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Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15123, this Executive Summary provides a synopsis of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority (SJJPA)'s Madera High-Speed Rail (HSR) Station Full-Build Project Phase 3 (Project).

ES.1 Purpose of the Draft Environmental Impact Report

The Draft EIR satisfies the requirements of CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines to inform decision-makers and the public about the potential significant environmental impacts of constructing and operating the Project. This Draft EIR is an informational public document that discloses any significant environmental impacts of the Project as well as identifies ways to reduce or avoid their effects on the environment. The Draft EIR also identifies reasonable alternatives to the Project, as well as an environmentally superior alternative. San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority (SJJPA) is the CEQA lead agency for the Project. Lead agencies are charged with the duty to avoid or substantially lessen significant environmental impacts of a project, where feasible. SJJPA will use the EIR to consider the environmental consequences of the Project when deciding to approve the Project after considering and responding comments on the Draft EIR and making any necessary revisions in the Draft EIR pursuant to comments.

ES.2 Project Background

In July 2015, SJJPA assumed the responsibility of day-to-day management, planning, funding, and support services of the existing San Joaquins Intercity Rail Service (*San Joaquins*) from the state of California. SJJPA contracts with San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission to provide staffing, consultants, and other services to support SJJPA. SJJPA's governing board consists of 10 member agencies within the Central Valley and the San Francisco Bay Area.

California High Speed Rail Authority (CHSRA) is developing the Merced-Bakersfield High-Speed Rail (HSR) Early Operating Segment (EOS). SJJPA is partnering with CHSRA, and California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) on network integration with the EOS, and SJJPA is expected to be the operating agency for the EOS. Once the HSR EOS begins operations between Merced and Bakersfield, the *San Joaquins* service would be truncated and would terminate at a multi-modal station in downtown Merced (R Street) where passengers would be able to transfer between *San Joaquins* and HSR trains. Future *San Joaquins* improvements would also increase service north of Merced, enhancing ongoing connections to/from Sacramento, the northern San Joaquin Valley, and the Bay Area, maximizing the ridership and benefits of the EOS.

The *San Joaquins* currently serve Madera County at a station located in Madera Acres, a census-designated place in unincorporated Madera County north of the city of Madera. As part of Phase 1 of the Project, SJJPA is currently working in coordination with CHSRA, CalSTA, Madera County, Madera County Transportation Commission, and the city of Madera to relocate the existing San Joaquins station to a new location along Avenue 12 to capture anticipated higher ridership due to better access for riders to public transportation and SR-99, existing land uses in the immediate vicinity,

1 such as Madera Community College, existing land uses in northern Fresno County, as well as
2 anticipated higher levels of future development in areas around the new station location and along
3 Avenue 12 over that of the current location in Madera Acres. The relocated station would then be
4 expanded to accommodate HSR service and would become the proposed Madera HSR Station. Once
5 EOS service is initiated, HSR service at the proposed Madera HSR Station along Avenue 12 would
6 become Madera County's and portions of Fresno County's passenger rail connection to the larger
7 statewide passenger rail network as part of Phase 2 of the Project.

8 In 2012, CHSRA completed environmental clearance of the HSR EOS project section between Merced
9 and Fresno, with stations in downtown Merced and downtown Fresno. CHSRA later identified
10 Madera as a location for a proposed HSR station for the first time in its 2016 Business Plan (CHSRA,
11 2016). The environmental clearance of the HSR EOS project section between Merced and Fresno did
12 not include a HSR station in Madera; therefore, a separate environmental clearance process was
13 required for the proposed Madera HSR Station. The evolution of the Madera Station is being planned
14 in three phases of implementation as follows:

- 15 • **Phase 1: Relocated Station (for San Joaquins only).** Phase 1 would close the current
16 San Joaquins station in Madera Acres and relocate it to a site just north of Avenue 12 as shown
17 in **Figure ES-1**. Phase 1 was environmentally cleared through the preparation and adoption of
18 an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) (SJPPA, 2021) in 2021. Final design
19 has been completed and construction for Phase 1 will begin in Fiscal Year 2025.
- 20 • **Phase 2: Partial Build-Out of the Proposed Madera HSR Station.** Phase 2, which is at the
21 same station site as the relocated San Joaquins station site near Avenue 12, would develop the
22 eastern half of the proposed Madera HSR Station. **Figure ES-1** illustrates the specific
23 components of this phase, including a station siding track, a single side-platform located
24 immediately east of the HSR mainline tracks (which are being implemented as part of California
25 HSR Project by CHSRA), a new station building, and expanded parking over the approved
26 amount of parking for Phase 1. These improvements, along with other station facilities, would
27 accommodate the anticipated service of 18 trains (round-trips) per day that are envisioned to be
28 in place when HSR service commences on the Merced-Bakersfield HSR EOS, as described in the
29 CHSRA's 2024 Business Plan (CHSRA, 2024). Phase 2 was also environmentally cleared as part
30 of same IS/MND in 2021 that cleared Phase 1.⁽¹⁾ On March 13, 2025, the SJPPA and San Joaquin
31 Regional Rail Commission (SJRRRC) Board adopted the Madera Station Relocation IS/MND
32 Addendum, which included design refinements to the parking lot layout, bus depot, access road,
33 and bike path as part of Phase 1 and Phase 2. Phase 2 is estimated to cost approximately \$134.5
34 million. Funding sources include \$80 million from the regional 2024 Interregional
35 Transportation Improvement Program (ITIP), and \$54.5 million from the federal MEGA program
36 as part of the Multimodal Project Discretionary Grant (MPDG). Final design is expected to begin
37 in 2025.

(1) Note: The reason Phases 1 and 2 were cleared together while excluding Phase 3 is that SJPPA had not yet received direction at that time to include the proposed fully built-out Madera HSR Station in the environmental clearance. Subsequently, CHSRA saw a need to clear the full station earlier than originally anticipated; hence, CHSRA requested SJPPA to conduct a follow up to the IS/MND with a clearance for a Phase 3 expansion of the proposed Madera HSR Station.

1 **Phase 3: Full Build-Out of the Proposed Madera HSR Station.** Phase 3, which is the phase this
2 Draft EIR pertains to, would complete the western side of the proposed Madera HSR Station by
3 adding a second station siding track and second platform. This phase would also include a
4 pedestrian overpass, several culverts (new and extended), wildlife corridor extensions, and the
5 expansion of parking and the station building over that which was approved in Phase 2. These
6 improvements, along with other station facilities, would accommodate the HSR Service (Bay
7 Area to the north, Southern California to the south, or both) and subsequently Phase 1 HSR
8 Service (San Francisco to Los Angeles) in the longer-term.

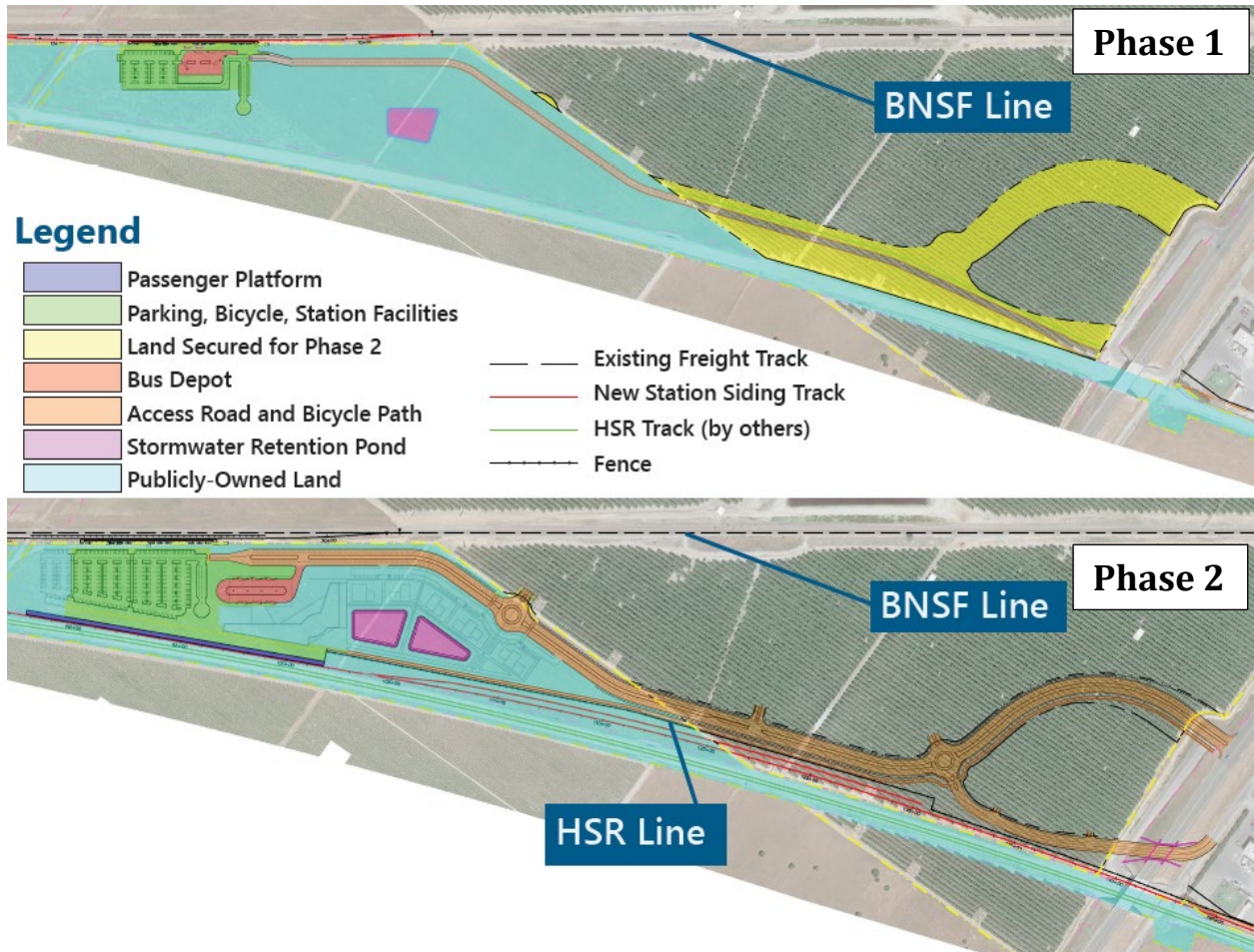
9 SJJPA and CHSRA completed a memorandum of understanding in 2020 that establishes SJJPA as the
10 expected operator of the Merced–Bakersfield HSR EOS. Based on this partnership and at the
11 direction from CHSRA and CalSTA, SJJPA was assigned responsibility for environmental clearance of
12 the three phases of the proposed Madera HSR Station.

