PUBLIC REVIEW DRAFT

INITIAL STUDY/ MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

FOR THE

LOWER STANISLAUS RIVER BIKE TRAIL PROJECT

Ripon, CA

FEBRUARY 2024

Prepared for:

City of Ripon
259 Wilma Avenue
Ripon, CA 95366

Prepared by:

BaseCamp Environmental, Inc.
802 W. Lodi Avenue
Lodi, CA 95240

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CITY OF RIPON
259 Wilma Avenue
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209-599-2108

Prepared by:

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INSERT NOTICE OF INTENT

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS DOCUMENT

AB	Assembly Bill
ARB	California Air Resources Board
BMP	Best Management Practice
Cal Fire	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection
CALGreen	California Green Building Standards Code
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
CNDDB	California Natural Diversity Data Base
CO	carbon monoxide
CO_2e	carbon dioxide equivalent
Corps	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
dBA	A-weighted decibel
EIR	Environmental Impact Report
EPA	U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
GHG	greenhouse gas
IPaC	Information for Planning and Consultation
IS/MND	Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration
ITMM	Incidental Take Minimization Measure
LOS	Level of Service
NAHC	Native American Heritage Commission
NO_x	nitrogen oxides
PM_{10}	particulate matter 10 micrometers or less in diameter
$PM_{2.5}$	particulate matter 2.5 micrometers or less in diameter
RCEM	Road Construction Emissions Model
ROG	reactive organic gases
SB	Senate Bill
SJCOG	San Joaquin Council of Governments
SJVAPCD	San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
SJMSCP	San Joaquin County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation and Open Space Plan
SR	State Route
SWPPP	Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TAC	toxic air contaminant
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
VMT	vehicle miles traveled

MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

A. General Project Information

Project Title:	Lower Stanislaus River Bike Trail
Lead Agency Name and Address:	City of Ripon 259 N. Wilma Avenue Ripon, CA 95366
Contact Person and Phone Number:	Christiana Giedd, P.E. 209-599-2108
Project Location:	Adjacent to Stanislaus River in Ripon, California
Project Sponsor Name and Address:	City of Ripon 259 N. Wilma Avenue Ripon, CA 95366
General Plan Designation:	RR (Resource Reserve), MS (Municipal Service), and CR (Commercial Recreation)
Zoning:	RC (Resource Conservation), PS (Public, Semi-Public), and C5 (Commercial, Recreation)
Project Description:	The project proposes to apply an asphalt surface on approximately 11,380 linear feet of existing dirt paths along the north bank of the Stanislaus River. The project would extend an existing Class 1 bike/walking path in the southern portion of the City of Ripon. Paving work would occur on two segments of existing trail: The eastern segment would extend east (upriver) from the existing Class 1 path to another segment of existing bike path east of State Route 99; the western segment would extend west from the existing Class 1 path to the southwestern corner of the Jack Tone Golf Course. Pavement along both new segments would be 12 feet wide, except for approximately 206 linear feet of the eastern segment that would be 8 feet wide.
Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:	The project site is along the north bank of the Stanislaus River. The eastern segment passes through an open space area with an oak tree canopy and passes beneath the State Route 99 bridge over

	the Stanislaus River before joining the existing trail segment east of SR 99. The existing Ripon Cogeneration plant is adjacent to this section. The western segment passes by the Jack Tone Golf Course and ponds that are part of the City's wastewater treatment facility. The Stanislaus River riparian area is adjacent to and south of the western segment.
Other Public Agencies Whose Approval is Required:	None
Have California Native American tribes traditionally and culturally affiliated with the project area requested consultation pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 21080.3.1? If so, has consultation begun?	No consultation specific to this project requested.

B. Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

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

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

C. Lead Agency Determination

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- ☐ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ✓ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions in the project have been made by or agreed to by the project proponent. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.
- ☐ I find that the proposed project MAY have a "potentially significant impact" or "potentially significant unless mitigated" impact on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.
- ☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR or NEGATIVE DECLARATION, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the proposed project, nothing further is required.

CITY OF RIPON

Kevin Werner, City Manager _____ Date _____

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Brief

This document is an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Lower Stanislaus River Trail Project (project) in Ripon, California. The project site is located along and north of the Stanislaus River in the southern portion of Ripon (Figures 1-1 to 1-5). This IS/MND has been prepared in compliance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). For the purposes of CEQA, the City of Ripon (City) is the Lead Agency for the project.

The project proposes to apply a 2.5-inch asphalt surface and aggregate base material to approximately 11,380 linear feet of existing dirt paths along the north bank of the Stanislaus River. The project would complete an existing Class 1 bike/walking path. The proposed paving work would occur on two segments: 1) from the existing bicycle path east of the State Route (SR) 99 bridges westerly to an existing paved trail near the end of South Stockton Avenue, and 2) from the end of Jack Tone Road westerly to the southwestern corner of the Jack Tone Golf Course. The project would require site plan/design review approval by the City of Ripon, San Joaquin County, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), Union Pacific Railroad and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and a buffer reduction by the Habitat Technical Advisory Committee of the San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG) administrator of the San Joaquin County Open Space and Habitat Conservation Plan; SJCOG approval was obtained in March 2021.

1.2 Purpose of Initial Study

CEQA requires that public agencies consider and document the potential environmental effects of the agency's actions that meet CEQA's definition of a "project." Briefly summarized, a "project" is an action that has the potential to result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment. A project includes the agency's direct activities as well as activities that involve public agency approvals or funding. Guidelines for an agency's implementation of CEQA are found in the CEQA Guidelines (Title 14, Chapter 3 of the California Code of Regulations).

Provided that a project is not exempt from CEQA, the first step in the agency's consideration of its potential environmental effects is the preparation of an Initial Study. The Initial Study evaluates whether the project would involve "significant" environmental effects as defined by CEQA and identifies feasible mitigation measures that would avoid significant effects or reduce them to a level that would be less than significant. If the Initial Study does not identify significant effects, or if it identifies mitigation measures that would reduce all the significant effects of the project to a less-than-significant level, then the agency prepares a Negative Declaration or Mitigated Negative Declaration. If the project involves significant effects that cannot be readily mitigated, then the agency must prepare

an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). The agency may also decide to proceed directly with the preparation of an EIR without preparation of an Initial Study.

The proposed project is a "project" as defined by CEQA and is not exempt from CEQA consideration. The City has determined that the project involves the potential for significant environmental effects and requires preparation of this Initial Study. The Initial Study describes the proposed project and its environmental setting, it discusses the potentially significant environmental effects of the project, and it identifies feasible mitigation measures that would avoid the potentially significant environmental effects of the project or reduce them to a level that would be less than significant. The Initial Study considers the project's potential for significant environmental effects in the following subject areas:

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

The Initial Study concludes that the project would have potentially significant environmental effects, but that recommended mitigation measures would reduce all these effects to a level that would be less than significant. As of the distribution of the IS/MND for public review, the City intends to implement all of the recommended mitigation measures. This decision will be formally ratified upon adoption of the Negative Declaration by the City Council. As a result, the City has prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration and notified the public of the City's intent to adopt the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration. A copy of the City's Notice of Intent, which indicates the time available for comment, is inside the cover of this document.

1.3 Project Background

The project is located along the Stanislaus River, which forms the southern boundary of Ripon and divides San Joaquin County from Stanislaus County. Through the City of Ripon, a mostly undisturbed riparian forest lines both the north and south banks of the river. The river is crossed only by the vehicle bridges at SR 99 and a pedestrian/bicycle bridge east of the SR 99 bridges. Land uses north of the Stanislaus River include a mix of recreational and industrial uses and open space areas. Notable land uses include the Ripon Cogeneration plant, the City's wastewater treatment plant, and the Jack Tone Golf Course. Oak Grove Park is the most notable recreational and open space area in the project vicinity. The City

has identified the Stanislaus River corridor as its most valuable natural resource because of the wide variety of wildlife and the numerous recreation opportunities it provides.

In October 1994, the City adopted its first ever Bicycle Route Master Plan, which proposed improvements that would initiate bicycle lanes, paths, and routes. The generally low traffic volumes make bicycle riding a popular recreational activity in Ripon. Today, the City is in the process of implementing the Master Plan. Currently, there are Class 1 bikeways along Santos Avenue, Hoff Drive, Jack Tone Road, Fulton Avenue, River Road, and Colony Road on the north side of SR 99 and along portions of Doak Boulevard on the south side of SR 99. Class 1 bike lanes have been delineated on South Jack Tone Road from West Main Street to Doak Boulevard and along sections of Doak Boulevard.

The project proposes to extend an existing Class 1 bikeway adjacent to and south of the City's wastewater treatment plant to connect to another existing Class 1 bikeway adjacent to and east of SR 99; the proposed route has been established for more than 30 years. The sections proposed for improvement are east and west of the existing Class 1 bikeway; both unpaved sections are currently dirt trails approximately 8 feet in width. In 2004, the eastern section was sold to San Joaquin County and leased back to the City. The western section is owned and maintained by the City.

1.4 Environmental Evaluation Checklist Terminology

The project's potential environmental effects are evaluated in the Environmental Evaluation Checklist shown in Chapter 3.0. The checklist includes a list of environmental considerations against which the project is evaluated. For each question, the City determines whether the project would involve: 1) a Potentially Significant Impact, 2) a Less Than Significant Impact with Mitigation Incorporated, 3) a Less Than Significant Impact, or 4) No Impact.

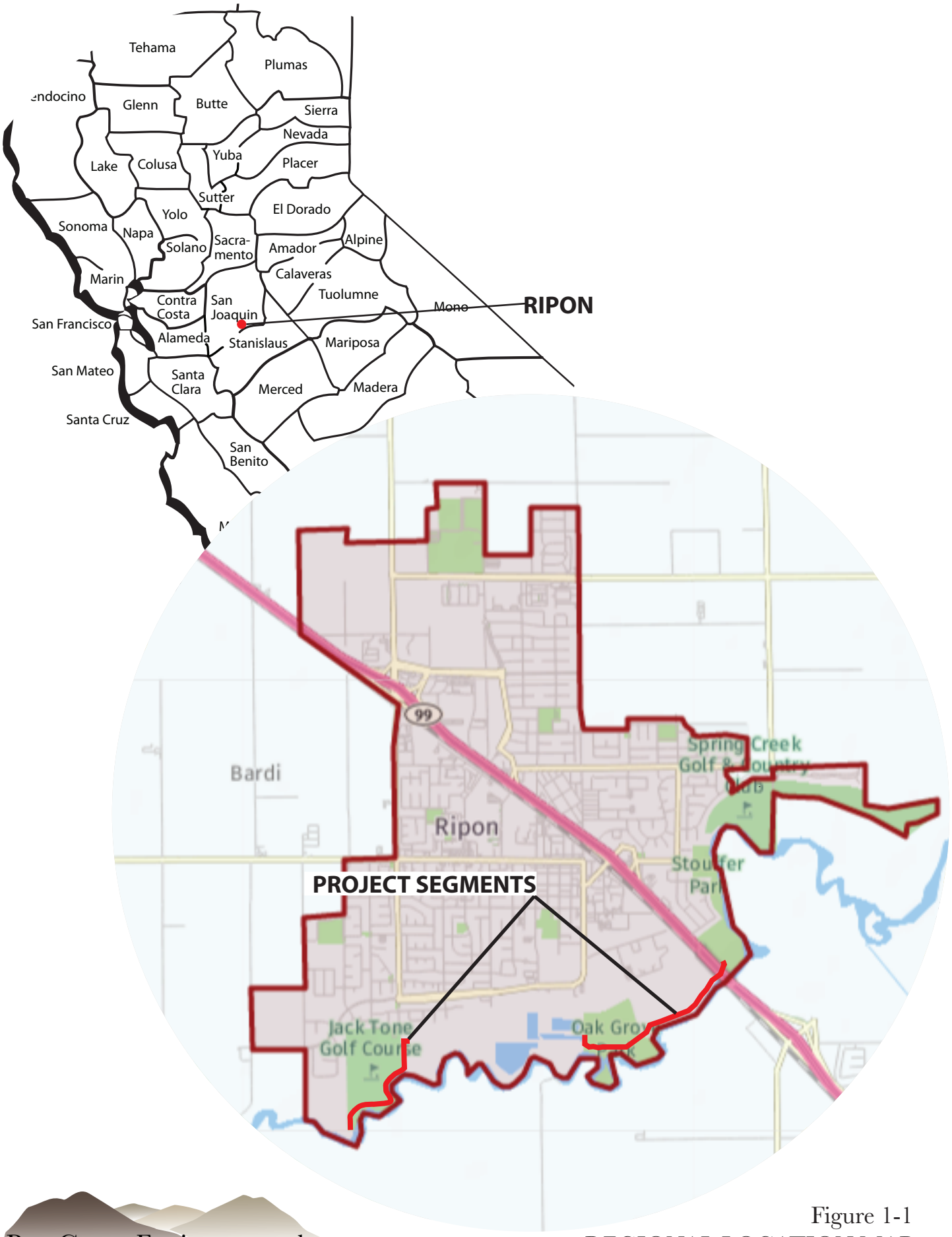
> A Potentially Significant Impact occurs when there is substantial evidence that the project could involve a substantial adverse change to the physical environment; i.e., that the environmental effect may be significant, and mitigation measures have not been defined that would reduce the impact to a less than significant level. If there are one or more Potentially Significant Impacts identified in the Initial Study, an EIR is required.
>
> An environmental effect that is Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated is a Potentially Significant Impact that can be avoided or reduced to a level that is less than significant with the application of mitigation measures.
>
> A Less Than Significant Impact occurs when the project would involve effects on an area of environmental concern, but the project would not involve a substantial adverse change to the physical environment and no mitigation measures are required.
>
> A determination of No Impact is self-explanatory.

Some existing regulatory requirements, including those established by the City and other agencies with jurisdiction, are routinely implemented in conjunction with new development and therefore function as measures that mitigate environmental impacts. These requirements are described in this IS/MND as a part of the existing regulatory setting, along with how these requirements would tend to reduce or avoid the project's environmental effects but are typically not listed as "mitigation measures" that require specific implementation and monitoring.

Where existing regulatory requirements are not adequate to reduce the project's environmental impacts to a level that would be less than significant, this IS/MND recommends additional non-regulatory mitigation measures that are needed to reduce environmental impacts to less than significant. These mitigation measures are described in the appropriate technical section of Chapter 3.0 and are summarized in Table 1-1. As of the publication of the Notice of Intent for this project, these measures have been accepted by the City. In all cases for this project, these mitigation measures would avoid potentially significant impacts of the project or reduce them to a level that would be less than significant.

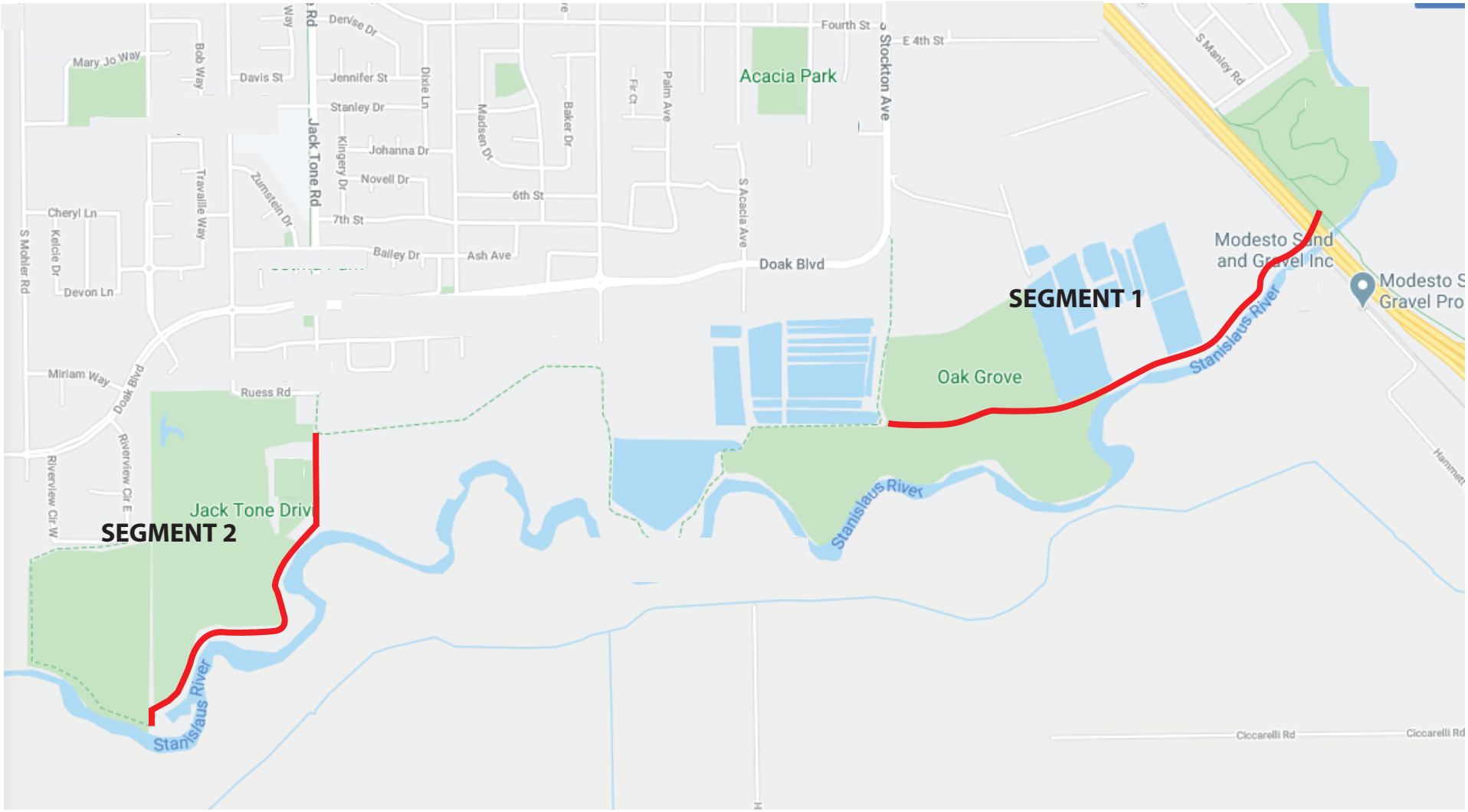
1.5 Summary of Environmental Effects and Mitigation Measures

The pages following the figures contain Table 1-1, Summary of Impacts and Mitigation Measures. The table summarizes the results of the Environmental Checklist Form and associated narrative discussion of the project's potential environmental effects in Chapter 3.0. The potential environmental impacts of the proposed project are summarized in the left-most column of this table. The projected level of significance of each impact without mitigation is indicated in the second column. Mitigation measures proposed to avoid or minimize significant environmental effects are shown in the third column, and the significance of the impact, after mitigation measures are applied, is shown in the fourth column.



BaseCamp Environmental

Figure 1-1
REGIONAL LOCATION MAP



SOURCE: Google Maps

Figure 1-2
STREET MAP

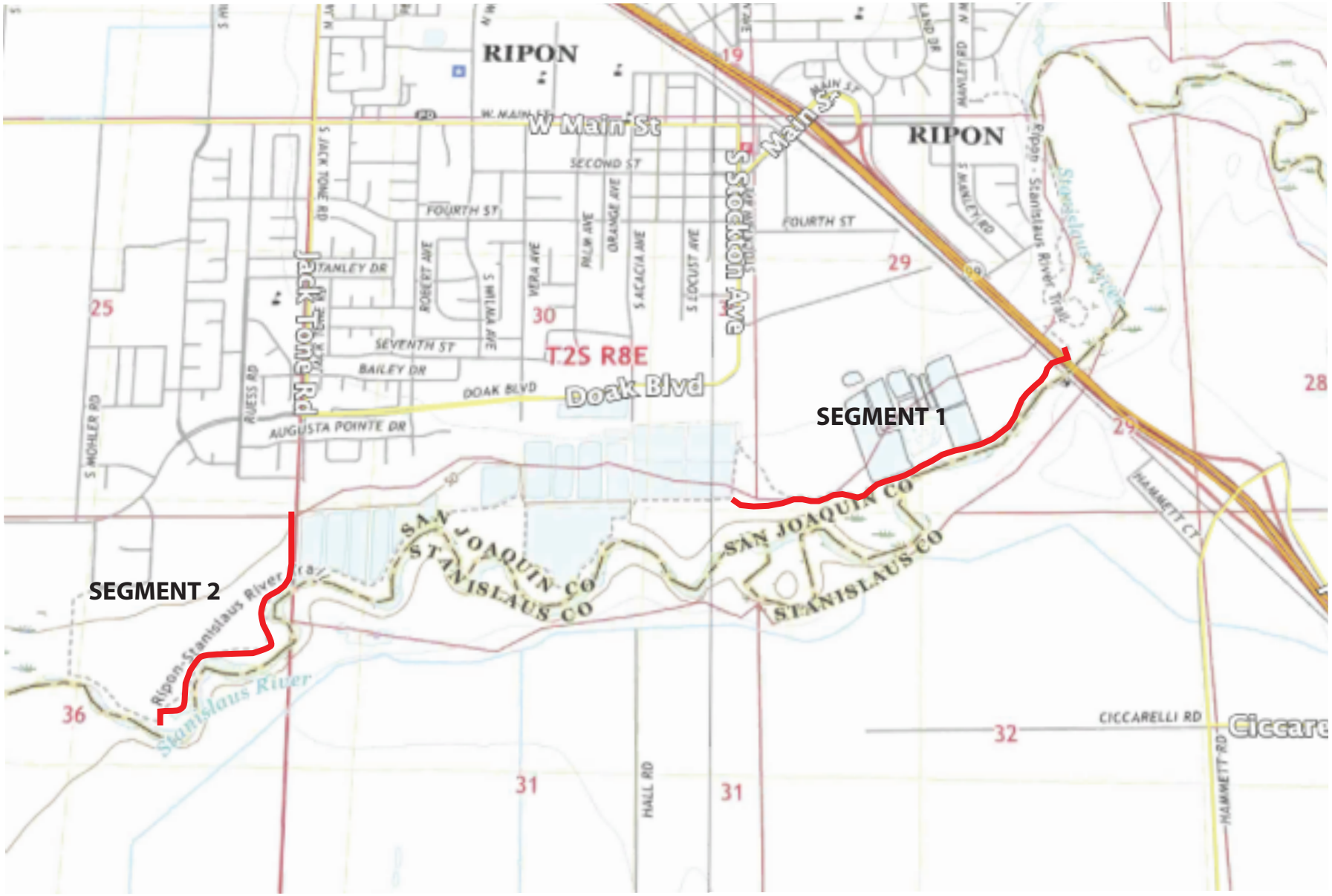


Figure 1-3
USGS MAP

SOURCE: Google Maps

Figure 1-4
AERIAL PHOTO

TABLE 1-1
SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Potential Impact	Significance Before Mitigation Measures	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation Measures
3.1 AESTHETICS			
a) Scenic Vistas	NI	None required	-
b) Scenic Resources and Highways	NI	None required	-
c) Visual Character and Quality	NI	None required	-
d) Light and Glare	NI	None required	-
3.2 AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES			
a) Agricultural Land Conversion	NI	None required	-
b) Agricultural Zoning and Williamson Act	NI	None required	-
c, d) Forest Land Conversion and Zoning	NI	None required	-
e) Indirect Conversion of Farmland of Forest Land	NI	None required	-
3.3 AIR QUALITY			
a) Air Quality Plan Consistency	LS	None required	-
b) Cumulative Emissions	LS	None required	-
c) Exposure of Sensitive Receptors to Pollutants	LS	None required	-
d) Odors and Other Emissions	NI	None required	
3.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES			
a) Special-Status Species	LS	None required	-
b) Riparian and Other Sensitive Habitats	PS	BIO-1: Prior to the start of construction work, the City shall contact the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to determine if the project would be subject to	LS

LEGEND: NI = No Impact; LS = Less Than Significant; PS = Potentially Significant

TABLE 1-1
SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Potential Impact	Significance Before Mitigation Measures	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation Measures
		jurisdiction under Fish and Game Code Sections 1600-1616, including the need for a Streambed Alteration Agreement. If CDFW determines that the project is subject to jurisdiction under Fish and Game Code Sections 1600-1616, then the City shall implement all required provisions as determined by CDFW, including the conditions of the Streambed Alteration Agreement if required.	
c) State and Federal Jurisdictional Wetlands	NI	None required	-
d) Fish and Wildlife Movement	PS	BIO-2: If construction commences during the general avian nesting season (March 1 through July 31), a pre-construction survey for all species of nesting birds shall be conducted. If active nests for any bird species are found, work in the vicinity of the nests shall be delayed until the young have fledged. No surveys shall be required if construction occurs outside the general avian nesting season.	LS
e) Local Biological Requirements	LS	None required	-
f) Conflict with Habitat Conservation Plans	NI	None required	-
3.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES			
a) Historical Resources	LS	None required	-
b) Archaeological Resources	PS	CULT-1: If any subsurface cultural resources are encountered during construction of the project, the City of Ripon Engineering Department shall be notified and all construction activities within 50 feet of the encounter shall be halted until a qualified archaeologist can examine these materials and determine their significance. If the find is determined to be significant, then the archaeologist shall recommend further mitigation measures that would reduce potential effects on the find to a level that is less	LS

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TABLE 1-1
SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Potential Impact	Significance Before Mitigation Measures	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation Measures
		than significant. Recommended measures may include, but are not limited to, 1) preservation in place, or 2) excavation, recovery, and curation by qualified professionals. The project developer shall be responsible for retaining qualified professionals, implementing recommended mitigation measures, and documenting mitigation efforts in a written report to the City's Engineering Department, consistent with the requirements of the CEQA Guidelines.	
c) Human Burials	LS	None required	-
3.6 ENERGY			
a) Project Energy Consumption	LS	None required	-
b) Consistency with Energy Plans.	NI	None required	-
3.7 GEOLOGY AND SOILS			
a-i) Fault Rupture Hazards	NI	None required	-
a-ii) Ground Shaking	NI	None required	-
a-iii) Other Seismic Hazards	LS	None required	-
a-iv) Landslides	NI	None required	-
b) Soil Erosion	PS	GEO-1: Prior to commencement of construction activity, the developer shall prepare and implement a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for the project and file a Notice of Intent with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) in compliance with the Construction General Permit and City of Ripon storm water requirements. The SWPPP shall be available on the construction site at all times. The developer shall incorporate an Erosion Control Plan consistent with all	LS

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TABLE 1-1
SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Potential Impact	Significance Before Mitigation Measures	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation Measures
		applicable provisions of the SWPPP within the site improvement and building plans. The developer also shall submit the SWRCB Waste Discharger's Identification Number to the City prior to approval of development or grading plans.	
c) Geologic Instability	NI	None required	-
d) Expansive Soils	NI	None required	-
e) Adequacy of Soils for Wastewater Disposal	NI	None required	-
f) Paleontological Resources and Unique Geological Features	PS	GEO-2: If any subsurface paleontological resources are encountered during construction of the project, the City of Ripon Engineering Department shall be notified and all construction activities within 50 feet of the encounter shall be halted until a qualified paleontologist can examine these materials and determine their significance. If the find is determined to be significant, then the paleontologist shall recommend mitigation measures that would reduce potential effects on the find to a level that is less than significant. Recommended measures may include, but are not limited to, 1) preservation in place, or 2) excavation, recovery, and curation by qualified professionals. The project developer shall be responsible for retaining qualified professionals, implementing recommended mitigation measures, and documenting mitigation efforts in a written report to the City's Engineering Department, consistent with the requirements of the CEQA Guidelines.	LS
3.8 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS			
a, b) Project GHG Emissions and Consistency with GHG Reduction Plans	LS	None required	-

LEGEND: NI = No Impact; LS = Less Than Significant; PS = Potentially Significant

TABLE 1-1
SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Potential Impact	Significance Before Mitigation Measures	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation Measures
3.9 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS			
a) Hazardous Material Transport, Use, and Storage	NI	None required	-
b) Release of Hazardous Materials	LS	None required	-
c) Hazardous Materials Releases near Schools	NI	None required	-
d) Hazardous Materials Sites	NI	None required	-
e) Public Airport Operations	NI	None required	-
f) Emergency Response and Evacuations	NI	None required	-
g) Wildland Fire Hazards	LS	None required	-
3.10 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY			
a) Surface Water Quality	PS	Mitigation Measure GEO-1.	LS
b) Groundwater Supplies and Recharge	NI	None required	-
c-i, ii, iii) Drainage Patterns	LS	None required	-
c-iii) Runoff	LS	None required	-
c-iv) Flood Flows	NI	None required	-
d) Other Flooding Hazards	NI	None required	-
e) Conflict with Water Quality or Groundwater Plans	NI	None required	-
3.11 LAND USE AND PLANNING			
a) Division of Established Communities	NI	None required	-

LEGEND: NI = No Impact; LS = Less Than Significant; PS = Potentially Significant

TABLE 1-1
SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Potential Impact	Significance Before Mitigation Measures	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation Measures
b) Conflicts with Plans, Policies and Regulations Mitigating Environmental Effects	LS	None required	-
3.12 MINERAL RESOURCES			
a, b) Availability of Mineral Resources	NI	None required	-
3.13 NOISE			
a) Exposure to Noise Exceeding Local Standards	PS	NOISE-1: The City shall establish the following as conditions of approval for any permit that results in the use of construction equipment on the project site: • Construction activities shall be limited to the hours from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on weekdays. No construction work shall occur on weekends or on federally recognized holidays. • All construction equipment powered by internal combustion engines shall be properly muffled and maintained. Mufflers shall be installed in accordance with manufacturers' specifications. • In accordance with State regulations, idling of construction equipment shall be limited to no more than five minutes.	LS
b) Exposure to Groundborne Vibration or Noise	NI	None required	-
c) Public Airport and Private Airstrip Noise	NI	None required	-
3.14 POPULATION AND HOUSING			
a) Unplanned Population Growth	NI	None required	-

LEGEND: NI = No Impact; LS = Less Than Significant; PS = Potentially Significant

TABLE 1-1
SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Potential Impact	Significance Before Mitigation Measures	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation Measures
b) Displacement of Housing or People	NI	None required	-
3.15 PUBLIC SERVICES			
a) Fire Protection	NI	None required	-
b) Police Protection	NI	None required	-
c) Schools	NI	None required	-
d, e) Parks and Other Public Facilities	NI	None required	-
3.16 RECREATION			
a) Increased Demand on Existing Facilities	NI	None required	-
b) New or Expanded Recreational Facilities	LS	None required	-
3.17 TRANSPORTATION			
a) Conflict with Transportation Plans, Ordinances and Policies	NI	None required	-
b) Conflict with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3(b)	NI	None required	-
c) Transportation Hazards	NI	None required	-
d) Emergency Access	NI	None required	-
3.18 TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES			
a, b) Tribal Cultural Resources	PS	Mitigation Measure CULT-1.	LS

LEGEND: NI = No Impact; LS = Less Than Significant; PS = Potentially Significant

TABLE 1-1
SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATION MEASURES

Potential Impact	Significance Before Mitigation Measures	Mitigation Measures	Significance After Mitigation Measures
3.19 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS			
a) Relocation or Construction of New Facilities	NI	None required	-
b) Water Systems and Supply	NI	None required	-
c) Wastewater Treatment Capacity	NI	None required	-
d, e) Solid Waste Services	NI	None required	-
3.20 WILDFIRE			
a) Emergency Response Plans and Emergency Evacuation Plans	NI	None required	-
b) Exposure of Project Occupants to Wildfire Hazards	NI	None required	-
c) Installation and Maintenance of Infrastructure	LS	None required	-
d) Risks from Runoff, Post-Fire Slope Instability, or Drainage Changes	NI	None required	-
3.21 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE			
a) Findings on Biological and Cultural Resources	PS	Mitigation measures in Sections 3.4 and 3.5.	LS
b) Findings on Individually Limited but Cumulatively Considerable Impacts	NI	None required	-
c) Findings on Adverse Effects on Human Beings	NI	None required	-

LEGEND: NI = No Impact; LS = Less Than Significant; PS = Potentially Significant

2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

2.1 Project Location

The project is located along the north bank of the Stanislaus River in southern Ripon in San Joaquin County (see Figures 1-1 to 1-5). The project site is shown on two 7.5-minute U.S. Geological Survey quadrangle maps: the Salida map within Sections 29-32, Township 2 South, Range 8 East, and the Ripon map within Sections 31 and 36, Township 2 South, Range 8 East, both Mt. Diablo Base and Meridian. The latitude and longitude at the beginning of trail Segment 1 is 37.7293 degrees North and -121.1242 degrees West, respectively.

2.2 Project Details

The project proposes to extend an existing Class 1 bike path to provide for recreational pedestrian and bicycle uses, and to provide pedestrian accessibility in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. To achieve this, existing dirt trails at the eastern and western ends of the existing bike path would be paved. The total length that would be paved would be 11,382 linear feet.

More specifically, the eastern segment would consist of approximately 7,500 paved linear feet (Figures 2-1 and 2-2). The eastern segment would begin at the eastern end of the existing bike path, near the City's wastewater treatment plant, and extend eastward through the Stanislaus River riparian area, which is known as Oak Grove Park, a City park, to SR 99. This segment would extend further east under the SR 99 bridges over the Stanislaus River and would end at an existing Class 1 bike path east of SR 99 and south of South Parallel Avenue.

The western segment would consist of approximately 3,882 paved linear feet (Figure 2-2). This segment 2 would begin at the western end of the existing bike path, just east of the Jack Tone Golf Course, and would follow the eastern boundary of the golf course, adjacent to an existing wastewater treatment pond, then turning westward through the Stanislaus River riparian area, ending at a point near the southwestern corner of the golf course.

Along most of the proposed alignments, the existing trails would be widened from the current 8 feet to 12 feet. Figure 2-3 shows the proposed trail cross sections. All the western segment and most of the eastern segment would be 12 feet in width. Approximately 206 linear feet of the eastern segment would remain at its current width of 8 feet; the purpose of the narrowed section is to minimize impacts on the adjacent habitat for valley elderberry longhorn beetle (see Section 3.4, Biological Resources).

New paving would consist of an asphalt surface approximately 2.5 inches thick placed on top of a compacted aggregate base approximately three inches thick. The existing dirt trails would be prepared by a skip loader or other small equipment so that base material and

asphalt can be applied. Asphalt would be applied by a small paver. Total paving would amount to approximately 3.1 acres. The project does not propose any other improvements beyond paving; no lighting, drainage or other facilities are proposed.

Two existing parking lots would be made available to the contractor as staging areas. One is behind the City's CNG fueling station where Doak Boulevard meets South Stockton Avenue. This lot would be the staging area for work on the eastern segment. The other is at the end of Jack Tone Road near the golf course entrance, to be used for work on the western segment. For work on the western segment, the contractor can utilize the existing road around the wastewater treatment plant ponds if needed. For work on the eastern segment, the contractor may obtain access from the existing bicycle path east of SR 99. After project completion, the two parking lots would serve as the main access points to the completed trail.

2.3 Permits and Approvals

The project development would require Site Plan/Design Review approval by the City. Should the project be approved, any necessary building and grading permits from the City would be required. As a portion of the project site is currently being leased from San Joaquin County, County approval and any necessary permits must also be obtained. Encroachment permits would need to be secured from Caltrans for work beneath SR 99, Union Pacific Railroad for work beneath their tracks, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for work in areas under its jurisdiction.

The Stanislaus River riparian corridor is within the Stanislaus River Designated Floodway, which is under the jurisdiction of the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB). As most of the project site is within the Designated Floodway, an encroachment permit from CVFPB would be required prior to the start of project construction work.

As noted in Chapter 1.0, Introduction, approval of a buffer reduction was required from the Habitat Technical Advisory Committee of SJCOG. The established buffer prohibits construction 20 feet outside the dripline of a blue elderberry shrub. SJCOG approval of the buffer reduction was obtained in March 2021. Section 3.4, Biological Resources, discusses the buffer issue in more detail.

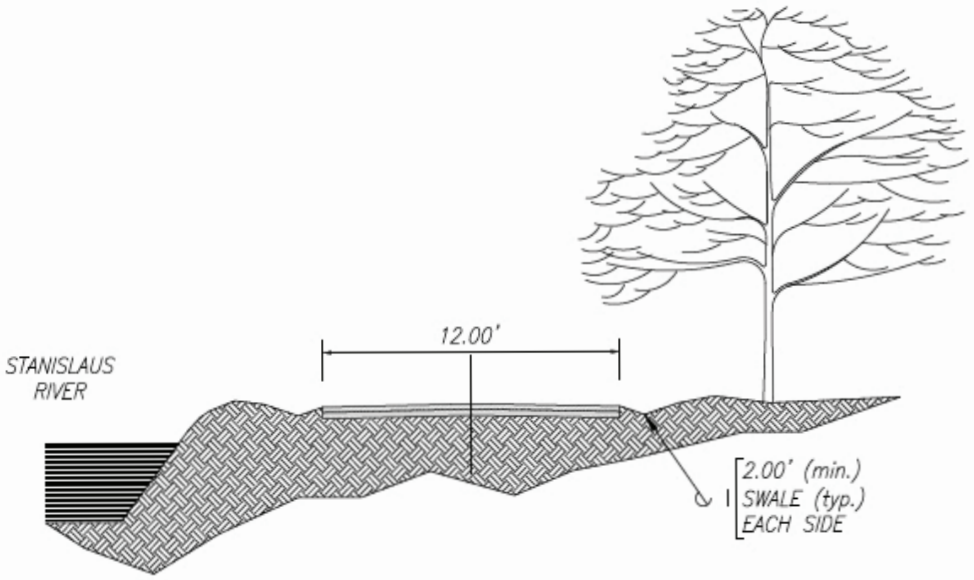
BaseCamp Environmental

SOURCE: Moore Biological

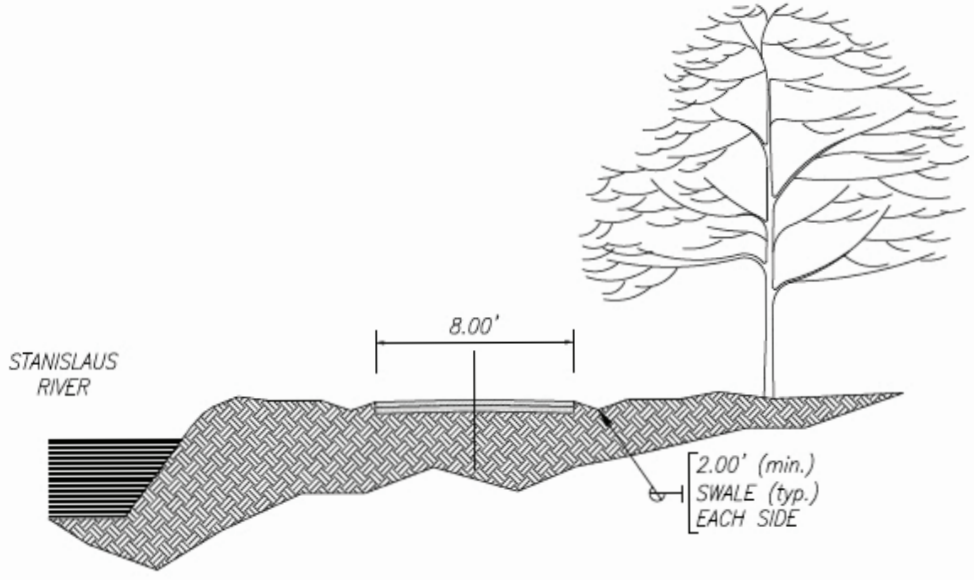
Figure 2-1
PROPOSED EASTERN SEGMENT 1

BaseCamp Environmental

Figure 2-2
PROPOSED WESTERN EXTENSION



TYPICAL CROSS SECTION
SECTION A - 5



TYPICAL CROSS SECTION
SECTION B - 5

SOURCE : City of Ripon

Figure 2-3
TRAIL CROSS SECTIONS

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

3.1 AESTHETICS

Except as provided in Public Resources Code Section 21099, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Have a substantial adverse effect on a scenic vista?				✓
b) Substantially damage scenic resources, including, but not limited to, trees, rock outcroppings, and historic buildings within a state scenic highway?				✓
c) In non-urbanized areas, substantially degrade the existing visual character or quality of public views of the site and its surroundings? (Public views are those that are experienced from publicly accessible vantage points.) If the project is in an urbanized area, would the project conflict with applicable zoning and other regulations governing scenic quality?				✓
d) Create a new source of substantial light or glare which would adversely affect daytime or nighttime views in the area?				✓

Environmental Setting

The vicinity of the project site is a mix of urban and industrial development which is adjacent to the Stanislaus River riparian area. The eastern segment passes through the riparian area; the western segment adjoins the riparian area. The eastern segment passes through a grove of oak trees, which is part of Oak Grove Park. The Ripon Cogeneration plant, the City's CNG fueling station, Jack Tone Golf Course and the City's wastewater treatment ponds are adjacent to or near the project.

The recently revised Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines mentions California Public Resources Code Section 21099, which states that the aesthetic and parking impacts of residential, mixed-use residential, or employment center projects on an infill site within a transit priority area shall not be considered significant effects under CEQA. The project is not residential and is not in a designated transit priority area. Therefore, Public Resources Code Section 21099 does not apply to the project.

Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

a) Scenic Vistas.

Scenic vistas in the Ripon area include agricultural lands outside the City limits and distant views of the Coast Ranges to the west and the Sierra Nevada to the east. The project site is in a forested area where these views are not available. The project would have no impact on scenic vistas.

b) Scenic Resources and Highways.

Existing scenic resources in the vicinity include the riparian forest along the Stanislaus River and the oak trees in Oak Grove Park. The project is in these areas and would increase public accessibility to these scenic resources. The project would improve existing dirt trails; no trees or other vegetation would be removed. Existing scenic resources would not be affected by the project.

California's Scenic Highway Program was created in 1963 to preserve and protect scenic highway corridors from change which would diminish the aesthetic value of lands adjacent to highways. There are only two officially designated State Scenic Highways within San Joaquin County: Interstate 5 from the Stanislaus County Line to Interstate 580, and Interstate 580 from Interstate 5 to the Alameda County Line (Caltrans 2017). Both are in southwestern San Joaquin County; neither of them is near the project site. SR 99 near the project site is not designated as a Scenic Highway. The project would have no impact on scenic resources or highways.

c) Visual Character and Quality.

As noted, the visual landscape of the project site and vicinity consists of the Stanislaus River and its associated riparian forest, a grove of oak trees as well as a golf course, the city's wastewater treatment facility and other urban development. The project proposes to pave two existing dirt trails in or adjacent to the Stanislaus River riparian area; these areas are predominantly recreational open space and of high aesthetic value. The project proposes no other improvements to these trails and would involve no tree or other vegetation removal. As such, the existing open space character of the project site would not be substantially altered. Proposed improvements would increase public access to these resources and would provide expanded opportunities for their enjoyment.

The project does not propose any aboveground structures that would intrude upon the existing visual landscape. The project would have no impact on the visual character or quality of the project site.

d) Light and Glare.

There is no existing lighting on the project site. The project does not propose to install any new lighting facilities. The project does not propose any aboveground structures that may cause glare. The project would have no impact on light or glare.

3.2 AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Convert Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance (Farmland), as shown on the maps prepared pursuant to the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?				✓
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?				✓
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code Section 12220(g)), timberland (as defined by Public Resources Code Section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code Section 51104(g))?				✓
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				✓
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment, which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland to non-agricultural use, or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?				✓

Environmental Setting

Agriculture is a key sector of the Ripon economy. Farmland in the Ripon area is found outside the City limits. A variety of crops are grown, the most significant of which are almonds and grapes.

The Important Farmland Maps, prepared by the California Department of Conservation as part of its Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program, designate the viability of lands for farmland use, based on the physical and chemical properties of the soils and other factors. The maps categorize farmland, in decreasing order of soil quality, as "Prime Farmland," "Unique Farmland," and "Farmland of Statewide Importance." Collectively, these categories are referred to as “Farmland” in the CEQA Checklist in Appendix G of the CEQA Guidelines and in this document. There are also designations for grazing land and for urban/built-up areas, among others. According to the 2018 Important Farmland Map of San Joaquin County, the most recent map available, the project site traverses land designated as Farmland of Local Importance, Semi-Agricultural and Rural Commercial Land, and Urban and Built-Up Land (California Department of Conservation 2018). None of these categories are considered “Farmland” for the purpose of CEQA.

Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

a) Farmland Conversion.

The 2018 Important Farmland Map of San Joaquin County indicates the project site traverses land designated as Farmland of Local Importance, Semi-Agricultural and Rural Commercial Land, and Urban and Built-Up Land. None of these designations are considered "Farmland" under CEQA Guidelines Appendix G. As such, the project would not convert any land designated as Farmland for other uses. The project would have no impact on Farmland conversion.

b) Agricultural Zoning and Williamson Act.

The project is in an area that is a mix of open space and urban development. No agricultural operations occur on lands in or adjacent to the area. None of the lands affected by the project are zoned for agricultural use by the City.

The Williamson Act preserves agricultural land by means of a contract between the landowner and local government that keeps the contracted land in agricultural use in exchange for a lower property tax assessment. There is no agricultural land on or in the project vicinity, there are no lands under a Williamson Act contract. The project would have no impact on agricultural zoning or Williamson Act contracts.

c, d) Forest Land Conversion and Zoning.

There are no commercial forest lands on the project site or in the vicinity. The adjacent riparian forest is composed of non-commercial tree species. Oak trees near the eastern segment are in a City park and are not zoned for timber production. No other areas in the City or the project vicinity are zoned for timber production. The project would have no impact on forest land conversion or zoning.

e) Indirect Conversion of Farmland and Forest Land.

As noted, the project site is in an area that is a mix of recreational open space and urban development. There are no lands in agricultural production in the area. Because of this, the project would not lead to any indirect conversion of agricultural lands. As noted, there are no forest lands on the project site or in the vicinity, so the project would have no impact on indirect conversion of forest lands.

3.3 AIR QUALITY

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable Air Quality Attainment Plan?			✓	
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?			✓	
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?			✓	
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?				✓

Environmental Setting

Air Quality Status

The project site is within the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin. The San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (SJVAPCD), which includes San Joaquin County, has jurisdiction over most air quality matters in the Air Basin. The SJVAPCD is tasked with implementing programs and regulations required by both the federal and California Clean Air Acts. Under their respective Clean Air Acts, both the federal government and the State of California have established ambient air quality standards for six criteria air pollutants: ozone, particulate matter, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and lead. California has four additional criteria pollutants under its Clean Air Act.

Table 3-1 shows the current attainment status of the Air Basin relative to the federal and State ambient air quality standards for criteria pollutants. Except for ozone and particulate matter, which are discussed below, the Air Basin is in attainment of, or unclassified for, all federal and State ambient air quality standards.

Air Pollutants of Concern

The San Joaquin Valley Air Basin is designated a nonattainment area for ozone. Ozone is not emitted directly into the air. It is formed when reactive organic gases (ROG) and nitrogen oxides (NO_x), referred to as "ozone precursors," react in the atmosphere in the presence of sunlight. Ozone is a respiratory irritant and an oxidant that increases susceptibility to respiratory infections and can cause substantial damage to vegetation and other materials. The SJVAPCD currently has a 2022 Plan for the 2015 8-Hour Ozone Standard and the 2023 Maintenance Plan and Redesignation Request for the Revoked 1-Hour Ozone Standard to attain federal ambient air quality standards for ozone; these and

other APCD plans for air quality maintenance and guide and support the APCD regulatory projects.

TABLE 3-1
SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY AIR BASIN ATTAINMENT STATUS

	Designation/Classification	
Criteria Pollutant	**Federal Primary Standards**	**State Standards**
Ozone - One hour	No Federal Standard	Nonattainment/Severe
Ozone - Eight hour	Nonattainment/Extreme	Nonattainment
PM_{10}	Attainment	Nonattainment
$PM_{2.5}$	Nonattainment	Nonattainment
Carbon Monoxide (CO)	Attainment/Unclassified	Attainment/Unclassified
Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_x)	Attainment/Unclassified	Attainment
Sulfur Dioxide (SO_x)	Attainment/Unclassified	Attainment
Lead	No Designation/Classification	Attainment
Hydrogen Sulfide	No Federal Standard	Unclassified
Sulfates	No Federal Standard	Attainment
Visibility Reducing Particles	No Federal Standard	Unclassified
Vinyl Chloride	No Federal Standard	Attainment

Source: SJVAPCD 2021.

The Air Basin is also designated a nonattainment area for respirable particulate matter, a mixture of solid and liquid particles suspended in air, including dust, pollen, soot, smoke, and liquid droplets. In the San Joaquin Valley, particulate matter is generated by a mix of rural and urban sources, including agricultural activities, industrial emissions, dust suspended by vehicle traffic, and secondary aerosols formed by reactions in the atmosphere. Health concerns associated with suspended particulate matter focus on those particles small enough to reach the lungs when inhaled; consequently, both the federal and state air quality standards for particulate matter apply to particulates 10 micrometers or less in diameter (PM_{10}) and to particulates less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter ($PM_{2.5}$), which are carried deeper into the lungs. Acute and chronic health effects associated with high particulate levels include the aggravation of chronic respiratory diseases, heart and lung disease, coughing, bronchitis, and respiratory illnesses in children. The SJVAPCD currently has a 2018 Plan for the 1997, 2006, and 2012 PM2.5 Standards to attain federal ambient air quality standards for $PM_{2.5}$ and the 2007 PM10 Maintenance Plan to maintain its current PM_{10} attainment status.

