



County of Mendocino

Planning and Building Services

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CEQA Initial Study for U_2022-0001 (Shamrock Ranch)

Mitigated Negative Declaration

April 25, 2023

Lead Agency:

Mendocino County

Lead Agency Contact:

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Section I Description Of Project.
<p>DATE: 3/13/2023 CASE#: U_2022-0001 DATE FILED: 1/25/2022 OWNER: T.H. SHAMROCK, LLC APPLICANT/AGENT: SHAWN SIMPSON REQUEST: Major Use Permit for installation of a shotgun, rifle and pistol firearms range on the existing Shamrock Ranch. ENVIRONMENTAL DETERMINATION: Mitigated Negative Declaration LOCATION: 4.8± miles south of Laytonville, on the east side of Highway 101, at its intersection with Old Sherwood Road (CR 311A), located at 40935 N. Hwy 101, Laytonville (APN 035-290-19). STAFF PLANNER: MARK CLISER</p>
Section II Environmental Checklist.
<p>1) <i>“Significant effect on the environment” means a substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in any of the physical conditions within the area affected by the project, including land, air, water, minerals, flora, fauna, ambient noise, and aesthetic significance. An economic or social change by itself shall not be considered a significant effect on the environment. A social or economic change related to a physical change, may be considered in determining whether the physical change is significant (CEQA Guidelines, Section 15382).</i></p> <p><i>Accompanying this form is a list of discussion statements for all questions, or categories of questions, on the Environmental Checklist (See Section III). This includes explanations of “no” responses.</i></p>

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

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

An explanation for all checklist responses is included, and all answers take into account the whole action involved, including off site as well as on-site; cumulative as well as project level; indirect as well as direct; and construction as well as operational impacts. The explanation of each issue identifies (a) the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and (b) the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance. In the checklist the following definitions are used:

"Potentially Significant Impact" means there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant.

"Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated" means the incorporation of one or more mitigation measures can reduce the effect from potentially significant to a less than significant level.

"Less Than Significant Impact" means that the effect is less than significant and no mitigation is necessary to reduce the impact to a lesser level.

"No Impact" means that the effect does not apply to the Project, or clearly will not impact nor be impacted by the Project.

INITIAL STUDY/ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW: This section assesses the potential environmental impacts which may result from the project. Questions in the Initial Study Checklist are stated and answers are provided based on analysis undertaken.

<u>I. AESTHETICS.</u> Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a State scenic highway?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Thresholds of Significance: The project would have a significant effect on aesthetics if it would have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista; substantially damage scenic resources, including but not limited to trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a California scenic highway, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings (if the project is in a non-urbanized area) or conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality (if the project is in an urbanized area), or create a new source of substantial light or glare, which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area.

Discussion: A scenic vista is defined as a location that offers a high quality, harmonious, and visually interesting view. One roadway in Mendocino County, State Route (SR) 128, has been designated as a State Scenic Highway by California State Assembly Bill 998, approved on July 12, 2019. According to CalTrans, SR 1 and SR 20 are "eligible" for designation as scenic highways but have not been officially designated as such.

State Route 1 is part of the California Freeway and Expressway System, and through the Los Angeles metro area, Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Francisco metro area, and Leggett, is part of the National Highway System; a network of highways that are considered essential to the country's economy, defense, and mobility by the Federal Highway Administration. State Route 1 is eligible to be included in the State Scenic Highway System; however, only a few stretches between Los Angeles and San Francisco have officially

been designated as a “scenic highway”, meaning that there are substantial sections of highway passing through a “memorable landscape” with no “visual intrusions.”

Additionally, the County has two roadway segments designated as “heritage corridors” by California Public Resources Code Section 5077.5. The North Coast Heritage Corridor includes the entire segment of SR 1 in the county, as well as the segment of U.S. Highway 101 from the junction with SR 1 in Leggett, north to the Humboldt County line. The Tahoe-Pacific Heritage Corridor extends from Lake Tahoe to the Mendocino County coast. It includes the entire segment of SR 20 within the county and the segment of US 101 from the SR 20 junction north of Calpella to the SR 20 highway exit south of Willits. Mendocino County’s General Plan Resource Management Goal RM-14’s (Visual Character) objective is: *Protection of the visual quality of the county’s natural and rural landscapes, scenic resources, and areas of significant natural beauty.* The project location is not adjacent to a designated heritage corridor nor a State Scenic Highway.

The main source of daytime glare in the unincorporated portions of the Mendocino County is from sunlight reflecting off structures with reflective surfaces, such as windows. A nighttime sky in which stars are readily visible is often considered a valuable scenic/visual resource. In urban areas, views of the nighttime sky are being diminished by “light pollution.” Two elements of light pollution may affect county residents: sky glow (a result of light fixtures that emit a portion of their light directly upward in the sky), and light trespass (poorly shielded or poorly aimed fixtures which cast light into unwanted areas, such as neighboring properties and homes). Different lighting standards are set by classifying areas by lighting zones (LZ). The 2000 Census classified the majority of Mendocino County as LZ2 (rural), which requires stricter lighting standards in order to protect these areas from new sources of light pollution and light trespass. Mendocino County’s General Plan Resource Management Goal RM-15’s (Dark Sky) objective is: *Protection of the qualities of the county’s nighttime sky and reduced energy use.*

- a-c) **No Impact:** The proposed project is not located on a California scenic highway and is not visible from a designated scenic highway, thus there is no potential for the project to damage any scenic resources or have adverse effects on any scenic vistas. Additionally, the project will not require the removal of any natural elements such as trees or rocks, thus there is no impact to those resources. The project is not visible from a designated scenic highway. The proposed activity is not visible to surrounding parcels and complies with height limits and property line setbacks.
- d) **Less Than Significant Impact:** The shooting range will not be used after sunset. As such, the proposed project does not propose additional sources of outdoor lighting. A standard condition of approval has been included which requires all external lighting shall be shielded and downcast to prohibit light from being cast beyond the property boundaries. Should the applicant require lighting of the shooting range in the future for night-time activities they will be required to apply for a modification of this use permit.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None

FINDINGS

The proposed project would have a **Less Than Significant Impact** on Aesthetics.

II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

II. AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Thresholds of Significance: The project would have a significant effect on agriculture and forestry resources if it would convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (hereafter “farmland”), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural uses; conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract; conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g), timberland (as defined by PRC section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g)); result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use; or involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forestland to non-forest use.

Discussion: The State of California Department of Conservation manages the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) which produces maps and statistical data used for analyzing impacts on California’s agricultural resources. The FMMP mapping survey covers roughly 98% of privately owned land in California and updates each map approximately every two years to provide an archive of land use change over time. Agricultural land is rated according to soil quality and irrigation status; the best quality land is called “Prime Farmland,” with other critical designations including “Unique Farmland,” or “Farmland of Statewide Importance.”

The Williamson Act (officially the California Land Conservation Act of 1965) is a California law that provides relief of property tax to owners of farmland and open-space land in exchange for a ten-year agreement that the land will not be developed or otherwise converted to another use. The intent of the Williamson Act is to preserve a maximum amount of a limited supply of prime agricultural land to discourage premature and unnecessary conversion of prime agricultural land to urban uses.

The Timberland Production Zone (TPZ) was established in 1976 in the California Government Code as a designation for lands for which the Assessor’s records as of 1976 demonstrated that the “highest and best use” would be timber production and accessory uses. Public improvements and urban services are prohibited on TPZ lands except where necessary and compatible with ongoing timber production. The original purpose of TPZ Zoning District was to preserve and protect timberland from conversion to other more profitable uses and ensure that timber producing areas not be subject to use conflicts with neighboring lands.

- a) **Less Than Significant Impact:** The land on which the proposed project will be located is classified as “Grazing Land” per the *Farmland Classifications* exhibit, which is derived from the FMMP.

Approximately 2,500 square feet of land will be developed for use as a shooting range. The planned use of the property would not materially affect the opportunity to utilize the property for grazing uses in the future. As such, conversion of Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland) is considered to be Less Than Significant.

- b) **No Impact: The subject parcel is in Williamson Act.** Land under a Williamson Act contract must be devoted to agricultural or open space uses. However, it may be appropriate to allow other uses of contracted land that are compatible with the agricultural or open space uses such as recreational uses. The proposed shooting range is considered recreational in nature and is therefore a compatible use on lands under Williamson Act contract. The planned use of the property would not materially affect the opportunity to utilize the property for agricultural or open space uses in the future.
- c - e) **No Impact:** The proposed project will not conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use. The project does not entail the removal of any tree species and it is not considered part of a 'forestland', thus there is no impact to timber resources.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None

FINDINGS

The proposed project would have a **Less Than Significant Impact** on Agriculture and Forestry Resources.

III. AIR QUALITY. Where available, the significance criteria established by the applicable air quality management or air pollution control district may be relied upon to make the following determinations. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of any applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in other emissions (such as those odors adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Thresholds of Significance: The project would have a significant effect on air quality if it would conflict with or obstruct implementation of applicable air quality plans; result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or California ambient air quality standard; expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations; or result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people.

Discussion: Mendocino County is located within the North Coast Air Basin, consisting of Del Norte, Humboldt, Trinity, Mendocino, and northern Sonoma counties. Additionally, the Mendocino County Air Quality Management District (MCAQMD) is responsible for enforcing the California and federal Clean Air Acts, as well as local air quality protection regulations. Any new emission point source is subject to an air quality permit, consistent with the District's air quality plan, prior to project construction. The MCAQMD also enforces standards requiring new construction, including houses, to use energy efficient, low-emission EPA certified wood stoves and similar combustion devices to help reduce area source emissions.

