



PUBLIC DRAFT
**INITIAL STUDY AND
NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

SCH:

FOR
CASPAR HOUSE LLC
COASTAL DEVELOPMENT PERMIT
AT 15361 SEADRIFT AVENUE CASPAR CA; APN:
118-010-14
File No. CDP_2023-0019

LEAD AGENCY:
County of Mendocino
Department of Planning & Building Services
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(707) 234-6650

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November 2, 2023

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INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (California Public Resources Code §21000 et seq.) and the State CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 14, §15000 et seq.), this Draft Initial Study (IS) has been prepared as documentation for a Negative Declaration (ND) for the proposed drilling of four test wells to demonstrate adequate water supply for an accessory dwelling unit. The first test well to produce a sufficient quantity of potable water will be converted to a production well. This well would be connected to an existing single-family-residence along with the proposed accessory dwelling unit. If any single well does not produce a sufficient quantity of water, additional wells may be used for production purposes simultaneously.

The applicant is also proposing to remove an existing water storage container and install two new 2,500 gallon water storage tanks underground along with septic infrastructure repair and replacement including replacing the distribution box, installing an aerobic treatment unit and replacement leach lines.

Additional improvements include a roof mounted solar power array and solar hot water panel, a heat pump with a concrete pad, the expansion of a gravel parking area, the re-roof of the existing single-family-residence along with the replacement of five windows and one French door at 15361 Seadrift Avenue, Caspar; APN: 118-010-14 (Project). This Draft IS/MND includes a description of the Project; the location of the Project site; an evaluation of the potential environmental impacts of Project implementation; and written statement that an Environment Impact Report (EIR) is not required because the project will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment.

Pursuant to Section 15367 of the State CEQA Guidelines, the County of Mendocino is the Lead Agency for the Project. As the Lead Agency, The County of Mendocino has the principal responsibility for carrying out the project and has the authority to approve the Project and its accompanying environmental documentation. In addition to addressing the potential environmental impacts that would result from the Project, this Draft IS/MND serves as the primary environmental document for future activities associated with the Project, including discretionary approvals requested or required for Project implementation.

Questions in the Initial Study Checklist are provided with their respective answers based on analysis undertaken. An explanation for all checklist responses is included, and all answers 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. The explanation of each issue identifies (a) the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and (b) the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significance. In the checklist the following definitions are used:

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

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

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

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

PROJECT INFORMATION

FILE NUMBER: CDP_2023-0019

OWNER/APPLICANT: Chi Sullivan and Jade Lee
745 Adams Street
Albany CA 94706

AGENT: Sam Waldman
P O Box 49
Mendocino CA 95460

PROJECT LOCATION: In the Coastal Zone, 0.52 ± mile northwest of Caspar town center at the terminus of Seadrift Avenue (CR 560), 582± feet west of its intersection with Pacifica Drive (CR 559); located at 15361 Seadrift Avenue, Caspar; APN: 118-010-14.

TOTAL ACREAGE: 2.16± Acres

GENERAL PLAN: Rural Residential (RR 5(2))

ZONING: Rural Residential (RR 5)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15125, the Project Description is required to identify the existing baseline physical conditions. For this project, the baseline conditions include all existing development and the current parcel configuration. The applicant requests a Standard Coastal Development Standard Permit to drill four test wells to demonstrate adequate water supply for an accessory dwelling unit. First test well to produce a sufficient quantity of potable water will be converted to a production well. This well would be connected to an existing single-family-residence along with the proposed accessory dwelling unit. If any single well does not produce a sufficient quantity of water, additional wells may be used for production purposes simultaneously.

Also proposing to remove existing water storage container and install two new 2,500 gallon water storage tanks underground along with septic infrastructure repair and replacement including replacing the distribution box, installing an aerobic treatment unit and replacement leach lines.

Additional improvements include a roof mounted solar power array and solar hot water panel, a heat pump with a concrete pad, the expansion of a gravel parking area, the re-roof of the existing single-family-residence along with the replacement of five windows and one French door.

The bluff top parcel is designated highly scenic and located in the Coastal Zone, 0.52 ± mile northwest of Caspar town center at the terminus of Seadrift Avenue (CR 560), 582± feet west of its intersection with Pacifica Drive (CR 559); located at 15361 Seadrift Avenue, Caspar; APN: 118-010-14 as shown on the *Location* and *Aerial (Vicinity)* maps. The property is mapped as high fire hazard within the Fort Bragg Rural Fire Protection District and Calfire wildland protection District. The parcel can be accessed from Seadrift Avenue.

The bluff top parcel is currently developed with a 1,730 square foot single-family residence with an attached garage and 323 square feet of decking. Adjacent parcels also are developed with residences. The parcel is relatively flat with small stands of Monterey cypress trees. The site has other very minimal vegetation consisting of grasslands,. The site is relatively flat and appeared to be maintained by regular mowing. The elevation of the site varies from approximately 57 feet above sea level at the eastern side to 48 feet adjacent to the Pacific Ocean.

The surrounding Land Uses and Zoning are detailed in the following table.

TABLE 1: ADJACENT LAND USE AND ZONING

	GENERAL PLAN	ZONING	LOT SIZES	USES
NORTH	Rural Residential, (RR5 (2))	Rural Residential: Flood Plain (RR5:FP)	2.13± Acres	Residential
SOUTH	Rural Residential (RR5 (2))	Rural Residential: Flood Plain (RR5: FP)	2.48± Acres	Residential
EAST	Rural Residential (RR5 (2))	Rural Residential (RR5)	2.15± Acres	Residential
WEST	Pacific Ocean	Pacific Ocean		Pacific Ocean

Other Public Agencies Whose Approval is Required: California Coastal Commission, Mendocino County Environmental Health, Mendocino County Building Department.

Pursuant to the consultation requirements of Assembly Bill (AB) 52, in July 2022, the County of Mendocino (County) provided formal notification to the California Native American tribes that requested notification of all new potential Negative Declarations within the County. The following tribes were notified: Cloverdale Rancheria, Redwood Valley Rancheria and Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians.

PROJECT PLOT PLAN: See [Page 6](#) of this document.

FIGURE 1: LOCATION MAP



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FIGURE 2: AERIAL IMAGERY



CASE: CDP 2023-0018 & CDP 2023-0019
OWNER: CASPAR HOUSE, LLC
APN: 118-010-14
APLCT: Chi Sullivan & Jade Lee
AGENT: Sam Waldman
ADDRESS: 15361 Seadrift Ave., Caspar

