels greater than those set forth in the TRPA Noise Environmental Threshold.
6d) Would the proposed project result in the placement of residential or tourist accommodation uses in areas where the existing CNEL exceeds 60 dBA or is otherwise incompatible?	No	The Project does not propose residential or tourist accommodations as part of the Project. There would be no impact.
6e) Would the proposed project result in the placement of uses that would generate an incompatible noise level in close proximity to existing residential or tourist accommodation uses?	No	After construction, the Project would not generate noise in the existing residential area. Therefore, the Project would not generate an incompatible noise level.
6f) Would the proposed project result in exposure of existing structures to levels of ground vibration that could result in structural damage?	No	Refer to CEQA item b). The Project would not expose structures to ground vibrations capable of resulting in structural damage.

4.14 POPULATION AND HOUSING

4.14.1 Environmental Setting

Pursuant to a five-year American Community Survey ending in 2020, the County had an estimated population of 190,345 residents and an estimated housing stock consisting of 91,569 housing units (California Department of Finance 2020). There are privately owned residential lots within the Project Area, but they would not be impacted by the Project.

4.14.2 CEQA Checklist Summary

Would the project:

CEQA Question	Impact Determination
a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (for example, by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (for example, through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	No Impact
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	No Impact

4.14.3 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions

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

No Impact

The Project proposes to improve water quality and modify existing infrastructure to better control erosion and sediment capture. The Project would not induce population growth directly by adding new housing or commercial uses, or indirectly by adding new infrastructure.

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

No Impact

Implementing the Project would not influence population growth, either directly or indirectly. The Project does not propose any removal or construction of features which would result in displacement of persons and would therefore not require construction or replacement housing elsewhere. Therefore, there would be no impact.

4.14.4 TRPA Checklist

TRPA Questions – Population	Answers	Discussion
11a) Would the proposed project alter the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population planned for the Region?	No	Refer to the response to CEQA items a) and b) above. The Project would not alter the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population planned for the region.
11b) Would the proposed project include or result in the temporary or permanent displacement of residents?	No	Refer to response to CEQA item b). The Project would not displace residents either temporarily or permanently.

TRPA Questions – Housing	Answers	Discussion
12a1) Would the proposed project decrease the amount of housing in the Tahoe Region?	No	The Project would not remove or alter existing housing.
12a2) Would the proposal decrease the amount of housing in the Tahoe Region historically or currently being rented at rates affordable by lower and very-low-income households?	No	The Project would enhance existing stormwater control infrastructure and not result in impacts on housing. There would be no loss of housing for lower-income or very-low-income households.

4.15 PUBLIC SERVICES

4.15.1 Environmental Setting

Fire Protection

The Meeks Bay Fire Protection District is the local fire district serving the Project (El Dorado County 2019). The closest station to the Project Area is Fire Station 62 within approximately one mile of the Project Area. Since a contract in 2014, Meeks Bay Fire Protection District is supported by the North Tahoe Fire Staff for all emergency response staff and management of administration. Through a relationship with North Tahoe Fire, the Meeks Bay Fire Protection District provides Advanced Life Support Paramedics and ambulance transport service to the north and west shores of Lake Tahoe, from the Nevada state line to Emerald Bay, to Alpine Meadows, and on the lake waters of Tahoe in cooperation with US Coast Guard (Meeks Bay Fire Protection District 2022).

Police Protection

The Project Area and the unincorporated community of Tahoma, California is served by the El Dorado County Sheriff's Office.

Schools

The Project Area is within the service area of the Tahoe Truckee Unified School District, which includes five elementary schools, three middle schools, one charter school, and three high schools covering approximately 723 square miles and three counties - Placer, Nevada, and El Dorado (El Dorado County 2019).

Parks

The nearest park to the Project Area is Marie Sluchak Community Park, located approximately 0.7 miles to the east of the Project Area. Additional parks in the surrounding area are Ed Z'berg Sugar Pine Point State Park, a forested state park with a nature center approximately 1.3 miles away, and the General Creek Campground located on CA-89 approximately 1.4 miles from the Project Area.

Libraries

The closest public library is the Tahoe City Public Library, located approximately 9 miles north of the Project on CA-89.