In addition to the criteria pollutants, the ARB has identified other air pollutants as toxic air contaminants (TACs) - pollutants that may cause acute or chronic long-term health effects, such as cancer. Some TACs may cause adverse effects even at low levels. Diesel particulate matter is the most common TAC, generated mainly as a product of combustion in diesel engines. Other TACs are less common and are typically associated with industrial activities.

Air Quality Rules and Regulations

As previously noted, the SJVAPCD has jurisdiction over most air quality matters in the Air Basin. It implements the federal and California Clean Air Acts, and the applicable attainment and maintenance plans, through local regulations. The SJVAPCD has developed plans to attain State and federal standards for ozone and particulate matter, which include emissions inventories to measure the sources of air pollutants and the use of computer modeling to estimate future levels of pollution and make sure that the Valley will meet air quality goals (SJVAPCD 2015). A State Implementation Plan for CO has been adopted by the ARB for the entire state. The SJVAPCD regulations that would be applicable to the project are summarized below.

Regulation VIII (Fugitive Dust PM10 Prohibitions)

Rules 8011-8081 are designed to reduce PM_{10} emissions (predominantly dust/dirt) generated by human activity, including construction and demolition activities, road construction, bulk materials storage, paved and unpaved roads, carryout and track out, landfill operations, etc.

Rule 4101 (Visible Emissions)

This rule prohibits emissions of visible air contaminants to the atmosphere and applies to any source operation that emits or may emit air contaminants.

Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

In 2015, the SJVAPCD adopted a revised Guide for Assessing and Mitigating Air Quality Impacts (SJVAPCD Guide). The SJVAPCD Guide defines an analysis methodology, thresholds of significance, and mitigation measures for the assessment of air quality impacts for projects within SJVAPCD's jurisdiction. Table 3-2 shows the CEQA thresholds of significance for pollutant emissions within the SJVAPCD. The significance thresholds apply to emissions from both project construction and project operations; the project would not involve any operational emissions.

TABLE 3-2
SJVAPCD SIGNIFICANCE THRESHOLDS AND PROJECT EMISSIONS

	ROG	NO_x	CO	SO_x	PM_{10}	$PM_{2.5}$
SJVAPCD Significance Thresholds[1]	**10**	**10**	**100**	**27**	**15**	**15**
Construction Emissions[2]	0.04	0.34	0.34	<0.01	0.04	0.02
Above Threshold?	*No*	*No*	*No*	*No*	*No*	*No*

[1] Applicable to both construction and operational emissions.
[2] Maximum emissions in a calendar year.
Notes: ROG – reactive organic gases; NO_x – nitrogen oxide; CO – carbon monoxide; SO_x – sulfur oxide; PM_{10} – particulate matter 10 microns in diameter; $PM_{2.5}$ – particulate matter 2.5 microns in diameter.
Sources: Road Construction Emissions Model ver. 9.0.0, SJVAPCD 2015a.

a) Air Quality Plan Consistency.

The project's construction emissions were estimated using the Road Construction Emissions Model (RCEM). The RCEM was originally developed to estimate emissions generated by road construction projects, but it has subsequently been modified to include projects that are linear in character, such as paved trails. The RCEM results for the project are available in Appendix A of this IS/MND, and a summary of the results is provided in Table 3-2 above. For the purposes of this analysis, all construction is assumed to occur within one month. While the construction time is expected to be shorter, the one-month period provides conservative estimates of pollutant emissions. The assumption used in this analysis may be considered a "worst case" condition for air quality impacts.

As indicated in Table 3-2, project construction emissions would be substantially below the significance thresholds established by SJVAPCD for criteria pollutant emissions. As the significance thresholds were established in part to ensure consistency with the objectives of air quality attainment plans adopted by the SJVAPCD, project construction emissions would be consistent with these plans.

While project construction emissions would not be significant, the project would still be required to comply with applicable SJVAPCD rules and regulations, which would further reduce potential air quality impacts. As noted, SJVAPCD Regulation VIII contains measures to reduce fugitive dust emissions during construction. Dust control provisions are also routinely included in site improvement plans and specifications, along with construction contracts. After construction work is completed, the project would not generate any air pollutant emissions, as only bicycle and pedestrian traffic would use the trail. Project impacts related to air quality plans would be less than significant.

b) Cumulative Emissions.

As noted in a) above, project construction emissions would not exceed SJVAPCD significance thresholds. Future attainment of federal and State ambient air quality standards is a function of successful implementation of the SJVAPCD's attainment plans. Consequently, the application of significance thresholds for criteria pollutants is relevant to the determination of whether a project's individual emissions would have a cumulatively

significant impact on air quality. Pursuant to the SJVAPCD's guidance, if project-specific emissions would be less than the thresholds of significance for criteria pollutants, the project would not be expected to result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the SJVAPCD is in nonattainment under applicable federal or State ambient air quality standards. As project construction emissions would not exceed SJVAPCD significance thresholds, the cumulative impacts of these emissions would be less than significant.

As noted in a) above, the project would not generate any air pollutant emissions after construction work is completed. Because of this, project operations would not contribute to cumulative increases in air pollutant emissions. The cumulative impacts of the project on air quality would be less than significant.

c) Exposure of Sensitive Receptors to Pollutants.

As defined in the SJVAPCD Guide, sensitive receptors include residences, schools, parks and playgrounds, day care centers, nursing homes, and hospitals (SJVAPCD 2015). There is only one land use that may be considered a sensitive receptor that is near the project site – the golf course adjacent to the western segment. However, users of the golf course would potentially be exposed only to construction air pollutant emissions. These emissions would be generated for no more than one month, and construction activities near the golf course would likely occur for less than one month. Also, construction emissions would cease once work is completed. As noted, the project would not generate any air pollutant emissions upon completion of construction work. Project impacts related to exposure of sensitive receptors to pollutants would be less than significant.

d) Odors and Other Emissions.

The project is not expected to generate significant odors, other than possibly from construction activities involving diesel engines. Such emissions would be localized and would dissipate rapidly outside the project site. As noted, the nearest sensitive receptors would be the golf course, which would be exposed only temporarily, if at all, to construction emissions.

Potential health effects on sensitive receptors occur with long-term exposure to pollutants. This includes diesel particulate matter, a TAC often associated with construction activities. However, as noted, construction would be very small and would cease with the completion of project work, and length of exposure time would be short. Negative impacts of diesel particulate matter emissions come only with long-term exposure. The project would have no impact related to odors and other emissions.

3.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

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

Information for this section is provided primarily from a Biological Assessment conducted for the project by Moore Biological Consultants. Appendix B contains a copy of the assessment. Activities involved in the preparation of the Biological Assessment reviews of the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB) maintained by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and of the Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) database maintained by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), review of USFWS critical habitat maps, and field surveys of the project site conducted on several days during 2020, 2021, and 2023.

Environmental Setting

Existing Vegetation

The project site consists of two segments of existing trail, most of which meanders along the north edge of the Stanislaus River riparian corridor and is within the understory of large oaks and other common Central Valley riparian tree and shrub species. Understory vegetation along and adjacent to the trail consists of highly disturbed ruderal grasses and weeds. Table 1 of the Biological Assessment provides a full list of plant species observed on the project site.

Oats, soft chess brome, ripgut brome, and foxtail barley are some of the most common grasses in the ruderal grassland vegetation found within the project site. Other species are intermixed with the grasses, such as bull thistle, morning glory, rancher's fireweed, prickly lettuce, Canadian horseweed, and filaree. Dominant understory shrubs along and within close proximity to the project site include giant reed and willows. Other common understory species include wild grape, Himalayan blackberry, and California rose. Valley oaks, Fremont's cottonwood, and box elder are the dominant tree species adjacent to and hanging over the project site. The eastern segment of the project site goes through existing oak woodlands.

There are also 85 blue elderberry shrubs within approximately 25 feet of the edges of the trail segments. The blue elderberry shrubs range from relatively small, isolated shrubs to a continuous shrub "hedge." Blue elderberry shrubs provide habitat for the valley elderberry longhorn beetle, an insect listed under the Endangered Species Act (see below).

Existing Wildlife

Table 2 of the Biological Assessment provides a list of wildlife species observed on the project site. A variety of bird species was observed during the field surveys; the majority of these are common species found in riparian and urban areas of San Joaquin County. Canada goose, American crow, black phoebe, red-tailed hawk, acorn woodpecker, spotted towhee, yellow-billed magpie, and house finch are representative of the avian species observed in and near the site.

Western gray squirrel and California ground squirrel were the only mammals observed during the field surveys. However, mammals common to riparian and urban areas are likely to occur on the project site. These include raccoon, coyote, black-tailed hare, striped skunk, and Virginia opossum. Species of small rodents, including mice and voles, also would likely occur.

Based on habitat types present, only a few amphibian and reptile species are expected to use habitats on the project site. Although none were observed, common species such as western fence lizard, Pacific chorus frog, gopher snake, common king snake, and common garter snake may occur on the site.

Special-Status Species

Special-status species are plant or wildlife species that are in one or more of the following categories:

- Legally protected under the federal Endangered Species Act, the California Endangered Species Act, or other regulations.
- Designated rare, threatened, or endangered and candidate species for listing by the USFWS.
- Considered rare enough by the scientific community and trustee agencies to warrant special consideration, particularly with regard to protection of isolated populations, nesting or denning locations, communal roosts, and other essential habitat.
- Considered rare or endangered under the conditions of CEQA Guidelines Section 15380, such as species identified on Lists 1A, 1B and 2 in the Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California by the California Native Plant Society, and species that are considered sensitive or of special concern due to limited distribution or lack of adequate information to permit listing or rejection for state or federal status, such as those included on List 3 in the California Native Plant Society Inventory.

Table 3-3 provides a summary of the listing status and habitat requirements of special-status plant and wildlife species that have been documented in the greater project vicinity or for which there is potentially suitable habitat on the project site. This table also includes an assessment of the likelihood of occurrence of each of these species on the site. The evaluation of the potential for occurrence of each species is based on the distribution of regional occurrences (if any), habitat suitability, and field observations. A table with more detailed information is available in the Biological Assessment in Appendix B.

TABLE 3-3
SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES AND POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE

Common Name	Scientific Name	Fed. Status[1]	State Status[2]	CNPS List[3]	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence
Plants						
Lesser saltscale	*Atriplex minuscula*	None	None	1B	Chenopod scrub, playas, valley and foothill grassland; in sandy alkaline soils.	Unlikely: the site does not provide suitable habitat.
Delta button-celery	*Eryngium racemosum*	None	E	1B	Seasonally inundated (usually floodplain) riparian scrub with a clay substrate.	Unlikely: the site does not provide suitable habitat.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Fed. Status[1]	State Status[2]	CNPS List[3]	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence
Alkali-sink goldfields	*Lasthenia chrysantha*	None	None	1B	Vernal pools.	Unlikely: there are no vernal pools on the project site.
California alkali grass	*Puccinellia simplex*	None	None	1B	Chenopod scrub, meadows and seeps, valley and foothill grassland, vernal pool habitats; in alkaline, vernally mesic sinks, flats, and lake margins.	Unlikely: the site does not provide suitable habitat.
Birds						
Swainson's hawk	*Buteo swainsoni*	None	T	N/A	Breeds in stands of tall trees in open areas. Requires adjacent suitable foraging habitats such as grasslands or alfalfa fields supporting rodents.	High: annual cropland near the project vicinity provides foraging habitat for Swainson's hawks and trees on and near the site are suitable for nesting. Swainson's hawks likely nest along the Stanislaus River near the site, and a few raptor stick nests were observed in and near the site.
Tricolored blackbird	*Agelaius tricolor*	None	T	N/A	Requires open water and protected nesting substrate, usually cattails and riparian scrub with surrounding foraging habitat.	Unlikely: while emergent wetland vegetation and riparian scrub along the Stanislaus River provides potentially suitable nesting habitat, this species is unlikely to occur in riparian woodlands.
Least Bell's vireo	*Vireo bellii pusillus*	E	E	N/A	Nests in willow thickets and other shrubs, primarily in southern California riparian forests.	Unlikely: although vegetation near the site may be suitable for habitat, this species is known primarily from southern California.
Western yellow-billed cuckoo	*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*	T	E	N/A	Nests in mature riparian forests, along the broad, lower flood-bottoms of larger river systems.	Very low: riparian habitats along the Stanislaus River may provide suitable habitat. There is one record of this species along the Stanislaus River, approximately 6 miles

Common Name	Scientific Name	Fed. Status[1]	State Status[2]	CNPS List[3]	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence
						southwest of the West Trail.
Mammals						
Riparian brush rabbit	*Sylvilagus bachmani riparius*	E	E	N/A	Dense riparian thickets along large rivers in Stanislaus and southern San Joaquin Counties.	Very low: dense riparian vegetation along the Stanislaus River may provide suitable habitat. The nearest occurrence is approximately 2 miles southwest of the West Trail at Caswell State Park.
Riparian (=San Joaquin Valley) woodrat	*Neotoma fuscipes riparia*	E	SC	N/A	Dense riparian woodlands and scrub along major Central Valley rivers.	Very low: dense riparian vegetation along the Stanislaus River may provide suitable habitat. The nearest documented occurrence is approximately 2 miles southwest of the West Trail at Caswell State Park.
Reptiles and Amphibians						
California tiger salamander	*Ambystoma californiense*	T	T	N/A	Seasonal water bodies without fish (i.e., vernal pools and stock ponds) and grassland/ woodland habitats with summer refugia (i.e., burrows).	Unlikely: there is no suitable habitat on or near the site. This species occurs along the edges of the valley floor and foothills. The site is not within designated critical habitat for this species.
Western spadefoot	*Spea hammondii*	None	SC	N/A	Breeds and lays eggs in seasonal water bodies such as deep vernal pools or stock ponds.	Unlikely: there is no suitable aquatic habitat on or near the site.
Northern California legless lizard	*Anniella pulchra*	None	SC	N/A	Sandy or loose loamy soils under sparse vegetation.	Unlikely: the project site does not provide high-quality habitat.
Fish						
Central Valley steelhead	*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*	T	None	N/A	Riffle and pool complexes with adequate spawning substrates within Central Valley drainages.	None: while the Stanislaus River is designated critical habitat for this species, the site does not provide suitable habitat, and the project will not

Common Name	Scientific Name	Fed. Status[1]	State Status[2]	CNPS List[3]	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence
						involve work in the Stanislaus River where this species is known to occur.
Green sturgeon	*Acipenser medirostris*	T	SC	N/A	Freshwater and saltwater habitats; spawn in freshwater rivers.	Unlikely: the site does not provide suitable habitat, and the project will not involve work in the Stanislaus River.
Hardhead	*Mylopharodon conocephalus*	None	SC	N/A	Clear, deep pools with sand and gravel bottoms in tributaries to the San Joaquin and Sacramento River.	Unlikely: the site does not provide suitable habitat and the project will not involve work in the Stanislaus River.
Invertebrates						
Valley elderberry longhorn beetle	*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*	T	None	N/A	Elderberry shrubs, usually in Central Valley riparian habitats.	High: there are several mature blue elderberry shrubs adjacent to the project site. The stems of some of the shrubs had boreholes that may have been created by valley elderberry longhorn beetles.
Vernal pool fairy shrimp	*Branchinecta lynchi*	T	None	N/A	Vernal pools	Unlikely: there are no vernal pools on the site. The site is not within designated critical habitat.
Conservancy fairy shrimp	*Branchinecta conservatio*	E	None	N/A	Vernal pools.	Unlikely: there are no vernal pools on the site. The site is not within designated critical habitat.
Vernal pool tadpole shrimp	*Lepidurus packardi*	E	None	N/A	Vernal pools	Unlikely: there are no vernal pools on the project site. The site is not within designated critical habitat.
Crotch bumble bee	*Bombus crotchii*	None	CE	N/A	Open grassland and scrub habitats, mainly in coastal or southern California.	Unlikely: species could fly over the site on occasion but would not be expected to utilize the site in a meaningful capacity.
Western bumble bee	*Bombus occidentalis*	None	CE	N/A	Meadows and grasslands with abundant floral resources.	Unlikely: species may fly over the site on occasion but would not be expected to utilize the site in a meaningful

Common Name	Scientific Name	Fed. Status[1]	State Status[2]	CNPS List[3]	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence
						capacity, due to a lack of floristic resources.
Monarch butterfly	*Danaus plexippus*	C	None	N/A	Variety of habitats in California; larvae dependent on milkweed.	Unlikely: the site does not provide suitable habitat. No extensive areas of milkweed were observed on the site.

Notes:

[1] T = Threatened; E = Endangered; C = Candidate for listing.

[2] T = Threatened; E = Endangered; CE = Candidate Endangered; SC=State of California Species of Special Concern.

[3] 1B = rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere.

Waters of the U.S. and Wetlands

Waters of the U.S., including wetlands, are defined under 33 Code of Federal Regulations 328 to include navigable waterways, their tributaries, and adjacent wetlands. Jurisdictional wetlands and Waters of the U.S. include, but are not limited to, most perennial and intermittent creeks and lakes, as well as adjacent wetlands such as riparian wetlands along the edges of rivers. Pursuant to a May 2023 Supreme Court decision, adjacent wetlands must have a continuous surface connection with a jurisdictional Water of the U.S. such that the wetland is indistinguishable from the adjacent water. Geographically and hydrologically isolated wetlands are outside federal jurisdiction. Federal and state agencies regulate these waters, mainly the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the CDFW.

The Stanislaus River, which is adjacent to the project site, is a jurisdictional Water of the U.S., with the limits of jurisdiction being defined by the ordinary high water mark. There is a broad riparian corridor associated with the Stanislaus River. The lower-elevation portions of the riparian corridor support riparian vegetation and meet the definition of "adjacent wetlands", also falling under Corps jurisdiction. There are no potentially jurisdictional Waters of the U.S. or wetlands of any type in or adjacent to the trail locations. No areas meeting the technical and regulatory criteria of jurisdictional Waters of the U.S. or wetlands were observed in or adjacent to the trails.

In April 2019, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) adopted the *State Wetland Definition and Procedures for Discharges of Dredged or Fill Materials to Waters of the State*, which covers wetlands not regulated by federal agencies. This was subsequently revised in 2021. Geographically and hydrologically isolated wetlands outside federal jurisdiction are regulated by the jurisdictional Regional Water Quality Control Board as a Water of the State. No State jurisdictional wetlands were identified by the Biological Assessment.

San Joaquin County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation and Open Space Plan (SJMSCP)

The SJMSCP is a comprehensive program for assessing and mitigating the biological impacts of converting open space or biologically sensitive lands to urban development (SJCOG 2000). It has been adopted locally by San Joaquin County, the City of Ripon, and the other incorporated cities in San Joaquin County. The San Joaquin Council of Governments (SJCOG) implements the SJMSCP on a project-by-project basis.

The SJMSCP protects 97 wildlife species and 52 vegetative communities, many of which are listed or proposed for listing under federal and State Endangered Species Acts. The SJMSCP also protects many birds covered by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and other sensitive species that may be of concern pursuant to CEQA, or species that are included on one of the California Native Plant Society lists. For the conversion of open space to non-open space uses that affect covered plant, fish, and wildlife species, the SJMSCP provides three compensation methods: preservation of existing sensitive lands, creation of new comparable habitat on the project site, or payment of fees that would be used to secure preserve lands outside the project site. In addition to fee payments, the SJMSCP identifies and requires project applicants to abide by Incidental Take Minimization Measures (ITMMs), which are protection measures that avoid direct impacts of development on special-status species.

Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

a) Special-Status Species.

As indicated in Table 3-3, most special-status species that could potentially occur in the project vicinity are unlikely to be found on the project site. This is primarily due to lack of suitable habitat or due to the project not having a substantial effect on suitable habitat. However, two special-status species have a high potential of occurring on the project site:

- *Swainson's hawk*, a bird species listed as threatened under the California Endangered Species Act. As noted in Table 3-3, annual cropland near the project vicinity provides foraging habitat for Swainson's hawks, and trees on and near the project site are suitable for nesting. Swainson's hawks likely nest along the Stanislaus River, and a few raptor stick nests were observed in trees along the existing trails. A few Swainson's hawks were observed soaring over the site during some of the spring and summer field surveys. Swainson's hawk could be disturbed by noise if they are nesting in or near the project site during construction.

- *Valley elderberry longhorn beetle*, an insect species listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act. Habitat for this species is blue elderberry shrubs. As noted, blue elderberry shrubs have been identified along and near the project site. The stems of some of the shrubs had boreholes that may have been created by the beetle. The valley elderberry longhorn beetle could be directly impacted by removal of mature elderberry shrubs. Grading near the blue elderberry shrubs could result in changes in drainage patterns or generation of dust, which may indirectly impact valley elderberry longhorn beetles by a reduction in habitat suitability.

The project will participate in the SJMSCP. Standard ITMMs under the SJMSCP outline protective measures for Swainson's hawk. If construction commences during the nesting season (between March 1 and July 31) and Swainson's hawks are nesting in or adjacent to the site, a construction setback from the nest tree would be required until nesting is complete. The setback is calculated as twice the diameter of the dripline of the nest tree as measured from under the nest; it is usually less than 100 feet.

Standard ITMMs under the SJMSCP also outline protective measures for valley elderberry longhorn beetle, which are focused on the elderberry shrubs. The measures include a 20-foot no-construction "buffer" outside the dripline of blue elderberry shrubs and installation of protective fencing between the limits of disturbance and the buffers. For elderberry shrubs that cannot be retained or are within 20 feet of the limits of disturbance, the SJMSCP requires payment of per-stem fees for stems in excess of one inch in diameter at ground level. For elderberry shrubs that cannot be retained on a site and show evidence of valley elderberry longhorn beetle, the SJMSCP also requires the shrub be transplanted, if feasible.

Due to the presence of numerous blue elderberry shrubs along the edges of the proposed trails and associated project compliance with standard valley elderberry longhorn beetle ITMMs, the City requested a buffer reduction from the SJCOG in March 2021. The buffer reduction was granted, reducing the buffer from 20 feet to 0 feet, which is needed for project construction due to the proximity of numerous shrubs to the existing trails. However, no shrubs will be removed, and the project will be required to stake, flag, and/or fence the shrubs throughout construction.

In summary, the project is expected to have a potential impact on only two special-status species: Swainson's hawk and valley elderberry longhorn beetle. Compliance with the SJMSCP and the applicable ITMMs, as modified by the approved buffer reduction around blue elderberry shrubs, would reduce potential impacts on special-status species to a level that would be less than significant.

b) Riparian and Other Sensitive Habitats.

The project site is within the Stanislaus River riparian corridor, and the project would go through riparian woodland. However, the project would be built on existing dirt trails and does not propose the removal of existing large riparian vegetation, including blue elderberry shrubs. No other sensitive habitats were identified on the project site by the Biological Assessment.

The entire riparian corridor would likely be viewed by CDFW as subject to jurisdiction under Fish and Game Code Sections 1600-1616. Among other provisions, these sections of the Fish and Game Code would require a Streambed Alteration Agreement for any change to a river or stream that could substantially adversely affect fish and wildlife resources. The Biological Assessment recommends notification to CDFW due to the location of the project in the Stanislaus River riparian corridor. It is possible CDFW may determine a Streambed Alteration Agreement is not needed, as there will be no work in the bed or bank of the Stanislaus River and no removal of riparian vegetation. Nevertheless, in accordance with the Biological Assessment, a mitigation measure requiring notification

to CDFW is presented. Implementation of this mitigation measure would reduce potential impact on riparian habitat to a level that would be less than significant.

Level of Significance: Potentially significant

Mitigation Measures:

BIO-1: Prior to the start of construction work, the City shall contact the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to determine if the project would be subject to jurisdiction under Fish and Game Code Sections 1600-1616, including the need for a Streambed Alteration Agreement. If CDFW determines that the project is subject to jurisdiction under Fish and Game Code Sections 1600-1616, then the City shall implement all required provisions as determined by CDFW, including the conditions of the Streambed Alteration Agreement if required.

Significance After Mitigation: Less than significant

c) State and Federal Jurisdictional Wetlands.

The Biological Assessment did not identify any federal jurisdictional Waters of the U.S., including wetlands, on or adjacent to the project site. As noted, the Stanislaus River is a jurisdictional Water of the U.S., and riparian wetlands adjacent to the river may also fall under Corps jurisdiction. However, the project would not involve any work within the Stanislaus River or the adjacent riparian wetlands. As noted, no State jurisdictional wetlands were identified. The project would have no impact on State or federal jurisdictional wetlands.

d) Fish and Wildlife Movement.

As noted, the project would not involve any work within the Stanislaus River, so there would be no impact on fish movement. Trees, shrubs, and grasslands on the project site could be used by birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 and/or Fish and Game Code of California, such as white-tailed kite, loggerhead shrike, and red-winged blackbird. Disruption of active nests or nesting behaviors by project construction would be a potentially significant impact. Implementation of mitigation described below would reduce impacts on migratory birds and their nests, if any are found, to a level that would be less than significant.

Level of Significance: Potentially significant

Mitigation Measures:

BIO-2: If construction commences during the general avian nesting season (March 1 through July 31), a pre-construction survey for all species of nesting birds shall be conducted. If active nests for any bird species are found, work in the vicinity of the nests shall be delayed until the young have fledged. No surveys shall be required if construction occurs outside the general avian nesting season.

Significance After Mitigation: Less than significant

e) Local Biological Requirements.

Chapter 16.46 of the Ripon Municipal Code establishes a Resource Conservation District, one of the purposes of which is to conserve and protect the natural resources along the Stanislaus River within the City's boundaries. The Resource Conservation District allows public facility and park/recreation facility land uses with site plan review. As the project is a proposed recreational facility, it would be consistent with the provisions of Chapter 16.46. The City has no other ordinances or regulations applicable to biological resources. Project impacts on local biological requirements would be less than significant.

f) Conflict with Habitat Conservation Plans.

As discussed in a) above, the project would comply with the SJMSCP and its applicable ITMMs, as modified by the approved buffer reduction around blue elderberry shrubs. No other conservation plans apply to the project site. The project would have no impact related to conflict with habitat conservation plans or similar plans.

3.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in Section 15064.5?			✓	
b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a unique archaeological resource pursuant to Section 15064.5?		✓		
c) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?			✓	

Environmental Setting

Information for this section is provided primarily by a Cultural Resources Technical Memorandum prepared by Solano Archaeological Services. Appendix C contains the technical memorandum, information in which was based on archival and historical map searches, Native American outreach, and a field survey.

The project site is situated within the San Joaquin Valley. Prehistoric populations in the valley were concentrated along river channels such as the Stanislaus River, as these were the areas with the richest available natural resources. The project site lies in the ethnographic territory of the Northern Valley Yokuts. Section 3.18, Tribal Cultural Resources, discusses the Yokuts in more detail. Archaeological research focused on the prehistory of the Ripon area has been limited and has been conducted almost entirely in the context of cultural resources management investigations.

The first Europeans to take up land along the Stanislaus River near where the Ripon settlement would develop were a group of Mormons under the leadership of Brigham Young in 1846. Setting out by boat, they established a settlement which they called New Hope and planted the first wheat crop in San Joaquin County. The Mormons abandoned their settlement after flooding in January of 1847 inundated the country around their encampment. Several ferry crossings were established along the Stanislaus River near where Ripon would be established, along with the town of Stanislaus City or Stanislaus Station. One of the residents of this town was Amplias B. Crook. When Crook became the postmaster along the Southern Pacific Railroad route, he proposed a new name for the stop in honor of his hometown: Ripon, Wisconsin. The post office and Ripon, California were established on December 21, 1874.

Many of the local businesses supported the rapidly growing ranching and agricultural industries which boomed in the early 20th century following the founding of the South San Joaquin Irrigation District in 1908. In 1945, the City of Ripon was incorporated. Economic growth in Ripon and elsewhere in San Joaquin County remained limited throughout the first half of the 20th century. Much of the area retains its rural character today, although it has been impacted by the increased demand for housing and jobs created by the post-WWII population boom, and Ripon has increasingly become a bedroom community for the San Francisco Bay Area.

Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

a) Historical Resources.

A records search request to the Central California Information Center at California State University Stanislaus found no documented cultural resources present on the project site, although five resources were recorded within one-half mile. A search of General Land Office maps indicated the presence of two residences near the proposed western segment. Neither residence was apparently built on or immediately adjacent to the proposed alignment.

The field survey identified and recorded two historical resources, both segments of earthen levees along the north bank of the Stanislaus River. Due to a lack of association with historically significant events, lack of unique characteristics, and limited data potential, neither resource was considered eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources. No buildings, features, or structures other than the Stanislaus River levee segments were built within or immediately adjacent to the project alignment. Therefore, project impacts on historical resources would be less than significant.

b) Archaeological Resources.

As noted in a) above, a records search by the Central California Information Center search found no cultural resources within the project site. However, given the proximity of the project site to the Stanislaus River and the lack of extensive cultural resource investigations in the area, it is possible that project construction activities could unearth archaeological materials of significance that are currently unknown. Procedures to address archaeological discoveries if they should occur are set forth in the mitigation measure below.

Implementation of this mitigation measure would reduce potential impacts on archaeological resources encountered during construction work to a level that would be less than significant.

Level of Significance: Potentially significant

Mitigation Measures:

CULT-1: If any subsurface cultural resources are encountered during construction of the project, the City of Ripon Engineering Department shall be notified and all construction activities within 50 feet of the encounter shall be halted until a qualified archaeologist can examine these materials and determine their significance. If the find is determined to be significant, then the archaeologist shall recommend further mitigation measures that would reduce potential effects on the find to a level that is less than significant. Recommended measures may include, but are not limited to, 1) preservation in place, or 2) excavation, recovery, and curation by qualified professionals. The project developer shall be responsible for retaining qualified professionals, implementing recommended mitigation measures, and documenting mitigation efforts in a written report to the City's Engineering Department, consistent with the requirements of the CEQA Guidelines.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than significant

c) Human Burials.

The Central California Information Center search did not find any record of human burials. However, it is conceivable that excavation associated with the project could uncover a previously unknown burial, particularly one of Native American origin.

CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(e) describes the procedure to be followed when human remains are uncovered in a location outside a dedicated cemetery. All work in the vicinity of the find shall be halted, and the County Coroner shall be notified to determine if an investigation of the death is required. If it is determined that the remains are Native American in origin, then the County Coroner shall contact the Native American Heritage Commission within 24 hours. The Native American Heritage Commission shall identify the Most Likely Descendants of the deceased Native American, and the Most Likely Descendants may make recommendations on the disposition of the remains and any associated grave goods with appropriate dignity. If a Most Likely Descendant cannot be identified or fails to make a recommendation, or the landowner rejects the recommendations of the Most Likely Descendant, then the landowner shall rebury the remains and associated grave goods with appropriate dignity on the property in a location not subject to further disturbance.

Compliance with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(e) would ensure that any human remains and associated grave goods encountered during project construction would be treated with appropriate dignity. Project impacts on human remains would be less than significant.

3.6 ENERGY

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

Environmental Setting

Electricity is a major energy source for residences and businesses in California. In San Joaquin County, based upon the most recent information available, electricity consumption in 2019 totaled approximately 5,583 million kilowatt-hours, of which approximately 1,893 million kilowatt-hours were consumed by residential uses and the remainder by non-residential uses (CEC 2021a). In 2019, natural gas consumption in San Joaquin County totaled approximately 259 million therms, of which approximately 89 million therms were consumed by residential uses and the remainder by non-residential uses (CEC 2021b). Motor vehicle use also accounts for substantial energy usage. The SJCOG estimated countywide daily vehicle miles traveled (VMT) was 17,868,785 miles in 2015, which led to the consumption of approximately 511 million gallons of gasoline and diesel fuel (SJCOG 2018).

Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

a) Project Energy Consumption.

Project construction would involve fuel consumption and use of other non-renewable resources. Construction equipment used for such improvements typically runs on diesel fuel or gasoline. The same fuels typically are used for vehicles that transport equipment and workers to and from a construction site. However, construction-related fuel consumption would be finite, short-term, and consistent with construction activities of a similar character. This energy use would not be considered wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary.

Electricity may be used for equipment operation during construction activities. It is expected that more electrical construction equipment would be used in the future, as it would generate fewer air pollutant emissions. This electrical consumption would be consistent with construction activities of a similar character; therefore, the use of electricity in construction activities would not be considered wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary, especially since fossil fuel consumption would be reduced.

The project is intended to provide a recreational amenity to the City oriented to bicycle and pedestrian use. No motor vehicles would be allowed on the trails when completed. Therefore, the project would not encourage fuel consumption. Moreover, no lighting would be installed, so the project would not increase electricity consumption. Energy consumption impacts would be less than significant.

b) Consistency with Energy Efficiency or Renewable Energy Plans.

The City has no energy conservation or renewable energy plans applicable to the project. The project would have no impact related to these plans.

3.7 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

Would the project:

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

Environmental Setting

The City of Ripon is located near the northern end of the San Joaquin Valley, part of California's Great Valley geomorphic province. Geologically, the Great Valley is a northwest-trending, sediment-filled trough which extends more than 400 miles from the Tehachapi Mountains on the south, to the Cascade Range on the north. The sediments that fill the Valley consist of sequences of marine and continental deposits of clay, silt, sand, and gravel up to six miles thick. The Geologic Map of the San Francisco – San Jose Quadrangle (Wagner et al. 1991) designates the underlying geology of the project site as the Modesto Formation, consisting of Quaternary (geologically recent) sediments. The topography of the project site is essentially flat; the general slope of the area is from east to west.

A custom soils report for the project site vicinity indicated that the following soil types are on the project site (SCS 1992, NRCS 2021):

- Columbia fine sandy loam, drained – This is a very deep, somewhat poorly drained, nearly level soil on floodplains. Permeability is moderately rapid, and runoff is slow. The water and wind erosion hazard are slight. The expansive soil potential is low.

- Columbia fine sandy loam, partially drained – Same characteristics as Columbia fine sandy loam, drained. The main difference is that this soil has a high water table.

- Columbia fine sandy loam, channeled, partially drained – Similar to Columbia fine sandy loam, partially drained. However, the water erosion hazard is moderate. The landscape is channeled by intermittent drainageways.

- Dello sand, partially drained - This is a very deep, poorly drained, nearly level soil on floodplains. Permeability is rapid, and runoff is slow. The water erosion hazard is slight, but the wind erosion hazard is very severe. The expansive soil potential is low.

There are no active or potentially active faults in the Ripon vicinity. Active and potentially active faults associated with the better-known San Andreas system are located 60 miles west of the project site in the Coast Range area. The City of Ripon is subject to relatively low seismic hazards compared to other parts of California but may nonetheless be subject to relatively intense seismic shaking.

The Modesto Formation is considered to have a relatively high sensitivity for paleontological resources. Fossil specimens recovered from one location in Madera County underlain by the Modesto Formation included larger mammals such as mammoth, giant ground sloth, dire wolf, bison, and horse, along with smaller mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians (Caltrans 2015). The project site does not contain any known paleontological resources or unique geological features.

a-i) Fault Rupture Hazards.

As noted, no active or potentially active faults have been identified in the Ripon area. As such, no fault rupture hazard is expected. The project would have no impact related to fault rupture.

a-ii) Ground Shaking.

As noted, the Ripon area is subject to ground shaking from faults outside San Joaquin County. However, the project is a bicycle/pedestrian trail with no aboveground improvements, such as light poles, that could pose a hazard to people or property. Also, the project site is in open space areas, so the project would not be near any structures that could be a hazard to people on the trail during a seismic event. The project would have no impact related to ground shaking.

a-iii) Other Seismic Hazards.

As noted, the project is a bicycle/pedestrian trail with no aboveground improvements, such as light poles, that could pose a hazard to people or property. The project is close to the Stanislaus River, so a seismic event could cause ground failure along the banks and potential liquefaction. However, such events would be infrequent, and while possible, the probability of people being harmed by these seismic hazards would be low. Therefore, project impacts are considered less than significant.

a-iv) Landslides.

The topography of the project site and surrounding area is relatively flat; therefore, landslides would not occur. The project would have no impact related to landslides.

b) Soil Erosion.

The project proposes to pave existing dirt trails. This would eliminate potential erosion that may occur with the current exposure of soil to wind and water. However, project construction activities could loosen soils, making them more prone to wind or water erosion.

Land preparation for the project is expected to disturb more than one acre of land. For all projects that disturb one acre of land or more a Construction General Permit is required from the SWRCB. The permit requirements include preparation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) by a Qualified SWPPP Developer to address potential water quality issues. A SWPPP specifies the Best Management Practices (BMPs) needed to avoid or minimize adverse water quality impacts. Construction BMPs fall within the general categories of Temporary Soil Stabilization, Temporary Sediment Control, Wind Erosion Control, Tracking Control, Non-Storm Water Management, and Waste Management and Materials Pollution Control. BMPs applicable to the project are incorporated in the SWPPP as required. BMPs are incorporated into project improvement plans and specifications,

subject to the approval of the City Engineer. BMP function and effectiveness are monitored and reported, and remediation is required to address pollution occurrence.

Mitigation described below would require the project to obtain a Construction General Permit from SWRCB. Compliance with the mitigation measure would minimize the amount of sediment that leaves the construction site and potential construction water quality effects, thereby reducing soil erosion impacts to a level that would be less than significant.

Level of Significance: Potentially significant

Mitigation Measures:

GEO-1: Prior to commencement of construction activity, the developer shall prepare and implement a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for the project and file a Notice of Intent with the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) in compliance with the Construction General Permit and City of Ripon storm water requirements. The SWPPP shall be available on the construction site at all times. The developer shall incorporate an Erosion Control Plan consistent with all applicable provisions of the SWPPP within the site improvement and building plans. The developer also shall submit the SWRCB Waste Discharger's Identification Number to the City prior to approval of development or grading plans.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than significant

c) Soil Instability.

The project site is relatively flat, and the soils on the project site have not been identified as being particularly unstable. The project proposes to pave existing dirt trails, which is not expected to induce instability. The project would have no impact on soil stability.

d) Expansive Soils.

As described in the Environmental Setting above, all the soils on the project site have low shrink-swell potential. As such, the project is unlikely to experience any damage or other adverse effects from expansive soils. The project would have no impact related to expansive soils.

e) Adequacy of Soils for Sewage Disposal.

The project would not install any wastewater collection and disposal systems, including septic systems. Therefore, soil conditions regarding wastewater disposal are irrelevant to the project. The project would have no impact related to adequacy of soils for sewage disposal.

f) Paleontological Resources and Unique Geological Features.

The project site is flat and contains no geological features that may be considered unique. No known paleontological resources have been recovered from the project site. However, the project site is underlain by the Modesto Formation, which has been a source of paleontological finds. Because of this, it is conceivable that currently unknown resources may be uncovered during project construction activities. Procedures to address paleontological discoveries should they occur are set forth in the mitigation measure below. Implementation of this mitigation measure would reduce potential impacts to a level that would be less than significant.

Level of Significance: Potentially significant

Mitigation Measures:

GEO-2: If any subsurface paleontological resources are encountered during construction of the project, the City of Ripon Engineering Department shall be notified and all construction activities within 50 feet of the encounter shall be halted until a qualified paleontologist can examine these materials and determine their significance. If the find is determined to be significant, then the paleontologist shall recommend mitigation measures that would reduce potential effects on the find to a level that is less than significant. Recommended measures may include, but are not limited to, 1) preservation in place, or 2) excavation, recovery, and curation by qualified professionals. The project developer shall be responsible for retaining qualified professionals, implementing recommended mitigation measures, and documenting mitigation efforts in a written report to the City's Engineering Department, consistent with the requirements of the CEQA Guidelines.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than significant

3.8 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

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

Environmental Setting

GHG Background

Greenhouse gases (GHGs) are gases that absorb and emit radiation within the thermal infrared range, trapping heat in the earth's atmosphere. GHGs are both naturally occurring and are emitted by human activity. GHGs include carbon dioxide, the most abundant GHG, as well as methane, nitrous oxide, and other gases. GHG emissions in California in 2020, the most recent year for which data are available, were estimated at approximately 369.2 million metric tons CO_2e – a decrease of approximately 24% from the peak level in 2004. Transportation was the largest contributor to GHG emissions in California, with 37% of total emissions - a smaller share than in recent years, most likely due to reduced traffic volume during the COVID-19 lockdown. Other significant sources include industrial activities, with approximately 20% of total emissions, and electric power generation, both in-state and imported, with approximately 16% of total emissions (ARB 2022). No data on GHG emissions from Ripon are available.

The State of California has prepared Climate Change Assessments that provide scientific assessments on the potential impacts of climate change in California by region. Potential climate change impacts occurring in the San Joaquin Valley and adjacent areas include the following (Westerling et al. 2018):

- Acceleration of warming across the region and state.
- More intense and frequent heat waves.
- Higher frequency of catastrophic floods.
- More intense and frequent drought.
- More severe and frequent wildfires.

Unlike the criteria air pollutants described in Section 3.3, Air Quality, GHGs have no "attainment" standards established by the federal or State government. In fact, GHGs are not generally thought of as traditional air pollutants because their impacts are global in nature, while air pollutants mainly affect the general region of their release to the atmosphere (SJVAPCD 2015). Nevertheless, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has found that GHG emissions endanger both the public health and public welfare under Section 202(a) of the Clean Air Act due to their impacts associated with climate change (EPA 2009).

GHG Emission Reduction Plans

The State of California has implemented GHG emission reduction strategies and legislation in recent years. In 2016, Senate Bill (SB) 32 was enacted. SB 32 extends the GHG reduction objectives of AB 32 by mandating statewide reductions in GHG emissions to levels that are 40% below 1990 levels by the year 2030. The State has adopted an updated Scoping Plan that sets forth strategies for achieving the SB 32 target. The updated Scoping Plan continues many of the programs that were part of the previous Scoping Plans,

including the cap-and-trade program, low-carbon fuel standards, renewable energy, and methane reduction strategies. It also addresses, for the first time, GHG emissions from the natural and working lands of California, including the agriculture and forestry sectors (ARB 2017). The 2017 Scoping Plan is in the process of being updated.

The SJVAPCD adopted a Climate Change Action Plan in 2008 and issued guidance for development project compliance with the plan in 2009. The guidance adopted an approach that relies on the use of Best Performance Standards to reduce GHG emissions. Projects implementing Best Performance Standards would be determined to have a less than cumulatively significant impact. For projects not implementing Best Performance Standards, demonstration of a 29% reduction in project-specific (i.e., operational) GHG emissions from business-as-usual conditions is required to determine that a project would have a less than cumulatively significant impact (SJVAPCD 2009). The City of Ripon currently has no specific plans, programs, or ordinances directly related to global climate change or GHG emission reduction.

Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

a, b) Project GHG Emissions and Consistency with GHG Reduction Plans.

GHG emissions from project construction were estimated using the RCEM; results are available in Appendix A of this IS/MND. Construction GHG emissions were estimated at 69.10 metric tons CO_2e, assuming a one-month construction period (see Section 3.3, Air Quality). Again, the GHG emission estimate is conservative, as construction is not expected to take a full month. Construction emissions are temporary and would cease when project work is completed. As discussed in Section 3.3, there would be no operational air emissions associated with the project, including GHG emissions. Project impacts related to GHG emissions and reduction plans would be less than significant.

3.9 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?				✓
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?			✓	
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?				✓
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government				✓

Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?				
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?				✓
f) Impair implementation of or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				✓
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?			✓	

Environmental Setting

Hazardous material sites of all statuses are recorded in the GeoTracker database, maintained by the SWRCB, and the EnviroStor database, maintained by the Department of Toxic Substances Control (SWRCB 2021, DTSC 2021). A search of both databases found no active hazardous material sites on or in the immediate vicinity of the project site. The nearest recorded active hazardous material site is Modesto Sand and Gravel, south of the Stanislaus River. A Leaking Underground Storage Tank site at the Ripon Corporation Yard was previously recorded, but this site has been remediated, and the case is closed.

Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

a) Hazardous Material Transport, Use, and Storage.

The project is the extension of an existing bike/pedestrian path through the paving of existing dirt trails. The resulting trail would not require the use of hazardous materials; as such, no hazardous materials would need to be transported to or stored at the project site. The project would have no impact on hazardous material transport, use, or storage.

b) Release of Hazardous Materials.

As noted in a) above, the project would not require hazardous materials. Therefore, no opportunities for the release of hazardous materials would occur once construction work is completed.

Construction activities on the project site may involve the use of hazardous materials such as fuels and solvents, and thus create a potential for hazardous material spills. Construction and maintenance vehicles would transport and use fuels in ordinary quantities. Fuel spills, if any occur, would be minimal and localized and would not typically have significant adverse effects. Potential hazardous materials spills during construction are addressed in the required SWPPP, described in Section 3.7, Geology and Soils. In accordance with SWPPP requirements, contractors have absorbent materials at construction sites to clean up minor spills. Other substances used in the construction process would be stored in

approved containers and used in relatively small quantities, in accordance with the manufacturers' recommendations and/or applicable regulations.

In summary, the project would involve relatively little usage of hazardous materials, releases of which can be contained. No hazardous materials would be used after construction work is completed. Project impacts related to releases of hazardous materials would be less than significant.

c) Hazardous Materials Releases near Schools.

As noted in b) above, the project would not release any hazardous materials once the project is completed. The nearest school to the project site is Weston Elementary School, which is approximately one-half mile away from the entrance to the proposed western segment. The project would have no impact related to hazardous materials releases near schools.

d) Hazardous Materials Sites.

As noted, a search of hazardous material databases found no active hazardous material sites recorded on or near the project site. The project would not encroach upon any hazardous material sites, and it would not bring project workers or users into contact with any contaminated sites. The project would have no impact related to hazardous material sites.

e) Public Airport Operations.

There are no airports in or near the City of Ripon. The nearest public airport is the Modesto City-County Airport, approximately 11 miles to the southeast. Given this distance, the project would not expose users of the trails to safety hazards or excessive noise from operations at this airport. The project would have no impact related to public airport operations.

f) Emergency Response and Evacuations.

The project is a recreational amenity generally along the Stanislaus River. It is not on any streets or roadways that would be used by emergency vehicles responding to a call or that would be used to evacuate residents. Project construction would be located away from City streets, so no streets would be obstructed. The project would have no impact on emergency response or evacuations.

g) Wildland Fire Hazards.

The project traverses open space areas that are at potential risk of wildland fires. However, as the project is a paved trail, a wildland fire would do no significant damage. People on the proposed paved trails may be exposed to a wildland fire in the area, but the probability of people encountering a fire is low at any moment. Project impacts related to wildland fires are considered less than significant. Refer to Section 3.20, Wildfires, for a more detailed discussion on fire risks.

3.10 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

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

Environmental Setting

The Stanislaus River, the main surface water feature in the Ripon area, is adjacent to the project site. The river is a perennial stream, approximately 150 miles in length, that originates as three forks in the Sierra Nevada, then flows generally southwest to join the San Joaquin River southwest of Ripon. Annual mean water flow in the Stanislaus River has historically varied from 2,548 cubic feet per second to 44.9 cubic feet per second (USGS 2021). There are no other natural surface water features on or in the vicinity of the project site. The only other surface water features of significance in the area are the wastewater treatment plant ponds.

The project site is within the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Subbasin, which underlies most of eastern San Joaquin County. Groundwater levels in some portions of the Subbasin have been declining for many years, while groundwater levels in other areas have remained stable or increased in recent years. While the total volume of groundwater in storage in the Subbasin has declined over time, the total fresh groundwater in storage was estimated at over 50 million acre-feet in 2015. The amount of groundwater in storage has decreased by approximately 0.01 percent per year between 1995 and 2015 (ESJGA 2019). As of Spring 2018, groundwater levels in the Ripon area ranged from 30 to 50 feet below ground surface (San Joaquin County FCWCD 2018).

Groundwater in the Subbasin is managed in accordance with the Eastern San Joaquin Groundwater Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan, submitted to the California Department of Water Resources in January 2020 and subsequently approved. The Groundwater Sustainability Plan is designed to implement the objectives of the State's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, which are to conserve groundwater resources and to address overdraft of basins. The goal of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan is to achieve sustainable groundwater management of the Subbasin on a long-term average basis by increasing recharge and/or reducing groundwater pumping, while avoiding undesirable results such as degraded water quality and declining groundwater levels (ESJGA 2019).

According to the Flood Insurance Rate Maps prepared by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the project site is mostly within areas designated Zone A and Zone AE (Figure 12-1). Both zones denote areas inside the 100-year floodplain, which is an area subject to inundation by a flood with a chance of occurring on average once every 100 years. The 100-year flood is the standard flood hazard of concern to FEMA. Zone A has no determined base flood elevations, while Zone AE has determined elevations. Small portions of the project site are also designated Zone X, which is an area subject to inundation by a flood with a chance of occurring on average once every 500 years, or an area protected from a 100-year flood by levees (FEMA 2009a, 2009b).

In 2007, the State of California approved SB 5 and a series of related Senate and Assembly bills that establish the State standard for flood protection in urban areas in the Central Valley as protection from the 200-year flood (i.e., a flood with a chance of occurring on average once every 200 years). New development in areas potentially exposed to 200-year flooding more than three feet deep is prohibited, unless the local land use agency certifies that 200-year flood protection has been provided. "New development," as defined in Ripon Municipal Code Chapter 16.10 that incorporates SB 5 requirements, focuses on a new residence or a new building or construction that would result in an increase in allowed occupancy for an existing building. Since the project does not propose the construction of a building or expansion of an existing building, the SB 5 requirements do not apply.

Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

a) Surface Water Quality.

As noted, the Stanislaus River is adjacent to the project site, but there are no other natural streams or bodies of water in the vicinity. Project construction, with associated ground disturbance, could lead to the conveyance of sediments in storm water. As described in

Section 3.7, Geology and Soils, construction that causes one acre of ground disturbance or more is required to obtain a Construction General Permit, which contains provisions designed to reduce impacts on surface water quality. Mitigation Measure GEO-1 would require the project to obtain a Construction General Permit and to implement its conditions.

Upon completion of construction work, the project is expected to have no impact on surface waters. Given its limited footprint, the project is not expected to generate runoff in quantities that would convey sediments or other contaminants to the Stanislaus River. The project vicinity would remain open space in character, so any runoff would likely percolate into the ground before reaching the river. Within implementation of Mitigation Measure GEO-1, project impacts on surface water quality would be less than significant.

Level of Significance: Potentially significant

Mitigation Measures: Implementation of Mitigation Measure GEO-1.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than significant

b) Groundwater Supplies and Recharge.

The project would not use groundwater or any other water supplies. The pavement would slightly reduce the existing area of groundwater recharge; however, the paved area would be small compared to the amount of open space in the area that would remain. The amount of reduced recharge that would occur upon project completion would be negligible. The project would have no impact on groundwater supplies or recharge.

c-i, ii) Drainage Patterns.

The project would pave existing dirt trails, which means that precipitation that would otherwise be absorbed by the trails would drain to the adjacent sides. This change in drainage patterns would be negligible, as the project footprint would be small and the adjacent open space would be capable of accommodating any extra drainage without leading to erosion or localized flooding. Project impacts on drainage patterns would be less than significant.

c-iii) Runoff.

As noted above, the project is expected to generate minimal runoff once project work is completed. The excess runoff can be accommodated by the adjacent open space with no significant impact. As a bike/pedestrian trail, the project is not expected to be a source of significant contamination, unlike a motor vehicle road that would have deposits of vehicle fluids and metals. By contrast, the only potential source of contamination associated with the project would be rubber from bicycle tires, and this contamination would be minimal and would not be conveyed by runoff at a significant distance from the paved trail. Project impacts related to runoff would be less than significant.

c-iv) Flood Flows.

Most of the project site is within a FEMA-designated floodplain. Given its location, it is expected that portions of the project would be flooded on occasion when water levels in

the Stanislaus River rise. However, as a bike/pedestrian trail with no aboveground improvements, the project would not substantially impede or redirect any flood flows that may occur. The project would have no impact on flood flows.

d) Other Flooding Hazards.

As noted, the project site may be subject to occasional flooding from the Stanislaus River. There is also a potential for flooding that results from catastrophic failure of one or more of the upstream Stanislaus River dams from a major seismic event. The most significant potential failure would be that of New Melones Dam, which could inundate the entire Ripon area. However, as discussed in c-iv) above, the project would have no impact on flood flows, which would include flows from a possible failure of New Melones Dam. It should be noted that the risk of flooding from dam failure is considered very low, because the likelihood of dam failure is low (City of Ripon 2016a).

Levees have been established along portions of the Stanislaus River to protect adjacent lands from flooding. However, according to the Ripon General Plan, the City is outside designated Levee Flood Protection Zones, which are theoretical areas that could be flooded in the event of levee failure in levee-protected areas (City of Ripon 2016a). Therefore, the project would not be affected by any levee failures along the Stanislaus River, and in any case would have no impact on any flood flows.

The project site is not in an area designated a seiche or tsunami zone. As noted in Chapter 2.0, Project Description, the project would be required to obtain an encroachment permit from the CVFPB, which would minimize any potential impacts on flood facilities. The project would have no impact related to other flooding hazards.

e) Conflict with Water Quality or Groundwater Plans.

As discussed in a) and c-iii) above, the project would have minimal impact related to drainage and potential contaminated runoff. As such, the project would not affect the implementation of applicable water quality plans. Also, as noted in b) above, the project would not use groundwater, so it would have no impact on the objectives and implementation of the Groundwater Sustainability Plan for the Subbasin. The project would not conflict with any water quality or groundwater sustainability plans, so it would have no impact on this issue.

3.11 LAND USE AND PLANNING

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

Environmental Setting

As described in Section 3.1, Aesthetics and Visual Resources, the project site is set in an area that is a mix of urban development and open space. The project site is on or near the Stanislaus River. In the vicinity of the proposed eastern segment are oak woodlands, which are part of Oak Grove Park, the Ripon Cogeneration plant, and the City's CNG fueling station. Land at the terminus of the proposed eastern segment consists of open space adjacent to the Stanislaus River. The proposed western segment is adjacent to Jack Tone Golf Course and the wastewater treatment plant ponds. North of the golf course and treatment ponds is a residential area.

The Ripon General Plan has applied several land use designations on and adjacent to the project site. In the proposed eastern segment, land use designations include HI (Heavy Industrial), MS (Municipal Service), OS (Open Space), and RR (Resource Reserve). In the proposed western segment, land use designations are mainly MS and CR (Commercial Recreation). Zoning is consistent with the General Plan land use designation. Land on and adjacent to the project site is zoned M2 (Heavy Industrial), PS (Public-Semipublic), and RC (Resource Conservation). Zoning on and near the western segment includes PS and C5 (Commercial Recreation).

The Ripon General Plan describes a residential growth accommodation program which sets an average annual residential growth rate during the planning period of the General Plan, along with a building permit allocation cap. The growth rate for any single year could vary, although City policy has been to maintain growth at 3% to 6% through the planning period. A City resolution implementing this policy was adopted in 2017 and remains in effect.

Environmental justice is not an issue that CEQA explicitly requires to be addressed; however, the State of California has recently emphasized the incorporation of environmental justice in land use and environmental planning. State law defines "environmental justice" as "the fair treatment of all races, cultures, and incomes with respect to the development, adoption, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies." The State has enacted legislation that seeks to address the adverse environmental impacts of projects that disproportionately affect minority and/or lower-income communities, particularly those already burdened with environmental problems.

Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

a) Division of Established Communities.

The project is being constructed in a mostly open space area behind industrial and municipal facilities. There are no residential communities located on or adjacent to the project site. The project would have no impact on the division of established communities.

b) Conflicts with Plans, Policies and Regulations Mitigating Environmental Effects.

The project is a recreational amenity that is consistent with existing land uses and land use designations in the area. As the project is not a residential project, it would not conflict with the City's residential growth accommodation program.

This IS/MND analyzed the potential environmental impacts of the project. It concluded that the project would have no environmental impacts that cannot be mitigated to a level that would be less than significant. As discussed in Section 3.4, Biological Resources, SJCOG has waived the elderberry bush buffer requirement set by the SJMSCP for the project, which would not remove any elderberry shrubs, though it would still comply with applicable ITMMs.

The project is a recreational amenity that would be available to all members of the public. It is not expected to generate any pollution outside of construction activities, nor would it affect any resources such as water. Construction would not involve the loss of any housing or other facilities used predominantly by lower-income or minority groups. Therefore, the project is not expected to have any environmental justice impacts. The project would not conflict with plans, policies and regulations mitigating environmental effects. Impacts would be less than significant.

3.12 MINERAL RESOURCES

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

Environmental Setting

The Ripon General Plan does not identify any potentially valuable mineral resources in the Ripon area. The San Joaquin County General Plan Background Report identified significant mineral deposits in the County, based on California Division of Mines and Geology Mineral Classification maps. Neither the project site nor the Ripon area was identified as potentially containing known valuable mineral resources. Neither area was also identified as having oil or natural gas fields (San Joaquin County 2016).

Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

a, b) Access to Mineral Resources.

As noted, no significant mineral deposits nor oil or gas fields were identified on the project site or in the Ripon area. Therefore, the project would not affect access to any mineral resources. The project would have no impact on this issue.

3.13 NOISE

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

Environmental Setting

Assessment of noise impacts focuses on the “ambient" noise level, which is the all-encompassing noise level associated with a given area. Ambient noise is composed of noise from various sources, both near and far. The main source of noise in Ripon is vehicle traffic on SR 99 and high-volume City streets such as Jack Tone Road and West Main Street. Train operations on the Union Pacific Railroad tracks parallel and next to SR 99 are another significant noise source (City of Ripon 2016a).

Ripon Municipal Code Section 16.156.090 sets maximum exterior noise levels for land uses in the City. For single-family residences, the maximum exterior noise level is 60 A-weighted decibels (dBA) from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., and 50 dBA from 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. By contrast, the maximum exterior noise level for heavy industrial uses is 75 dBA at all times. An additional five decibels are allowed for noise occurring during daytime hours only (7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.).

a) Exposure to Noise Exceeding Local Standards.

The project site is in an area with potentially noise-sensitive land uses. The golf course is adjacent to the proposed western segment, and residential areas are nearby. The eastern segment is proposed to go through Oak Grove Park.

The project proposes to extend an existing bike/pedestrian path by paving two dirt trails. While the project may encourage additional bicycle and pedestrian traffic, such traffic is not a significant noise source. Therefore, this increased traffic is not expected to substantially increase ambient noise levels along the project site and the existing trail. Because of this, the project would not have significant noise impacts on noise-sensitive land uses on or near the project site. In addition, since the project proposes no lighting, nighttime use is expected to be much less than daytime use, which would mean less noise that would reach any nearby residential areas during nighttime.

The most significant source of noise associated with the project would be construction equipment and vehicles working on the project site. Construction work would be temporary, and noise from such activity would cease when work is completed. Nevertheless, residences north and east of the project site may be subject to short-term construction noise that exceeds City standards. This is a potentially significant impact. Mitigation described below would reduce construction noise impacts to a level that would be less than significant.

Level of Significance: Potentially significant

Mitigation Measures:

NOISE-1: The City shall establish the following as conditions of approval for any permit that results in the use of construction equipment on the project site:

- Construction activities shall be limited to the hours from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on weekdays. No construction work shall occur on weekends or on federally recognized holidays.
- All construction equipment powered by internal combustion engines shall be properly muffled and maintained. Mufflers shall be installed in accordance with manufacturers' specifications.
- In accordance with State regulations, idling of construction equipment shall be limited to no more than five minutes.

Significance After Mitigation: Less than significant

b) Exposure to Groundborne Vibration or Noise.

Groundborne vibration is not a common environmental problem. It is typically associated with transportation facilities, although it is unusual for vibration from sources such as buses

and trucks to be perceptible, even in locations close to major roads. Some common sources of groundborne vibration are trains, buses on rough roads, and construction activities such as blasting, pile-driving, and operating heavy earth-moving equipment. The only potential source of groundborne vibration associated with the project would be construction equipment. As described in a) above, construction work would be temporary. Bicycle and pedestrian traffic on the completed project would not generate groundborne vibrations. The project would have no impact related to groundborne vibrations or noise.

c) Public Airport and Private Airstrip Noise.

As described in Section 3.9, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, there are no public airports in the vicinity of Ripon. There are no private airstrips in the vicinity of the project site. Therefore, the project site would not place project users in an area where noise from airport or airstrip operations would be experienced. The project would have no impact on this issue.

3.14 POPULATION AND HOUSING

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

Environmental Setting

According to the 2020 U.S. Census, the population of Ripon was 16,013, an increase of approximately 12.0% from its 2010 population of 14,297 as recorded by the U.S. Census Bureau. As of January 1, 2020, the City of Ripon had an estimated 5,568 housing units - an increase from 5,129 in 2010. Of the total housing units in 2020, 4,522 were single-family detached units (typical houses), approximately 81.2% of the total (California Department of Finance 2020).

Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

a) Unplanned Population Growth.

The project does not add residences or commercial/industrial activities that may induce population growth. It does not propose any new infrastructure that could stimulate

development that could add to the Ripon population. As such, the project would have no impact on population growth, planned or unplanned.

b) Displacement of Housing or People.

The project would be constructed in an area with no housing. No housing or residents within would be displaced as a result of the project. The project would have no impact regarding the displacement of housing or people.

3.15 PUBLIC SERVICES

Would the project:

a) Result in substantial adverse physical impacts associated with the provision of, 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 any of the public services:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
i) Fire protection?				✓
ii) Police protection?				✓
iii) Schools?				✓
iv) Parks?				✓
v) Other public facilities?				✓

Environmental Setting

The project site is mostly within the City of Ripon, although some of the site is leased from San Joaquin County. Fire protection services are provided by the Ripon Consolidated Fire District. Police protection services are provided by the Ripon Police Department. The project site is within the boundaries of the Ripon Unified School District. Park and recreation services are provided by the City and the County (see Section 3.16 below). Other public services include the Ripon Memorial Library on Main Street.

Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

a-i) Fire Protection.

The project is the extension of an existing bike/pedestrian trail by paving existing dirt trails. It is not expected to generate an increase in demand for fire protection services such that new or expanded facilities would be required. The project would have no impact on fire protection services.

a-ii) Police Protection.

The project is not expected to generate an increase in demand for police protection services such that new or expanded facilities would be required. The project would have no impact on police protection services. Paving of the existing trail will marginally improve access to the project area.

a-iii) Schools.

The project is not expected to generate an increase in population such that new or expanded school facilities would be required. The project would have no impact on school services.

a-iv) Parks

While the project would expand an existing recreational facility (see Section 3.16, Recreation), the project is not expected to increase demand on existing parks, as it is not expected to generate an increase in population. No new or expanded park facilities would be required. The project would have no impact on parks.

a-v) Other Public Facilities.

The project is not expected to generate an increase in population such that new or expanded library or other public facilities would be required. The project would have no impact on other public facilities.

3.16 RECREATION

Would the project:

	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facilities would occur or be accelerated?				✓
b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities that might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?			✓	

Environmental Setting

Park and recreation services within the Ripon City limits are provided by the City of Ripon. The City Parks and Recreation Department manages 22 parks and six recreational facilities. The proposed eastern segment would go through Oak Grove Park, a 55-acre park beyond the end of South Stockton Avenue. Oak Grove Park is a mostly undeveloped park with hiking and bicycling trails and access to the Stanislaus River.

At the end of the proposed eastern segment is another City park, Army Corps Park. This park is a 30.5-acre facility along the Stanislaus River east of SR 99. A parking lot to this park is provided at the intersection of South Parallel Avenue and Reynolds Avenue. The park includes Ripon River Crossing, a bicycle and pedestrian bridge that crosses the Stanislaus River and provides a connection to Modesto. Army Corps Park has restroom facilities and a bicycle/pedestrian trail to the bridge, but it is mostly undeveloped.

Another recreational facility near the project site is the Jack Tone Golf Course, a privately-owned 18-hole golf course and practice facility at the end of Jack Tone Road. The proposed western segment is proposed to be installed along the eastern and southern boundaries of the golf course.

Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

a) Increased Demand on Existing Facilities.

As noted in Section 3.14, Population and Housing, the project is not expected to induce population growth. As such, it would not increase demand on existing parks and recreational facilities. The project would have no impact on existing recreational facilities, other than the existing bike/pedestrian trail as discussed below.

b) New or Expanded Recreational Facilities.

The project proposes to extend an existing bike/pedestrian path in the City by paving two existing dirt trails – one through Oak Grove Park to the opposite side of SR 99, the other along the boundaries of Jack Tone Golf Course. This IS/MND has analyzed the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project and concluded that it would have no impacts that cannot be mitigated to a level that would be less than significant. Therefore, while the project would expand an existing recreational facility, impacts would be less than significant.

3.17 TRANSPORTATION

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

Environmental Setting

The project is the proposed extension of an existing Class I bike/pedestrian path. The existing path begins approximately at the end of South Stockton Avenue, going south past the City's CNG fueling station. It then turns westward and goes behind the City's wastewater treatment plant, approaching the Stanislaus River, before turning northward and finally turning westward and traveling along the wastewater treatment plant ponds before ending just west of the Jack Tone Golf Course. Dirt trails extend from each end of the existing path – one from the east end going through Oak Grove Park, the other from the west end following the eastern boundary of the golf course before going westward along the north bank of the Stanislaus River.

The Circulation Element of the Ripon General Plan contains a map showing a planned bicycle network for the City and nearby unincorporated areas (City of Ripon 2006). The map proposes the installation of several Class I bike paths, including a few in the vicinity of the proposed project. Currently, there are Class 1 bikeways along Santos Avenue, Hoff Drive, Jack Tone Road, Fulton Avenue, River Road, Colony Road, and along portions of Doak Boulevard. Class 1 bike lanes have been delineated on Jack Tone Road from West Main Street to Doak Boulevard and along sections of Doak Boulevard. In addition, a Class 1 bike path has been installed at Army Corps Park, along with a bicycle/pedestrian bridge across the Stanislaus River. The bridge has eliminated potential safety concerns arising from pedestrians and bicyclists using the SR 99 vehicle bridges.

Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

a) Conflict with Transportation Plans, Ordinances, and Policies.

The project proposes the extension of the existing Class I bike path to the east and west. This improvement would be consistent with plans for the expansion of the City's bicycle network, as outlined in the Ripon General Plan. Other potentially applicable transportation plans are concerned mainly with roadway and public transit improvements. The project would not conflict with these proposed improvements. The project would have no impact on this issue.

b) Conflict with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3(b).

The State of California has recently added Section 15064.3 to the CEQA Guidelines, which is meant to incorporate SB 743 into CEQA analysis. SB 743 was enacted in 2013 with the intent to balance congestion management needs and the mitigation of the environmental impacts of traffic with statewide GHG emission reduction goals, mainly by developing an alternative mechanism for evaluating transportation impacts. Section 15064.3 states that VMT is the preferred method for evaluating transportation impacts, rather than the commonly used LOS. The VMT metric measures the total miles traveled by vehicles as a result of a given project. VMT accounts for the total environmental impact of transportation associated with a project, including use of non-vehicle travel modes.

The OPR Technical Advisory identifies screening criteria that can be used to determine whether sufficient evidence exists to presume a project will have a less-than-significant VMT impact without conducting a detailed study. One of the criteria is that of a "small project," which is defined as a project that generates 110 or fewer average daily vehicle trips (OPR 2018). The project is projected to generate no daily motor vehicle trips; all traffic would be bicycle or pedestrian. Therefore, the project is considered a "small project" per the OPR Technical Advisory.

Also, the OPR Technical Advisory states that projects that would not likely lead to a substantial or measurable increase in vehicle travel include the addition of new or enhanced bike or pedestrian facilities on existing streets/highways or within existing public rights-of-way (OPR 2018). The project is the extension of an existing bike path, so it would not increase motor vehicle traffic. Therefore, the project would not conflict with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3(b) and would have no impact on this issue.

c) Transportation Hazards.

The project would pave and widen two existing dirt trails, thereby making them safer for use by bicycles and pedestrians. The project would not conflict with motor vehicle traffic, as the project proposes to extend an existing Class I bike path that separates bicycle and pedestrian traffic from motor vehicle traffic. The project would have no impact related to transportation hazards.

d) Emergency Access.

As described in Section 3.9, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, the project would not obstruct emergency vehicle access or potential evacuations. The paved trails would likely make access easier for emergency personnel in the adjacent areas. The project would have no impact on emergency access.

3.18 TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

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

Section 5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.				

Environmental Setting

The project site lies in the ethnographically reported territory of the Northern Valley Yokuts, whose territory extended from the large bend in the San Joaquin River near Mendota north to the confluence of the San Joaquin and Calaveras Rivers. The Ripon area is located roughly in the northern third of the geographical range of the Yokuts. This diverse environment varies from tule marshes to dry plains and open oak woodlands.

The Yokuts lived in small seasonal camps geared towards hunting or acorn gathering and processing or in larger settlements centered on perennial water sources such as the San Joaquin River. Dwellings in the larger villages consisted of circular tule covered structures and more elaborate semi-subterranean pit houses. Ceremonial sweat houses and assembly chambers were often constructed within the more substantial villages. These larger settlements might include approximately 200 inhabitants constituting a small sub-tribe of the Yokuts. Yokuts material culture and technological systems were as varied as the environments in which they resided and reflected the diversity of the resources available for their use. Such resources included numerous fish species, shellfish, turtles, waterfowl, tule elk, pronghorn antelope, and the staple acorn.

In 2014, the California Legislature enacted AB 52, which focuses on CEQA consultation with Native American tribes on projects potentially affecting the tribes. The intent of this consultation is to avoid or mitigate potential impacts on "tribal cultural resources," which are defined as "sites, features, places, cultural landscapes, sacred places, and objects with cultural value to a California Native American tribe."

Under AB 52, when a tribe requests consultation with a CEQA lead agency on projects within its traditionally and culturally affiliated geographical area, the lead agency must provide the tribe with notice of a proposed project within 14 days of a project application being deemed complete or when the lead agency decides to undertake the project, if it is the agency's own project. The tribe has up to 30 days to respond to the notice and request consultation; if consultation is requested, then the local agency has up to 30 days to initiate consultation.

Matters which may be subjects of AB 52 consultation include the type of CEQA environmental review necessary, the significance of tribal cultural resources, and project alternatives or appropriate measures for preservation or mitigation of the tribal cultural resource that the tribe may recommend to the lead agency. The consultation process ends when either (1) the resource in question is not considered significant, (2) the parties agree to mitigate or avoid a significant effect on a tribal cultural resource, or (3) a party, acting in good faith and after reasonable effort, concludes that mutual agreement cannot be reached. Regardless of the outcome, a lead agency is still obligated under CEQA to mitigate for any significant environmental effects, as explicitly noted in AB 52.

a, b) Tribal Cultural Resources.

On behalf of the City, Solano Archaeological Services contacted the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) via an emailed letter on March 22, 2021 to request a Sacred Lands File search and a list of appropriate Native American tribal contacts for the proposed Project (Attachment B). On April 20, 2021, the NAHC replied that a search did not reveal the presence of any known Native American sites or properties within or near the project site.

The NAHC supplied a list of eight Native Americans, representing four tribes, to contact regarding requesting project recommendations and information on unrecorded cultural resources that may exist within or in the vicinity of the project area. Solano Archaeological Service subsequently mailed letters to these contacts representing the following tribes: Confederated Villages of Lisjan, Northern Valley Yokuts, Tule River Indian Tribe, and Wilton Rancheria. No responses have been received from any of the tribal contacts on the NAHC list. The City has received requests for consultation on projects from two tribes: the Buena Vista Rancheria and the Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians . The requests dated from 2016 and were not specific to this project.

Based on the information above, the project site does not appear to encroach upon or otherwise affect any tribal cultural resources. However, given the proximity of the project to the Stanislaus River, it is possible that currently unknown tribal cultural resources could be encountered during project construction, including human burials. Section 3.5, Cultural Resources, describes potential impacts on archaeological resources and human burials. Along with implementation of the provisions of CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5(e), Mitigation Measure CULT-1 would minimize impacts on any archaeological resources encountered, including tribal cultural resources. With mitigation, project impacts on tribal cultural resources would be less than significant.

Level of Significance: Potentially significant

Mitigation Measures: Implementation of Mitigation Measure CULT-1.

Significance after Mitigation: Less than significant

3.19 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

Would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment, or storm water drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?				✓

b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years?				✓
c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider that would serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project's projected demand in addition to the provider's existing commitments?				✓
d) Generate solid waste in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?				✓
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?				✓

Environmental Setting

The City of Ripon provides wastewater collection and treatment services for City residents and businesses. The City's treatment facility has a current capacity of 2.43 million gallons per day (City of Ripon 2017). Water service is provided by the City of Ripon. Ripon's potable water system relies on four groundwater wells with a maximum pumping capacity of 7,000 gallons per minute, along with two aboveground storage tanks with a combined capacity of 4.0 million gallons (City of Ripon 2019).

The City of Ripon maintains a network of storm drains and detention basins. Stormwater is pumped into the Stanislaus River from basins in order to control flows (City of Ripon 2017).

All residential solid waste services are provided by the City of Ripon with waste going to the Lovelace transfer station. Solid waste collection services for commercial and industrial uses in the City of Ripon are provided by Gilton Solid Waste Management and Bertolotti Disposal, both franchisees of the City. Collected waste is transported to the Foothill Sanitary Landfill in Linden. Electrical and natural gas service in the City is mainly provided by PG&E, but the Modesto Irrigation District provides electrical service to some local industries and residential areas. Telephone service is provided by Frontier Communications, and cable television service is provided by Charter/Spectrum. The latter two utilities also provide Internet service.

Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

a) Relocation or Construction of New Facilities.

The project proposes to pave existing dirt trails. No utility facilities currently exist on the project site, and the project does not propose to install any utilities. The project would have no impact regarding relocation or construction of new utility facilities.

b) Water Systems and Supply.

The project would not install water facilities and therefore would not place demands on the City's water supplies. The project would have no impact on water systems or supplies.

c) Wastewater Treatment Capacity.

The project would not install wastewater facilities and therefore would not place demands on the City's wastewater treatment plant. The project would have no impact on wastewater treatment capacity.

d, e) Solid Waste Services.

As a recreational amenity to be used by bicyclists and pedestrians, the project is not expected to generate solid waste such that collection service or landfill capacity would be required. The project would have no impact on solid waste services or regulations.

3.20 WILDFIRE

If located in or near State Responsibility Areas or lands classified as Very High Fire Hazard Severity Zones, would the project:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation Incorporated	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Substantially impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?				✓
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?				✓
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water sources, power lines or other utilities) that may exacerbate fire risk or that may result in temporary or ongoing impacts to the environment?			✓	
d) Expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes?				✓

Environmental Setting

Wildland fires are an annual hazard in San Joaquin County. Wildland fires burn natural vegetation on undeveloped lands and include rangeland, brush, and grass fires. Long, hot, and dry summers with temperatures often exceeding 100°F add to the County's fire hazard. Human activities are the major causes of wildland fires, while lightning causes the remaining wildland fires. High hazard areas for wildland fires are the grass-covered areas in the east and the southwest foothills of the County (San Joaquin County 2016). The City is not located within the identified hazard areas.

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) has a Fire and Resource Assessment Program that identifies fire threat based on a combination of two factors: 1) fire frequency, or the likelihood of a given area burning, and 2) potential fire behavior (hazard). These two factors are combined in determining the following Fire Hazard Severity Zones: Moderate, High, Very High, Extreme. These zones apply to areas designated as State Responsibility Areas – areas in which the State has primary firefighting responsibility. The project site is not within a State Responsibility Area (Cal Fire 2007a). However, the City is in a Local Responsibility Area (i.e., local fire district has primary firefighting responsibility), which also have designated Fire Hazard Severity Zones. Portions of the north bank of the Stanislaus River have been placed in a Moderate Fire Hazard Severity Zone (Cal Fire 2007b).

Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

a) Emergency Response Plans and Emergency Evacuation Plans.

As noted in Section 3.9, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, and Section 3.17, Transportation, the project would not obstruct emergency vehicle access or evacuation routes. The project would have no impact on this issue.

b) Exposure of Project Occupants to Wildfire Hazards.

The project is the extension of a bike/pedestrian path. It would not be permanently occupied by any residents; as such, no occupants would be exposed to wildfires or to pollutant concentrations generated by wildfires. The project would have no impact on this issue.

c) Installation and Maintenance of Infrastructure.

The project would extend a paved bike/pedestrian path. The proposed extension would improve the path in areas designated as a Moderate Fire Hazard Severity Zone. However, as a recreational amenity, the existing trail already provides recreational access to the area, and the project is not expected to exacerbate the existing risk of wildfire in the area. Project impacts related to exacerbation of wildfire hazards by infrastructure would be less than significant.

d) Risks from Runoff, Post-Fire Slope Instability, or Drainage Changes.

The project site is in a topographically flat area at the bottom of the San Joaquin Valley. There are no streams or other channels that cross the site. As such, it is not expected that people or structures would be exposed to significant risks from changes resulting from fires in steeper areas, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides. The project would have no impact related to risks from runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage changes.

3.21 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

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

a) Findings on Biological and Cultural Resources.

The biological resource impacts of the revised project were described in Section 3.4, Biological Resources. Cultural resource impacts were described in Section 3.5, Cultural Resources, and Section 3.18, Tribal Cultural Resources. Potentially significant environmental effects on biological and cultural resources were identified, but implementation of mitigation measures described in these sections would reduce these effects to a level that would be less than significant.

b) Findings on Individually Limited but Cumulatively Considerable Impacts.

The cumulative impacts of development within the City of Ripon have been addressed in the Ripon General Plan EIR. The GPEIR identified several potentially significant cumulative effects, including impacts on biological resources, cultural resources, traffic, air quality, and utility and service systems, among others.

The proposed project would involve a contribution to some of these identified impacts. By and large, these contributions are minimal and would involve no change in the severity of potential impacts identified in the GPEIR. This IS/MND prescribes mitigation measures for project contributions that are identified as potentially significant. With the required implementation of mitigation measures, these potential effects would be reduced to a level that would be less than significant. None of the project impacts would be cumulatively

considerable, either in combination with other impacts associated with the project, or when considered in the context of the environmental impacts of other planned urban development.

c) Findings on Adverse Effects on Human Beings.

Potential adverse project effects on human beings were discussed in Section 3.3, Air Quality; Section 3.7, Geology and Soils (seismic hazards); Section 3.9, Hazards and Hazardous Materials; Section 3.10, Hydrology and Water Quality (flooding); Section 3.17, Transportation (traffic hazards); and Section 3.20, Wildfire. No adverse effects on human beings were identified in those sections.

4.0 REFERENCES

4.1 DOCUMENT PREPARERS

This IS/MND was prepared by BaseCamp Environmental, Inc. for use by and under the supervision of the City of Ripon. The following persons were involved in preparation of the IS/MND:

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4.3 PERSONS CONSULTED

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5.0 NOTES RELATED TO EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The following notes are included in the Environmental Information Checklist shown in Appendix G of the State CEQA guidelines. The notes provide guidance as to the proper use of the form.

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

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

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

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

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

    a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.

    b) Impacts Adequately Addressed: Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.

c) Mitigation Measures: For effects that are "Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated," describe the mitigation measures, which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.

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

7) Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.

8) This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project's environmental effects in whatever format is selected.

9) The explanation of each issue should identify:

a) the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and

b) the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance.

APPENDIX A
AIR QUALITY MODELING RESULTS

Road Construction Emissions Model, Version 9.0.0

Daily Emission Estimates for -> Ripon River Trail														
Project Phases (Pounds)	**ROG (lbs/day)**	**CO (lbs/day)**	**NOx (lbs/day)**	**Total PM10 (lbs/day)**	**Exhaust PM10 (lbs/day)**	**Fugitive Dust PM10 (lbs/day)**	**Total PM2.5 (lbs/day)**	**Exhaust PM2.5 (lbs/day)**	**Fugitive Dust PM2.5 (lbs/day)**	**SOx (lbs/day)**	**CO2 (lbs/day)**	**CH4 (lbs/day)**	**N2O (lbs/day)**	**CO2e (lbs/day)**
Grubbing/Land Clearing	2.34	19.33	20.42	3.62	0.82	2.80	1.34	0.76	0.58	0.05	4,738.40	1.47	0.04	4,788.10
Grading/Excavation	4.17	38.66	40.35	4.48	1.68	2.80	2.13	1.55	0.58	0.09	8,126.75	2.57	0.07	8,213.01
Drainage/Utilities/Sub-Grade	3.42	31.86	32.59	4.11	1.31	2.80	1.82	1.23	0.58	0.07	6,418.36	1.56	0.06	6,473.92
Paving	1.72	21.26	16.76	0.80	0.80	0.00	0.72	0.72	0.00	0.04	3,543.71	0.94	0.10	3,596.73
Maximum (pounds/day)	4.17	38.66	40.35	4.48	1.68	2.80	2.13	1.55	0.58	0.09	8,126.75	2.57	0.10	8,213.01
Total (tons/construction project)	0.04	0.34	0.34	0.04	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.00	68.37	0.02	0.00	69.10

Notes:

Project Start Year ->	2024
Project Length (months) ->	1
Total Project Area (acres) ->	3
Maximum Area Disturbed/Day (acres) ->	0
Water Truck Used? ->	No

	Total Material Imported/Exported Volume (yd^3/day)		Daily VMT (miles/day)			
Phase	Soil	Asphalt	Soil Hauling	Asphalt Hauling	Worker Commute	Water Truck
Grubbing/Land Clearing	0	0	0	0	40	0
Grading/Excavation	0	0	0	0	40	0
Drainage/Utilities/Sub-Grade	0	0	0	0	0	0
Paving	0	479	0	120	50	0

PM10 and PM2.5 estimates assume 50% control of fugitive dust from watering and associated dust control measures if a minimum number of water trucks are specified.

Total PM10 emissions shown in column F are the sum of exhaust and fugitive dust emissions shown in columns G and H. Total PM2.5 emissions shown in Column I are the sum of exhaust and fugitive dust emissions shown in columns J and K.

CO2e emissions are estimated by multiplying mass emissions for each GHG by its global warming potential (GWP), 1 , 25 and 298 for CO2, CH4 and N2O, respectively. Total CO2e is then estimated by summing CO2e estimates over all GHGs.

Total Emission Estimates by Phase for -> Ripon River Trail														
Project Phases (Tons for all except CO2e. Metric tonnes for CO2e)	**ROG (tons/phase)**	**CO (tons/phase)**	**NOx (tons/phase)**	**Total PM10 (tons/phase)**	**Exhaust PM10 (tons/phase)**	**Fugitive Dust PM10 (tons/phase)**	**Total PM2.5 (tons/phase)**	**Exhaust PM2.5 (tons/phase)**	**Fugitive Dust PM2.5 (tons/phase)**	**SOx (tons/phase)**	**CO2 (tons/phase)**	**CH4 (tons/phase)**	**N2O (tons/phase)**	**CO2e (MT/phase)**
Grubbing/Land Clearing	0.00	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	5.21	0.00	0.00	4.78
Grading/Excavation	0.02	0.17	0.18	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	35.76	0.01	0.00	32.78
Drainage/Utilities/Sub-Grade	0.01	0.09	0.09	0.01	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	17.65	0.00	0.00	16.15
Paving	0.00	0.06	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9.75	0.00	0.00	8.97
Maximum (tons/phase)	0.02	0.17	0.18	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.00	35.76	0.01	0.00	32.78
Total (tons/construction project)	0.04	0.34	0.34	0.04	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.00	68.37	0.02	0.00	62.69

PM10 and PM2.5 estimates assume 50% control of fugitive dust from watering and associated dust control measures if a minimum number of water trucks are specified.

Total PM10 emissions shown in column F are the sum of exhaust and fugitive dust emissions shown in columns G and H. Total PM2.5 emissions shown in Column I are the sum of exhaust and fugitive dust emissions shown in columns J and K.

CO2e emissions are estimated by multiplying mass emissions for each GHG by its global warming potential (GWP), 1 , 25 and 298 for CO2, CH4 and N2O, respectively. Total CO2e is then estimated by summing CO2e estimates over all GHGs.

The CO2e emissions are reported as metric tons per phase.

APPENDIX B
BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

MOORE BIOLOGICAL CONSULTANTS

October 17, 2023

Mr. Charlie Simpson
BaseCamp Environmental
802 West Lodi Avenue
Lodi, CA 95240

Subject: "LOWER STANISLAUS RIVER MULTI-USE TRAIL", RIPON: SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA: BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

Dear Charlie:

Thank you for asking Moore Biological Consultants to assist with the Lower Stanislaus River Multi-Use Trail project in Ripon, San Joaquin County, California (Figure 1). The purposes of this assessment are to describe existing biological resources in the project site, identify potentially significant impacts to biological resources from the project, and provide recommendations for how to reduce those impacts to a less-than-significant level. The work involved reviewing databases, aerial photographs, and documents, and conducting field surveys to document vegetation communities, potentially jurisdictional Waters of the U.S. and/or wetlands, and potentially suitable habitat for or presence of special-status species. This report details the methodology and results of our investigation.

Project Overview

The City of Ripon plans to widen and pave approximately 10,700 feet of existing trail along north edge of the Stanislaus River riparian corridor (see Project Plans in Attachment A). The existing trails are approximately 10 feet wide and consist of dirt and some gravels. The trails are utilized by pedestrians, bicyclists, and runners and will be improved to provide smoother surfaces to improve safety and provide ADA accessibility.

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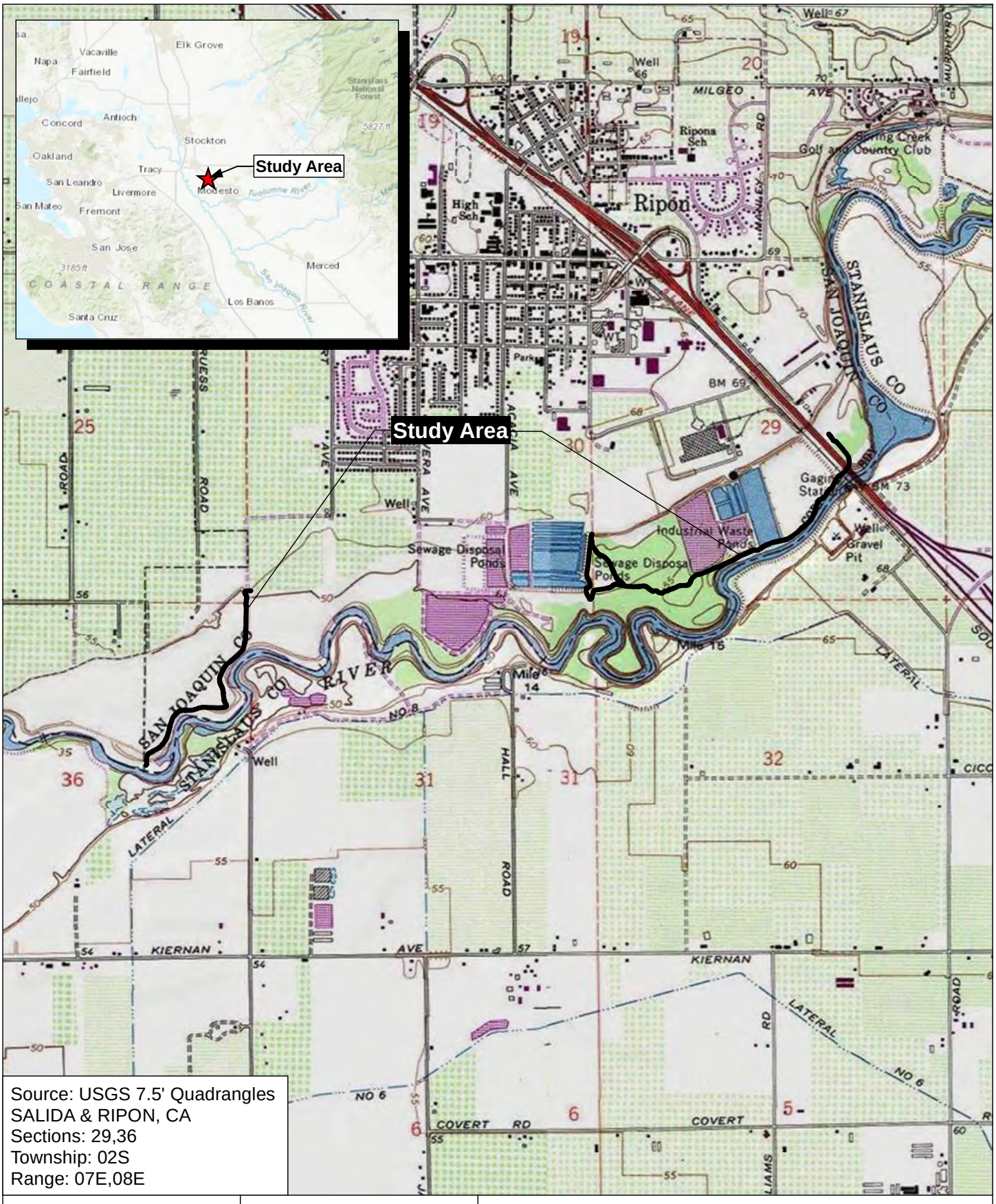

Source: USGS 7.5' Quadrangles
SALIDA & RIPON, CA
Sections: 29,36
Township: 02S
Range: 07E,08E

Figure 1

Moore Biological Consultants

N
W E
S

0 1,000 2,000

Map Date: 07/25/2023

USGS

Lower Stanislaus River Trail

City of Ripon, CA

C:\EFC_INC\Projects\Moore Biological\Lower Stanislaus River Bike Trail\MXD\ripon_lower_stanislaus_river_bike_trail_usgs_figure_1.mxd

The East Trail starts at an existing paved multi-use trail along the east side of Highway 99 and continues west approximately 7,400 feet to a paved multi-use trail south of the intersection of Doak Boulevard and South Stockton Avenue (Figures 2 and 3). There is an alternate section of trail at the west end of the East Trail that was initially considered but is not currently preferred.

The West Trail starts at an existing paved multi-use trail south of the intersection of South Jack Tone Road and Reuss Road and continues southwest approximately 4,760 feet to the southwest corner of the Jack Tone Golf Course (Figure 4).

Construction activity will primarily involve minor grading to widen some sections of the trail and paving. No vegetation will be removed, but work will occur in close proximity to numerous trees and shrubs. Following construction, vegetation and wildlife habitats adjacent to the trail will be comparable to those prior to construction.

Methods

California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB, 2020) was searched prior to the field surveys; an updated search was undertaken in July 2023 (CNDDB, 2023). The CNDDB search area included the USGS 7.5-minute Manteca, Avena, Ripon, and Salida topographic quadrangles, which encompass approximately 240+/- square miles around the site (Attachment B). The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS*)* IPaC Trust Resource Report of Federally Threatened and Endangered species that may occur in or be affected by projects in the project vicinity was also reviewed (Attachment B). This information was used to identify wildlife and plant species that have been documented in the project vicinity or that may have the potential to occur if suitable habitat is present. We also reviewed the IPaC and USFWS on-line-maps of designated critical habitat.

Figure 2

East Trail

0 250 500
Feet

N
W E
S

East Trail – Aerial

Lower Stanislaus River Trail

City of Ripon, CA

Moore Biological Consultants

Map Date: 06/21/2023
Aerial Source: Google Earth (04/22/2022)

C:\EEC_INC\Projects\Moore Biological\Lower Stanislaus River Bike Trail\MXD\ripon_lower stanislaus_river_bike_trail_figure 2.mxd

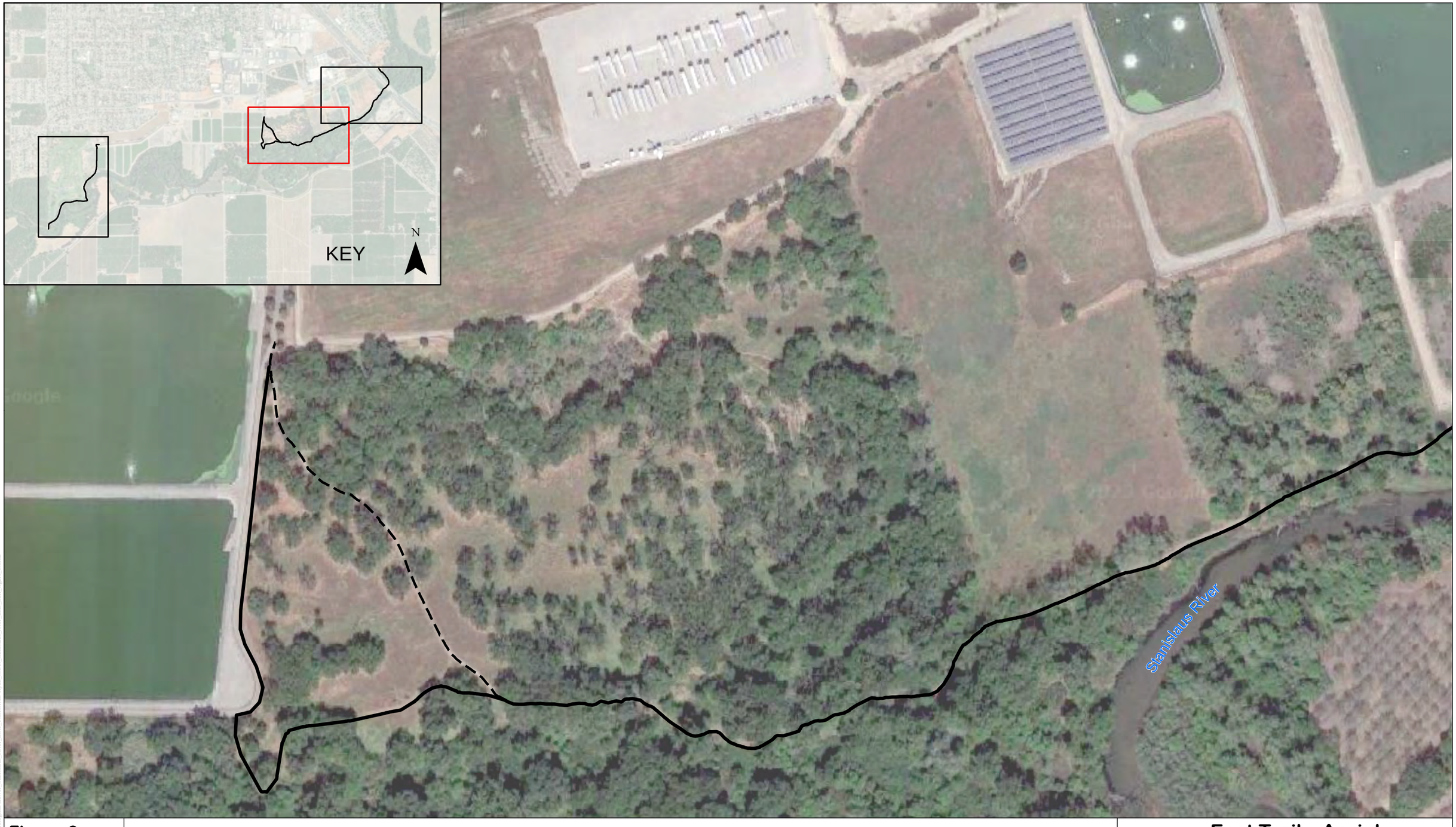

Figure 3

Moore Biological Consultants

Alternate Trail Segment

East Trail

0 250 500
Feet

N
W E
S

Map Date: 06/21/2023
Aerial Source: Google Earth (04/22/2022)

East Trail – Aerial

Lower Stanislaus River Trail

City of Ripon, CA

Figure 4

Moore Biological Consultants

West Trail

Map Date: 06/21/2023
Aerial Source:
Google Earth (04/22/2022)

N
W E
S

0 250 500
Feet

West Trail – Aerial

Lower Stanislaus River Trail

City of Ripon, CA

Field surveys of the site were conducted on May 27, December 23 and 29, 2020, March 15 and 16, and July 23, 2021, and March 15, April 5, and June 16, 2023. The survey area included the trail as well as adjacent areas. The surveys consisted of walking throughout the site making observations of habitat conditions and noting surrounding land uses, habitat types, and plant and wildlife species. The survey included an assessment of the site for the presence or absence of potentially jurisdictional Waters of the U.S. (a term that includes wetlands) as defined by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE, 1987; 2008), and/or Waters of the State, including State Wetlands.

The site was also for searched for special-status species and potentially suitable habitat for special-status species (e.g., areas with unusual soils, blue elderberry shrubs, vernal pools). Additionally, trees in and near the site were assessed for the potential use by nesting raptors, especially Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*). The grassland areas in the site were searched for burrowing owls (*Athene cunicularia*) or ground squirrel burrows with evidence of past occupancy.

Blue elderberry shrubs (*Sambucus nigra ssp. caerulea*) growing within approximately 25 feet of the edges of the trail were mapped using a Trimble GeoXH Global Positioning System (GPS) unit. In a few areas where a continuous row of blue elderberry shrubs is growing parallel to the trail, each end of the location of each end of the "hedge" was recorded. As most of the blue elderberry shrubs or hedges had multiple stems, the location of the stem in closest proximity to the trail was mapped.

Results

GENERAL SETTING: The project site consists of two sections of trail, collectively referred to as the "project site" throughout much of this document, and referred to as the "East Trail" and "West Trail" when applicable. The project site is in Ripon, in San Joaquin, County California. The East Trail is in Section 29, in Township 2 South, Range 8 East of the USGS 7.5-minute Salida topographic quadrangle and

the West Trail is in Sections 30 and 36, within Township 2 South, Range 7 East of the USGS 7.5-minute Ripon topographic quadrangle (Figure 1). The project site is along the north of the Stanislaus River riparian corridor and is at an elevation of approximately 50 feet above mean sea level.

Most of the trail meanders along the edge of the Stanislaus River riparian corridor (Figures 2, 3, 4 and photographs in Attachment C). The East Trail originates just east of Highway 99, meanders generally west just north of the Stanislaus River and continues to the west through oak woodlands before extending north along the edge of a wastewater treatment facility (Figures 2 and 3). An alternate trail segment is also depicted on Figure 3, which breaks from the main trail segment and meanders northwest through oak woodlands, ending at the same location near the wastewater treatment pond.

The West Trail originates just west of the wastewater treatment facility and east of the Jack Tone Golf Course. The trail meanders generally southwest, just south of the Jack Tone Golf Course and north of the Stanislaus River (Figure 4).

Surrounding land uses in this part of San Joaquin County are mixed, with agricultural parcels dominating lands to the south of the Stanislaus River and residential subdivisions and commercial development in Ripon, north of the project site. There is a wastewater treatment plant situated between the two trails, and just north of the Stanislaus River (Figures 3 and 4).