MCAQMD operates air monitoring stations in Fort Bragg, Ukiah, and Willits. Based on the results of monitoring, the entire County has been determined to be in attainment for all Federal criteria air pollutants and in attainment for all California standards except Particulate Matter less than 10 microns in size (PM10). In January of 2005, MCAQMD adopted a Particulate Matter Attainment Plan establishing a policy framework for the reduction of PM10 emissions, and has adopted Rule 1-430 which requires specific dust control measures during all construction operations, the grading of roads, or the clearing of land as follows:

- 1) All visibly-dry, disturbed soil road surfaces shall be watered to minimize fugitive dust emissions;
- 2) All unpaved surfaces, unless otherwise treated with suitable chemicals or oils, shall have a posted speed limit of 10 miles per hour;
- 3) Earth or other material that has been transported by trucking or earth moving equipment, erosion by water, or other means onto paved streets shall be promptly removed;
- 4) Asphalt, oil, water, or suitable chemicals shall be applied on materials stockpiles and other surfaces that can give rise to airborne dusts;
- 5) All earthmoving activities shall cease when sustained winds exceed 15 miles per hour;
- 6) The operator shall take reasonable precautions to prevent the entry of unauthorized vehicles onto the site during non-work hours; and
- 7) The operator shall keep a daily log of activities to control fugitive dust. In December, 2006, MCAQMD adopted Regulation 4, Particulate Emissions Reduction Measures, which establishes emissions standards and use of wood burning appliances to reduce particulate emissions. These regulations applied to wood heating appliances, installed both indoors and outdoors for residential and commercial structures, including public facilities. Where applicable, MCAQMD also recommends mitigation measures to encourage alternatives to woodstoves/fireplaces, to control dust on construction sites and unpaved access roads (generally excepting roads used for agricultural purposes), and to promote trip reduction measures where feasible. In 2007, the Air Resources Board (ARB) adopted a regulation to reduce diesel particulate matter (PM) and oxides of nitrogen (NOx) emissions from in-use (existing) off-road heavy-duty diesel vehicles in California. Such vehicles are used in construction, mining, and industrial operations. The regulation imposes limits on idling, requires a written idling policy, and requires disclosure when selling vehicles. Off-road diesel powered equipment used for grading or road development must be registered in the Air Resources Board DOORS program and be labeled accordingly. The regulation restricts the adding of older vehicles into fleets and requires fleets to reduce their emissions by retiring, replacing, or repowering older engines or installing Verified Diesel Emission Control Strategies. In 1998, the California Air Resources Board established diesel exhaust as an Air Toxic, leading to regulations for categories of diesel engines. Diesel engines emit a complex mixture of air pollutants, including both gaseous and solid material which contributes to PM2.5. All stationary and portable diesel engines over 50 horse power need a permit through the MCAQMD.

Receptors include sensitive receptors and worker receptors. Sensitive receptors refer to those segments of the population most susceptible to poor air quality (i.e., children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing serious health problems affected by air quality). Land uses where sensitive individuals are most likely to spend time include schools and schoolyards, parks and playgrounds, daycare centers, nursing homes, hospitals, and residential communities (these sensitive land uses may also be referred to as sensitive receptors). Worker receptors refer to employees and locations where people work.

- a) **No Impact:** The project will not conflict with or obstruct implementation of any air quality plan as there are no components of the project that would conflict with existing air quality plans. The project proposes approximately 2,500 square feet of earth disturbance, which would result in short-term construction pollutant emissions, but at levels less than the CEQA significance emissions thresholds. Additionally,

Conditions of Approval are included that will ensure that the project will achieve compliance with MCAQMD standards.

- b) **Less Than Significant Impact:** The proposed project has the potential to increase PM10 in the immediate vicinity of the site during access road construction if required to comply with driveway standards from CAL FIRE. However, if constructed in conformance with the conditions of approval, any construction is not expected to contribute substantially to PM10 levels such that a significant impact would result. Local impacts to the area during construction would be less than significant using standard dust control measures. Conditions of Approval are recommended that will ensure that the project will achieve compliance with AQMD standards.
- c) **No Impact:** Sensitive receptors can include schools, parks, playgrounds, day care centers, nursing homes, hospitals, and residential dwellings. The project is located within a primarily low-density residential area and not near a sensitive receptor. The project will not result in substantial pollutant concentrations.
- d) **Less Than Significant Impact:** During construction, odors will be generated by construction equipment; these odors will be present only temporarily during construction. Per CEQA, land uses associated with odor complaints include agricultural operations, wastewater treatment plants, landfills, and certain industrial operations. Given the distance from the nearest off-site residence and the sparse, rural nature of the surrounding community, the proposed shooting range is not anticipated to produce odors that would adversely affect a substantial number of people.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None

FINDINGS

The proposed project would have a **Less Than Significant Impact** on Air Quality.

IV. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

e) Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Thresholds of Significance: The project would have a significant effect on biological resources if it would have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, and regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; 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; 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; conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance; or conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan.

Discussion: Mendocino County’s Biology and Ecology Resources Policy RM-28 states: *all discretionary public and private projects that identify special-status species in a biological resources evaluation (where natural conditions of the site suggest the potential presence of special-status species) shall avoid impacts to special-status species and their habitat to the maximum extent feasible. Where impacts cannot be avoided, projects shall include the implementation of site-specific or project-specific effective mitigation strategies developed by a qualified professional in consultation with state or federal resource agencies with jurisdiction.*

The California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) provides location and natural history information on special status plants, animals, and natural communities to the public, other agencies, and conservation organizations. The data helps drive conservation decisions, aid in the environmental review of projects and land use changes, and provide baseline data helpful in recovering endangered species and for research projects. Currently, the CNDDB has 32 species listed for Mendocino County that range in listing status from Candidate Threatened to Threatened to Endangered.

Many species of plants and animals within the State of California have low populations, limited distributions, or both. Such species may be considered “rare” and are vulnerable to extirpation as the state’s human population grows and the habitats these species occupy are converted to agricultural and urban uses. A sizable number of native species and animals have been formally designated as threatened or endangered under State and Federal endangered species legislation. Others have been designated as “Candidates” for such listing and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) have designated others as “Species of Special Concern”. The California Native Plant Society (CNPS) has developed its own lists of native plants considered rare, threatened or endangered. Collectively, these plants and animals are referred to as “special status species.”

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act defines wetlands as *“those areas that are inundated or saturated by surface or groundwater at a frequency and duration sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstance do support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps, marshes, bog and similar areas.”*

Mendocino County currently has one active Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife which provides protections for the Point Arena Mountain Beaver. The Fisher Family HCP (Permit #TE170629-0) covers 24 acres of coastal scrub and was adopted December 3, 2007

for a period of 50 years. The Fisher Family HCP applies to parcel APN 027-211-02 located at 43400 Hathaway Crossing, Point Arena. Additionally, since 2003, the Mendocino Redwood Company (MRC) has managed the County's only Natural Community Conservation Plan which covers all lands owned by the MRC to preserve regionally important habitat.

- a) **Less Than Significant Impact:** Per California Natural Diversity Database, no occurrences of candidate, sensitive, or special status species were identified on the subject parcel. The project proposes minimal grading. Development is limited to 2,500 square feet of concrete firing lines, benches and shade covers for firing lines, and construction of dirt backstops. No structures are proposed that would limit the use of wildlife corridors. The application was referred to California Department of Fish and Wildlife on May 24, 2022 and no comments of concern were received as of April 27, 2023.
- b) **Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated:** A riverine, which runs north to south, is situated along the eastern boundary line, approximately 0.25 miles south and 0.25 miles east of the project area, and a freshwater pond is situated approximately 2,100 feet southeast of the project site. Substantial adverse impacts on a sensitive habitat such as a riparian zone or wetland is not anticipated due to distance. However, mitigation measures regarding non-toxic ammunition are recommended.
- c) **Less Than Significant Impact:** A riverine, which runs north to south, is situated along the eastern boundary line, approximately 0.25 miles south and 0.25 miles east of the project area, and a freshwater pond is situated approximately 2,100 feet southeast of the project site. The project is not proposing any direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other similar types of development. Therefore, the proposed use permit would not have a substantial impact on federally protected wetlands.
- d) **Less Than Significant Impact:** Development would not 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. Development will not preclude wildlife migration or travel through the project site. No wildlife movement corridors were identified on the project site and no long-term significant impacts are expected to local and/or regional wildlife movement corridors as a result of the proposed project. No jurisdictional waters are present on the sites and no impacts to jurisdictional waters are expected from the proposed project.
- e) **No Impact:** The project would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance, as there are none applicable to the subject property.
- f) **No Impact:** The project parcel is not within the boundary of any Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or any other habitat conservation plan.

MITIGATION MEASURES

BIO-1: The use of ammunition containing thermite, magnesium, or aluminum, commonly known as tracer or incendiary ammunition, is prohibited on any forest, brush or grass covered areas pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 4445.

BIO-2: Only non-lead ammunition and ammunition approved as nontoxic by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as identified in Section 507.1 (Title 14, CCR), shall be stored on site and/or allowed during activities.

FINDINGS

The proposed project would have a **Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated** on Biological Resources.

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Thresholds of Significance: The project would have a significant effect on cultural resources if it would cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to §15064.5; cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to §15064.5; or disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries.

Discussion: Archeological resources are governed by MCC Sec. 22.12.090, which echoes state law regarding discovery of artifacts and states, in part, *“It shall be unlawful, prohibited, and a misdemeanor for any person knowingly to disturb, or cause to be disturbed, in any fashion whatsoever, or to excavate, or cause to be excavated, to any extent whatsoever, an archaeological site without complying with the provisions of this section”*. MCC Section 22.12.090 governs discovery and treatment of archeological resources, while Section 22.12.100 speaks directly to the discovery of human remains and codifies the procedures by which said discovery shall be handled. Pursuant to California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, Sub Section 15064.5(c)(4), *“If an archaeological resource is neither a unique archaeological nor an historic resource, the effects of the project on those resources shall not be considered a significant effect on the environment.”*

a, b) **Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated:** The proposed project will not cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical or an archaeological resource. If any archaeological sites or artifacts are discovered during site excavation or construction activities, the property owner shall cease and desist from all further excavation and disturbances within 100 feet of the discovery, and make notification of the discovery to the Director of the Department of Planning and Building Services. The Director will coordinate further actions for the protection of the archaeological resources in accordance with Section 22.12.090 of the Mendocino County Code. The proposed project will not directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature. The project site does not contain a cemetery and no known formal cemeteries are located within the immediate site vicinity. On February 8, 2023, the Mendocino Archaeological Commission reviewed the project and accepted the survey prepared December 12, 2022 by Alex DeGeorgey. The survey resulted in the identification of 4 previously unrecorded sites and 4 isolated finds, and recommends avoidance of 3 archaeological resources within “Special Treatment Zones” (STZ). Mitigation measures are recommended.

c) **Less Than Significant Impact:** It is not anticipated the proposed project will disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries. However, if any person, while excavating or otherwise disturbing earth, discovers any bones or other human remains, whether or not as part of an archaeological site, shall immediately cease and desist from all further excavation and disturbance and shall immediately telephone or otherwise notify the Sheriff-Coroner of Mendocino County. The project site does not contain a cemetery and no known formal cemeteries are located within the immediate site vicinity.