4.15.2 CEQA Checklist Summary

Would the project result in:

CEQA Question	Impact Determination
a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the need and/or provision of new or physically altered governmental services and/or facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services? i) Fire protection? ii) Police protection? iii) Schools? iv) Parks? v) Other public facilities?	No Impact

4.15.3 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions

a) Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the need and/or provision of new or physically altered governmental services and/or facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for any of the public services?

i) Fire protection?

ii) Police protection?

iii) Schools?

iv) Parks?

v) Other public facilities?

No Impact

The Project proposes to improve water quality to better control erosion and sediment capture. The Project does not propose features that would cause direct or indirect population growth in the area, such as homes, water, or sewer infrastructure that would allow more residential construction. All work would be done within County ROW or County-owned parcels. The Project does not propose a change to existing land use or impacts to housing (such as demolition) that would cause a need for housing elsewhere. Construction is temporary and would not increase demand for fire and police protection associated with a need for new facilities. Therefore, there would be no impact, direct or indirect, on population growth, housing, or demands on government services.

4.15.4 TRPA Checklist – Public Services

Would the proposed project have an unplanned effect upon, or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas?

TRPA Questions	Answers	Discussion
14a) Fire protection?	No	Refer to CEQA item a) above. There are adequate existing fire services to serve construction activities and no new demand would be created by the Project.
14b) Police protection?	No	Refer to CEQA item a) above. There are adequate existing law enforcement services to serve construction activities and no new demand would be created by the Project.
14c) Schools?	No	Refer to CEQA item a) above. The Project would not result in an increase in population growth and would not require new or expanded school facilities. No new demand would be created by the Project.
14d) Parks or other recreational facilities?	No	Refer to CEQA item a) above. The Project would not result in an increase in population growth and would not require the construction of new or expansion of existing recreation facilities.
14e) Maintenance of public facilities, including roads?	No	Refer to CEQA item a) above. The Project would not result in an increase in population growth and would not require the maintenance of public facilities.

TRPA Questions	Answers	Discussion
14f) Other governmental services?	No	Refer to CEQA item a) above. The Project would not result in an increase in population growth and would not result in the need for new or expanded governmental services.

4.16 RECREATION

4.16.1 Environmental Setting

There are no recreation facilities within the Project Area. The area surrounding Project Area includes parks and multiple campgrounds. The nearest park to the Project Area is Marie Sluchak Community Park, located approximately 0.7 miles to the east of the Project Area. Additional parks in the surrounding area are Ed Z'berg Sugar Pine Point State Park, a forested state park with a nature center approximately 1.3 miles away, and the General Creek Campground located on CA-89 approximately 1.4 miles from the Project Area.

4.16.2 CEQA Checklist Summary

Would the project:

CEQA Question	Impact Determination
a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	No Impact
b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	No Impact

4.16.3 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions

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 Project constructs water quality improvements to better control erosion and sediment capture. The Project does not require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities because the Project does not influence population growth. Population growth is the main driver for new or expansion of facilities; therefore, the Project would not result in the need for additional facilities.

b) Would 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 Project would not include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment; therefore, the Project would have no impact.

4.16.4 TRPA Checklist – Recreation

TRPA Questions	Answers	Discussion
19a) Does the proposed project create additional demand for recreation facilities?	No	Refer to CEQA item a). The Project is designed to provide water quality improvements to better control erosion and sediment capture. The Project would not create additional demand for recreation facilities within the vicinity.
19b) Create additional recreation capacity?	No	Refer to CEQA item b). The Project would not create additional recreation capacity within the area.
19c) Have the potential to create conflicts between recreation uses, either existing or proposed?	No	The Project would not change or interfere with recreation uses, and therefore would not cause conflicts between existing or proposed recreation uses in the area.
19d) Result in a decrease or loss of public access to any lake, waterway, or public lands?	No	The Project would enhance existing stormwater systems on County right of ways. No streets nor pedestrian access ways will be blocked by the Project. There would be no impact.

4.17 TRANSPORTATION

4.17.1 Environmental Setting

The Project Area encompasses El Dorado County lots and ROW, Conservancy and USFS lands, and privately owned residential lots, and includes the Westlake Village Unit Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 9 subdivisions.

