PUBLIC DRAFT INITIAL STUDY

FOR THE

CALIFORNIA WASTE RECOVERY SYSTEMS TRANSFER STATION

JUNE 2023

Prepared for:

Calaveras County - Planning Department
891 Mountain Ranch Road
San Andreas, CA 95249
(209) 754-6394

Prepared by:

De Novo Planning Group
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(916) 949-3231

De Novo Planning Group

A Land Use Planning, Design, and Environmental Firm

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Statutory Authority and Requirements

This Initial Study has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (California Public Resources Code [PRC] Sections 21000, et seq.) and the State CEQA Guidelines (14 California Code of Regulations Title 14 Sections 15000, et seq.). This Initial Study is an informational document intended to be used as a decision-making tool for the Lead Agency and responsible agencies in considering and acting on the proposed Project.

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15063, Calaveras County (County), as Lead Agency, has prepared this Initial Study to determine if the proposed California Waste Recovery Systems Transfer Station Project (Project) would have a significant effect on the environment. If, as a result of the Initial Study, the Lead Agency finds that there is evidence that mitigation cannot reduce the impact to a less than significant level for any aspect of the proposed Project, then the Lead Agency must prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to analyze project-related and cumulative environmental impacts. Alternatively, if the Lead Agency finds that there is no evidence that the Project as proposed may cause a significant effect on the environment, the Lead Agency may prepare a Negative Declaration (ND). If the Lead Agency finds that there is evidence of a significant impact, but the impact can be reduced through mitigation, the Lead Agency may prepare a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND). Such determination can be made only if "there is no substantial evidence in light of the whole record before the Lead Agency" that such significant environmental impacts may occur (PRC Section 21080(c)).

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15063(c), the purposes of an Initial Study are to:

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

The environmental documentation, which is ultimately selected by the County in accordance with CEQA, is intended as an informational document undertaken to provide an environmental basis for subsequent discretionary actions upon the proposed Project. The resulting environmental documentation is not, however, a policy document and its approval and/or certification neither presupposes nor mandates any actions on the part of those agencies from whom permits and other discretionary approvals would be required.

1.2 Summary of Findings

Pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15367, Calaveras County (County), as the Lead Agency, has the authority for environmental review and adoption of the environmental documentation, in accordance with CEQA. As set forth in State CEQA Guidelines Section 15070, an Initial Study leading to a Negative Declaration (IS/ND) or Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) can be prepared when:

- The Initial Study shows that there is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the project may have a significant effect on the environment (resulting in a Negative Declaration), or

- The Initial Study identifies potentially significant effects, but:
    - Revisions in the project plans or proposals made by, or agreed to by the applicant before a proposed mitigated negative declaration and initial study are released for public review would avoid the effects or mitigate the effects to a point where clearly no significant effects would occur, and
    - There is no substantial evidence, in light of the whole record before the agency, that the project as revised may have a significant effect on the environment (resulting in a Mitigated Negative Declaration).

Based on the Environmental Checklist Form and supporting environmental analysis provided in Section 4.0, *Environmental Analysis*, the proposed Project would have no impact or a less than significant impact concerning all environmental issue areas.

1.3 Incorporation by Reference

Pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines Section 15150, an Initial Study may incorporate by reference all or portions of another document which is a matter of public record or is generally available to the public. Where all or part of another document is incorporated by reference, the incorporated language shall be considered to be set forth in full as part of the Initial Study's text.

The following documents are formally incorporated by reference into this Initial Study:

Calaveras County Draft General Plan, November 2019 (amended October 13, 2020). The Calaveras County General Plan (General Plan) is intended to guide orderly growth and development, promote equity, strengthen the economy, protect the environment, and promote public health and safety within the County. The General Plan is comprised of the following elements: Land Use Element; Circulation Element; Housing Element; Resource Production Element; Conservation and Open Space Element; Noise Element; Safety Element; Public Facilities and Services Element; and Community Planning Element. The County

adopted the General Plan in November 2019. The General Plan Community Planning Element was subsequently amended in September 2020, and the Land Use Element was amended in October 2020.

Calaveras County Draft General Plan Final Environmental Impact Report, SCH No. 2017012043, April 2019. The Calaveras County Draft General Plan Final Environmental Impact Report (General Plan FEIR) analyzed the potential environmental impacts that would result from implementation of the Calaveras County General Plan. The General Plan FEIR forecast 48,567 dwelling units and a resulting population of 117,045 persons at estimated buildout of the General Plan. General Plan buildout was estimated to occur in 2035. The General Plan FEIR concluded significant and unavoidable impacts concerning Aesthetics, Agricultural Resources, Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Biological Resources, Cultural and Tribal Cultural Resources, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Noise, Population and Housing, Public Services and Utilities, and Transportation.

1.4 Report Organization

This document is organized into the following sections:

Section 1.0, *Introduction*, provides the CEQA Statute and Guidelines applicable to the Initial Study, summarizes the findings of the Initial Study, describes the public review process, and identifies documents incorporated by reference as part of the Initial Study.

Section 2.0, *Project Description*, provides a detailed description of the proposed Project, including Project location, environmental setting, Project characteristics, construction program and phasing, and requested entitlement, permits and approvals.

Section 3.0, *Environmental Checklist Form*, provides Project background information and a summary of environmental factors potentially affected by the proposed Project and the Lead Agency Determination based on the analysis and impact determinations provided in Section 4.0. The impact evaluation criteria utilized in Section 4.0 is also provided.

Section 4.0, *Environmental Analysis*, provides a detailed analysis of the environmental impacts identified in the environmental checklist, and identifies mitigation measures, if necessary.

Section 5.0, *References*, identifies the information sources utilized in preparation of the Initial Study to support the environmental analysis.

Section 6.0, *Report Preparation Personnel*, identifies personnel involved in preparation of the Initial Study.

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 Background

The California Waste Recovery Systems Transfer Station is a medium volume transfer station located in western Calaveras County. California Waste Recovery Systems, LLC. (Cal-Waste) has been operating the medium volume transfer station at the Project site since 2018. The current medium volume transfer station has been issued a Registration Solid Waste Facility Permit by the Calaveras County Environmental Health Department. With establishment of Senate Bill (SB) 1383, Cal-Waste proposes to expand operations to a large volume transfer station to establish a method to divert organic and other recyclable materials from landfills, including food waste, recovered wood, inert materials, metals, and co-collected residential organic waste.

SB 1383, signed by Governor Brown in September 2016, establishes methane emissions reduction targets in a statewide effort to reduce emissions of short-lived climate pollutants. The bill codifies the California Air Resources Board's Short-Lived Climate Pollutant Reduction Strategy. Actions to reduce short-lived climate pollutants are essential to address the many impacts of climate change on human health, especially in California's most at-risk communities, and on the environment. As it pertains to solid waste, SB 1383 establishes targets to achieve a 50 percent reduction in the level of the statewide disposal of organic waste from the 2014 level by 2020 and a 75 percent reduction by 2025. The law grants the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) regulatory authority to achieve the organic waste disposal reduction targets and establishes an additional target that not less than 20 percent of currently disposed edible food is recovered for human consumption by 2025.

2.2 Project Location

The California Waste Recovery Systems Transfer Station Project (Project) site is located at 3524 Double Springs Road, approximately 0.3 miles northwest of the intersection of State Route (SR) 12 and SR 26 in the community of Valley Springs in western Calaveras County; refer to Figure 1, *Regional Location*. The Project site is comprised of a 7.29-acre parcel (APN 040-004-021); refer to Figure 2, *Project Site*. Local access to the Project site is provided via Double Springs Road from SR 26.

2.3 Existing Setting

On-Site Land Uses

The Project site is currently developed with an approximately 14,000 square-foot receiving/transfer station building, maintenance shop, business office, and two covered parking structures. Fencing surrounds the Project site and a front gate controls access to the site. The site also contains concrete waste transfer bunkers, a truck scale, gate house, paved yard, and a stormwater collection system, with onsite catch basins draining into an underground storage tank for waste contact water.

Existing Operations

The Project site operates as a medium volume transfer station for the purpose of consolidating and transferring solid waste to permitted disposal facilities. The facility currently accepts mixed municipal waste, green materials, and construction/demolition wastes. Cal-Waste collection trucks enter the facility,

weigh on the truck scale, and back up to the concrete bunkers to dump their loads onto the concrete slab. Operations peak at 21 vehicles per day. The site is accessed via a driveway to Double Springs Road. No general public or self-haul vehicles are accepted.

The purpose of a solid waste transfer station is to receive municipal solid waste then sort, compact, and transport such waste to an off-site end point. As such, no actual landfilling activities occur on-site. The existing on-site medium volume transfer station operates under a Registration Solid Waste Facility Permit issued by the Calaveras County Environmental Health Department (Facility SWIS No. 05-AA-0042). Under the existing permit, the facility is authorized to accept up to 100 tons of solid waste per operating day.

General Plan and Zoning

Calaveras County General Plan Land Use Designation

The Project site is located on a parcel with the Industrial (I) designation. According to the Calaveras County General Plan (General Plan), the Industrial land use designation identifies industrial areas that currently have or will have in the foreseeable future sufficient public infrastructure (water, sewer, roads). Typical uses include light and heavy industrial activities such as processing, packaging, machinery repair, fabricating, distribution, warehousing and storage, research and development, public and quasi-public, and other similar and compatible uses.

Zoning

Title 17 of the Calaveras County Code contains the County's Zoning Ordinance (Zoning Code). The Project site is zoned Business Park (M4). The M4 zone is intended to provide a zone for a comprehensive employment-generating development. The M4 zone allows for basic employment-generating businesses and accessory and support services, including but not limited to, retail uses, service businesses, administrative and professional office uses, processing and assembly uses, and manufacturing.

Surrounding Uses

Uses surrounding the Project site include:

- North: Immediately north of the site is Double Springs Road. North of Double Springs Road are the Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) Valley Springs Substation and undeveloped land.
- East: East of the site is undeveloped land, a storage yard, and SR 26.
- South: South of the site is the Toyon Smart Storage self-storage facility, undeveloped land, and SR 12.
- West: Immediately west of the site is Freedom Way. West of the Freedom Way is undeveloped land.

2.4 Project Characteristics

Proposed Expansion of Use

Cal-Waste (the project applicant) is proposing to expand operations of the existing medium volume transfer station to a large volume transfer station. The proposed Project would expand the existing transfer station use to increase the volume of waste from under 100 tons per day (TPD) to a maximum of 250 TPD. Existing operations as a transfer station use would remain similar to existing operational

conditions. Under the proposed condition, more vehicle traffic would enter and exit the facility. The number of vehicles per day would increase from a peak of 21 vehicles per day (VPD) to up to 84 VPD, and less than 10 peak hours trips from 7AM to 9AM. The anticipated maximum traffic at the Project (84 VPD) would be characterized as follows: 42 light duty vehicles, including self-haul pickups and passenger vehicles with small trailers; 30 medium duty vehicles, including commercial collection vehicles (compactor – roll-off); and 12 heavy duty vehicles, including transfer trucks. In addition, as part of the expanded operations, the Project site would accept materials from the general public (i.e., self-haul and other commercial/contractor vehicles) and other sources, including public agencies.

The Project proposes minor improvements to the Project site that involve the installation of new equipment to support the modified operations, as shown in Figure 3, *Site Plan*, including: a food waste bunker storage and transfer operation, along with a co-collected residential organic materials transfers operations; an outdoor construction and demolition debris (C&D) processing line and tipping area; outdoor concrete-block bunkers for storage of recyclables; and installation of a concrete wall (K-Rail or block) to a section of the C&D processing area.

The proposed Project would not result in any physical development or redevelopment outside of the existing Project site, and no new ground disturbance would occur within or beyond the Project site boundaries.