VEGETATION: a majority of the trail meanders along the north edge Stanislaus River riparian corridor and is within the understory of large oaks and other common riparian tree and shrub species. Understory vegetation along and adjacent to the trail is comprised of highly disturbed ruderal grasses and weeds.

Oats (*Avena* sp.), soft chess brome (*Bromus hordeaceus*), ripgut brome (*B. diandrus*), and foxtail barley (*Hordeum murinum*) are some of the most common grasses in the ruderal grassland vegetation found within the grasslands in the

site. Other grassland species such as bull thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), morning glory (*Convolvulus arvensis*), rancher's fireweed (*Amsinckia menziesii*), prickly lettuce (*Lactuca serriola*), Canadian horseweed (*Erigeron canadensis*), and filaree (*Erodium sp*.) are intermixed with the grasses. Table 1 is a list of plant species observed in the site.

Dominant understory shrubs along the trails and within close proximity to the trails include giant reed (*Arundo sp.*), blue elderberry, and willows (*Salix sp*.). Other common understory species include wild grape (*Vitis californica*), Himalayan blackberry (*Rubus armeniacus*), and California rose (*Rosa californica*).

Valley oaks (*Quercus lobata*), Fremont's cottonwood (*Populus fremontii*), and box elder (*Acer negundo*) are the dominant tree species adjacent to and hanging over the trail.

There also numerous blue elderberry shrubs along the trail and in close proximity to the trail. The blue elderberry shrubs range from relatively small, isolated shrubs to a continuous shrub "hedge". A total of 85 blue elderberry shrubs and hedges were located within approximately 25 feet of the edges of the trail (Figures A, B, and C in Attachment D and photographs in Attachment C).

WILDLIFE: A variety of bird species were observed during the field surveys; the majority of these are common species found in riparian and urban areas of San Joaquin County (Table 2). Canada goose (*Branta canadensis*), American crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*), black phoebe (*Sayornis nigricans*), red-tailed hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), acorn woodpecker (*Melanerpes formicivorus*), spotted towhee (*Pipilo maculatus*), yellow-billed magpie (*Pica nuttalli*), and house finch (*Haemorhous mexicanus*) are representative of the avian species observed in and near the site.

TABLE 1

PLANT SPECIES OBSERVED IN THE SITE

Acer negundo	box elder
Amsinckia menziesii	rancher's fireweed
Arundo donax	giant reed
Avena sp.	wild oat
Bromus diandrus	ripgut brome
Bromus hordeaceus	soft chess brome
Capsella bursa var. pastoris	shepherd's purse
Cirsium vulgare	bull thistle
Claytonia perfoliata	minor's lettuce
Convolulus arvensis	morning glory
Cynodon dactylon	Bermuda grass
Daucus carota	wild carrot
Dittrichia graveolens	stinkwort
Erigeron bonariensis	hairy fleabane
Erigeron canadensis	Canadian horseweed
Erodium botrys	filaree
Geranium dissectum	dissected geranium
Geranium molle	dove's-foot crane's-bill
Heterotheca grandiflora	telegraph weed
Hordeum murinum	foxtail barley
Lactuca serriola	prickly lettuce
Lolium perenne	perennial ryegrass
Lupinus sp.	lupine
Malva neglecta	common mallow
Malvella leprosa	alkali mallow
Poa annua	annual blue grass
Populus fremontii	Fremont cottonwood
Quercus lobata	valley oak
Raphanus sativa	wild radish
Rosa californica	California rose
Rubus armeniacus	Himalayan blackberry
Rumex crispus	curly dock
Salix laevigata	polished willow
Salix sp.	willow
Sambucus nigra ssp. caerulea	blue elderberry
Trifolium hirtum	rose clover
Urtica dioica	stinging nettle
Vicia sativa	common vetch
Vitis californica	wild grape
Xanthium strumarium	cocklebur

TABLE 2

WILDLIFE SPECIES OBSERVED IN THE SITE

Birds	
Great blue heron	*Ardea herodias*
Great egret	*Casmerodius albus*
Snowy egret	*Egretta thula*
Canada goose	*Branta canadensis*
Mallard	*Anas platyrhynchos*
Turkey vulture	*Cathartes aura*
Cooper's hawk	*Accipiter cooperi*
Red-shouldered hawk	*Buteo lineatus*
Red-tailed hawk	*Buteo jamaicensis*
Northern harrier	*Circus hudsonius*
Swainson's hawk	*Buteo swainsoni*
American kestrel	*Falco sparverius*
Killdeer	*Charadrius vociferus*
Black-necked stilt	*Himantopus mexicanus*
Western sandpiper	*Calidris mauri*
Western gull	*Larus occidentalis*
Rock dove	*Columba livia*
Anna's hummingbird	*Calypte anna*
Acorn woodpecker	*Melanerpes formicivorus*
Williamson's sapsucker	*Sphyrapicus thyroideus*
Nuttall's woodpecker	*Dryobates nuttallii*
Northern flicker	*Colaptes auratus*
Black phoebe	*Sayornis nigricans*
Tree swallow	*Tachycineta bicolor*
California scrub jay	*Aphelocoma californica*
Yellow-billed magpie	*Pica nuttalli*
American crow	*Corvus brachyrhynchos*
Oak titmouse	*Baeolophus inornatus*
Ruby-crowned kinglet	*Regulus calendula*
Northern mockingbird	*Mimus polyglottos*
Cedar waxwing	*Bombycilla cedrorum*
European starling	*Sturnus vulgaris*
Yellow-rumped warbler	*Setophaga coronata*
Spotted towhee	*Pipilo maculatus*
California towhee	*Pipilo crissalis*
White-crowned sparrow	*Zonotrichia leucophrys*
Brewer's blackbird	*Euphagus cyanocephalus*
House finch	*Carpodacus mexicanus*
Mammals	
California ground squirrel	*Otospermophilus beecheyi*
Western gray squirrel	*Sciurus griseus*

There are several potential nest trees in and near the site that are suitable for nesting raptors and other protected migratory birds. Given the presence of trees and shrubs in and near the site, and emergent wetland vegetation in the Stanislaus River, it is likely one or more pairs of raptors and a variety of songbirds nest in or adjacent to the site each year. Ground-nesting songbirds such as killdeer (*Charadrius vociferus*) and red-winged blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) may nest in the grasslands or on the ground in the site.

A variety of mammals common to riparian and urban areas likely occur in the project site. Western gray squirrel (*Sciurus griseus*) and California ground squirrel (*Otospermophilus beecheyi*) were the only mammals observed during the field surveys. Other common species such as raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), black-tailed hare (*Lepus californicus*), striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*), and Virginia opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*) are expected to occur in the site on occasion. A number of species of small rodents including mice (*Mus musculus, Reithrodontomys megalotis,* and *Peromyscus maniculatus*) and voles (*Microtus californicus*) also likely occur.

Based on habitat types present, only a few amphibian and reptile species are expected to use habitats in the site. Although none were observed, common species such as western fence lizard (*Sceloporus occidentalis*), Pacific chorus frog (*Pseudacris regilla*), gopher snake (*Pituophis melanoleucus*), common king snake (*Lampropeltis getulus*), and common garter snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis*) may occur in the site.

AQUATIC RESOURCES: Waters of the U.S., including wetlands, are defined under 33 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 328 to include navigable waterways, their tributaries, and adjacent wetlands. State and federal agencies regulate these habitats and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act requires that a permit be secured prior to the discharge of dredged or fill materials into any Waters of the U.S. The California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) implements Section 401 of the Clean Water Act by issuing 401 Certification in support of 404

permits. Many jurisdictional Waters of the U.S. in California are also Waters of the State, and also fall under the jurisdiction of CDFW.

"Waters of the U.S.", as defined in 33 CFR 328.4, encompasses Territorial Seas, Tidal Waters, and Non-Tidal Waters; Non-Tidal Waters includes interstate and intrastate rivers and streams, their tributaries, and their adjacent wetlands. The limit of federal jurisdiction of Non-Tidal Waters of the U.S. extends to the "ordinary high water mark" (OHWM). The OHWM is established by physical characteristics such as a natural water line impressed on the bank, presence of shelves, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, or the presence of litter and debris.

Wetlands are vegetated areas that meet specific vegetation, soil, and hydrologic criteria defined by the ACOE *Wetlands Delineation Manual* and Regional Supplement (ACOE, 1987; 2008). Wetlands that are adjacent to and hydrologically very closely associated with jurisdictional lakes, rivers, streams, and tributaries can also fall under ACOE jurisdiction as "adjacent wetlands". Pursuant to a May 2023 Supreme Court decision, adjacent wetlands must have a continuous surface connection with a jurisdictional Water of the U.S. such that the wetland is indistinguishable from the adjacent water. Geographically and hydrologically isolated wetlands are outside federal jurisdiction, but are regulated by RWQCB as a "Water of the State".

Jurisdictional Waters of the U.S. and wetlands include, but are not limited to, most perennial and intermittent creeks and lakes, as well as adjacent wetlands such as riparian wetlands along the edges of rivers. Waters of the U.S., wetlands, and other aquatic habitats provide critical habitat components, such as nest sites and a reliable source of water, for a wide variety of wildlife species.

There are no potentially jurisdictional Waters of the U.S. or wetlands of any type in or adjacent to the trails. No areas meeting the technical and regulatory criteria of jurisdictional Waters of the U.S. or wetlands were observed in or adjacent to

the trails. The trails are situated on relatively high ground above the nearby Stanislaus River, with soils that appear to be well draining.

The Stanislaus River, which is adjacent to the site, is a jurisdictional Water of the U.S., with the limits of jurisdiction being defined by the ordinary high water marks. There is a broad riparian corridor associated with the Stanislaus River. The lower-elevation portions of the riparian corridor support riparian vegetation and meet the definition of “adjacent wetlands”, also falling under ACOE jurisdiction.

The Stanislaus River falls under the jurisdiction of other agencies including CDFW, RWQCB, and the CVFPB. The entire riparian corridor, including the trails is a “Designated Floodway” under the jurisdiction of CVFPB, and would also be viewed by CDFW as subject to jurisdiction under Fish and Game Code Section 1600-1616.

SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES: Special-status species are plants and animals that are legally protected under the state and/or federal Endangered Species Act or other regulations. The Federal Endangered Species Act (FESA) of 1973 declares that all federal departments and agencies shall utilize their authority to conserve endangered and threatened plant and animal species. The California Endangered Species Act (CESA) of 1984 parallels the policies of FESA and pertains to native California species.

Both FESA and CESA prohibit unauthorized “take” (i.e., killing) of listed species, with take broadly defined in both acts to include activities such as harassment, pursuit and possession. The federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Fish and Game Code of California protect special-status bird species year-round, as well as their eggs and nests during the nesting season. Fish and Game Code of California also provides protection for mammals and fish.

Special-status wildlife species also includes species that are considered rare enough by the scientific community and trustee agencies to warrant special

consideration, particularly with regard to protection of isolated populations, nesting or denning locations, communal roosts, and other essential habitats. The presence of species with legal protection under the Endangered Species Act often represents a constraint to development, particularly when the species are wide-ranging or highly sensitive to habitat disturbance and where proposed development would result in a take of these species.

Special-status plants are those which are designated rare, threatened, or endangered and candidate species for listing by the USFWS. Special-status plants also include species considered rare or endangered under the conditions of Section 15380 of the California Environmental Quality Act Guidelines, such as those plant species identified on Lists 1A, 1B and 2 in the Inventory of Rare and Endangered Vascular Plants of California (CNPS, 2023). Finally, special-status plants may include other species that are considered sensitive or of special concern due to limited distribution or lack of adequate information to permit listing or rejection for state or federal status, such as those included on CNPS List 3.

Table 3 provides a summary of the listing status and habitat requirements of special-status plant and wildlife species that have been documented in the greater project vicinity or for which there is potentially suitable habitat in the project area. This table also includes an assessment of the likelihood of occurrence of each of these species in the site. The evaluation of the potential for occurrence of each species is based on the distribution of regional occurrences (if any), habitat suitability, and field observations.

SPECIAL-STATUS PLANTS: Species of special-status plants identified in the CNDDB (2023) search include lesser saltscale (*Atriplex minuscula*), delta button celery (*Eryngium racemosum*), alkali-sink goldfields (*Lasthenia chrysantha*), and California alkali grass (*Puccinellia simplex*) (Table 3 and Attachment B). No additional special-status plants are identified in the USFWS IPaC Trust Resource Report (Attachment B).

TABLE 4

SPECIAL-STATUS PLANT AND WILDLIFE SPECIES DOCUMENTED OR POTENTIALLY-OCCURRING IN THE PROJECT VICINITY

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status[1]	State Status[2]	CNPS List[3]	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence in the Project Site
PLANTS						
Lesser saltscale	*Atriplex minuscula*	None	None	1B	Chenopod scrub, playas, valley and foothill grassland; in sandy alkaline soils.	Unlikely: the site does not provide suitable habitat for lesser saltscale. The nearest occurrence of lesser saltscale in the CNDDB (2023) search area is approximately 6 miles southwest of the West Trail.
Delta button-celery	*Eryngium racemosum*	None	E	1B	Seasonally inundated (usually floodplain) riparian scrub with a clay substrate.	Unlikely: the site does not provide suitable habitat for delta button-celery. The nearest occurrence of delta button celery in the CNDDB (2023) search area is approximately 2 miles southwest of the West Trail. This population of delta button celery is noted in the CNDDB as "likely extirpated" (i.e., it no longer exists).
Alkali-sink goldfields	*Lasthenia chrysantha*	None	None	1B	Vernal pools.	Unlikely: there are no vernal pools in the site. The nearest occurrence this species in the CNDDB (2023) search area is at the San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge, approximately 6 miles southeast of the site.
California alkali grass	*Puccinellia simplex*	None	None	1B	Chenopod scrub, meadows and seeps, valley and foothill grassland, vernal pool habitats; in alkaline, vernally mesic sinks, flats, and lake margins.	Unlikely: the site does not provide suitable habitat for California alkali grass. The nearest occurrence of this species in the CNDDB (2023) search area is approximately 6 miles southeast of the site.
WILDLIFE						
Birds						
Swainson's hawk	*Buteo swainsoni*	None	T	N/A	Breeds in stands of tall trees in open areas. Requires adjacent suitable foraging habitats such as grasslands or alfalfa fields supporting rodents.	High: annual cropland and open grassland near the project vicinity provides foraging habitat for Swainson's hawks and trees in and near the site are suitable for nesting. Swainson's hawk likely nests along the Stanislaus River in at least one location near the site. A few raptor stick nests were observed in trees in and near the site. There are several occurrences of Swainson's hawks within a mile of the site, including a record along the East Trail.

TABLE 4

SPECIAL-STATUS PLANT AND WILDLIFE SPECIES DOCUMENTED OR POTENTIALLY-OCCURRING IN THE PROJECT VICINITY

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status[1]	State Status[2]	CNPS List[3]	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence in the Project Site
Tricolored blackbird	*Agelaius tricolor*	None	T	N/A	Requires open water and protected nesting substrate, usually cattails and riparian scrub with surrounding foraging habitat.	Unlikely: while emergent wetland vegetation and riparian scrub in and along the river provides potentially suitable tricolored nesting habitat, this species is unlikely to occur in riparian woodlands. The nearest occurrence of this species in the CNDDB (2023) search area is approximately 5.5 miles northwest of the West Trail.
Least Bell's vireo	*Vireo bellii pusillus*	E	E	N/A	Nests in willow thickets and other shrubs, primarily in southern California riparian forests.	Unlikely: although vegetation near the site may be suitable for Least Bell's vireo, this species is known to occur primarily in southern California. There are no occurrences of this species in the CNDDB (2023) search area.
Western yellow-billed cuckoo	*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*	T	E	N/A	Nests in mature riparian forests, along the broad, lower flood-bottoms of larger river systems.	Very low: although riparian habitats along the Stanislaus River may provide suitable habitat for western yellow-billed cuckoo, this species is primarily found in discrete areas along the Sacramento River in current day. There is one record of this species in the CNDDB (2023) search area along the Stanislaus River, which is a historical record (1973) and depicted as "Possibly Extirpated", approximately 6 miles southwest of the West Trail.
Mammals						
Riparian brush rabbit	*Sylvilagus bachmani riparius*	E	E	N/A	Dense riparian thickets along large rivers in Stanislaus and southern San Joaquin Counties.	Very low: dense riparian vegetation along the Stanislaus River may provide suitable habitat for riparian brush rabbit. The nearest occurrence of riparian brush rabbit in the CNDDB (2023) search area is approximately 2 miles southwest of the West Trail at Caswell State Park.
Riparian (=San Joaquin Valley) woodrat	*Neotoma fuscipes riparia*	E	SC	N/A	Dense riparian woodlands and scrub along major Central Valley rivers.	Very low: dense riparian vegetation along the Stanislaus River may provide suitable habitat for riparian woodrat. The nearest documented occurrence of this species in the CNDDB (2023) search area is approximately 2 miles southwest of the West Trail at Caswell State Park.

TABLE 4

SPECIAL-STATUS PLANT AND WILDLIFE SPECIES DOCUMENTED OR POTENTIALLY-OCCURRING IN THE PROJECT VICINITY

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status[1]	State Status[2]	CNPS List[3]	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence in the Project Site
Reptiles & Amphibians						
California tiger salamander	*Ambystoma californiense*	T	T	N/A	Seasonal water bodies without fish (i.e., vernal pools and stock ponds) and grassland/ woodland habitats with summer refugia (i.e., burrows).	Unlikely: there is no suitable habitat within or near the site for California tiger salamander. The nearest extant occurrence (i.e., one that is presumed to exist) of this species in the CNDDB (2023) search area is approximately 5 miles southwest of the West Trail. The site is not within designated critical habitat for California tiger salamander (USFWS, 2005a).
Western spadefoot	*Spea hammondii*	None	SC	N/A	Breeds and lays eggs in seasonal water bodies such as deep vernal pools or stock ponds.	Unlikely: there is no suitable aquatic habitat in the site to support western spadefoot. The nearest occurrence of this species in the CNDDB (2023) search area is approximately 3 miles southwest of the West Trail.
Northern California legless lizard	*Anniella pulchra*	None	SC	N/A	Sandy or loose loamy soils under sparse vegetation.	Unlikely: the project site does not provide high quality habitat for northern California legless lizard. The nearest occurrence of this species in the CNDDB (2023) search area is an historical (1933 record) approximately 8 miles northeast of the East Trail.
Fish						
Central Valley steelhead	*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*	T	None	N/A	Riffle and pool complexes with adequate spawning substrates in Central Valley drainages.	None: the site does not provide suitable habitat for Central Valley steelhead. The CNDDB (2023) depicts Central Valley steelhead in portion of the Stanislaus River adjacent to the site. The Stanislaus River is designated critical habitat for this species (NOAA, 2005).
Green sturgeon	*Acipenser medirostris*	T	SC	N/A	Freshwater and saltwater habitats; spawn in freshwater rivers.	Unlikely: the site does not provide suitable habitat for green sturgeon. The CNDDB (2023) maps depicts green sturgeon in portion of the Stanislaus River adjacent to the site. The site is not in designated critical habitat for green sturgeon (NOAA, 2009).
Hardhead	*Mylopharodon conocephalus*	None	SC	N/A	Clear, deep pools with sand and gravel bottoms in tributaries to the San Joaquin and Sacramento River.	Unlikely: the site does not provide suitable habitat for hardhead and the project will not involve work in the Stanislaus River. The nearest occurrence of hardhead in the CNDDB (2023) search area is approximately 2 miles southwest of the West Trail.

TABLE 4

SPECIAL-STATUS PLANT AND WILDLIFE SPECIES DOCUMENTED OR POTENTIALLY-OCCURRING IN THE PROJECT VICINITY

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status[1]	State Status[2]	CNPS List[3]	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence in the Project Site
Invertebrates						
Valley elderberry longhorn beetle	*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*	T	None	N/A	Elderberry shrubs, usually in Central Valley riparian habitats.	High: there are numerous blue elderberry shrubs along the trails. The stems of some of the shrubs had boreholes that may have been created by valley elderberry longhorn beetles. The nearest occurrence of this species in the CNDDB (2023) search area is along the lower Stanislaus River, approximately 2 miles southwest of the West Trail.
Vernal pool fairy shrimp	*Branchinecta lynchi*	T	None	N/A	Vernal pools.	Unlikely: there are no vernal pools in the site. The nearest occurrence of vernal pool fairy shrimp in the CNDDB (2023) search area is approximately 5.5 miles southwest of the West Trail. The site is not in designated critical habitat for this species (USFWS, 2005b).
Conservancy fairy shrimp	*Branchinecta conservatio*	E	None	N/A	Vernal pools.	Unlikely: there are no vernal pools in the site. The nearest occurrence of Conservancy fairy shrimp in the CNDDB (2023) search area is approximately 5.5 miles southwest of the West Trail. The site is not in designated critical habitat for this species (USFWS, 2005b).
Vernal pool tadpole shrimp	*Lepidurus packardi*	E	None	N/A	Vernal pools.	Unlikely: there are no vernal pools in the site. The nearest occurrence of tadpole shrimp in the CNDDB (2023) search area is approximately 3 miles southwest of the West Trail. The site is not in designated critical habitat for this species (USFWS, 2005b).
Crotch bumble bee	*Bombus crotchii*	None	CE	N/A	Open grassland and scrub habitats mainly in coastal or southern California; rarely found in the Central Valley.	Unlikely: Crotch bumble bee could fly over the site on occasion, but would not be expected to utilize the site in a meaningful capacity. The nearest record of this species in the CNDDB (2023) search area is a large, nonspecific record around the City of Modesto, approximately 9 miles southeast of the East Trail.

TABLE 4

SPECIAL-STATUS PLANT AND WILDLIFE SPECIES DOCUMENTED OR POTENTIALLY-OCCURRING IN THE PROJECT VICINITY

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status[1]	State Status[2]	CNPS List[3]	Habitat	Potential for Occurrence in the Project Site
Western bumble bee	*Bombus occidentalis*	None	CE	N/A	Meadows and grasslands with abundant floral resources, current range indicates its a higher elevation species; rarely found in the Central Valley.	Unlikely: Western bumble bee may fly over the site on occasion, but would not be expected to utilize the site in a meaningful capacity due to a lack of floristic resources. The nearest occurrence of this species in the CNDDB (2023) search area is approximately 5 miles north of the site.
Monarch butterfly	*Danaus plexippus*	C	None	N/A	Variety of habitats in California, primarily in coastal areas; larvae dependent on milkweed.	Unlikely: the site does not provide suitable habitat for monarch butterfly and no extensive areas of milkweed were observed in the site. Monarch butterfly may fly over the site during its migration. There are no occurrences of this species in the CNDDB (2023) within the search area.

1 T= Threatened; E = Endangered; C = Candidate for Listing; CE = Candidate Endangered.

2 T = Threatened; E = Endangered; SC=State of California Species of Special Concern

3 CNPS List 1B includes species that are rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere.

Special-status plants generally occur in relatively undisturbed areas in vegetation communities such as vernal pools, marshes and swamps, seasonal wetlands, riparian scrub, chenopod scrub, and areas with unusual soils. None of these vegetation communities occur in the site. The ruderal grassland along the edges of the trails is highly disturbed and does not provide suitable habitat for any of the plants in Table 3 or any other special-status plants.

Delta button celery could potentially occur within the Stanislaus River, although the habitat suitability is very low. This species is found in seasonally inundated (usually floodplain) riparian scrub with a clay substrate. Delta button celery is primarily found in delta waterways several miles west of the site and there is only one occurrence of this species in the 240+/- square mile CNDDB (2023) search area. While this species may potentially be present in the Stanislaus River, there will be no work near the bed and bank of the river as part of the project.

SPECIAL-STATUS WILDLIFE: The potential for intensive use of habitats within the project site by special-status wildlife species is moderate. Special-status wildlife species that have been recorded in greater project vicinity in the CNDDB (2023) include Swainson's hawk, tricolored blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*), western yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*), riparian brush rabbit (*Sylvilagus bachmani riparius*), riparian woodrat (*Neotoma fuscipes riparia*), California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*), western spadefoot (*Spea hammondii*), northern California legless lizard (*Anniella pulchra*), Central Valley steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), green sturgeon (*Acipenser medirostris*), hardhead (*Mylopharodon conocephalus*), valley elderberry longhorn beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*), vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*), vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardi*), and Conservancy fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta conservatio*).

Although not included in the CNDDB search, least Bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) and monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*) were added to Table 3 because they are included in the IPaC Trust Resource Report (Attachment B).

The project site and surrounding areas may have provided habitat for a few of the special-status wildlife species listed in Table 3 at some time in the past. However, construction and maintenance of the trail, wastewater treatment plant, nearby roads, and development, have substantially modified natural habitats within the greater project vicinity, including within the project site. Of the wildlife species identified in the CNDDB, Swainson's hawk and valley elderberry longhorn beetle are the only species with potential to occur in the project site on more than a transitory or very occasional basis.

SWAINSON'S HAWK: The Swainson's hawk is a migratory hawk listed by the State of California as a Threatened species. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act and Fish and Game Code of California protect Swainson's hawks year-round, as well as their nests during the nesting season (March 1 through September 15). Swainson's hawks are found in the Central Valley primarily during their breeding season, a population is known to winter in the San Joaquin Valley.

Swainson's hawks prefer nesting sites that provide sweeping views of nearby foraging grounds consisting of grasslands, irrigated pasture, hay, and wheat crops. Most Swainson's hawks are migratory, wintering in Mexico and breeding in California and elsewhere in the western United States. This raptor generally arrives in the Central Valley in mid-March, and begins courtship and nest construction immediately upon arrival at the breeding sites. The young fledge in early July, and most Swainson's hawks leave their breeding territories by late August.

The CNDDB (2023) contains several records of nesting Swainson's hawk in the greater project vicinity, including several within a mile of the project site, including one record surrounding the East Trail; Swainson's hawk likely nests in trees along the Stanislaus River. There are several trees in and near the site suitable for nesting Swainson's hawks and a few raptor stick nests were observed in trees along the trail. A few Swainson's hawks were observed soaring over the site

during some of the spring and summer field surveys. Swainson's hawk could be disturbed by noise if they nested in or near the project site during construction.

The project will participate in the San Joaquin County Multi-Species Habitat Conservation and Open Space Plan (HCP) (SJCOG, 2000). Standard Incidental Take Minimization Measures (ITMMs) under the HCP outline protective measures for Swainson's hawk. In the event that construction commences during the nesting season (i.e., if construction starts between March 1 and August 31) and Swainson's hawks are nesting in or adjacent to the site, a construction setback from the nest tree would be required until nesting is complete. The setback is calculated as twice the diameter of the dripline of the nest tree as measured from under the nest, and is usually less than 100 feet.

VALLEY ELDERBERRY LONGHORN BEETLE: The valley elderberry longhorn beetle (VELB) is listed as a federally threatened species and its host plant is the blue elderberry shrub. Eggs are laid on the leaves or stems of the shrubs and upon hatching, the larvae bore in to the stem where they remain for 2+/- years feeding on the interior portions of the stems. Following several larval instars, the larvae chew an exit hole in the stem, pupate, and emerge after approximately a month as an adult. The adults live only 4 to 5 days, mates, lays eggs, and dies. The nearest occurrence of VELB in the CNDDB (2023) search area is 2 miles southwest of the West Trail.

The USFWS (2017) *Framework for Assessing Impacts to the Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle* direct that activities that may damage or kill an elderberry shrub, such as trenching or paving, should be avoided by a ground disturbance set back of 20 feet from the drip line of the shrub. A number of measures are also recommended to avoid and minimize project impacts to VELB and/or its habitat including fencing, worker training, and timing of construction, among others. In cases where complete avoidance is not feasible, the Framework recommends compensatory mitigation for the loss of actual or potential VELB habitat.

As described above, total of 85 blue elderberry shrubs and hedges were located within approximately 25 feet of the edges of the trail (Figures A, B, and C in Attachment D and photographs in Attachment C). Some of these shrubs are mature and arborescent in nature, making them highly suitable for VELB, which primarily occupy shrubs situated along riparian corridors. Valley elderberry longhorn beetle may occur within blue elderberry shrubs along the trail. The stems of some of the shrubs had boreholes that may have been created by VELB.

VELB could be directly impacted by removal of mature elderberry shrubs. Grading in close proximity to the blue elderberry shrubs could also result in changes in drainage patterns or generation of dust, indirectly impacting valley elderberry longhorn beetles by a reduction in habitat suitability.

Standard ITMMs under the HCP outline protective measures for VELB, which are focused on the host plant (i.e., elderberry shrubs). The measures include a 20-foot no-construction "buffer" outside the dripline of blue elderberry shrubs and installation of protective fencing between the limits of disturbance and the buffers. For elderberry shrubs that cannot be retained or are within 20 feet of the limits of disturbance, the HCP requires payment of per-stem fees for stem in excess of one inch in diameter at ground level. For elderberry shrubs that cannot be retained on a site and show evidence of VELB, the HCP also requires the shrub be transplanted, if feasible.

Due to the presence of numerous blue elderberry shrubs along the edges of the trails and associated project compliance with standard VELB ITMMs, the City of Ripon requested a "buffer reduction" from San Joaquin Council of Governments in March 2021 (Attachment E). The buffer reduction was granted, reducing the buffer from 20 feet to 0 feet, which is needed for project construction due to the proximity of numerous shrubs to the existing trails. No shrubs will be removed and the project will be required to stake, flag, and/or fence the shrubs throughout construction.

OTHER SPECIAL-STATUS SPECIES: Least Bell's vireo and western yellow-billed cuckoo, are both not known from the area; least Bell's vireo is known to occur primarily in southern California riparian systems and western yellow-billed cuckoo is primarily found in discrete areas along the Sacramento River. Tricolored blackbird may fly over or forage in the site on occasion, but there is no suitable nesting habitat in the site to support this species.

Dense and well-developed riparian thickets along the Stanislaus River are potentially suitable for riparian brush rabbit and riparian woodrat. However, neither species has been found upstream of Caswell State Park and both are unlikely to occur along the edge of the riparian corridor where the canopy is much more open.

There is no suitable breeding habitat within or near the site for Californian tiger salamander or western spadefoot. Northern California legless lizard is generally restricted to the low foothills, has not been documented in the area for almost 100 years, and is very unlikely to occur in close proximity to the trails.

Central Valley steelhead, green sturgeon, and hardhead occur within the Stanislaus River adjacent to the project site, but the river will not be disturbed as part of the project.

There are no vernal pools or seasonal wetlands in the site for vernal pool branchiopods (i.e., fairy, Conservancy, and tadpole shrimp). Lastly, monarch butterfly would not be expected to occur in the site due to a paucity of milkweed and this species is known more often in coastal environments in California. Western bumble bee and Crotch bumble bee are not likely to occur in the site due to the limited range of these species in current day. Currently, western bumble bee is known to occur in higher elevations and Crotch bumble bee is primarily found in southern and coastal California habitats; both of these species are rarely seen in the Central Valley.

CRITICAL HABITAT: The site is not in designated critical habitat of western yellow-billed cuckoo (USFWS, 2021), federally listed vernal pool shrimp or plants (USFWS, 2005a), for California tiger salamander (USFWS, 2005b), delta smelt (USFWS, 1994), valley elderberry longhorn beetle (USFWS, 1980), Central Valley steelhead (NOAA, 2005), green sturgeon (NOAA, 2009), delta smelt (USFWS, 1994), or other federally listed species (Attachment F).

The Stanislaus River, which situated to the south of the trails, is designated critical habitat for Central Valley steelhead (NOAA, 2005). The project will not involve work in the Stanislaus River, will not reduce the suitability of the river for Central Valley steelhead, and will have no adverse effects on Central Valley steelhead critical habitat.

WILDLIFE MOVEMENT CORRIDORS: Well-developed riparian corridors are often utilized for movement by wildlife species such as deer, coyote, red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*), and bobcat (*Felis rufus*), as well as a variety of amphibians, reptiles, and fish. While the Stanislaus River is a wildlife movement corridor, improvements to existing trails is not expected to adversely impact wildlife movement.

Conclusions and Recommendations

- The project site is two trails along the north edge of the Stanislaus River riparian corridor. Habitats adjacent to the trail include grassland, oak woodland, riparian woodland, and developed areas.

- There are no potentially jurisdictional Waters of the U.S. or wetlands in or adjacent to the trails. The Stanislaus River, which is adjacent to the site, is a jurisdictional Water of the U.S.; riparian wetlands adjacent to the river may also fall under ACOE jurisdiction. There will be no work within the Stanislaus River or adjacent riparian wetlands.

- The Stanislaus River riparian corridor is within the “Designated Floodway” of the Stanislaus River, under the jurisdiction of CVFPB. Most of the project site is within the Designated Floodway. An encroachment permit from CVFPB will be needed prior to work in the Designated Floodway.

- The entire Stanislaus River riparian corridor would also be viewed by CDFW as subject to jurisdiction under Fish and Game Code Section 1600-1616. A notification to CDFW is recommended due to the location of the project in the Stanislaus River riparian corridor. It is possible CDFW may determine a Streambed Alteration Agreement is not needed as there will be no work in the bed or bank of the Stanislaus River and no removal or riparian vegetation.

- Due to a lack of suitable habitat, it is unlikely that special-status plants occur in the site.

- With the exception of Swainson’s hawk and VELB, no special-status wildlife species are expected to occur in or near the site on more than a very occasional or transitory basis. Swainson’s hawks could potentially nest in trees near the site and VELB may occur in the stems of some of the blue elderberry shrubs along the trails.

- Standard Take Avoidance measures outlined in the HCP for nesting Swainson's hawks will be required. These will include pre-construction surveys for nesting Swainson’s hawks within 0.5 miles of the site for construction activities between March 1 and September 15. If active nests are found, temporal restrictions on construction that are specified in the HCP will be required.

- Some of the take Avoidance measures outlined in the HCP for VELB will be required. A buffer reduction was granted by SJCOG, reducing the standard HCP buffer from 20 feet to 0 feet. No shrubs will be removed and

the project will be required to stake, flag, and/or fence the shrubs throughout construction

- Trees, shrubs, and grasslands in the site could be used by other birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 and/or Fish and Game Code of California, such as white-tailed kite, loggerhead shrike, and red-winged blackbird. If vegetation removal or construction commences during the general avian nesting season (March 1 through July 31), a pre-construction survey for nesting birds is recommended. If active nests are found, work in the vicinity of the nest should be delayed until the young fledge.

- The project site is not within areas that are designated as critical habitat for federally listed species. The Stanislaus River is designated critical habitat for Central Valley steelhead and will be fully avoided by the project.

Please call me at (209) 745-1159 with any questions.

Sincerely,

Diane S. Moore, M.S.
Principal Biologist

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Attachment A

Project Plans

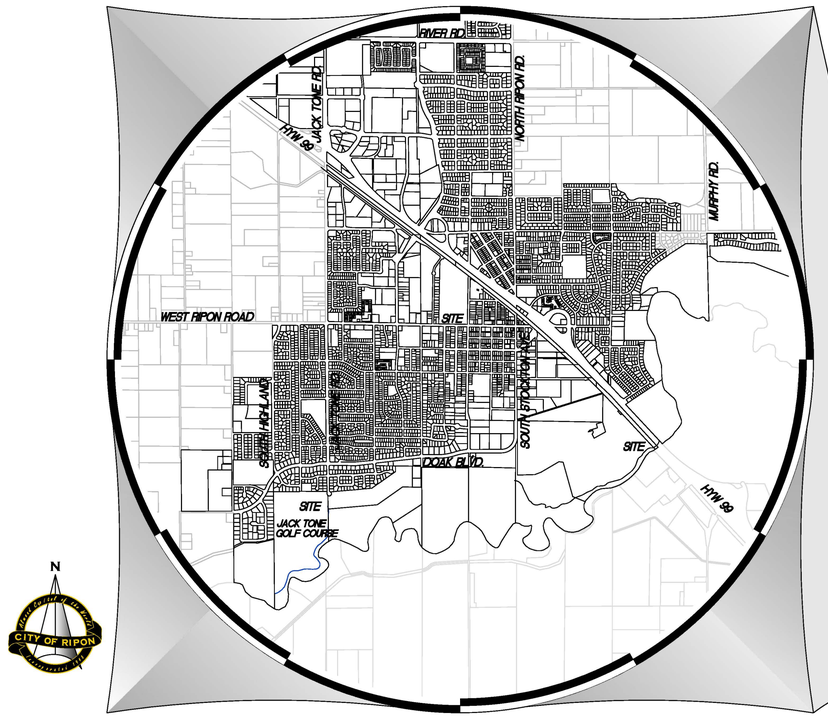
CITY OF RIPON
LOWER STAINISLAUS RIVER MULTI USE TRAIL

SHEET INDEX:

GENERAL NOTES

1. THE CONTRACTOR AGREES THAT HE SHALL ASSUME SOLE AND COMPLETE RESPONSIBILITY FOR JOB SITE CONDITIONS DURING THE COURSE OF CONSTRUCTION OF THIS PROJECT, INCLUDING SAFETY OF ALL PERSONS AND PROPERTY; THAT THIS REQUIREMENT SHALL APPLY CONTINUOUSLY AND NOT BE LIMITED TO NORMAL WORKING HOURS; AND THAT THE CONTRACTOR SHALL DEFEND, INDEMNIFY, AND HOLD THE CITY HARMLESS FROM ANY AND ALL LIABILITY, REAL OR ALLEGED, IN CONNECTION WITH THE PERFORMANCE OF WORK ON THIS PROJECT, EXCEPTING FOR LIABILITY ARISING FROM THE SOLE NEGLIGENCE OF THE CITY OF RIPON.
2. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL NOTIFY MEMBERS OF THE UNDERGROUND SERVICE ALERT (U.S.A.) 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF PERFORMING EXCAVATION WORK BY CALLING THE TOLL-FREE NUMBER (800-642-2444).
3. IT IS THE CONTRACTOR'S RESPONSIBILITY TO VERIFY THE LOCATION OF ALL EXISTING FACILITIES WITHIN THE CONSTRUCTION AREA.
4. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY FIELD CHANGES MADE WITHOUT WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION FROM THE CITY ENGINEER.
5. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL EXPOSE EXISTING STORM DRAINS, SANITARY SEWERS, AND WATER LINES WHERE CONNECTION IS TO BE MADE SO THAT HE CAN VERIFY EXISTING FLOWLINES AND LOCATIONS BEFORE THE START OF CONSTRUCTION.
6. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL CHECK WITH THE UTILITY COMPANIES AND VERIFY ALL UTILITY LOCATIONS. IT SHALL BE THE CONTRACTOR'S SOLE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT ALL EXISTING UTILITIES SO THAT NO DAMAGE RESULTS TO THEM DURING THE PERFORMANCE OF THIS CONTRACT. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL BE REQUIRED TO COOPERATE WITH OTHER CONTRACTORS AND UTILITY COMPANIES INSTALLING NEW STRUCTURES, UTILITIES AND SERVICES TO THE DEVELOPMENT.
7. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL PROVIDE ALL LIGHTS, SIGNS, BARRICADES, FLAGMEN OR OTHER DEVICES NECESSARY TO PROVIDE FOR PUBLIC SAFETY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CURRENT ISSUE OF "MANUAL OF TRAFFIC CONTROLS WARNING SIGNS, LIGHTS AND DEVICES" FOR USE IN PERFORMANCE OF WORK UPON HIGHWAYS PUBLISHED BY THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA BUSINESS AND TRANSPORTATION AGENCY.
8. CONTRACTOR SHALL REMOVE ALL EXISTING BERMS, STRUCTURES AND BARRICADES, PAVING AND/OR OIL SCREENINGS WITHIN SPECIFIC AREAS TO BE IMPROVED.
9. THE OFFICE OF THE CITY ENGINEER SHALL BE NOTIFIED AT LEAST 24 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF ANY WORK.
10. ALL MATERIALS, WORKMANSHIP, AND CONSTRUCTION SHALL BE DONE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CITY OF RIPON, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS STANDARD PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS, AND THE LATEST EDITION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS.
11. GAS AND ELECTRICAL UTILITIES, TELEPHONE AND CABLE TV UNDERGROUND WORK SHALL BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO CONSTRUCTION OF THE CURB, GUTTER, SIDEWALK
12 IF REQUIRED, THE CONTRACTOR SHALL ADEQUATELY DEWATER THE TRENCH AREA IN ADVANCE OF TRENCHING FOR UTILITIES, ETC. LOCATION OF WELLS FOR USE IN DEWATERING MUST BE APPROVED BY THE ENGINEER.
13. THE CITY OF RIPON OR ASSOCIATED UTILITY COMPANY AND RESIDENCES TO BE AFFECTED SHALL BE NOTIFIED IMMEDIATELY UPON ANY UTILITY SERVICE DISRUPTION. A 24-HOUR NOTICE SHALL BE GIVEN FOR ANY PLANNED DISRUPTION.
14. DUST SHALL BE CONTROLLED PER SECTION 10 OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS AND THE CITY OF RIPON'S SPECIFICATIONS.
15. AN ENCROACHMENT PERMIT SHALL BE OBTAINED FROM THE CITY OF RIPON, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, OR ANY OTHER APPLICABLE AGENCIES PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT OF WORK WITHIN EXISTING CITY RIGHT-OF-WAY.
16. THE CONTRACTOR SHALL SECURE A TRENCH PERMIT FROM THE CALIFORNIA DIVISION OF INDUSTRIAL SAFETY PRIOR TO EXCAVATION OF ANY TRENCH OVER FIVE FEET IN
17. CONTRACTOR IS RESPONSIBLE FOR COORDINATION OF THE REMOVAL OR RELOCATION OF ANY DESIGNATED UTILITIES WITH RESPECTIVE UTILITY COMPANIES.
18. SECTION 1540 (a) (1) OF THE CONSTRUCTION SAFETY ORDERS (TITLE 8 CALIFORNIA ADMINISTRATION CODE SECTION 1540), ISSUED BY THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH STANDARDS BOARD PURSUANT TO THE CALIFORNIA OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ACT OF 1973, AS AMENDED, WHICH STATES:

    "PRIOR TO OPENING AN EXCAVATION EFFORT SHALL BE MADE TO DETERMINE WHETHER UNDERGROUND INSTALLATION, I.E., SEWER, WATER, FUEL, ELECTRIC LINES, ETC., WILL BE ENCOUNTERED AND, IF SO, WHERE SUCH UNDERGROUND INSTALLATIONS ARE LOCATED. WHEN THE EXCAVATION APPROACHES THE APPROXIMATE LOCATION OF SUCH AN INSTALLATION, THE EXACT LOCATION SHALL BE DETERMINED BY CAREFUL PROBING OR HAND DIGGING AND WHEN IT IS UNCOVERED, ADEQUATE PROTECTION SHALL BE PROVIDED FOR THE EXISTING INSTALLATION. ALL KNOWN OWNERS OF UNDERGROUND FACILITIES IN THE AREA CONCERNED SHALL BE ADVISED OF PROPOSED WORK AT LEAST 48 HOURS PRIOR TO THE START OF ACTUAL EXCAVATION".
19. CONTRACTOR SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY AND, ALL DAMAGE OCCURRED TO EXISTING UNDERGROUND LATERALS, PIPELINES, ECT..

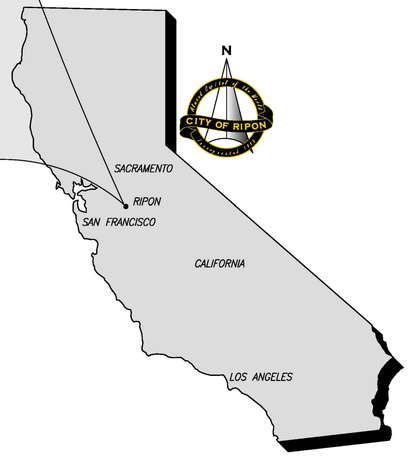


CITY OF RIPON VICINITY MAP
SCALE: 1" = 2,000'

LEGEND:

A.C.	ASPHALTIC CONCRETE
A.B.	AGGREGATE BASE
BP	BEGINNING POINT
EP	END POINT
STA.	CENTER LINE STATION

A/5 SECTION MARKER



CALL BEFORE YOU DIG
UNDERGROUND SERVICES ALERT

CALL USA TOLL FREE
1-800-642-2444

BEFORE PLANTING TREES, TRENCHING, DIGGING FENCE POST HOLES, BLASTING, GRADING, EXCAVATING, DRILLING, PIPE PUSHING, ECT., CALL UNDERGROUND SERVICE ALERT FOR UNDERGROUND CLEARANCE. USA WILL PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT, OR LOCATE ANY AND MARK UNDERGROUND FACILITIES FOR YOU.