MITIGATION MEASURES

CR-1: Prior to the commencement of operations, the Project Manager will ensure that all Special Treatment Zones (STZ) are clearly described and illustrated in plans, and specifications.

CR-2: All parties (Project Manager and Archaeologist) will review the plans prior to the commencement of construction and operations.

CR-3: Prior to commencement of operations, and Archaeological Surveyor or professional archaeologist familiar with the site, shall demarcate all sites with STZ flagging. Exclusionary flagging will be based on the site sketch map. No buffer around the site boundary is required for Special Conditions Sites. STZ flagging that is older than six months will be inspected and refreshed prior to operations.

CR-4: Only hand tools and manual vegetation treatment is permitted within the STZ. No mechanical treatments.

CR-5: An Archaeological Surveyor or professional archaeologist will periodically inspect sites during construction to ensure the BMPS are effective and the STZ has not been breached.

CR-6: Once operations for the shooting range commence and are open to the public, all STZ flagging shall be removed.

FINDINGS

The proposed project would have a **Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated** on Cultural Resources.

VI. ENERGY. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy, or wasteful use of energy resources, during project construction or operation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Thresholds of Significance: The project would have a significant effect on energy if it would result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy, or wasteful use of energy resources, during project construction or operation.

Discussion: On October 7, 2015, Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. signed into law Senate Bill (SB) 350, known as the Clean Energy and Pollution Reduction Act of 2015 (De León, Chapter 547, Statutes of 2015), which sets ambitious annual targets for energy efficiency and renewable electricity aimed at reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. SB 350 requires the California Energy Commission to establish annual energy efficiency targets that will achieve a cumulative doubling of statewide energy efficiency savings and demand reductions in electricity and natural gas final end uses by January 1, 2030. This mandate is one of the primary measures to help the state achieve its long-term climate goal of reducing GHG emissions to 40 percent below 1990 levels by 2030. The proposed SB 350 doubling target for electricity increases from 7,286 gigawatt hours (GWh) in 2015 up to 82,870 GWh in 2029. For natural gas, the proposed SB 350 doubling target increases from 42 million of therms (MM) in 2015 up to 1,174 MM in 2029 (CEC, 2017).

Permanent structures constructed on-site would be subject to Part 6 (California Energy Code) of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations, which contains energy conservation standards applicable to residential

and non-residential buildings throughout California. The 2019 Building Energy Efficiency Standards are designed to reduce wasteful, uneconomic, inefficient or unnecessary consumption of energy, and enhance outdoor and indoor environmental quality. It is estimated that single-family homes built with the 2019 standards will use about 7 percent less energy due to energy efficiency measures versus those built under the 2016 standards (CEC, 2018).

- a, b) **No Impact:** The proposed project would not result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy, or wasteful use of energy resources, during future development or operation, nor would the project conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency. As noted above, permanent structures constructed on-site would be subject to Part 6 (California Energy Code) of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations, which contains energy conservation standards applicable to residential and non-residential buildings throughout California. It is not anticipated the proposed structures would use or waste significant amounts of energy or conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency. The applicant has not proposed any electricity be connected to the shooting range in any capacity.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None

FINDINGS

The proposed project would have a **No Impact** on Energy.

VII. GEOLOGY AND SOILS. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii) Strong seismic ground shaking?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iii) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
iv) Landslides?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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 waste water?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Thresholds of Significance: The project would have a significant effect on geology and soils if it would directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving: 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, strong seismic ground shaking, seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction, or landslides; result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil; be located on a geologic unit of 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; 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; 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; or directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature.

Discussion: Of the five known faults, the Maacama Fault is the closest active fault to the subject parcel, located approximately 1.6 miles west.

The San Andreas Fault traverses the southwestern corner of the County and continues offshore north of Manchester. It is capable of generating very strong earthquakes, the last major event occurring in 1906 with a magnitude of 7.9 near San Francisco. This event caused severe shaking in Mendocino County and extensive structural damage along the southern coastline of the County. Very little seismic activity has been recorded on the San Andreas Fault north of San Francisco since the 1906 event; however, the Fault is still considered active.

The vast majority of Mendocino County is underlain by bedrock of the Franciscan Formation. Thick soil development and landslides very commonly cover the underlying bedrock throughout the county. Due to the weak and deformed nature of the Franciscan rocks, they are prone to deep weathering and development of thick overlying soils. Soil deposits in swales and on the flanks of slopes commonly contain substantial amounts of clay and weathered rock fragments up to boulder size. These soils can be unstable when wet and are prone to slides. Landsliding of such soils is widespread in Mendocino County, particularly in the eastern belt of the Franciscan Formation beneath the eastern portion of the county. Human activities that affect vegetation, slope gradients, and drainage processes can also contribute to landslides and erosion.

Areas susceptible to erosion occur throughout Mendocino County where surface soils possess low-density and/or low-strength properties. Slopes are another factor in soil erosion – the greater the slope, the greater the erosion hazard, especially if the soil is bare. Soils on 9 percent slopes and greater have a moderate erosion hazard, and soils on slopes greater than 15 percent have a high erosion hazard. Elevations at the subject parcel range from approximately 745 feet above mean sea level (AMSL) at the eastern edge to 660 AMSL at the southern edge, with an average slope of approximately 1.5 percent.

a - e) **No Impact** The proposed project is not located near any terrain that would expose any people or structures to any substantial adverse geological effect, or that would allow for soil erosion or loss of topsoil. The proposed project is located approximately 1.6 miles east of the Maacama Fault. The subject parcel is not on soils prone to liquefaction. Furthermore, the soil on which the proposed project is located is relatively flat and is not identified as expansive or incapable of supporting structures, thus these issues are considered to have no impact and the risk of landslides is remote. The project does not propose any activity that would lead to soil erosion or the loss of topsoil.

- f) **Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated:** As noted above, the proposed project was heard by the Archaeological Commission. The Commission accepted the archaeological survey submitted. However, the potential exists for unique paleontological resources on site or unique geological features to be encountered within the project area, as ground-disturbing construction activities, including grading and excavation, may be required for development. In the event that any archaeological or paleontological resources are discovered during site preparation, grading or construction activities, notification would be required, pursuant to County Code Chapter 22.12 – Archaeological Resources. Mitigation measures are recommended.

MITIGATION MEASURES

GEO-1: Prior to the commencement of operations, the Project Manager will ensure that all Special Treatment Zones (STZ) are clearly described and illustrated in plans, and specifications.

GEO-2: All parties (Project Manager and Archaeologist) will review the plans prior to the commencement of construction and operations.

GEO-3: Prior to commencement of operations, and Archaeological Surveyor or professional archaeologist familiar with the site, shall demarcate all sites with STZ flagging. Exclusionary flagging will be based on the site sketch map. No buffer around the site boundary is required for Special Conditions Sites. STZ flagging that is older than six months will be inspected and refreshed prior to operations.

GEO-4: Only hand tools and manual vegetation treatment is permitted within the STZ. No mechanical treatments.

GEO-5: An Archaeological Surveyor or professional archaeologist will periodically inspect sites during construction to ensure the BMPS are effective and the STZ has not been breached.

GEO-6: Once operations for the shooting range commence and are open to the public, all STZ flagging shall be removed.

FINDINGS

The proposed project would have a **Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated** on Geology and Soils.

VIII. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Thresholds of Significance: The project would have a significant effect on greenhouse gas emissions if it would generate greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment; or conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases.

Discussion: Assembly Bill 32 (AB32), the California Global Warming Solutions Act, 2006 recognized that California is a source of substantial amounts of greenhouse gas (GHG) emission which poses a serious threat to the economic well-being, public health, natural resources, and the environment of California. AB32

established a state goal of reducing GHG emission to 1990 levels by the year 2020 with further reductions to follow. In order to address global climate change associated with air quality impacts, CEQA statutes were amended to require evaluation of GHG emission, which includes criteria air pollutants (regional) and toxic air contaminants (local). As a result, Mendocino County Air Quality Management District (AQMD) adopted CEQA thresholds of significance for criteria air pollutants and GHGs, and issued updated CEQA guidelines to assist lead agencies in evaluating air quality impacts to determine if a project’s individual emissions would be cumulatively considerable. According to the AQMD, these CEQA thresholds of significance are the same as those, which have been adopted by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD). Pursuant to the BAAQMD CEQA Guidelines, the threshold for project significance of GHG emissions is 1,100 metric tons CO₂e (CO₂ equivalent) of operation emission on an annual basis. Additionally, Mendocino County’s building code requires new construction to include energy efficient materials and fixtures.

- a) **Less Than Significant Impact:** The proposed project itself will not generate any greenhouse gas emissions that will have a significant impact on the environment. However, development of the proposed structure may potentially generate a negligible amount of greenhouse gas emissions during construction. An additional amount of greenhouse gas emissions will be generated when activities commence as guests are driven to and from the shooting range. However, the applicant has stated that such activities will only occur one to two times per month. As the shooting range will not require power, it is not anticipated generators will be required.
- b) **No Impact:** The proposed project does not conflict with any applicable plan, policy, or regulation aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None

FINDINGS

The proposed project would have a **Less Than Significant Impact** on Greenhouse Gas Emissions.

IX. HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
f) Impair implementation of, or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Thresholds of Significance: The project would have a significant effect on hazards and hazardous materials if it were to 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; emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school; be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would create a significant hazard to the public or the environment; result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area if 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; or impair the implementation of, or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan; or expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires.