Requested Entitlements and Other Approvals

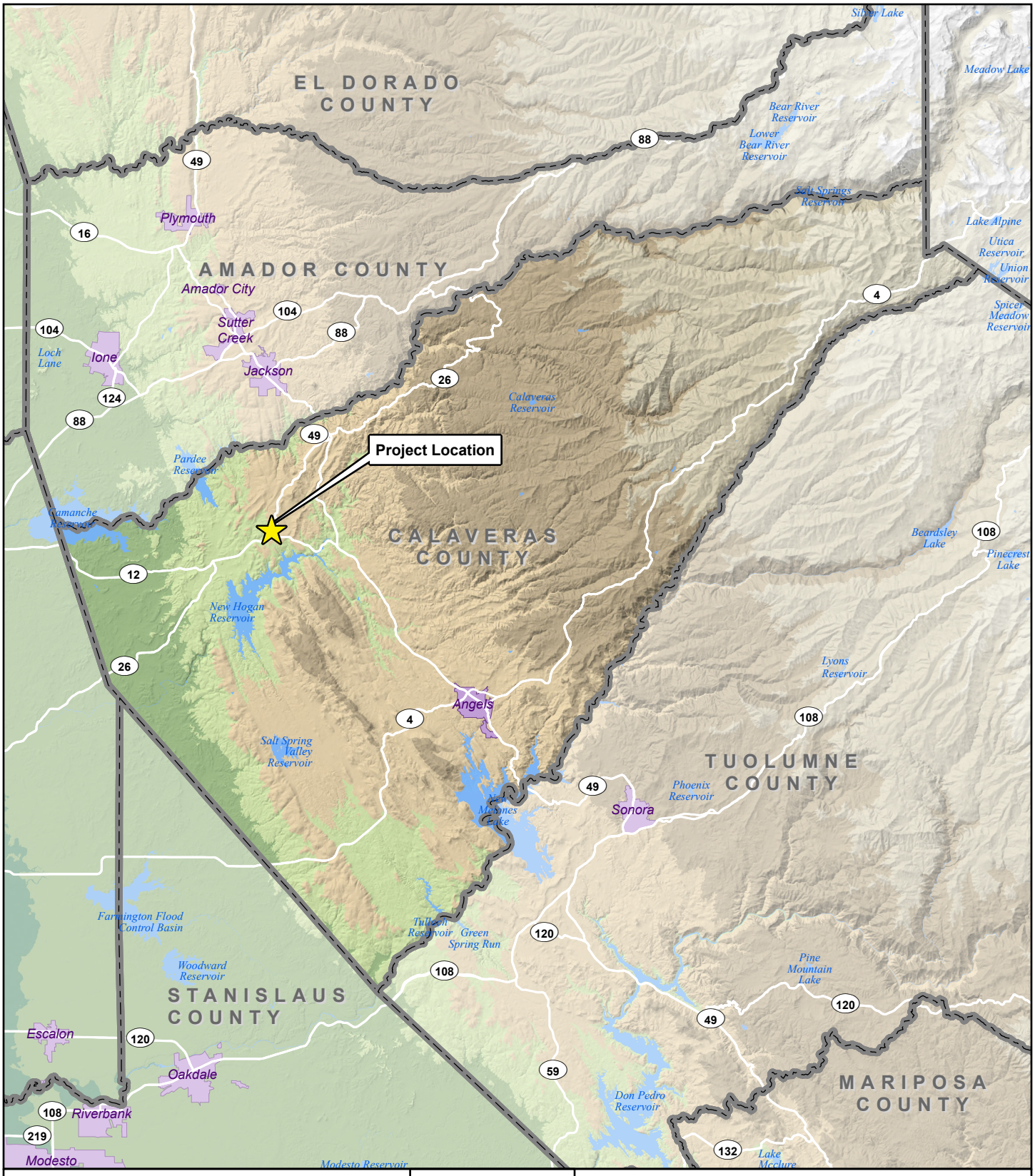
The Project requests approval of the following entitlements:

- Zoning Amendment from Business Park (M4) to General Industrial (M2)
- Conditional Use Permit (CUP) – expanding a medium volume transfer station to a large volume transfer station
- Full Solid Waste Facility Permit

2.5 Permits and Approvals

Calaveras County, as the Lead Agency, has discretionary authority over the proposed Project. To implement the proposed Project, at a minimum, the following discretionary permits/approvals must be granted by the County and others in addition to the approval of the Initial Study.

- Zoning Amendment from Business Park (M4) to General Industrial (M2)
- Conditional Use Permit (CUP) – expanding a medium volume transfer station to a large volume transfer station
- Full Solid Waste Facility Permit



LEGEND

- California Counties
- Incorporated Area

N

0 2½ 5

Miles

CALAVERAS CAL WASTE TRANSFER STATION

Figure 1. Regional Location

Sources: Calaveras County GIS. Map date: December 14, 2022.

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LEGEND

Project Boundary

N

0 100 200

Feet

CALAVERAS CAL WASTE TRANSFER STATION

Figure 2. Aerial View

Sources: Calaveras County GIS. ArcGIS Map Service. Map date: December 14, 2022.

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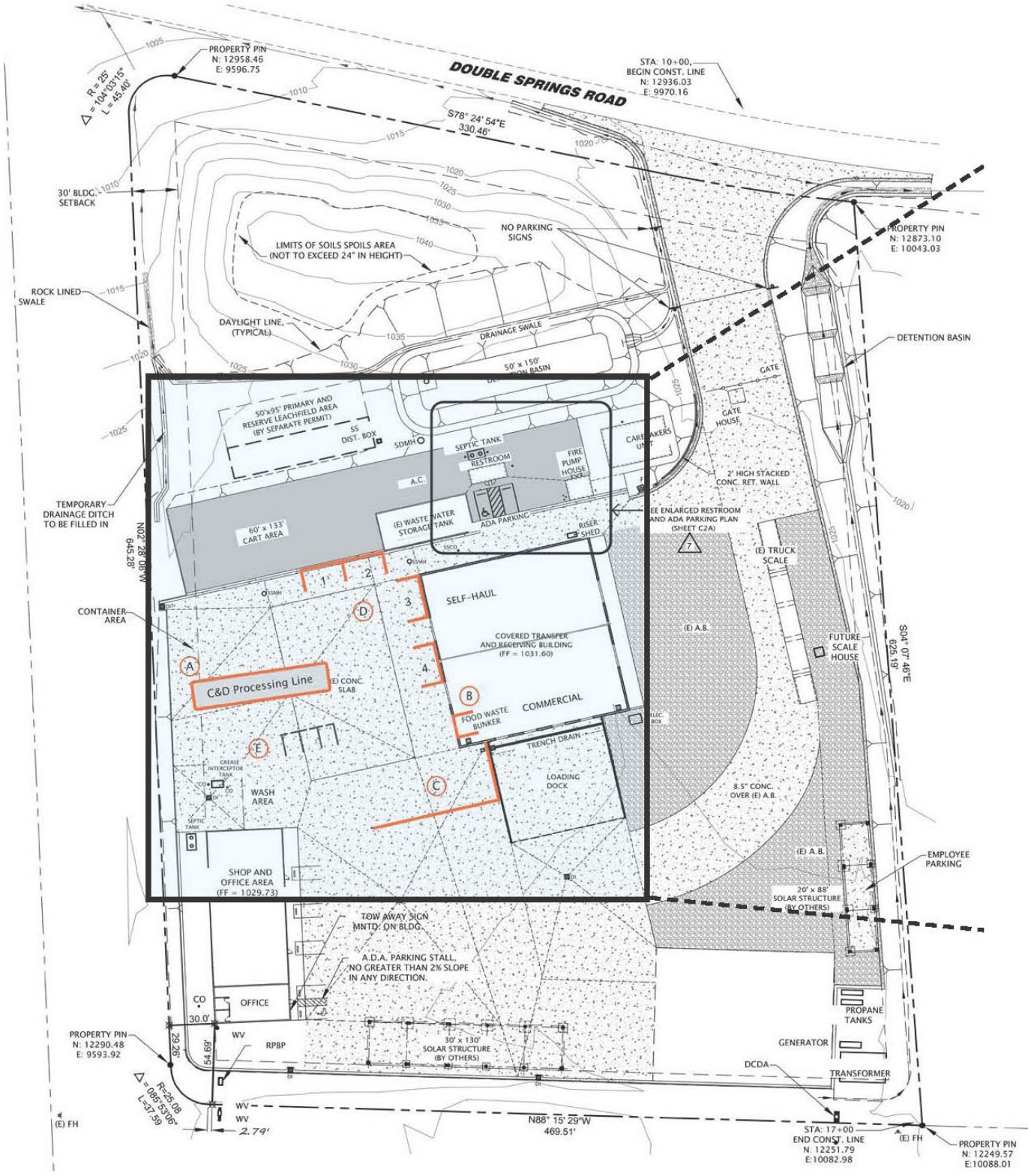

CALAVERAS CAL WASTE TRANSFER STATION

Figure 3. Site Plan

Sources: Edgar & Associates, Inc. Map date: December 14, 2022.

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

Background

1. Project Title: California Waste Recovery Systems Transfer Station Project
2. Lead Agency Name and Address: Calaveras County Planning Department 891 Mountain Ranch Road San Andreas, CA 95249
3. Contact Person and Address: Gabriel Elliott Director of Planning Calaveras County, Planning Department 891 Mountain Ranch Road San Andreas, CA 95249 Email: GElliott@co.calaveras.ca.us
4. Project Location: 3524 Double Springs Road, Valley Springs, CA 95252
5. Project Sponsor's Name and Address: California Waste Recovery Systems, LLC. 175 Enterprise Court, Suite A Galt, CA 95632
6. General Plan Designation: Industrial (I)
7. Zoning: Business Park (M4)
8. Description of the Proposed Project: See Section 2.4.
9. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting: See Section 2.3.
10. Other public agencies whose approval is required: California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle).
11. Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1? If so, is there a plan for consultation that includes, for example, the determination of significance of impacts to tribal cultural resources, procedures regarding confidentiality, etc.? The California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area have historically not requested consultation pursuant to PRC Section 21080.3.1. The Project site has been previously graded and is generally disturbed. There would be no excavation or further disturbance of the soil and it is unlikely that any soil would be disturbed as a result of the proposed Project.

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" or "Less Than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

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

Determination

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

X	I find that the proposed Project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
	I find that although the proposed Project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the Project have been made by or agreed to by the Project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
	I find that the proposed Project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT 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.

CALAVERAS COUNTY

Gabriel Elliott
Director of Planning

Date

Evaluation of Environmental Impacts

The environmental analysis in this section is patterned after CEQA Guidelines Appendix G. An explanation is provided for all responses with the exception of “No Impact” responses, which are supported by the cited information sources. The responses consider the whole action involved, including on- and off-site project level and cumulative, indirect and direct, and short-term construction and long-term operational impacts. The evaluation of potential impacts also identifies the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each impact question. If applicable, mitigation measures are identified to avoid or reduce the impact to less than significant. There are four possible responses to each question:

- Potentially Significant Impact. This response is appropriate when there is substantial evidence that an effect is significant. If there are one or more "Potentially Significant Impact" entries, upon completion of the Initial Study, an EIR is required.

- Less than Significant Impact With Mitigation Incorporated. This response applies when the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from "Potentially Significant Impact" to a "Less Than Significant Impact". The Lead Agency must describe the mitigation measures and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less than significant level.

- Less than Significant Impact. A less than significant impact is one which is deemed to have little or no adverse effect on the environment. Mitigation measures are, therefore, not necessary, although they may be recommended to further reduce a minor impact.

- No Impact. These issues were either identified as having no impact on the environment, or they are not relevant to the project.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

4.1 Aesthetics

Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, 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?				X
b. Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?				X
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?				X
d. Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area?			X	

a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?

No Impact. A scenic vista is an area that is designated, signed, and accessible to the public for the express purposes of viewing and sightseeing. The County General Plan does not specifically designate any scenic vistas within the County; however, the Conservation and Open Space Element notes that the County's scenic resources are some of its most valued assets and include forests, rolling hills, ranches, agricultural land, historic landscapes, oak woodlands, rock formations and other unique topographical features, river corridors, lakes, and streams.