APPROVED BY:

CITY ENGINEER

REVISIONS			
NO.	DESCRIPTION	DATE	BY

Almond Capital of the World — CITY OF RIPON — Incorporated 1945

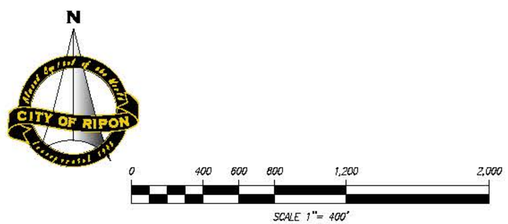
CITY OF RIPON
259 N. WILMA AVE
RIPON, CA 95366
TELEPHONE: (209) 599-2108

JOB #:	
DATE:	2020
SCALE:	NOTED
DRAWN BY:	
CHECKED BY:	
FILE #:	V:\21_City Parks\Lower Stanislaus River Bike Trail\Design\Base Drawing.dwg

CITY OF RIPON
LOWER STAINISLAUS RIVER MULTI USE TRAIL

COVER SHEET

SHEET 1 — OF — 5



APPROVED BY:

CITY ENGINEER

REVISIONS			
NO.	DESCRIPTION	DATE	BY

CITY OF RIPON
259 N. WILMA AVE
RIPON, CA 95366
TELEPHONE: (209) 599-2108

JOB #:	
DATE:	2020
SCALE:	1" = 400'
DRAWN BY:	
CHECKED BY:	
FILE #:	V:\21...City Parks\Lower Stanislaus River Bike Trail\Design\Base Drawing.dwg

CITY OF RIPON
LOWER STAINISLAUS RIVER MULTI USE TRAIL

SITE

SHEET 6 — OF — 6

APPROVED BY:

CITY ENGINEER

REVISIONS			
NO.	DESCRIPTION	DATE	BY

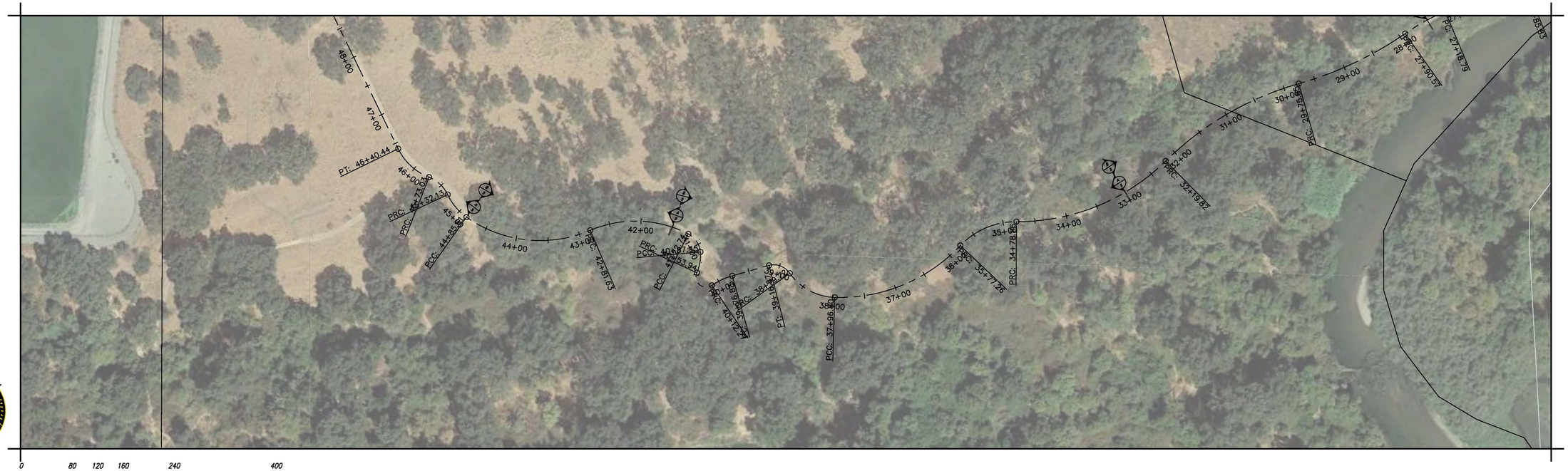
CITY OF RIPON
259 N. WILMA AVE
RIPON, CA 95366
TELEPHONE: (209) 599-2108

JOB #:	
DATE:	2020
SCALE:	NOTED
DRAWN BY:	
CHECKED BY:	
FILE #:	V:\21_City Parks\Lower Stanislaus River Bike Trail\Design\Base Drawing.dwg

CITY OF RIPON
LOWER STANISLAUS RIVER MULTI USE TRAIL

EAST TRAIL SYSTEM
STA. 1+00 TO STA. 37+00

SHEET 2 — OF — 5



0 80 120 160 240 400

SCALE 1"= 80'

N

0 80 120 160 240 400

SCALE 1"= 80'

APPROVED BY:

CITY ENGINEER

REVISIONS			
NO.	DESCRIPTION	DATE	BY

CITY OF RIPON
259 N. WILMA AVE
RIPON, CA 95366
TELEPHONE: (209) 599-2108

JOB #:	
DATE:	2020
SCALE:	NOTED
DRAWN BY:	
CHECKED BY:	
FILE #:	V\21_City Parks\Lower Stanislaus River Bike Trail\Design\Base Drawing.dwg

CITY OF RIPON
LOWER STAINISLAUS RIVER MULTI USE TRAIL

EAST TRAIL SYSTEM
STA. 29+00 TO STA. 53+52

APPROVED BY:

CITY ENGINEER

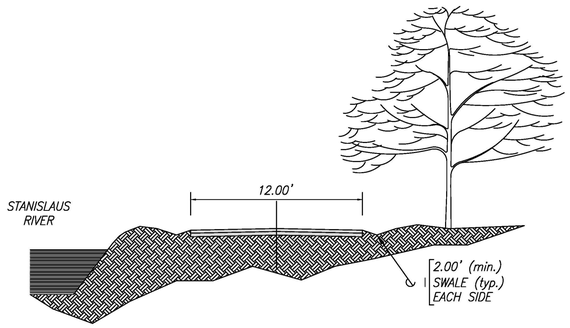
REVISIONS			
NO.	DESCRIPTION	DATE	BY

CITY OF RIPON
259 N. WILMA AVE
RIPON, CA 95366
TELEPHONE: (209) 599-2108

JOB #:	
DATE:	2020
SCALE:	NOTED
DRAWN BY:	
CHECKED BY:	
FILE #:	V:\21_City Parks\Lower Stanislaus River Bike Trail\Design\Base Drawing.dwg

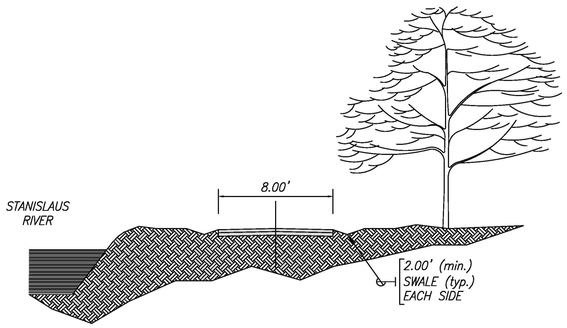
CITY OF RIPON
LOWER STAINISLAUS RIVER MULTI USE TRAIL

WEST TRAIL SYSTEM
STA. 1+00 TO STA. 36+80



2 ½" A.C. OVER 3" A.B. (typ.)
2% CROSS SLOPE FROM CL

TYPICAL CROSS SECTION
SECTION A - 5



2 ½" A.C. OVER 3" A.B. (typ.)
2% CROSS SLOPE FROM CL

TYPICAL CROSS SECTION
SECTION B - 5

APPROVED BY:

CITY ENGINEER

REVISIONS

NO.	DESCRIPTION	DATE	BY

CITY OF RIPON
259 N. WILMA AVE
RIPON, CA 95366
TELEPHONE: (209) 599-2108

JOB #:	
DATE:	2020
SCALE:	NOTED
DRAWN BY:	
CHECKED BY:	
FILE #:	V:\21_City Parks\Lower Stanislaus River Bike Trail\Design\Base Drawing.dwg

CITY OF RIPON
LOWER STAINISLAUS RIVER MULTI USE TRAIL

DETAILS

SHEET 5 — OF — 5

Attachment B

CNDDB Summary Report and Exhibits & USFWS

IPaC Trust Report

Selected Elements by Scientific Name

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

California Natural Diversity Database

Query Criteria: Quad IS (Salida (3712161) OR Ripon (3712162) OR Avena (3712171) OR Manteca (3712172))

Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
Acipenser medirostris pop. 1 green sturgeon - southern DPS	AFCAA01031	Threatened	None	G2T1	S1	
Agelaius tricolor tricolored blackbird	ABPBXB0020	None	Threatened	G1G2	S2	SSC
Ambystoma californiense pop. 1 California tiger salamander - central California DPS	AAAAA01181	Threatened	Threatened	G2G3T3	S3	WL
Anniella pulchra Northern California legless lizard	ARACC01020	None	None	G3	S2S3	SSC
Atriplex minuscula lesser saltscale	PDCHE042M0	None	None	G2	S2	1B.1
Bombus caliginosus obscure bumble bee	IIHYM24380	None	None	G2G3	S1S2	
Bombus crotchii Crotch bumble bee	IIHYM24480	None	Candidate Endangered	G2	S2	
Bombus occidentalis western bumble bee	IIHYM24252	None	Candidate Endangered	G3	S1	
Bombus pensylvanicus American bumble bee	IIHYM24260	None	None	G3G4	S2	
Branchinecta conservatio Conservancy fairy shrimp	ICBRA03010	Endangered	None	G2	S2	
Branchinecta lynchi vernal pool fairy shrimp	ICBRA03030	Threatened	None	G3	S3	
Branta hutchinsii leucopareia cackling (=Aleutian Canada) goose	ABNJB05035	Delisted	None	G5T3	S3	WL
Buteo swainsoni Swainson's hawk	ABNKC19070	None	Threatened	G5	S4	
Coccyzus americanus occidentalis western yellow-billed cuckoo	ABNRB02022	Threatened	Endangered	G5T2T3	S1	
Desmocerus californicus dimorphus valley elderberry longhorn beetle	IICOL48011	Threatened	None	G3T3	S3	
Elderberry Savanna Elderberry Savanna	CTT63440CA	None	None	G2	S2.1	
Eryngium racemosum Delta button-celery	PDAPI0Z0S0	None	Endangered	G1	S1	1B.1
Falco columbarius merlin	ABNKD06030	None	None	G5	S3S4	WL
Great Valley Cottonwood Riparian Forest Great Valley Cottonwood Riparian Forest	CTT61410CA	None	None	G2	S2.1	

Selected Elements by Scientific Name

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

California Natural Diversity Database

Species	Element Code	Federal Status	State Status	Global Rank	State Rank	Rare Plant Rank/CDFW SSC or FP
Great Valley Mixed Riparian Forest	CTT61420CA	None	None	G2	S2.2	
Great Valley Mixed Riparian Forest						
Great Valley Valley Oak Riparian Forest	CTT61430CA	None	None	G1	S1.1	
Great Valley Valley Oak Riparian Forest						
Lasthenia chrysantha	PDAST5L030	None	None	G2	S2	1B.1
alkali-sink goldfields						
Lepidurus packardi	ICBRA10010	Endangered	None	G3	S3	
vernal pool tadpole shrimp						
Linderiella occidentalis	ICBRA06010	None	None	G2G3	S2S3	
California linderiella						
Lytta moesta	IICOL4C020	None	None	G2	S2	
moestan blister beetle						
Mylopharodon conocephalus	AFCJB25010	None	None	G3	S3	SSC
hardhead						
Neotoma fuscipes riparia	AMAFF08081	Endangered	None	G5T1	S1	SSC
riparian (=San Joaquin Valley) woodrat						
Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus pop. 11	AFCHA0209K	Threatened	None	G5T2Q	S2	
steelhead - Central Valley DPS						
Puccinellia simplex	PMPOA53110	None	None	G2	S2	1B.2
California alkali grass						
Rhaphiomidas trochilus	IIDIP05010	None	None	G1	S1	
San Joaquin Valley giant flower-loving fly						
Spea hammondii	AAABF02020	None	None	G2G3	S3S4	SSC
western spadefoot						
Sylvilagus bachmani riparius	AMAEB01021	Endangered	Endangered	G5T1	S2	
riparian brush rabbit						

Record Count: 32

recurved larkspur

Greene's tuctoria

caper-fruited tropidocarpum

Study Area

Delta button-celery

Great Valley Valley Oak Riparian Forest

Great Valley Mixed Riparian Forest

slough thistle

Great Valley Cottonwood Riparian Forest

Great Valley Cottonwood Riparian Forest

California alkali grass

lesser saltscale

alkali-sink goldfields

Great Valley Valley Oak Riparian Forest

alkali-sink goldfields

prairie wedge grass

CNDDB PLANT

Lower Stanislaus River Trail

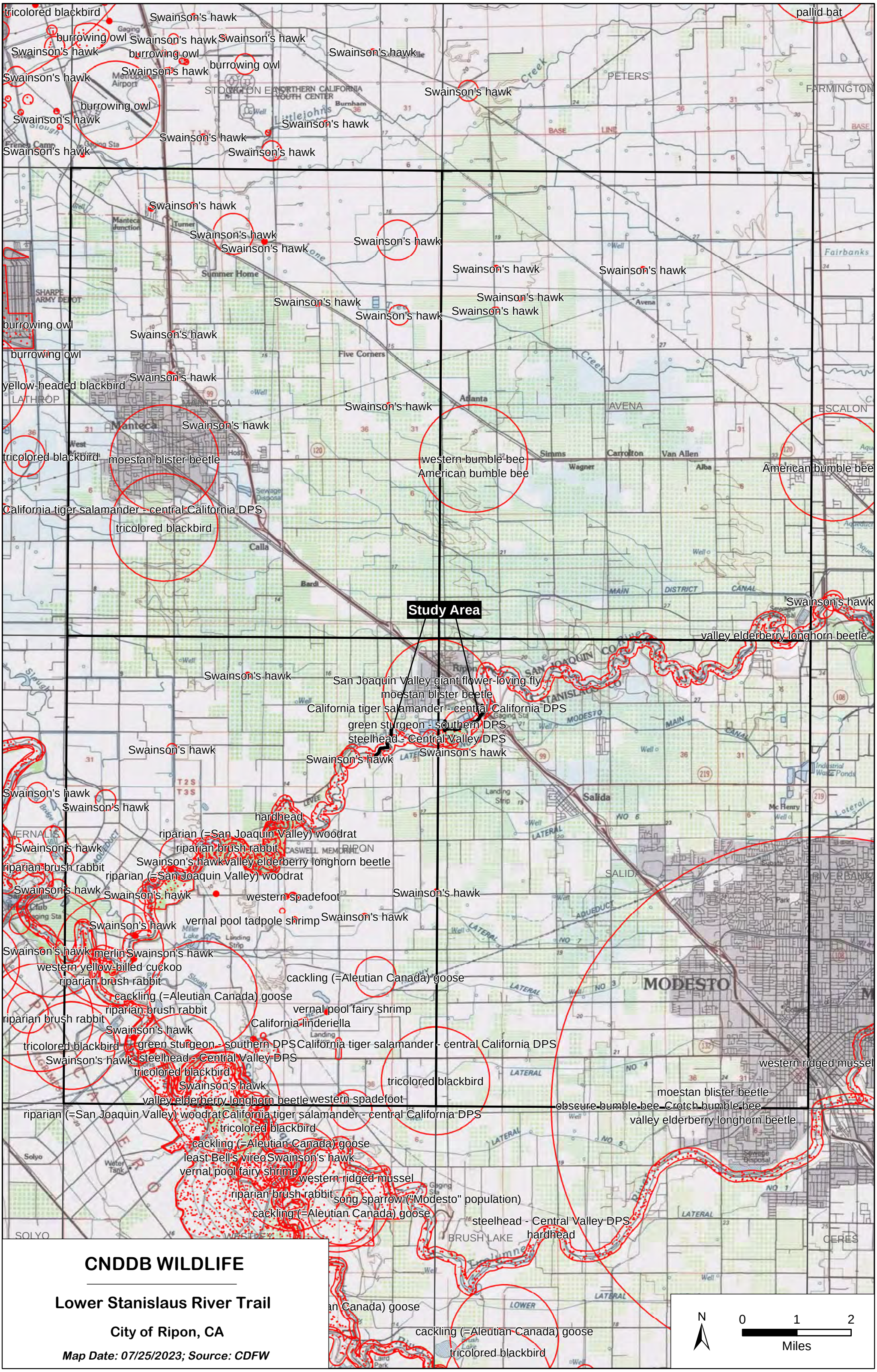
City of Ripon, CA

Map Date: 07/25/2023; Source: CDFW

N

0 1 2

Miles


tricolored blackbird
Swainson's hawk
pallid bat
burrowing owl
Swainson's hawk
Swainson's hawk
Swainson's hawk
burrowing owl
Swainson's hawk
burrowing owl
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Swainson's hawk
burrowing owl
Swainson's hawk
burrowing owl
yellow-headed blackbird
Swainson's hawk
Swainson's hawk
tricolored blackbird
moestan blister beetle
western bumble bee
American bumble bee
American bumble bee
California tiger salamander - central California DPS
tricolored blackbird
Study Area
Swainson's hawk
valley elderberry longhorn beetle
Swainson's hawk
San Joaquin Valley giant flower-loving fly
moestan blister beetle
California tiger salamander - central California DPS
green sturgeon - southern DPS
steelhead - Central Valley DPS
Swainson's hawk
Swainson's hawk
Swainson's hawk
Swainson's hawk
hardhead
riparian (=San Joaquin Valley) woodrat
riparian brush rabbit
Swainson's hawk
valley elderberry longhorn beetle
riparian brush rabbit
riparian (=San Joaquin Valley) woodrat
Swainson's hawk
Swainson's hawk
western spadefoot
Swainson's hawk
vernal pool tadpole shrimp
Swainson's hawk
Swainson's hawk
merlin
Swainson's hawk
western yellow-billed cuckoo
riparian brush rabbit
cackling (=Aleutian Canada) goose
cackling (=Aleutian Canada) goose
riparian brush rabbit
vernal pool fairy shrimp
riparian brush rabbit
California linderiella
Swainson's hawk
tricolored blackbird
green sturgeon - southern DPS
California tiger salamander - central California DPS
Swainson's hawk
steelhead - Central Valley DPS
western ridged mussel
tricolored blackbird
Swainson's hawk
tricolored blackbird
moestan blister beetle
valley elderberry longhorn beetle
western spadefoot
obscure bumble bee
Crotch bumble bee
riparian (=San Joaquin Valley) woodrat
California tiger salamander - central California DPS
valley elderberry longhorn beetle
tricolored blackbird
cackling (=Aleutian Canada) goose
least Bell's vireo
Swainson's hawk
vernal pool fairy shrimp
western ridged mussel
riparian brush rabbit
song sparrow ("Modesto" population)
cackling (=Aleutian Canada) goose
steelhead - Central Valley DPS
hardhead
cackling (=Aleutian Canada) goose
cackling (=Aleutian Canada) goose
tricolored blackbird
CNDDB WILDLIFE
Lower Stanislaus River Trail
City of Ripon, CA
Map Date: 07/25/2023; Source: CDFW
N
0
1
2
Miles

IPaC **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service**

IPaC resource list

This report is an automatically generated list of species and other resources such as critical habitat (collectively referred to as *trust resources*) under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) jurisdiction that are known or expected to be on or near the project area referenced below. The list may also include trust resources that occur outside of the project area, but that could potentially be directly or indirectly affected by activities in the project area. However, determining the likelihood and extent of effects a project may have on trust resources typically requires gathering additional site-specific (e.g., vegetation/species surveys) and project-specific (e.g., magnitude and timing of proposed activities) information.

Below is a summary of the project information you provided and contact information for the USFWS office(s) with jurisdiction in the defined project area. Please read the introduction to each section that follows (Endangered Species, Migratory Birds, USFWS Facilities, and NWI Wetlands) for additional information applicable to the trust resources addressed in that section.

Location

San Joaquin and Stanislaus counties, California

Local office

Sacramento Fish And Wildlife Office

(916) 414-6600
(916) 414-6713

Federal Building

Federal Building
2800 Cottage Way, Room W-2605
Sacramento, CA 95825-1846

Endangered species

This resource list is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an analysis of project level impacts.

The primary information used to generate this list is the known or expected range of each species. Additional areas of influence (AOI) for species are also considered. An AOI includes areas outside of the species range if the species could be indirectly affected by activities in that area (e.g., placing a dam upstream of a fish population even if that fish does not occur at the dam site, may indirectly impact the species by reducing or eliminating water flow downstream). Because species can move, and site conditions can change, the species on this list are not guaranteed to be found on or near the project area. To fully determine any potential effects to species, additional site-specific and project-specific information is often required.

Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act **requires** Federal agencies to "request of the Secretary information whether any species which is listed or proposed to be listed may be present in the area of such proposed action" for any project that is conducted, permitted, funded, or licensed by any Federal agency. A letter from the local office and a species list which fulfills this requirement can **only** be obtained by requesting an official species list from either the Regulatory Review section in IPaC (see directions below) or from the local field office directly.

For project evaluations that require USFWS concurrence/review, please return to the IPaC website and request an official species list by doing the following:

1. Draw the project location and click CONTINUE.
2. Click DEFINE PROJECT.
3. Log in (if directed to do so).
4. Provide a name and description for your project.
5. Click REQUEST SPECIES LIST.

Listed species[1] and their critical habitats are managed by the Ecological Services Program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the fisheries division of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA Fisheries[2]).

Species and critical habitats under the sole responsibility of NOAA Fisheries are **not** shown on this list. Please contact NOAA Fisheries for species under their jurisdiction.

---

1. Species listed under the Endangered Species Act are threatened or endangered; IPaC also shows species that are candidates, or proposed, for listing. See the listing status page for more information. IPaC only shows species that are regulated by USFWS (see FAQ).

2. NOAA Fisheries, also known as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), is an office of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration within the Department of Commerce.

The following species are potentially affected by activities in this location:

Mammals

NAME	STATUS
Riparian Brush Rabbit Sylvilagus bachmani riparius Wherever found No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6189	Endangered
Riparian Woodrat (=san Joaquin Valley) Neotoma fuscipes riparia Wherever found No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6191	Endangered

Birds

NAME	STATUS
Least Bell's Vireo Vireo bellii pusillus Wherever found There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/5945	Endangered
Yellow-billed Cuckoo Coccyzus americanus There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3911	Threatened

Amphibians

NAME	STATUS
California Tiger Salamander Ambystoma californiense There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2076	Threatened

Insects

NAME	STATUS
Monarch Butterfly Danaus plexippus Wherever found No critical habitat has been designated for this species. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9743	Candidate
Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle Desmocerus californicus dimorphus Wherever found There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/7850	Threatened

Crustaceans

NAME	STATUS
Conservancy Fairy Shrimp Branchinecta conservatio Wherever found There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8246	Endangered
Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp Branchinecta lynchi Wherever found There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/498	Threatened
Vernal Pool Tadpole Shrimp Lepidurus packardi Wherever found There is **final** critical habitat for this species. Your location does not overlap the critical habitat. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2246	Endangered

Critical habitats

Potential effects to critical habitat(s) in this location must be analyzed along with the endangered species themselves.

There are no critical habitats at this location.

You are still required to determine if your project(s) may have effects on all above listed species.

Bald & Golden Eagles

Bald and golden eagles are protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to bald or golden eagles, or their habitats, should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described below.

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Eagle Managment https://www.fws.gov/program/eagle-management
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf

There are bald and/or golden eagles in your project area.

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list,click on the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY at the top of your list to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Bald Eagle Haliaeetus leucocephalus This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.	Breeds Jan 1 to Aug 31
Golden Eagle Aquila chrysaetos This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1680	Breeds Jan 1 to Aug 31

Probability of Presence Summary

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read and understand the FAQ "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (■)

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. (A year is represented as 12 4-week months.) A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort (see below) can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score. One can have higher confidence in the presence score if the corresponding survey effort is also high.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

1. The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.
2. To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is 0.25/0.25 = 1; at week 20 it is 0.05/0.25 = 0.2.
3. The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

To see a bar's probability of presence score, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

Breeding Season (■)
Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

Survey Effort (|)
Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps. The number of surveys is expressed as a range, for example, 33 to 64 surveys.

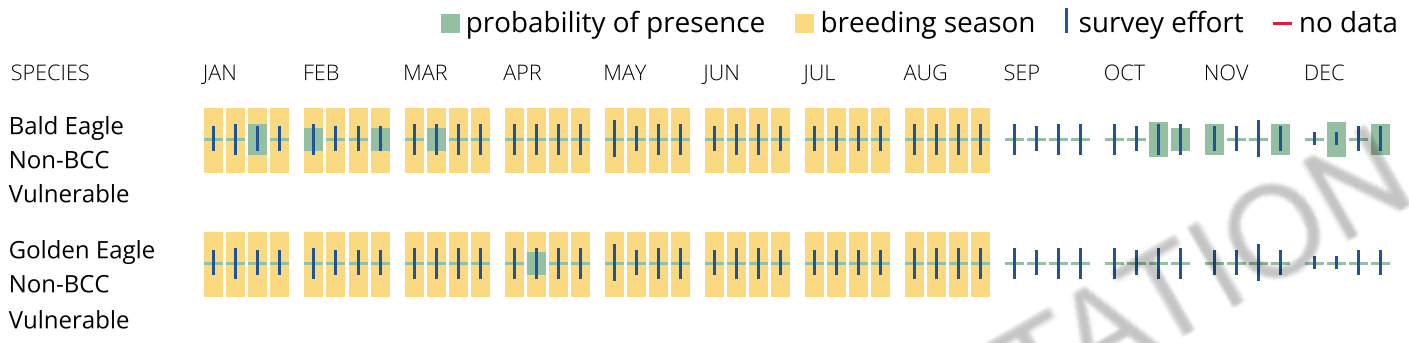
To see a bar's survey effort range, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

No Data (–)

A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

Survey Timeframe

Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.



What does IPaC use to generate the potential presence of bald and golden eagles in my specified location?

The potential for eagle presence is derived from data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are a BCC species in that area, an eagle (Eagle Act requirements may apply). To see a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the Rapid Avian Information Locator (RAIL) Tool.

What does IPaC use to generate the probability of presence graphs of bald and golden eagles in my specified location?

The Migratory Bird Resource List is comprised of USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) and other species that may warrant special attention in your project location.

The migratory bird list generated for your project is derived from data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are a BCC species in that area, an eagle (Eagle Act requirements may apply), or a species that has a particular vulnerability to offshore activities or development.

Again, the Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in your project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in your project area. To get a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the Rapid Avian Information Locator (RAIL) Tool.

What if I have eagles on my list?

If your project has the potential to disturb or kill eagles, you may need to obtain a permit to avoid violating the Eagle Act should such impacts occur. Please contact your local Fish and Wildlife Service Field Office if you have questions.

Migratory birds

Certain birds are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act[1] and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act[2].

Any person or organization who plans or conducts activities that may result in impacts to migratory birds, eagles, and their habitats should follow appropriate regulations and consider implementing appropriate conservation measures, as described below.

1. The Migratory Birds Treaty Act of 1918.
2. The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1940.

Additional information can be found using the following links:

- Birds of Conservation Concern https://www.fws.gov/program/migratory-birds/species
- Measures for avoiding and minimizing impacts to birds https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/avoiding-and-minimizing-incidental-take-migratory-birds
- Nationwide conservation measures for birds https://www.fws.gov/sites/default/files/documents/nationwide-standard-conservation-measures.pdf

The birds listed below are birds of particular concern either because they occur on the USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) list or warrant special attention in your project location. To learn more about the levels of concern for birds on your list and how this list is generated, see the FAQ below. This is not a list of every bird you may find in this location, nor a guarantee that every bird on this list will be found in your project area. To see exact locations of where birders and the general public have sighted birds in and around your project area, visit the E-bird data mapping tool (Tip: enter your location, desired date range and a species on your list). For projects that occur off the Atlantic Coast, additional maps and models detailing the relative occurrence and abundance of bird species on your list are available. Links to additional information about Atlantic Coast birds, and other important information about your migratory bird list, including how to properly interpret and use your migratory bird report, can be found below.

For guidance on when to schedule activities or implement avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impacts to migratory birds on your list, click on the PROBABILITY OF PRESENCE SUMMARY at the top of your list to see when these birds are most likely to be present and breeding in your project area.

NAME	BREEDING SEASON
Bald Eagle *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.	Breeds Jan 1 to Aug 31
Belding's Savannah Sparrow *Passerculus sandwichensis beldingi* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/8	Breeds Apr 1 to Aug 15
Black Tern *Chlidonias niger* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3093	Breeds May 15 to Aug 20
Bullock's Oriole *Icterus bullockii* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA	Breeds Mar 21 to Jul 25
California Gull *Larus californicus* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds Mar 1 to Jul 31
California Thrasher *Toxostoma redivivum* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.	Breeds Jan 1 to Jul 31
Cassin's Finch *Carpodacus cassinii* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska. https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9462	Breeds May 15 to Jul 15
Common Yellowthroat *Geothlypis trichas sinuosa* This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/2084	Breeds May 20 to Jul 31

Golden Eagle Aquila chrysaetos — Breeds Jan 1 to Aug 31

This is not a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) in this area, but warrants attention because of the Eagle Act or for potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities.
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/1680

Lawrence's Goldfinch Carduelis lawrencei — Breeds Mar 20 to Sep 20

This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9464

Marbled Godwit Limosa fedoa — Breeds elsewhere

This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9481

Nuttall's Woodpecker Picoides nuttallii — Breeds Apr 1 to Jul 20

This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9410

Oak Titmouse Baeolophus inornatus — Breeds Mar 15 to Jul 15

This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9656

Olive-sided Flycatcher Contopus cooperi — Breeds May 20 to Aug 31

This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3914

Short-billed Dowitcher Limnodromus griseus — Breeds elsewhere

This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9480

Tricolored Blackbird Agelaius tricolor — Breeds Mar 15 to Aug 10

This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/3910

Western Grebe aechmophorus occidentalis — Breeds Jun 1 to Aug 31
This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/6743

Willet Tringa semipalmata — Breeds elsewhere
This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.

Wrentit Chamaea fasciata — Breeds Mar 15 to Aug 10
This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.

Yellow-billed Magpie Pica nuttalli — Breeds Apr 1 to Jul 31
This is a Bird of Conservation Concern (BCC) throughout its range in the continental USA and Alaska.
https://ecos.fws.gov/ecp/species/9726

Probability of Presence Summary

The graphs below provide our best understanding of when birds of concern are most likely to be present in your project area. This information can be used to tailor and schedule your project activities to avoid or minimize impacts to birds. Please make sure you read and understand the FAQ "Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report" before using or attempting to interpret this report.

Probability of Presence (▪)

Each green bar represents the bird's relative probability of presence in the 10km grid cell(s) your project overlaps during a particular week of the year. (A year is represented as 12 4-week months.) A taller bar indicates a higher probability of species presence. The survey effort (see below) can be used to establish a level of confidence in the presence score. One can have higher confidence in the presence score if the corresponding survey effort is also high.

How is the probability of presence score calculated? The calculation is done in three steps:

1. The probability of presence for each week is calculated as the number of survey events in the week where the species was detected divided by the total number of survey events for that week. For example, if in week 12 there were 20 survey events and the Spotted Towhee was found in 5 of them, the probability of presence of the Spotted Towhee in week 12 is 0.25.
2. To properly present the pattern of presence across the year, the relative probability of presence is calculated. This is the probability of presence divided by the maximum probability of presence across all weeks. For example, imagine the probability of presence

in week 20 for the Spotted Towhee is 0.05, and that the probability of presence at week 12 (0.25) is the maximum of any week of the year. The relative probability of presence on week 12 is 0.25/0.25 = 1; at week 20 it is 0.05/0.25 = 0.2.

3. The relative probability of presence calculated in the previous step undergoes a statistical conversion so that all possible values fall between 0 and 10, inclusive. This is the probability of presence score.

To see a bar's probability of presence score, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

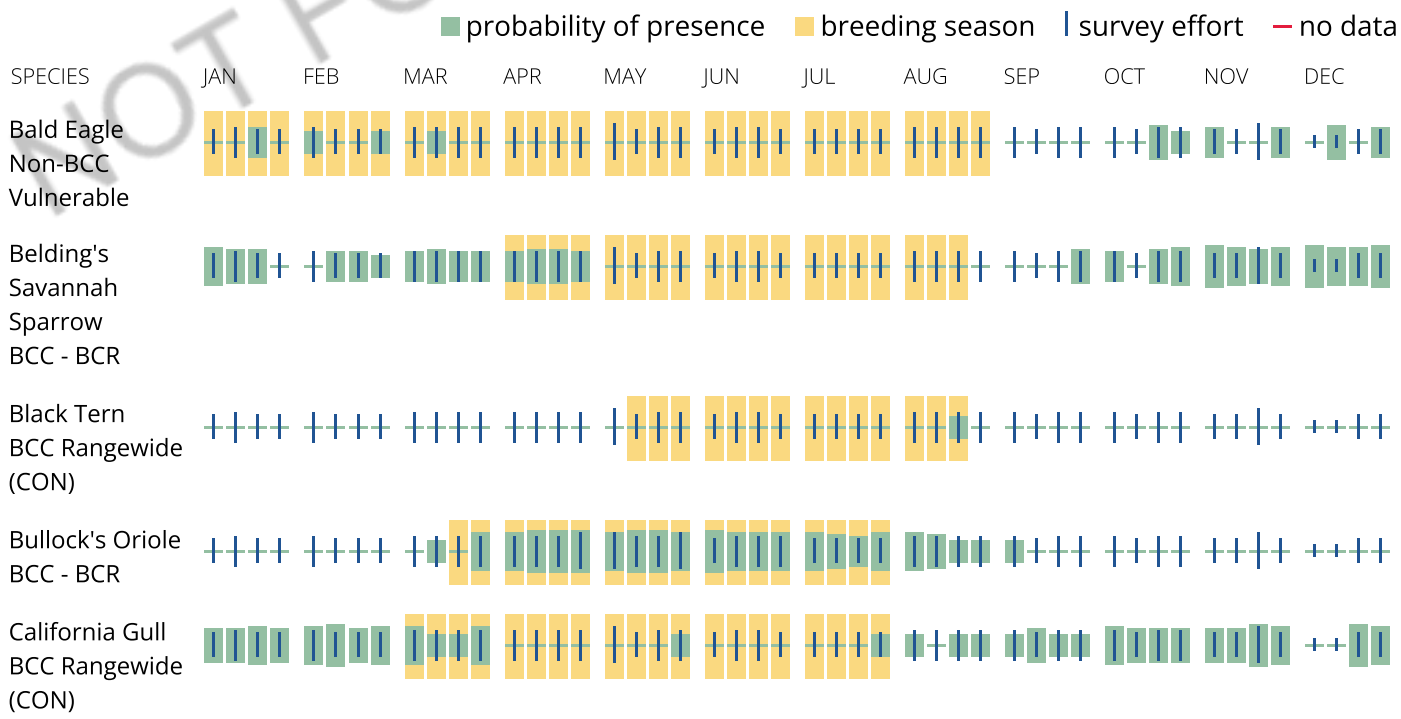
Breeding Season (▪)
Yellow bars denote a very liberal estimate of the time-frame inside which the bird breeds across its entire range. If there are no yellow bars shown for a bird, it does not breed in your project area.

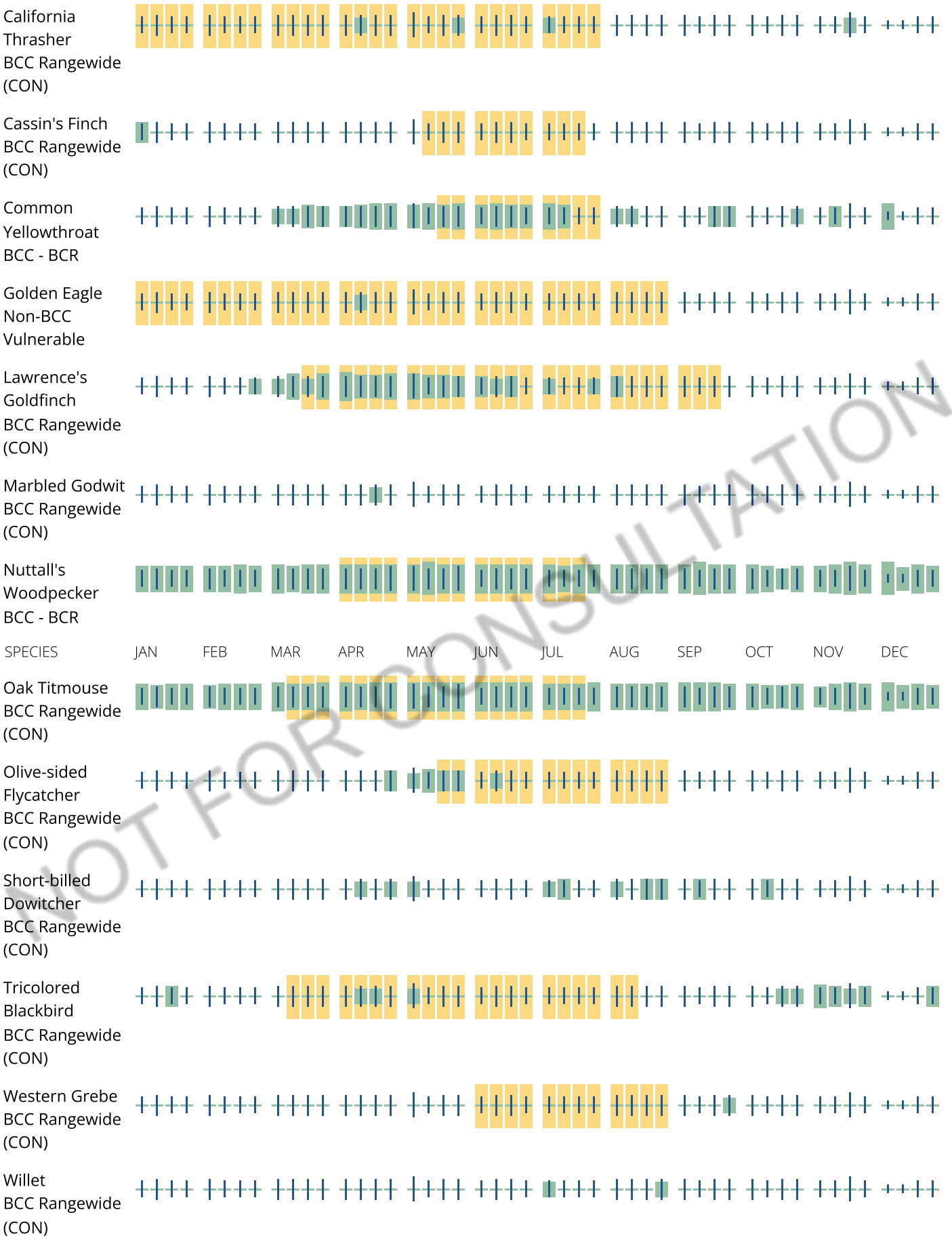
Survey Effort (|)
Vertical black lines superimposed on probability of presence bars indicate the number of surveys performed for that species in the 10km grid cell(s) your project area overlaps. The number of surveys is expressed as a range, for example, 33 to 64 surveys.

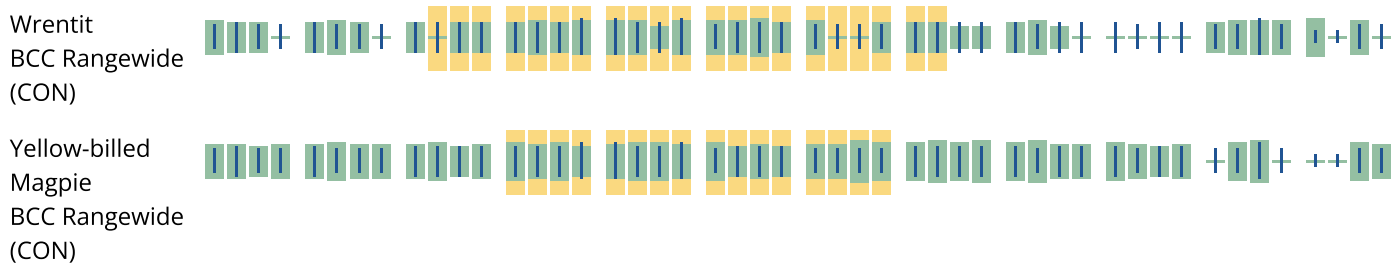
To see a bar's survey effort range, simply hover your mouse cursor over the bar.

No Data (–)
A week is marked as having no data if there were no survey events for that week.

Survey Timeframe
Surveys from only the last 10 years are used in order to ensure delivery of currently relevant information. The exception to this is areas off the Atlantic coast, where bird returns are based on all years of available data, since data in these areas is currently much more sparse.







Tell me more about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds.

Nationwide Conservation Measures describes measures that can help avoid and minimize impacts to all birds at any location year round. Implementation of these measures is particularly important when birds are most likely to occur in the project area. When birds may be breeding in the area, identifying the locations of any active nests and avoiding their destruction is a very helpful impact minimization measure. To see when birds are most likely to occur and be breeding in your project area, view the Probability of Presence Summary. Additional measures or permits may be advisable depending on the type of activity you are conducting and the type of infrastructure or bird species present on your project site.

What does IPaC use to generate the list of migratory birds that potentially occur in my specified location?

The Migratory Bird Resource List is comprised of USFWS Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) and other species that may warrant special attention in your project location.

The migratory bird list generated for your project is derived from data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). The AKN data is based on a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets and is queried and filtered to return a list of those birds reported as occurring in the 10km grid cell(s) which your project intersects, and that have been identified as warranting special attention because they are a BCC species in that area, an eagle (Eagle Act requirements may apply), or a species that has a particular vulnerability to offshore activities or development.

Again, the Migratory Bird Resource list includes only a subset of birds that may occur in your project area. It is not representative of all birds that may occur in your project area. To get a list of all birds potentially present in your project area, please visit the Rapid Avian Information Locator (RAIL) Tool.

What does IPaC use to generate the probability of presence graphs for the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location?

The probability of presence graphs associated with your migratory bird list are based on data provided by the Avian Knowledge Network (AKN). This data is derived from a growing collection of survey, banding, and citizen science datasets.

Probability of presence data is continuously being updated as new and better information becomes available. To learn more about how the probability of presence graphs are produced and how to interpret them, go the Probability of Presence Summary and then click on the "Tell me about these graphs" link.

How do I know if a bird is breeding, wintering or migrating in my area?

To see what part of a particular bird's range your project area falls within (i.e. breeding, wintering, migrating or year-round), you may query your location using the RAIL Tool and look at the range maps provided for birds in your area at the bottom of the profiles provided for each bird in your results. If a bird on your migratory bird species list has a breeding season associated with it, if that bird does occur in your project area, there may be nests present at some point within the timeframe specified. If "Breeds elsewhere" is indicated, then the bird likely does not breed in your project area.

What are the levels of concern for migratory birds?

Migratory birds delivered through IPaC fall into the following distinct categories of concern:

1. "BCC Rangewide" birds are Birds of Conservation Concern (BCC) that are of concern throughout their range anywhere within the USA (including Hawaii, the Pacific Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands);
2. "BCC - BCR" birds are BCCs that are of concern only in particular Bird Conservation Regions (BCRs) in the continental USA; and
3. "Non-BCC - Vulnerable" birds are not BCC species in your project area, but appear on your list either because of the Eagle Act requirements (for eagles) or (for non-eagles) potential susceptibilities in offshore areas from certain types of development or activities (e.g. offshore energy development or longline fishing).

Although it is important to try to avoid and minimize impacts to all birds, efforts should be made, in particular, to avoid and minimize impacts to the birds on this list, especially eagles and BCC species of rangewide concern. For more information on conservation measures you can implement to help avoid and minimize migratory bird impacts and requirements for eagles, please see the FAQs for these topics.

Details about birds that are potentially affected by offshore projects

For additional details about the relative occurrence and abundance of both individual bird species and groups of bird species within your project area off the Atlantic Coast, please visit the Northeast Ocean Data Portal. The Portal also offers data and information about other taxa besides birds that may be helpful to you in your project review. Alternately, you may download the bird model results files underlying the portal maps through the NOAA NCCOS Integrative Statistical Modeling and Predictive Mapping of Marine Bird Distributions and Abundance on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf project webpage.

Bird tracking data can also provide additional details about occurrence and habitat use throughout the year, including migration. Models relying on survey data may not include this information. For additional information on marine bird tracking data, see the Diving Bird Study and the nanotag studies or contact Caleb Spiegel or Pam Loring.

What if I have eagles on my list?

If your project has the potential to disturb or kill eagles, you may need to obtain a permit to avoid violating the Eagle Act should such impacts occur.

Proper Interpretation and Use of Your Migratory Bird Report

The migratory bird list generated is not a list of all birds in your project area, only a subset of birds of priority concern. To learn more about how your list is generated, and see options for identifying what other birds may be in your project area, please see the FAQ "What does IPaC use to generate the migratory birds potentially occurring in my specified location". Please be aware this report provides the "probability of

presence" of birds within the 10 km grid cell(s) that overlap your project; not your exact project footprint. On the graphs provided, please also look carefully at the survey effort (indicated by the black vertical bar) and for the existence of the "no data" indicator (a red horizontal bar). A high survey effort is the key component. If the survey effort is high, then the probability of presence score can be viewed as more dependable. In contrast, a low survey effort bar or no data bar means a lack of data and, therefore, a lack of certainty about presence of the species. This list is not perfect; it is simply a starting point for identifying what birds of concern have the potential to be in your project area, when they might be there, and if they might be breeding (which means nests might be present). The list helps you know what to look for to confirm presence, and helps guide you in knowing when to implement conservation measures to avoid or minimize potential impacts from your project activities, should presence be confirmed. To learn more about conservation measures, visit the FAQ "Tell me about conservation measures I can implement to avoid or minimize impacts to migratory birds" at the bottom of your migratory bird trust resources page.

Facilities

National Wildlife Refuge lands

Any activity proposed on lands managed by the National Wildlife Refuge system must undergo a 'Compatibility Determination' conducted by the Refuge. Please contact the individual Refuges to discuss any questions or concerns.

This location overlaps the following National Wildlife Refuge lands:

LAND	ACRES
SAN JOAQUIN RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE	6,530.65 acres

Fish hatcheries

There are no fish hatcheries at this location.

Wetlands in the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI)

Impacts to NWI wetlands and other aquatic habitats may be subject to regulation under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, or other State/Federal statutes.

For more information please contact the Regulatory Program of the local U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District.

Please note that the NWI data being shown may be out of date. We are currently working to update our NWI data set. We recommend you verify these results with a site visit to determine the actual extent of wetlands on site.

This location overlaps the following wetlands:

FRESHWATER EMERGENT WETLAND

- PEM1C
- PEM1Ax

FRESHWATER FORESTED/SHRUB WETLAND

- PFOC
- PFOA
- PSSA
- PSSC

FRESHWATER POND

- PUBKx
- PUBH
- PUSKx
- PUBHx
- PUBFx

RIVERINE

- R2UBH
- R2UBHx
- R4SBCx
- R5UBFx
- R5UBF

A full description for each wetland code can be found at the National Wetlands Inventory website

NOTE: This initial screening does **not** replace an on-site delineation to determine whether wetlands occur. Additional information on the NWI data is provided below.

Data limitations

The Service's objective of mapping wetlands and deepwater habitats is to produce reconnaissance level information on the location, type and size of these resources. The maps are prepared from the analysis of high altitude imagery. Wetlands are identified based on vegetation, visible hydrology and geography. A margin of error is inherent in the use of imagery; thus, detailed on-the-ground inspection of any particular site may result in revision of the wetland boundaries or classification established through image analysis.

The accuracy of image interpretation depends on the quality of the imagery, the experience of the image analysts, the amount and quality of the collateral data and the amount of ground truth verification work conducted. Metadata should be consulted to determine the date of the source imagery used and any mapping problems.

Wetlands or other mapped features may have changed since the date of the imagery or field work. There may be occasional differences in polygon boundaries or classifications between the information depicted on the map and the actual conditions on site.

Data exclusions

Certain wetland habitats are excluded from the National mapping program because of the limitations of aerial imagery as the primary data source used to detect wetlands. These habitats include seagrasses or submerged aquatic vegetation that are found in the intertidal and subtidal zones of estuaries and nearshore coastal waters. Some deepwater reef communities (coral or tuberficid worm reefs) have also been excluded from the inventory. These habitats, because of their depth, go undetected by aerial imagery.

Data precautions

Federal, state, and local regulatory agencies with jurisdiction over wetlands may define and describe wetlands in a different manner than that used in this inventory. There is no attempt, in either the design or products of this inventory, to define the limits of proprietary jurisdiction of any Federal, state, or local government or to establish the geographical scope of the regulatory programs of government agencies. Persons intending to engage in activities involving modifications within or adjacent to wetland areas should seek the advice of appropriate Federal, state, or local agencies concerning specified agency regulatory programs and proprietary jurisdictions that may affect such activities.

Attachment C

Photographs

Existing bike path at the east end of the project site, looking northwest; 03/15/21. The proposed bike path will tie into the existing bike path.

Elderberry Shrub #11, looking southeast from the east part of the East Trail; 03/15/21.

Elderberry Hedge #17 (left) and Elderberry Hedge #18 (right), looking northeast from the east part of the East Trail; 03/15/21.

Elderberry Hedge #22 (right), looking east from the east part of the East Trail; 03/15/21.

Raptor stick nest within a tree a few hundred feet north of the proposed bike trail, looking northwest from the approximate central part of the East Trail; 03/15/21. There were a few raptor stick nests observed in trees from the bike path.

The Stanislaus River, looking northeast from the approximate central part of the East Trail; 03/15/21.

Elderberry Shrub #53 (circled) and Elderberry Shrub #54 (right), looking northeast from the west part of the East Trail; 03/15/21.

Oak woodland at the west part of the East Trail, looking east; 03/15/21.

Open grassland and oak woodland at the west part of the East Trail, looking southwest; 04/05/23.

Previously paved portion of the Eat Trail just east of the wastewater treatment ponds, looking south; 06/16/23. Elderberry Shrub #68 (circled) is located near this portion of the trail.

North end of the East Trail, looking south; 06/16/23.

North end of the Alternate Trail Segment, looking south; 03/15/21.

Open grassland at the south part of the Alternate Trail Segment, looking southeast; 03/15/23.

North end of the West Trail, looking south; 03/16/21.

North part of the West Trail, looking southwest; 03/16/21. The Jack Tone Golf Course is situated west of the West Trail.

Elderberry Shrub #73 (circled, left) and Elderberry Shrub #74 (circled, right) at the north part of the West Trail, looking southeast; 03/16/21.

Central part of the West Trail, looking west; 03/16/21.

West Trail, looking southwest from the south part of the trail; 03/16/21. The hedge to the left is a dense patch of giant reed (Arundo) that is routinely maintained.

Elderberry Shrub #84 (circled, left) and Elderberry Shrub #85 (circled, right), looking northeast from near the south end of the West Trail; 06/16/23. This area was subject to a fire, but the shrubs at this location have resprouted.

South end of the West Trail, looking north; 03/16/21.