13 SJJPA approved the Madera Station Relocation Project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration
14 (IS/MND) for Phases 1 and 2 at the January 22, 2021, Board Meeting, and the IS/MND Addendum at
15 the March 19, 2025, Board Meeting. SJJPA received state funding in FY 2022/23 to advance the
16 environmental work for Phase 3 and initiated the CEQA process in late 2023.

17 SJJPA is also responsible for securing funding for final design and construction of each phase.
18 Phase 1 is nearing the completion of final design. Phase 2 has received funding for final design and
19 construction with final design work anticipated to begin in 2025. Funding for final design and
20 construction of Phase 3 has not been identified yet.

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Figure ES-1: Phase 1 and Phase 2 Components



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4 Source: (SJJPA, 2024)

1 **ES.3 Project Goals and Objectives**

2 The Project includes additional improvements to the proposed Madera HSR Station that would meet
3 all the requirements needed for expanded HSR service levels (above the EOS) associated with HSR
4 Service (Bay Area to the north, Southern California to the south, or both) and subsequently Phase 1
5 HSR service (San Francisco to Los Angeles).

6 The Project would provide unprecedented economic, mobility, and safety benefits for Madera
7 County. The Project goals and objectives are to enhance the following needs:

8 **Climate Change, Resiliency, and the Environment**

- 9 • Reduce emissions by providing a cleaner mode of transportation, reduce vehicle miles travelled
10 (VMT), and promote increased transit use and transit-oriented development.

11 **Equity, Multimodal Options, and Quality of Life**

- 12 • Improve rail and transit transportation access for Historically Disadvantaged Communities and
13 Areas of Persistent Poverty.
- 14 • Enhance mobility and accessibility by providing an improved mode of state-wide transportation.

15 **Economic Impacts and Job Creation**

- 16 • Provide employment opportunities related to the construction, operation, and maintenance of
17 the staffed facilities.
- 18 • Connect travelers to destinations throughout California.
- 19 • Enhance connection to educational and employment centers.

20 **Safety**

- 21 • Increase safety in the transportation system by lessening automobile travel by shifting travel to
22 a safer mode of transport, passenger rail.

23 **ES.4 Environmental Review Process**

24 Pursuant to CEQA, SJJPA issued an NOP for this Draft EIR on November 22, 2023. The purpose of the
25 NOP was to notify interested agencies and parties, local jurisdictions, community organizations, and
26 interested residents (collectively, interested parties) of the preparation of the Draft EIR. The NOP, as
27 well as the scoping comment letters and verbal comments, are included in Appendix F, *Notice of*
28 *Preparation and Scoping Memorandum* of this Draft EIR.

29 In accordance with Section 15088 of the CEQA Guidelines, after the public review and comment
30 period, written responses to all written comments and oral testimony pertaining to significant
31 environmental issues received during the comment period will be prepared as part of the Final
32 Environmental Impact Report (Final EIR).

33 The comments received during the public review period along with the content of any further
34 environmental evaluation in the Final EIR will inform the SJJPA Board in their decision to approve
35 the Project. All comments received on the Draft EIR will be responded to and published as part of
36 the Final EIR.

1 As required by CEQA, responses to comments submitted by commenting agencies will be distributed
2 to those agencies for review prior to consideration of the Final EIR by the SJJPA Board. Pursuant to
3 Sections 15090 to 15093 of the CEQA Guidelines, upon completion of the Final EIR and other
4 required documentation, the SJJPA Board may certify the Final EIR, adopt findings relative to the
5 Project's environmental effects after implementation of mitigation measures, provide a statement of
6 overriding considerations, and approve the Project. Following approval of the Project, a Notice of
7 Determination would be filed with the State Clearinghouse.

8 ES.5 Alternatives Considered

9 SJJPA considered alternatives to the Project that could avoid or reduce environmental impacts. The
10 No Project Alternative and alternatives determined to be infeasible, that do not avoid or
11 substantially reduce one or more significant impacts of the Project, or that do not meet all or most of
12 the Project's objectives are summarized in Chapter 5, *Alternatives*. The Project is evaluated in detail
13 in Chapter 3, *Environmental Impact Analysis*, of this Draft EIR.

14 **No Project Alternative:** Under the No Project Alternative, none of the Project components would be
15 constructed. At this location Phases 1 and 2 of the Madera HSR Station would still be operational
16 under the No Project Alternative.

17 **Alternate Location Alternative:** This alternative would place the Phase 3 alignment and elements
18 elsewhere than where the Project is currently located. This alternative would not meet the
19 requirements of an HSR station as the new platform needs to be located in close proximity to the
20 existing HSR right-of-way (ROW) to be serviced by HSR. Therefore, this alternative is not feasible
21 and will not be considered further.

22 **Reduced Footprint Alternative:** This alternative would place the new platform between the HSR
23 ROW and the proposed Phase 2 platform. This would create engineering and operational constraints
24 (angles at which trains would deviate from the main HSR track and crossing over tracks, reduced
25 speeds) would affect efficiency and speed of HSR trains in this area. This type of station would not
26 meet HSR engineering requirements for operations after the EOS. In addition, the Reduced Footprint
27 Alternative may potentially reduce the amount of agricultural land converted to non-agricultural
28 land, but would not eliminate the need of agricultural land. Consequently, significant and
29 unavoidable impacts would remain, as the Reduced Footprint Alternative would potentially create
30 engineering constraints, reduce speeds, and not meet HSR standards for station layouts, as well as
31 not eliminate significant and unavoidable impacts to agricultural land conversion. Therefore, this
32 alternative is not feasible and will not be considered further.

1 **ES.6 Summary of Environmental Evaluation**

2 **ES.6.1 Significant and Unavoidable Impacts**

3 A detailed discussion of potential significant impacts is in Chapter 3, *Environmental Impact Analysis*,
4 of this Draft EIR and a discussion of *Other CEQA-Required Analysis* is presented in Chapter 4.
5 Appendix E, *Madera HSR Station Full-Build Project Phase 3 Initial Study*, provides a summary of
6 initial impacts for all environmental topics.

7 One significant and unavoidable impact would result from Project implementation due to the loss of
8 Important Farmland, even with the adoption of feasible mitigation.

9 **ES.6.2 Impacts and Mitigation Measures**

10 Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123(b)(1), **Table ES-1** contains a summary of
11 environmental impacts associated with the Project, mitigation measures (MM) that would reduce or
12 avoid those effects, and the level of significance of the impacts following the implementation of
13 mitigation measures. Impacts requiring mitigation or considered potentially significant are
14 discussed in Chapter 3, *Environmental Impact Analysis*. Impacts found to be less than significant in
15 the Initial Study provided in Appendix E, *Madera HSR Station Full-Build Project Phase 3 Initial Study*,
16 are discussed in Chapter 4, *Other CEQA-Required Analysis*.