The Project site is developed with an existing solid waste transfer station. The Project site has been previously graded; as such, it does not contain trees and is generally disturbed. The Project site is not designated as a scenic vista by the County General Plan, nor does it contain any unique or distinguishing features that would qualify the site for designation as a scenic vista. The proposed Project would expand existing waste transfer operations by increasing the permitted volume of materials received each day. The Project proposes minor improvements to the Project site, including the addition of a food waste bunker storage, an outdoor C&D processing line and tipping area, four outdoor concrete-block bunkers for storage of recyclables, and installation of a concrete wall to a section of the C&D processing area;

however, the Project would not include any other physical changes to the Project site or the surrounding area. Since only minor improvements are proposed and there would be no other physical changes to the existing transfer station required for the proposed increase of permitted volume, the proposed Project would not have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista. No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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

No Impact. The Project site is not located within view of a state scenic highway. The nearest officially designated State Scenic Highway is the portion of State Route 4 (SR 4) known as Ebbetts Pass National Scenic Byway, located approximately 23 miles northeast of the Project site (Caltrans, 2022). The nearest Eligible State Scenic Highway is State Route 49 (SR 49), located approximately 3.3 miles northeast of the Project site (Caltrans, 2022). As the Project site is not visible from SR 4, SR 49, or any other state scenic highways, no impact would occur to scenic resources within a State Scenic Highway.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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?

No Impact. As described under Response 4.1(a), above, the proposed Project would include increasing the permitted volume of materials received daily. The Project proposes only minor improvements to the Project site and would not include any other physical changes to the Project site or the surrounding area. Therefore, there would be no impact on the existing visual character of the Project site and the surrounding area.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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

Less Than Significant Impact. Lighting effects are associated with the use of artificial light during the evening and nighttime hours. There are two primary sources of light: light emanating from building interiors passing through windows and light from exterior sources (i.e., street lighting, building illumination, security lighting, parking lot lighting, landscape lighting, and signage). Uses such as residences and hotels are considered light sensitive, since occupants have expectations of privacy during evening hours and may be subject to disturbance by bright light sources. Light spill is typically defined as the presence of unwanted light on properties adjacent to the property being illuminated. With respect to lighting, the degree of illumination may vary widely depending on the amount of light generated, height of the light source, presence of barriers or obstructions, type of light source, and weather conditions.

Glare is primarily a daytime occurrence caused by the reflection of sunlight or artificial light on highly polished surfaces such as window glass or reflective materials and, to a lesser degree, from broad expanses of light-colored surfaces. Daytime glare generation is common in urban areas and is typically associated with buildings with exterior facades largely or entirely comprised of highly reflective glass. Glare can also be produced during evening and nighttime hours by the reflection of artificial light sources such as automobile headlights. Glare generation is typically related to either moving vehicles or sun angles, although glare resulting from reflected sunlight can occur regularly at certain times of the year. Glare-sensitive uses include residences, hotels, transportation corridors, and aircraft landing corridors.

The Project site is developed with an existing solid waste transfer station. Existing sources of light include lighting on structures and along the perimeter of the site, as well as from vehicles entering and exiting the site. Project implementation would increase the number of vehicles entering and exiting the existing transfer station from a peak of 21 VPD to up to 84 VPD. Due to the projected increase in traffic volumes along Double Springs Road and other adjacent roadways, the Project is expected to result in minor increases in light and glare from additional vehicles traveling through the area. However, the proposed Project does not include the installation of any additional light sources and would not introduce new sources of light or glare to the Project site or surrounding area. Therefore, the Project would not result in light and glare impacts which would adversely affect day or nighttime views in the area. Impacts would be less than significant in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

4.2 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?				X
b. Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?				X
c. Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 1222(g)) or timberland (as defined in Public Resources Code section 4526)?				X
d. Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				X
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?				X

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

b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?

No Impact. The Project site does not contain any mapped Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (California Department of Conservation, 2023a). The County General Plan indicates that prime farmland in the County has been identified under the Williamson Act program and the full extent of prime or unique farmlands is unknown. The Project site is not under a Williamson Act contract. The Project site is zoned M4. While the M4 zone permits accepted farming practices and conditionally permits commercial agriculture land uses, the M4 zone is not intended primarily for agricultural uses. Further, the Project site is developed with an existing waste transfer station and is not actively used for

agricultural production. Thus, the Project would not involve the conversion of farmland to a non-agricultural use or conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use or a Williamson Act contract.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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

d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?

No Impact. According to Section 17.14.010 of the County Code, lands in the Timber Production (TP) zone are commonly known as timber preserves and are intended for the primary and productive use of timber resources. This includes timber and wildlife management. The Project site is zoned M4 and developed with an existing waste transfer station. The Project site does not contain forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined in Public Resources Code section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g)). Thus, the proposed Project would not conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land, timberland, or timberland zoned Timberland Production, and would not result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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

No Impact. Refer to Responses 4.2(a) through 4.2(d), above. It is further noted that the Project does not have the potential to indirectly induce growth in other locations in Calaveras County that could lead to the conversion of farmland or forest lands. As noted under the Project Description, the proposed Project would expand operations of an existing transfer station to establish a method to divert organic and other recyclable materials from landfills, including food waste, recovered wood, inert materials, metals, and co-collected residential organic waste.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

4.3 Air Quality

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?			X	
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?			X	
c. Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?			X	
d. Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?			X	

Environmental Setting

The Project site is located in the Mountain Counties Air Basin and is under the jurisdiction of the Calaveras County Air Pollution Control District (CCAPCD). The County is in nonattainment of the State and federal ozone standard, and the State particulate matter (PM_{10}) standard. Table 4.3-1 presents the federal and State attainment status for monitored pollutants.

Table 4.3-1
Calaveras County Attainment Status Designations

Pollutants	State Designation	Federal Designation
Ozone	Nonattainment	Nonattainment
Particulate Matter (PM_{10})	Nonattainment	Unclassified
Particulate Matter ($PM_{2.5}$)	Unclassified	Unclassified/Attainment
Carbon Monoxide	Unclassified	Unclassified/Attainment
Nitrogen Dioxide	Attainment	Unclassified/Attainment
Sulfur Dioxide	Attainment	Unclassified/Attainment
Sulfates	Attainment	N/A
Lead	Attainment	Unclassified/Attainment
Hydrogen Sulfide	Unclassified	N/A
Visibility Reducing Particulates	Unclassified	N/A

Source: California Air Resources Board, *Maps of State and Federal Area Designations*, https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/documents/maps-state-and-federal-area-designations, accessed December 19, 2022.

a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?

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

Less Than Significant Impact. The Project site is located in the Mountain Counties Air Basin and is under the jurisdiction of the CCAPCD. CCAPCD manages the County's air quality through education and enforcement of CCAPCD rules and California Air Resources Board (CARB) measures and regulations.

The County is in nonattainment of the State and federal ozone standard, and the State particulate matter (PM_{10}) standard. The primary source of ozone precursors (i.e., ROG and NOx) is mobile sources, including cars, trucks, buses, construction equipment, and agricultural equipment. Common sources of particulate matter pollution in the County include residential, development, and land management related activities such as woodstoves, windblown dust and/or diesel from construction activities, and forestry management burning. According to the County General Plan EIR, the nonattainment status of the County is predominantly attributable to the overwhelming transport of pollutants from the Central Valley and the Bay Area into the County. Nonetheless, air pollutant emissions resulting from construction and operation of development projects in the County have the potential to represent a significant air quality impact.

The Project proposes to expand operations of an existing medium volume transfer station to a large volume transfer station. A limited amount of onsite construction activities would occur within the boundaries of the existing site, on areas that have been previously graded and disturbed. Construction would not involve earthwork or other ground disturbing activities. Construction activities would be limited to the installation of concrete bunkers and dividers, and other minor site improvements to aid in operations and materials sorting. It is anticipated that construction activities would occur over the course of 2-3 weeks. These temporary construction activities would not generate significant volumes of air quality emissions, and would be required to comply with all applicable CCAPCD requirements.

The proposed Project would expand the existing transfer station use to increase the volume of waste from under 100 TPD to a maximum of 250 TPD. During Project operation, the number of vehicles entering and exiting the facility per day would increase from a peak of 21 VPD to up to 84 VPD, including 42 light duty vehicles, 30 medium duty vehicles, and 12 heavy duty vehicles. However, due to the nature of the proposed Project, Project operation would not result in new sources of air pollutant emissions. The purpose of a solid waste transfer station is to receive municipal solid waste then sort, compact, and transport such waste to an off-site end point. The proposed expansion of the existing transfer station would improve efficiencies by consolidating several smaller loads into a larger load, which would reduce fuel consumption and associated air pollutant emissions that would have been spent driving the smaller trucks to the landfill or recovery facility. The Project would not generate or allow for processing of additional waste that is not already being processed at other locations. Therefore, Project operation would not violate applicable air quality standards or substantially contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation.

The Project is consistent with the General Plan land use designation for the site, and would not result in increased impacts associated with air quality. The Project would be subject to the applicable CCAPCD rules and regulations in addition to the General Plan policies and actions that aim to improve air quality and

minimize pollutant concentrations. Therefore, the Project would have a less than significant impact related to the potential to conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan, or to 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.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?

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

Less Than Significant Impact. Sensitive receptors are those individuals within the population that have an increased sensitivity to air pollution or environmental contaminants. Sensitive receptors include children, the elderly, and those with pre-existing serious health problems affected by air quality, and sensitive receptor locations include schools, parks and playgrounds, day care center, nursing homes, hospitals, and residences. The closest sensitive receptor is the single-family residence located on the eastern side of SR 26, approximately 0.15 miles east of the Project site.

The Project site currently operates as a medium volume transfer station under a Registration Solid Waste Facility Permit issued by the Calaveras County Environmental Health Department. The existing transfer station use is required to comply with a number of standards that would minimize odors and other emissions. Odor control is achieved through short holding times within enclosed vehicles of typically less than eight hours for municipal solid waste and 16 hours for green waste. Daily inspections by the operator and monthly inspections by the Calaveras County Environmental Health Department would identify any violations or nuisance conditions and require corrective actions.

The proposed Project would expand the existing transfer station use to increase the volume of waste from under 100 TPD to a maximum of 250 TPD. Under the proposed conditions, existing operations as a transfer station use would remain the same, however, more vehicle traffic would enter and exit the facility. The number of vehicles per day would increase from a peak of 21 VPD to up to 84 VPD. These vehicles would utilize adjacent roadways in the vicinity, including SR 26 and SR 12. SR 26 and SR 12 are designated as arterial roadways in the County General Plan Circulation Element and are designed to accommodate high traffic flows; the additional vehicle traffic resulting from the Project would be relatively minor and would not result in significant pollutant concentrations or other emissions along these roadways. Additionally, the Project would install a food waste bunker storage and transfer operation, along with a co-collected residential organic materials transfer operation. The commercial food waste bunker would be located inside the transfer station and the co-collected residential bunker (with green materials containing less than 10 percent food waste) would be in an outdoor location. Both operations would provide storage of the organics for less than 48 hours before they are transferred to a permitted off-site composting facility, or other organic waste processing operation. This would reduce the potential for objectionable odors from organic materials storage.

In accordance with California Code of Regulations Title 14 Section 17863.4, all compostable material handling operations and facilities must prepare, implement, and maintain a site-specific Odor Impact Minimization Plan (OIMP). The OIMP would provide guidance to on-site personnel in the handling,

storage, and removal of compostable materials in order to minimize odor, including: an odor monitoring and data collection protocol for on-site odor sources; a complaint response and recordkeeping protocol; and a description of design considerations and operating procedures for minimizing odor. The Project applicant would be required to prepare and file an OIMP prior to permit approval from CalRecycle. The OIMP would minimize the impact of odors to potential receptors within the Project vicinity as the need arises.

Project operation would be required to adhere to the existing regulatory framework, including standards to minimize odors and other emissions. Daily inspections by the operator and monthly inspections by the Calaveras County Environmental Health Department would identify any violations or nuisance conditions and require corrective actions. Therefore, the proposed Project would not result in other emissions, including objectionable odors, adversely affecting a substantial number of people and impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

4.4 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?				X
b. Have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, regulations or by the California Department of Fish and Game or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service?				X
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?				X
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?				X
e. Conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?				X
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?				X

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?