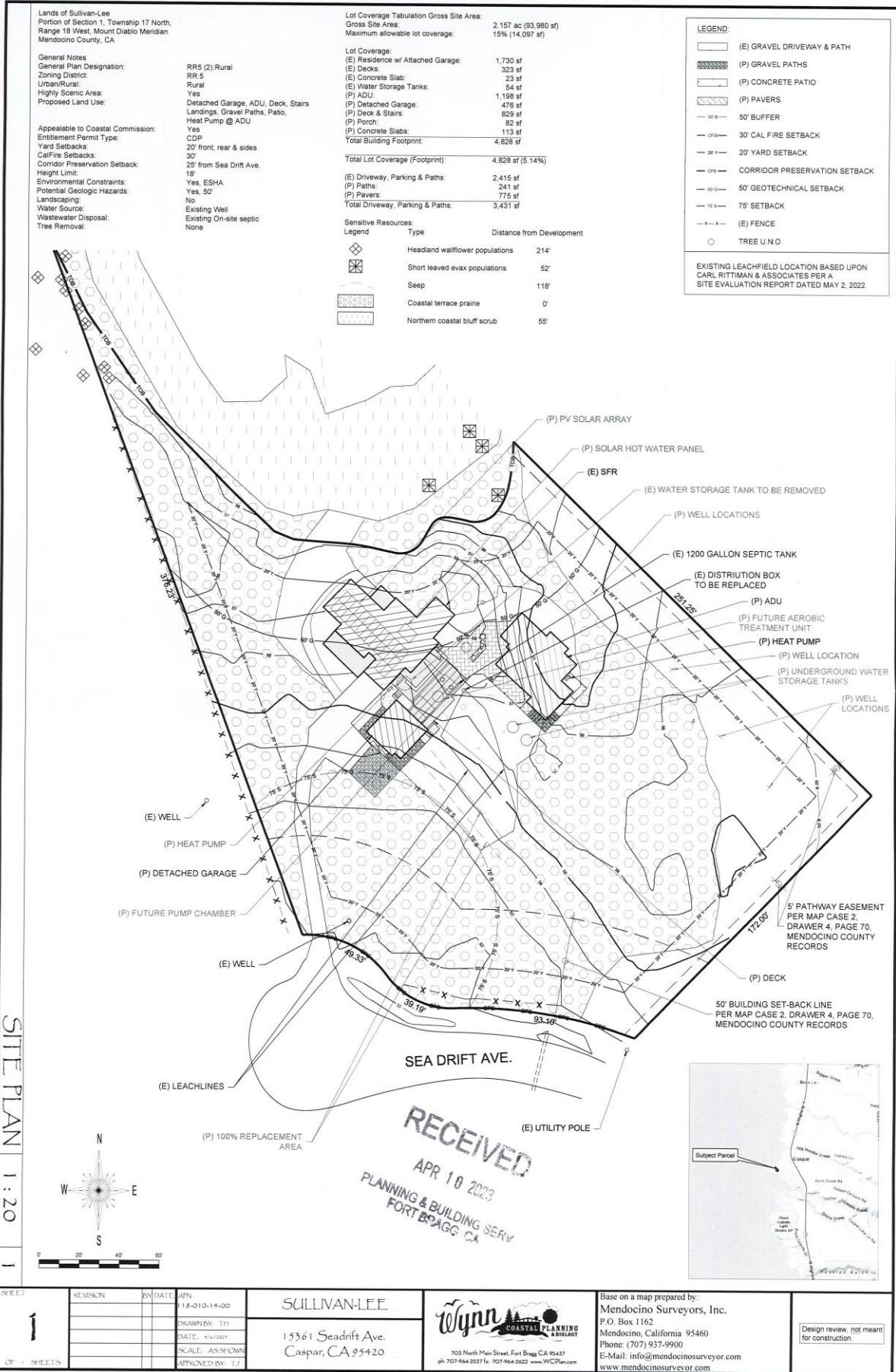
—— Public Roads
- - - - Driveways/Unnamed Roads

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AERIAL IMAGERY

THIS MAP AND DATA ARE PROVIDED WITHOUT WARRANTY OF ANY KIND.
DO NOT USE THIS MAP TO DETERMINE LEGAL PROPERTY BOUNDARIES

FIGURE 3: PLOT PLAN



SHEET 1	REVISION	DATE	APP.	SULLIVAN-LEE 15361 Seadrift Ave. Caspar, CA 95420	 703 North Main Street, Fort Bragg, CA 95437 ph: 707-964-2537 fax: 707-964-2622 www.WCPlan.com	Base on a map prepared by: Mendocino Surveyors, Inc. P.O. Box 1162 Mendocino, California 95460 Phone: (707) 937-9900 E-Mail: info@mendocinosurveyor.com www.mendocinosurveyor.com	Design review: not meant for construction.
	DATE	APP.	DATE				

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED

This project would potentially affect the environmental factors checked below, involving at least one impact that is "Potentially Significant" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

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

DETERMINATION

Based on 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.

Signature

Keith Gronendyke

Printed Name

Date

Planner III

Title

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

5.1 AESTHETICS

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

DISCUSSION: A scenic vista is defined as a location that offers a high quality, harmonious, and visually interesting view. One roadway in Mendocino County, State Route (SR) 128, was officially added to the eligibility list of State Scenic Highways by California State Assembly Bill 998 on July 12, 2019. According to California Department of Transportation, SR 1 and SR 20 are “eligible” for designation as scenic highways but have not been officially designated as such.

State Route 1 is part of the California Freeway and Expressway System, and through the Los Angeles metro area, Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Francisco metro area, and Leggett, is part of the National Highway System, a network of highways that are considered essential to the country's economy, defense, and mobility by the Federal Highway Administration. State Route 1 is eligible to be included in the State Scenic Highway System; however, only a few stretches between Los Angeles and San Francisco have officially been designated as a “scenic highway”, meaning that there are substantial sections of highway passing through a “memorable landscape” with no “visual intrusions.”

Additionally, the County has two roadway segments designated as “heritage corridors” by California Public Resources Code Section 5077.5. The North Coast Heritage Corridor includes the entire segment of SR 1 in the county, as well as the segment of U.S. Highway 101 from the junction with SR 1 in Leggett, north to the Humboldt County line. The Tahoe-Pacific Heritage Corridor extends from Lake Tahoe to the Mendocino County coast. It includes the entire segment of SR 20 within the county and the segment of US 101 from the SR 20 junction north of Calpella to the SR 20 highway exit south of Willits. Mendocino County’s General Plan Resource Management Goal RM-14’s (Visual Character) objective is: *Protection of the visual quality of the county’s natural and rural landscapes, scenic resources, and areas of significant natural beauty.*

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

a-d) No Impact: The proposed project would have no impact on a scenic vista or scenic resources within a state scenic highway. The project site is located in a designated Highly Scenic Area. Development would not be visible from State Route 1, nor have any effect on a scenic vista, including views of the coast. The development would not be visible from any point and will not create a new source of light or glare. No impact would occur.

MITIGATION MEASURES: None

FINDINGS: The proposed project would have no impact on Aesthetics.

5.2 AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY RESOURCES

WOULD THE PROJECT:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	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 (FMMP) of the California Resources Agency, to non-agricultural use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict with existing zoning for agricultural use, or a Williamson Act contract?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Conflict with existing zoning for, or cause rezoning of, forest land (as defined in Public Resources Code section 12220(g), timberland (as defined by PRC section 4526), or timberland zoned Timberland Production (as defined by Government Code section 51104(g))?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in the loss of forest land or conversion of forest land to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Involve other changes in the existing environment which, due to their location or nature, could result in conversion of Farmland, to non-agricultural use or conversion of forestland to non-forest use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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

The Williamson Act (officially the California Land Conservation Act of 1965) provides preferential tax assessments to owners of farmland and open-space land in exchange for a ten year agreement that the land will not be developed or otherwise converted to another use. Since the early 1980’s participation in the program has hovered around 16 million acres enrolled under contract, constituting about one third of all privately held land in the state and about one half of the state’s agricultural land. The intent of the Williamson Act is to preserve a maximum amount of a limited supply of prime agricultural land to discourage premature and unnecessary conversion of prime agricultural land to urban uses.