Attachment D

Elderberry Shrub Inventory & Exhibits

Table 1. Elderberry Shrub Locations

Shrub #	Cluster/Hedge (feet)*	Distance from Trail (feet)**
1	C	20.0
2	C	4.0
3	C	31.0
4	C	11.5
5	H (72)	1.5
6	C	9.0
7	C	5.0
8	C	2.5
9	C	11.0
10	C	5.0
11	C	19.0
12	C	20.0
13	C	20.0
14	C	19.0
15	C	31.0
16	C	13.5
17	H (86)	2.5
18	H (142)	-3.0
19	H (71)	7.5
20	H (191)	0.0
21	C	38.0
22	H (103)	13.5
23	C	29.0
24	C	24.0
25	C	19.0
26	C	31.0
27	C	8.0
28	C	20.0
29	C	6.0
30	C	5.5
31	C	10.0
32	C	20.0
33	C	26.0
34	C	21.0
35	C	22.5
36	C	5.0
37	H (77)	7.5
38	C	3.0
39	C	9.0
40	C	21.5
41	C	9.5
42	C	22.0
43	C	15.0

* C = individual shrub or shrub cluster; H = "linear hedge" parallel to trail

** Distance in feet between edge of trail and elderberry stem

Table 1. Elderberry Shrub Locations (continued)

Shrub #	Cluster/Hedge (feet)*	Distance from Trail (feet)**
44	C	19.0
45	C	9.0
46	C	14.0
47	C	31.0
48	C	24.0
49	C	21.0
50	C	23.0
51	C	41.0
52	C	15.0
53	C	4.0
54	C	12.0
55	C	9.0
56	C	20.0
57	C	8.0
58	C	15.0
59	C	14.0
60	C	19.0
61	C	32.0
62	C	30.5
63	C	39.0
64	C	18.0
65	C	18.0
66	C	16.0
67	C	33.0
68	C	21.0
69	C	21.5
70	C	5.0
71	C	10.0
72	H (34)	8.5
73	C	11.0
74	C	15.0
75	H (28)	0.5
76	C	14.0
77	C	33.0
78	H (61)	5.0
79	H (47)	9.0
80	C	-1.0
81	H (81)	6.5
82	H (48)	9.0
83	C	16.0
84	C	10.0
85	C	14.0

* C = individual shrub or shrub cluster; H = "linear hedge" parallel to trail

** Distance in feet between edge of trail and elderberry stem

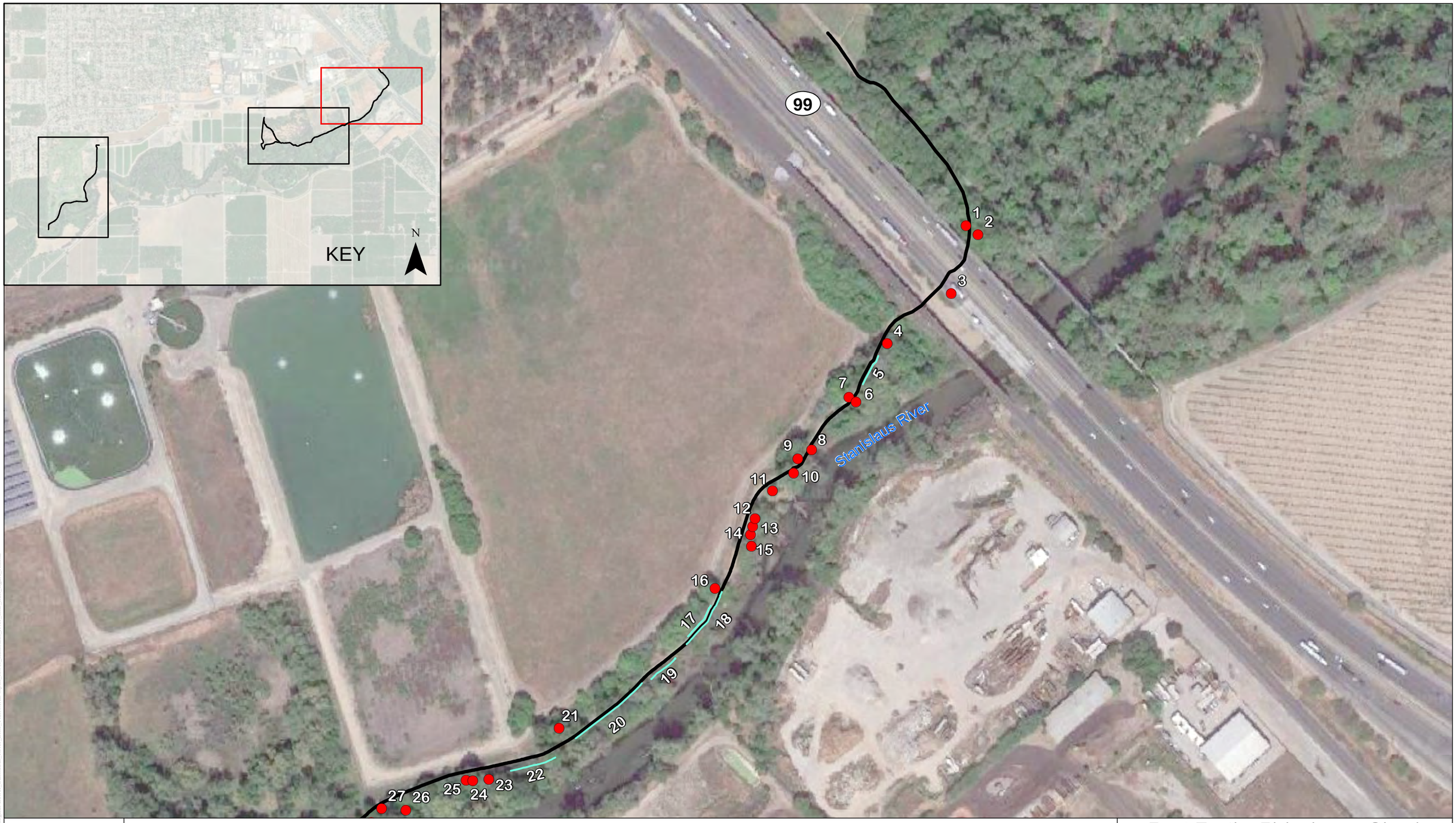


Figure A

Moore Biological Consultants

Map Date: 06/21/2023
Aerial Source: Google Earth (04/22/2022)

Shrub
Shrub Cluster
East Trail

0 250 500
Feet

N
W E
S

East Trail – Elderberry Shrubs

Lower Stanislaus River Trail

City of Ripon, CA

KEY

N

Stanislaus River

Google

Figure B

Moore Biological Consultants

Shrub

Shrub Cluster

Alternate Trail Segment

East Trail

0 250 500
Feet

N
W E
S

Map Date: 06/21/2023
Aerial Source: Google Earth (04/22/2022)

East Trail – Elderberry Shrubs

Lower Stanislaus River Trail

City of Ripon, CA

C:\FEC_INC\Projects\Moore Biological\Lower Stanislaus River Bike Trail\MXD\ripon_lower_stanislaus_river_bike_trail_figure_B.mxd

Figure C

Moore Biological Consultants

Map Date: 06/21/2023
Aerial Source:
Google Earth (04/22/2022)

Shrub
Shrub Cluster
West Trail

N
W E
S

0 250 500
Feet

West Trail – Elderberry Shrubs

Lower Stanislaus River Trail

City of Ripon, CA

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Attachment E

Elderberry Buffer Reduction Request (March 2021 SJCOG Habitat Technical Advisory Committee Staff Report)

March 2021
HTAC

STAFF REPORT

SUBJECT: Lower Stanislaus River Multi-Use Trail, Buffer Reduction

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Motion to Approve Recommendation to SJCOG, Inc. to Allow a Revision to the Incidental Take Minimization Measures for Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle (VELB) Buffers

DISCUSSION:

SUMMARY:

The project applicant, City of Ripon, is requesting a revision to the Incidental Take Minimization Measures for Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle (VELB) Buffers under the San Joaquin Multi-Species Habitat Conservation and Open Space Plan (SJMSCP) through the City of Ripon. The project site is located on north side of the Stanislaus River, at and west of the Highway 99 overcrossing, in the City of Ripon in the Central Zone (attachments 1 &2).

RECOMMENDATION:

SJCOG, Inc. staff recommends the HTAC recommend to the SJCOG, Inc. Board to allow a revision to the Incidental Take Minimization Measures for Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle (VELB).

FISCAL IMPACT:

If the project's request for a revision to ITMMs for VELB is approved, SJCOG, Inc. will be provided mitigation for the project impacts as required under the SJMSCP for approximately 2.535 acres. The impacts for this project would consist of 2.535 acres of Natural (R) habitat impacts.

BACKGROUND:

This project consists of widening and paving two sections of the trail along the north edge of the Stanislaus River riparian corridor. The "East Trail" starts at an existing paved multi-use trail along the east side of Highway 99 and continues west approximately 6,664 feet to another paved trail along the east edge of the waste-water treatment plant ponds. The "West Trail" starts at an existing paved multi-use trail along the west edge of the wastewater treatment plan ponds and continues west approximately 4,761 feet. Each trail is approximately 10 feet wide on average and used by pedestrians, bicyclists, and runners. The trails' improvements will consist of paving and widening the existing dirt trail to provide ADA accessibility. No vegetation will be removed; however, work will be limited to minor grading and surface improvements (attachment 3).

For the proponents to construct the site improvements for the Lower Stanislaus River Multi-Use Trail Project, the project will impact potential Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle (VELB) habitat within the suggested 20-foot buffer along certain sections of the trail. As identified in Section 5.2.2 of the Plan, HTAC, on a case by case review, can establish a setback and buffer zone to be used by the project in place of the 20 feet from the dripline of the elderberry plant suggested.

Because construction of portions of the project will be within the suggested 20-foot dripline buffer areas, the project proponent has requested a reduction in the buffer to a 0- foot setback along the Lower Stanislaus River Multi-Use Trail. No elderberry stems will be removed throughout the construction process.

The reduction of these buffers is necessary for the construction of this project. All other ITMM measures for VELB will remain standard. Reducing the buffer for VELB will allow the project to construct up to 0-feet of the existing VELB canopies. However, the project will be required to meet all other ITMM measures for VELB, such as biological surveying efforts consisting of placing brightly colored flags or fencing surrounding the elderberry shrubs throughout the construction process.

The SJMSCP GIS habitat layer classifies the project site as Natural (R) Habitat.

If the buffer reduction is allowed, the total disturbed area will consist of approximately 2.535 acres of Natural (R) impacts. The project applicant will be responsible for mitigating for the habitat impacts that is consumed by this project by either paying the appropriate fees at the time of ground disturbance or dedicating land in lieu of a fee at the appropriate SJMCP ratio.

Adjacent Vegetation and Land Use

Location	SJMSCP Vegetation Map Classification	Habitat Type Category	Actual Use Of Property
Site	Urban (U) and Natural (R)	Urban (U) and Natural (R)	Urban (U) and Natural (R)
North	Urban (U)	Urban (U)	Urban (U)
South	Natural (R)	Natural (R)	Natural (R)
East	Urban (U), Natural (R)	Urban (U), Natural (R)	Urban (U), Natural (R)
West	Urban (U), Natural (R)	Urban (U), Natural (R)	Urban (U), Natural (R)

COMMITTEE ACTIONS:

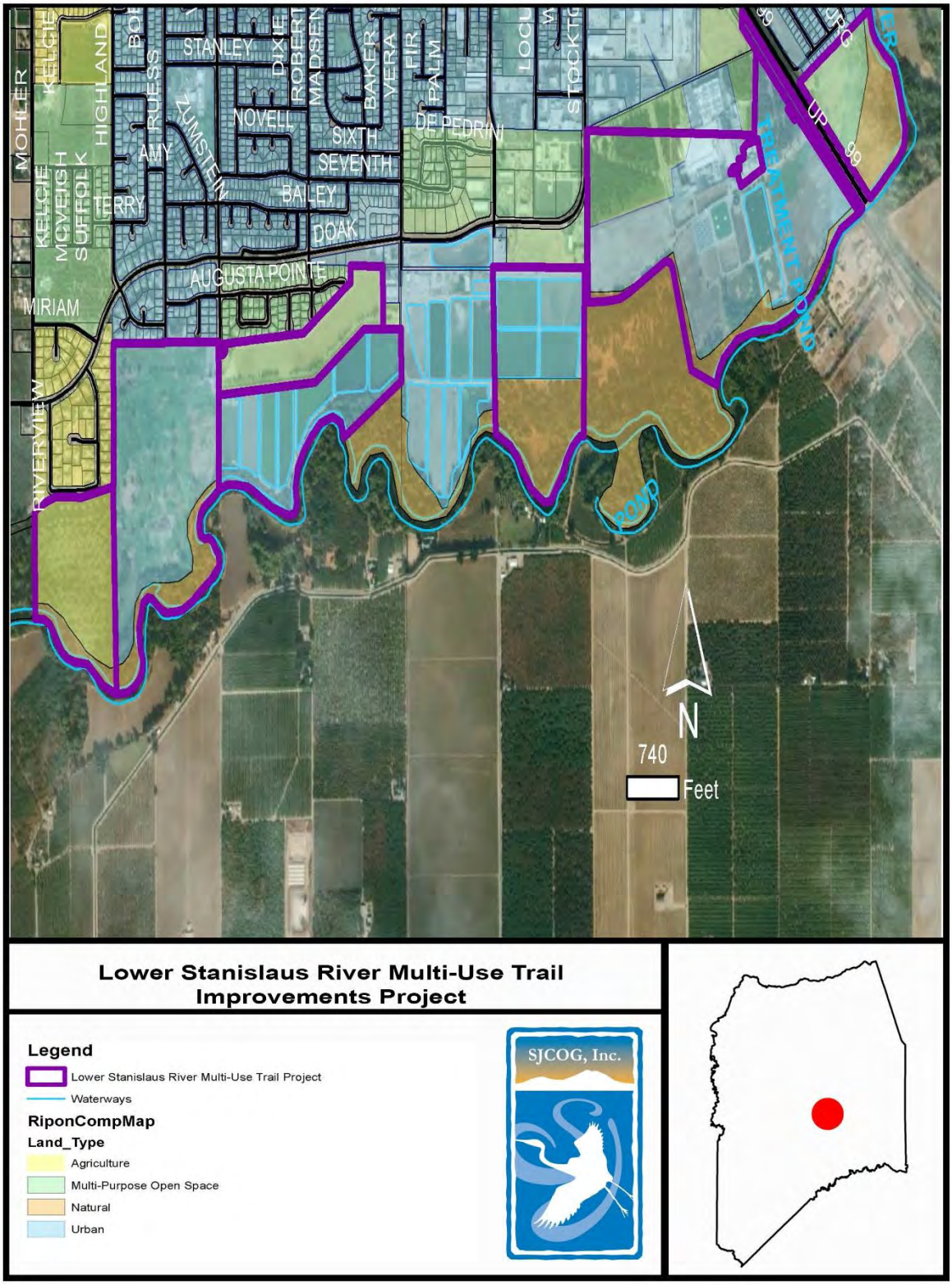
- Habitat Technical Advisory Committee: Action Required
- SJCOG, Inc. Board: March 25th if Recommended

ATTACHMENTS:

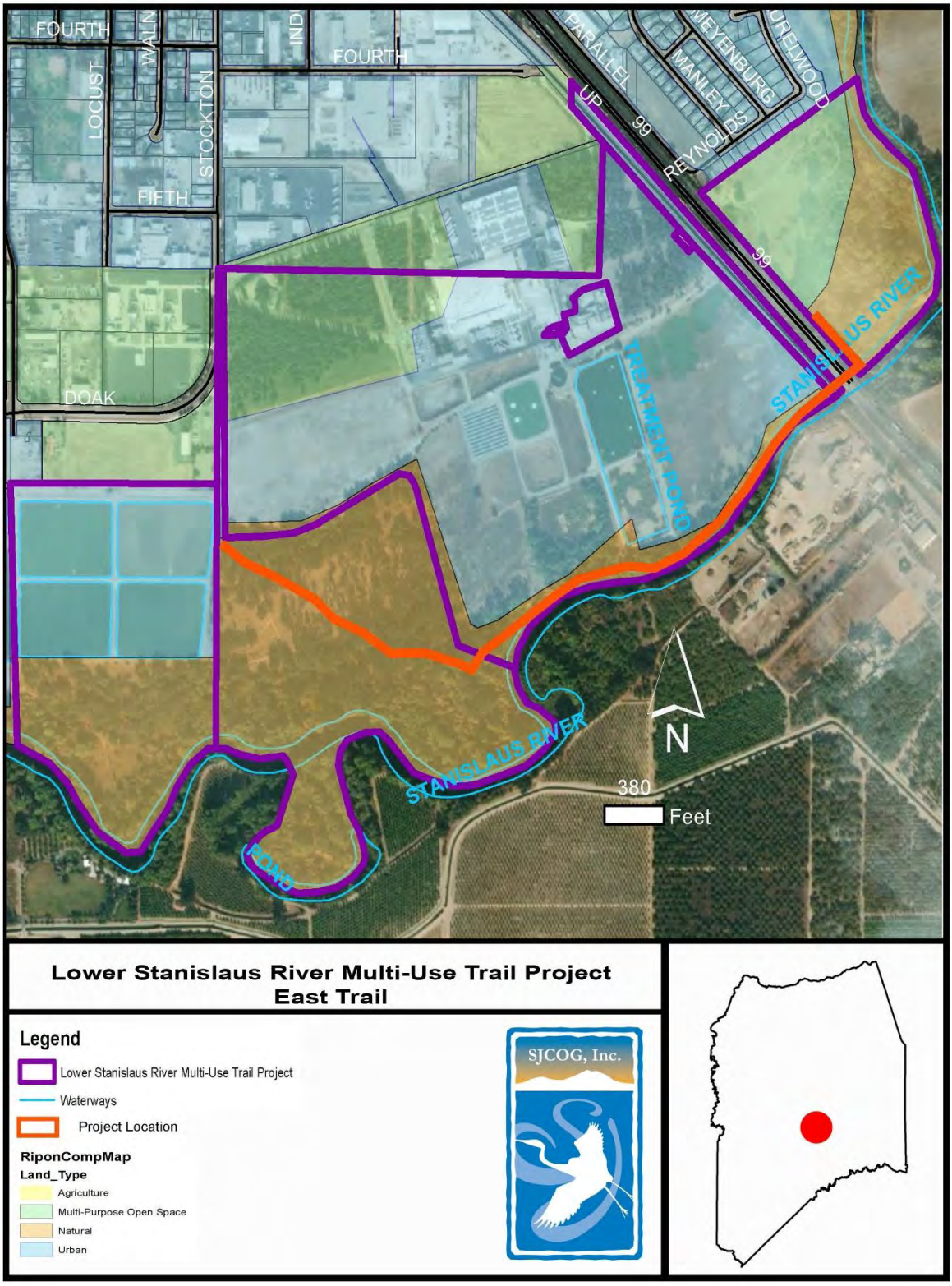
1. General Location Map
2. Project Location Map
3. Project Site Map

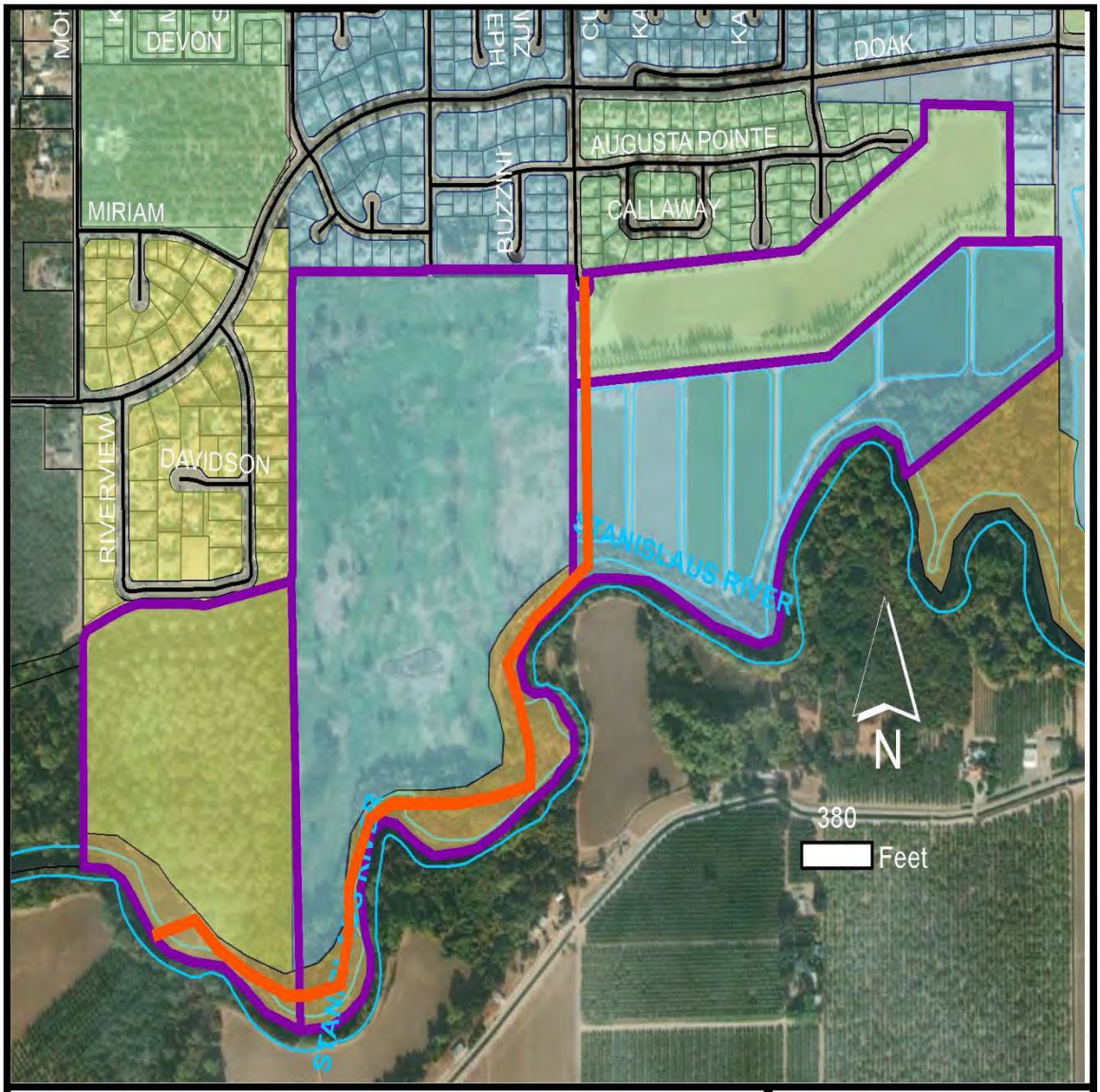
Prepared by: Laurel Boyd, Associate Habitat Planner

ATTACHMENT 1



ATTACHMENT 2





Lower Stanislaus River Multi-Use Trail Project
West Trail

Legend

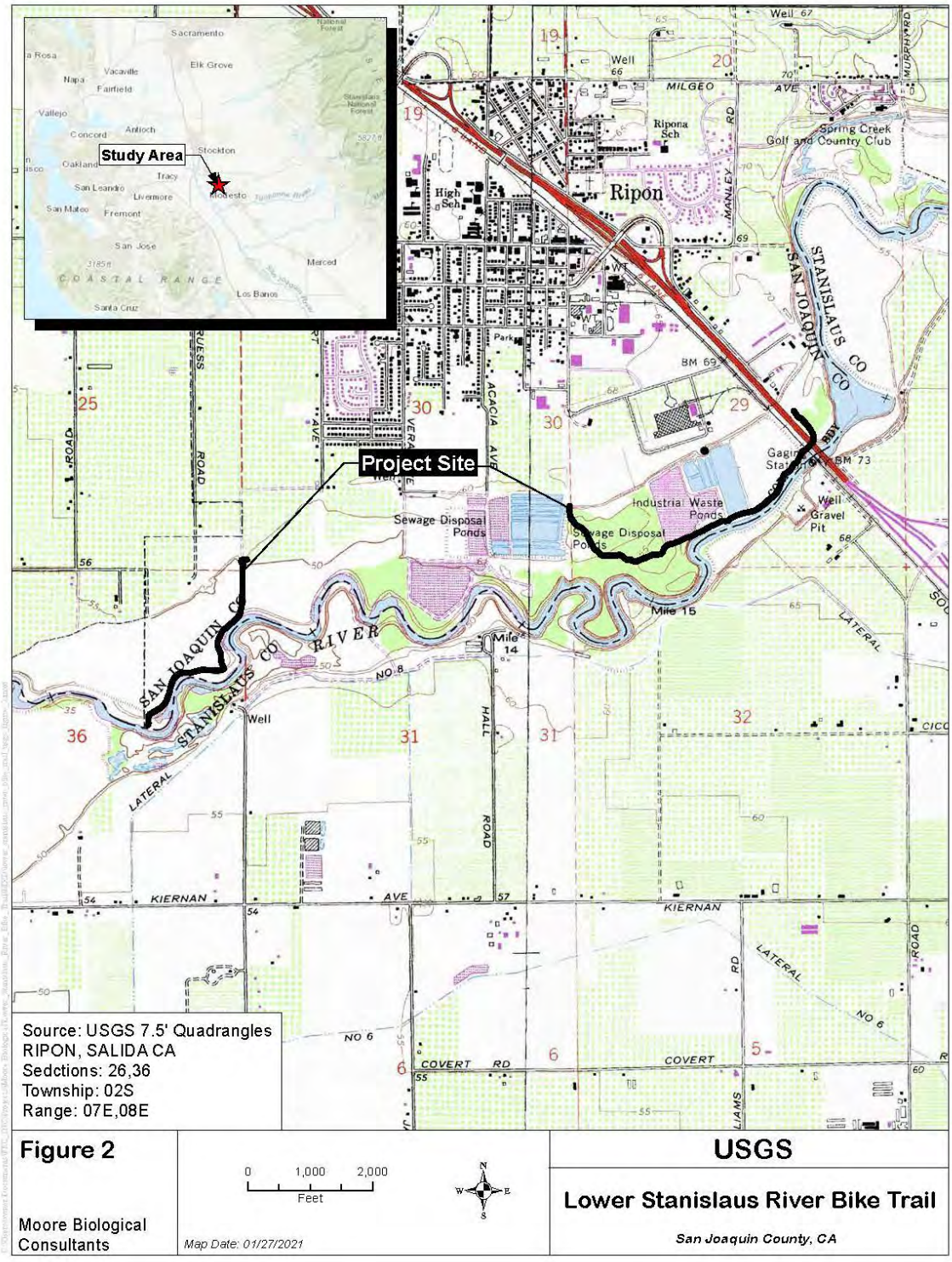
- Lower Stanislaus River Multi-Use Trail Project
- Waterways
- Project Location

RiponCompMap
Land_Type

- Agriculture
- Multi-Purpose Open Space
- Natural
- Urban

SJCOG, Inc.

ATTACHMENT 3



Attachment F

Designated Critical Habitat

Green Sturgeon

Steelhead

Delta smelt

Vernal pool fairy shrimp/Conservancy fairy shrimp

Study Area

CRITICAL HABITAT

Lower Stanislaus River Trail

City of Ripon, CA

Map Date: 07/25/2023; Source: USFWS; NOAA

N

0 1 2

Miles

APPENDIX C
CULTURAL RESOURCE REPORT

P.O. Box 367
Elmira, CA 95625

707-718-1416 ▲ Fax 707-451-4775
www.solanoarchaeology.com

CULTURAL RESOURCES TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

Date: May 6, 2021
To: BaseCamp Environmental, Inc.
From: Solano Archaeological Services

Subject: Cultural Resources Inventory and Evaluation - Lower Stanislaus River Multi-Use Trail Project, City of Ripon, San Joaquin County, California

INTRODUCTION

This technical memorandum summarizes the cultural resources background research, Native American community outreach, pedestrian survey, and findings for the Lower Stanislaus River Multi-Use Trail Project (Project) located in the City of Ripon, San Joaquin County, California (Figures 1–3). The Project is subject to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements, and Solano Archaeological Services (SAS) has prepared this technical memorandum to support those needs.

PROJECT LOCATION

The project area consists of two proposed segments of trail adjacent to and near the north bank of the Stanislaus River in the City of Ripon. The eastern segment of the proposed alignment extends from south of the intersection of Parallel Avenue, and Reynolds Avenue, crosses under State Route 99 (SR 99), roughly parallels the north bank of the Stanislaus River, and then turns to the northwest, intersecting with a paved access road south of South Stockton Avenue/Doak Boulevard. The western segment of the alignment extends from an access route approximately 300 feet (ft.) south of the South Jack Tone Road/Ruess Road cul-de-sac, trends southward and generally parallels the north bank of the Stanislaus River, ending at the southernmost extent of the Jack Tone Golf Course. The project area is situated on the *Ripon*, and *Salida*, *California* U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle maps in Township 2 South, Range 7 East, sections 25, and 36, and Township 2 South, Range 8 East, sections 29, and 30 (see Attachment A Figures 2–3).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The proposed project consists of paving and other improvements of an existing ad-hoc biking and hiking trail largely adjacent to the north bank of the Stanislaus River. Two segments slated for improvement total approximately 2.1 miles (mi.) in length and potential ground disturbances would occur with a corridor up to 10 ft. on either side of the path's centerline - a total project area of approximately 14.59 acres (ac.).

REGULATORY SETTING

CEQA requires that public agencies having authority to finance or approve public or private projects assess the effects of the projects on cultural resources. Cultural resources include buildings, sites, structures, objects, or districts, each of which may have historical, architectural, archaeological, cultural, or scientific significance. CEQA states that if a proposed project would result in an effect that may cause

a substantial adverse change in the significance of a significant cultural resource (termed a "historical resource"), alternative plans or mitigation measures must be considered. Because only significant cultural resources need to be addressed, the significance of cultural resources must be determined before mitigation measures are developed.

CEQA §5024.1 (Public Resources Code §5024.1) and §15064.5 of the State CEQA Guidelines (14 California Code of Regulations [CCR] §15064.5) define a *historical resource* as "a resource listed or eligible for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources." A historical resource may be eligible for inclusion in the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR) if it:

1) Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of California's history and cultural heritage;
2) Is associated with the lives of persons important to our past;
3) Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction; represents the work of an important creative individual; or possesses high artistic values; or
4) Has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history.

In addition, CEQA also distinguishes between two classes of archaeological resources: archaeological sites that meet the definition of a historical resource, and "unique archaeological resources." An archaeological resource is considered "unique" if it:

- Is associated with an event or person of recognized significance in California or American history or of recognized scientific importance in prehistory;
- Can provide information that is of demonstrable public interest and is useful in addressing scientifically consequential and reasonable research questions;
- Has a special or particular quality such as oldest, best example, largest, or last surviving example of its kind;
- Is at least 100 years old and possesses substantial stratigraphic integrity; or
- Involves important research questions that historical research has shown can be answered only with archaeological methods (Public Resources Code §21083.2).

According to the State CEQA Guidelines, a project with an effect that may cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource or a unique archaeological resource is a project that may have a significant effect on the environment (14 CCR §15064.5[b]). CEQA further states that a substantial adverse change in the significance of a resource means the physical demolition, destruction, relocation, or alteration of the resource or its immediate surroundings such that the significance of a historical resource would be materially impaired.

The State CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR §15064.5[e]) also require that excavation activities be stopped whenever human remains are uncovered, and that the county coroner be called in to assess the remains. If the county coroner determines that the remains are those of a Native American, the Native American Heritage Commission must be contacted within 24 hours, and the provisions for treating or disposing of the remains and any associated grave goods as described in CCR §15064.5 must be followed.

NATURAL AND CULTURAL SETTING

Existing Environment

The project area is situated within the San Joaquin Valley portion of the Great Valley geomorphic province - a region having a Mediterranean climate characterized by hot dry summers with daytime temperatures commonly exceeding 100˚ Fahrenheit and cool rainy winters. Mean annual rainfall in the area is 10 to 15 inches and the majority of this falls from November to March. The elevation of the project area is approximately 60 ft. above mean sea level. The topography of the area is flat and thesurrounding land uses consist of high-density residential, industrial, and agricultural. The underlying

geology of the project area and vicinity consists of Pleistocene non-marine deposits and alluvium (Strand 1962).

Prehistoric populations were concentrated along the river channels (e.g., the Stanislaus River) as these were the areas with the richest available natural resources. The dominant native vegetative communities in and adjacent to the project area would have been prairie grasslands and riparian woodland (Kuchler 1977). Vegetation tended to be sparse within the prairie grasslands, limited to grasses and flowering herbs. However, a single valley oak could produce 300–500 pounds of acorns each year (Baumhoff 1963). Native Americans often burned off the grasslands annually to increase the following year's edible seed crop (Cook 1960).

Fauna that would have inhabited the area prior to extensive Euro-American occupation and alteration of the landscape were used by native peoples for their meat, fur, skins, feathers, bone, and antlers. Some of the more common species that were and, in some cases, still are found in the area included mule and black-tailed deer; coyote; jackrabbit; ground squirrel and other rodents; quail, acorn woodpecker, dove, northern flicker, and other birds. Various anadromous species and other fish; and various reptile, amphibian and invertebrate species could be found in the Stanislaus River (DuBois 1935; Miles and Goudey 1997).

Prehistoric Setting

Archaeological research focused on the prehistory of the Ripon area has been limited and has been conducted almost entirely in the context of cultural resources management investigations. In the vicinity of the project area, an apparent village site was recorded located on the banks of the Stanislaus River just east of the City (Gerry and Oglesby 1994). Several additional prehistoric sites have been reported west of the project area on the west side of Interstate 5, all of which were located in the vicinity of the San Joaquin River. Most of these are burial mounds that have suffered destruction, either by removal years ago for use as fill (e.g., CA-SJo-255), or by archaeological investigations that failed to produce a technical report (e.g., CA-SJo-3) (Gross 2003). Prehistoric sites are known to exist throughout San Joaquin County, primarily near the natural sources of water, rivers in particular, but a general lack of systematic investigation and reporting has hampered the development of a locally relevant prehistory. Consequently, the general sequence of prehistoric cultural manifestations presented below is likely the most applicable to the project area and vicinity.

Human occupation of the northern San Joaquin Valley is believed to date prior to the terminal Pleistocene Epoch, 12,000 years before present (BP). Although few archaeological sites have been found that provide evidence for human occupation of the Valley during the late Pleistocene and early Holocene (12,000–6,500 BP), this is likely a product of the archaeological record itself rather than a lack of early Native American habitation in and use of the region. Most Pleistocene- and early Holocene-epoch sites are deeply buried in accumulated gravels and silts or have eroded away over centuries (Moratto 1984). The earliest sites in and around the region are believed to be the Farmington Complex sites in San Joaquin and Stanislaus counties, the Clark Flat sites (CA-Cal-342 and CA-Cal-347), and possibly the Skyrocket site, CA-Cal-629/630 (Dillon 2002). These sites are on the San Joaquin Valley/Sierra Nevada foothills interface. Artifacts associated with this period are dominated by stemmed points and formed flake tools with diagnostic shapes; plant-processing stone tools are evident at CA-Cal-342 between 6,750 and 6,500 BP.

Archaeological evidence from the Middle Holocene (6,500–4,000 BP) for the northern San Joaquin Valley is also limited to the San Joaquin Valley–foothills interface. Three sites (CA-Cal-342, CA-Cal-347, and CA-Cal-286) have produced artifacts that date to the Middle Holocene. Artifacts from CA-Cal-342 include stemmed projectile points and formed flake tools of the Early Holocene with the addition of Pinto Series projectile points.

The Early Period (4,500–2,500 BP) of the Late Holocene (4,500 BP–present), attributed to the Windmiller Pattern, is known from several lower Sacramento Valley sites (CA-SJo-56, CA-SJo-68, SA-

SJo-142, CA-Sac-107, and CA-Sac-127) and one Stockton area site (CA-SJo-112). The Windmiller Pattern is characterized by the exploitation of a wide variety of terrestrial mammals, fish, and birds, and by an emphasis on hard-seed procurement. The artifact assemblage includes large spear and projectile points; trident fish spears; at least two types of fishhooks; quartz crystals and a diversity of charmstone styles; and a baked clay net sinkers, pecan-shaped fish-line sinkers, and cooking balls. Groundstone items include both the handstone and millingslab, and the mortar and pestle. The bone tools include awls, needles, and flakers. Utilitarian items were often acquired as finished products through trade with outlying areas. Formal cemeteries appear to have been located both within and away from the village, and the deceased were often buried with red ochre and rich grave offerings.

The Middle Period extended from approximately 2,500–1,300 BP in Central California and is commonly identified with the Berkeley Pattern. The primary difference between the Berkeley Pattern and the Windmiller Pattern is the greater emphasis on acorn consumption within the Berkeley Pattern, reflected by more numerous and varied mortars and pestles. The Berkeley Pattern also possessed a well-developed bone industry and such technological innovations as ribbon flaking of chipped stone artifacts. Also, the arrow point replaced the dart point in the later reaches of this period.

The final prehistoric period is the Late Period (450–100 BP) identified with the Augustine Pattern. The Augustine Pattern appears to be related to the Berkeley Pattern, and the differences between the two may be the result of the combination of Berkeley traits with those carried into the central California region by migrating populations from the north, an event that began approximately 1,800 BP. The Augustine Pattern exhibited great elaboration of ceremonial and social organization. Exchange became well developed, and acorns were exploited with even greater intensity, as evidenced by shaped mortars and pestles and numerous hopper mortars. Other notable elements of the material culture assemblage included smaller arrow points, flanged tubular smoking pipes (cloud blowers); harpoons; an especially elaborate baked clay industry, including figures and pottery vessels (Cosumnes Brownware); and clamshell disk beads. Other traits included the introduction of pre-interment burning of offerings in a grave pit during the mortuary ritual, increased village sedentism, population growth, and an incipient monetary economy in which beads were used as a standard of exchange.

Ethnographic Setting

The project area lies in the ethnographically reported territory of the Northern Valley Yokuts whose territory extended from the large bend in the San Joaquin River near Mendota, north to the confluence of the San Joaquin and Calaveras Rivers. “No large section of California is so little known ethnographically as the lower San Joaquin Valley” (Wallace 1978:462). Writing specifically of the western edge of the Valley (just to the west of Ripon), Kroeber (1925:476) states: “This territory seems to have belonged to the Yokuts, though in default of precise information it has sometimes been attributed to the Costanoan people of the Miwok. The lack of information concerning the aboriginal inhabitants can be attributed to Yokuts rapid disappearance as a result of disease, missionization, and the sudden influx of Euro-American miners during the Gold Rush between 1848 and the early 1850s.

The word Yokut roughly translates to “person” or “people” in the western or valley dialects. Their language belonged to the California Penutian family, which includes the languages of four other central and coastal California groups: the Miwok, Costanoan, Maiduan, and Wintuan (Silverstein 1978:446). The Yokuts Penutian language was spoken by some 40 groups using distinctive but closely related dialects. These groups inhabited three main geographic locales in Central California including the Southern Valley (Tulare Lake), the Northern Valley (San Joaquin Valley) and the foothills (Sierra Nevada). The Ripon area is located roughly in the northern 1/3 of the geographical range of the Northern Valley Yokuts and this diverse environment varies from tule marshes to dry plains and open oak woodlands. These various ecosystems provided a wide array of floral and faunal resources including numerous fish species, shellfish, turtles, waterfowl, tule elk, pronghorn antelope and the staple acorn

Much of what is known about the Yokuts must be inferred from the archaeological record because of a deficiency in historical documentation (Wallace 1978:462). Excavations at habitation sites in western

Merced and Fresno Counties have yielded artifact assemblages similar to those found in the delta area of the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers, suggesting links between the later complexes of the delta and the Panoche Complex of the western San Joaquin Valley.

Yokut groups lived in small seasonal camps geared towards hunting or acorn gathering and processing or in larger settlements centered on perennial water sources such as the San Joaquin River. Dwellings in the larger villages consisted of circular tule covered structures and more elaborate semi-subterranean pit houses. Ceremonial sweat houses and assembly chambers were often constructed within the more substantial villages. These larger settlements might include approximately 200 inhabitants constituting a small sub-tribe of the Yokut. A headman, while not necessarily possessing absolute powers, served as an advisor to these self-contained communities. In general, open conflict or warfare appears to have been rare and even when confronted with often hostile Euro-American contact, the Yokut preferred to flee to remove canyons or tule marshes.

Yokut material culture and technological systems were as varied as the environments in which they resided and reflected the diversity of the resources available for their use. Mortars, both portable and bedrock, were used for the processing of acorns and other gathered seeds and nuts. Baskets were produced in a wide variety of sizes and shapes, each suited to a particular task and adorned with patterns characteristic of Yokut artistic expressions. Exotic materials such as marine shell ornaments, ocean fish and obsidian from distant coastal areas were commonly utilized.

Early historic religious and spiritual practices among the Northern Valley Yokut are apparently not well documented. However, based on the observations made by neighboring groups and some early ethnographic research (Kroeber 1925), the Yokuts living in the Ripon area may have participated in the Kuksu ritual system which was widespread in California. Other spiritual components of Yokut culture such as shamanism, although not specifically described for inhabitants of the Ripon area, was almost certainly an important element contributing to the physical and spiritual stability and well-being of the people in prehistoric and early historic times.

Historic Setting

The first documented European incursions into the region that would become San Joaquin County occurred in the early 19th century. Spanish exploratory parties led by Father Narciso Duran and Luis Arguello followed the San Joaquin River at least as far as the Stockton Channel in 1817 (Tinkham 1921). Another explorer, Gabriel Moraga, had named the river only a few years before their expedition. Today, the name refers not only to the river, but to the region that surrounds it (Kyle 1990:348). Although Spanish missions were located along the California coast, the effects of their activities were felt far inland. Although the earliest Spanish incursions were generally peaceful in nature, later encounters between Native Americans and the Mexican army were not as innocuous.

During the Mexican period, colonial expansion throughout Alta California was hastened by the establishment of numerous ranchos; often enormous land grants which were awarded to Mexican and otherwise qualified American citizens. Ripon and the immediately surrounding area were not contained within the bounds of any of these ranchos although several were founded in the general area. These included *Campo De Los Franceses* ("French Camp") (located to the north of Ripon by French Camp), *Rancho Pescadero* (to the west of Ripon), and *Rancheria Del Rio Estanislao* which was located to the east of Ripon. The 48,747-acre Campo De Los Franceses was granted by Mexican governor Manuel Micheltorena to Guillermo Gulnac who had partnered with Karl David Weber who arrived in California with the Bartelson-Bidwell Party in 1841 (Alley, Bowen & Company 1881). Gulnac never actually established a going concern on his grant and sold the land to Weber in 1845 who laid out a town he named Tuleberg on the rancho in 1849. Weber soon re-named the town Stockton in honor of Commodore Robert F. Stockton who played a significant role in the capture of California during the Mexican-American War that occurred between 1846, and 1848.

Rancho Pescadero was established on lands in present-day Stanislaus and San Joaquin counties and covered 35,446 acres. Granted to Valentin Higuera and Rafael Feliz in 1843, the rancho extended along the west bank of the San Joaquin River from about Banta in the north to Del Puerto Creek in the south (Tinkham 1921). Higuera did not own the land for long and in 1849 sold it to Hiram and Francis W. Grimes, and William H. McKee. The Grimes' and McKee took over the rancho at a somewhat inopportune time. With Mexico having been defeated in its war with the U.S. the year before, there was some question as to the validity of the grant. However, in keeping with the Treaty of Guadelupe Hidalgo which ended the war, the grant was eventually honored, and the Grimes' and McKee were finally received a U.S. patent in 1858.

The 48,887-ac. Rancho Del Rio Estanislao was granted by the Mexican government to Francisco Rico and Jose Castro. It is unclear as to whether or not they established much of a going agricultural/ranching concern on the property but after the beginning of the American Period in California in 1848, they filed for a U.S. land patent per the Land Act of 1851. However, their claim was not validated until 1863. At about that time, Rico and Castro sold out to William Hicks, Abraham Schell, and James C. Stubbins (Ruppel 1993).

While Stockton became the county seat and the great ranches became established in the area, the communities of Manteca and Ripon grew in the southern portion of San Joaquin County. In the first years after settlement, Manteca was known as Cowell Station. Joshua Cowell established the first farm on the site of the future town, and made his home at what is now the corner of Yosemite and Main. When the Central Pacific Railroad was constructed through the region in 1873, the track was laid through Cowell's holdings. The future town of Manteca was not the only stop known as Cowell Station, and soon the name was changed to Manteca. By 1910 the population of Manteca had reached only 100 people (Manteca Chamber of Commerce 2016). Other local industry included the Manteca Canning Company, organized in 1914, and the well-known Spreckels Sugar Co., which opened its doors only a couple of years later (Manteca Chamber of Commerce, 2010). While rail lines linked Manteca to the surrounding area, Ripon got its start as a ferry crossing along the Stanislaus River. Taylor's, Clark's, and Murphy's ferries were established to serve passengers. It soon became a trading center for the wheat and barley being shipped from the Central Valley.

City of Ripon

The first Europeans to take up land along the Stanislaus River near where the Ripon settlement would develop were a group of Mormons under the leadership of Brigham Young in 1846. Sailing from New York, the party landed in San Francisco and their arrival immediately tripled the local population. Setting out by boat, they established a settlement which they called New Hope and planted the first wheat crop in the County. The Mormons abandoned their settlement after flooding in January of 1847 inundated the country around their encampment. In May 1851, Henry Grissim took up the land that the Mormons had abandoned, selling, in turn to W. H. Lyon, who sold it to H. B. Underhill (City of Ripon 2021).

Several ferry crossings were established along the Stanislaus River near where Ripon would be established. Murphy's Ferry was established in 1865 by John Murphy, a Canadian who had come to California during the Gold Rush, mining in the vicinity of Sonora and Columbia in Tuolumne County. Murphy lost an arm as a result of a gunfight over a mining claim became known as "One Arm" John Murphy to differentiate him from others sharing the same name. An astute businessman, he eventually acquired over nine thousand acres of land around the Salida area in nearby Stanislaus County. In 1867 Murphy petitioned the Board of Supervisors of San Joaquin County for permission to build a road from his ferry across the Stanislaus to Tuolumne City. He wanted to provide a shorter route for area farmers who needed to connect with water transport to Stockton. In 1870 he made an additional petition for a road "south to the San Joaquin Valley railroad, thence to a point on the Tuolumne River known as Davis' Ferry." The development of a thirty-ft.-wide road was granted, and this route would eventually become part of SR 99 (City of Ripon 2021).

Another of the more notable residents of the burgeoning town of Stanislaus City or "Stanislaus Station" was Amplias B. Crook who came to San Joaquin County from San Diego in 1874. He opened a store and started to sell goods to the local pioneers. When Crook became the postmaster along the Southern Pacific Railroad route, he proposed a new name for the stop in honor of his hometown: Ripon, Wisconsin. The post office and Ripon, California were established on December 21, 1874.

A principal commercial street began to develop through Ripon by the 1880s. The street was not entirely devoted to commercial buildings, however, and through the years dwellings were either demolished or relocated to make way for the central business district's development. Many of the local businesses supported the rapidly growing ranching and agricultural industries which boomed in the early 20th century following the founding of the South San Joaquin Irrigation District in 1908. Once irrigation was introduced the area diversified from just dry farming (mainly grain) and cattle grazing to include alfalfa, dairy cattle, grapes, peaches, apricots, figs, olives, corn, melons, tomatoes and almonds. The almond, which is the crop by which the Ripon region is identified today, were introduced near Ripon on a trial basis about 1900 by J. P. Watkins.

In 1945, the City of Ripon was incorporated following agitation spurred by the Board of Trade. Hans Madson was elected as the City's first Mayor. The first structure to serve as Ripon's City Hall was the Christian Reformed church building at 137 Locust Streets, built originally by the Ladies' Improvement Club. This structure has been altered over the years and joined by a jail building in 1925 which was designed by Stockton architect Ralph P. Morrell and constructed by local contractor L. Ubels (City of Ripon 2021).

Economic growth in Ripon and elsewhere in San Joaquin County remained limited throughout the first half of the 20th century. Much of the area retains its rural character today, although it has been impacted by the increased demand for housing and jobs created by the post-WWII population boom. Although agriculture, ranching, and transportation are still major foundations of the regional economy, towns like Manteca, Escalon, and Ripon have increasingly become bedroom communities for the San Francisco Bay Area.

Native American Community Outreach

On behalf of the City, SAS contacted the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) via an emailed letter on March 22, 2021 to request a Sacred Lands File (SLF) search and a list of appropriate Native American tribal contacts for the proposed Project (Attachment B). On April 20, 2021, Ms. Nancy Gonzalez-Lopez, Staff Services Analyst for the NAHC, replied that a search of the SLF did not reveal the presence of any known Native American sites or properties within or near the project area. Ms. Gonzalez-Lopez also supplied a list of Native Americans to contact regarding requesting project recommendations and information on unrecorded cultural resources that may exist within or in the vicinity of the project area. On April 27, 2021, SAS mailed letters to the following individuals and organizations identified by the NAHC:

- Corrina Gould, Chair - The Confederated Villages of Lisjan
- Katherine Perez, Chair - North Valley Yokuts Tribe
- Timothy Perez, Most Likely Descendent Contact - North Valley Yokuts Tribe
- Joey Garfield, Tribal Archaeologist – Tule River Indian Tribe
- Kerri Vera, Environmental Department – Tule River Indian Tribe
- Neil Peyron, Chair – Tule River Indian Tribe
- Dahlton Brown, Director of Administration - Wilton Rancheria
- Jesus Tarango, Chair - Wilton Rancheria
- Steve Hutchason, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer - Wilton Rancheria

As of this report, no information or requests have been forwarded by any of the NAHC-listed tribal contacts listed above. If additional substantive contacts are established or if further input occurs, SAS will provide a summary of the new data and interactions in an addendum to this report.

CALIFORNIA HISTORICAL RESOURCES INFORMATION SYSTEM RECORDS SEARCH

On March 22, 2021, a records search request was emailed to the Central California Information Center (CCIC), of the California Historical Resources System at California State University, Stanislaus. The CCIC conducted a search of its archives (I.C. file No. 11717L) for information on previously known or recorded cultural resources within the project area and a half-mile radius. The CCIC review included but was not necessarily restricted to the following sources:

- the *National Register of Historic Places* (Historic Properties Directory, California Office of Historic Preservation 2002 and updates);
- the *California Register of Historic Places* (Historic Properties Directory, California Office of Historic Preservation 2002 and updates);
- the *California Historical Landmarks* (California Office of Historic Preservation 1996);
- the *California Points of Historical Interest* (California Office of Historic Preservation 1992);
- the *California Inventory of Historic Resources* (California Department of Parks and Recreation 1976 and updates); and
- pertinent historical inventories including historic maps and plat maps.

The CCIC provided SAS with the records search results on March 23, 2021 (see Attachment C). According to the CCIC, no documented cultural resources are known to be present directly in the project area but five sites have been recorded in the ½-mi. search area (Table 1).

Table 1. Previously Documented Resources in the ½-Mile Search Area.

Site No. (P-39-)	Site Type	Site Description	Most Recent Recording
000091	Historic era	Aqueduct/pipeline	Woodward-Clyde Consultants - 1995
000307	Historic era	Building foundations/pads	S. Steiner - Interagency Archaeological Services, National Park Service - 1982
000338	Prehistoric	Lithic artifact scatter	G. Peak - Peak & Associates, Inc. - 1989
004537	Historic era	Hammett Rd. Bridge	LSA Associates - 2010
001920	Historic era	Steel arch bridge	LSA Associates - 2010

According to the CCIC, a total of nine cultural resources studies have been conducted that have included at least a portion of the current project area (Table 2). An additional 17 investigations were previously conducted in the ½-mi. search area (see Attachment C).