No Impact. The Project proposes to expand operations of an existing solid waste transfer station. The proposed expansion would increase the daily permitted processing limit and result in increased daily vehicle trips to the site. The Project proposes minor improvements to the Project site, but would not result in ground disturbing activities or any other physical changes to the Project site or surrounding area. There are no habitat types on the Project site suitable to support special-status species. The site has been previously graded and is developed with the existing transfer station use. Because there is no habitat, the parcel has been fully developed previously, and the proposed Project includes only minor improvements and no ground disturbance, implementation of the proposed Project will not impact any special-status species or their habitat. No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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

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

No Impact. There are no jurisdictional wetlands or riparian habitat on the Project site. As previously discussed, the Project site is developed with an existing solid waste transfer station. The Project proposes only minor improvements to the Project site, and would not result in ground disturbing activities or any other physical changes to the Project site or surrounding area. Therefore, the Project would not result in any impacts to these resources. No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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

No Impact. The Project site is developed with an existing solid waste transfer station and does not contain any native vegetation or suitable habitat for special status species. As the Project proposes only minor improvements to the Project site, and would not result in ground disturbing activities or any other physical changes to the Project site or surrounding area, Project implementation would not change the condition of the Project site with respect to biological resources or habitat types. Therefore, implementation of the proposed Project would not impact any migratory corridors or interfere with the movement of any fish or wildlife species. No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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

No Impact. The Project proposes to expand operations of an existing solid waste transfer station. The Project proposes only minor improvements to the Project site, and would not result in ground disturbing

activities or any other physical changes to the Project site or surrounding area. Further, there are no native or protected trees on the Project site that would be removed as part of the proposed improvements. Therefore, the Project would not conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources. No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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

No Impact. The Project site is not located within the boundaries of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or State habitat conservation plan. Thus, the Project would not conflict with any of these plans and no impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

4.5 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?				X
b. Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5?				X
c. Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?				X

a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to § 15064.5?

b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to § 15064.5?

c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of dedicated cemeteries?

No Impact. There are no known historical, cultural, or archaeological resources on the Project site. There are no dedicated cemeteries within the Project site. As described above, the Project site has been previously developed. The Project proposes only minor improvements to the Project site, and would not result in ground disturbing activities or any other physical changes to the Project site or surrounding area. Therefore, no impact to historical, cultural, or archaeological resources would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

4.6 Energy

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

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

California Building Energy Efficiency Standards (Title 24)

The 2022 California Building Energy Efficiency Standards for Residential and Nonresidential Buildings (California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 6), commonly referred to as "Title 24," became effective on January 1, 2023. In general, Title 24 requires the design of building shells and building components to conserve energy. The standards are updated periodically to allow consideration and possible incorporation of new energy efficiency technologies and methods. Title 24 standards require installation of energy efficient windows, insulation, lighting, ventilation systems, rooftop solar panels, and other features that reduce energy consumption in homes and businesses.

California Green Building Standards (CALGreen)

The 2022 California Green Building Standards Code (California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 11), commonly referred to as CALGreen, went into effect on January 1, 2023. CALGreen is the first-in-the-nation mandatory green buildings standards code. The California Building Standards Commission developed CALGreen in an effort to meet the State's landmark initiative Assembly Bill (AB) 32 goals, which established a comprehensive program of cost-effective reductions of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. CALGreen was developed to (1) reduce GHG emissions from buildings; (2) promote environmentally responsible, cost-effective, and healthier places to live and work; (3) reduce energy and water consumption; and (4) respond to the environmental directives of the administration. CALGreen requires that new buildings employ water efficiency and conservation, increase building system efficiencies (e.g. lighting, heating/ventilation and air conditioning [HVAC], and plumbing fixtures), divert construction waste from landfills, and incorporate electric vehicles charging infrastructure. There is growing recognition among developers and retailers that sustainable construction is not prohibitively expensive, and that there is a significant cost-savings potential in green building practices and materials (U.S. Green Building Council, 2020).

Senate Bill 100

Senate Bill (SB) 100 (Chapter 312, Statutes of 2018) requires that retail sellers and local publicly owned electric utilities procure a minimum quantity of electricity products from eligible renewable energy

resources so that the total kilowatt-hours (kWh) of those products sold to their retail end-use customers achieve 44 percent of retail sales by December 31, 2024; 52 percent by December 31, 2027; 60 percent by December 31, 2030; and 100 percent by December 31, 2045. The bill requires the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), California Energy Commission (CEC), State board or the California Air Resources Board's (CARB), and all other State agencies to incorporate the policy into all relevant planning. In addition, SB 100 requires the CPUC, CEC, and CARB to utilize programs authorized under existing statutes to achieve that policy and, as part of a public process, issue a joint report to the Legislature by January 1, 2021, and every four years thereafter, that includes specified information relating to the implementation of SB 100.

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

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

Less Than Significant Impact. The means to achieve the goal of conserving energy include decreasing overall energy consumption, decreasing reliance on natural gas and oil, and increasing reliance on renewable energy sources. In particular, the proposed Project would be considered "wasteful, inefficient, and unnecessary" if it were to violate State and federal energy standards and/or result in significant adverse impacts related to project energy requirements, energy inefficiencies, energy intensiveness of materials, cause significant impacts on local and regional energy supplies or generate requirements for additional capacity, fail to comply with existing energy standards, otherwise result in significant adverse impacts on energy resources, or conflict or create an inconsistency with applicable plan, policy, or regulation.

The Project proposes to expand operations of an existing medium volume transfer station to a large volume transfer station. Limited construction activities are proposed, and the Project would use only the energy resources necessary to install limited onsite improvements. As such, the Project would not result in significant construction-related energy usage. The proposed Project would expand the existing transfer station use to increase the volume of waste from under 100 TPD to a maximum of 250 TPD. During Project operation, the number of vehicles entering and exiting the facility per day would increase from a peak of 21 VPD to up to 84 VPD, including 42 light duty vehicles, 30 medium duty vehicles, and 12 heavy duty vehicles. However, due to the nature of the proposed Project, Project operation would not result in new sources of energy usage. The purpose of a solid waste transfer station is to receive municipal solid waste then sort, compact, and transport such waste to an off-site end point. The proposed expansion of the existing transfer station would improve efficiencies by consolidating several smaller loads into a larger load, which would reduce fuel consumption that would have been spent driving the smaller trucks to the landfill or recovery facility. The Project would not generate or allow for processing of additional waste that is not already being processed at other locations. Therefore, Project operation would not represent a wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources.

Calaveras County has not adopted a local renewable energy or energy efficient plan. Project operations would comply with adopted State regulations. Therefore, the Project would not result in potentially significant environmental impacts due to inefficient, wasteful, or unnecessary use of energy resources during construction and operation, nor conflict with or construct with a State or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency. This is a less than significant impact.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

4.7 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:				
1) 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.			X	
2) Strong seismic ground shaking?			X	
3) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?			X	
4) Landslides?			X	
b. Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?				X
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?				X
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?				X
e. Have soils incapable of adequately supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative waste water disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of waste water?				X
f. Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?				X

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

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

Less Than Significant Impact. The Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Act was passed in 1972 to mitigate the hazard of surface faulting to structures for human occupancy. The Act's main purpose is to prevent the construction of buildings used for human occupancy on the surface trace of active faults. The Act requires the State Geologist to establish regulatory zones, known as "Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zones," around the surface traces of active faults and to issue appropriate maps. If an active fault is found, a structure for human occupancy cannot be placed over the trace of the fault and must be set back from the fault (typically 50 feet). According to the California Geological Service (CGS) Earthquake Zones of Required Investigation, the Project site is not located within or near an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone (CGS, 2023a). Additionally, the County General Plan does not identify the Project site as being located in, adjacent to, or crossed by, an Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zone. Therefore, the probability of damage from surface fault rupture is considered to be low and impacts would be less than significant in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

2) Strong seismic ground shaking?

Less Than Significant Impact. The County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan (MJHMP) identifies potentially active faults within the County, including the Bear Mountains and Melones Fault Zones, part of the Foothills Fault System, which pass through the western County near Valley Springs, Mokelumne Hill and south of Copperopolis (Calaveras County, 2021). A number of faults do not traverse the County, but may cause shaking effects inside the County, including the San Andreas Fault, the Hayward Fault, the Calaveras Fault and the Greenville Fault. Rupture of any of these faults, or of a known or unknown fault in the region, could cause seismic ground shaking. The intensity of ground shaking on the Project site would depend upon the earthquake's magnitude, distance to the epicenter, and geology of the area between the Project site and epicenter. The MJHMP indicates that based on patterns of previous occurrences, the probability of damaging seismic ground shaking in the County as a result of an earthquake is unlikely.

The Project proposes to expand operations of an existing solid waste transfer station. The proposed expansion would increase the daily permitted processing limit and result in increased daily vehicle trips to the site. The Project proposes the installation of new equipment to support the modified operations, but would not result in ground disturbing activities or any other physical changes to the Project site or surrounding area. Chapter 15.04 of the County Code contains the County building code. Section 15.04.050 adopts and incorporates into the County Code the California Building Standards Code (CBSC), as amended, which includes design requirements to mitigate the effects of potential hazards associated with seismic ground shaking. Compliance with the County's established regulatory framework and standard

engineering practices and design criteria would ensure potential impacts associated with strong seismic ground shaking at the Project site would be reduced to a less than significant level.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

3) Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?

Less Than Significant Impact. Liquefaction is a phenomenon where earthquake-induced ground vibrations increase the pore pressure in saturated, granular soils until it is equal to the confining, overburden pressure. Engineering research of soil liquefaction potential indicates that generally three basic factors must exist concurrently in order for liquefaction to occur. These factors include:

- A source of ground shaking, such as an earthquake, capable of generating soil mass distortions;
- A relatively loose silty and/or sandy soil; and
- A relative shallow groundwater table (within approximately 50 feet below ground surface) or completely saturated soil conditions that will allow positive pore pressure generation.

The County General Plan FEIR notes that because the County is not located within a seismic hazard zone, the entire County, including the Project site, would not be considered at risk from seismic-related ground failure hazards, including liquefaction. Additionally, the Project proposes expansion of existing waste operations and the installation of new equipment associated with expanded operations, but would not result any other physical changes to the Project site. Therefore, the Project would not expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects related to liquefaction and impacts would be less than significant in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

4) Landslides?

Less Than Significant Impact. As indicated in the County General Plan FEIR, Calaveras County is not located in a seismic hazard zone; thus, the Project site is not considered to be at risk from seismic-related ground failure hazards, including landslides. The Project site has been previously graded and is relatively flat. As such, the Project site is exposed to little or no risk associated with landslides from slope failure. Additionally, the Project proposes expansion of existing waste operations and the installation of new equipment associated with expanded operations, but would not result any other physical changes to the Project site. Therefore, the Project would not expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects related to landslides and impacts would be less than significant in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

b) Result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?

No Impact. The Project proposes to expand operations of an existing solid waste transfer station. The Project proposes the installation of new equipment to support the modified operations, but would not include any excavation or other ground disturbing activities within the Project site or surrounding area. Therefore, no impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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

No Impact. Refer to Responses 4.7(a)(3) and 4.7(a)(4) regarding the potential for liquefaction and landslides, respectively. Due to the low potential for liquefaction, the potential for lateral spreading to occur at the Project site is also considered low.

The Project proposes to expand operations of an existing solid waste transfer station. The proposed expansion would increase the daily permitted processing limit and result in increased daily vehicle trips to the site. The Project proposes the installation of new equipment to support the modified operations, but would not result in ground disturbing activities or any other physical changes to the Project site or surrounding area. Therefore, no impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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

No Impact. The Project proposes to expand operations of an existing solid waste transfer station. The proposed expansion would increase the daily permitted processing limit and result in increased daily vehicle trips to the site. The Project proposes the installation of new equipment to support the modified operations, but would not result in ground disturbing activities or any other physical changes to the Project site or surrounding area. Therefore, there is no new risk of harm to life or property sited on expansive soils. No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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

No Impact. The Project site is currently served via an on-site wastewater system. The proposed Project would involve the installation of new equipment to support modified Project operations but does not involve any other physical changes to the Project site. Implementation of the Project would result in no impact relative to this topic.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

f) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

No Impact. The Project site has been previously graded and there are no known unique paleontological resources within the Project site. The Project proposes the installation of new equipment to support the modified operations, but would not involve excavation or any other ground disturbing activities within

the Project site or surrounding area. Therefore, the Project would result in no impacts to paleontological resources or unique geologic features.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

4.8 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, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?			X	
b. Conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?			X	

Existing Setting

Various gases in the Earth's atmosphere, classified as atmospheric greenhouse gases (GHGs), play a critical role in determining the Earth's surface temperature. Solar radiation enters Earth's atmosphere from space, and a portion of the radiation is absorbed by the Earth's surface. The Earth emits this radiation back toward space, but the properties of the radiation change from high-frequency solar radiation to lower-frequency infrared radiation.