The Timberland Production Zone (TPZ) was established in 1976 in the California Government Code as a designation for lands for which the Assessor’s records as of 1976 demonstrated that the “highest and best use” would be timber production and its accessory uses. Public improvements and urban services are prohibited on TPZ lands except where necessary and compatible with ongoing timber production. The original purpose of TPZ Zoning District was to preserve and protect timberland from conversion to other

more profitable uses and ensure that timber producing areas not be subject to use conflicts with neighboring lands.

a-e) **No Impact:** Mendocino County General Plan Chapter 7 (Coastal Element) and Mendocino County Coastal Zoning Code (MCC), respectively classify and designate the site as Rural Residential (RR). The site is neither classified as Agriculture, nor is it mapped as important farmland. The subject property does not contain any Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance. Additionally, the subject property is not located within or adjacent to lands within a Williamson Act contract. ADDRESS Item d HER Therefore, no impact to agricultural or forestry resources would occur as a result of implementing the proposed project.

MITIGATION MEASURES: None

FINDINGS: The proposed project would have no impact on Agricultural and Forestry Resources.

5.3 AIR QUALITY

WOULD THE PROJECT:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with or obstruct implementation of the applicable air quality plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria pollutant for which the project region is non-attainment under an applicable federal or state ambient air quality standard?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Expose sensitive receptors to substantial pollutant concentrations?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in other emissions (such as those leading to odors) adversely affecting a substantial number of people?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

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

- 1) All visibly dry, disturbed soil road surfaces shall be watered to minimize fugitive dust emissions;
- 2) All unpaved surfaces, unless otherwise treated with suitable chemicals or oils, shall have a posted speed limit of 10 miles per hour;
- 3) Earth or other material that has been transported by trucking or earth moving equipment, erosion by water, or other means onto paved streets shall be promptly removed;
- 4) Asphalt, oil, water, or suitable chemicals shall be applied on materials stockpiles and other surfaces that can give rise to airborne dusts;

- 5) All earthmoving activities shall cease when sustained winds exceed 15 miles per hour;
- 6) The operator shall take reasonable precautions to prevent the entry of unauthorized vehicles onto the site during non-work hours; and
- 7) The operator shall keep a daily log of activities to control fugitive dust. In December 2006, MCAQMD adopted Regulation 4, Particulate Emissions Reduction Measures, which establishes emissions standards and use of wood burning appliances to reduce particulate emissions. These regulations applied to wood heating appliances, installed both indoors and outdoors for residential and commercial structures, including public facilities. Where applicable, MCAQMD also recommends mitigation measures to encourage alternatives to woodstoves/fireplaces, to control dust on construction sites and unpaved access roads (generally excepting roads used for agricultural purposes), and to promote trip reduction measures where feasible. In 2007, the Air Resources Board (ARB) adopted a regulation to reduce diesel particulate matter (PM) and oxides of nitrogen (NOx) emissions from in-use (existing) off-road heavy-duty diesel vehicles in California. Such vehicles are used in construction, mining, and industrial operations. The regulation imposes limits on idling, requires a written idling policy, and requires disclosure when selling vehicles. Off-road diesel-powered equipment used for grading or road development must be registered in the Air Resources Board DOORS program and be labeled accordingly. The regulation restricts the adding of older vehicles into fleets and requires fleets to reduce their emissions by retiring, replacing, or repowering older engines or installing Verified Diesel Emission Control Strategies. In 1998, the California Air Resources Board established diesel exhaust as an Air Toxic, leading to regulations for categories of diesel engines. Diesel engines emit a complex mixture of air pollutants, including both gaseous and solid material which contributes to PM_{2.5}. All stationary and portable diesel engines over 50 horsepower need a permit through the MCAQMD.

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

a-d) **Less Than Significant Impact:** The proposed project would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of any air quality plan. The construction phase of the project would produce the following anticipated emissions:

- Combustion emission associated with operation of off-road equipment;
- Combustion emissions associated with operation of on-road motor vehicles;
- Fugitive dust from earth-moving activities.

Anticipated emissions during operation of the project include:

- Combustion emissions associated with operation of on-road motor vehicles.

The most common source of PM₁₀ is wood smoke from home heating or brush fires, and dust generated by vehicles traveling over unpaved roads. The installation of a wood stove is not proposed under the project and there is no proposed use that would be anticipated to result in a significant increase of any criteria pollutant. A *Particulate Matter Attainment Plan* was finalized in 2005 that provides mitigation measures for construction and grading activities and unpaved roads. Additionally, the project and its emission sources are subject to MCAQMD rules and regulations contained in the most recent version of the *Rules and Regulations of the MCAQMD*. Compliance with these regulations would ensure the project would not result in a substantial increase of PM₁₀ within the vicinity of the site.

During the construction phase of the project, the proposed project has the potential to increase PM₁₀ in the immediate vicinity of the site due to site grading and preparation. Local impacts to the area during construction would be mitigated using standard dust control measures. After construction is completed, any bare soil created by the construction phase of the project would be revegetated as soon as feasible with native vegetation and/or native seed. There are no sensitive receptors in the immediate vicinity of the project. The site is located in an established rural residential area. The proposed project would not create significant objectionable odors during its normal operation or during construction and is not in a location that would affect substantial numbers of people. The project will not increase Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT).

MITIGATION MEASURES: None

FINDINGS: The proposed project would have a less than significant on Air Quality.

5.4 BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

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

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

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

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

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

Mendocino County currently has one active Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife which provides protections for the Point Arena Mountain Beaver. The Fisher Family HCP (Permit #TE170629-0) covers 24 acres of coastal scrub and was adopted December 3, 2007 for a period of 50 years. The Fisher Family HCP applies to parcel APN 027-211-02 located at 43400 Hathaway Crossing, Point Arena. Additionally, since 2003, the Mendocino Redwood Company (MRC) has managed the County’s only Natural Community Conservation Plan which covers all lands owned by the MRC to preserve regionally important habitat

a,d) **Less Than Significant** . A Biological Scoping Survey, prepared by Wynn Coastal Planning and Biology (WCPB), was completed for the site. This report examined the potential impact of this application to drill up to four test wells as well as the proposed construction of a 1,198 square foot accessory dwelling unit and a 476 square foot detached garage, which is outlined in a separate CDP application. The survey results did not identify any wetlands on the property. Additionally, the survey opined that: *“WCPB’s opinion is that no potential impact to rare plants is expected and no additional floristic surveys are warranted.”* Also: *“WCPB believes that with appropriate avoidance and minimization measures the project proposed will be less than significantly impacting to the coastal terrace prairie habitat present...”* The Survey does offer proposed project specific modification measures to minimize impacts from all proposed development with both CDP applications to minimize impacts from development to rare plants, sensitive natural communities and rare animals that may be seasonally or temporarily present within the study area. These modification measures have been included in both project’s conditions of approval

LCP Habitats & Resources Map does not identify any sensitive resource areas within 100 feet of the proposed test well locations. The site is mapped as barren upland habitats. As proposed, the test well project would be developed at a sufficient distance to ensure that any environmentally sensitive habitats and other designated resource areas are protected for both the wildlife inhabiting them as well as the enjoyment of present and future populations. Additional modification measures proposed by Wynn Coastal Planning and Biology also have been incorporated into conditions of approval.