4.17.2 CEQA Checklist Summary

Would the project:

CEQA Question	Impact Determination
a) Conflict with a program plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities?	Less Than Significant Impact
b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines §15064.3, subdivision (b)?	Less Than Significant Impact
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	No Impact
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	Less Than Significant Impact

4.17.3 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions

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 would not change the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities. The Project proposes stormwater drainage improvements to capture and allow for infiltration and treatment within the Project Area. The proposed features are anticipated to result in beneficial effects to water quality. During construction, the Project would generate short-term vehicle trips to and from the Project Area during construction. These trips would include worker commute and construction equipment and materials transport. These vehicle trips would add to existing traffic volumes on local and regional roadways. Apart from the initial transport of construction equipment and materials, relatively minor construction-related traffic would occur. Because impact to traffic is temporary

during construction, and the Project would implement a Traffic Control Plan to minimize impacts during construction and impacts would be less than significant.

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

Less Than Significant Impact

CEQA Guidelines § 15064.3(b) pertains to the use of VMT to analyze transportation impacts. Per Senate Bill (SB) 743 criteria, as of July 1, 2020, the CEQA guidelines require the evaluation of VMT as a key criterion to determine potentially significant transportation impacts. The Project does not propose changes to existing road layout, circulation, alignment, or structures which would have the potential to increase VMT. Construction traffic would be temporary and minor. Therefore, there would be a less than significant impact on regional VMT.

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)?

No Impact

The Project does not propose changes to existing road layout, circulation, alignment, or structures which would have the potential to increase hazards or use incompatible equipment. Therefore, there would be no impact.

d) Would the project result in inadequate emergency access?

Less Than Significant Impact

As discussed above, the Project would incorporate a Traffic Control Plan that would outline measures to protect resident and worker safety during construction. Therefore, the Project would have a less than significant impact on emergency access.

4.17.4 TRPA Checklist – Transportation/Circulation

TRPA Questions	Answers	Discussion
13a) Would the proposed project result in generation of 650 or more new average daily Vehicle Miles Travelled?	No	Refer to CEQA item b). The Project does not propose new features with a potential to influence new daily Vehicle Miles Travelled. Construction travel would be temporary and well below the threshold.
13b) Would the proposed project result in changes to existing parking facilities, or demand for new parking?	No	The Project does not propose to construct or modify existing parking facilities and would not result in a need for new parking. There are no new buildings or facilities associated with the Project that would result in a demand for new parking. Construction parking would be temporary and accommodated by existing facilities.
13c) Would the proposed project result in substantial impact upon existing transportation systems, including highway, transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities?	No	The Project does not propose changes to existing transportation systems, therefore there would not be a substantial impact upon existing transportation systems, including highway, transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities.
13d) Would the proposed project result in alterations to present patterns of circulation or movement of people and/or goods?	No	Refer to CEQA item a). The Project does not include changes to circulation or movement. Temporary construction will be managed by a Traffic Control Plan to avoid access disruptions.
13e) Would the proposed project result in alterations to waterborne, rail or air traffic?	No	There are no alterations to waterborne, rail, or air traffic associated with the Project. There would be no impact.

TRPA Questions	Answers	Discussion
13f) Would the proposed project result in an increase in traffic hazards to motor vehicles, bicyclists, or pedestrians?	No	There would be no alterations in traffic hazards to motor vehicles, bicyclists, or pedestrians. Construction activities will be safely managed through a Traffic Control Plan. There would be no impact.

4.18 TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

4.18.1 Environmental Setting

As of the mid-1800s, the Washoe inhabited the region of the APE. A Hokan-speaking hunting and gathering group, the Washoe inhabited the chain of valleys along the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada, from Honey Lake to Antelope Valley. The Pine Nut Mountains and the Virginia Range formed the eastern boundary of Washoe territory, while the western boundary extended several miles beyond the Sierra crest. Much has been written about Washoe land-use in the Tahoe Basin and their use of the region's resources. Lake Tahoe is the center of the Washoe world, both geographically and socially. Legendary and mythological associations to places within the basin are common. Additional ethnographic data on the Washoe can be found in Downs (1966), d'Azevedo (1956, 1963, and 1986), Fowler et al. (1981), Lowie (1939), Nevers (1976), and Price (1962, 1980).

A Cultural Resources Inventory Letter Report was prepared on the Project Area (NCE 2022d).

4.18.2 Regulatory Setting

Native American Consultation

In accordance with AB 52, as identified in the PRC § 21080.3.1(b)(2) of CEQA, and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, Native American tribes (tribes) identified by the NAHC must be invited to consult on projects. Additionally, TRPA Code contains requirements for consultation with area tribes (Subsection 67.3.2).