Discussion: California Health and Safety Code states: "Hazardous material" means any material that, because of its quantity, concentration, or physical or chemical characteristics, poses a significant present or potential hazard to human health and safety or to the environment if released into the workplace or the environment. "Hazardous materials" include, but are not limited to, hazardous substances, hazardous waste, and any material that a handler or the unified program agency has a reasonable basis for believing that it would be injurious to the health and safety of persons or harmful to the environment if released into the workplace or the environment (Health and Safety Code section (Health & Saf. Code sec) 25501 (m)).

Mendocino County has adopted a Hazardous Waste Management Plan to guide future decisions by the County and the incorporated cities about hazardous waste management. Policies in this General Plan emphasize source reduction and recycling of hazardous wastes, and express a preference for onsite hazardous waste treatment over offsite treatment. The Hazardous Waste Management Plan proposed a number of hazardous waste programs and set forth criteria to guide the siting of new offsite hazardous waste facilities. However, to date, no facilities have been cited in the county. In 1997, the County Division of Environmental Health assumed responsibility for administering hazardous waste generation and treatment regulations. Solid Waste and Hazardous Waste and Materials Management Policy DE-203 states: *All development projects shall include plans and facilities to store and manage solid waste and hazardous materials and wastes in a safe and environmentally sound manner.*

The California Air Resources Board classifies asbestos as a known human carcinogen. Asbestos of any type is considered hazardous and may cause asbestosis and lung cancer if inhaled, becoming permanently lodged in body tissues. Exposure to asbestos has also been shown to cause stomach and other cancers. Asbestos is the general name for a group of rock-forming minerals that consist of extremely strong and durable fibers. When asbestos fibers are disturbed, such as by grading and construction activities, they are released into the air where they remain for a long period of time. Naturally occurring asbestos is an issue of concern in Mendocino County, which contains areas where asbestos-containing rocks are found. The presence of ultramafic rocks indicates the possible existence of asbestos mineral groups. Ultramafic rocks contain 90 percent or more of dark-colored, iron-magnesium-silicate minerals. Ultramafic rocks may be partially or completely altered to a rock known as serpentinite, more commonly called serpentine.

The Mendocino County Air Quality Management District enforces state regulations to reduce the effects of development projects involving construction sites and unpaved roads in areas tested and determined by a state-registered geologist to contain naturally occurring asbestos. Serpentine and ultramafic rocks are common in the eastern belt of the Franciscan Formation in Mendocino County. Small localized areas of serpentine do occur in the coastal belt of the Franciscan Formation, but they are significantly less abundant.

Mendocino County's aviation system is composed of airports, privately owned aircraft of various types, privately operated aircraft service facilities, and publicly and privately operated airport service facilities. Most aircraft are privately owned, small single or twin-engine planes flown primarily for personal business. Six public use airports in Mendocino County provide for regional and interregional needs of commercial and general aviation. Actions involving areas around airports will continue to be evaluated for consistency with the County's Airport Comprehensive Land Use Plan and applicable federal regulations. Mendocino County's Airport Policy DE-167 states: "*Land use decisions and development should be carried out in a manner that will reduce aviation-related hazards (including hazards to aircraft, and hazards posed by aircraft)*".

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) designates areas of the County into fire severity zones. These maps are used to develop recommendations for local land use agencies and for general planning purposes.

In the future, the project may require the transport, use, storage, and disposal of small quantities of hazardous materials common for construction of residential structures. However, all hazardous materials would be utilized and disposed of in accordance with all applicable federal and state regulations.

- a) **Less Than Significant Impact:** During the installation of new structures, firing lines, and grading, transportation and disposal of hazardous materials and wastes will occur that are typical of construction projects. This would include fuels and lubricants for construction machinery, etc. All hazardous materials are required to be utilized and transported in accordance with their labeling pursuant to federal and state law. Routine construction control measures and best management practices for hazardous materials storage, application, waste disposal, accident prevention and clean-up will be sufficient to reduce potential impacts to a less than significant level. During activities, the use of hazardous materials is not anticipated. Only non-lead ammunition and ammunition approved as nontoxic by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as identified in Section 507.1 (Title 14, CCR), shall be allowed.
- b) **Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated:** The proposed project does not involve the storage of a significant volume of hazardous materials that could be released into the environment. The storage of small volumes of cleaning solvent would be stored within the adjacent barn. A mitigation measure requiring only non-lead ammunition and ammunition approved as nontoxic by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, as identified in Section 507.1 (Title 14, CCR), shall be allowed. This condition also includes storage of such ammunition.
- c) **No Impact:** The nearest school, Laytonville Elementary School located at 150 Ramsey Road, Laytonville, is approximately 3.5 miles northwest of the subject parcel. The proposed project will not emit hazardous emissions, nor handle any hazardous materials, within one quarter mile of any existing or proposed school.
- d) **No Impact:** Research of the EnviroStor website determined that the subject parcel is not located on the Cortese List. Additionally, CalEPA does not include the parcel on any of the Cortese List Data Resources. Therefore, the project will not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment.
- e) **No Impact:** The nearest private airstrip, located in Laytonville, is approximately 2.7 miles northwest of the subject parcel. As such, there is relatively low physical impact hazard risk.

- f) **No Impact:** The proposed project is not located adjacent to an emergency evacuation route, nor does it serve as an emergency evacuation route. Therefore, the project will not impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan.
- g) **Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated:** The proposed project is located within a High Fire Hazard zone and includes construction of firing lines, dirt backstops, benches, and shade covers over firing lines and benches. The subject property and surrounding area are densely forested. As such, the risk of wildfire is elevated. The applicant will be required to adhere to all Federal, State, and local fire requirements/regulations for setbacks and defensible space, including requirements of Public Resources Code 4291. Setbacks required by 4291 are applied at the time of building permit review. Mitigation Measures are recommended to reduce potential impacts to less than significant.

MITIGATION MEASURES

HAZ-1: During construction, staging areas or areas slated for development using spark-producing equipment shall be cleared of dried vegetation or other material that could serve as fire fuel. To the extent feasible, the contractor shall keep these areas clear of combustible materials in order to maintain a firebreak. Any construction equipment that normally includes a spark arrester shall be equipped with an arrester in good working order. This includes, but is not limited to, vehicles and heavy equipment.

HAZ-2: The permit holder shall operate in full compliance with fire safety rules and regulations and instruct all project workers that the project involves working adjacent to flammable vegetation. All activities shall be performed in a safe and prudent manner with regards to fire prevention.

HAZ-3: Vehicles and equipment shall be maintained and operated in a manner to prevent hot surfaces, sparks or any other heat sources from igniting grasses, brush or other highly combustible material.

HAZ-4: A 300-foot defensible space area shall be constructed and maintained immediately behind the impact area, as well as the sides of the shooting lanes, as allowed by Public Resources Code Section 4291.3(b).

HAZ-5: The use of ammunition containing thermite, magnesium, or aluminum, commonly known as tracer or incendiary ammunition, is prohibited on any forest, brush or grass covered areas pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 4445.

HAZ-6: The applicant shall adhere to CAL FIRE Emergency Water standards Sections 1275.01-1275.04 as detailed below.

- Water systems equaling or exceeding the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1142, 2012 Edition and California Fire Code CCR 24 part 9, shall be accepted as meeting the requirements of this article.
- The hydrant or fire valve shall be 18 inches above grade, 8 feet from flammable vegetation, no closer than 4 feet and no further than 12 feet from roadway, and in a location apparatus using it will not block the roadway
- The hydrant shall be not less than 50 feet nor more than ½ mile from the building it is to serve, shall be located at a turnout or turnaround along the driveway to that building or along a road that intersects with driveway.
- The hydrant head shall be 2 and ½ feet National Hose male thread with cap for pressure and gravity flow systems, and 4 and ½ feet for draft systems. They shall have suitable crash protection.

- A reflectorized blue marker minimum of 3 inches diameter shall be mounted on a fire-retardant post within 3 feet of the hydrant. The marker shall be no less than 3 feet or more than 5 feet above grade.

HAZ-7: Wildland fires started by the shooting of firearms during periods of hot, dry weather with low relative humidity could be consider negligent. In the event a fire escapes its area or origin, and negligence can be proven, the individual(s) responsible could be charged with a misdemeanor as outline in Public Resources Code Section 4435.

HAZ-8: The applicant shall adhere to CAL FIRE driveway standards Sections 1273.01(b), 1273.03, 1273.05, 1273.06, and 1273.09 as detailed below:

- Minimum 10 foot wide with 14-foot unobstructed horizontal clearance and 15-foot unobstructed vertical clearance.
- Driveway shall have an all-weather surface, with no more than 16% grade, and minimum 50-foot radius inside curvature on all turns.
- Driveways exceeding 150 feet but less than 800 feet require a turnout near the midpoint, driveways exceeding 800 feet shall provide turnouts no more than 400 feet apart. Turnout shall be a minimum of 12 feet wide, 30 feet long with 25-foot tapers on each end.
- A turnaround shall be provided to all building sites on driveways more than 300 feet in length and shall be within 50 feet of the building, a 40-foot radius turnaround or 60-foot hammerhead "T" shall be utilized.
- Gate shall be a minimum 14 feet, all gates providing access shall be located at least 30 feet from the road way. Security gates shall have an approved means of emergency operation.

HAZ-9: The applicant shall adhere to the following CAL FIRE address standards

- Address must be posted at beginning of construction and maintained thereafter
- Minimum 4-inch letter height, 1/2" stroke, reflectorized with contrasting background, visible from both direction of travel
- Multiple addresses on a single driveway shall be mounted on a single post
- Address shall be placed at each driveway entrance

FINDINGS

The proposed project would have a **Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated** on Hazards or Hazardous Materials.

X. HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

b) Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i) Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
ii) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iv) Impede or redirect flood flows?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Thresholds of Significance: The project would have a significant effect on hydrology and water quality if it would violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality; substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin; 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 result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site, substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site, 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 impede or redirect flows; in flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation; or conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan.

Discussion: Regulatory agencies include the state and regional water quality control boards; State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) and the North Coast Regional Quality Control Board (NCRWQCB). The State Water Resources Control Board is responsible for implementing water quality standards in California. Water Code Section 13050(d) states: *Waste includes sewage and any and all other waste substances, liquid, solid, gaseous, or radioactive, associated with human habitation, or of human or animal origin, or from any producing, manufacturing, or processing operation, including waste placed within containers of whatever nature prior to, and for purposes of, disposal.* Typical activities and uses that affect water quality include, but are not limited to, discharge of process wastewater from factories, confined animal facilities, construction sites, sewage treatment facilities, and material handling areas which drain into storm drains.