Greenhouse gases, which are transparent to solar radiation, are effective in absorbing infrared radiation. As a result, this radiation that otherwise would have escaped back into space is now retained, resulting in a warming of the atmosphere. This phenomenon is known as the greenhouse effect, which leads to global warming as well as an overall global climate change, which includes long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. Among the prominent GHGs contributing to the greenhouse effect are carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), ozone (O_3), water vapor (H_2O), N_2O, and chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs).

Naturally occurring greenhouse gases include water vapor (H_2O), carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane (CH_4), nitrous oxide (N_2O), and ozone (O_3). Several classes of halogenated substances that contain fluorine, chlorine, or bromine are also greenhouse gases, but they are, for the most part, solely a product of industrial activities. There are also several gases that do not have a direct global warming effect but indirectly affect terrestrial and/or solar radiation absorption by influencing the formation or destruction of greenhouse gases, including tropospheric and stratospheric ozone. These gases include carbon monoxide (CO), oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), and non-CH_4 volatile organic compounds (NMVOCs). Aerosols, which are extremely small particles or liquid droplets, such as those produced by sulfur dioxide (SO_2) or elemental carbon emissions, can also affect the absorptive characteristics of the atmosphere (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, 2011).

Emissions of GHGs contributing to global climate change are attributable in large part to human activities associated with the industrial/manufacturing, utility, transportation, residential, and agricultural sectors. Consumption of fossil fuels in the transportation sector was the single largest source of California's GHG emissions in 2020 accounting for 37 percent of total GHG emissions in the state (CARB, 2022b). This

category was followed by the industrial sector (20 percent), the electricity generation sector (including both in-state and out of-state sources) (16 percent), the residential and commercial sector (11 percent), the agriculture and forestry sector (9 percent), high-Global Warming Potential gases (includes emissions from refrigerants used in vehicles, airplane, train, and ship and boat) (6 percent), and waste (2 percent).

As the name implies, global climate change is a global problem. GHGs are global pollutants, unlike criteria air pollutants and toxic air contaminants, which are pollutants of regional and local concern, respectively. California produced approximately 418.2 million gross metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents ($MMTCO_2e$) in 2019, satisfying the annual statewide target set by the California Air Resources Board (CARB), that California emissions be below 431 $MMTCO_2e$ by 2020 (CARB, 2021). To meet CARB's statewide targets, California emissions must further be reduced to below 260 $MMTCO_2e$ by 2030.

Carbon dioxide equivalents are a measurement used to account for the fact that different GHGs have different potential to retain infrared radiation in the atmosphere and contribute to the greenhouse effect. This potential, known as the global warming potential of a GHG, is also dependent on the lifetime, or persistence, of the gas molecule in the atmosphere. Expressing GHG emissions in carbon dioxide equivalents takes the contribution of all GHG emissions to the greenhouse effect and converts them to a single unit equivalent to the effect that would occur if only CO_2 were being emitted.

a) Generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?

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

Less Than Significant Impact. Existing science is inadequate to support quantification of impacts that project specific GHG emissions have on global climatic change. This is readily understood when one considers that global climatic change is the result of the sum total of GHG emissions, both man-made and natural that occurred in the past; that is occurring now; and will occur in the future. The effects of project specific GHG emissions are cumulative, and unless reduced or mitigated, their incremental contribution to global climatic change could be considered significant.

Project-related GHG emissions would include emissions from direct and indirect sources. Direct project-related GHG emissions include emissions from area sources and mobile sources, while indirect sources include emissions from electricity consumption and water demand. The Project site currently operates as a medium volume transfer station. The Project proposes expansion of the existing transfer station use and the installation of new equipment associated with expanded operations, but would not result any other physical changes to the Project site or surrounding area. The Project would not result in a significant increase in indirect sources of GHG emissions, including increased electricity consumption and water demand, as expansion of the existing site use would not appreciably increase demand for these resources.

Project-related GHG emissions would occur primarily from mobile sources. The proposed Project would expand the existing transfer station use to increase the volume of waste from under 100 TPD to a maximum of 250 TPD. The Project is not anticipated to generate significant employment beyond the existing site use, resulting in additional worker vehicle trips; however, there is the potential that the increase in permitted capacity may require an additional three to five new employees at the facility on a

daily basis. This relatively small increase in potential worker vehicle trips would have a negligible effect on Project-related GHG emissions. Under the proposed Project conditions, the number of vehicles entering and exiting the transfer facility per day would increase from a peak of 21 VPD to up to 84 VPD, including 42 light duty vehicles, 30 medium duty vehicles, and 12 heavy duty vehicles. However, the purpose of the proposed Project is to increase handling volume capacity for municipal solid waste at the existing transfer station such that County collection trucks, the general public, and other sources can dispose of waste at the transfer station (closer to the waste source locations). The municipal solid waste would then be sorted, compacted, and consolidated at the transfer station into larger trucks for transporting to an off-site landfill or recovery facility in lieu of individual route truck trips, thus resulting in fewer VMT overall. Because the proposed Project would reduce overall VMT for trips, the Project would not generate an increase of GHG emissions during operation.

The Project would have an overall beneficial impact by reducing cumulative GHG emissions. By expanding operations of the existing transfer station to establish a method to divert organic and other recyclable materials from landfills, the Project would assist the County in meeting organic waste disposal reduction targets in compliance with SB 1383. Therefore, the proposed Project would not generate a significant cumulative impact to GHGs. Because the Project is not creating a new source of long-term emissions, the Project would not conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing GHG emissions. Overall, the Project would not generate GHG emissions that would have a significant impact on the environment or conflict with any applicable plans, policies, or regulations. Therefore, impacts related to greenhouse gases are less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

4.9 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?			X	
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?			X	
c. Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?			X	
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?			X	
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?				X
f. Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?			X	
g. Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?			X	

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

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

Less Than Significant Impact. Generally, the exposure of persons to hazardous materials could occur in the following manners: improper handling or use of hazardous materials or hazardous wastes during construction or operation of future development, particularly by untrained personnel; an accident during transport; environmentally unsound disposal methods; or fire, explosion or other emergencies. The severity of potential effects varies with the activity conducted, the concentration and type of hazardous material or wastes present, and the proximity of sensitive receptors.

The existing transfer station accepts only mixed municipal waste, green materials, and construction/demolition wastes (CalRecycle, 2023). The facility does not accept any hazardous waste or other prohibited hazardous materials.

The proposed Project consists of an increase in the maximum daily processing capacity of an existing transfer station facility and an increase in daily vehicle trips to the facility. The Project proposes the installation of new equipment to support the modified operations, but would not result in any other physical changes to the Project site or surrounding area. Similar to existing conditions, the proposed Project would not accept hazardous materials. All waste materials accepted at the Project site are load checked to ensure that household hazardous waste and other prohibited hazardous materials are not included in waste loads that are received. If hazardous waste materials are retrieved, such materials would be stored in an appropriate storage locker and transported to an appropriate facility in compliance with applicable State and federal laws. Any transport along the proposed roadway would be subject to applicable State and federal laws, minimizing the potential for upset and accident conditions to occur. Therefore, the proposed Project would result in a less than significant impact from hazardous materials.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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

Less Than Significant Impact. There are no existing or proposed schools within 0.25 mile of the Project site. The nearest school to the Project site is Toyon Middle School, located approximately 0.4 miles to the east. As discussed above, the existing transfer station does not accept hazardous materials and all waste materials accepted at the Project site are load checked to ensure that household hazardous waste and other prohibited hazardous materials are not included in waste loads that are received. If hazardous waste materials are retrieved, such materials would be stored in an appropriate storage locker and transported to an appropriate facility in compliance with applicable State and federal laws. Because the Project site is more than one-quarter mile away from any school and because the facility does not accept hazardous materials, this is a less than significant impact.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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?

Less Than Significant Impact. Government Code Section 65962.5, commonly referred to as the "Cortese List", requires the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) and the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) to compile and update a regulatory sites list (pursuant to the criteria of the Section). The California Department of Health Services is also required to compile and update, as appropriate, a list of all public drinking water wells that contain detectable levels of organic contaminants and that are subject to water analysis pursuant to Health and Safety Code Section 116395. Government Code Section 65962.5 requires the local enforcement agency, as designated pursuant to Section 18051 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, to compile, as appropriate, a list of all solid waste disposal facilities from which there is a known migration of hazardous waste. The Project site is not included on any of the data resources identified as meeting the Cortese List requirements (EPA, 2023; DTSC, 2023). Therefore, the Project site has not been included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment. Impacts would be less than significant in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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

No Impact. The Project site in not located within an airport land use plan, nor is the Project site located within two miles of a public airport or public use airport. Thus, the Project would not result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the area. No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Calaveras County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) outlines the functions, responsibilities, and regional risk assessments of Calaveras County for large scale emergencies such as wildland fires, hazardous materials incidents, flooding, and dam failure. The EOP addresses the planned response to extraordinary emergency situations and establishes a flexible, all hazards, emergency management organization required to facilitate the response to, and provide for short term recovery activities related to any significant emergency or disaster affecting Calaveras County. The EOP tasks the Calaveras County Sheriff's Department with authority and responsibility for evacuation and movement of citizens in times of crisis, including the identification of evacuation routes (Calaveras County, 2019).

The proposed Project involves an increase in the maximum daily permitted processing capacity of an existing transfer station and an increase in daily vehicle trips to the site. The Project proposes the installation of new equipment within the Project site to support the modified operations, but would not

result in any other physical changes to the Project site or surrounding area that would interfere with an adopted emergency response plan. Thus, the Project would not substantially impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan and impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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

Less Than Significant Impact. According to the CalFire Hazard Severity Zone Map, the Project site is located within a State Responsibility Area (SRA) for fire protection and is classified as a Moderate Fire Hazard Severity Zone (CALFIRE, 2023).

The Project site is currently developed with a medium volume transfer station. The Project proposes to expand operations of an existing transfer station. The Project does not propose activities that would increase risks to people or structures involving wildland fires. Therefore, impacts from implementation of the Project would be considered less than significant relative to this topic.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

4.10 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?			X	
b. Substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?			X	
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:				
1) Result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?			X	
2) Substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding on- or offsite?			X	
3) 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?			X	
4) Impede or redirect flood flows?			X	
d) In flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to project inundation?			X	
e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?			X	

a) Violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or ground water quality?

Less Than Significant Impact. Urban runoff is typically associated with impervious surfaces such as rooftops, streets, and other paved areas, where various types of pollutants may build up and eventually be washed into the storm drain system after storm events. Sediment, trash, organic contaminants, nutrients, trace metals, and oil and grease compound are common urban pollutants than can affect receiving water quality if not properly managed.

The Project proposes to expand operations of an existing transfer station. The Project site includes an existing stormwater collection system with onsite catch basins draining into an underground storage tank. When full, the underground storage tank is pumped and hauled offsite, as solid-waste contact water, to a permitted wastewater facility for disposal. Compliance with applicable codes, policies, and regulations regarding waste discharge and water quality would ensure that Project operations would not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality. Impacts would be less than significant in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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

Less Than Significant Impact. The Project site is served by the Toyon Park Water System. The Project site is developed with an existing solid waste transfer station. The Project site has been previously graded and is primarily comprised of concrete and gravel.

As indicated in the County General Plan EIR, most of the County is underlain by faulted and folded igneous and metamorphic rock. Groundwater recharge currently occurring in the County is generally focused in the northwestern portion of the County, where the bedrock of the Sierra Nevada is overlain by alluvial sediments. The alluvial sediments generally allow for higher rates of recharge than the bedrock.