4.18.3 CEQA Checklist Summary

Would the project:

CEQA Question	Impact Determination
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in PRC § 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is: i. Listed or eligible for listing in CRHR, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in PRC § 5020.1(k), or	Less Than Significant Impact

ii. A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of PRC § 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of PRC § 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	Less Than Significant Impact

4.18.4 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions

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

i. Listed or defined in PRC eligible for listing in CRHR, or in a local register of historical resources as § 5020.1(k)?

Less Than Significant Impact

or

ii. A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of PRC § 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of PRC § 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe?

Less Than Significant Impact

Native American correspondence was initiated during Phases 1 and 2 of the Project, and Phase 3 is located within the geographic Project Area of both although with different direct impact areas. The Washoe Tribe and SSBMI individually stated they did not have immediate knowledge of any cultural resources within the Project Area. Both tribes requested to be made aware of any Project updates and of inadvertent discoveries during Project implementation. An updated tribe list and SLF search was requested from the NAHC for Phase 3 on September 23, 2022. The two responding tribes, Washoe Tribe and SSBMI, were sent letters with updated Project details as previously requested. Considering their general involvement with County projects, the UAIC was also sent a letter with updated Project details. The County sent a letter to the Washoe Tribe on November 4, 2022, and to SSBMI and UAIC on November 11, 2022. On November 22, 2022, a negative SLF response was received. A letter was sent to Wilton Rancheria on January 20, 2023 via email.

NCE conducted an inventory that consisted of an intensive pedestrian survey and archival research of the site to determine if there were any visible cultural resources present within and adjacent to the APE, defined as the area of direct

impact within the overall Project Area. No prehistoric cultural resources were identified during the survey, archival research, or Native American consultation.

The Project-related disturbance would be limited to areas highly disturbed by urban development that includes past construction of the ROW, drainage ditches, and residential homes, and installation of overhead and underground utilities. The Project is subject to the regulations and standards established in NHPA, the CRHR) (PRC § 5024.1(a)), PRC §5097.5), and the TRPA Code, as well as construction controls that protect unanticipated finds of cultural resources (Section 3.8). Therefore, there would be a less than significant impact on tribal cultural resources.

4.18.5 TRPA Checklist – Archaeology

TRPA Questions	Answers	Discussion
20a) Would the proposed project result in an alteration of or adverse physical or aesthetic effect to a significant archaeological or historical site, structure, object, or building?	No	The proposed Project will enhance previously installed storm drains, road shoulder, and other drainage improvements within an existing residential community. No known tribal cultural resources have been identified within the APE.
20b) Is the proposed project located on a property with any known cultural, historical, and/or archaeological resources, including resources on TRPA or other regulatory official maps or records?	No	No known cultural, historical, and/or archaeological resources, including resources on TRPA or other regulatory official maps or records have been identified in the APE.
20d) Does the proposed project have the potential to cause a physical change which would affect unique ethnic cultural values?	No	No unique ethnic cultural values were identified as being associated with the APE.
20e) Would the proposed project restrict historic or pre-historic religious or sacred uses within the potential impact area?	No	No historic or pre-historic religious or sacred uses were identified as being within the APE.

4.19 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

4.19.1 Environmental Setting

Underground and overhead utilities, including electrical, water/sewer, telephone, cable television, and natural gas, are present within the Project Area (Figure 5).