On May 31, 2023, the proposed project was referred to the California Coastal Commission (CCC) and California Department Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). Comments received from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife agree with the proposed modification measures from WCPB, which have been added to conditions of approval.

b,e) **Less Than Significant**. Waters of the United States (U.S.), including wetlands, are broadly defined to include navigable waterways, and tributaries of navigable waterways, and adjacent wetlands. Although definitions vary to some degree, wetlands are generally considered to be areas that are

periodically or permanently inundated by surface water or groundwater, supporting vegetation adapted to life in saturated soil. Jurisdictional wetlands are vegetated areas that meet specific vegetation, soil, and hydrologic criteria defined by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). The Corps holds sole authority to determine the jurisdictional status of waters of the U.S., including wetlands. Jurisdictional wetlands and Waters of the U.S. include, but are not limited to, perennial and intermittent creeks and drainages, lakes, seeps, and springs; emergent marshes; riparian wetlands; and seasonal wetlands. Wetland and waters of the U.S. provide critical habitat components, such as nest sites and reliable source of water for a wide variety of wildlife species. A biological Scoping Survey was conducted by Wynn Coastal Planning in a report dated April 4, 2023. In the Coastal Zone, wetlands are recognized if any one of the three Corps parameters (hydrophytic vegetation, hydric soils, or hydrology) are present. The report indicates that no wetland features are present in the study area.

- c, f) **No Impact.** The site does include wetlands, but they are only located along the portion of the property that fronts the Pacific Ocean with the nearest test well-being approximately ninety-five feet from the designated wetland area. The Department of Fish and Wildlife agreed to suggested modification measures from Wynn Coastal Planning and Biology.

PROJECT SPECIFIC MODIFICATION MEASURES: The following modification measures have been included in the Conditions of Approval for the project, as written by Wynn Coastal Planning and Biology:

- BIO - 1. No nesting bird surveys are recommended if activity occurs in the non-breeding season (September to January). If vegetation removal or development is to occur during the breeding season (February to August), a pre-construction survey is recommended within 14 days of the onset of vegetation removal or construction to ensure that no nesting birds will be disturbed during development.
- BIO - 2. If active native bird nests are observed, no vegetation removal or construction activities with the potential to disrupt nesting shall occur within a 100-foot exclusion zone. These exclusion zones may vary depending on species, habitat and level of disturbance. The exclusion zone shall remain in place around the active nest until all young are no longer dependent upon the nest. A biologist should monitor the nest site weekly during the breeding season to ensure the buffer is sufficient to protect the nest site from potential disturbance.
- BIO - 3. Construction should occur during daylight hours to limit disturbing construction noise and minimize artificial lights.
- BIO - 4. A suitable buffer should be established between the freshwater seep, headland wallflower and Blasedale's bentgrass and proposed development. A buffer distance of 100 feet is the default ESHA buffer distance specified in the Mendocino County LCP and will be suitable to protect the resources present. No construction or materials staging shall occur within 100 feet of the freshwater seep, headland wallflower or Blasedale's bentgrass populations. Consultation with CDFW for their concurrence that 100 feet is an appropriate buffer distance is recommended.
- BIO - 5. A suitable buffer should be established between north coast bluff scrub habitat and short-leaved evax populations and proposed development. A reduced buffer analysis has been conducted and a buffer distance of 50 feet was found to be suitable to protect the resources present. No construction or materials staging shall occur within 50 feet of the north coast bluff scrub and short-leaved evax. CDFW agreed with the modification measures as proposed by Wynn Coastal Planning and Biology.
- BIO - 6. Stage all building materials and construction vehicles in previously impacted areas outside of presumed ESHA habitat.
- BIO - 7. Standard Best Management Practices shall be employed to assure minimization of erosion resulting from construction. Ground disturbance shall be limited to the minimum necessary and disturbed soil areas shall be stabilized as soon as feasible. Areas of bare soil should be seeded with native erosion control seed mix and/or covered with biodegradable erosion control materials (e.g. coconut fiber, jute or weed free straw).
- BIO - 8. Heavy machinery such as, but not limited to excavators and skid steers that may be used on site have the potential to spread invasive plant material from use on other sites. Heavy machinery that is used in dirt needs to be power washed off-site to eliminate seeds and other propagules

BIO - 9. All pale dew plant and iceplant on the parcel should be removed and, where appropriate, replaced with native coastal terrace prairie and/or north coast bluff scrub species.

BIO - 10. Any new landscaping around the proposed development should be compatible with the surrounding coastal terrace prairie and north coast bluff scrub habitat present and would ideally consist of native plants found in these habitats. Some species that are both appropriate and commercially available include sea thrift (*Armeria maritima*), California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*) and checker mallow (*Sidacea malviflora ssp.maritima*). Also present were California oat grass (*Danthonia californica*) baby blue eyes (*Nemophila menziesii*), coastal gumweed (*Grindelia stricta*), yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) and seaside daisy (*Erigeron glaucus*).`5

FINDINGS: The proposed project would have a less than significant effect, with project specific modification measures incorporated along with a less than significant impact and no impact, on Biological Resources.

5.5 CULTURAL RESOURCES

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

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

a-c) Less Than Significant. Comments received from the Northwest Information Center at Sonoma State University requested that an archaeological survey be completed for the ADU/detached garage application, but this applies to this application as well, as they are interconnected. A survey was completed by Alta Archaeological Consulting. This report was then submitted to the Mendocino County Archaeological Commission for its review. At the March 17, 2023, Commission meeting the study was approved with a special condition added stating: *“Alta shall conduct training with the applicant prior to any ground disturbance. The applicant shall submit a map, approved by the archaeologist, outlining the Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA). Said map shall be submitted to the Mendocino County Planning and Building Services Department prior to construction. The applicant shall remain in communication with the Tribal Historic Preservation office regarding spot checking and submit a report to the Mendocino County Planning and Building Services Department. Discovery clause applies.* Staff has added conditions to satisfy the Archaeological Commission’s requirements along with the accidental discovery clause.

Comments were requested from the following tribes: Cloverdale Rancheria, Redwood Valley Rancheria and Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians, no comments were received. The proposed project complies with MCC Sections 22.12.090 Discoveries and 22.12.100 Discoveries of Human Remains.

MITIGATION MEASURES: None.

FINDINGS: The proposed project would have a less than significant impact on Cultural Resources.