As the Project involves the expansion of operations of an existing transfer station, the Project would not decrease groundwater supplies via an increase in water demand. Additionally, the Project does not propose new concrete or other physical changes that would introduce new impervious surfaces to a previously undeveloped area. As such, the Project would not substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the Project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin. Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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:

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

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

3) 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?

4) Impede or redirect flood flows?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Project proposes to expand operations of an existing transfer station. The Project would include the installation of new equipment associated with expanded operations, but does not propose any other physical changes to the existing topography or drainage patterns of the Project site or the surrounding areas. The Project site includes an existing stormwater collection system with onsite catch basins draining into an underground storage tank. When full, the underground storage tank is pumped and hauled offsite, as solid-waste contact water, to a permitted wastewater facility for disposal. Compliance with applicable codes, policies, and regulations regarding waste discharge and water quality would ensure that Project operations would not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality. Therefore, the Project would not result in substantial erosion or siltation, substantially increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner which would result in flooding, create or contribute runoff that would exceed the capacity of the existing drainage system, or impede or redirect flood flows. Impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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

Less Than Significant Impact. According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), the Project site is located within an area of minimal flood hazard (Zone X) (FEMA, 2023). Tsunamis are sea waves that are generated in response to large-magnitude earthquakes, which can result in coastal flooding. Seiches are the oscillation of large bodies of standing water, such as lakes, that can occur in response to ground shaking. The Project site is located approximately 100 miles east of the Pacific Ocean; therefore, the County is not at risk for inundation by tsunami. Several lakes and reservoirs exist within Calaveras County; however, the Project site is not located within an existing Dam Breach Inundation Zone (DWR, 2023). Therefore, seiches would not pose a substantial risk to the Project. Additionally, the Project proposes to expand operations of an existing transfer station and the installation of new equipment associated with expanded operations, but does not propose any other physical changes. The Project would not risk release of pollutants due to project inundation and impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

e) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?

Less Than Significant Impact. Calaveras County is located within the jurisdiction of the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB) (Region 5). The CVRWQCB developed a Water Quality Control Plan (Basin Plan) for the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins, which includes a summary of beneficial water uses, water quality objectives needed to protect the identified beneficial uses, and implementation measures. The Basin Plan establishes water quality standards for all the ground and surface waters of the region. The RWQCB regulates waste discharges to minimize and control their effects on the quality of the region's ground and surface water. Permits are issued under a number of programs and authorities. The terms and conditions of these discharge permits are enforced through a variety of technical, administrative, and legal means. Water quality problems in the region are listed in the Basin Plan, along with the causes, where known.

As discussed above, impacts related to water quality related to the Project would be less-than-significant with compliance with applicable codes, policies, and regulations regarding waste discharge and water quality. Long-term operations of the Project would not result in long-term impacts to surface water quality from urban stormwater runoff. Overall, implementation of the proposed Project would have a less than significant impact related to conflicts with the Basin Plan.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

4.11 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?				X
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?			X	

a) Physically divide an established community?

No Impact. The Project site is currently developed with a medium volume transfer station. Immediately north of the site is Double Springs Road. North of Double Springs Road are the PG&E Valley Springs Substation and undeveloped land. East of the site is undeveloped land, a storage yard, and SR 26. South of the site is the Toyon Smart Storage self-storage facility, undeveloped land, and SR 12. Immediately west of the site is Freedom Way. West of the Freedom Way is undeveloped land.

The Project proposes expansion of the existing transfer station use. The proposed Project includes an increase in permitted processing limits and the installation of new equipment associated with expanded operations, but does not include any other physical changes to the Project site or surrounding area. The Project would not divide an established community. Thus, no impact would occur in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Project site is located on a parcel with the Industrial (I) designation. According to the Calaveras County General Plan (General Plan), the Industrial land use designation identifies industrial areas that currently have or will have in the foreseeable future sufficient public infrastructure (water, sewer, roads). Typical uses include light and heavy industrial activities such as processing, packaging, machinery repair, fabricating, distribution, warehousing and storage, research and development, public and quasi-public, and other similar and compatible uses.

Title 17 of the Calaveras County Code contains the County's Zoning Ordinance (Zoning Code). The Project site is zoned Business Park (M4). The M4 zone is intended to provide a zone for a comprehensive employment-generating development. The M4 zone allows for basic employment-generating businesses and accessory and support services, including but not limited to, retail uses, service businesses, administrative and professional office uses, processing and assembly uses, and manufacturing.

The Project proposes to expand operations of the existing medium volume transfer station to a large volume transfer station. The Project would require approval of a Zoning Amendment from Business Park (M4) to General Industrial (M2) and a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to expand the medium volume transfer station to a large volume transfer station. The M2 zone is intended to provide for general industrial land uses, including but not limited to, retail uses, service businesses, manufacturing, and public uses. As previously described, the Project proposes minor improvements to the Project site that involve the installation of new equipment to support modified Project operations, but would not fundamentally alter the physical characteristics of the Project site or surrounding area. Existing operations as a transfer station use would remain similar to existing operational conditions; however, more vehicle traffic would enter and exit the facility, and new equipment associated with expanded operations would be installed. In addition, the Project site would accept materials from the general public (i.e., self-haul and other commercial/contractor vehicles) and other sources, including public agencies. The Project would be required to comply with the County Zoning Code, including Section 17.42.060, which includes performance standards for the M2 zone. Further, issuance of a CUP requires the approving body to make the following findings: that the proposed use is consistent with the General Plan, any applicable community or special plan, and the provisions of the Zoning Code; that the subject property is adequate in land area to accommodate the proposed Project, its required parking area, access, landscaping, and site improvements; that the proposed land use is compatible with neighboring land use and zoning; that public and private roads providing access to the subject property meet necessary standards to provide safe and adequate access, or have been amended by conditions of project approval to satisfy the access requirements; and that any conditions of project approval are necessary for protection of the public health, safety and welfare, and to reduce or eliminate potential environmental effects. Following approval of the requested entitlements and approvals, the Project would have a less than significant impact related to conflicting with applicable land use plans, policies, regulations, or surrounding uses.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

4.12 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?				X
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?				X

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

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

Less Than Significant Impact. The Surface Mining and Reclamation Act of 1975 (SMARA) requires classification of land into mineral resource zones (MRZs) according to the area's known or inferred mineral potential. The State Division of Mines and Geology has not designated the Project site as a State classified mineral resources deposit area (CGS, 2023b). The Project site is not located within the County's Mineral Resource Overlay, nor is the Project site designated as Resource Production (RP) or Working Lands (WL), which are land use designations for areas within the County known to contain mineral resources. The Project site is not within or adjacent to any active mining operations (California Department of Conservation, 2023b). The Project site is currently operating as a transfer station. The Project proposes to expand existing waste operations and install new equipment associated with expanded operations, but would not result in any other physical changes to the Project site or surrounding area. Thus, the Project would not result in the loss of availability of any known mineral resources of value to the region or result in the loss of a locally-important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan. No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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

Fundamentals of Acoustics

Acoustics is the science of sound. Sound may be thought of as mechanical energy of a vibrating object transmitted by pressure waves through a medium to human (or animal) ears. If the pressure variations occur frequently enough (at least 20 times per second), then they can be heard and are called sound. The number of pressure variations per second is called the frequency of sound, and is expressed as cycles per second or Hertz (Hz). Noise is a subjective reaction to different types of sounds.

Noise is typically defined as (airborne) sound that is loud, unpleasant, unexpected or undesired, and may therefore be classified as a more specific group of sounds. Perceptions of sound and noise are highly subjective from person to person.

Measuring sound directly in terms of pressure would require a very large and awkward range of numbers. To avoid this, the decibel scale was devised. The decibel scale uses the hearing threshold (20 micropascals), as a point of reference, defined as 0 dB. Other sound pressures are then compared to this reference pressure, and the logarithm is taken to keep the numbers in a practical range. The decibel scale allows a million-fold increase in pressure to be expressed as 120 dB, and changes in levels (dB) correspond closely to human perception of relative loudness.

The perceived loudness of sounds is dependent upon many factors, including sound pressure level and frequency content. However, within the usual range of environmental noise levels, perception of loudness is relatively predictable, and can be approximated by A-weighted sound levels. There is a strong correlation between A-weighted sound levels (expressed as dBA) and the way the human ear perceives sound. For this reason, the A weighted sound level has become the standard tool of environmental noise

assessment. All noise levels reported in this section are in terms of A-weighted levels, but are expressed as dB, unless otherwise noted.

The decibel scale is logarithmic, not linear. In other words, two sound levels 10-dB apart differ in acoustic energy by a factor of 10. When the standard logarithmic decibel is A-weighted, an increase of 10-dBA is generally perceived as a doubling in loudness. For example, a 70-dBA sound is half as loud as an 80-dBA sound, and twice as loud as a 60 dBA sound. Community noise is commonly described in terms of the ambient noise level, which is defined as the all-encompassing noise level associated with a given environment. A common statistical tool is the average, or equivalent, sound level (Leq), which corresponds to a steady-state A weighted sound level containing the same total energy as a time varying signal over a given time period (usually one hour). The Leq is the foundation of the composite noise descriptor, Ldn, and shows very good correlation with community response to noise. The day/night average level (Ldn) is based upon the average noise level over a 24-hour day, with a +10- decibel weighing applied to noise occurring during nighttime (10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.) hours. The nighttime penalty is based upon the assumption that people react to nighttime noise exposures as though they were twice as loud as daytime exposures. Because Ldn represents a 24-hour average, it tends to disguise short-term variations in the noise environment.

Effects of Noise on People
The effects of noise on people can be placed in three categories:

- Subjective effects of annoyance, nuisance, and dissatisfaction
- Interference with activities such as speech, sleep, and learning
- Physiological effects such as hearing loss or sudden startling

Environmental noise typically produces effects in the first two categories. Workers in industrial plants can experience noise in the last category. There is no completely satisfactory way to measure the subjective effects of noise or the corresponding reactions of annoyance and dissatisfaction. A wide variation in individual thresholds of annoyance exists and different tolerances to noise tend to develop based on an individual's past experiences with noise. Thus, an important way of predicting a human reaction to a new noise environment is the way it compares to the existing environment to which one has adapted: the so-called ambient noise level. In general, the more a new noise exceeds the previously existing ambient noise level, the less acceptable the new noise will be judged by those hearing it. With regard to increases in A-weighted noise level, the following relationships occur:

- Except in carefully controlled laboratory experiments, a change of 1-dBA cannot be perceived;
- Outside of the laboratory, a 3-dBA change is considered a just-perceivable difference;
- A change in level of at least 5-dBA is required before any noticeable change in human response would be expected; and
- A 10-dBA change is subjectively heard as approximately a doubling in loudness, and can cause an adverse response.

Stationary point sources of noise – including stationary mobile sources such as idling vehicles – attenuate (lessen) at a rate of approximately 6-dB per doubling of distance from the source, depending on environmental conditions (i.e., atmospheric conditions and either vegetative or manufactured noise

barriers, etc.). Widely distributed noises, such as a large industrial facility spread over many acres, or a street with moving vehicles, would typically attenuate at a lower rate.

Sensitive Receptors

Noise exposure standards and guidelines for various types of land uses reflect the varying noise sensitivities associated with each of these uses. Noise sensitive land uses in Calaveras County include residential development, schools, hospitals, convalescent homes, places of worship, and libraries. The sensitive receptor nearest to the Project site consists of a residential use located on the eastern side of SR 26, approximately 750 feet (0.14 miles) east of the Project site's eastern property line. There is also a public school located approximately 2,000 feet (0.38 miles) east of the Project site's eastern property line.

Noise Standards

The County General Plan defines transportation noise sources as traffic on public roadways, railroad line operations, and aircraft in flight. Stationary noise sources generate noise from a defined space, location, or point (i.e., the noise source does not move from location to location such as along a roadway). Stationary noise sources of concern may include, but are not limited to, commercial HVAC systems, cooling towers/evaporative condensers, pump stations, lift stations, emergency generators, and other similar uses. Stationary noise standards would apply to the outdoor activity areas at the nearest noise-sensitive receptor. Per the County General Plan, an outdoor activity area is defined as a location outside of the immediate structure where formal or informal activities are likely to happen.