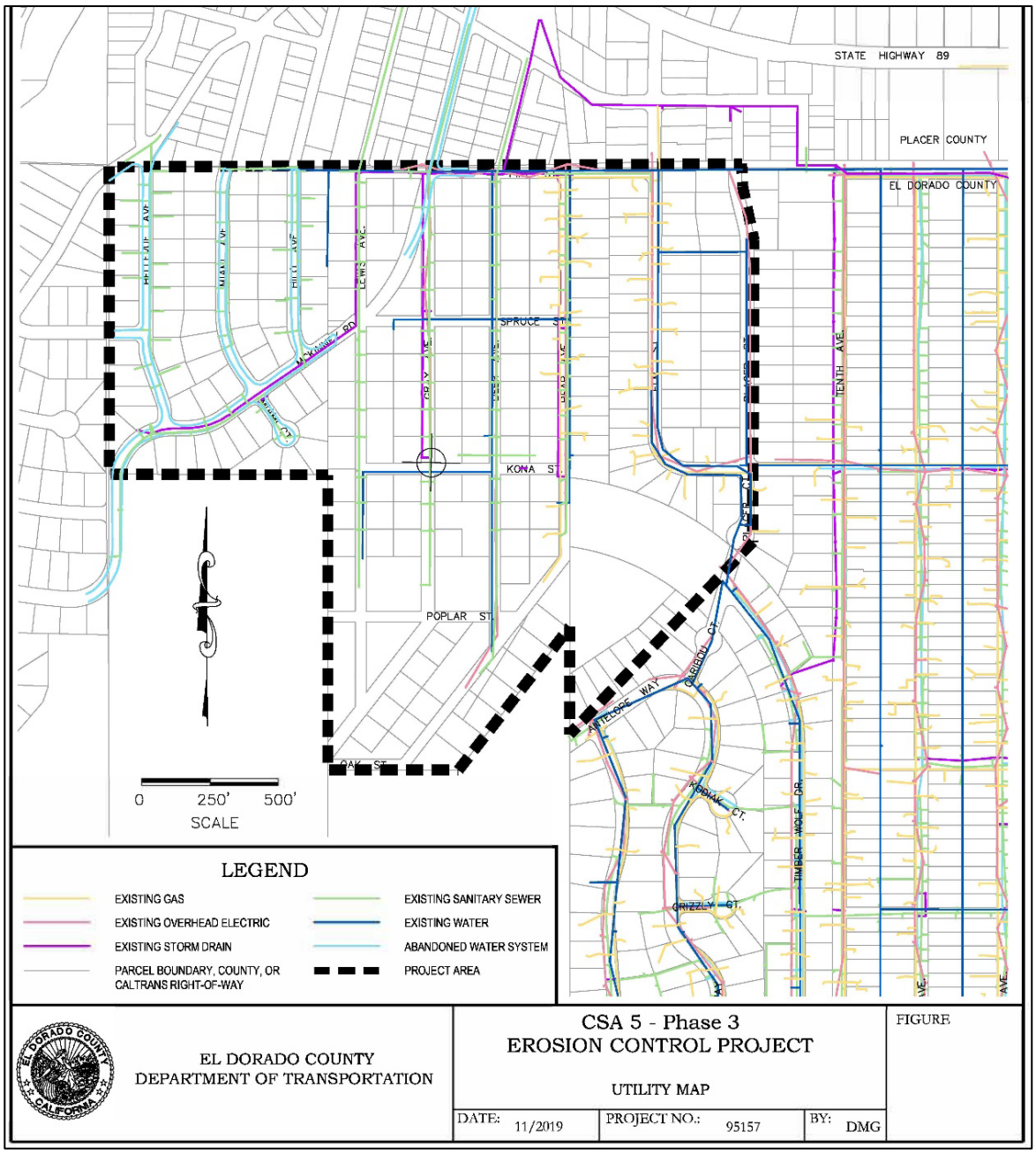

Figure 5. Utility Location Map (El Dorado County 2020)

4.19.2 CEQA Checklist Summary

Would the project:

CEQA Question	Impact Determination
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	Less Than Significant Impact
b) 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
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?	Less Than Significant Impact
d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	Less Than Significant Impact
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	No Impact

4.19.3 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions

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 relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?

Less Than Significant Impact

The Project proposes stormwater drainage improvements to capture and allow for infiltration and treatment within the Project Area. The proposed features are anticipated to result in beneficial effects to water quality and reduce demands on downstream stormwater facilities. Project features would include revegetation, hard armored channels and vegetated swales, AC dike and AC swales, AC pavement, drainage inlets and CMP inlets, pipe, perforated pipe, infiltration system, and rock slope protection. The environmental effects of the proposed water quality features have been analyzed throughout this IS/ND document for the Project. Impacts from these features would be temporary (only during construction), and with the implementation of construction controls, impacts would be less than significant.

During construction, the Project would utilize water for dust suppression. Water trucks would be filled using designated fire hydrants located in the Project vicinity. Water usage for the construction and implementation of the Project would be negligible and existing entitlements and resources have the capacity to serve potential water needs during construction.