5.6 ENERGY

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

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

Permanent structures constructed on-site would be subject to Part 6 (California Energy Code) of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations, which contains energy conservation standards applicable to residential and non-residential buildings throughout California. The 2019 Building Energy Efficiency Standards are designed to reduce wasteful, uneconomic, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy, and enhance outdoor and indoor environmental quality. It is estimated that single-family homes built with the 2019 standards will use about 7 percent less energy due to energy efficiency measures versus those built under the 2016 standards (CEC, 2016).

a, b) **No Impact:** Neither project construction nor operation is anticipated to result in a potentially significant environmental impact due to wasteful, inefficient, or unnecessary consumption of energy or wasteful use of energy resources. This aspect of the project includes the drilling of up to four test wells for potable water. The project is also proposing to remove an existing water storage container and install two new 2,500 gallon water storage tanks underground along with septic infrastructure repair and replacement including replacing the distribution box, installing an aerobic treatment unit and replacement leach lines.

Additional improvements include a roof mounted solar power array and solar hot water panel, a heat pump with a concrete pad, the expansion of a gravel parking area, the re-roof of the existing single-family-residence along with the replacement of five windows and one French door.

MITIGATION MEASURES: None

FINDINGS: The proposed project would have no impact on Energy.

5.7 GEOLOGY AND SOILS

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

DISCUSSION: Of the five known fault zones in Mendocino County, the San Andreas Fault Zone is the closest active fault to the subject parcel, located approximately 26 miles to the south.

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

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

Areas susceptible to erosion occur throughout Mendocino County where surface soils possess low-density and/or low-strength properties. Slopes are another factor in soil erosion – the greater the slope, the greater the erosion hazard, especially if the soil is bare. Soils on 9 percent slopes and greater have a moderate erosion hazard, and soils on slopes greater than 15 percent have a high erosion hazard. Elevations at the subject parcel range from sea level at the western boundary to 55 feet above sea level at the eastern boundary. The property slopes slightly from east to west

a-f) **No Impact.** The site is not located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off-site landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse.¹ The project site is not located on an expansive soil type. The Soil Survey of Mendocino County, Table 13 Physical and Chemical Properties of the soils lists the soil type-161 Heeser-as having a low probability of shrink/swell.

MITIGATION MEASURES: None.

FINDINGS: The proposed project would have no impact on Geology and Soils.

5.8 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

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

DISCUSSION: Assembly Bill 32 (AB32), the California Global Warming Solutions Act, 2006 recognized that California is a source of substantial amounts of greenhouse gas (GHG) emission which poses a serious threat to the economic well-being, public health, natural resources, and the environment of California. AB32 established a state goal of reducing GHG emission to 1990 levels by the year 2020 with further reductions to follow. In order to address global climate change associated with air quality impacts, CEQA statutes were amended to require evaluation of GHG emission, which includes criteria air pollutants (regional) and toxic air contaminants (local). As a result, Mendocino County Air Quality Management District (AQMD) adopted CEQA thresholds of significance for criteria air pollutants and GHGs, and issued updated CEQA guidelines to assist lead agencies in evaluating air quality impacts to determine if a project’s individual emissions would be cumulatively considerable. According to the AQMD, these CEQA thresholds of significance are the same as those, which have been adopted by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD). Pursuant to the BAAQMD CEQA Guidelines, the threshold for project significance of GHG emissions is 1,100 metric tons CO₂e (CO₂ equivalent) of operation emission on an annual basis. Additionally, Mendocino County’s building code requires new construction to include energy efficient materials and fixtures.

a, b) **Less Than Significant.** Construction activities are not anticipated to generate significant greenhouse gas emissions or conflict with an applicable plan, policy or regulation. Given the relatively small size of the project scale, the project would not have a measurable or considerable contribution to the cumulative GHG impact at the local, regional, or State level. The project will not generate additional vehicle miles traveled. There are no adopted local plans for reducing the emission of greenhouse gases.

MITIGATION MEASURES: None.

¹ Mendocino County Department of Planning & Building Services. 1991. *LCP Land Capabilities & Natural Hazards* [map].

FINDINGS: The proposed project would have a less than significant impact on Greenhouse Gas Emissions.

5.9 HAZARDS AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

WOULD THE PROJECT:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through the routine transport, use, or disposal of hazardous materials?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Create a significant hazard to the public or the environment through reasonably foreseeable upset and accident conditions involving the release of hazardous materials into the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) Emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) Be located on a site which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5 and, as a result, would it create a significant hazard to the public or the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) For a project located within an airport land use plan or, where such a plan has not been adopted, within two miles of a public airport or public use airport, would the project result in a safety hazard or excessive noise for people residing or working in the project area?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) Impair implementation of, or physically interfere with an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) Expose people or structures, either directly or indirectly, to a significant risk of loss, injury or death involving wildland fires?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

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

The California Air Resources Board classifies asbestos as a known human carcinogen. Asbestos of any type is considered hazardous and may cause asbestosis and lung cancer if inhaled, becoming permanently lodged in body tissues. Exposure to asbestos has also been shown to cause stomach and other cancers. Asbestos is the general name for a group of rock-forming minerals that consist of extremely strong and

durable fibers. When asbestos fibers are disturbed, such as by grading and construction activities, they are released into the air where they remain for a long period of time. Naturally occurring asbestos is an issue of concern in Mendocino County, which contains areas where asbestos-containing rocks are found. The presence of ultramafic rocks indicates the possible existence of asbestos mineral groups. Ultramafic rocks contain 90 percent or more of dark-colored, iron-magnesium-silicate minerals. Ultramafic rocks may be partially or completely altered to a rock known as serpentinite, more commonly called serpentine.

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

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

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

a-g) **Less Than Significant.** The project poses a slight threat of hazardous materials exposure to the public or the environment during the well drilling and other activity phases. The severity of potential effects varies with the activity conducted, the concentration and type of hazardous material or waste present, and the proximity of sensitive receptors. Construction of the proposed project would involve the as-needed use of limited amounts of potentially hazardous materials, including but not limited to solvents, fuels, oils, and transmission fluids associated with construction vehicles and equipment. However, materials used during construction would be contained, stored, and handled in compliance with applicable standards and regulations established by the Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Any associated risk would be adequately reduced to a less than significant level through compliance with these standards and regulations. The project would not create a significant hazard to the public or the environment because it does not propose the storage, use, transport, emission, or disposal of hazardous substances. In addition, the project does not propose to demolish any existing structures that are known to contain hazardous materials on site and, therefore, would not create a hazard related to the release of asbestos, lead-based paint, or other hazardous materials from demolition activities. A Less Than Significant Impact would occur.

The drilling of test wells and other activities associated with the project would involve the as-needed use of potentially hazardous material. Project operation is not anticipated to involve hazardous substances.

Well drilling activities associated with the project would not emit hazardous emissions or handle hazardous or acutely hazardous materials, substances, or waste within one-quarter mile of an existing or proposed school. The nearest school to the project site is Fort Bragg Unified School, approximately 6.4 miles north.

The project site is not included on a list of hazardous material sites compiled pursuant to Government Code, Section 65962.5.

The nearest airport is Little River Airport, approximately 7.71 miles southeast of the project site. However, the project is not within the area of influence and will not be affected by the airport's usage.

The proposed development consists of the drilling of up to four test wells along with other activities and will not impair implementation of, or physically interfere with, an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan. Additionally, all construction would be on-site and would not result in traffic queuing on nearby streets.

MITIGATION MEASURES: None

FINDINGS: The proposed project would have a less than significant on Hazards or Hazardous Materials.