The County General Plan sets the following noise level standards for transportation and stationary noise sources, as shown in Table 4.13-1, *Noise Exposure Levels for Sensitive Land Uses Adjacent to Existing Transportation Noise Sources*, and Table 4.13-2, *Maximum Allowable Noise Exposure from Stationary Noise Sources to Noise Sensitive Land Uses (Outdoor Activity Area)*.

Table 4.13-1
Noise Exposure Levels for Sensitive Land Uses Adjacent to Existing Transportation Noise Sources

Noise Sensitive Land Use	Outdoor Activity Areas	Interior Spaces	
	Ldn/CNEL, dB	Ldn/CNEL, dB	Leq, dBd[1]
Residential	60[2]	45	--
Transient Lodging	65[3]	45	--
Hospitals, Nursing Homes	60[2]	45	--
Theaters, Auditoriums, Music Halls	--	--	45
Churches, Meeting Halls	60[2]	--	40
Office Buildings	--	--	45
Schools, Libraries, Museums	--	--	45
Playgrounds, Neighborhood Parks	70	--	--

Source: Calaveras County, *Calaveras County General Plan*, November 2019.
Notes:
1. As determined for a typical worst-case hour during periods of use.
2. Where it is not feasible to reduce noise in outdoor activity areas to 60 dB Ldn/CNEL or less using a practical application of the best-available noise reduction measures, an exterior noise level of up to 65 dB Ldn/CNEL may be allowed provided that available exterior noise level reduction measures have been implemented and interior noise levels are in compliance with this table.
3. Where it is not feasible to reduce noise in outdoor activity areas to 65 dB Ldn/CNEL or less using a practical application of the best-available noise reduction measures, an exterior noise level of up to 70 dB Ldn/CNEL may be allowed provided that available exterior noise level reduction measures have been implemented and interior noise levels are in compliance with this table.

Table 4.13-2
Maximum Allowable Noise Exposure from Stationary Noise Sources to Noise Sensitive Land Uses (Outdoor Activity Area)

Noise Level Descriptor	Daytime (7AM to 10PM)	Nighttime (10PM to 7AM)
Hourly Leq, dB	55	45

Source: Calaveras County, *Calaveras County General Plan*, November 2019.

Furthermore, per Policy N1.4 in the County General Plan, a potentially significant adverse noise-related impact would occur if a project generating transportation noise would result in the following:

- Where existing traffic noise levels are less than 60 dB Ldn at the outdoor activity areas of noise-sensitive uses, a 5 dB Ldn increase in noise levels due to roadway improvement projects would be considered significant;
- Where existing traffic noise levels range between 60 and 65 dB Ldn at the outdoor activity areas of noise-sensitive uses, a 3 dB Ldn increase in noise levels due to roadway improvement projects would be considered significant; and

- Where existing traffic noise levels are greater than 65 dB Ldn at the outdoor activity areas of noise-sensitive uses, a 1.5 dB Ldn increase in noise levels due to roadway improvement projects would be considered significant.

Chapter 9.02, *Noise Control*, in the County Code contains the County Noise Ordinance. Section 9.02.030, *Sound Level Limitations*, provides the following exterior noise level standards, as shown in Table 4.13-3, *County Code Exterior Noise Level Standards*. Sound levels that exceed these thresholds are not permitted.

Table 4.13-3
County Code Exterior Noise Level Standards

Land Use Type	Sound Level (dBA)	
	Daytime (7AM to 10PM)	Nighttime (10PM to 7AM)
Residential	60	50
Commercial	70	60
Industrial	75	65
Source: Calaveras County Municipal Code, Section 9.02.030.		

Section 9.02.060, *Exemptions*, lists a number of situations that are exempt from the exterior noise level standards shown in Table 4.13-3, which includes, but is not limited to: construction noise between the hours of 7AM and 6PM; and sound from any land use for which a valid discretionary land use permit (e.g., CUP) has been issued by the County which regulates sound impacts specific to the use and which are separate and independent of the County Noise Ordinance.

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

b) Generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?

Less Than Significant Impact.

Existing Noise Environment

The area surrounding the Project site contains a mix of industrial and commercial uses. Existing noise sources in the Project vicinity include existing operations of the transfer station, noise produced by nearby industrial and commercial activities, and traffic along local roadways, including Double Springs Road, SR 26, and SR 12.

The Project site is an existing medium volume transfer station that is utilized for processing and transferring solid waste to a permitted disposal facility. Noise generated from the existing transfer station is the result of multiple sources which fluctuate over time and include refuse loading/unloading activities, operation of machinery, and on- and off-site vehicular travel. Noise measurements from a similar project located in Tulare County were obtained to estimate existing noise levels at the Project site due to operation of the existing transfer station. It should be noted that although the noise estimates were obtained from a similar project, the similar project operated as a material recovery facility and transfer

station with capacity of up to 500 TPD, whereas the existing transfer station at the Project site currently operates at a capacity of less than 100 TPD.[1] However, as a conservative measure, it is assumed that the existing medium volume transfer station operating on the Project site has similar levels of noise. Operational noise levels at the similar project located in Tulare County ranged from 45.7 to 85.4 dBA, with an average of 66.3 dBA Leq at a distance of 325 feet from the source (Brown-Buntin Associates, Inc., 2013). At a distance of 490 feet from the source, average noise levels were measured at 54.8 dBA Leq (Ibid).

The County General Plan EIR calculates existing traffic noise levels for roadways within the County using the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Highway Traffic Noise Prediction Model. Table 4.10-4 in the County General Plan EIR identifies the segment of SR 26 between SR 12 and SR 49, located approximately 500 feet to the east of the Project site, as having existing traffic noise levels of 59 dB Ldn at the nearest sensitive receptor and having a distance of 80 feet to the 60 dB Ldn noise contour (measured from the roadway's centerline).

Short-Term Construction Noise

Limited and short-term construction activities would occur, including minor improvements to the Project site that involve the installation of new equipment to support the modified operations. The Project would not require the use of pile drivers, blasting, or other construction activities that could generate groundborne vibration impacts. Construction noise is considered a short-term impact and would be considered significant if construction activities occur outside the allowable times as described in the County Code. However, the Project would be required to adhere to the County Noise Ordinance, which limits construction activities occurring in or adjacent to residential areas to the daytime hours between 7AM and 6PM. As such, the Project would not result in construction-related noise or vibration impacts.

Long-Term Operational Noise

The Project proposes to expand operations of an existing medium volume transfer station to a large volume transfer station, increasing the volume of waste from under 100 TPD to a maximum of 250 TPD. Existing operations as a transfer station use would remain similar to existing operational conditions, however, more vehicle traffic would enter and exit the facility, and a new construction and demolition sorting line would be added. The number of vehicles per day would increase from a peak of 21 vehicles per day to up to 84 VPD, and less than 10 peak hours trips from 7AM to 9AM. The anticipated maximum traffic at the Project (84 VPD) would be characterized as follows: 42 light duty vehicles, including self-haul pickups and passenger vehicles with small trailers; 30 medium duty vehicles, including commercial collection vehicles (compactor – roll-off); and 12 heavy duty vehicles, including transfer trucks. In addition, as part of the expanded operations, the Project site would accept materials from the general public (i.e., self-haul and other commercial/contractor vehicles) and other sources, including public agencies.

The Project has the potential to cause increases in noise in the Project area due to proposed modifications to on-site Project operations and off-site Project-related increases related to traffic on local roadways. Noise impacts associated with Project operation would arise primarily from loading/unloading activities,

[1] For clarification purposes, the Project would operate at a maximum capacity of 250 TPD in the proposed condition.

operation of machinery, and on- and off-site vehicular travel. As the Project site is an existing transfer station, these sources of noise are generally present on the existing Project site. However, the Project would introduce new sources of long-term stationary noise, including noise associated with operation of the proposed C&D processing line. Noise measurements of a C&D processing line from a similar project located in Tulare County were obtained to estimate long-term operational noise levels of the proposed C&D processing line. Operational noise levels from the C&D processing line of the similar project ranged from 55.9 to 72.3 dBA, with an average of 61.1 dBA Leq at a distance of 415 feet from the source; from 62.2 to 83.3 dBA, with an average of 72.2 dBA Leq at a distance of 240 feet from the source; from 57.4 to 79.6 dBA, with an average of 67.3 dBA Leq at a distance of 115 feet from the source; and from 46.7 to 75.5 dBA, with an average of 62.3 dBA Leq at a distance of 250 feet from the source (Ibid). As stated above, baseline operational noise levels of the existing transfer station are assumed to be similar to the Tulare County project, which ranged from 45.7 to 85.4 dBA, with an average of 66.3 dBA Leq at a distance of 325 feet from the source (Ibid). Therefore, noise associated with the proposed C&D processing line is expected to be similar to existing operational noise conditions of the existing transfer station at the Project site, and any potential increase in noise levels due to operation of the proposed C&D processing line is unlikely to be perceived by surrounding uses.

The Project would increase the number of vehicles entering and exiting the Project site by approximately 60 additional trips per day. These additional vehicles would likely be spaced out throughout the day, with fewer than 10 peak hours trips between 7AM to 9AM, and would not noticeably increase roadway noise levels. These vehicles would utilize adjacent roadways in the vicinity, including SR 26 and SR 12, which are designated as arterial roadways in the County General Plan Circulation Element and are designed to accommodate high traffic volumes. The County General Plan EIR identifies the segment of SR 26 located to the east of the Project site as having existing traffic noise levels of 59 dB Ldn at the nearest sensitive receptor and having a distance of 80 feet to the 60 dB Ldn noise contour. Given the relatively low volume of additional vehicle trips generated by the Project, the Project would have a negligible effect on existing ambient noise levels and the Project would not result in noise impacts that would exceed the County's established noise level standards for transportation.

As discussed previously, the nearest sensitive receptors to the Project site include a residential use located on the eastern side of SR 26, approximately 750 feet (0.14 miles) east of the Project site's eastern property line, and a public school located approximately 2,000 feet (0.38 miles) east of the Project site's eastern property line. The residential use is located on a parcel with the Industrial (I) designation. As the residential use is approximately 90 feet east of SR 26, just outside the 60 dB Ldn noise contour identified in the County General Plan EIR, the receptor is likely to experience existing transportation noise from vehicles traveling on SR 26. Transportation noise resulting from the Project would have a negligible effect on existing ambient noise levels for this receptor. Additionally, this receptor is far enough away from the Project site that any potential increase in stationary noise due to the proposed Project is likely to be imperceptible. Given the public school's distance from the Project site (0.38 miles) and the presence of transportation noise from SR 26, it is unlikely that Project operation would cause any perceptible increase in transportation or stationary noise at the school.

The Project would be required to comply with the County's noise standards enumerated in the General Plan and County Code. Chapter 9.02 of the County Code contains the County Noise Ordinance. Section 9.02.030 of the County Code provides exterior noise level standards which may not be exceeded. The

Project's estimated operational noise impacts would not exceed the Industrial land use threshold of 75 dBA for daytime hours (7AM to 10PM) and 65 dBA for nighttime hours (10PM to 7AM), as established by Section 9.02.030. Additionally, the Project proposes a Zoning Amendment from Business Park (M4) to General Industrial (M2) and a CUP to expand the medium volume transfer station to a large volume transfer station. The M2 zone is intended to provide for general industrial land uses, including transfer stations. The CUP process would allow the public an opportunity to voice concerns about potential noise/vibration impacts and would allow the County to impose conditions of approval to reduce potential noise impacts. The Project would require discretionary approval from the County and, following approval of the requested entitlements and approvals, would comply with the M2 zone's intended land use.