Water Code Section 1005.1 defines groundwater as *water beneath the surface of the ground, whether or not flowing through known and definite channels.* Both surface water and groundwater define a watershed, as they move from higher to lower elevations. In Mendocino County, groundwater is the main source for municipal and individual domestic water systems, outside of the Ukiah Valley, and contributes significantly to irrigation. Wells throughout Mendocino County support a variety of uses, including domestic, commercial, industrial, agricultural needs, and fire protection. The County’s groundwater is found in two distinct geologic

settings: the inland valleys and the mountainous areas. Mountainous areas are underlain by consolidated rocks of the Franciscan Complex, which are commonly dry and generally supply less than 5 gallons per minute of water to wells. Interior valleys are underlain by relatively thick deposits of valley fill, in which yields vary from less than 50 gallons per minute to 1,000 gallons per minute. There are six identified major groundwater basins in Mendocino County. Groundwater recharge is the replacement of water in the groundwater aquifer. Recharge occurs in the form of precipitation, surface runoff that later enters the ground, irrigation, and in some parts of California (but not in Mendocino County) by imported water. Specific information regarding recharge areas for Mendocino County's groundwater basins is not generally available, but recharge for inland groundwater basins comes primarily from infiltration of precipitation and intercepted runoff in stream channels, and from permeable soils along the margins of valleys. Recharge for coastal groundwater basins takes place in fractured and weathered bedrock and coastal terraces, and along recent alluvial deposits and bedrock formations. If recharge areas are protected from major modification - such as paving, building and gravel removal - it is anticipated that continued recharge will re-supply groundwater reservoirs.

The basic source of all water in Mendocino County is precipitation in the form of rain or snow. Average annual rainfall in Mendocino County ranges from slightly less than 35 inches in the Ukiah area to more than 80 inches near Branscomb. Most of the precipitation falls during the winter, and substantial snowfall is limited to higher elevations. Rainfall is often from storms which move in from the northwest. Virtually no rainfall occurs during the summer months.

- a) **No Impact:** The proposed project does not require water and as such would not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality. The project application was referred to pertinent agencies for comment and no response was received expressing concerns with violation of water quality or waste discharge requirements.
- b) **No Impact:** The proposed project does not require water. As such, it will not substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin.
- c.i-iii) **Less Than Significant Impact:** The Project site is variable in its topography. However, very little topographic change is proposed as part of the proposed grading. Some grading will occur to modify the terrain at the firing lines and to create the backstops, but it will not change existing drainage patterns or affect any drainage courses. As such, the proposed project would not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site. The introduction of limited impervious surfaces and the slight modification to existing topography resulting from the development would not result in substantial erosion or siltation. The project would not substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or off-site, 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. There is limited storm drainage infrastructure within the vicinity of the Site. Due to the limited proposed development footprint, site drainage would continue to follow a natural flow pattern and infiltrate into the ground.
- c.iv) **No Impact:** The project is not located in either a FEMA flood zone or floodway. The project would not impede or redirect flood flows.
- d) **No Impact:** The project is not located in either a FEMA flood zone or floodway, tsunami, or seiche zone. As such, there is no risk of pollutants being released due to these types of events.
- e) **Less Than Significant Impact:** The project will be required to utilize Best Management Practices (BMPs) to minimize the amount of sediment and other pollutants from being discharged in stormwater runoff. Mendocino County Ordinance No. 4313, Stormwater Runoff Pollution Prevention Procedure (Mendocino County Code Chapter 16.30 et.seq.), requires any person performing construction and grading work anywhere in the County to implement appropriate BMPs to prevent

the discharge of construction waste, debris or contaminants from construction materials, tools, and equipment from entering the storm drainage system (off-site). Compliance with these regulations would facilitate the implementation of water quality control efforts at the local and state levels. Therefore, the proposed project is not anticipated to conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None

FINDINGS

The proposed project would have a **Less Than Significant Impact** on Hydrology and Water Quality.

XI. LAND USE AND PLANNING. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Thresholds of Significance: The project would have a significant effect on land use and planning if it would physically divide an established community or 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.

All lands within the unincorporated portions of Mendocino County are regulated by the General Plan and zoning ordinance, with regards to land use, as well as a number of more locally derived specific plans, such as the Gualala Town Plan, or Ukiah Valley Area Plan. The proposed Project does is not within a specific plan. The project was also referred to several agencies with jurisdiction over the project.

The subject parcel is located 4.8± miles south of Laytonville, on the east side of Highway 101, at its intersection with Old Sherwood Road (CR 311A). The parcel has a Zoning and General Plan designation of Rangeland (RL) with a 160 acre parcel size minimum.

Mendocino County’s Rangeland (RL) zoning is intended to create and preserve areas for (A) the grazing of livestock, (B) the production and harvest of natural resources, and (C) the protection of such natural resources as watershed lands from fire, pollution, erosion, and other detrimental effects. Per MCC Section 20.060.010(B), Community Recreation is a principally permitted use on RL parcels.

Mendocino County’s Rangeland General Plan designation is intended to be applied to lands which are suited for and are appropriately retained for the grazing of livestock. General uses include recreation.

All adjacent parcels have a Zoning and General Plan designations of Rangeland and are under the same ownership as the proposed project.

Uses that typically divide a community involve physical barriers that change the connectivity between areas of a community. These include, but are not limited to, road and highway construction, storm channel construction, closing of roadways or bridges, and construction of utility transmission lines.

CDFW’s Habitat Conservation Plan mission statement’s intention is: *“to provide for the conservation, protection, restoration, and management of fish, wildlife, and native plants and to preserve and restore the ecosystems (including ecological processes) on which they depend for use and enjoyment by the public.”*¹

CDFW’s Natural Community Conservation Planning program states it is: *“designed to facilitate the adaptation of wildlife to climate change. These plans build ecological resilience by creating landscape-scale interconnected reserve networks that are based on the major tenets of conservation biology, including representativeness, multiplicity, and redundancy of large habitat blocks and natural communities.”*²

a-b) **No Impact:** The project is not proposing any uses that involve the construction and/destruction of a physical barrier that would limit access currently enjoyed by the community. The proposed project is not located in an area with a Habitat or Natural Communities Conservation Plan nor would the project conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None

FINDINGS

The proposed project would have a **No Impact** on Land Use and Planning.

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

Thresholds of Significance: The project would have a significant effect on mineral resources if it would 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 or result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan.

Discussion: The Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA) of 1975 provides a comprehensive surface mining and reclamation policy with the regulation of surface mining operations to assure that adverse environmental impacts are minimized and mined lands are reclaimed to a usable condition. SMARA also encourages the production, conservation, and protection of the state’s mineral resources. SMARA requires the State Mining and Geology Board to adopt State policy for the reclamation of mined lands and the conservation of mineral resources.

The most predominant minerals found in Mendocino County are aggregate resources, primarily sand and gravel. Three sources of aggregate materials are present in Mendocino County: quarries, instream gravel, and terrace gravel deposits. The demand for aggregate is typically related to the size of the population, and construction activities, with demand fluctuating from year to year in response to major construction projects, large development activity, and overall economic conditions. After the completion of U.S. 101 in the late

¹ California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Habitat Conservation Planning Branch. January 2020. <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Explore/Organization/HCPB>

² California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Natural Community Conservation Program. January 2020. <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Climate-Science/Case-Studies/NCCP>

1960s, the bulk of aggregate production and use shifted primarily to residential and related construction. However, since 1990, use has begun to shift back toward highway construction.

- a-b) **No Impact:** The County is the administrator of the California Surface Mining and Reclamation Act (SMARA). Therefore, all activities undertaken regarding essentially non-renewable resources are subject to review and approval from the local jurisdiction. Mendocino County has many aggregate mineral resources, the demand for which varies. However, any negative impacts to either active mining activities or mining reclamation efforts would be required to be reviewed and approved by the County. There are no know mineral resources within the project area, nor are there delineated locally-important mineral resources within the project boundaries. Therefore, there will be no loss of availability of a known mineral resource or loss in locally-important mineral resource recovery sites.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None

FINDINGS

The proposed project would have **No Impact** on Mineral Resources.

XIII. NOISE. Would the project result in:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) For a project located within the vicinity of 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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Thresholds of Significance: The project would have a significant effect on noise if it would result in the 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; or generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels; or expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels (for a project located within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport or an airport land use plan, or where such as plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport).

Discussion: Acceptable levels of noise vary depending on the land use. In any one location, the noise level will vary over time, from the lowest background or ambient noise level to temporary increases caused by traffic or other sources. State and federal standards have been established as guidelines for determining the compatibility of a particular use with its noise environment. Mendocino County relies principally on standards in its Noise Element, its Zoning Ordinance, and other County ordinances, and the Mendocino County Airport Comprehensive Land Use Plan to evaluate noise-related impacts of development. Land uses considered noise-sensitive are those in which noise can adversely affect what people are doing on the land. For example, a residential land use where people live, sleep, and study is generally considered

sensitive to noise because noise can disrupt these activities. Churches, schools, and certain kinds of outdoor recreation are also usually considered noise-sensitive.

Major noise sources in Mendocino County consist of highway and local traffic, railroad operations, airports, commercial and industrial uses, and recreation and community facilities. Highways with traffic that generates significant noise include U.S. Highway 101 and the State Routes (1, 20, 128, 162, 175, and 253). The only active railroad operation in Mendocino County is the Skunk Train passenger line, which runs between the cities of Fort Bragg and Willits. Public use airports are located in or near Ukiah, Willits, Covelo, Boonville, Gualala, and Little River. Major industrial noise sources are primarily lumber mills and timber products facilities. Other sources of noise include, but are not limited to, commercial and industrial uses, paving, mining operations, heavy equipment, and entertainment events.