5.10 HYDROLOGY AND WATER QUALITY

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

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

Water Code Section 1005.1 defines groundwater as *water beneath the surface of the ground, whether or not flowing through known and definite channels.* Both surface water and groundwater define a watershed, as they move from higher to lower elevations. In Mendocino County, groundwater is the main source for

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

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

- a, d) **No Impact:** The proposed project would not violate any water quality standards or waste discharge requirements. All necessary permits for the one on-site well drilling and other project related activities would be obtained from the Mendocino County Department of Environmental Health. The wells, septic system infrastructure repair and the undergrounding of new water tanks would be installed and operated in compliance with all standards and requirements.

Per the California Department of Conservation's Tsunami Maps, the project is not located in a tsunami inundation zone.

- b, c, e) **Less Than Significant:** The proposed project would not substantially deplete groundwater supplies or interfere substantially with groundwater recharge such that there would be a net deficit in aquifer volume or a lowering of the local groundwater table level. Additionally, while the amount of impervious area on the site would increase, implementation of the proposed project would not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area and would not result in substantial flooding on- or off-site. A less than significant impact would occur.

The proposed project would be required to employ Standard Best Management Practices (BMPs), such as straw bales, coir rolls, and/or silt fencing structures to ensure the minimization of erosion resulting from construction and to avoid runoff into sensitive habitat areas. Additionally, the project would be required to stabilize disturbed soils and vegetate bare soil created by the construction phase of the project. As required by MCC Chapter 20.492, the proposed project would not substantially alter the existing drainage pattern of the site or area and would not result in substantial soil erosion or siltation on- or off-site. A less than significant impact would occur.

The proposed Project would not otherwise substantially degrade water quality as appropriate measures relating to water quality protection would be implemented through appropriate BMPs which will be reviewed and approved to assure it is in compliance with Mendocino County Ordinance No. 4313, Stormwater Runoff Pollution Prevention Procedure. This ordinance requires any person performing construction and grading work anywhere in the County to implement appropriate BMPs to prevent the discharge of construction waste, debris, or contaminants from construction materials, tools, and equipment from entering the storm drainage system (off-site). As such, the proposed project is not anticipated to conflict with or obstruct implementation of a water quality control plan or sustainable groundwater management plan.

MITIGATION MEASURES: None

FINDINGS: The proposed project would have a less than significant and no impact on Hydrology and Water Quality.

5.11 LAND USE AND PLANNING

WOULD THE PROJECT:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Physically divide an established community?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Cause a significant environmental impact due to a conflict with any land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environmental effect?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION: All lands within the unincorporated portions of Mendocino County are regulated by the General Plan and zoning ordinance, as well as several more locally derived specific plans, such as the Gualala Town Plan, or Ukiah Valley Area Plan. The proposed project is not within the boundaries of a locally derived specific plan. During project referrals, a number of agencies that may have jurisdiction over the project were contacted.

a, b) No Impact: The Project is situated in a long established rural residential area and adjacent to existing residential development. The project does not propose increased density and will be consistent with the established community.

The Project is subject to Mendocino County's Coastal Element Land Use Plan 4.8 and Coastal Zoning Code Section 20.532. As such, the Applicant is required to comply with policies and regulations regarding development within Environmentally Sensitive Habitat Areas.

MITIGATION MEASURES: None.

FINDINGS: The proposed project would have No Impact on Land Use and Planning.

5.12 MINERAL RESOURCES

a) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of value to the region and the residents of the state?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan or other land use plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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

The most predominant minerals found in Mendocino County are aggregate resources, primarily sand and gravel. Three sources of aggregate materials are present in Mendocino County: quarries, instream gravel, and terrace gravel deposits. The demand for aggregate is typically related to the size of the population, and construction activities, with demand fluctuating from year to year in response to major construction projects, large development activity, and overall economic conditions. After the completion of U.S. 101 in the late 1960s, the bulk of aggregate production and use shifted primarily to residential and related construction. However, since 1990, use has begun to shift back toward highway construction.

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

MITIGATION MEASURES: None

FINDINGS: The proposed project would have no impact on Mineral Resources.

5.13 NOISE

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

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

a, b) **Less Than Significant:** Any noise or ground-borne vibration resulting from the project would not violate a local general plan or noise ordinance as all development within the Mendocino County Coastal Zone is subject to Exterior Noise Limit Standards specified in Appendix B of Title 20, Division II of Mendocino County Code. Construction may expose nearby residence to some noise, **but work shall be limited to weekdays between 8:30am and 4:30pm.**

c) **No Impact:** The site is not located within an airport zone. The proposed project is approximately 7.6 miles northwest of Little River Airport and would not subject people in the area to excessive noise levels.

MITIGATION MEASURES: None.

FINDINGS: The proposed project would have **no impact** on Noise.

5.14 POPULATION AND HOUSING

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

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

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

a, b) **No Impact:** The proposed project will not induce substantial population growth as the project is not residential or commercial in nature nor does it extend major infrastructure that would induce population growth. The proposed project does not displace any existing housing, or displace any people, and therefore would not necessitate construction of replacement housing elsewhere.

MITIGATION MEASURES: None.

FINDINGS: The proposed project would have no impact on Population and Housing.

5.15 PUBLIC SERVICES

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

DISCUSSION: The Mendocino County Office of Emergency Services (OES) is the primary local coordination agency for emergencies and disasters affecting residents, public infrastructure, and government operations in the Mendocino County Operational Area. The subject parcel is serviced by the Round Valley Unified School District, Round Valley Indian Health Center, Round Valley County Water District, and the Covelo Fire Protection District.

a-e) **No Impact:** The proposed well drilling and other project specific activities will not result in adverse impacts associated with provision of governmental facilities or need for new or physically altered governmental facilities that may result in environmental impacts in order to maintain acceptable service ratios and response times for public services.

MITIGATION MEASURES: None.

FINDINGS: The proposed project would have no impact on Public Services.

5.16 RECREATION

WOULD THE PROJECT:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Increase the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks or other recreational facilities such that substantial physical deterioration of the facility would occur or be accelerated?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Include recreational facilities or require the construction or expansion of recreational facilities which might have an adverse physical effect on the environment?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION: The County of Mendocino manages a variety of public recreation areas including the Low Gap Park in Ukiah, Bower Park in Gualala, Mill Creek Park in Talmage, Faulkner Park in Boonville, Indian Creek Park and Campground in Philo, and the Lion’s Club Park in Redwood Valley, all of which are operated by the Mendocino County Cultural Services Agency. Additionally, the County is host to a variety of state parks, reserves, other state protected areas used for the purpose of recreation, with 13 located along the coast and 8 located throughout inland Mendocino County. The closest protected area to the proposed project is the Mendocino National Forest, located 9± miles east of the subject parcel.

a, b) **No Impact:** The project will not impact the use of existing neighborhood and regional parks and other recreational facilities. Accelerated physical deterioration of the facilities is not anticipated, nor is construction or expansion of existing recreational facilities.

MITIGATION MEASURES: None.

FINDINGS: The proposed project would have no impact on Recreation.