Table 2. Studies Previously Conducted in the Project Area

Report #	Author	Title	Date
SJ-00369	M. Swernoff - National Park Svc.	Archaeological Investigations at the Lower Stanislaus River Recreation Areas, Calaveras, Tuolumne, Stanislaus, and San Joaquin Counties, California [and] Appendix C: Field Data, Phone Contacts, and Access Information	1982
SJ-00921	Garaventa, et al. - Basic Research Assoc.	Cultural Resources Assessment of Replacement of Gas Line Under Stanislaus River, One Mile South of Ripon, Stanislaus and San Joaquin Counties, California.	1989
SJ-02759	Hatoff, et al. - Woodward Clyde, Inc.	Cultural Resources Inventory Report for the Proposed Mojave Northward Expansion Project, Final.	1995

SJ-03995	W.Nelson- FWARG	Cultural Resource Survey for the Level (3) Communications Long Haul Fiber Optics Project; Segment WS04: Sacramento to Bakersfield	2000
SJ-05178	S. Conkling - LSA Assoc.	Cultural Resources Survey Report for the Corps Park in the City of Ripon, San Joaquin County, California.	1988
SJ-06345	SWCA Environmental Assoc.	Cultural Resources Final Report of Monitoring and Findings for the QWest Network Construction Project, State of California. SWCA Project No. 10715-180.	2006
ST-00369	M. Swernoff - National Park Service	Archaeological Investigations at the Lower Stanislaus River Recreation Areas, Calaveras, Tuolumne, Stanislaus, and San Joaquin Counties, California	1982
ST-00921	R. Orlins, USACE	Cultural Resources Survey of Fee Lands for Public Access, Lower Stanislaus River, California.	1977
ST-07235	H.Blind - LSA Assoc.	Historic Property Survey Report for the Hammett Road/State Route 99 Interchange Reconstruction Project Salida, Stanislaus County and San Joaquin County California Caltrans District 10 EA#10-0L320	2010

ADDITIONAL ARCHIVAL AND HISTORIC MAP RESEARCH

Starting in the early 1850s, the U.S. General Land Office started conducting widespread mapping of lands within California, as well as throughout the western United States. These "plat" maps of townships, ranges, and sections typically depicted major landforms, waterways, historic-era developments such as ranches, farms, and associated buildings, and occasionally provided assessments of the suitability of land for livestock grazing, agriculture, or timber harvesting.

A review of 1854, and 1855 GLO maps that include the project area show that no developments of any kind had been mapped within or adjacent to the eastern portion of the alignment. However, in the western alignment, two residences are depicted - *Crow's house* (William H. Crow - see below) in the northeastern quarter of Section 36, and *Gallager's House* immediately north of the Stanislaus River, and adjacent to the project area alignment. However, the Stanislaus River channel appears to have shifted somewhat between circa 1855 and the present day and it is not possible to more accurately place Gallager's residence in relation to the current Project alignment.

In comparing the mid-19th century GLO maps with later USGS topographic quadrangles, the location of Grow's house may be depicted in 1915 in the northeastern quarter of Section 36 and it can be seen that this residence was location between ¼ and 1/2-mi. north of the project area. The 1915 topographic quadrangle does not show any developments in the eastern portion of the Project alignment with the exception of a rail line and a portion of the Stockton Road which would eventually be absorbed by State Route 99 (SR 99).

Apart from surveying government lands, the GLO was also responsible for selling, granting, or otherwise transferring public lands to private, corporate, or institutional recipients. Numerous regulatory frameworks governed and provided for these transfers; some of which pre-dated the establishment of the GLO. One of the more significant acts that facilitated the Euro-American settlement of the American West was the Land Act of 1820, which was invoked in the transfers of government land to William H. Crow.

The Land Act of 1820 ended the ability of private individuals to purchase U.S. public domain lands on a credit or installment system over four years, as established under previous acts. The new act required full payment at the time of purchase and registration but to encourage more sales and make them more affordable, Congress also reduced both the minimum price from $2.00 to $1.25 per ac., and the minimum size of a standard tract from 160 to 80 ac.

Crow obtained the northeast ¼ of Section 36 (160 ac.) (the west end of the Project alignment) in 1866 under the 1820 Land Act but the same year he also obtained the southwest ¼ of the southwest ¼ under the 1855 Scrip Warrant act along with Durrette White Elliotte, and White Elliott. Crow may have purchased the rights to government lands from Durrette White Elliotte who served in the Quartermaster Corps. This Act provided for land grants to military veterans who had served in any wars the country had been engaged in since 1790. They were entitled to a certificate of warrant for 160 ac. of land as long as they had not deserted or been dishonorably discharged. A veteran's widow and children were entitled to receive a grant that the deceased would have been entitled to receive and grants could be assigned or transferred to non-veterans.

FIELD SURVEY

Methods and Results

On April 9, 2021, SAS archaeologist Brian Ludwig, Ph.D., conducted an intensive pedestrian survey of the project area walking a single transect along the bike path route. Virtually the entire project area consists of an existing un-paved hiking/biking trail with full ground surface visibility along most of the alignment. Significant portions of the project area parallel the north bank of the Stanislaus River and along the river the trail is on top of the existing levee. North–south extensions of the eastern and western segments of the project area are located off the river levee. A sub-meter accurate Trimble GPS unit was utilized to verify project alignment and digital photographs were taken to document the inventory. Two historic-era cultural resources consisting of levees on the north bank of the Stanislaus River (SAS-001, and SAS-002) (see Attachment D), were documented in the project area.

SAS-001

This resource consists of a segment of earthen levee on the north bank of the Stanislaus River in the City of Ripon. The segment extends to the west from the point at which SR 99 crosses over Stanislaus River for a distance of approximately 3,352 ft. The levee segment measures approximately 30 feet across at the base, is elevated about 10 ft. above the surrounding landscape and measures about 20 ft. across at the top although this varies considerably over the length of the segments. An un-paved hiking/bike path has been established on the top of the levee segment. The segment is part of San Joaquin County Levee 2503 (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 2021) and is presently maintained by the San Joaquin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District.

Although SAS-001 is an important part of the local flood control infrastructure, archival research does not appear to indicate this levee is directly associated with any specific historically significant event (CRHR Criterion 1), or individual key to the development of levees (CRHR Criterion 2). In addition, simple earthen levees such as SAS-001 are ubiquitous in San Joaquin County and throughout the Central Valley and SAS-001 does not exhibit any unique characteristics nor is it the earliest or necessarily best example of its type (CRHR Criterion 3). Also, while further research might reveal additional details on the development of SAS-001 and the role in played in local flood control, it is unlikely that such data would result in a finding of significance for SAS-001. Consequently, the data potential (CRHR Criterion 4) for SAS-001 has largely been realized through the current level of research. Consequently, due to a lack of significant associations, unique characteristics, or data potential, SAS recommends this resource not eligible for CRHR listing.

SAS-002

This resource consists of a segment of an earthen levee on the north bank of the Stanislaus River in the City of Ripon. This segment is about 2,793 ft. in length and starts at a point about 1.73 mi. downriver from the westernmost extent of SAS-001. The levee segments measure approximately 30 feet across at the base, is elevated about 10 ft. above the surrounding landscape and measures about 20 ft. across at the top although this varies considerably over the length of the segment. An un-paved hiking/bike path has been established on the top of the levee segment. This segment is part of San Joaquin County Levee 175 (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 2021) and is presently maintained by the San Joaquin County Flood Control and Water Conservation District.

While SAS-002 may be an important part of the local flood control infrastructure, archival research does not appear to indicate this levee is directly associated with any specific historically significant event (CRHR Criterion 1), or individual key to the development of levees (CRHR Criterion 2). In addition, simple earthen levees such as SAS-002 are ubiquitous in San Joaquin County and throughout the Central Valley and SAS-002 does not exhibit any unique characteristics nor is it the earliest or necessarily best example of its type (CRHR Criterion 3). Also, while further research might reveal additional details on the development of SAS-002 and the role in played in local flood control, it is unlikely that such data would result in a finding of significance for SAS-002. Consequently, the data potential (CRHR Criterion 4) for SAS-002 has largely been realized through the current level of research. Consequently, due to a lack of significant associations, unique characteristics, or data potential, SAS recommends this resource not eligible for CRHR listing.

Summary and Recommendations

The NAHC SLF review indicated that no recorded sacred lands were known to exist within or near the project area. A CCIC record search indicated that while no previously documented cultural resources have been identified within or immediately adjacent to the project area, five sites were recorded within the ½-mi. search radius. Additional research showed that while some mid-19th century development occurred near the project area no buildings, features, or structures other than the Stanislaus River levee were built within or immediately adjacent to the project alignment. Two levee segments (SAS-001, and SAS-002) in the project alignment were recorded, evaluated per CRHR criteria, and were recommended not eligible for CRHR listing. SAS, therefore, recommends no further management.

In the event that presently undocumented buried archaeological deposits are encountered during any Project-associated construction activity, work must cease within a 50-ft. radius of the discovery. A qualified archaeologist must be retained to document the discovery, assess its significance, and recommend treatment. If human remains or any associated funerary artifacts are discovered during construction, all work must cease within the immediate vicinity of the discovery. In accordance with the California Health and Safety Code (Section 7050.5), the San Joaquin County Sheriff/Coroner must be contacted immediately. If the Coroner determines the remains to be Native American, the Coroner will notify the Native American Heritage Commission, which will in turn appoint a Most Likely Descendent (MLD) to act as a tribal representative. The MLD will work with the Applicant and a qualified archaeologist to determine the proper treatment of the human remains and any associated funerary objects. Construction activities will not resume until either the human remains are exhumed, or the remains are avoided via Project construction design change.

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ATTACHMENT A

Figures

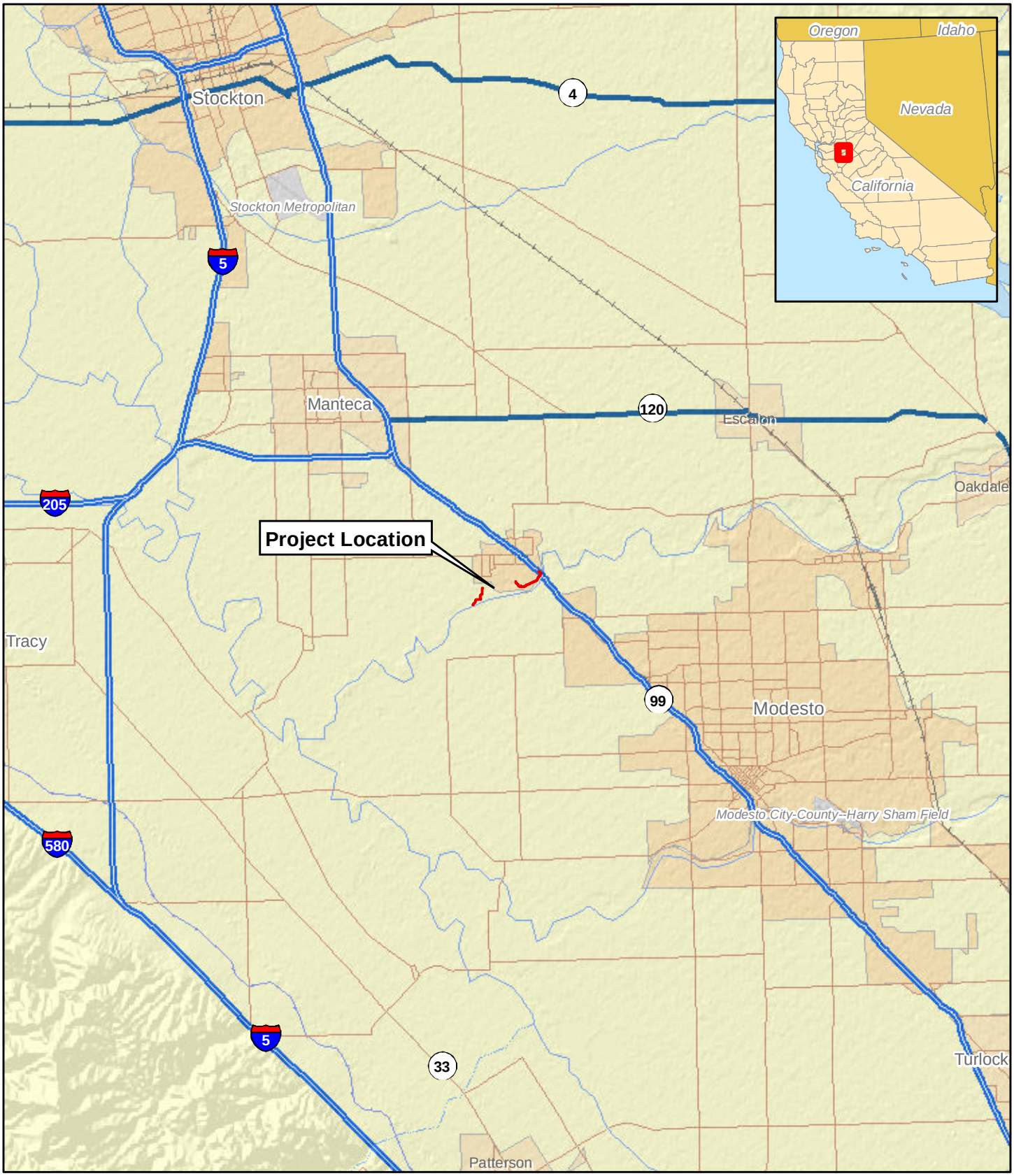


Figure 1. Project Vicinity Map

Lower Stanislaus Bike Path Project Area

1:250,000

0 3 Miles

0 6 Kilometers

Sources: *USA Base Map* [layer],*Data and Maps* [CD]. ESRI, 2006.

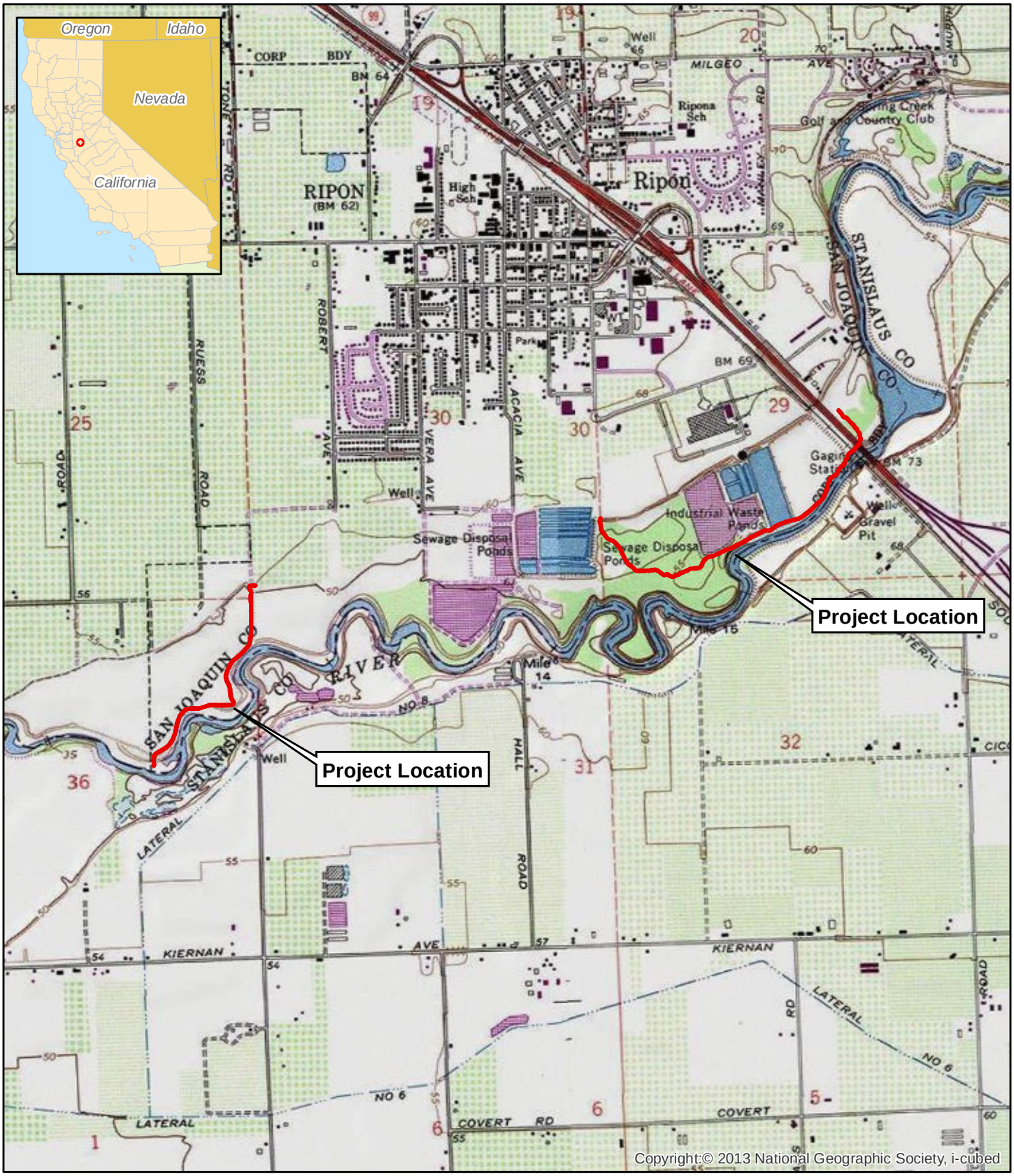


Figure 2. Project Location Map

Lower Stanislaus Bike Path Project Area

T02S, R07E, Sections 25 and 36; T02S, R08E, Sections 29 and 30.
Ripon (1980) and Salida (1978) 7.5' Series Quadrangles, USGS.

1:24,000

0.5 Miles

1 Kilometers

Figure 3. Project Area Map

Lower Stanislaus Bike Path Project Area

Total Acres: 14.59

1:18,000

0 1,000 Feet

0 500 Meters

ATTACHMENT B

Native American Community Outreach

131 Sunset Avenue, Suite E # 120
Suisun, CA 94585-2064

707-718-1416 ▲ Fax 707-451-4775
www.solanoarchaeology.com

March 22, 2021

Native American Heritage Commission
1550 Harbor Blvd, Suite 100
West Sacramento, CA 95691

Re: Lower Stranislaus River Bike Trail Project, San Joaquin County, California

To Whom It May Concern:

BaseCamp Environmental, Inc., has retained Solano Archaeological Services to conduct a CEQA level cultural resources inventory of the approximately 2.1-mile-long Lower Stanisalus River Bike Trail Project in the City of Ripon, San Joaquin County, California. The project area lies on the *Ripon,* and *Salida, California* topographic 7.5-minute quadrangles in Township 2 South, ranges 7, and 8 East, sections 29, 31, and 36. Please find the enclosed topographic map illustrating the project area location.

A cultural resources inventory will include a pedestrian survey of the project area. Before we commence fieldwork, however, we would like to request a Sacred Lands File review for any known cultural properties or locations in or near the project area. We would also like to request a list of Native American individuals/organizations that may have knowledge of cultural resources in the project area, or that might have an interest in or concerns with the proposed Project. Please know that this request and any subsequent outreach with local tribal representatives is for CEQA planning purposes only, and is not part of any SB-18 or AB-52 review.

Please email the results of a Sacred Lands File review and a list of tribal contacts to Brian@solanoarchaeology.com. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at the email provide above or by phone at 530-417-7007.

Sincerely,

Brian Ludwig
Principal Investigator

Enc. Project location map

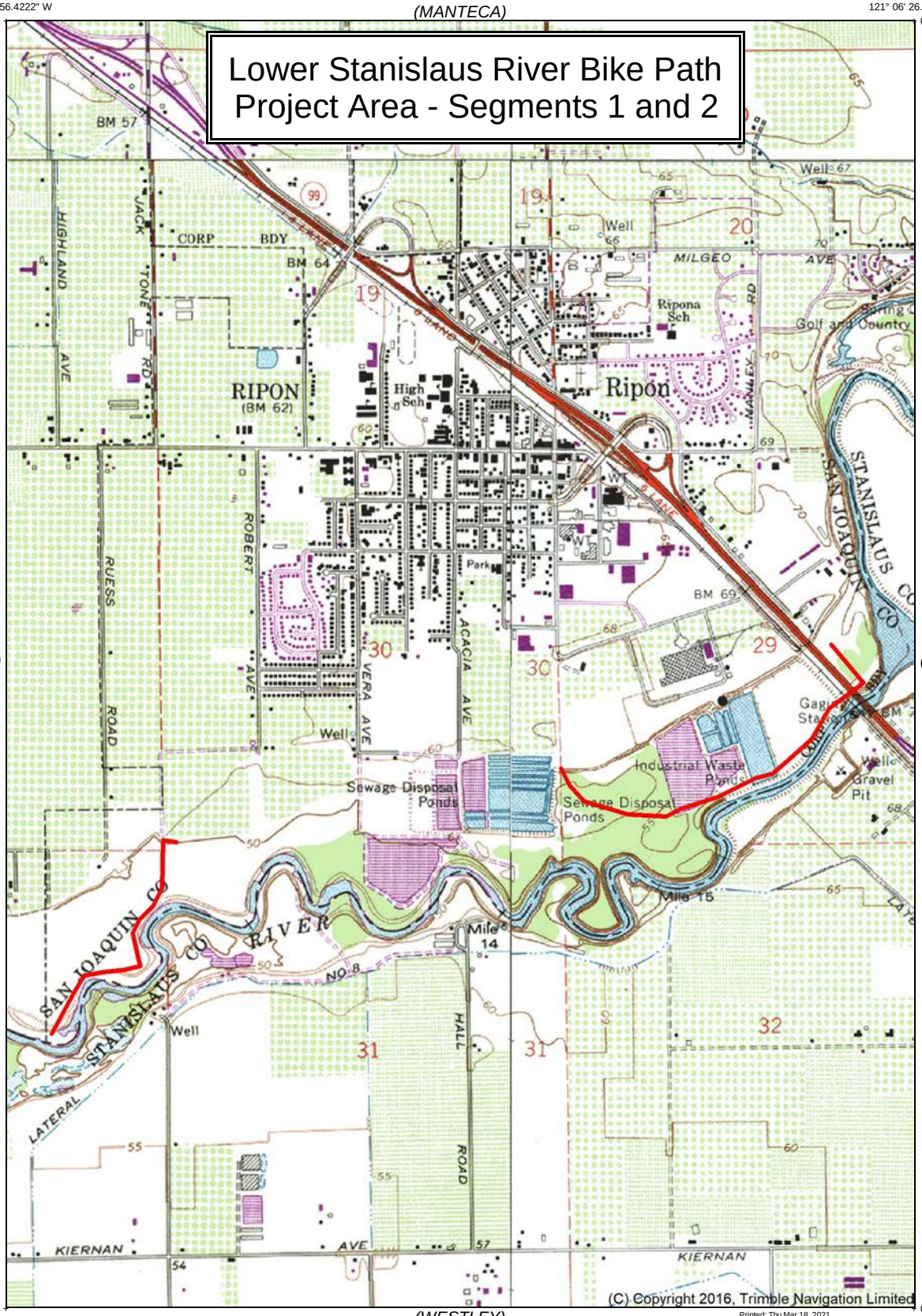
RIPON QUADRANGLE
CALIFORNIA
TOPOGRAPHIC SERIES

(LATHROP) (MANTECA) (AVENA)

121° 08' 56.4222" W
037° 45' 17.7085" N

121° 06' 26.7796" W
037° 45' 17.7085" N

Lower Stanislaus River Bike Path
Project Area - Segments 1 and 2



(VERNALIS) (SALIDA)

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Printed: Thu Mar 18, 2021

037° 42' 30.0730" N
121° 08' 56.4222" W

(WESTLEY)

037° 42' 30.0730" N
121° 06' 26.7796" W

(SOLYO) (BRUSH LAKE)

SCALE 1:24000

Declination

GN MN

GN 1.14° E
MN 13.18° E

0 1
Mile

0 1000
Yards

0 1
Kilometer

CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FT

Produced by Trimble Terrain Navigator Pro
Topography based on USGS 1:24,000 Maps

North American 1983 Datum (NAD83)

To place on the predicted North American 1927 move the projection lines 8M S and 92M W

37121-E2-TM-024
RIPON, CA
JAN 1, 1994

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION

NAHC HEADQUARTERS
1550 Harbor Boulevard
Suite 100
West Sacramento,
California 95691
(916) 373-3710
nahc@nahc.ca.gov
NAHC.ca.gov

April 20, 2021

Brian Ludwig

Solano Archeological Services

Via Email to:brian@solanoarchaeology.com

Re: Lower Stranislaus River Bike Trail Project, San Joaquin County

Dear Mr. Ludwig:

A record search of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) Sacred Lands File (SLF) was completed for the information you have submitted for the above referenced project. The results were negative. However, the absence of specific site information in the SLF does not indicate the absence of cultural resources in any project area. Other sources of cultural resources should also be contacted for information regarding known and recorded sites.

Attached is a list of Native American tribes who may also have knowledge of cultural resources in the project area. This list should provide a starting place in locating areas of potential adverse impact within the proposed project area. I suggest you contact all of those indicated; if they cannot supply information, they might recommend others with specific knowledge. By contacting all those listed, your organization will be better able to respond to claims of failure to consult with the appropriate tribe. If a response has not been received within two weeks of notification, the Commission requests that you follow-up with a telephone call or email to ensure that the project information has been received.

If you receive notification of change of addresses and phone numbers from tribes, please notify me. With your assistance, we can assure that our lists contain current information.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at my email address: Nancy.Gonzalez-Lopez@nahc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Nancy Gonzalez-Lopez
Cultural Resources Analyst

Attachment

Native American Heritage Commission
Native American Contact List
San Joaquin County
4/20/2021

North Valley Yokuts Tribe
Timothy Perez,
P.O. Box 717 — Costanoan
Linden, CA, 95236 — Northern Valley
Phone: (209) 662 - 2788 — Yokut
huskanam@gmail.com

North Valley Yokuts Tribe
Katherine Perez, Chairperson
P.O. Box 717 — Costanoan
Linden, CA, 95236 — Northern Valley
Phone: (209) 887 - 3415 — Yokut
canutes@verizon.net

Tule River Indian Tribe
Neil Peyron, Chairperson
P.O. Box 589 — Yokut
Porterville, CA, 93258
Phone: (559) 781 - 4271
Fax: (559) 781-4610
neil.peyron@tulerivertribe-nsn.gov

Tule River Indian Tribe
Kerri Vera, Environmental Department
P. O. Box 589 — Yokut
Porterville, CA, 93258
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Fax: (559) 783-8932
kerri.vera@tulerivertribe-nsn.gov

Tule River Indian Tribe
Joey Garfield, Tribal Archaeologist
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Fax: (559) 783-8932
joey.garfield@tulerivertribe-nsn.gov

Wilton Rancheria
Jesus Tarango, Chairperson
9728 Kent Street — Miwok
Elk Grove, CA, 95624
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Fax: (916) 683-6015
jtarango@wiltonrancheria-nsn.gov

Wilton Rancheria
Steven Hutchason, THPO
9728 Kent Street — Miwok
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shutchason@wiltonrancheria-nsn.gov

Wilton Rancheria
Dahlton Brown, Director of Administration
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Elk Grove, CA, 95624
Phone: (916) 683 - 6000
dbrown@wiltonrancheria-nsn.gov

The Confederated Villages of Lisjan
Corrina Gould, Chairperson
10926 Edes Avenue — Bay Miwok
Oakland, CA, 94603 — Ohlone
Phone: (510) 575 - 8408 — Delta Yokut
cvltribe@gmail.com

This list is current only as of the date of this document. Distribution of this list does not relieve any person of statutory responsibility as defined in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code, Section 5097.94 of the Public Resource Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code.

This list is only applicable for contacting local Native Americans with regard to cultural resources assessment for the proposed Lower Stranislaus River Bike Trail Project, San Joaquin County.

131 Sunset Avenue, Suite E # 120
Suisun, CA 94585-2064

707-718-1416 ▲ Fax 707-451-4775
www.solanoarchaeology.com

April 27, 2021

Timothy Perez
North Valley Yokuts Tribe
P.O. Box 717
Linden, CA 95236

Re: Lower Stanislaus River Bike Trail Project, City of Ripon, San Joaquin County, California

Dear Mr. Perez:

BaseCamp Environmental, Inc., has retained Solano Archaeological Services to conduct a CEQA level cultural resources inventory of the approximately 2.1-mile-long Lower Stanislaus River Bike Trail Project in the City of Ripon, San Joaquin County, California (the Project). The project area lies on the *Ripon,* and *Salida, California* topographic 7.5-minute quadrangles in Township 2 South, ranges 7, and 8 East, sections 29, 31, and 36. Please find the enclosed topographic map illustrating the project area location.

A cultural resources inventory will include a pedestrian survey of the project area and we would like to ask if you could provide any information on presently undocumented Native American cultural properties within or in the vicinity of the project area. Any input or recommendations you could provide for the Project would be greatly appreciated. This request is for CEQA planning purposes only, and is not part of any SB-18 or AB-52 review. For your information, the Native American Heritage Commission Sacred Lands File record search indicates that no documented culturally significant properties have been recorded in or near the project area.

If you have any questions or if you require any additional information, please feel free to contact me at your convenience. I can be reached via phone at 530-417-7007 or if you prefer by email at Brian@solanoarchaeology.com

Sincerely,

Brian Ludwig, Ph.D.
Principal Investigator

Enc. Project location map

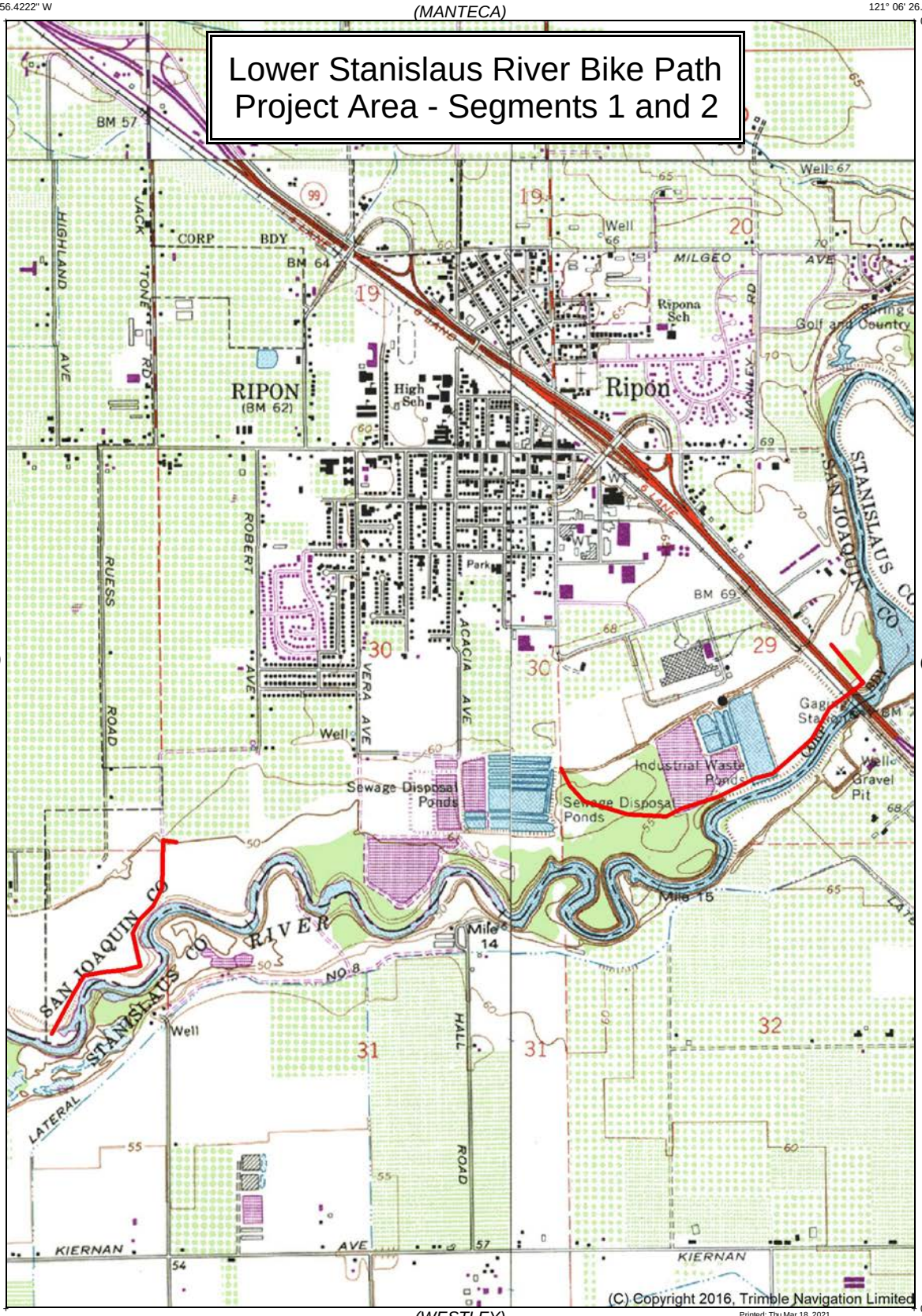
RIPON QUADRANGLE
CALIFORNIA
TOPOGRAPHIC SERIES

(LATHROP) (MANTECA) (AVENA)

121° 08' 56.4222" W
037° 45' 17.7085" N

121° 06' 26.7796" W
037° 45' 17.7085" N

Lower Stanislaus River Bike Path
Project Area - Segments 1 and 2



(VERNALIS) (SALIDA)

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Printed: Thu Mar 18, 2021

037° 42' 30.0730" N
121° 08' 56.4222" W

(WESTLEY)

037° 42' 30.0730" N
121° 06' 26.7796" W

(SOLYO) (BRUSH LAKE)

SCALE 1:24000

Declination

GN MN

GN 1.14° E
MN 13.18° E

0 1
Mile

0 1000
Yards

0 1
Kilometer

CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FT

Produced by Trimble Terrain Navigator Pro
Topography based on USGS 1:24,000 Maps

North American 1983 Datum (NAD83)

To place on the predicted North American 1927 move the projection lines 8M S and 92M W

37121-E2-TM-024
RIPON, CA
JAN 1, 1994

131 Sunset Avenue, Suite E # 120
Suisun, CA 94585-2064

707-718-1416 ▲ Fax 707-451-4775
www.solanoarchaeology.com

April 27, 2021

Steven Hutchason
Wilton Rancheria
9728 Kent St.
Elk Grove, CA 95624

Re: Lower Stanislaus River Bike Trail Project, City of Ripon, San Joaquin County, California

Dear Mr. Hutchason:

BaseCamp Environmental, Inc., has retained Solano Archaeological Services to conduct a CEQA level cultural resources inventory of the approximately 2.1-mile-long Lower Stanislaus River Bike Trail Project in the City of Ripon, San Joaquin County, California (the Project). The project area lies on the *Ripon,* and *Salida, California* topographic 7.5-minute quadrangles in Township 2 South, ranges 7, and 8 East, sections 29, 31, and 36. Please find the enclosed topographic map illustrating the project area location.

A cultural resources inventory will include a pedestrian survey of the project area and we would like to ask if you could provide any information on presently undocumented Native American cultural properties within or in the vicinity of the project area. Any input or recommendations you could provide for the Project would be greatly appreciated. This request is for CEQA planning purposes only, and is not part of any SB-18 or AB-52 review. For your information, the Native American Heritage Commission Sacred Lands File record search indicates that no documented culturally significant properties have been recorded in or near the project area.

If you have any questions or if you require any additional information, please feel free to contact me at your convenience. I can be reached via phone at 530-417-7007 or if you prefer by email at Brian@solanoarchaeology.com

Sincerely,

Brian Ludwig, Ph.D.
Principal Investigator

Enc. Project location map

131 Sunset Avenue, Suite E # 120
Suisun, CA 94585-2064

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www.solanoarchaeology.com

April 27, 2021

Neal Peyron
Tule River Indian Tribe
P.O. Box 589
Porterville, CA 93258

Re: Lower Stanislaus River Bike Trail Project, City of Ripon, San Joaquin County, California

Dear Mr. Peyron:

BaseCamp Environmental, Inc., has retained Solano Archaeological Services to conduct a CEQA level cultural resources inventory of the approximately 2.1-mile-long Lower Stanislaus River Bike Trail Project in the City of Ripon, San Joaquin County, California (the Project). The project area lies on the *Ripon,* and *Salida, California* topographic 7.5-minute quadrangles in Township 2 South, ranges 7, and 8 East, sections 29, 31, and 36. Please find the enclosed topographic map illustrating the project area location.

A cultural resources inventory will include a pedestrian survey of the project area and we would like to ask if you could provide any information on presently undocumented Native American cultural properties within or in the vicinity of the project area. Any input or recommendations you could provide for the Project would be greatly appreciated. This request is for CEQA planning purposes only, and is not part of any SB-18 or AB-52 review. For your information, the Native American Heritage Commission Sacred Lands File record search indicates that no documented culturally significant properties have been recorded in or near the project area.

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Sincerely,

Brian Ludwig, Ph.D.
Principal Investigator

Enc. Project location map

131 Sunset Avenue, Suite E # 120
Suisun, CA 94585-2064

707-718-1416 ▲ Fax 707-451-4775
www.solanoarchaeology.com

April 27, 2021

Kerri Vera
Tule River Indian Tribe
P.O. Box 589
Porterville, CA 93258

Re: Lower Stanislaus River Bike Trail Project, City of Ripon, San Joaquin County, California

Dear Ms. Vera:

BaseCamp Environmental, Inc., has retained Solano Archaeological Services to conduct a CEQA level cultural resources inventory of the approximately 2.1-mile-long Lower Stanislaus River Bike Trail Project in the City of Ripon, San Joaquin County, California (the Project). The project area lies on the *Ripon,* and *Salida, California* topographic 7.5-minute quadrangles in Township 2 South, ranges 7, and 8 East, sections 29, 31, and 36. Please find the enclosed topographic map illustrating the project area location.

A cultural resources inventory will include a pedestrian survey of the project area and we would like to ask if you could provide any information on presently undocumented Native American cultural properties within or in the vicinity of the project area. Any input or recommendations you could provide for the Project would be greatly appreciated. This request is for CEQA planning purposes only, and is not part of any SB-18 or AB-52 review. For your information, the Native American Heritage Commission Sacred Lands File record search indicates that no documented culturally significant properties have been recorded in or near the project area.

If you have any questions or if you require any additional information, please feel free to contact me at your convenience. I can be reached via phone at 530-417-7007 or if you prefer by email at Brian@solanoarchaeology.com

Sincerely,

Brian Ludwig, Ph.D.
Principal Investigator

Enc. Project location map

131 Sunset Avenue, Suite E # 120
Suisun, CA 94585-2064

707-718-1416 ▲ Fax 707-451-4775
www.solanoarchaeology.com

April 27, 2021

Katherine Perez
North Valley Yokuts Tribe
P.O. Box 717
Linden, CA 95236

Re: Lower Stanislaus River Bike Trail Project, City of Ripon, San Joaquin County, California

Dear Ms. Perez:

BaseCamp Environmental, Inc., has retained Solano Archaeological Services to conduct a CEQA level cultural resources inventory of the approximately 2.1-mile-long Lower Stanislaus River Bike Trail Project in the City of Ripon, San Joaquin County, California (the Project). The project area lies on the *Ripon,* and *Salida, California* topographic 7.5-minute quadrangles in Township 2 South, ranges 7, and 8 East, sections 29, 31, and 36. Please find the enclosed topographic map illustrating the project area location.

A cultural resources inventory will include a pedestrian survey of the project area and we would like to ask if you could provide any information on presently undocumented Native American cultural properties within or in the vicinity of the project area. Any input or recommendations you could provide for the Project would be greatly appreciated. This request is for CEQA planning purposes only, and is not part of any SB-18 or AB-52 review. For your information, the Native American Heritage Commission Sacred Lands File record search indicates that no documented culturally significant properties have been recorded in or near the project area.

If you have any questions or if you require any additional information, please feel free to contact me at your convenience. I can be reached via phone at 530-417-7007 or if you prefer by email at Brian@solanoarchaeology.com

Sincerely,

Brian Ludwig, Ph.D.
Principal Investigator

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www.solanoarchaeology.com

April 27, 2021

Joey Garfield
Tule River Indian Tribe
P.O. Box 589
Porterville, CA 93258

Re: Lower Stanislaus River Bike Trail Project, City of Ripon, San Joaquin County, California

Dear Mr. Garfield:

BaseCamp Environmental, Inc., has retained Solano Archaeological Services to conduct a CEQA level cultural resources inventory of the approximately 2.1-mile-long Lower Stanislaus River Bike Trail Project in the City of Ripon, San Joaquin County, California (the Project). The project area lies on the *Ripon,* and *Salida, California* topographic 7.5-minute quadrangles in Township 2 South, ranges 7, and 8 East, sections 29, 31, and 36. Please find the enclosed topographic map illustrating the project area location.

A cultural resources inventory will include a pedestrian survey of the project area and we would like to ask if you could provide any information on presently undocumented Native American cultural properties within or in the vicinity of the project area. Any input or recommendations you could provide for the Project would be greatly appreciated. This request is for CEQA planning purposes only, and is not part of any SB-18 or AB-52 review. For your information, the Native American Heritage Commission Sacred Lands File record search indicates that no documented culturally significant properties have been recorded in or near the project area.

If you have any questions or if you require any additional information, please feel free to contact me at your convenience. I can be reached via phone at 530-417-7007 or if you prefer by email at Brian@solanoarchaeology.com

Sincerely,

Brian Ludwig, Ph.D.
Principal Investigator

Enc. Project location map

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Suisun, CA 94585-2064

707-718-1416 ▲ Fax 707-451-4775
www.solanoarchaeology.com

April 27, 2021

Jesus Tarango
Wilton Rancheria
9728 Kent St.
Elk Grove, CA 95624

Re: Lower Stanislaus River Bike Trail Project, City of Ripon, San Joaquin County, California

Dear Mr. Tarango:

BaseCamp Environmental, Inc., has retained Solano Archaeological Services to conduct a CEQA level cultural resources inventory of the approximately 2.1-mile-long Lower Stanislaus River Bike Trail Project in the City of Ripon, San Joaquin County, California (the Project). The project area lies on the *Ripon,* and *Salida, California* topographic 7.5-minute quadrangles in Township 2 South, ranges 7, and 8 East, sections 29, 31, and 36. Please find the enclosed topographic map illustrating the project area location.

A cultural resources inventory will include a pedestrian survey of the project area and we would like to ask if you could provide any information on presently undocumented Native American cultural properties within or in the vicinity of the project area. Any input or recommendations you could provide for the Project would be greatly appreciated. This request is for CEQA planning purposes only, and is not part of any SB-18 or AB-52 review. For your information, the Native American Heritage Commission Sacred Lands File record search indicates that no documented culturally significant properties have been recorded in or near the project area.

If you have any questions or if you require any additional information, please feel free to contact me at your convenience. I can be reached via phone at 530-417-7007 or if you prefer by email at Brian@solanoarchaeology.com

Sincerely,

Brian Ludwig, Ph.D.
Principal Investigator

Enc. Project location map

131 Sunset Avenue, Suite E # 120
Suisun, CA 94585-2064

707-718-1416 ▲ Fax 707-451-4775
www.solanoarchaeology.com

April 27, 2021

Dahlton Brown
Wilton Rancheria
9728 Kent St.
Elk Grove, CA 95624

Re: Lower Stanislaus River Bike Trail Project, City of Ripon, San Joaquin County, California

Dear Mr. Brown:

BaseCamp Environmental, Inc., has retained Solano Archaeological Services to conduct a CEQA level cultural resources inventory of the approximately 2.1-mile-long Lower Stanislaus River Bike Trail Project in the City of Ripon, San Joaquin County, California (the Project). The project area lies on the *Ripon,* and *Salida, California* topographic 7.5-minute quadrangles in Township 2 South, ranges 7, and 8 East, sections 29, 31, and 36. Please find the enclosed topographic map illustrating the project area location.

A cultural resources inventory will include a pedestrian survey of the project area and we would like to ask if you could provide any information on presently undocumented Native American cultural properties within or in the vicinity of the project area. Any input or recommendations you could provide for the Project would be greatly appreciated. This request is for CEQA planning purposes only, and is not part of any SB-18 or AB-52 review. For your information, the Native American Heritage Commission Sacred Lands File record search indicates that no documented culturally significant properties have been recorded in or near the project area.

If you have any questions or if you require any additional information, please feel free to contact me at your convenience. I can be reached via phone at 530-417-7007 or if you prefer by email at Brian@solanoarchaeology.com

Sincerely,

Brian Ludwig, Ph.D.
Principal Investigator

Enc. Project location map

131 Sunset Avenue, Suite E # 120
Suisun, CA 94585-2064

707-718-1416 ▲ Fax 707-451-4775
www.solanoarchaeology.com

April 27, 2021

Corrina Gould
The Confederated Villages of Lisjan
10926 Edes Ave.
Oakland, CA 94603

Re: Lower Stanislaus River Bike Trail Project, City of Ripon, San Joaquin County, California

Dear Ms. Gould:

BaseCamp Environmental, Inc., has retained Solano Archaeological Services to conduct a CEQA level cultural resources inventory of the approximately 2.1-mile-long Lower Stanislaus River Bike Trail Project in the City of Ripon, San Joaquin County, California (the Project). The project area lies on the *Ripon,* and *Salida, California* topographic 7.5-minute quadrangles in Township 2 South, ranges 7, and 8 East, sections 29, 31, and 36. Please find the enclosed topographic map illustrating the project area location.

A cultural resources inventory will include a pedestrian survey of the project area and we would like to ask if you could provide any information on presently undocumented Native American cultural properties within or in the vicinity of the project area. Any input or recommendations you could provide for the Project would be greatly appreciated. This request is for CEQA planning purposes only, and is not part of any SB-18 or AB-52 review. For your information, the Native American Heritage Commission Sacred Lands File record search indicates that no documented culturally significant properties have been recorded in or near the project area.

If you have any questions or if you require any additional information, please feel free to contact me at your convenience. I can be reached via phone at 530-417-7007 or if you prefer by email at Brian@solanoarchaeology.com

Sincerely,

Brian Ludwig, Ph.D.
Principal Investigator

Enc. Project location map

ATTACHMENT C

CCIC Record Search Results

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA INFORMATION CENTER

California Historical Resources Information System
Department of Anthropology – California State University, Stanislaus
One University Circle, Turlock, California 95382
(209) 667-3307

Alpine, Calaveras, Mariposa, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus & Tuolumne Counties

Date: 3/23/2021

Records Search File No.: 11717L
Project: Lower Stanislaus River Bike Path, City of Ripon

Brian Ludwig
Solano Archaeological Services
131 Sunset Avenue, Suite E 120
Suisun City, CA 94585
707-718-1416 brian@solanoarchaeology.com

Billing email: jason@solanoarchaeology.com

Dear Mr. Ludwig:

The Central California Information Center received your record search request for the project area/radius referenced above, located on the Ripon and Salida 7.5' quadrangles in San Joaquin County and Stanislaus County. The following reflects the results of the records search for the project study area and radius:

As per data currently available at the CCaIC, the locations of resources/reports are provided in the following format: ☒ custom GIS maps ☐ GIS Data/shape files ☐ hand-drawn maps

Summary Data:

Resources within the project area:	None formally reported to the Information Center.
Resources within the 1/2-mile radius:	5: P-39-00091, 307, 338, 4537; P-50-001920
Reports within the project area:	9: SJ-00369, 921, 2759, 3995, 5178, 6345; ST-00369, 921, 7235
Reports within the 1/2-mile radius:	17: SJ-00744, 825, 876, 3801, 5128, 5376, 5997, 6018, 6875, 7181; ST-00926, 2759, 3995, 5761, 5997, 6345, 7537

Resource Database Printout (list):	☐ enclosed	☒ not requested	☐ nothing listed
Resource Database Printout (details):	☒ enclosed	☐ not requested	☐ nothing listed
Resource Digital Database Records:	☐ enclosed	☒ not requested	☐ nothing listed
Report Database Printout (list):	☒ enclosed	☐ not requested	☐ nothing listed
Report Database Printout (details):	☐ enclosed	☒ not requested	☐ nothing listed
Report Digital Database Records:	☐ enclosed	☒ not requested	☐ nothing listed

Resource Record Copies:	☐ enclosed	☒ not requested	☐ nothing listed
Report Copies:	☐ enclosed	☒ not requested	☐ nothing listed
OHP Historic Properties Directory: New Excel File: Built Environment Resource Directory (BERD) Dated 12/17/2019	☐ enclosed	☐ not requested	☒ nothing listed
Archaeological Determinations of Eligibility:	☐ enclosed	☐ not requested	☒ nothing listed
CA Inventory of Historic Resources (1976):	☐ enclosed	☐ not requested	☒ nothing listed
Caltrans Bridge Survey:	☐ enclosed	☒ not requested	☐ nothing listed
Ethnographic Information:	☐ enclosed	☒ not requested	☐ nothing listed
Historical Literature:	☐ enclosed	☒ not requested	☐ nothing listed
Historical Maps:	☐ enclosed	☒ not requested	☐ nothing listed
Local Inventories:	☐ enclosed	☒ not requested	☐ nothing listed
GLO and/or Rancho Plat Maps:	☐ enclosed	☒ not requested	☐ nothing listed
Shipwreck Inventory:	☒ not available at CCIC; please go to http://shipwrecks.slc.ca.gov/ShipwrecksDatabase/Shipwrecks_Database.asp		
Soil Survey Maps:	☒ not available at CCIC; please go to http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/app/WebSoilSurvey.aspx		

Please forward a copy of any resulting reports from this project to the office as soon as possible. Due to the sensitive nature of archaeological site location data, we ask that you do not include resource location maps and resource location descriptions in your report if the report is for public distribution. If you have any questions regarding the results presented herein, please contact the office at the phone number listed above.