In the mid-1970s, the State of California decided that noise issues were significant enough to warrant new laws. In 1976, the Department of Health issued the first guidelines for acceptable noise levels—guidelines which are today maintained by the Office of Noise Control in the State Department of Health Services. Soon thereafter, local governments were required to include Noise Elements in their general plans. Noise Elements were intended then, as now, to establish policies and programs which direct the distribution of land uses to “minimize the exposure of community residents to excessive noise.”

Noise-sensitive groups are those in which noise can adversely affect what people are doing on the land. For example, a residential land use, where people live, sleep, and study, is generally considered sensitive to noise because noise can disrupt these activities. Churches and schools are also usually considered noise-sensitive.

Mendocino County’s Development Goal DE-5’s intention is to create a county “in which existing residential and other sensitive uses are protected from excessive noise and in which noise-intensive uses are protected from encroachment by residential and other noise sensitive uses. The County’s General Plan identifies noise and land use compatibility guidelines.

Land Use Type	Time Period	Maximum Noise Level (dBA)
Single-Family Homes and Duplexes	10 p.m. to 7 a.m.	50
	7 a.m. to 10 p.m.	60
Multiple Residential 3 or More Units Per Building	10 p.m. to 7 a.m.	55
	7 a.m. to 10 p.m.	60

a-b) **Less Than Significant Impact:** Per the County General Plan, “noise policies are intended to protect County communities from excessive noise generation from stationary and non-stationary sources. Land uses would be controlled to reduce potential for incompatible uses relative to noise. Residential and urban uses will be restricted near agriculture lands to prevent incompatible uses being placed near inherently noisy agricultural operations. Noise-sensitive environments, including schools, hospitals, and passive recreational use areas, would be protected from noise-generating uses. Structural development would be required to include noise insulation and other methods of construction to reduce the extent of excessive noise.”³ Vehicular traffic associated with the project is not anticipated to expose people to excessive noise as the shooting range will be in use only once or twice a month and only by guests of the ranch. The nearest off-site residence is approximately 5,250 feet from the project site. Appendix C of the Mendocino County Code addresses exterior noise levels and states higher noise levels may be permitted for temporary, short-term or intermittent activities when no sensitive or residential uses will be affected. The applicant has stated the use of the shooting range will occur approximately once or twice a month. As such, any noise or ground-borne vibration resulting from the project would not violate a local

³ Mendocino County General Plan, Page 3-10

general plan or noise ordinance as all development within the Mendocino County is subject to Exterior Noise Limit Standards specified in Appendix C of Title 20, Division I of Mendocino County Code. Therefore, potential impacts will be less than significant.

- c) **No Impact:** The nearest private airstrip, located in Laytonville, is approximately 2.7 miles northwest of the subject parcel. As such, the project would not expose people residing or working in the project area to excessive noise levels.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None

FINDINGS

The proposed project would have a **Less Than Significant Impact** on Noise.

XIV. POPULATION AND HOUSING. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (e.g., by proposing new homes and/or businesses) or indirectly (e.g., through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Thresholds of Significance: The project would have a significant effect on population and housing if it would induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (e.g., by proposing new homes and/or businesses) or indirectly (e.g., through extension of roads or other infrastructure); or displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere.

Discussion: The most recent census for Mendocino County was in 2020, with an estimated population of 87,497. The county has undergone cycles of population boom followed by periods of slower growth. For example, the county population increased by approximately 25 percent between 1950 and 1960, but barely grew from 1960 to 1970. Between 1990 and 2000, the population of Mendocino County increased 7.4 percent, a much slower rate of growth than the 20 percent increase from 1980 to 1990. Population growth slowed further from 2000 to 2007, increasing only 4.6 percent.

Mendocino County’s Housing Element is designed to facilitate the development of housing adequate to meet the needs of all County residents. The Mendocino Council of Government’s (MCOG) Regional Housing Needs Plan assigned the County a production goal of 2,552 housing unit for the unincorporated area between 2009 and 2014. Goals and policies were set forth in order to facilitate the development of these housing units at a range of sizes and types to address this need.

- a-c) **No Impact:** The proposed project would not induce substantial unplanned population growth. Mendocino County’s General Plan Housing Element Goal 2 is to “preserve and improve existing housing stock.” Any increase in housing number and accompanying infrastructure to serve future development were anticipated and analyzed in the General Plan. The project site is developed with two (2) single family residences, a riding arena, a barn / horse stable, and a caretaker’s apartment and will not necessitate the construction of replacement housing elsewhere.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None

FINDINGS

The proposed project would have a **No Impact** on Population and Housing.

XV. PUBLIC SERVICES. Would the project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives for any of the public services:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Fire protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Police protection?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Schools?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Parks?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Other public facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Thresholds of Significance: The project would have a significant effect on public services if it would result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or result in the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for fire protection, police protection, schools, parks, or other public facilities.

Discussion: The Mendocino County Office of Emergency Services (OES) is the primary local coordination agency for emergencies and disasters affecting residents, public infrastructure, and government operations in the Mendocino County Operational Area. The subject parcel is serviced by the Laytonville Unified School District, Adventist Health Hospital, and the Long Valley Fire Protection District. The parcel is not served by local water or sewer districts.

The subject parcel is located 4.8± miles south of Laytonville, on the east side of Highway 101, at its intersection with Old Sherwood Road (CR 311A), located at 40935 N. Hwy 101, Laytonville (APN 035-290-19). The Mendocino County Office of Emergency Services (OES) is the primary local coordination agency for emergencies and disasters affecting residents, public infrastructure, and government operations in the Mendocino County Operational Area.

a-e) **No Impact:** The proposed project does not propose any new housing or other uses that would necessitate the need for new or altered government facilities. As such, the project will not result in adverse impacts associated with provision of governmental facilities or need for new or physically altered governmental facilities that may result in environmental impacts in order to maintain acceptable service ratios and response times for public services.

Fire Protection: Fire protection services for wildland areas are provided by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) for vegetation fires, and Long Valley Fire Protection District for structural fires. The project application was referred to the CAL FIRE for input. CAL FIRE responded stating that the project, as described, will be required to maintain defensible space of 300 feet from each side and from the front and rear of the proposed structure, per Public Resource Code 4291, forbid the use of tracer or incendiary ammunition, and maintain a fully filled 4,000 gallon water truck on-site during activities.

Police Protection: Police protection is provided by Mendocino County Sheriff's Office.

Schools: The subject parcel is in the Laytonville Unified School District. The project will not generate, or has the potential to generate, new students.

Parks and Other Public Facilities: As the proposed project is for a shooting range for the guests of Shamrock Ranch and will not create an increase in the use of surrounding parks.

Development would not trigger the need for an expansion of service, staffing, or otherwise affect required service ratios.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None

FINDINGS

The proposed project would have a **No Impact** on Public Services.

XVI.RECREATION. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Thresholds of Significance: The project would have a significant effect on recreation if it would 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, or include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment.

Discussion: The County of Mendocino manages a variety of public recreation areas including the Low Gap Park in Ukiah, Bower Park in Gualala, Mill Creek Park in Talmage, Faulkner Park in Boonville, Indian Creek Park and Campground in Philo, and the Lion’s Club Park in Redwood Valley, all of which are operated by the Mendocino County Cultural Services Agency. Additionally, the County is host to a variety of state parks, reserves, other state protected areas used for the purpose of recreation, with 13 located along the coast and 8 located throughout inland Mendocino County.

a -b) **No Impact:** Admiral Standley State Recreation Area, the nearest regional park, is approximately 8.7 miles west of the subject parcel. The project will not impact the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks and other recreational facilities. Accelerated physical deterioration of the facilities will not occur because of this project.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None

FINDINGS

The proposed project would have a **No Impact** on Recreation.

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

Thresholds of Significance: The project would have a significant effect on transportation if it would conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities; conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b); substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design features (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment); or result in inadequate emergency access.

Discussion: The project site is currently developed with two (2) single family residences, a riding arena, a barn / horse stable, and a caretakers apartment. It is expected that construction of the project will result in a slight increase in traffic to and from the site, as construction workers arrive and leave the site at the beginning and end of the day, in addition to minor interruption of traffic on adjacent streets, when heavy equipment necessary for project construction is brought to and removed from the site. Once construction is complete, these workers would no longer be required at the site. The project will result in some additional traffic when guests arrive and depart.

The County’s Regional Transportation Plan goal for the State Highway System states: “Provide safe, efficient transportation for regional and interregional traffic while maintaining quality of life for residents of the county.”

Objective	Policies
Provide for efficient, free-flowing travel on all State Highways in Mendocino County.	Maintain a minimum Level of Service C on rural segments of the Principal Arterial System and a minimum Level of Service of D in “urbanized” areas as measured by the current Highway Capacity Manual.
	Maintain a minimum Level of Service D on the “main line” at all interchanges and at-grade crossings on the state Highway System.
	Consider a lower standard for Level of Service along segments of State Routes that serve as “Main Street” through communities.
	Consider programming RIP funding for projects that maintain or improve Level of Service to standards identified herein.

Mendocino County has not yet developed a threshold for Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT). Mendocino Council of Governments has implemented a screening tool for a project’s impact on VMT within a Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ). The screening tool demonstrates the proposed project is within a low VMT generating TAZ and will not create a significant impact. Development proposed on-site is not expected to significantly impact the capacity of the street system, level of service standards established by the County, or the overall effectiveness of the circulation system, nor substantially impact alternative transportation facilities, such as

transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, as a substantial increase in traffic trips or use of alternative transportation facilities is not anticipated.

- a) **No Impact:** Development would not conflict with a program, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities.
- b) **Less Than Significant Impact:** Development would not conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b), which states:

“(1) Land Use Projects. Vehicle miles traveled exceeding an applicable threshold of significance may indicate a significant impact. Generally, projects within one-half mile of either an existing major transit stop or a stop along an existing high quality transit corridor should be presumed to cause a less than significant transportation impact. Projects that decrease vehicle miles traveled in the project area compared to existing conditions should be considered to have a less than significant transportation impact.

(2) Transportation Projects. Transportation projects that reduce, or have no impact on, vehicle miles traveled should be presumed to cause a less than significant transportation impact. For roadway capacity projects, agencies have discretion to determine the appropriate measure of transportation impact consistent with CEQA and other applicable requirements. To the extent that such impacts have already been adequately addressed at a programmatic level, a lead agency may tier from that analysis as provided in Section 15152.”