5.17 TRANSPORTATION

WOULD THE PROJECT:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Conflict with a program, plan, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines section 15064.3, subdivision (b)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

WOULD THE PROJECT:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
c) Substantially increase hazards due to a geometric design feature (e.g., sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g., farm equipment)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Result in inadequate emergency access?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION: The site is currently developed with a single-family residence. As such, there will be a slight increase in traffic to and from the site for any future development of the land. It is expected that construction of any project will result in a slight increase in traffic to and from the site, as construction workers arrive and leave the site at the beginning and end of the day, in addition to minor interruption of traffic on adjacent streets, when heavy equipment necessary for project construction is brought to and removed from the site. Once construction is complete, these workers would no longer be required at the site. While the project would contribute incrementally to traffic volumes on local and regional roadways, such incremental increases were considered when the land use designations were assigned to the site. The development proposed on-site is not expected to significantly impact the capacity of the street system, level of service standards established by the County, or the overall effectiveness of the circulation system, nor substantially impact alternative transportation facilities, such as transit, bicycle, or pedestrian facilities, as a substantial increase in traffic trips or use of alternative transportation facilities is not anticipated. A less than significant impact would occur.

a-d) **No Impact:** The project will not conflict with a program, ordinance or policy addressing the circulation system, including transit, roadway, bicycle and pedestrian facilities.

The project will not conflict or be inconsistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b), which states:

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

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

The County of Mendocino has not established a threshold with regard to VMT impact significance consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.3, subdivision (b). Though there may be an increase in vehicle miles traveled during construction, the proposed septic and leach field repair and replacement will not increase vehicle miles traveled overall.

The proposed project, once completed, will not substantially increase hazards due to design features or incompatible uses. The Project does not propose any improvements within a County right-of-way.

The proposed project will not result in inadequate emergency access. The primary concern for emergency access in remote areas is for wildland fires. Fire protection services for wildland areas are provided by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CalFire) and the Albion

Little River Protection District for structural protection. Neither agency provided any comments of concern on the project.

MITIGATION MEASURES: None.

FINDINGS: The proposed project would have no impact on Transportation.

5.18 TRIBAL CULTURAL RESOURCES

WOULD THE PROJECT:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Would the project cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a tribal cultural resource, defined in Public Resources Code §21074 as either a site, feature, place, cultural landscape that is geographically defined in terms of the size and scope of the landscape, sacred place, or object with cultural value to a California Native American tribe, and that is:	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
i) Listed or eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources, or in a local register of historical resources as defined in Public Resources Code §5020.1(k)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
ii) A resource determined by the lead agency, in its discretion and supported by substantial evidence, to be significant pursuant to criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code §5024.1? In applying the criteria set forth in subdivision (c) of Public Resources Code §5024.1, the lead agency shall consider the significance of the resource to a California Native American tribe.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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

The area known now as Mendocino County has a long history of occupation and use by Native American groups. Notably the Russian and Eel Rivers as well as other watercourses, valleys, and coastal areas provided rich and varied habitat for early human occupation. The first dated chronological periods and related cultural patterns within the region were developed by David A. Fredrickson in his 1973 Ph.D. dissertation² and 1984 regional synthesis.³ This research provides a baseline archaeological information for the area, but there still remains significant gaps in archaeological data for the region that affects our understanding of regional cultural history.

From this understanding, ten (10) Native American tribes had territory within the County's current borders. The southern third of the County was the home Native Americans speaking the Central Pomo languages. To the north of the Central Pomo groups were the Northern Pomo, who controlled a strip of land extending

² Fredrickson, David, A. 1973. *Early Cultures of the North Coast of the North Coast Ranges, California*, UC Davis

³ Fredrickson, David, A. 1984. *The North Coastal Region*, California Archaeology

from the coast to Clear Lake in Lake County. The Coast Yuki occupied a portion of the coast extending from Fort Bragg north to an area slightly north of Rockport. They were linguistically related to a small group, called the Huchnom, living along the South Eel River north of Potter Valley. Both of these smaller groups were related to the Yuki, who were centered in Round Valley. At the far northern end of the county, several groups extended south from Humboldt County. The territory of the Cahto was bounded by Branscomb, Laytonville, and Cummings. The North Fork Wailaki was almost entirely in Mendocino County, along the North Fork of the Eel River. Other groups in this area included the Shelter Cove Sinkyone, the Eel River, and the Pitch Wailaki.

- a) **No Impact:** Comments received from the Northwest Information Center at Sonoma State University requested that an archaeological survey be completed for the ADU/detached garage application, but this applies to this application as well, as they are interconnected. A survey was completed by Alta Archaeological Consulting. This report was then submitted to the Mendocino County Archaeological Commission for its review. At the March 17, 2023 Commission meeting the study was approved with a special condition added stating: *“Alta shall conduct training with the applicant prior to any ground disturbance. The applicant shall submit a map, approved by the archaeologist, outlining the Environmentally Sensitive Area (ESA). Said map shall be submitted to the Mendocino County Planning and Building Services Department prior to construction. The applicant shall remain in communication with the Tribal Historic Preservation office regarding spot checking and submit a report to the Mendocino County Planning and Building Services Department. Discovery clause applies.* Staff has added conditions to satisfy the Archaeological Commission’s requirements along with the accidental discovery clause.

Comments were requested from the following tribes: Cloverdale Rancheria, Redwood Valley Rancheria and Sherwood Valley Band of Pomo Indians, no comments were received. The proposed project complies with MCC Sections 22.12.090 *Discoveries* and 22.12.100 *Discoveries of Human Remains*.

MITIGATION MEASURES: None.

FINDINGS: The proposed project would have no impact on Tribal Cultural Resources.

5.19 UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS

WOULD THE PROJECT:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Require or result in the relocation or construction of new or expanded water, wastewater treatment or stormwater drainage, electric power, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities, the construction or relocation of which could cause significant environmental effects?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Have sufficient water supplies available to serve the project and reasonably foreseeable future development during normal, dry, and multiple dry years?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Result in a determination by the wastewater treatment provider, which serves or may serve the project that it has adequate capacity to serve the project’s projected demand in addition to the provider’s existing commitments?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
d) Generate solid waste in excess of state or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure, or otherwise impair the attainment of solid waste reduction goals?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
e) Comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statutes and regulations related to solid waste?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DISCUSSION: Public sewer systems in Mendocino County are provided by cities, special districts, and some private water purveyors. There are 13 major wastewater systems in the county, four of which primarily

serve the incorporated cities, but also serve some unincorporated areas. Sewage collected by the Brooktrails Township Community Services District and Meadowbrook Manor Sanitation District is treated at the City of Willits Wastewater Treatment Plant. The City of Ukiah's Wastewater Treatment Plant also processes wastewater collected by the Ukiah Valley Sanitation District. Sewage disposal in the remainder of the county is generally handled by private on-site facilities, primarily septic tank and leach field systems, although alternative engineered wastewater systems may be used.

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

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

- a-e) **No Impact:** The project proposes the drilling of four test wells along with other minor improvements and would not effect, or result in, relocation or construction of new electric, natural gas, or telecommunications facilities. The project would not result in increased water usage. As such, sufficient water supplies will be available for foreseeable future development during normal, dry and multiple dry years. The project site utilizes on-site wastewater treatment and the proposed project will not increase the demands. Current waste generated is not in excess of State or local standards, or in excess of the capacity of local infrastructure. Solid waste will not increase as a result of the proposed project. The Applicant is required to comply with federal, state, and local management and reduction statues and regulations related to solid waste.