Given that the Project would not cause a perceptible increase in on- or off-site noise at sensitive receptor locations in the vicinity and would comply with all noise requirements, the Project would not generate a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the Project in excess of standards established in the County General Plan or Noise Ordinance. Further, the Project would not generate excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels. Impacts would be less than significant in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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

No Impact. The Project site in not located within an airport land use plan, nor is the Project site located within two miles of a private airstrip, public airport or public use airport. The nearest airport, the Calaveras County Airport (Maury Rasmussen Field), is a public use airport located approximately eight miles southeast of the Project site. Thus, the Project would not expose people residing or working in the area to excessive noise levels. No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

4.14 Population and Housing

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

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

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

No Impact. The Project proposes to expand operations of an existing transfer station. The Project does not propose new residential or employment-generating uses that would induce substantial population growth. The site does not contain any housing. The increase in permitted capacity resulting from Project implementation may require an additional three to five new employees at the facility on a daily basis; however, it is anticipated that any potential jobs would be filled by existing County residents near the Project site. In the unlikely event that some of the new employees were to relocate to the County upon obtaining a job at the Project site, this would result in negligible population growth relative to the County's population. Thus, the Project would not induce substantial unplanned population growth to the area or displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere. No impacts would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

4.15 Public Services

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a. 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:				
1) Fire protection?			X	
2) Police protection?			X	
3) Schools?				X
4) Parks?				X
5) Other public facilities?				X

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

1) Fire protection?

Less Than Significant Impact. Fire protection services within the Project site are provided by the San Andreas Fire District. The San Andreas Fire station, located approximately five miles southeast of the Project at 37 Church Hill Road, is the closest station to the Project site.

The Project proposes to expand operations of an existing transfer station. Existing operations as a transfer station use would remain similar to existing operational conditions, and expanded operations would not increase fire risk at the Project site beyond existing conditions. The proposed Project would not result in the construction of new or physically altered fire facilities. The Project does not propose new residential or employment-generating uses that would induce substantial population growth and would not result in impacts to fire protection services resulting in the need for new or physically altered facilities. Thus, the Project would not require the need for new or physically altered fire station facilities in order to maintain

acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives and impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

2) Police protection?

Less Than Significant Impact. Police protection services within the Project site are provided by the Calaveras County Sheriff's Department.

The Project proposes to expand operations of an existing transfer station. The proposed Project would not result in the construction of new or physically altered police facilities The Project does not propose new residential or employment-generating uses that would induce substantial population growth and is not anticipated to increase calls for service or alter response times or other performance objectives that would result in the need for new or substantially altered police protection facilities. Thus, the Project would not require the need for new or physically altered police protection facilities in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times or other performance objectives and impacts would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

3) Schools?

4) Parks?

5) Other public facilities?

No Impact. The Project proposes to expand operations of an existing transfer station and the installation of new equipment associated with expanded operations, but would not result any other physical changes to the Project site. Therefore, the Project would not induce population growth within the County that would potentially result in a significant increase in the use of existing schools, parks, or other public facilities within the area. The Project would not involve the construction of new schools, parks, or other public facilities, nor would it result in the need for new or physically altered schools, parks, or other public facilities. Therefore, the Project would not result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered schools, parks, or other public facilities.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

4.16 Recreation

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

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

No Impact. Refer to Response to 4.15(a)(4).

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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

No Impact. Refer to Response to 4.15(a)(4). The Project proposes expansion of the existing transfer station use. The development of recreational facilities is not proposed as part of the Project. No impact would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

4.17 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?			X	
b. Would the project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?			X	
c. Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?				X
d. Result in inadequate emergency access?				X

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

No Impact. The Project proposes expansion of the existing transfer station use and the installation of new equipment associated with expanded operations, but would not result any other physical changes to the Project site or surrounding area. Under the proposed Project conditions, the number of vehicles entering and exiting the transfer facility per day would increase from a peak of 21 VPD to up to 84 VPD. The proposed expansion of an existing transfer station use would not generate additional bicycle or pedestrian traffic, and there are no bicycle or pedestrian facilities adjacent to the Project site. As part of the Project, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the County Department of Public Works were consulted and given an opportunity to review and comment on the proposed Project; neither had concerns or comments relative to potential circulation impacts as a result of Project implementation. The Project would not conflict with any plans, ordinances, or policies addressing the circulation system. No impact would occur in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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

Less Than Significant Impact. Section 15064.3 of the CEQA Guidelines provides specific considerations for evaluating a project's transportation impacts. Per Section 15064.3, analysis of vehicle miles traveled (VMT) attributable to a project is the most appropriate measure of transportation impacts. While changes to driving conditions that increase intersection delay are an important consideration for traffic operations and management, the method of analysis does not fully describe environmental effects associated with

fuel consumption, emissions, and public health. Section 15064.3(3) changes the focus of transportation impact analysis in CEQA from measuring impact to drivers to measuring the impact of driving.

The Project proposes expansion of the existing transfer station use. Under the proposed Project conditions, the number of vehicles entering and exiting the transfer facility per day would increase from a peak of 21 VPD to up to 84 VPD. The anticipated maximum traffic at the Project, of 84 VPD, would be characterized as follows: 42 light duty vehicles, including self-haul pickups and passenger vehicles with small trailers; 30 medium duty vehicles, including commercial collection vehicles (compactor – roll-off); and 12 heavy duty vehicles, including transfer trucks. However, due to the nature of the proposed Project, Project operation would not result in additional vehicle trips or VMT. The purpose of a solid waste transfer station is to receive municipal solid waste then sort, compact, and transport such waste to an off-site end point. The proposed expansion of the existing transfer station would improve efficiencies by consolidating several smaller loads into a larger load, which would be transported to an off-site landfill or recovery facility in lieu of individual route truck trips, thus resulting in fewer VMT overall. It is not specifically known how many smaller truck trips to alternative solid waste facilities would be replaced or eliminated due to the proposed project. However, VMT associated with the transport of solid waste is directly tied to the volume of solid waste generated at sources throughout the County and region. The proposed expansion to this facility would not increase the volume of solid waste generated in the County and the surrounding region; the Project would simply alter the location that these existing sources of solid waste would be transported to for sorting and processing. As such, VMT would not increase regionally, and this impact would be less than significant in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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

No Impact. The Project proposes expansion of the existing transfer station use. Thus, the Project would not introduce an incompatible use to the site. Further, the Project would not introduce a geometric design feature such as sharp curves or dangerous intersections. No impact would occur in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

d) Result in inadequate emergency access?

No Impact. The Project proposes expansion of the existing transfer station use and the installation of new equipment associated with expanded operations, but would not result any other physical changes to the Project site or surrounding area. Thus, the Project would not result in inadequate emergency access. No impact would occur in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

4.18 Tribal 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 tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:				
1) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code section 5020.1(k), or				X
2) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code Section 5024.1. In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resource Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.				X

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

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

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

No Impact. As discussed in Section 4.5, *Cultural Resources*, there are no known cultural or archaeological resources on the Project site. There are no dedicated cemeteries within the Project site. As described above, the Project site has been previously developed and graded. The Project proposes the installation of new equipment to support the modified operations, but would not include excavation or other ground disturbing activities within the Project site or surrounding area. Therefore, no impact to tribal cultural resources would occur.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

4.19 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, or wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?				X
b. Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years?				X
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?				X
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?				X
e. Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?				X

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

No Impact. The Project proposes expansion of the existing transfer station use. No new water, wastewater, electrical, natural gas, or telecommunications infrastructure or facilities would be constructed. Operation of the proposed Project would not generate demand for utilities requiring the relocation or construction of new or expanded facilities. The potential environmental effects associated with the proposed expansion of use and Project operation are analyzed within this Initial Study and impacts have been determined to be less than significant with compliance with regulatory requirements. Thus, the proposed Project would not require or result in relocation or construction of new or expanded water, or wastewater treatment or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or

telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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

No Impact. The Project proposes expansion of the existing transfer station use. No new structures or facilities would be constructed requiring the use of potable water. Thus, no impact to water supplies would occur as a result of the proposed Project.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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?

No Impact. The Project proposes expansion of the existing transfer station use. No new structures or facilities would be constructed requiring the use of potable water. No new structures or facilities would be constructed that would generate wastewater requiring treatment. Thus, no impact to wastewater treatment capacity would occur as a result of the proposed Project.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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

e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?

Less Than Significant Impact. The Project proposes expansion of the existing transfer station use. Waste materials deposited at the facility would be separated and either diverted for recycling or transferred to a landfill. The Project would be required to comply with all federal, State, and local statues and regulations related to the collection and disposal of solid waste. Thus, the Project is not anticipated to generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals. No impact would occur in this regard.

As only limited construction and no demolition is proposed, the Project would not generate notable construction waste requiring diversion. The purpose of the Project is, in part, to meet organic waste disposal reduction targets in compliance with SB 1383. The Project would also install an outdoor construction and demolition debris (C&D) processing line to divert organics and other recyclable materials from landfills. Therefore, the Project would help the County optimize resource diversion and comply with diversion mandates. The Project would enhance compliance with all federal, State and local statutes and regulations for solid waste, including those identified under the most current CalGreen standards and in compliance with AB 939 and SB 1383. No impact would occur in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

4.20 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. Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				X
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?				X
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?				X
d. Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?				X

Environmental Setting

According to the CalFire Hazard Severity Zone Map, the Project site is located within a State Responsibility Area (SRA) for fire protection and is classified as a Moderate Fire Hazard Severity Zone (CALFIRE, 2023).

a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?

No Impact. The Calaveras County Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) outlines the functions, responsibilities, and regional risk assessments of Calaveras County for large scale emergencies such as wildland fires, hazardous materials incidents, flooding, and dam failure. The EOP addresses the planned response to extraordinary emergency situations and establishes a flexible, all hazards, emergency management organization required to facilitate the response to, and provide for short term recovery activities related to any significant emergency or disaster affecting Calaveras County. The EOP tasks the Calaveras County Sheriff's Department with authority and responsibility for evacuation and movement of citizens in times of crisis, including the identification of evacuation routes (Calaveras County, 2019).

The Project proposes to expand operations of an existing transfer station. The Project does not propose activities that would substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. No impact would occur in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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

No Impact. The Project would not exacerbate wildfire risks as the project involves the expansion of operations at an existing transfer station. No impact would occur in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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?

No Impact. The Project proposes to expand operations of an existing transfer station. The Project would not require the installation or maintenance of new infrastructure that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment. No impact would occur in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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

No Impact. The Project proposes to expand operations of an existing transfer station. The Project 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 changes. No impact would occur in this regard.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

4.21 Mandatory Findings of Significance

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

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

Less Than Significant Impact. The Project proposes to expand operations of an existing medium volume transfer station to a large volume transfer station. As the proposed Project would include only minor improvements associated with the installation of new equipment, Project implementation would not change the condition of the Project site with respect to biological resources or habitat types. Due to existing transfer station operations and the disturbed nature of the site, it is unlikely that special-status species and/or federally- or State-protected birds could be occupying the site. Additionally, construction activities would be limited to the installation of concrete bunkers, dividers, and other minor site improvements; no ground-disturbing activities are proposed. As such, no subsurface excavation of the

site would occur with the potential to unearth deposits of cultural significance. As discussed throughout this Initial Study, the Project does not have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environmental or result in significant environmental impacts that cannot be reduced to a less than significant level with compliance with the established regulatory framework and/or implementation of standard conditions. Therefore, the Project would have less than significant impacts related to degradation of the quality of the environment, reduction of habitat, threatened species, and/or California's history or prehistory.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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

Less Than Significant Impact. Based on the analysis contained in this Initial Study, the proposed Project would not have cumulatively considerable impacts with compliance with the established regulatory framework and/or implementation of standard conditions. Implementation of standard conditions at the Project-level would reduce the potential for the incremental effects of the proposed Project to be considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, current projects, or probable future projects. As such, the Project's incremental contribution towards cumulative impacts would not be considered significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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

Less Than Significant Impact. The proposed Project would expand operations of an existing medium volume transfer station to a large volume transfer station. Previous sections of this Initial Study reviewed the proposed Project's potential impacts to human beings related to several environmental topical areas. As determined throughout this Initial Study, the proposed Project would not result in any potentially significant impacts that cannot be reduced to less than significant levels with compliance with the established regulatory framework and/or implementation of standard conditions. Therefore, impacts related to environmental effects that could cause adverse effects on human beings would be less than significant.

Mitigation Measures: No mitigation measures are required.

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