The planned improved drainage at the end of the Miami Court will be within an existing utility easement that contains both water and sewer lines. Tahoe City Public Utility District and the McKinney Water District have expressed interest in updating the lines in this area, in advance or during this Project so as to minimize impacts to the homeowners. Discussions are currently ongoing. Impacts on existing utility systems would be 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

As discussed in item a), the existing municipal system would serve the Project needs for water associated with dust suppression activities during construction and would not require expansion of utility systems.

Water usage for the construction and implementation of the Project would be negligible and existing entitlements and resources from the municipal supply have the capacity to serve any temporary water needs for the Project during normal, dry, and multiple dry years. The impact on water supply would be less than significant.

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

Less Than Significant Impact

As discussed in items a) and b) above, the Project is anticipated to have a less than significant impact on the existing utility systems. If dewatering is required, it may be directed to the existing wastewater system; dewatering is anticipated to be infrequent and minor. The water usage would be served by the existing municipal water supply system. Therefore, the Project is anticipated to result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that it has adequate capacity to serve the provider's existing commitments.

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?

Less Than Significant Impact

Construction activities for the Project would generate solid waste requiring disposal at area landfills. Waste generated during Project construction would be limited to vegetation debris, asphalt, and concrete.

Waste generation would not reduce available capacities at existing landfills and there would be no new demand on water, sanitary sewer or solid waste not previously accounted for in infrastructure planning. Disposal of construction waste would comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste including TRPA requirement of exporting solid waste from the basin.

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

No Impact

Disposal of waste would comply with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations related to solid waste including TRPA requirement of exporting solid waste from the basin.

4.19.4 TRPA Checklist – Utilities

Except for planned improvements, Would the proposed project result in a need for new systems, or substantial alterations to the following utilities:

TRPA Questions	Answers	Discussion
16a) Power or natural gas?	No	Refer to CEQA item a) above. The Project would not require power or natural gas and is in an area currently served by existing electrical and gas providers.
16b) Communication systems?	No	The Project does not involve modification of or result in the need for new communication systems.
16c) Utilize additional water which amount will exceed the maximum permitted capacity of the service provider?	No	Refer to CEQA item b) above. The Project may utilize a negligible amount of water during construction for dust suppression. There are no other water uses associated with the Project.
16d) Utilize additional sewage treatment capacity which amount will exceed the maximum permitted capacity of the sewage treatment provider?	No	All construction groundwater would be handled per the approved Dewatering Plan and discharged as appropriate. This could result in a minor contribution to wastewater treatment or facilities that would not adversely affect the wastewater system capacity.
16e) Storm water drainage?	No	The Project proposes stormwater drainage improvements to capture and allow for infiltration and treatment within the Project Area. The proposed features are anticipated to result in beneficial effects to water quality.
16f) Solid waste and disposal?	No	Refer to CEQA items d) and e) above.

4.20 WILDFIRE

4.20.1 Environmental Setting

The CAL FIRE Fire Hazard Severity Zones Viewer was developed to guide construction standards for building permits, use of natural hazard disclosure at time of sale, guide defensible space clearance around buildings, set property development standards, and considerations of fire hazard in City and County general plans. The Project Area is located within a 'Very High' State Responsibility Area hazard zone (Figure 6; CAL FIRE 2007).

In 2007-2008, CAL FIRE updated the existing maps to coincide with the adoption of the new wildland-urban interface building standards, which are used by building officials to determine appropriate construction materials for new buildings in the wildland-urban interface.