The County of Mendocino has not established a threshold with regard to VMT impact significance consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b). California’s Office of Planning and Research states that “absent substantial evidence indicating that a project would generate a potentially significant level of VMT, or inconsistency with a Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) or general plan, projects that generate or attract fewer than 110 trips per day generally may be assumed to cause a less-than significant transportation impact.” Though an increase in traffic trips because of the project is anticipated for guests to travel to and from the shooting range, they are not expected to increase VMT above 110 trips per day.

- c) **No Impact:** The proposed project is not anticipated to substantially increase hazards due to design features or incompatible uses. An encroachment permit would also be required for any future improvements within the County right-of-way. The Site improvements would be required to be designed and constructed in accordance to established standards. Additionally, the project has been referred to various agencies, such as the Mendocino County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) and CAL FIRE, who have reviewed the project design for compliance with all standards and requirements, to ensure the project, as designed, would not increase hazards due to a geometric design feature. As of the writing of this Initial Study, no comments of concern were received from responsible agencies regarding increased hazards due to a geometric design feature or incompatible uses.
- d) **Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated:** The proposed project will not result in inadequate emergency access. The primary concern for emergency access is remote areas is for wildland fires. Fire protection services for wildland areas are provided by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), and the Long Valley Fire Protection District for structural protection. CAL FIRE recommends driveway standards. Emergency access concerns have been addressed in Section XX- Wildfire under mitigation measure WF-5.

MITIGATION MEASURES

TRANSPORT-1: The applicant shall adhere to CAL FIRE driveway standards Sections 1273.01(b), 1273.03, 1273.05, 1273.06, and 1273.09 as detailed below:

- Minimum 10 foot wide with 14-foot unobstructed horizontal clearance and 15-foot unobstructed vertical clearance.
- Driveway shall have an all-weather surface, with no more than 16% grade, and minimum 50-foot radius inside curvature on all turns.
- Driveways exceeding 150 feet but less than 800 feet require a turnout near the midpoint, driveways exceeding 800 feet shall provide turnouts no more than 400 feet apart. Turnout shall be a minimum of 12 feet wide, 30 feet long with 25-foot tapers on each end.
- A turnaround shall be provided to all building sites on driveways more than 300 feet in length and shall be within 50 feet of the building, a 40-foot radius turnaround or 60-foot hammerhead "T" shall be utilized.
- Gate shall be a minimum 14 feet, all gates providing access shall be located at least 30 feet from the road way. Security gates shall have an approved means of emergency operation.

TRANSPORT-2: The applicant shall adhere to the following CAL FIRE address standards

- Address must be posted at beginning of construction and maintained thereafter
- Minimum 4-inch letter height, 1/2" stroke, reflectorized with contrasting background, visible from both direction of travel
- Multiple addresses on a single driveway shall be mounted on a single post
- Address shall be placed at each driveway entrance

FINDINGS

The proposed project would have a **Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated** on Transportation.

XVIII. TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code §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:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code §5020.1(k)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code §5024.1? In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code §5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Thresholds of Significance: The project would have a significant effect on Tribal Cultural Resources if it would cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code §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 listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Places or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code §5020.1(k), or is a resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code §5024.1.

Discussion: Public Resources Code Section 21074 defines Tribal cultural resources as sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe that are either included or determined to be eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources (California Register) or included in a local register of historical resources, or a resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant. A cultural landscape that meets these criteria is a tribal cultural resource to the extent that the landscape is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape. Historical resources, unique archaeological resources, or non-unique archaeological resources may also be tribal cultural resources if they meet these criteria.

According to Chapter 3 (Development Element) of the Mendocino County General Plan (2009), the prehistory of Mendocino County is not well known. Native American tribes known to inhabit the County concentrated mainly along the coast and along major rivers and streams. Mountainous areas and the County’s redwood groves were occupied seasonally by some tribes. Ten Native American tribes had territory in what is now Mendocino County. The entire southern third of Mendocino County was the home of groups of Central Pomo. To the north of the Central Pomo groups were the Northern Pomo, who controlled a strip of land extending from the coast to Clear Lake. The Coast Yuki claimed a portion of the coast from Fort Bragg north to an area slightly north of Rockport. They were linguistically related to a small group, called the Huchnom, living along the South Eel River north of Potter Valley. Both of these smaller groups were related to the Yuki, who were centered in Round Valley. At the far northern end of the county, several groups extended south from Humboldt County. The territory of the Cahto was bounded by Branscomb, Laytonville, and Cummings. The North Fork Wailaki was almost entirely in Mendocino County, along the North Fork of the Eel River. Other groups in this area included the Shelter Cove Sinkyone, the Eel River, and the Pitch Wailaki.

Public Resources Code Section 5020.1(k) defines Local Register of Historical Resources as a list of properties officially designated or recognized as historically significant by a local government pursuant to a local ordinance or resolution. Public Resources Code Section 5024.1(c) states a resource may be listed as an historical resource in the California Register if it meets any of the following National Register of Historic Places criteria:

- (1) Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California’s history and cultural heritage.

- (2) Is associated with the lives of persons important in our past.
- (3) Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, or represents the work of an important creative individual, or possesses high artistic values.
- (4) Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Mendocino County has not designated any historical sites or buildings, but has adopted an Archaeological Ordinance designed to protect Native American Sites. The ordinance establishes a County Archaeological Commission that evaluates the potential impacts of proposed projects on archaeological resources and recommends measure to reduce or eliminate impacts on these resources. The County will protect its wide range of historic, cultural, and archaeological resources through a variety of action, including working closely with the County Museum, Native American Tribes, organizations, and agencies. New development projects will be evaluated for potential impact to cultural resources.

The project was referred to Sonoma State University's California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS). CHRIS determined the proposed project area has the possibility of containing unrecorded archaeological sites and recommended a study by a qualified professional archaeologist be conducted. The survey by Alex DeGeorgey and Nicholas Radtkey of Alta Archaeological Consulting, prepared December 12, 2022 was reviewed and accepted by the Commission on February 8, 2023. A standard condition for this project is recommended which will advise the property owner of the Discovery Clause, which prescribes the procedures after the discovery of any cultural resources during construction of the project.

- a.i-ii) **Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated:** On October 6, 2022, the Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians, Redwood Valley Rancheria (Redwood Valley Little River Band of Pomo Indians), and Cloverdale Rancheria were asked for comments regarding the project, per Assembly Bill (AB) 52. As of the preparation date of this Initial Study, no responses were received. The project was also referred to the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS) at Sonoma State University for comments. CHRIS determined there was a likelihood of Native American use on-site and recommended a qualified archaeologist conduct further archival and filed study. The project was brought before the Mendocino Archaeological Commission on February 8, 2023, where an archaeological survey report prepared by Alex DeGeorgey, dated December 12, 2022, was accepted. The Commission recommended the Mendocino County Discovery Clause (MCC 22.12.090) be included as a Condition of Approval for the project. This Standard Condition advises the property owner of the Discovery Clause, which prescribes the procedures after the discovery of any cultural resources during construction of the project. As the archaeological survey prepared by Alta Consulting noted the possibility of resources which may be likely to yield information important in prehistory or history, mitigation measures have been included.

MITIGATION MEASURES

TCR-1: Prior to the commencement of operations, the Project Manager will ensure that all Special Treatment Zones (STZ) are clearly described and illustrated in plans, and specifications.

TCR-2: All parties (Project Manager and Archaeologist) will review the plans prior to the commencement of construction and operations.

TCR-3: Prior to commencement of operations, and Archaeological Surveyor or professional archaeologist familiar with the site, shall demarcate all sites with STZ flagging. Exclusionary flagging will be based on the site sketch map. No buffer around the site boundary is required for Special Conditions Sites. STZ flagging that is older than six months will be inspected and refreshed prior to operations.

TCR-4: Only hand tools and manual vegetation treatment is permitted within the STZ. No mechanical treatments.

TCR-5: An Archaeological Surveyor or professional archaeologist will periodically inspect sites during construction to ensure the BMPS are effective and the STZ has not been breached.

TCR-6: Once operations for the shooting range commence and are open to the public, all STZ flagging shall be removed.

FINDINGS

The proposed project would have a **Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation** on Tribal Cultural Resources.

XVIX. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Thresholds of Significance: The project would have a significant effect on utilities and service systems if it would 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; not have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years; result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it does not have adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments; 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; or not comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste.

Discussion: Public sewer systems in Mendocino County are provided by cities, special districts, and some private water purveyors. There are 13 major wastewater systems in the county, four of which primarily serve the incorporated cities, but also serve some unincorporated areas. Sewage collected by the Brooktrails Township Community Services District and Meadowbrook Manor Sanitation District is treated at the City of Willits Wastewater Treatment Plant. The City of Ukiah's Wastewater Treatment Plant also processes

wastewater collected by the Ukiah Valley Sanitation District. Sewage disposal in the remainder of the county is generally handled by private onsite facilities, primarily septic tank and leach field systems, although alternative engineered wastewater systems may be used.

Solid waste management in Mendocino County has undergone a significant transformation from waste disposal in landfills supplemented by transfer stations to a focus on transfer stations and waste stream diversion. These changes have responded to rigorous water quality and environmental laws, particularly the California Integrated Waste Management Act of 1989 (AB 939). The Act required each city and county to divert 50 percent of its waste stream from landfill disposal by the year 2000 through source reduction, recycling, composting, and other programs. Chapter 3 (Development Element) of the Mendocino County General Plan (2009) notes there are no remaining operating landfills in Mendocino County, and as a result, solid waste generated within the County is exported for disposal to the Potrero Hills Landfill in Solano County. The Potrero Hills Landfill has a maximum permitted throughput of 4,330 tons per day and a remaining capacity of 13.872 million cubic yards, and is estimated to remain in operation until February 2048.

Mendocino County’s Development Goal DE-21 (Solid Waste) states: *Reduce solid waste sent to landfills by reducing waste, reusing materials, and recycling waste.* Solid Waste and Hazardous Waste and Material Management Policy DE-201 states the County’s waste management plan *shall include programs to increase recycling and reuse of materials to reduce landfilled waste.* Mendocino County’s Environmental Health Division regulates and inspects more than 50 solid waste facilities in Mendocino County, including: 5 closed/inactive municipal landfills, 3 wood-waste disposal sites, 2 composting facilities, and 11 transfer stations.