MITIGATION MEASURES: None.

FINDINGS: The proposed project would have no impact on Utilities and Service Systems.

5.20 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	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
b) Due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors, exacerbate wildfire risks, and thereby expose project occupants to, pollutant concentrations from a wildfire or the uncontrolled spread of a wildfire?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
c) Require the installation or maintenance of associated infrastructure (such as roads, fuel breaks, emergency water	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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 challenges?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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

a-d) **No Impact:** There are no components of the project that would impair an adopted emergency response plan or emergency evaluation plan, including the adopted County EOP. The Site is located within a "High Fire Hazard" severity zone. All future development project components would be required to be designed in accordance to state and local standards, including safety and emergency access requirements and CalFire's Fire Safe Regulations. Under the proposed project, it is not anticipated that wildfire risks would be exacerbated due to slope, prevailing winds, and other factors. The project would require compliance with any CalFire's Fire Safe Regulations to ensure adequate fire protection measures and access. The project does not require installation or maintenance of infrastructure such as road, fuel breaks, or other utilities. All future development will require compliance with the California Building Code. The project will not expose people or structures to significant risks, including downslope or downstream flooding or landslides, as a result of runoff, post-fire slope instability, or drainage challenges, as the Site is located in a relatively flat area. There are no mapped landslides at the project site.

MITIGATION MEASURES: None

FINDINGS: The proposed project would have no impact on Wildfire.

5.21 MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE

WOULD THE PROJECT:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
a) Does the project have the potential to substantially degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, substantially reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

WOULD THE PROJECT:	Potentially Significant Impact	Less Than Significant with Mitigation	Less Than Significant Impact	No Impact
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?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

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

a) Less Than Significant : A Biological Scoping Survey, prepared by Wynn Coastal Planning and Biology (WCPB), was completed for the site. This report examined the potential impact of this application to drill up to four test wells as well as the proposed construction of a 1,198 square foot accessory dwelling unit and a 476 square foot detached garage, which is outlined in a separate CDP application. The survey results did not identify any wetlands on the property. Additionally, the survey opined that: *“WCPB’s opinion is that no potential impact to rare plants is expected and no additional floristic surveys are warranted.”* Also: *“WCPB believes that with appropriate avoidance and minimization measures the project proposed will be less than significantly impacting to the coastal terrace prairie habitat present...”* The Survey does offer proposed modification measures to minimize impacts from all proposed development with both CDP applications to minimize impacts from development to rare plants, sensitive natural communities and rare animals that may be seasonally or temporarily present within the study area. These modification measures have been included in both project’s conditions of approval

LCP Habitats & Resources Map does not identify any sensitive resource areas within 100 feet of the proposed test well locations. The site is mapped as barren upland habitats. As proposed, the test well project would be developed at a sufficient distance to ensure that any environmentally sensitive habitats and other designated resource areas are protected for both the wildlife inhabiting them as well as the enjoyment of present and future populations. Additional modification measures proposed by Wynn Coastal Planning and Biology also have been incorporated into conditions of approval.

On May 31, 2023, the proposed project was referred to the California Coastal Commission (CCC) and California Department Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). Comments received from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife agrees with the proposed modification measures from WCPB, which have been added to conditions of approval.

b, c) Less Than Significant: The proposed project will not create any cumulative impacts on the surrounding area and any impact that would occur is considered to be less than significant. Future development would require separate requirements such as BMPs and adherences to the California Building Code.

Future development will not cause substantial adverse effect on human beings. All future projects will be required to adhere to Local and State codes regarding development.

PROJECT MODIFICATION MEASURES: The following project modification measures have been included in the Conditions of Approval for the project, as written by Wynn Coastal Planning and Biology:

- BIO - 1. No nesting bird surveys are recommended if activity occurs in the non-breeding season (September to January). If vegetation removal or development is to occur during the breeding season (February to August), a pre-construction survey is recommended within 14 days of the onset of vegetation removal or construction to ensure that no nesting birds will be disturbed during development.
- BIO - 2. If active native bird nests are observed, no vegetation removal or construction activities with the potential to disrupt nesting shall occur within a 100-foot exclusion zone. These exclusion zones may vary depending on species, habitat and level of disturbance. The exclusion zone shall remain in place around the active nest until all young are no longer dependent upon the nest. A biologist should monitor the nest site weekly during the breeding season to ensure the buffer is sufficient to protect the nest site from potential disturbance.
- BIO - 3. Construction should occur during daylight hours to limit disturbing construction noise and minimize artificial lights.
- BIO - 4. A suitable buffer should be established between the freshwater seep, headland wallflower and Blasedale's bentgrass and proposed development. A buffer distance of 100 feet is the default ESHA buffer distance specified in the Mendocino County LCP and will be suitable to protect the resources present. No construction or materials staging shall occur within 100 feet of the freshwater seep, headland wallflower or Blasedale's bentgrass populations. Consultation with CDFW for their concurrence that 100 feet is an appropriate buffer distance is recommended.
- BIO - 5. A suitable buffer should be established between north coast bluff scrub habitat and short-leaved evax populations and proposed development. A reduced buffer analysis has been conducted and a buffer distance of 50 feet was found to be suitable to protect the resources present. No construction or materials staging shall occur within 50 feet of the north coast bluff scrub and short-leaved evax. Consultation with CDFW for their concurrence that 50 feet is an appropriate buffer distance is recommended.
- BIO - 6. Stage all building materials and construction vehicles in previously impacted areas outside of presumed ESHA habitat.
- BIO - 7. Standard Best Management Practices shall be employed to assure minimization of erosion resulting from construction. Ground disturbance shall be limited to the minimum necessary and disturbed soil areas shall be stabilized as soon as feasible. Areas of bare soil should be seeded with native erosion control seed mix and/or covered with biodegradable erosion control materials (e.g. coconut fiber, jute or weed free straw).
- BIO - 8. Heavy machinery such as, but not limited to excavators and skid steers that may be used on site have the potential to spread invasive plant material from use on other sites. Heavy machinery that is used in dirt needs to be power washed off-site to eliminate seeds and other propagules
- BIO - 9. All pale dew plant and iceplant on the parcel should be removed and, where appropriate, replaced with native coastal terrace prairie and/or north coast bluff scrub species.
- BIO - 10. Any new landscaping around the proposed development should be compatible with the surrounding coastal terrace prairie and north coast bluff scrub habitat present and would ideally consist of native plants found in these habitats. Some species that are both appropriate and commercially available include sea thrift (*Armeria maritima*), California poppy (*Eschscholzia californica*) and checker mallow (*Sidacea malviflora ssp.maritima*). Also present were California oat grass (*Danthonia californica*) baby blue eyes (*Nemophila menziesii*), coastal gumweed (*Grindelia stricta*), yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) and seaside daisy (*Erigeron glaucus*).`

FINDINGS: The proposed project would have a less than significant impact with mitigation incorporated and a less than significant impact on Mandatory Findings of Significance.

DETERMINATION: On the basis of this initial evaluation:

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

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

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

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

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

DATE

KEITH GRONENDYKE
PLANNER III