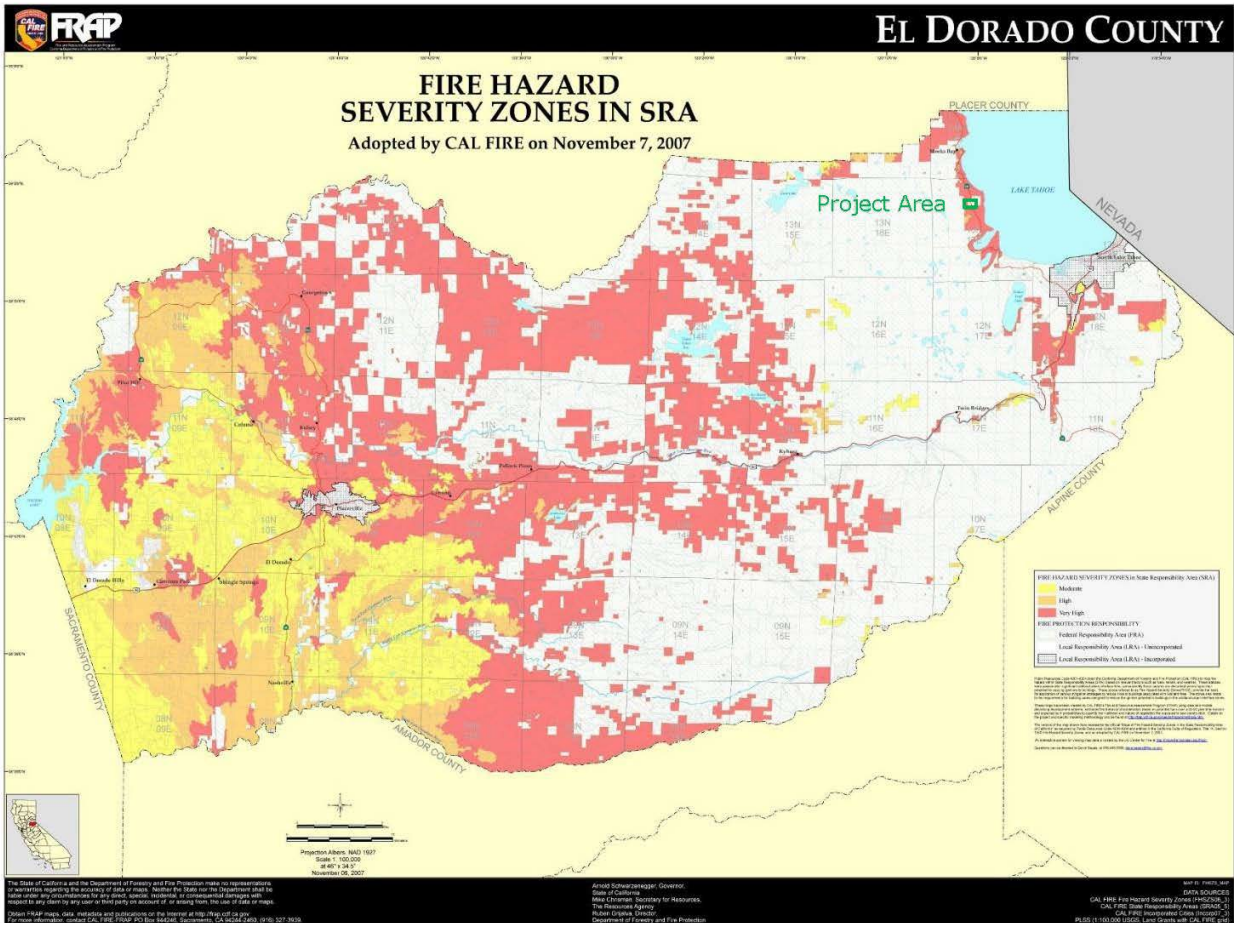

Figure 6. Fire Hazard Severity Zones in El Dorado County

Amador-El Dorado Plan

The Project Area lies within the boundaries of the Amador-El Dorado Strategic Fire Plan boundary (CAL FIRE 2021). The Amador El Dorado Unit's Fire Management Plan assesses the fire potential within the unit and addresses fire safe planning and hazardous fuel reduction concerns of adjacent CAL FIRE Units, National Forests, and local collaborators. The plan is the foundation for planning, prioritizing, and funding the Unit's projects. The Plan also outlines fire safety, evacuation planning, and hazardous fuels reduction through the Community Wildfire Protection Plan.

CEQA Checklist Summary

If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones:

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

4.20.2 Answers to CEQA Checklist Questions

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

Less Than Significant Impact

The Project is within the Amador-El Dorado Strategic Fire Plan. The Plan also outlines fire safety, evacuation planning, and hazardous fuels reduction through the community wildfire protection plan. The residential neighborhood surrounding the Project Area has multiple exits, therefore emergency response or evacuation should not be an issue. Construction activities could result in minor delays for emergency vehicles or law enforcement; however, the Project-specific Traffic Control Plan

would be required to coordinate with emergency services prior to construction to ensure Project activities would not impair response services; therefore, potential impacts would be less than significant.

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

No Impact

The overall goal of this Project is to improve the water quality of runoff to Lake Tahoe and its tributaries by reducing erosion and sediment transport originating from the Project Area. In pursuit of this goal, the Project would stabilize eroding slopes and revegetate the Project Area. The Project Area would not become steep as a result of the Project and no improvements would be made that would exacerbate wildfire risk; therefore, there would be no impact on wildfire risk.