- a & c) **No Impact:** Development would not exceed the capacity of any treatment facility as the proposed project is not located within a wastewater sanitation district. The project will not require electric power, natural gas, or require expansion of telecommunication facilities.
- b) **Less Than Significant Impact:** Development will utilize water obtained from wells on-site. However, the operation of the shooting range will not require the use of water. All facilities utilizing water are located in the barn on Shamrock Ranch. It is not anticipated water usage will increase significantly as a result of the shooting range as operations will occur only once or twice a month. The applicant has demonstrated that there is currently storage capacity on site of 4,000 gallons to be used in case of fire.
- d-e) **No Impact:** Solid Waste of Willits operates at transfer station approximately 4 miles northwest of the project site, which can accommodate the solid waste disposal needs of the proposed project. The project will comply with all federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulation related to solid waste.

MITIGATION MEASURES

None

FINDINGS

The proposed project would have a **Less Than Significant Impact** on Utilities and Service Systems.

XX. WILDFIRE. If located in or near state responsibility areas or lands classified as very high fire hazard severity zones, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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 challenges?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Thresholds of Significance: The project would have a significant effect on wildfire if it would impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan; 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; 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; or 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 challenges.

Discussion: The County of Mendocino County adopted a *Mendocino County Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan* (County EOP) on September 13, 2016, under Resolution Number 16-119. As noted on the County’s website, the County EOP, which complies with local ordinances, state law, and stated and federal emergency planning guidance, serves as the primary guide for coordinating and responding to all emergencies and disasters within the County. The purpose of the County EOP is to “*facilitate multi-agency and multi-jurisdictional coordination during emergency operations, particularly between Mendocino County, local and tribal governments, special districts as well as state and Federal agencies*” (County of Mendocino – Plans and Publications, 2019).

- a) **Less Than Significant:** The Mendocino County Office of Emergency Services (OES) is responsible for coordinating the emergency planning process and maintaining the county’s emergency plans, including the Mendocino County Operational Area Emergency Operations Plan and Mendocino County Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. The project involves little physical change to the existing environment, and therefore is not expected to impair either of these emergency plans. The project site is accessed via private road directly from Highway 101 (State Route 101) and is not expected to interfere with existing evacuation routes and is not located on property identified for use as part of an emergency response plan.
- b) **Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated:** The project site is comprised of non-native grassland and is sparsely forested. The project involves development of an outdoor shooting range where the potential for fires from sparks if possible. Fire protection services for wildland areas are provided by CAL FIRE, because the site is within the State Responsibility Area (SRA), and is within the Long Valley Fire Protection District. The site is in an area classified with a “High” fire hazard severity zone as mapped by CAL FIRE. On May 24, 2022, the project application was referred to both agencies for comments. CAL FIRE responded on June 1, 2022 with concerns regarding the “High” fire hazard severity zone and the type of use proposed. As such, recommendations including defensible space, type of ammunition allowed, negligence, driveway standards, address standards, emergency water standards, and fuel modification were recommended. These have been included as mitigation measures.

- c) **No Impact:** The proposed development will not require the installation and maintenance of internal access roads and underground utility line (electricity) installation and connections and will not exacerbate fire risk.
- d) **Less Than Significant Impact:** Development would not 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 challenges, as the Site is located in a relatively flat area and both development and grading will be minimal. There are no mapped landslides at the project site.

MITIGATION MEASURES

WF-1: A 300-foot defensible space area shall be constructed and maintained immediately behind the impact area, as well as the sides of the shooting lanes, as allowed by Public Resources Code Section 4291.3(b).

WF-2: The use of ammunition containing thermite, magnesium, or aluminum, commonly known as tracer or incendiary ammunition, is prohibited on any forest, brush or grass covered areas pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 4445.

WF-3: The applicant shall adhere to CAL FIRE Emergency Water standards Sections 1275.01-1275.04 as detailed below.

- Water systems equaling or exceeding the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1142, 2012 Edition and California Fire Code CCR 24 part 9, shall be accepted as meeting the requirements of this article.
- The hydrant or fire valve shall be 18 inches above grade, 8 feet from flammable vegetation, no closer than 4 feet and no further than 12 feet from roadway, and in a location apparatus using it will not block the roadway
- The hydrant shall be not less that 50 feet nor more than ½ mile from the building is to serve, shall be located at a turnout or turnaround along the driveway to that building or along a road that intersects with driveway.
- The hydrant head shall be 2 and ½ feet National Hose male thread with cap for pressure and gravity flow systems, and 4 and ½ feet for draft systems. They shall have suitable crash protection.
- A reflectorized blue marker minimum of 3 inches diameter shall be mounted on a fire-retardant post within 3 feet of the hydrant. The marker shall be no less than 3 feet or more than 5 feet above grade.

WF-4: Wildland fires started by the shooting of firearms during periods of hot, dry weather with low relative humidity could be consider negligent. In the event a fire escapes its area or origin, and negligence can be proven, the individual(s) responsible could be charged with a misdemeanor as outline in Public Resources Code Section 4435.

WF-5: The applicant shall adhere to CAL FIRE driveway standards Sections 1273.01(b), 1273.03, 1273.05, 1273.06, and 1273.09 as detailed below:

- Minimum 10 foot wide with 14-foot unobstructed horizontal clearance and 15-foot unobstructed vertical clearance.

- Driveway shall have an all-weather surface, with no more than 16% grade, and minimum 50-foot radius inside curvature on all turns.
- Driveways exceeding 150 feet but less than 800 feet require a turnout near the midpoint, driveways exceeding 800 feet shall provide turnouts no more than 400 feet apart. Turnout shall be a minimum of 12 feet wide, 30 feet long with 25-foot tapers on each end.
- A turnaround shall be provided to all building sites on driveways more than 300 feet in length and shall be within 50 feet of the building, a 40-foot radius turnaround or 60-foot hammerhead “T” shall be utilized.
- Gate shall be a minimum 14 feet, all gates providing access shall be located at least 30 feet from the road way. Security gates shall have an approved means of emergency operation.

WF-6: The applicant shall adhere to the following CAL FIRE address standards

- Address must be posted at beginning of construction and maintained thereafter
- Minimum 4-inch letter height, 1/2” stroke, reflectorized with contrasting background, visible from both direction of travel
- Multiple addresses on a single driveway shall be mounted on a single post
- Address shall be placed at each driveway entrance

FINDINGS

The proposed project would have a **Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated** on Wildfire.

XXI.MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (“Cumulatively considerable” means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Does the project have environmental effects, which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Thresholds of Significance: The project would have a significant effect on mandatory findings of significance if it would 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; have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects.); or have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly.

Discussion: Certain mandatory findings of significance must be made to comply with CEQA Guidelines §15065. The proposed project has been analyzed and it has been determined that it would not:

- Substantially degrade environmental quality;
- Substantially reduce fish or wildlife habitat;
- Cause a fish or wildlife population to fall below self-sustaining levels;
- Threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community;
- Reduce the numbers or range of a rare, threatened, or endangered species;
- Eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or pre-history;
- Achieve short term goals to the disadvantage of long term goals;
- Have environmental effects that will directly or indirectly cause substantial adverse effects on human beings; or
- Have possible environmental effects that are individually limited but cumulatively considerable when viewed in connection with past, current, and reasonably anticipated future projects.

Potential environmental impacts from the approval of a 5,000 square foot indoor cultivation facility have been analyzed in this document and mitigation measures have been included in the document to ensure impacts would be held to a less than significant level.

- a) **Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated:** A riverine, which runs north to south, is situated along the eastern boundary line, approximately 0.25 miles south and 0.25 miles east of the project area, and a freshwater pond is situated approximately 2,100 feet southeast of the project site. Substantial adverse impacts on a sensitive habitat such as a riparian zone or wetland is not anticipated due to distance. However, mitigation measures regarding non-toxic ammunition are recommended. Wildlife corridors or conservation land have not been identified on or adjacent to the subject parcel. The Archaeological survey submitted was accepted by the Mendocino County Archaeological Commission at their February 8, 2023 meeting, and the County's Discovery Clause ensures development will cease should any archaeological artifacts be discovered. As the survey identified potential archaeological resources, mitigation measures are recommended.
- b) **Less Than Significant Impact:** The proposed project will not create any cumulative impacts on the surrounding area and any impact that would occur is considered to be less than significant. Development necessitates separate requirements such as BMPs and adherences to the California Building Code.
- c) **Less Than Significant Impact:** Based on discussion throughout this initial study, development will not cause substantial adverse effect on human beings, either directly or indirectly, and have been found to be less than significant or less than significant with mitigation implemented. All future projects will be required to adhere to Local and State codes regarding development.

MITIGATION MEASURES

MANDATORY-1: Prior to the commencement of operations, the Project Manager will ensure that all Special Treatment Zones (STZ) are clearly described and illustrated in plans, and specifications.

MANDATORY-2: All parties (Project Manager and Archaeologist) will review the plans prior to the commencement of construction and operations.

MANDATORY-3: Prior to commencement of operations, and Archaeological Surveyor or professional archaeologist familiar with the site, shall demarcate all sites with STZ flagging. Exclusionary flagging will be based on the site sketch map. No buffer around the site boundary is required for Special Conditions Sites. STZ flagging that is older than six months will be inspected and refreshed prior to operations.

MANDATORY-4: Only hand tools and manual vegetation treatment is permitted within the STZ. No mechanical treatments.

MANDATORY-5: An Archaeological Surveyor or professional archaeologist will periodically inspect sites during construction to ensure the BMPS are effective and the STZ has not been breached.

MANDATORY-6: Once operations for the shooting range commence and are open to the public, all STZ flagging shall be removed.

MANDATORY-7: The use of ammunition containing thermite, magnesium, or aluminum, commonly known as tracer or incendiary ammunition, is prohibited on any forest, brush or grass covered areas pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 4445.

FINDINGS

The proposed project would have a **Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated** on Mandatory Findings of Significance.

DETERMINATION: On the basis of this initial evaluation:

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

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

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

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

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

DATE

MARK CLISER
PLANNER II