The provision of CHRIS Data via this records search response does not in any way constitute public disclosure of records otherwise exempt from disclosure under the California Public Records Act or any other law, including, but not limited to, records related to archeological site information maintained by or on behalf of, or in the possession of, the State of California, Department of Parks and Recreation, State Historic Preservation Officer, Office of Historic Preservation, or the State Historical Resources Commission.

Due to processing delays and other factors, not all of the historical resource reports and resource records that have been submitted to the Office of Historic Preservation are available via this records search. Additional information may be available through the federal, state, and local agencies that produced or paid for historical resource management work in the search area. Additionally, Native American tribes have historical resource information not in the CHRIS Inventory, and you should contact the California Native American Heritage Commission for information on local/regional tribal contacts.

Should you require any additional information for the above referenced project, reference the record search number listed above when making inquiries. Requests made after initial invoicing will result in the preparation of a separate invoice.

Thank you for using the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS).

Note: Billing will be transmitted separately via email by our Financial Services office *($302.40),

payable within 60 days of receipt of the invoice.

If you wish to include payment by Credit Card, you must wait to receive the official invoice from Financial Services so that you can reference the CMP # (Invoice Number), and then contact the link below:

https://commerce.cashnet.com/ANTHROPOLOGY

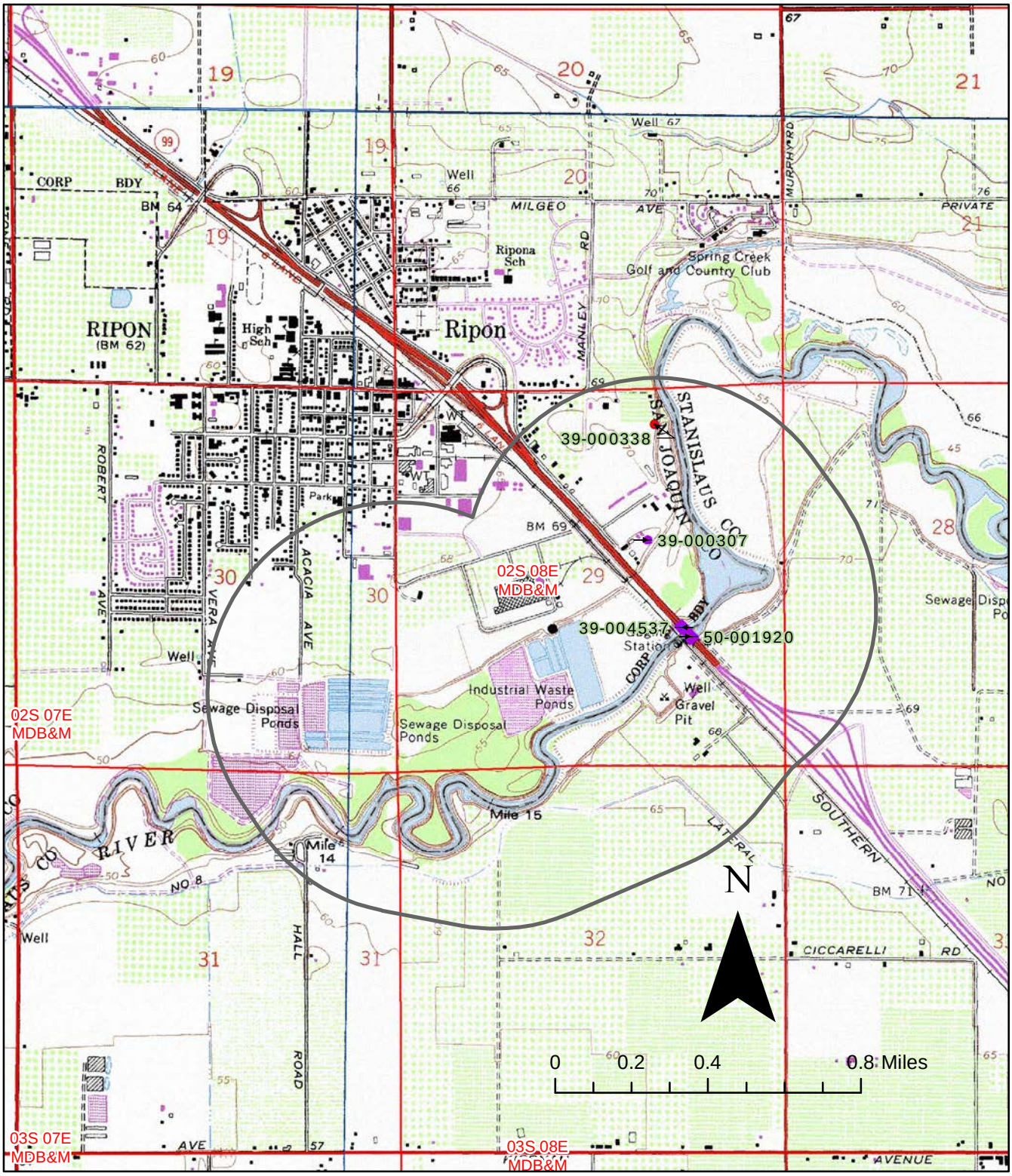
Sincerely,

E. A. Greathouse

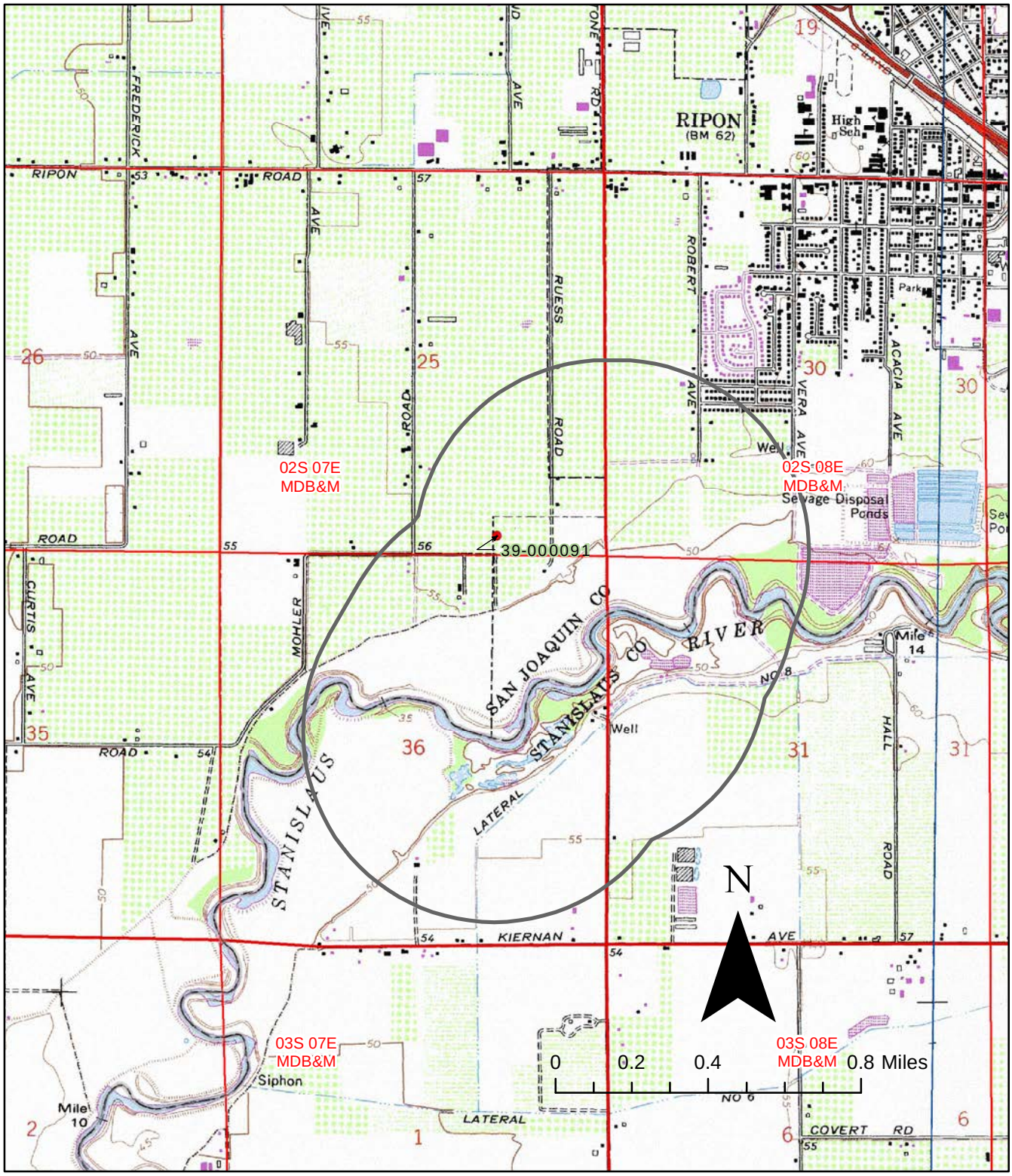
E. A. Greathouse, Coordinator
Central California Information Center
California Historical Resources Information System

* Invoice Request sent to: ARBilling@csustan.edu, CSU Stanislaus Financial Services

CCaIC 11717L Lower Stanislaus River Bike Path Resources 1/2-mile (east portion) 1:24,000-scale Ripon/Salida USGS 7.5' Quadrangles



CCaIC 11717L Lower Stanislaus River Bike Path Resources 1/2-mile (west portion) 1:24,000-scale Ripon/Salida USGS 7.5' Quadrangles



Resource Detail: P-39-000091

Identifying information

Primary No.: P-39-000091
Trinomial:
Name: SW-47
Other IDs:

Type	*Name*
Other	SW-47
Resource Name	SW-47

Cross-refs:

Attributes

Resource type: Structure
Age: Historic
Information base: Survey
Attribute codes: HP20 (Canal/aqueduct) - canal; HP39 (Other) - pipeline
Disclosure:
Collections:
Accession no(s):
Facility:

General notes

Recording events

Date	*Recorder(s)*	*Affiliation*	*Notes*
8/4/1993			

Associated reports

Report No.	*Year*	*Title*	*Affiliation*
ME-02759	1995	Cultural Resources Inventory Report for the Proposed Mojave Northward Expansion Project; Final. [multivolume report]	Woodward Clyde Associates; for Mojave Pipeline Company
SJ-02759	1995	Cultural Resources Inventory Report for the Proposed Mojave Northward Expansion Project, Final.	Woodward Clyde Consultants, prepared for Mojave Pipeline Company
ST-02759	1995	Cultural Resources Inventory Report for the Proposed Mojave Northward Expansion Project.	Woodward-Clyde Consultants; for Mojave Pipeline Company

Location information

County: San Joaquin
USGS quad(s): Ripon
Address:
PLSS:
UTMs:

Management status

Database record metadata

	Date	*User*	
Entered:	9/30/2013		
Last modified:	1/29/2014	Anthro	
IC actions:	*Date*	*User*	*Action taken*
	9/30/2013	jay	Added placeholder records to fill in primary number sequence.

Record status:

Resource Detail: P-39-000307

Identifying information

Primary No.: P-39-000307
Trinomial: CA-SJO-000190H
Name: Ripon-1
Other IDs:

Type	*Name*
Other	RIPON-1
Resource Name	Ripon-1

Cross-refs:

Attributes

Resource type: Site
Age: Historic
Information base: Survey
Attribute codes: AH02 (Foundations/structure pads) - foundation/ structure pads
Disclosure:
Collections:
Accession no(s):
Facility:

General notes

Recording events

Date	*Recorder(s)*	*Affiliation*	*Notes*
5/11/1981	SWERNOFF, STEINER	Professional Analysts-A Research Corporation	

Associated reports

Report No.	*Year*	*Title*	*Affiliation*
CA-00369	1982	Archaeological Investigations at the Lower Stanislaus River Recreation Areas, Calaveras, Tuolumne, Stanislaus, and San Joaquin Counties, California [and] Appendix C: Field Data, Phone Contacts, and Access Information.	Professional Analysts
SJ-00369	1982	Archaeological Investigations at the Lower Stanislaus River Recreation Areas, Calaveras, Tuolumne, Stanislaus, and San Joaquin Counties, California [and] Appendix C: Field Data, Phone Contacts, and Access Information.	Professional Analysts; for Interagency Archaeological Services, National Park Service
ST-00369	1982	Archaeological Investigations at the Lower Stanislaus River Recreation Areas, Calaveras, Tuolumne, Stanislaus, and San Joaquin Counties, California [and] Appendix C: Field Data, Phone Contacts, and Access Information.	Professional Analysts; for Interagency Archaeological Services, National Park Service
TO-00369	1982	Archaeological Investigations at the Lower Stanislaus River Recreation Areas, Calaveras, Tuolumne, Stanislaus, and San Joaquin Counties, California [and] Appendix C: Field Data, Phone Contacts, and Access Information.	Professional Analysts

Location information

County: San Joaquin
USGS quad(s): Salida
Address:
PLSS: T2S R8E NW of SE of Sec. 29 MDBM
UTMs: Zone 10 666460mE 4177690mN NAD27

Management status

Resource Detail: P-39-000307

Database record metadata

	Date	User	
Entered:	5/9/2011	jay	
Last modified:	1/29/2014	Anthro	
IC actions:	*Date*	*User*	*Action taken*
	5/9/2011	jay	Appended records from old OHP database.
Record status:			

Resource Detail: P-39-000338

Identifying information

Primary No.: P-39-000338
Trinomial: CA-SJO-000224
Name: 89-1
Other IDs:

Type	*Name*
Resource Name	89-1

Cross-refs:

Attributes

Resource type: Site
Age: Prehistoric
Information base: Survey
Attribute codes: AP02 (Lithic scatter) - lithic scatter
Disclosure:
Collections:
Accession no(s):
Facility:

General notes

Recording events

Date	*Recorder(s)*	*Affiliation*	*Notes*
2/1/1989	PEAK, GERRY	Peak & Associates, Inc.	

Associated reports

Report No.	*Year*	*Title*	*Affiliation*
SJ-00825	1989	Cultural Resource Assessment of the Ripon Bluffs Project, San Joaquin County, California	Peak and Associates

Location information

County: San Joaquin
USGS quad(s): Salida
Address:
PLSS: T2S R8E NW of NE of Sec. 29 MDBM
UTMs: Zone 10 666600mE 4178240mN NAD27

Management status

Database record metadata

	Date	*User*	
Entered:	5/9/2011	jay	
Last modified:	1/29/2014	Anthro	
IC actions:	*Date*	*User*	*Action taken*
	5/9/2011	jay	Appended records from old OHP database.

Record status:

Resource Detail: P-39-004537

Identifying information

Primary No.: P-39-004537
Trinomial:
Name: Bridge 29-0013L; P-50-001920
Other IDs:

Type	*Name*
Resource Name	Bridge 29-0013L; P-50-001920

Cross-refs: See also 50-001920

Attributes

Resource type: Structure
Age: Historic
Information base: Survey
Attribute codes: HP19 (Bridge)
Disclosure: Unrestricted
Collections: No
Accession no(s):
Facility:

General notes

Recording events

Date	*Recorder(s)*	*Affiliation*	*Notes*
4/9/2003	CDM/JMC	Caltrans	

Associated reports

Report No.	*Year*	*Title*	*Affiliation*
SJ-05997	2004	Caltrans Historic Bridge Inventory Update: Concrete Arch Bridge, Vol.1: Report and Figures	JRP Historical Consulting
SJ-07235	2010	Historic Property Survey Report for the Hammett Road/State Route 99 Interchange Reconstruction Project Salida, Stanislaus County and San Joaquin County California Caltrans District 10 EA#10-0L320	LSA Associates, Inc.
ST-07235	2010	Historic Property Survey Report for the Hammett Road/State Route 99 Interchange Reconstruction Project Salida, Stanislaus County and San Joaquin County California Caltrans District 10 EA#10-0L320	LSA Associates, Inc.

Location information

County: San Joaquin
USGS quad(s): Salida
Address:
PLSS:
UTMs:

Management status

Database record metadata

	Date	*User*	
Entered:	9/30/2013		
Last modified:	6/29/2015	EGreathouse	
IC actions:	*Date*	*User*	*Action taken*
	9/30/2013	jay	Added placeholder records to fill in primary number sequence.

Record status:

Resource Detail: P-50-001920

Identifying information

Primary No.: P-50-001920
Trinomial:
Name: Bridge #290013L; P-39-004537
Other IDs:

Type	*Name*
Resource Name	Bridge #290013L; P-39-004537

Cross-refs: See also 39-004537

Attributes

Resource type: Structure
Age: Historic
Information base: Survey
Attribute codes: HP19 (Bridge) - 29-0013L; HP76 (Arch Construction) - Arch Construction; HP95 (Concrete Construction) - Concrete Construction; HP96 (Steel Construction) - Steel Construction
Disclosure: Unrestricted
Collections: No
Accession no(s):
Facility:

General notes

Recording events

Date	*Recorder(s)*	*Affiliation*	*Notes*
4/9/2002	JMC	Caltrans	
1/1/1986	CDM	Caltrans	

Associated reports

Report No.	*Year*	*Title*	*Affiliation*
SJ-07235	2010	Historic Property Survey Report for the Hammett Road/State Route 99 Interchange Reconstruction Project Salida, Stanislaus County and San Joaquin County California Caltrans District 10 EA#10-0L320	LSA Associates, Inc.
ST-05997	2004	Caltrans Historic Bridge Inventory Update: Concrete Arch Bridges, Vol. 1: Report and Figures	JRP Historical Consulting
ST-07235	2010	Historic Property Survey Report for the Hammett Road/State Route 99 Interchange Reconstruction Project Salida, Stanislaus County and San Joaquin County California Caltrans District 10 EA#10-0L320	LSA Associates, Inc.

Location information

County: Stanislaus
USGS quad(s): Salida
Address:
PLSS:
UTMs:

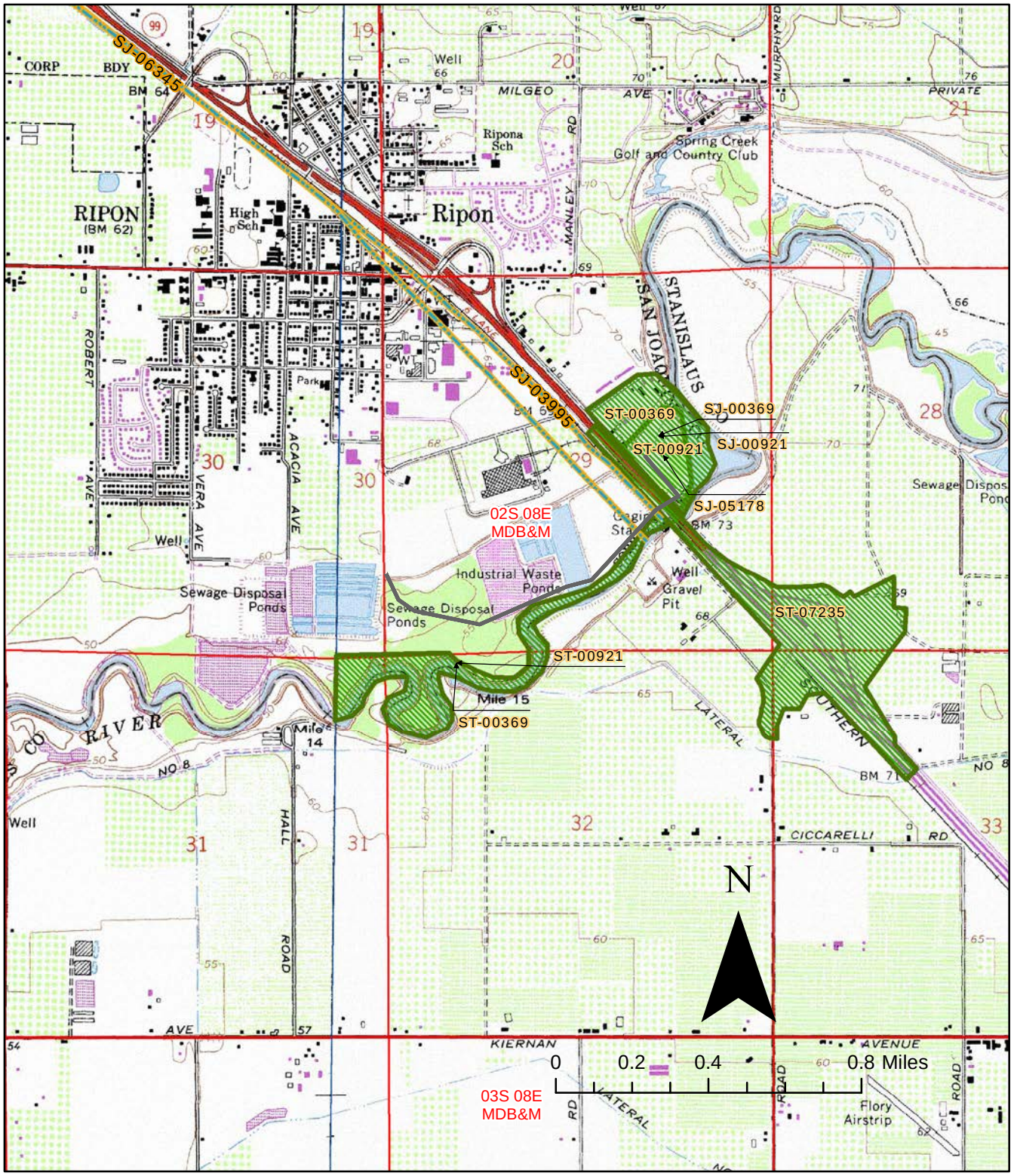
Management status

Database record metadata

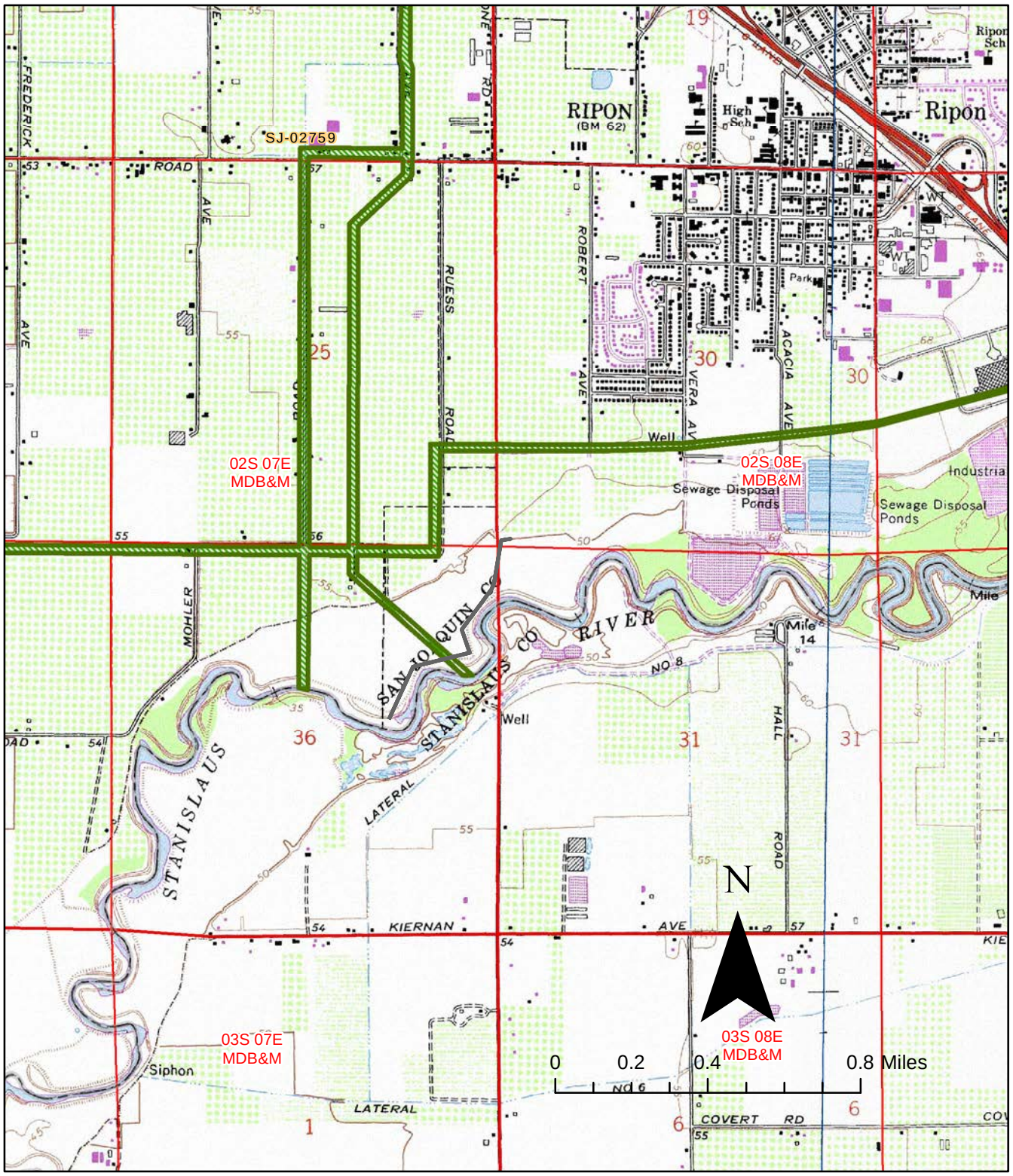
	Date	*User*	
Entered:	10/7/2010	ccic-admin	
Last modified:	6/29/2015	EGreathouse	
IC actions:	*Date*	*User*	*Action taken*
	11/26/2014	Anthro	I.R

Record status:

CCaIC 11717L Lower Stanislaus River Bike Path Reports on Project (east portion) 1:24,000-scale Ripon/Salida USGS 7.5' Quadrangles



CCaIC 11717L Lower Stanislaus River Bike Path Report on Project (west portion) 1:24,000-scale Ripon/Salida USGS 7.5' Quadrangles



Report List

Report No.	Other IDs	Year	Author(s)	Title	Affiliation	Resources
SJ-00369	NADB-R - 1366081; Other - CX-0001-100077	1982	Swernoff, M.	Archaeological Investigations at the Lower Stanislaus River Recreation Areas, Calaveras, Tuolumne, Stanislaus, and San Joaquin Counties, California [and] Appendix C: Field Data, Phone Contacts, and Access Information.	Professional Analysts; for Interagency Archaeological Services, National Park Service	05-000270, 05-000271, 39-000307, 39-000308, 50-000213, 50-000231, 50-000232, 50-000265, 50-000266, 50-000267, 50-000268, 50-000269, 50-000270, 50-000271, 50-000272, 50-000273, 50-000274, 50-000275, 50-000276, 55-001711, 55-001712, 55-002287, 55-002288, 55-002289
SJ-00744	NADB-R - 1361552	1989	Garaventa, D. M., Harmon, R. M., and Banet, A. M.	Cultural Resources Assessment of Replacement of Gas Line Under Stanislaus River, One Mile South of Ripon, Stanislaus and San Joaquin Counties, California.	Basin Research Associates, Inc. (prepared for PG & E)	
SJ-00825	NADB-R - 1361640	1989	Peak and Associates	Cultural Resource Assessment of the Ripon Bluffs Project, San Joaquin County, California	Peak and Associates	39-000338
SJ-00921	NADB-R - 1367436	1977	Orlins, Robert I.	Cultural Resources Survey of Fee Lands for Public Access, Lower Stanislaus River, California.	Robert I. Orlins; for USACE	50-000231, 50-000232, 50-000244, 50-000245, 50-000250, 50-000251, 50-000252, 50-000253, 50-000254, 50-000255, 50-000275, 50-000545, 55-001711, 55-001712, 55-002286, 55-002302
SJ-02759	NADB-R - 1362256	1995	Hatoff, Brian, Barb Voss, Sharon Waechter, Stephen Wee, and Vance Bente	Cultural Resources Inventory Report for the Proposed Mojave Northward Expansion Project, Final.	Woodward Clyde Consultants, prepared for Mojave Pipeline Company	24-000085, 24-000086, 24-000087, 24-000088, 24-000089, 24-000090, 24-000091, 24-000092, 24-000093, 24-000094, 24-000096, 24-000097, 39-000015, 39-000064, 39-000065, 39-000074, 39-000075, 39-000076, 39-000077, 39-000078, 39-000079, 39-000080, 39-000081, 39-000082, 39-000083, 39-000084, 39-000085, 39-000086, 39-000087, 39-000088, 39-000089, 39-000090, 39-000091, 39-000092, 39-000093, 39-000094, 39-000095, 39-000096, 39-000097, 39-000098, 39-000099, 39-000100, 39-000101, 39-000102, 39-000103, 39-000104, 39-000105, 39-000106, 39-000107, 39-000108, 39-000109, 39-000112, 50-000063, 50-000070, 50-000071, 50-000072, 50-000073, 50-000074, 50-000075, 50-000076, 50-000077, 50-000078, 50-000079, 50-000080, 50-000083

Report List

Report No.	Other IDs	Year	Author(s)	Title	Affiliation	Resources
SJ-03801	NADB-R - 1363845	1999	Jensen, Peter	Archaeological Inventory Survey, Ripon-Escalon Electrical Distribution Line, Route II Project, c. 4.75 Mile Corridor near Ripon, San Joaquin County, California.	Peter M. Jensen, Ph.D, Jensen & Associates; prepared for Insite Environmental, Inc., Stockton, Ca	
SJ-03995	NADB-R - 1366235	2000	Nelson, W. J.	Cultural Resource Survey for the Level (3) Communications Long Haul Fiber Optics Project; Segment WS04: Sacramento to Bakersfield	Far Western Anthropological Research Group, Inc.; for Parsons, Brinckerhoff Network Services	39-000002, 39-000354, 50-000001, 50-000439
SJ-05128	NADB-R - 1365007	2003	Supernowicz, D. and J. Dougherty	Cultural Resources Study of the Proposed Bechtel Project Site No. 960017009A - Highway 99 and Mariposa; 2584 Mariposa Road, Stockton, Caifornia 95215.	Historic Resource Associates	39-004377
SJ-05178	NADB-R - 1365032	1998	Conkling, S.	Cultural Resources Survey Report for the Corps Park in the City of Ripon, San Joaquin County, California.	LSA Associates, Incorporated	
SJ-05376	NADB-R - 1365258	2004	Napton, L. K.	Cultural Resources Investigations of the Proposed Modesto Irrigation District Electric Generation Station (MEGS) Project and Linear Facilities, 12.25 Acres in the City of Ripon, San Joaquin County, California.	CSU Stanislaus	
SJ-05997	NADB-R - 1365979	2004	McMorris, C.	Caltrans Historic Bridge Inventory Update: Concrete Arch Bridge, Vol.1: Report and Figures	JRP Historical Consulting	39-004537
SJ-06018	NADB-R - 1365900	2006	Napton, L. K.	Cultural Resources Investigation at the Modesto Irrigation District Electric Generation Station (MEGS) Project, and Linear Facilities, 12.25 Acres in the City of Ripon, San Joaquin County, CA, Final Cultural Resource Report	Napton, L.K.	
SJ-06345	NADB-R - 1366576	2006	SWCA Environmental Consultants	Cultural Resources Final Report of Monitoring and Findings for the QWest Network Construction Project, State of California. SWCA Project No. 10715-180.	SWCA Environmental Consultants, for Qwest Communications	39-000002, 39-000354
SJ-06875	NADB-R - 1367136	2008	Bard, J.	Administrative Draft, Modesto Electric Generation Station (Prepared for a Small Power Plant Exemption [SPPE] for the M. I. D. MEGS Project, Ripon); Section 8.3 Cultural Resources	CH2MHILL	

Report List

Report No.	Other IDs	Year	Author(s)	Title	Affiliation	Resources
ST-00369	NADB-R - 1366080; Other - CX-0001-1-0077	1982	Swernoff, M.	Archaeological Investigations at the Lower Stanislaus River Recreation Areas, Calaveras, Tuolumne, Stanislaus, and San Joaquin Counties, California [and] Appendix C: Field Data, Phone Contacts, and Access Information.	Professional Analysts; for Interagency Archaeological Services, National Park Service	05-000270, 05-000271, 39-000307, 39-000308, 50-000231, 50-000232, 50-000265, 50-000266, 50-000267, 50-000268, 50-000269, 50-000270, 50-000271, 50-000272, 50-000273, 50-000274, 50-000275, 50-000276, 55-001711, 55-001712, 55-002287, 55-002288, 55-002289
ST-00921	NADB-R - 1361757	1977	Orlins, R. I.	Cultural Resources Survey of Fee Lands for Public Access, Lower Stanislaus River, California.	Robert Orlins, for USACE	50-000231, 50-000232, 50-000244, 50-000245, 50-000250, 50-000251, 50-000252, 50-000253, 50-000254, 50-000255, 50-000275, 50-000545, 55-001711, 55-001712, 55-002286, 55-002302
ST-00926	NADB-R - 1361763	1989	Peak and Associates, Inc.	Cultural Resource Assessment of the North Salida Specific Plan Area, Stanislaus County, California	Peak and Associates, Inc.	50-000112
ST-03995	NADB-R - 1363956	2000	Nelson, W. J.	Cultural Resources Survey for the Level (3) Communications Long Haul Fiber Optics Project; Segment WS04: Sacramento to Bakersfield.	Far Western Anthropological Research Group, Inc.; for Parsons, Brinckerhoff Network Services	39-000002, 39-000354, 50-000001, 50-000439, 50-000619, 50-001923
ST-05761	NADB-R - 1365643	1959	Arkley, R. J.	Soils of Eastern Stanislaus County, California. UC Berkeley Division of Agricultural Sciences, Soil Survey No. 13.	University of California Division of Agricultural Sciences Agri. Experiment Station, Berkeley	50-000112, 50-002175
ST-05997	NADB-R - 1365978	2004	McMorris, C.	Caltrans Historic Bridge Inventory Update: Concrete Arch Bridges, Vol. 1: Report and Figures	JRP Historical Consulting	50-000589, 50-001781, 50-001920, 50-001921, 50-001922
ST-06345	NADB-R - 1355577	2006	SWCA Environmental Consultants	Cultural Resources Final Report of Monitoring and Findings for the QWest Network Construction Project, State of California. SWCA Project No. 10715-180.	SWCA Environmental Consultants; for Qwest Communications	
ST-07235	NADB-R - 1367552	2010	Blind, H.	Historic Property Survey Report for the Hammett Road/State Route 99 Interchange Reconstruction Project Salida, Stanislaus County and San Joaquin County California Caltrans District 10 EA#10-0L320	LSA Associates, Inc.	39-004537, 50-001920, 50-002040

Report List

Report No.	Other IDs	Year	Author(s)	Title	Affiliation	Resources
ST-07537	NADB-R - 1367890	2011	Kuzak, C.	Historic Property Survey Report, 10-STA-99, P.M. 0.0/24.7, 2576 E-FIS1000020344, Stanislaus County, California.	Caltrans District 10	50-002036, 50-002046, 50-002047, 50-002048, 50-002049, 50-002050, 50-002051, 50-002052, 50-002053, 50-002054, 50-002055, 50-002056

ATTACHMENT D

Site Records

State of California – The Resources Agency DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION **PRIMARY RECORD**	Primary # HRI # Trinomial NRHP Status Code
Other Listings Review Code	Reviewer Date

Page 1 **of** 2 *** Resource Name or #:** SAS-001

P1. Other Identifier:

***P2. Location:** ☒ **Not for Publication** ☐ **Unrestricted** ***a. County:** San Joaquin

and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

***b USGS 7.5' Quad:** Salida **Date:** 1993 **T** 2S **R** 8E Section 29 M.D. **B.M.**

c. Address: n/a **City:** Ripon **Zip:** n/a

d. UTM: Zone: 10; 666470 mE/ 4177552 mN Datum: NAD 83
665594 4176958

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate) Elevation: 58 ft. amsl

From State Route 99 (SR 99) southbound, take Main Street exit, cross over SR 99 to the east and turn left onto Main Street. Take an immediate right onto South Parallel Road and enter parking lot at corner of South Parallel and Reynolds Avenue. Proceed south on paved bike trail for about 1,300 feet and turn right onto ad-hoc path. Go under SR 99 and proceed onto levee.

***P3a. Description:** (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)

This feature consists of a segment of earthen levee on the north bank of the Stanislaus River - part of San Joaquin County Levee 2503. The levee cross section measures approximately 30 ft. at the base and about 10 ft. high from the ground surface to the top of the levee. The top of the levee measures approximately 20 ft. in width and accommodates and un-paved hiking/bike trail. This levee segment is currently in use as part of the larger Stanislaus River system and is maintained by San Joaquin County. Due to a lack of significant historical associations, unique characteristics, and data potential, SAS recommends this levee segment not eligible for CRHR/NRHP listing.

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** HP11 engineering structure

***P34. Resources Present:** ☐ Building ☒ structure ☐ Object ☐ Site ☐ District ☐ Element of District ☐ Other (Isolates, etc.)

P

P5b. Description of Photo:
Typical bike path alignment on top of river levee - view to east at eastern extent of levee at SR 99.

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:**
☒Historic ☐ Prehistoric ☐ Both

***P7. Owner and Address:**
Diamond Pet Food Processors
942 Stockton Ave.
Ripon, CA 95366

***P8. Recorded by:**
B. Ludwig
Solano Archaeological Services LLC
131 Sunset Ave., Ste. E 120
Suisun, CA 94585

P9. Date Recorded:
April 9, 2021

P.10. Survey Type: Intensive pedestrian

***P11. Report Citation:** Ludwig, Brian 2021. Cultural Resources Inventory and Evaluation - Lower Stanislaus River Multi-Use Trail Project, City of Ripon, San Joaquin County, California

* Attachments: ☐ NONE ☒ Location Map ☐Sketch Map ☐Continuation Sheet ☐ Building, Structure, Object Record ☐Archaeological Record ☐ District Record ☐ Linear Feature Record ☐Milling Station Record ☐ Rock Art Record ☐ Artifact Record ☐Photograph Record ☐ Other (List):

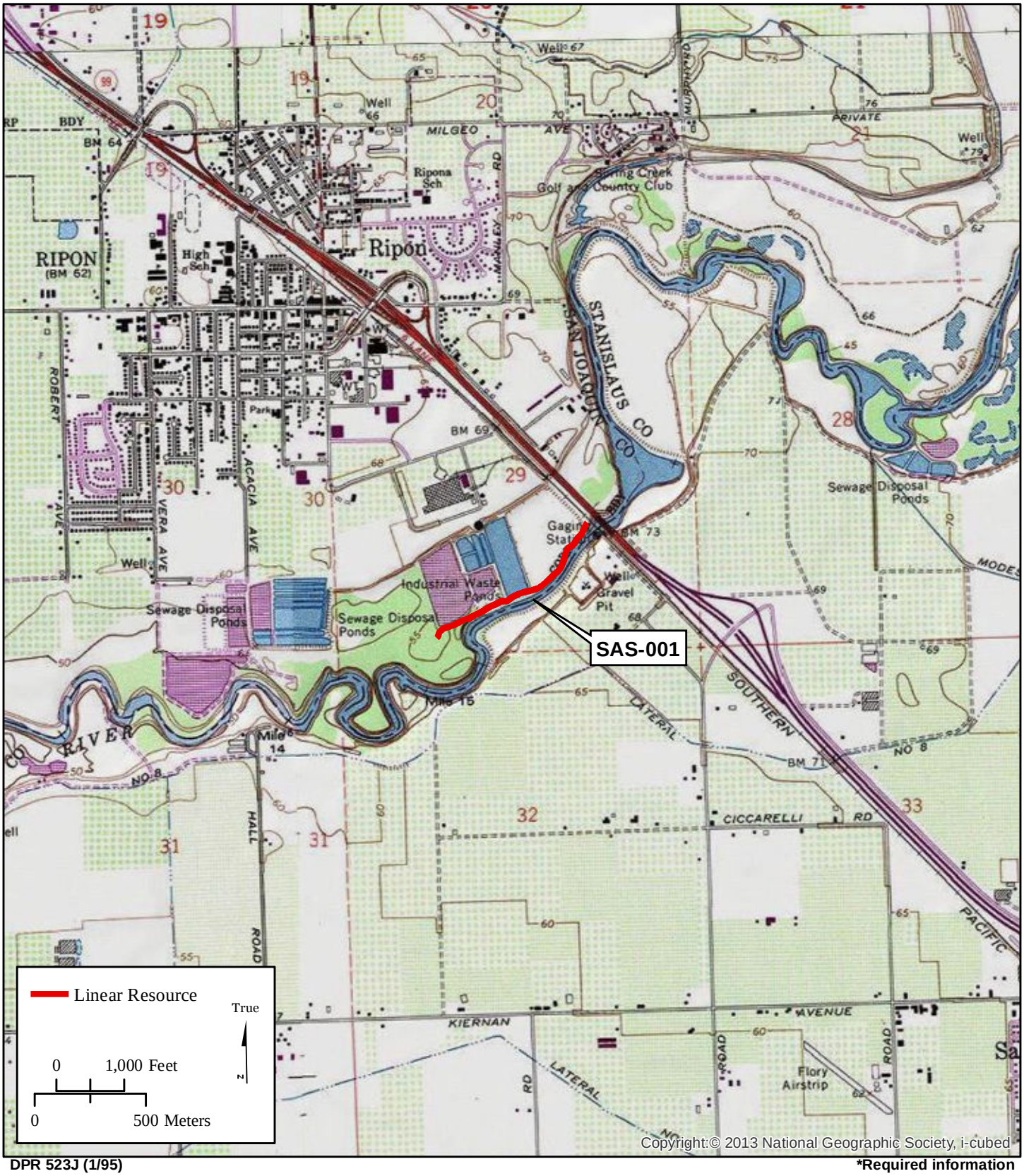
State of California & Natural Resources Agency Primary #
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION HRI#

LOCATION MAP

Trinomial

Page 2 of 2 ***Resource Name or #** SAS-001

***Map Name:** Salida ***Scale:** 1:24,000 ***Date of Map:** 1978



State of California – The Resources Agency DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION **PRIMARY RECORD**	Primary # HRI # Trinomial NRHP Status Code
Other Listings Review Code	Reviewer Date

Page 1 **of** 2 *** Resource Name or #:** SAS-002

P1. Other Identifier:

***P2. Location:** ☒ **Not for Publication** ☐ **Unrestricted** ***a. County:** San Joaquin

and (P2b and P2c or P2d. Attach a Location Map as necessary.)

***b USGS 7.5' Quad:** Ripon **Date:** 1993 **T** 2S **R** 7E Section 36 M.D. **B.M.**

c. Address: n/a **City:** Ripon **Zip:** n/a

d. UTM: Zone: 10; 663746 mE/ 4176726 mN Datum: NAD 83
663305 4176165

e. Other Locational Data: (e.g., parcel #, directions to resource, elevation, etc., as appropriate) Elevation: 55 ft. amsl

From Doak Blvd. in Ripon, turn south on South Jack Tone Road to a cul-de-sac. From the cul-de-sac, proceed approximately 1,068 feet to the south on both paved and un-paved access roads to the levee

***P3a. Description:** (Describe resource and its major elements. Include design, materials, condition, alterations, size, setting, and boundaries)

This feature consists of a segment of earthen levee on the north bank of the Stanislaus River - part of San Joaquin County Levee 175. The levee cross section measures approximately 30 ft. at the base and about 10 ft. high from the ground surface to the top of the levee. The top of the levee measures approximately 20 ft. in width and accommodates and un-paved hiking/bike trail. This levee segment is currently in use as part of the larger Stanislaus River system and is maintained by San Joaquin County. Due to a lack of significant historical associations, unique characteristics, and data potential, SAS recommends this levee segment not eligible for CRHR/NRHP listing.

***P3b. Resource Attributes:** HP11 engineering structure

***P34. Resources Present:** ☐ Building ☒ structure ☐ Object ☐ Site ☐ District ☐ Element of District ☐ Other (Isolates, etc.)

P5a.

P5b. Description of Photo:
Typical bike path alignment on top of river levee - view to south

***P6. Date Constructed/Age and Sources:**
☒Historic ☐ Prehistoric ☐ Both

***P7. Owner and Address:**
City of Ripon
1500 Ruess Rd.
Ripon, CA 95366

***P8. Recorded by:**
B. Ludwig
Solano Archaeological Services LLC
131 Sunset Ave., Ste. E 120
Suisun, CA 94585

P9. Date Recorded:
April 9, 2021

P.10. Survey Type: Intensive pedestrian

***P11. Report Citation:** Ludwig, Brian 2021. Cultural Resources Inventory and Evaluation - Lower Stanislaus River Multi-Use Trail Project, City of Ripon, San Joaquin County, California

* Attachments: ☐ NONE ☒ Location Map ☐Sketch Map ☐Continuation Sheet ☐ Building, Structure, Object Record ☐Archaeological Record ☐ District Record ☐ Linear Feature Record ☐Milling Station Record ☐ Rock Art Record ☐ Artifact Record ☐Photograph Record ☐ Other (List):

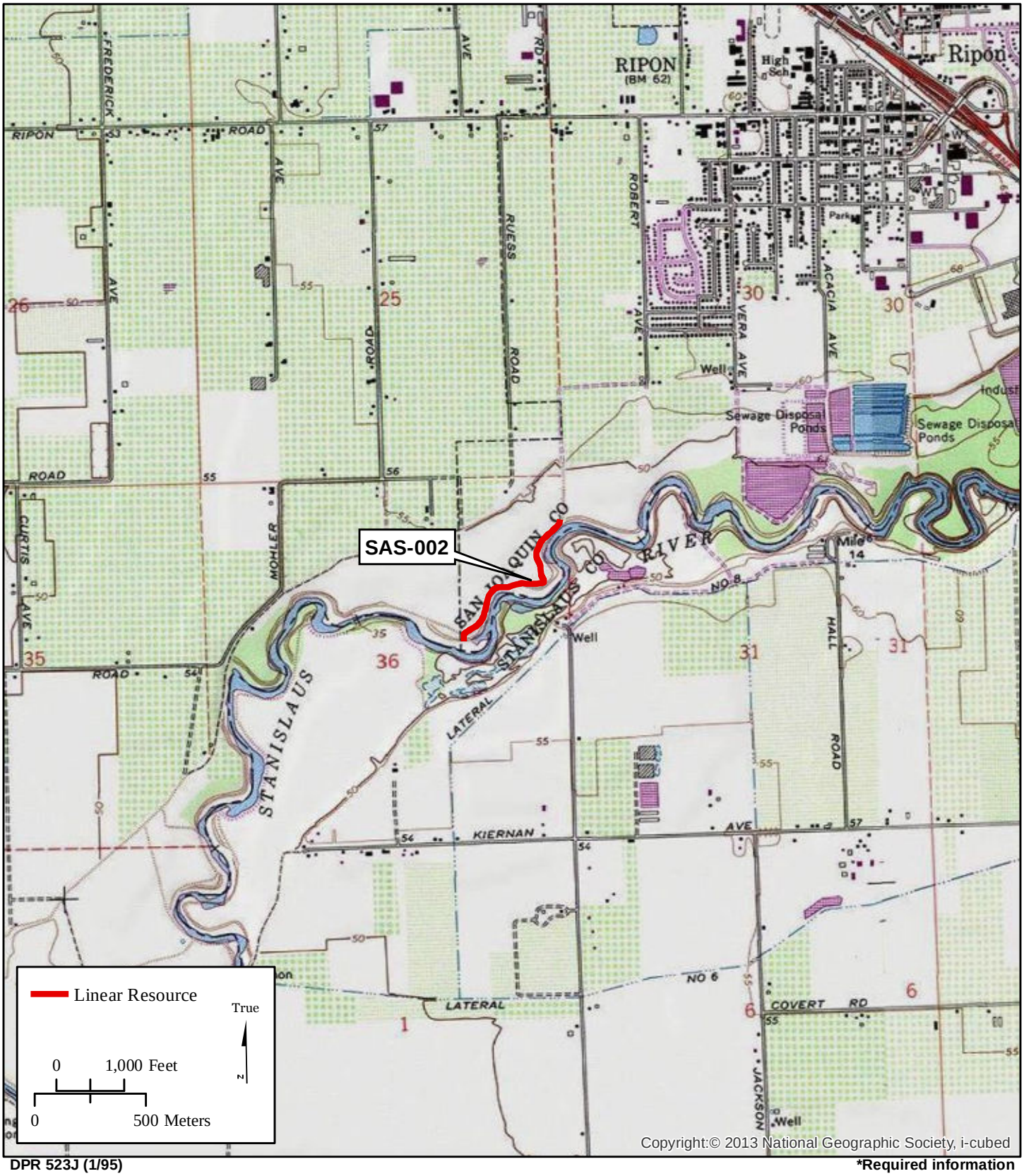
State of California & Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

LOCATION MAP

Primary #
HRI#
Trinomial

Page 2 of 2 ***Resource Name or #** SAS-002

***Map Name:** Ripon ***Scale:** 1:24,000 ***Date of Map:** 1980



DPR 523J (1/95) *Required information