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?

Less Than Significant Impact

The Project features are largely non-flammable water quality improvements. Native revegetated areas would be affected by a fire coming through the area, but the Project would not require the construction of ancillary facilities to protect or service the Project such as fire breaks. The planned improved drainage at the end of the Miami Court will be within an existing utility easement that contains both water and sewer lines. Tahoe City Public Utility District has expressed interest in updating the lines in this area, in advance or during this Project so as to minimize impacts to the homeowners. Discussions are currently ongoing. Therefore, there would a less than significant 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 slope instability, or drainage changes?

No Impact

The Project is on moderately sloped terrain and includes permanent stabilization techniques such as revegetation, paving, and drainage features; therefore, the Project would not expose people or structures to a significant risk, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, because of runoff, post-fire slope stability or drainage changes.

4.21 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

4.21.1 CEQA Checklist Summary

CEQA Question	Impact Determination
a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	Less Than Significant Impact
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, or the effects of probable future projects.)	Less Than Significant Impact
c) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	Less Than Significant Impact

4.21.2 Answers to CEQA Mandatory Findings of Significance Questions

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

Less Than Significant Impact

The Project proposes to construct water quality improvements and once constructed, the Project is anticipated to result in beneficial effects to the quality of the environment. No special status species were identified within the Project Area. Water quality will be improved, and native landscaping installed, benefiting both fish and wildlife downstream. Construction activities such as grading and excavation have the potential to temporarily impact biological resources and cultural and tribal cultural resources; however, implementation of construction controls and BMPs would ensure that potential impacts are reduced to less than significant. After construction controls, the Project would not have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment; would not substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or

wildlife species; would not cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels; would not threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community; and would not reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plants or animals.

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, or the effects of probable future projects.?

Less Than Significant Impact

The Project is a water quality Project that proposes to implement erosion control and stormwater management features that would improve environmental quality, as identified by the TRPA EIP program. All potential impacts are related to temporary construction activities. There were no significant impacts from construction and implementation of the Project identified that could not be reduced to less than significant. The Project does not result in an increase in population or growth that would require new housing, facilities, or structures that would cause environmental degradation. Implementation of the Project would be consistent with the Goals and Policies of the TRPA Regional Plan, including the EIP program that was implemented to improve environmental quality, as well as the *Linking Tahoe: Active Transportation Plan* (TRPA and TRMO 2016). As discussed throughout the environmental document, implementation of the Project would have long term beneficial effects on water quality and would not lead to cumulative negative effects.

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

Less Than Significant Impact

Potential impacts associated with construction related to aesthetics, air quality, energy, GHG emissions, geology and soils, hazards, noise, transportation, wildfire, utilities and service systems, and hydrology and water quality are less than significant and do not require mitigation. Potential adverse effects would be temporary in nature due to construction activities and standard construction controls ensure they would be less than significant. Long term water quality benefits would include improving Lake Tahoe clarity and quality. Therefore, the Project would not result in environmental effects that cause substantial adverse effects on human beings either directly or indirectly.

4.21.3 TRPA Checklist – Findings of Significance

TRPA Questions	Answers	Discussion
21a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish 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 or Nevada history or prehistory?	No	Refer to CEQA a) above. The Project would implement construction controls to mitigate short term effects during construction and will provide long-term benefits to water quality and native plant restoration that will benefit plants and wildlife. No historic resources have been identified in the Project Area.
21b) Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of long-term, environmental goals? (A short-term impact on the environment is one which occurs in a relatively brief, definitive period of time, while long-term impacts would endure well into the future.)	No	The Project is focused on achieving long-term environmental goals. Short term effects during construction are minor and managed through construction controls.
21c) Does the project have impacts which are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project may impact on two or more separate resources where the impact on each resource is relatively small, but where the effect of the total of those impacts on the environmental is significant?)	No	Refer to discussion of CEQA item b). The Project would be consistent with local, state, and federal regulations pertaining to the protection and mitigation of impacts to sensitive resources, and compliance with the terms of permitting conditions would ensure that adverse impacts to resources are mitigated and thus would not result in cumulative impacts.
21d) Does the project have environmental impacts which would cause substantial adverse effects on human being, either directly or indirectly?	No	Refer to CEQA item c).

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