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Table ES-1. Summary of Environmental Impacts and Required Mitigation Measures

Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation	Significance After Mitigation
Aesthetics			
Impact AES-1. Would the Project have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?	Less than Significant Impact	None required	Less than Significant Impact
Impact AES-2. In non-urbanized areas, would the Project substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views ¹ of the site and its surroundings. If the Project is in an urbanized area, construction of the Project would not conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?	Less than Significant Impact	None required	Less than Significant Impact
Impact AES-3. Would the Project create a new source of substantial light or glare that would adversely affect daytime or nighttime views in the area?	Less than Significant Impact	None required	Less than Significant Impact
Impact AES-4. Would the Project substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings in a state scenic highway?	No Impact	None required	No Impact
Agricultural and Forestry Resources			
Impact AG-1. Would the Project convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring	Potentially Significant Impact (Construction)	MM AG-1: To the extent feasible, SJJPA and its contractor(s) will avoid construction staging in areas that are actively being used for agriculture. If areas with active agriculture cannot be avoided, then the following mitigation measure would be implemented: Prior to any ground-disturbing activities at the site of a temporary construction staging area located on Important Farmland, the	Significant and Unavoidable Impact

Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation	Significance After Mitigation
<p>Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?</p>		<p>contractor will prepare a restoration plan addressing specific actions, sequence of implementation, parties responsible for implementation, and successful achievement of restoration for temporary impacts. Actions will include removing and stockpiling the top 18 inches of soil for replacement onsite during restoration activities. Before beginning construction use of parcels of Important Farmland, the contractor will submit the restoration plan to SJJPA for review and obtain approval and obtain landowner approval. The restoration plan will include time-stamped photograph documentation of the preconstruction conditions of all temporary staging areas. All construction access, mobilization, material laydown, and staging areas on Important Farmlands will be returned to a condition equal to the preconstruction staging condition. This requirement is included in the design-build construction contract requirements.</p> <p>MM AG-2: SJJPA will enter into an agreement with the California Department of Conservation (DOC) and its California Farmland Conservancy Program to implement agricultural land mitigation. SJJPA will fund the California Farmland Conservancy Program’s work to identify suitable agricultural land for mitigation of impacts and to fund the purchase of agricultural conservation easements from willing sellers. The performance standards for this measure are to preserve Important Farmland in an amount commensurate with the quantity and quality of the converted farmlands, in the same agricultural region as the impact occurs, at a replacement ratio of not less than 1:1 for Important Farmlands that are permanently converted to nonagricultural use by the Project.</p>	
<p>Impact AG-2. Would the Project conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?</p>	<p>Potentially Significant Impact (Construction)</p>	<p>MM AG-3: Prior to construction, SJJPA will apply for and obtain a CUP from Madera County for construction staging and activities within parcels that are zoned ARE-40.</p>	<p>Less than Significant Impact</p>
<p>Impact AG-3. Would the Project involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in</p>	<p>Potentially Significant Impact (Construction)</p>	<p>MM AG-1, MM AG-2, and MM AG-3 as described above.</p>	<p>Less than Significant Impact</p>

Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation	Significance After Mitigation
conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?			
Impact AG-4. Would the Project conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))?	No Impact	None required	No Impact
Impact AG-5. Would the Project result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	No Impact	None required	No Impact
Air Quality			
Impact AQ-1. Would the Project conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	Less than Significant Impact	None required	Less than Significant Impact
Impact AQ-2. Would the Project result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the Project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	Potentially Significant Impact (Construction)	MM AQ-1: The San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority (SJJPA) requires that construction contractors treat unpaved roads with dust suppressants, soil stabilizers, or surfactants to reduce dust emissions. This measure will apply to all unpaved surfaces in the Project site and other unpaved surfaces in which SJJPA is in possession of that will be used by on-road vehicles during construction.	Less than Significant Impact
Impact AQ-3. Would the Project expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	Less than Significant Impact	None required	Less than Significant Impact
Impact AQ-4. Would the Project result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely	No Impact	None required	No Impact

Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation	Significance After Mitigation
affecting a substantial number of people?			
Biological Resources			
<p>Impact BIO-1. Would the Project have a substantial adverse effect, either directly or through habitat modifications, on any species identified as a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife or United States Fish and Wildlife Service?</p>	<p>Potentially Significant Impact (Construction)</p>	<p>MM BIO-1: Qualified botanists will be required to conduct special-status plant surveys of the Project footprint, including all permanent and temporary impact areas and a 50-foot-wide buffer area to encompass areas where indirect effects may occur. The surveys will be conducted in accordance with Protocols for Surveying and Evaluating Impacts to Special Status Native Plant Populations and Natural Communities (CDFW 2018), or the most current protocols, specifically with respect to the number and timing of surveys, use of reference populations, and evaluation of negative findings (failure to locate a known special status plant occurrence). Surveys will occur during the seasons where special-status plant species would be evident and identifiable, which generally is during their blooming periods. In areas where no special-status plant species are present, no further mitigation will be required.</p> <p>Where surveys determine that a special-status plant species is present in or adjacent to an area where temporary ground-disturbing activities would take place, Project impacts on the species will be minimized, if feasible, through the establishment of activity exclusion zones and avoidance areas, in which no ground-disturbing activities will take place, including construction staging or other temporary work areas. Activity exclusion zones for special-status plant species will be a minimum of 50 feet established around each occupied habitat site, the boundaries of which will be clearly marked with construction exclusion fencing or its equivalent. The establishment of activity exclusion zones will not be required if no construction-related disturbances occur within 50 feet of the occupied habitat. The size of activity exclusion zones may be reduced below 10 feet through consultation with a qualified biologist and with concurrence from CDFW or, for any federally listed species, from USFWS based on site-specific conditions.</p>	<p>Less than Significant Impact</p>

Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation	Significance After Mitigation
		<p>If exclusion zones cannot be established feasibly for minimization, and construction would result in take of federally listed or state-listed plants or plant parts (roots, shoots, fruit, or seeds), SJJPA will apply for take authorization through an Incidental Take Permit (ITP) for state-listed species from CDFW and for take authorization through the Section 7 consultation from USFWS.</p> <p>Prior to any construction activities that would result in permanent impacts on federally or state-listed plants, SJJPA will acquire and permanently protect compensatory mitigation habitat for each affected species at a minimum 2:1 ratio (2 acres preserved for every 1 acre permanently affected), but the final compensation ratios will be based on site-specific information and determined through coordination with the applicable state and/or federal agencies (CDFW and USFWS) during permit processing. The compensation acreage used for the ratio will be based on the area of impact as determined by surveys required under MM BIO-1. Compensatory mitigation will be accomplished by procurement of existing onsite or offsite occupied habitat acquired in-fee, through conservation easements, or by purchasing credits from a certified conservation bank or mitigation bank. The purchase of mitigation credits or the establishment of onsite or offsite mitigation areas (or a combination of the two) would be completed as agreed on by SJJPA, USFWS, and/or CDFW, as appropriate for the species being mitigated. If onsite or offsite occupied habitat is acquired (permittee-responsible mitigation), the habitat will require monitoring by SJJPA. If credits are purchased from a certified bank, no further monitoring will be required.</p> <p>For non-listed species with a CRPR 1B.2 status, seed will be collected from plants to be removed during the appropriate period the year before construction, or topsoil containing the seed bank will be retained for spreading after construction. The collected seed or topsoil will be replaced in suitable habitat for the species after construction, preferably in a temporarily affected part of the Project study area. The replanted area will be monitored for at least 3 years until the plants are</p>	

Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation	Significance After Mitigation
		<p>self-reproducing and occupy an area of comparable size and density as the affected occupied habitat at the time of the impact.</p>	
		<p>MM BIO-2: The Project will hire a qualified biologist that will conduct environmental awareness training for construction crews before and during Project implementation. The awareness training will be provided to all construction personnel and will brief them on the need to avoid effects on sensitive biological resources (e.g., sensitive natural communities, wetlands and other waters, occupied special-status plant and animal species habitat; non-special-status bats; nest sites for migratory birds). The education program will include a brief review of the special-status species with the potential to occur in the BSA (including their life history, habitat requirements, and photographs of the species), natural communities of special concern, non-special-status bats, and migratory birds. The training will identify the portions of the Project study area in which the species may occur, as well as their legal status and protection. The program also will cover the restrictions and guidelines that must be followed by all construction personnel to reduce or avoid effects on these species during Project implementation. This program will include the steps to be taken if a sensitive species is found in the construction area (i.e., notifying the crew foreperson, who will call a designated biologist). In addition, construction employees will be educated about the importance of controlling and preventing the spread of invasive plant infestations. An environmental awareness handout that describes and illustrates sensitive resources to be avoided during Project construction and identifies all relevant permit conditions will be provided to each crew member. The crew foreperson will be responsible for ensuring that crew members adhere to the guidelines and restrictions. Education programs will be conducted for appropriate new personnel as they are brought on the job during the construction period.</p>	
		<p>MM BIO-3: The Project will hire a qualified biological monitor that will be present during all construction activities to ensure compliance with all biological mitigation measures. The biological monitor will ensure that construction personnel are trained, that mitigation measures are</p>	

Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation	Significance After Mitigation
		<p>properly implemented, that fencing, silt fencing, and/or straw wattles are installed around exclusion zones and avoidance buffers and remain intact throughout the duration of construction, and that sensitive habitats proposed for preservation are avoided. In addition, the biological monitor will conduct daily clearance surveys in the work area prior to commencement of work each morning and will ensure that all exclusion fencing remains intact. Daily activities will be documented in a daily monitoring log.</p>	
		<p>MM BIO-4: Prior to the start of construction, a qualified biologist will conduct botanical surveys in late spring/early summer to identify and map concentrations of flowering plants that provide food resources for Crotch’s bumble bee. The areas containing higher densities and varieties of flowering plants will be evaluated by a qualified invertebrate biologist to determine if these areas provide suitable foraging habitat for Crotch’s bumble bee. The habitat evaluation surveys would follow recommendations in the Rusty Patched Bumble Bee Habitat Assessment Form and Guide (Xerces 2017).</p>	
		<p>If moderate to high quality foraging habitat for Crotch’s bumble bee is identified in the Project study area based on the habitat assessment, these areas will be surveyed by a qualified invertebrate biologist (with experience conducting bumble bee surveys) within 1 year prior to the start of construction. Surveys would be conducted according to the methods in Thorp et al. (1983), which recommend that surveys be conducted during four evenly spaced sampling periods during the flight season (March through September). For each sampling event, the biologist would survey suitable habitat using nonlethal netting methods for 1 person-hour (the amount of work that can be done by one person in one hour) per 3 acres of the highest quality habitat or until 150 bumble bees are sighted, whichever comes first. If initial sampling of a given habitat area indicates that the habitat is of low quality or nonexistent, no further sampling of that area would be required. General guidelines and best practices for bumble bee surveys</p>	

Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation	Significance After Mitigation
		<p>would follow the Survey Protocols for the Rusty Patched Bumble Bee (USFWS 2019).</p> <p>If Crotch’s bumble bee is determined not to be present at the Project study area or a qualified invertebrate biologist (experienced with bumble bees) concludes that there is a very low likelihood that the species is present, then no additional mitigation is required.</p> <p>If Crotch’s bumble bee is determined to be present at the Project study area, then SJJPA will also implement MM BIO-2, MM BIO-3, and MM-BIO-4.</p> <p>Additionally, if it is determined through preconstruction surveys that Crotch’s bumble bees are present at the Project study area, the following mitigation measures will be implemented to ensure that the Project does not have a significant impact on Crotch’s bumble bee. Implementation of some of these measures may require that the Project obtain an ITP from CDFW if Crotch’s bumble bee remains a candidate or is formally listed under CESA before construction begins. If bumble bee surveys identify occupied Crotch’s bumble bee habitat in the Project study area, the biologist would conduct additional preconstruction surveys in the Project disturbance footprint for active bee nest colonies and associated floral resources (i.e., flowering vegetation on which bees from the colony are observed foraging) no more than 30 days prior to any ground disturbance between March and September. The purpose of this preconstruction survey would be to identify active nest colonies and associated floral resources outside of permanent impact areas that could be avoided by construction personnel. The biologist would establish, monitor, and maintain no-work buffers around nest colonies and floral resources identified during surveys. The size and configuration of the no-work buffer would be based on the best professional judgment of the biologist. At a minimum, the buffer would provide at least 20 feet of clearance around nest entrances. Construction activities would not occur in the no-work buffers until the colony is no longer active (i.e., no bees are seen flying</p>	

Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation	Significance After Mitigation
		<p>in or out of the nest for three consecutive days indicating the colony has completed its nesting season and the next season’s queens have dispersed from the colony). Monitoring of an active nest could be conducted using a motion-detecting wildlife trail camera.</p> <p>MM BIO-5: A Biological Opinion with an incidental take statement will be obtained from USFWS prior to impacts. All conditions of the incidental take statement will be complied with, including preservation and creation credits to offset habitat conversion. Before discharge of fill material, preservation and/or creation credits will be obtained from a USFWS-approved mitigation bank. Before discharge of fill material, one creation credit will be obtained from a USFWS-approved mitigation bank for every acre of habitat directly affected, and two preservation credits will be obtained for every acre of habitat directly and indirectly affected by the proposed action. The exact acreage will be determined during the consultation process.</p> <p>Prior to the start of construction, high-visibility temporary construction fencing will be installed along the perimeter of the limits of disturbance in areas within 250 feet of environmentally sensitive areas (e.g., aquatic features including seasonal wetlands) to prevent encroachment of construction equipment. Straw wattles or silt fencing will be installed immediately behind the high-visibility construction fencing to prevent soil deposition from affecting sensitive areas. Fencing will be of an appropriate material that will not risk entangling sensitive wildlife species. All temporary fencing will be removed on the completion of construction.</p> <p>Temporary stockpiling of excavated or imported material will occur only in approved construction staging areas. Excess excavated soil will be used onsite or disposed of at a regional landfill or other appropriate facility.</p>	

Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation	Significance After Mitigation
		<p>No surface water will be drafted from aquatic features in the Project study area. Water will be trucked in as needed for use during construction.</p> <p>MM BIO-6: Any trees in the Project footprint will be removed outside of the nesting season (September 16 through January 31), to the extent feasible. The generally accepted nesting season that encompasses most nesting birds including Swainson’s hawk extends from February 1 through September 30. If trees cannot be removed outside of the nesting season, preconstruction nesting bird surveys will be conducted within 7 days prior to their removal.</p> <p>MM BIO-7: Prior to the start of construction, a qualified biologist will conduct Swainson’s hawk protocol-level surveys during all survey periods throughout the nesting season prior to the commencement of construction activities scheduled between March 1 to September 30 (the Swainson’s hawk nesting season), regardless of the initiation of ground-disturbing activities. Protocol-level surveys will be conducted in all suitable Swainson’s hawk nesting habitat within 0.5 miles of the Project study area in accordance with <i>Recommended Timing and Methodology for Swainson’s Hawk Nesting Surveys in California’s Central Valley</i> (Swainson’s Hawk Technical Advisory Committee 2000). If no active nests are observed within 0.5 miles of the Project study area, no additional measures are required so long as construction commences within that year. If construction is delayed to the following year, a subsequent round of protocol-level surveys will be required.</p> <p>Nests found within 0.5 miles will be monitored either continuously or periodically depending on the construction activities and level of disturbance until chicks have fledged, are feeding independently, and are no longer dependent on the nest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Timing Restrictions: Where the construction site occurs within 0.5 miles of known or occupied nest trees identified by 	

Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation	Significance After Mitigation
		<p>the CDFW-approved biologist, SJPPA will limit construction activities to outside of the Swainson’s hawk breeding season (March 1 to August 15), to the extent practicable. Where construction activities cannot be restricted to more than 0.5 miles of an occupied nest tree during the breeding season, SJPPA will restrict the construction activities to not occur during the period of egg laying until after chicks have fledged, as determined by the CDFW-approved biologist, to the extent practicable. If not practicable, SJPPA will initiate construction activities prior to egg laying to allow time for Swainson’s hawk acclimatize to disturbance before eggs are laid. Where restricting work to outside of the breeding season or during the period of egg laying to post-fledging is not practicable, SJPPA will submit plans to initiate construction activities to CDFW for written approval.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No-Disturbance Buffer: Where construction activities must occur within 0.5 mile of an occupied Swainson’s hawk nest tree, SJPPA will establish a 650-foot-radius no-activity buffer around each occupied nest tree, and the buffer will remain in place until the end of the breeding season or until the last chick has left the nest. SJPPA will clearly delineate the buffer with fencing or other conspicuous marking. The CDFW-approved biologist will monitor occupied nest trees to track progress of nesting activities, as described below in Swainson’s Hawk Nest Monitoring. SJPPA will not conduct any construction activities in the buffer unless a smaller buffer is approved in writing by CDFW. If a construction activity must occur within 0.5 miles of an occupied nest tree, SJPPA will follow the conditions under Swainson’s Hawk Nest Monitoring below. SJPPA will not conduct any construction activity within 150 feet of an occupied nest tree. 	

Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation	Significance After Mitigation
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Swainson’s Hawk Nest Monitoring: Where construction activities must occur within 0.5 miles of an occupied Swainson’s hawk nest tree, SJPPA will implement the following monitoring plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Five days and 3 days prior to the initiation of construction at any site where an occupied nest is within 0.5 miles of construction, the CDFW-approved biologist will observe the subject nest(s) for at least 1 hour or until nest status can be determined. The CDFW-approved biologist will document nesting status and behaviors to compare to nesting status and behaviors after construction begins. SJPPA will report the results of preconstruction monitoring to CDFW within 24 hours of each survey. ○ Where an occupied nest tree occurs between 150 and 325 feet from construction activities, the CDFW-approved biologist will observe the nest for at least 4 hours per day during construction to ensure the Swainson’s hawks are engaged in normal nesting behavior. SJPPA will limit construction to between 30 minutes after sunrise and 30 minutes before sunset. ○ Where an occupied nest tree occurs between 325 and 650 feet of construction, the CDFW-approved biologist will observe the nest for at least 2 hours per day during construction to ensure the Swainson’s hawk are engaged in normal nesting behavior. ○ Where an occupied nest tree occurs between 650 and 1,300 feet of construction, the CDFW-approved biologist will observe the nest for at least 1 hour on at least 3 days per week during construction to ensure the Swainson’s 	

Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation	Significance After Mitigation
		<p>hawk are engaged in normal nesting behavior and to check the status of the nest.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Where an occupied nest tree occurs between 1,300 and 2,640 feet of construction, the CDFW-approved biologist will observe the nest for at least 1 hour on at least 1 day per week during construction to ensure the Swainson’s hawks are engaged in normal nesting behavior and to check the status of the nest. ● Disturbance of Occupied Nest Tree. SJJPA will prohibit physical contact with an occupied nest tree throughout the breeding season (March 1 to August 15). All workers within 650 feet will be out of the line of sight of the occupied nest tree during breaks or will take breaks more than 650 feet from the occupied nest tree. ● Authority of CDFW-Approved Biologist. If, during construction, the CDFW-approved biologist determines that a nesting Swainson’s hawk within 0.5 miles of the construction site is disturbed by construction activities to the point where nest abandonment is likely, the CDFW-approved biologist will have the authority to immediately stop work and will immediately notify SJJPA. A designated representative from SJJPA will contact CDFW within 24 hours to determine additional protective measures to be implemented. The CDFW-approved biologist will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stop construction until additional protective measures are implemented, unless the Swainson’s hawk behavior normalizes on its own. Potential nest abandonment and failure may be indicated if, in the CDFW-approved biologist’s professional judgment, the Swainson’s hawks exhibit distress and/or abnormal nesting behavior, such as swooping/stooping at equipment or personnel, excessive 	

Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation	Significance After Mitigation
		<p>distress-call vocalization or agitated behavior directed at personnel, failure to remain on nest, or failure to deliver prey items.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Continue monitoring and ensure additional protective measures remain in place until the CDFW-approved biologist determines Swainson’s hawk behavior has normalized. ○ Determine if additional protective measures are ineffective and stop construction until the additional protective measures are modified. ○ Continue monitoring until determining that the Swainson’s hawk behavior has normalized. ○ The SJJPA representative or CDFW-approved biologist will notify CDFW within 24 hours if nests or nestlings are abandoned and if the nestlings are still alive. The CDFW-approved biologist will work with CDFW to determine appropriate actions. <p>MM BIO-8: To the maximum extent feasible (e.g., where the construction footprint can be modified), construction activities within 500 feet of active burrowing owl burrows will be avoided during the nesting season (February 1 to August 31).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A qualified biologist will conduct preconstruction take avoidance surveys for burrowing owl no less than 14 days prior to and within 24 hours of initiating ground-disturbing activities. The survey area will encompass the work area and a 500-foot buffer around this area. ● If an active burrow is identified near a proposed work area, and work cannot be conducted outside of the nesting season (February 1 to August 31), a no-activity zone will be 	

Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation	Significance After Mitigation
		<p>established by a qualified biologist in coordination with CDFW. The no-activity zone will be large enough to avoid nest abandonment and will extend a minimum of 250 feet around the burrow.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If burrowing owls are present at the site during the non-breeding season (September 1 to January 31), a qualified biologist will establish a no-activity zone that extends a minimum of 150 feet around the burrow. • If the designated no-activity zone for either breeding or non-breeding burrowing owls cannot be established, a wildlife biologist experienced in burrowing owl behavior will evaluate site-specific conditions and, in coordination with CDFW, recommend a smaller buffer (if possible) and/or other measure that still minimizes disturbance of burrowing owls (while allowing reproductive success during the breeding season). The site-specific buffer (and/or other measure) will consider the type and extent of the proposed activity occurring near the occupied burrow, duration and timing of the activity, sensitivity and habituation of burrowing owls, and dissimilarity of the proposed activity to background activities. • If burrowing owls are present in the direct disturbance area and cannot be avoided during the non-breeding season (generally September 1 to January 31), burrowing owls may be excluded from burrows through the installation of one-way doors at burrow entrances. A burrowing owl exclusion plan, prepared by the SJJPA, must be approved by CDFW prior to exclusion of burrowing owls. One-way doors (e.g., modified dryer vents or other CDFW-approved method), which will be left in place for a minimum of 1 week and monitored daily to ensure that all burrowing owls have left the burrow(s). Excavation of the burrow will be conducted using hand tools. 	

Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation	Significance After Mitigation
		<p>During excavation of the burrow, a section of flexible plastic pipe (at least 3 inches in diameter) will be inserted into the burrow tunnel to maintain an escape route for any animals that may be inside of the burrow. Burrowing owls will be excluded from their burrows as a last resort and only if other avoidance and mitigation measures cannot be implemented.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The qualified biologist will conduct ongoing surveillance of the Project study area for burrowing owls during Project activities. If additional burrowing owls are observed using burrows within 500 feet of construction, the onsite biological monitor will determine, in coordination with CDFW, if the individuals are or would be affected by construction activities and if additional exclusion zones are required. • In addition to initial breeding and non-breeding season surveys, SJPPA will also require that preconstruction surveys be conducted, with one occurring 14 days prior to ground-breaking and/or staging activities and another within 24 hours of these activities. These surveys will confirm whether owls identified during the initial breeding and non-breeding season surveys are still present or whether the previously unoccupied site has since become occupied by burrowing owls. • If active burrowing owls are observed in the Project study area during the breeding season, SJPPA will compensate for the loss of suitable habitat through the purchase of credits at a CDFW-approved conservation bank or through other site protection instruments at a minimum of 1:1 ratio for permanent impacts on annual grassland. <p>MM BIO-9: A qualified biologist will conduct preconstruction surveys within 24 hours prior to the initiation of any ground-disturbing activities or vegetation clearing, including exclusion fence installation, in areas identified as having suitable western pond turtle habitat. If</p>	

Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation	Significance After Mitigation
		<p>there is a lapse in construction in a work area for 7 days or more, these surveys will be repeated before activities resume. If a western pond turtle is observed, construction will halt in that area until the species has voluntarily moved outside of the work area on its own volition. No work will commence within 50 feet of the area until the biologist verifies that the species is no longer present. Escape ramps or cover open trenches will be installed at the end of each workday.</p> <p>MM BIO-10: SJJPA will obtain a Biological Opinion with an incidental take statement from USFWS and an ITP from CDFW prior to commencement of construction. SJJPA will purchase credits at an approved California tiger salamander mitigation bank at the ratio specified in the permits. Before discharge of fill material, three preservation credits will be obtained from a USFWS- and CDFW- approved mitigation bank for every acre of breeding and upland habitat permanently lost. This would satisfy the loss of western spadefoot habitat should it become listed because these species occupy similar upland and aquatic habitat types. The exact acreage will be determined during the consultation process.</p> <p>A qualified biologist will prepare a relocation plan prior to commencement of construction activities.</p> <p>A qualified biologist will conduct a preconstruction clearance survey within 24 hours prior to commencement of construction activities in suitable upland and aquatic habitat.</p> <p>Prior to the start of construction, high-visibility temporary construction fencing will be installed along the perimeter of the limits of disturbance in areas within 250 feet of environmentally sensitive areas (e.g., aquatic features including seasonal wetlands) to prevent encroachment of construction equipment. Straw wattles or silt fencing will be installed immediately behind the high-visibility construction fencing to prevent soil deposition from affecting sensitive areas.</p>	

Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation	Significance After Mitigation
		<p>The contractor will install escape ramps or cover open trenches at the end of each workday.</p>	
		<p>MM BIO-11: To avoid potential injury or mortality of Northern California legless lizard, California glossy snake, and coast horned lizard, SJJPA will retain a qualified biologist to conduct a preconstruction survey for special-status reptiles no more than 24 hours prior to initial vegetation removal, grubbing, grading, and other initial ground-disturbing activities.</p>	
		<p>If at any time special-status reptiles are observed in the Project footprint and have the potential to be harmed by active construction activities, as determined by the biological monitor, construction activities in the immediate area will cease until the special-status reptile has been allowed to leave the construction area of its own volition. If necessary, the special-status reptile may be relocated by a biological monitor.</p>	
		<p>MM BIO-12: A qualified biologist will conduct a preconstruction survey for American badger concurrently with the preconstruction surveys for burrowing owl. If an active den is detected in the work area, SJJPA will establish a suitable buffer distance, and the den will be avoided until the biologist determines that the den is no longer active through direct monitoring, wildlife cameras, or a camera probe. Potential dens that are determined to be inactive by one or more of the aforementioned methods will be collapsed by hand to prevent occupation of the den between the time of the survey and construction activities.</p>	
		<p>MM BIO-13: A qualified biologist will conduct a preconstruction survey for active nests if construction is anticipated to commence during the nesting season for birds of prey and migratory birds (February 1 to September 15). The preconstruction survey will be conducted within 30 days prior to commencement of construction activities. If surveys show that there is no evidence of nests, then no additional mitigation</p>	

Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation	Significance After Mitigation
		<p>will be required so long as construction commences within 30 days of the survey.</p> <p>If any active nests are located in the Project study area, a qualified biologist will establish an appropriate avoidance buffer around the nests. The qualified biologist will monitor nests weekly during construction to evaluate potential nesting disturbance by construction activities. The biologist will delimit the buffer zone with construction tape or pin flags. Generally accepted avoidance buffers are approximately 250 feet for non-special-status raptors and approximately 100 feet for nesting migratory and passerine birds. The buffers will remain intact until the biologist determines that the nest is no longer active.</p> <p>MM BIO-14: Saturated or ponded aquatic resources proposed for preservation will be avoided during the wet season (spring and winter) to the maximum extent possible. Where such activities are unavoidable, protective practices such as use of padding or vehicles with balloon tires will be employed.</p> <p>Exposed drainage banks along Cottonwood Creek will be stabilized immediately on completion of construction activities. Cottonwood Creek will be restored in a manner that encourages vegetation to re-establish to its pre-project condition and reduces the effects of erosion on the drainage system.</p> <p>Any trees, shrubs, debris, or soils that are inadvertently deposited below the ordinary high water mark of Cottonwood Creek will be removed in a manner that minimizes disturbance of the drainage bed and bank.</p> <p>To the extent possible, in-stream construction in the ordinary high water mark of Cottonwood Creek will be restricted to the low-flow period (generally April through October).</p>	

Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation	Significance After Mitigation
		<p>All activities will be completed promptly to minimize their duration and resultant impacts.</p> <p>SJJPA will ensure no net loss through one of the following options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase offsite mitigation bank credits for the affected wetland and other waters at a USACE-approved mitigation bank. If mitigation is in the form of restoration/creation credits, the mitigation will be at a minimum ratio of 1:1 (1 acre of restored or created aquatic resource type for each acre of aquatic resource removed). If mitigation is in the form of preservation credits, the mitigation will be at a minimum ratio of 2:1 (2 acres of preserved aquatic resource type for each acre of aquatic resource removed). • Develop an aquatic resources mitigation plan, subject to approval by USACE and the Central Valley RWQCB, that will ensure no net loss of wetlands or other waters from project impacts. The plan will detail the amount and type of wetlands and other waters (based on the verified aquatic resources delineation) that will compensate for (through preservation, creation, or restoration) impacts on existing wetlands and other waters of the United States (aquatic resources) and the state and outline the monitoring and success criteria for the compensation of wetlands and other (Waters of the United States (WoUS) and Waters of the State (WoS). Compensatory mitigation will include creating or preserving wetlands and other waters at a minimum 1:1 ratio (1 acre restored or created for each acre filled). 	
<p>Impact BIO-2. Would the Project have a substantial adverse effect on any riparian habitat or other sensitive natural community identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, or by the California</p>	<p>No Impact</p>	<p>None required</p>	<p>No Impact</p>

Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation	Significance After Mitigation
Department of Fish and Wildlife or U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.			
Impact BIO-3. Would the Project have a substantial adverse effect on state- or federally protected wetlands (including, but not limited to, marsh, vernal pool, and coastal) through direct removal, filling, hydrological interruption, or other means.	Potentially Significant Impact (Construction)	<p>MM BIO-14: Saturated or ponded aquatic resources proposed for preservation will be avoided during the wet season (spring and winter) to the maximum extent possible. Where such activities are unavoidable, protective practices such as use of padding or vehicles with balloon tires will be employed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exposed drainage banks along Cottonwood Creek will be stabilized immediately on completion of construction activities. Cottonwood Creek will be restored in a manner that encourages vegetation to re-establish to its pre-project condition and reduces the effects of erosion on the drainage system. Any trees, shrubs, debris, or soils that are inadvertently deposited below the ordinary high water mark of Cottonwood Creek will be removed in a manner that minimizes disturbance of the drainage bed and bank. To the extent possible, in-stream construction in the ordinary high water mark of Cottonwood Creek will be restricted to the low-flow period (generally April through October). All activities will be completed promptly to minimize their duration and resultant impacts. SJJPA will ensure no net loss through one of the following options: Purchase offsite mitigation bank credits for the affected wetland and other waters at a USACE-approved mitigation bank. If mitigation is in the form of restoration/creation credits, the mitigation will be at a minimum ratio of 1:1 (1 acre of restored or created aquatic resource type for each acre of aquatic resource removed). If mitigation is in the form of preservation credits, the mitigation will be at a minimum ratio of 2:1 (2 acres of preserved aquatic resource type for each acre of aquatic resource removed). Develop an aquatic resources mitigation plan, subject to approval by USACE and the Central Valley RWQCB, that will ensure no net loss of wetlands or other waters from project impacts. The plan will detail the amount and type of wetlands and other waters (based on the verified aquatic resources delineation) that will compensate for 	Less than Significant Impact

Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation	Significance After Mitigation
		(through preservation, creation, or restoration) impacts on existing wetlands and other waters of the United States (aquatic resources) and the state and outline the monitoring and success criteria for the compensation of wetlands and other WoUS and WoS. Compensatory mitigation will include creating or preserving wetlands and other waters at a minimum 1:1 ratio (1 acre restored or created for each acre filled).	
Impact BIO-4. Would the Project interfere substantially with the movement of any native resident or migratory fish or wildlife species or with established native resident or migratory wildlife corridors or impede the use of native wildlife nursery sites?	Less than Significant Impact	None required	Less than Significant Impact
Impact BIO-5. Would the Project conflict with any local policies or ordinances protecting biological resources, such as a tree preservation policy or ordinance?	No Impact	None required	No Impact
Impact BIO-6. Would the Project conflict with the provisions of an adopted Habitat Conservation Plan, Natural Community Conservation Plan, or other approved local, regional, or state habitat conservation plan?	Less than Significant Impact	None required	Less than Significant Impact

Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation	Significance After Mitigation
Cultural Resources			
Impact CUL-1. Would the Project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5?	No Impact	None required	No Impact
Impact CUL-2. Would the Project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5?	Potentially Significant Impact (Construction)	<p>MM CUL-1: The Project will retain a qualified archaeologist to carry out all mitigation measures related to archaeological resources. Prior to the start of any ground-disturbing activities, the SJJPA or its construction contractor will ensure that the qualified archaeologist has conducted Cultural Resources Awareness Training for all construction personnel working on the Project. The training will include an overview of potential cultural resources that could be encountered during ground-disturbing activities to facilitate worker recognition, avoidance, and subsequent immediate notification to the qualified archaeologist for further evaluation and action, as appropriate, and penalties for unauthorized artifact collecting or intentional disturbance of archaeological resources. A sign-in sheet will be completed, retained by the Project construction contractor for the duration of Project construction to demonstrate attendance at the awareness training, and provided to SJJPA upon completion of Project construction.</p> <p>MM CUL-2: If archaeological resources are discovered during construction, then all construction will immediately stop within 100 feet (30 meters) of the discovery, the location of the discovery will be marked for avoidance, and efforts will be made to prevent inadvertent destruction of the find. The qualified archaeologist (and a Native American-designated representative if the resource is Native American-related) will evaluate the significance of the resources for CRHR eligibility and recommend appropriate treatment measures to SJJPA and its construction contractor. Per CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4(b)(3)(C), if it is demonstrated that resources cannot be avoided, then the qualified archaeologist will (in coordination with a Native American-designated representative, if the resource is Native American-related) develop additional treatment measures in</p>	Less than Significant Impact

Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation	Significance After Mitigation
<p>Impact CUL-3. Would the Project disturb any human remains, including those remains interred outside of formal cemeteries?</p>	<p>Potentially Significant Impact (Construction)</p>	<p>consultation with SJJPA, which may include data recovery or other appropriate measures. SJJPA will consult with appropriate Native American representatives in determining appropriate treatment for unearthed cultural resources, if the resources are pre-contact, tribal cultural resources, or Native American in nature. The qualified archaeologist will prepare a report documenting evaluation and/or additional treatment of the resource. A copy of the report will be provided to SJJPA. Construction can recommence based on direction of the qualified archaeologist.</p> <p>MM CUL-3: If human remains are uncovered during Project activities, then the SJJPA or its construction contractor will immediately halt work, contact the Madera County Coroner to evaluate the remains, and follow the procedures and protocols set forth in PRC Section 15064.5(e). If the County Coroner determines that the remains are Native American in origin, then the NAHC will be notified, in accordance with Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5(c) and PRC Section 5097.98. The NAHC will designate a Most Likely Descendant for the remains per PRC Section 5097.98, and the SJJPA or its construction contractor will ensure that the immediate vicinity, according to generally accepted cultural or archaeological standards or practices, where the Native American human remains are located, is not damaged or disturbed by further activity until the SJJPA has discussed and conferred, as prescribed in PRC Section 5097.98, with the Most Likely Descendant regarding their recommendation for the disposition of the remains, taking into account the possibility of multiple humans remains.</p>	<p>Less than Significant Impact</p>
<p>Energy</p>			
<p>Impact EN-1. Would the Project result in potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy resources during Project construction or operation?</p>	<p>Less than Significant Impact</p>	<p>None required</p>	<p>Less than Significant Impact</p>

Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation	Significance After Mitigation
Impact EN-2. Would the Project conflict with or obstruct a state or local plan for renewable energy or energy efficiency?	Less than Significant Impact	None required	Less than Significant Impact
Geology, Soils, and Paleontological Resources			
Impact GEO-1. Would the Project be located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the Project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse?	Potentially Significant Impact (Construction)	MM GEO-1: A geotechnical report will be prepared for the Project and identify onsite soils, depth to groundwater, and other conditions that could cause the site to be susceptible to landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse. The geotechnical report will include required elements of the California Building Code (CCR Title 24) and prescribe appropriate design features and construction measures to minimize potential adverse effects related to seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction. Potential strategies would include but are not limited to: simple spans with large and elongated bearing seats, enhanced derailment containment, seismic isolation and dissipation devices, and ductile and thickened reinforced mat concrete foundations. The geotechnical study will include requirements and measures that would be incorporated into the Project design and engineering.	Less than Significant Impact
Impact GEO-2. Would the Project be located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (1994), creating substantial direct or indirect risks to life or property?	Potentially Significant Impact (Construction)	MM GEO-1: A geotechnical report will be prepared for the Project and identify onsite soils, depth to groundwater, and other conditions that could cause the site to be susceptible to landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse. The geotechnical report will include required elements of the California Building Code (CCR Title 24) and prescribe appropriate design features and construction measures to minimize potential adverse effects related to seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction. Potential strategies may include but are not limited to: simple spans with large and elongated bearing seats, enhanced derailment containment, seismic isolation and dissipation devices, and ductile and thickened reinforced mat concrete foundations. The geotechnical study will include requirements and measures that would be incorporated into the Project design and engineering.	Less than Significant Impact

Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation	Significance After Mitigation
<p>Impact GEO-3. Would the Project directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?</p>	<p>Potentially Significant Impact (Construction)</p>	<p>MM GEO-2: At least 120 days prior to construction, a paleontological resources monitor will be designated for the Project and will be responsible for determining where and when paleontological resources monitoring should be conducted. The paleontological resources monitor will be selected based on their qualifications, and the scope and nature of their monitoring will be determined and directed based on the Paleontological Resource Monitoring and Mitigation Plan (PRMMP). The paleontological resources monitor will be responsible for developing and implementing the Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) training. All management and supervisory personnel and construction workers involved with ground-disturbing activities will be required to take this training prior to beginning work on the Project and will be provided with the necessary resources for response in case paleontological resources are found during construction. The paleontological resources monitor will document any discoveries, as needed, evaluate the potential resource, and assess the significance of the find under the criteria set forth in CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5.</p> <p>MM GEO-3: Paleontological resources monitoring and mitigation measures are restricted to those construction-related activities that will result in the disturbance of paleontologically sensitive sediments. The PRMMP will include a description of when and where construction monitoring will be required; emergency discovery procedures; sampling and data recovery procedures; procedures for the preparation, identification, analysis, and curation of fossil specimens and data recovered; preconstruction coordination procedures; and procedures for reporting the results of the monitoring and mitigation program. In general, the monitoring program will reflect site-specific construction of the selected option. The PRMMP will be consistent with SVP guidelines for the mitigation of construction-related impacts on paleontological resources. The PRMMP will also be consistent with the SVP conditions for receivership of paleontological collections and any specific requirements of the designated repository for any fossils collected.</p>	<p>Less than Significant Impact</p>

Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation	Significance After Mitigation
		<p>MM GEO-4: If fossil or fossil-bearing deposits are discovered during construction, regardless of the individual making a paleontological discovery, construction activity in the immediate vicinity of the discovery will cease. This requirement will be spelled out in both the PRMMP and the Worker Environmental Awareness Program. Construction activity may continue elsewhere provided that it continues to be monitored as applicable. If the discovery is made by someone other than a paleontological resources monitor, the paleontological resources monitor will immediately be notified. A qualified paleontologist will be retained to evaluate the resource and to prepare a recovery plan. The recovery plan may include a field survey, construction monitoring, sampling and data recovery procedures, museum storage coordination for any specimen recovered, and a report of finding. Recommendations in the recovery plan determined to be necessary and feasible will be implemented before construction activities can resume at the site where the paleontological resources were discovered.</p>	
<p>Impact GEO-4. Would the Project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving: strong seismic ground shaking, seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction?</p>	<p>Less than Significant Impact</p>	<p>None required</p>	<p>Less than Significant Impact</p>
<p>Impact GEO-5. Would the Project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving landslides?</p>	<p>Less than Significant Impact</p>	<p>None required</p>	<p>Less than Significant Impact</p>
<p>Impact GEO-6. Would the Project result in substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil?</p>	<p>Less than Significant Impact</p>	<p>None required</p>	<p>Less than Significant Impact</p>
<p>Impact GEO-7. Would the Project have soils incapable of adequately</p>	<p>Less than Significant Impact</p>	<p>None required</p>	<p>Less than Significant Impact</p>

Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation	Significance After Mitigation
supporting the use of septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater?			
Impact GEO-8. Would the Project directly or indirectly cause potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving: rupture of a known earthquake fault, as delineated on the most recent Alquist-Priolo Earthquake Fault Zoning Map, issued by the State Geologist for the area or based on other substantial evidence of a known fault? Refer to Division of Mines and Geology Special Publication 42.	No Impact	None required	No Impact
Greenhouse Gas Emissions			
Impact GHG-1. Would the Project generate greenhouse gas emissions, either directly or indirectly, that may have a significant impact on the environment?	Less than Significant Impact	None required	Less than Significant Impact
Impact GHG-2. Would the Project conflict with an applicable plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of reducing the emissions of greenhouse gases?	Less than Significant Impact	None required	Less than Significant Impact
Hazards and Hazardous Materials			
Impact HAZ-1. Would the Project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the	Potentially Significant Impact (Construction)	MM HAZ-1: In the event that previously unknown or unidentified soil and/or groundwater contamination that could present a threat to human health or the environment is encountered during construction in the Project site, construction activities in the immediate vicinity of the contamination shall cease immediately. Then, a Risk Management	Less than Significant Impact

Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation	Significance After Mitigation
release of hazardous materials into the environment?		Plan shall be prepared and implemented that (1) identifies the contaminants of concern and the potential risk each contaminant would pose to human health and the environment during construction and post development and (2) describes measures to be taken to protect workers and the public from exposure to potential site hazards. Such measures could include, but not be limited to, physical site controls during construction, remediation, long-term monitoring, post-development maintenance or access limitations, or some combination thereof. Depending on the nature of contamination, if any, appropriate agencies shall be notified (e.g., County of Madera Fire Department and Madera County Environmental Health Division). If needed, a Site Health and Safety Plan that meets Occupational Safety and Health Administration requirements shall be prepared and in place prior to commencement of work in any contaminated area.	
Impact HAZ-2. Would the Project create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	Less than Significant Impact	None required	Less than Significant Impact
Impact HAZ-3. Would the Project impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	Less than Significant Impact	None required	Less than Significant Impact
Impact HAZ-4. Would the Project be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	Less than Significant Impact	None required	Less than Significant Impact
Impact HAZ-5. Would the Project emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within	No Impact	None required	No Impact

Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation	Significance After Mitigation
one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?			
Impact HAZ-6. Would the Project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working within an airport land use plan area or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or public use airport?	No Impact	None required	No Impact
Impact HAZ-7. Would the Project expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires?	No Impact	None required	No Impact
Hydrology and Water Quality			
Impact HYD-1. Would the Project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would result in substantial erosion or siltation on- or off-site?	Less than Significant Impact	None required	Less than Significant Impact
Impact HYD-2. Would the Project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would result in a substantial increase the rate or amount of surface runoff in a manner	Less than Significant Impact	None required	Less than Significant Impact

Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation	Significance After Mitigation
which would result in flooding on- or off-site?			
Impact HYD-3. Would the Project violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements or otherwise substantially degrade surface or groundwater quality?	Less than Significant Impact	None required	Less than Significant Impact
Impact HYD-4. Would the Project substantially decrease groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that the Project may impede sustainable groundwater management of the basin?	Less than Significant Impact	None required	Less than Significant Impact
Impact HYD-5. Would the Project substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area, including through the alteration of the course of a stream or river or through the addition of impervious surfaces, in a manner which would create or contribute runoff water which would exceed the capacity of existing or planned stormwater drainage systems or provide substantial additional sources of polluted runoff; or impede or redirect flood flows?	Less than Significant Impact	None required	Less than Significant Impact
Impact HYD-6. Would the Project, in flood hazard, tsunami, or seiche zones, risk release of pollutants due to Project inundation?	Less than Significant Impact	None required	Less than Significant Impact
Impact HYD-7. Would the Project conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality	Less than Significant Impact	None required	Less than Significant Impact

Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation	Significance After Mitigation
control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan?			
Land Use and Planning			
Impact LU-1. Would the Project cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	Less than Significant Impact	None required	Less than Significant Impact
Impact LU-2. Would the Project physically divide an established community?	No Impact	None required	No Impact
Mineral Resources			
Impact MIN-1. Would the Project result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	Less than Significant Impact	None required	Less than Significant Impact
Impact MIN-2. Would the Project result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan?	Less than Significant Impact	None required	Less than Significant Impact

Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation	Significance After Mitigation
Noise and Vibration			
Impact NOI-1. Would the Project result in the generation of a substantial temporary or permanent increase in ambient noise levels in the vicinity of the Project in excess of standards established in the local general plan or noise ordinance, or applicable standards of other agencies?	Less than Significant Impact	None required	Less than Significant Impact
Impact NOI-2. Would the Project result in the generation of excessive groundborne vibration or groundborne noise levels?	Less than Significant Impact	None required	Less than Significant Impact
Impact NOI-3. Would the Project expose people residing or working in the Project area to excessive noise levels within the vicinity of a private airstrip or an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within 2 miles of a public airport or public-use airport?	No Impact	None required	No Impact
Population and Housing			
Impact POP-1. Would the Project induce substantial unplanned population growth in an area, either directly (e.g., by proposing new homes and businesses) or indirectly (e.g., through extension of roads or other infrastructure)?	Less than Significant Impact	None required	Less than Significant Impact

Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation	Significance After Mitigation
Impact POP-2. Would the Project displace substantial numbers of existing people or housing, necessitating the construction of replacement housing elsewhere?	No Impact	None required	No Impact
Public Services			
Impact PS-1. Would the Project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for fire protection or police protection?	Less than Significant Impact	None required	Less than Significant Impact
Impact PS-2. Would the Project result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of new or physically altered governmental facilities, or the need for new or physically altered governmental facilities, the construction of which could cause significant environmental impacts, in order to maintain acceptable service ratios, response times, or other performance objectives for schools, parks, or other public facilities?	No Impact	None required	No Impact
Recreation			

Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation	Significance After Mitigation
Impact REC-1. 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	None required	No Impact
Impact REC-2. Would the Project include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	No Impact	None required	No Impact
Transportation			
Impact TR-1. Would the Project conflict with a program, plan, ordinance, or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities?	Potentially Significant Impact (Construction)	<p>MM TR-1: SJJPA shall coordinate with public works and transportation departments of local jurisdictions to develop a transportation management plan that shall mitigate construction impacts to transit, roadway, bicycle, and pedestrian facilities, while allowing for expeditious completion of construction. Measures that shall be implemented throughout the course of Project construction shall include, but not be limited to, the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limit number of simultaneous street closures and consequent detours of transit and automobile traffic within each immediate vicinity, with closure timeframe limited as much as feasible for each closure, unless alternative routes are available. • Implement traffic control measures to minimize traffic conflicts for all roadway users (regardless of mode) where lane closures and restricted travel speeds shall be required for longer periods. • Provide advance notice of all construction-related street closures, durations, and detours to local jurisdictions, emergency service providers, and motorists. 	Less than Significant Impact

Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation	Significance After Mitigation
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide safety measures for motorists, transit vehicles, bicyclists, and pedestrians to ensure safe travel through construction zones. 	
Impact TR-2. Would the Project conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	Less than Significant Impact	None required	Less than Significant Impact
Impact TR-3. Would the Project substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	Less than Significant Impact	None required	Less than Significant Impact
Impact TR-4. Would the Project result in inadequate emergency access?	Less than Significant Impact	None required	Less than Significant Impact
Tribal Cultural Resources			
Impact TCR-1. 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 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)?	Potentially Significant Impact (Construction)	<p>The same mitigations proposed for Cultural Resources apply to Tribal Cultural Resources.</p> <p>MM CUL-1: The Project will retain a qualified archaeologist to carry out all mitigation measures related to archaeological resources. Prior to the start of any ground-disturbing activities, the SJJPA or its construction contractor will ensure that the qualified archaeologist has conducted Cultural Resources Awareness Training for all construction personnel working on the Project. The training will include an overview of potential cultural resources that could be encountered during ground-disturbing activities to facilitate worker recognition, avoidance, and subsequent immediate notification to the qualified archaeologist for further evaluation and action, as appropriate, and penalties for unauthorized artifact collecting or intentional disturbance of archaeological resources. A sign-in sheet will be completed, retained by the Project construction contractor for the duration of Project construction to demonstrate attendance at the awareness training, and provided to SJJPA upon completion of Project construction.</p>	Less than Significant Impact

Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation	Significance After Mitigation
		<p>MM CUL-2: If archaeological resources are discovered during construction, then all construction will immediately stop within 100 feet (30 meters) of the discovery, the location of the discovery will be marked for avoidance, and efforts will be made to prevent inadvertent destruction of the find. The qualified archaeologist (and a Native American-designated representative if the resource is Native American-related) will evaluate the significance of the resources for CRHR eligibility and recommend appropriate treatment measures to SJJPA and its construction contractor. Per CEQA Guidelines Section 15126.4(b)(3)(C), if it is demonstrated that resources cannot be avoided, then the qualified archaeologist will (in coordination with a Native American-designated representative, if the resource is Native American-related) develop additional treatment measures in consultation with SJJPA, which may include data recovery or other appropriate measures. SJJPA will consult with appropriate Native American representatives in determining appropriate treatment for unearthed cultural resources, if the resources are pre-contact, tribal cultural resources, or Native American in nature. The qualified archaeologist will prepare a report documenting evaluation and/or additional treatment of the resource. A copy of the report will be provided to SJJPA. Construction can recommence based on direction of the qualified archaeologist.</p>	
		<p>MM CUL-3: If human remains are uncovered during Project activities, then the SJJPA or its construction contractor will immediately halt work, contact the Madera County Coroner to evaluate the remains, and follow the procedures and protocols set forth in PRC Section 15064.5(e). If the County Coroner determines that the remains are Native American in origin, then the NAHC will be notified, in accordance with Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5(c) and PRC Section 5097.98. The NAHC will designate a Most Likely Descendant for the remains per PRC Section 5097.98, and the SJJPA or its construction contractor will ensure that the immediate vicinity, according to generally accepted cultural or archaeological standards or practices, where the Native American human remains are located, is</p>	

Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation	Significance After Mitigation
<p>Impact TCR-2. Would the Project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code Section 21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is a 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 Resources Code Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.</p>	<p>Potentially Significant Impact (Construction)</p>	<p>not damaged or disturbed by further activity until the SJJPA has discussed and conferred, as prescribed in PRC Section 5097.98, with the Most Likely Descendant regarding their recommendation for the disposition of the remains, taking into account the possibility of multiple humans remains.</p> <p>MM CUL-1, MM CUL-2, and MM CUL 3 as discussed above.</p>	<p>Less than Significant Impact</p>
<p>Utilities and Service Systems</p>			
<p>Impact UTL-1. Would the Project require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or</p>	<p>Less than Significant Impact</p>	<p>None required</p>	<p>Less than Significant Impact</p>

Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation	Significance After Mitigation
relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?			
Impact UTL-2. Would the Project have sufficient water supplies available to serve the Project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years?	Less than Significant Impact	None required	Less than Significant Impact
Impact UTL-3. Would the Project result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider which serves or may serve the Project that it has adequate capacity to serve the Project’s projected demand in addition to the provider’s existing commitments?	Less than Significant Impact	None required	Less than Significant Impact
Impact UTL-4. Would the Project generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	Less than Significant Impact	None required	Less than Significant Impact
Impact UTL-5. Would the Project comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	Less than Significant Impact	None required	Less than Significant Impact
Wildfire			
Impact WF-1. Would the Project substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	Less than Significant Impact	None required	Less than Significant Impact
Impact WF-2. Would the Project due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and	No Impact	None required	No Impact

Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation	Significance After Mitigation
thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?			
Impact WF-3. Would the Project require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?	No Impact	None required	No Impact
Impact WF-4. Would the Project expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?	No Impact	None required	No Impact
Cumulative Impacts			
Impact CUM-1. Does the Project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of 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	None required	Less than Significant Impact and Not Cumulatively Considerable

Impact	Significance Before Mitigation	Mitigation	Significance After Mitigation
<p>Impact CUM-2. 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).</p>	<p>Less than Significant Impact</p>	<p>None required</p>	<p>Less than Significant Impact and Not Cumulatively Considerable</p>

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ES.7 Public Outreach

The Project's outreach program engages with stakeholders to establish communication and adapt to the needs and participation preferences of communities. This strategy provides an approach to collaborating with local stakeholders for effective outreach methods, engagement, and tools for meaningful community input. The outreach program focused on disseminating information about the Project, garnering public input, and supporting the required technical and legal environmental processes.

The primary outreach that has occurred is associated with the release of the NOP and during scoping as summarized in Appendix F, *Notice of Preparation and Scoping Memorandum*. The scoping process led by SJJPA engaged agencies, organizations, and the public, providing an opportunity to offer input on issues to be examined and included in the Draft EIR for the Madera HSR Station Full-Build Project Phase 3. The process spanned from November 22, 2023, to January 5, 2024, with a virtual scoping meeting held on December 13, 2023, from 9:30 am to 11:30 am via Zoom. Throughout this period, SJJPA outreach efforts encouraged community members and stakeholders to attend and actively participate in the scoping meeting. Notification materials, included an overview of the Project, scoping period dates, meeting details, and scoping comment submission instructions, were distributed via multiple channels. Letters were sent via first-class mail to 188 responsible and trustee agencies, organizations, nearby residents and property owners, and interested parties on November 22, 2023. Email notifications were sent on November 28, 2023, to the Project's email subscribers and key organizations, with a reminder on December 12, 2023. A dedicated Project webpage was created, hosting scoping materials, the NOP, and comment submission instructions. Social media campaigns on Facebook and Instagram promoted the scoping meeting, with posts on December 11, 2023.

In addition, tribal consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1 (Assembly Bill 52) has been initiated. SJJPA sent formal consultation opportunity letters directly to tribal contacts identified in the Sacred Lands Search provided by the Native American Heritage Commission, including project details and a location map, inviting feedback and consultation. While the Sacred Lands File search yielded no identified sacred lands, the outcomes of the tribal consultations are pending and will be integrated into the Project's impact assessments and mitigation planning.

ES.8 Areas of Controversy and Issues to be Resolved

CEQA Guidelines Section 15123(b)(2) requires that an EIR identify areas of controversy known to the lead agency, including issues raised by other agencies and the public. Areas of potential controversy for the Project include the following:

- Project funding and timeline
- Effects to agriculture
- Habitat and wildlife impacts to Cottonwood Creek
- Public perception and concern about the impact of the California HSR project

CEQA Guidelines Section 15123(b)(3) requires a discussion of issues to be resolved. Upon completion of project CEQA review, the SJJPA Board will consider approval of the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Plan (MMRP). The MMRP will address mitigation measures that will apply to the Project are required to reduce identified significant impacts to a less than significant level.

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